SPIRIT REALM

BOOK 05

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Spirit Realm

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by

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Synopsis

Thirty thousand years ago, the Heaven Fighting Race who called themselves “Gods” invaded the Spirit Realm. Hundreds of races rose up in resistance, but ultimately suffered a crushing defeat. The Human Race was the first to concede, and the rest of the Hundred Races soon followed in succession.

During the subsequent ten thousand years, all of the races were enslaved by the Heaven Fighting Race. They were cruelly treated, and lived beneath the shadow of terror.

The Heaven Fighting Race’s march of conquest did not stop there. With the Spirit Realm as the starting point, they invaded other secret dimensions, and spread war to all corners of existence. After greatly exhausting their combat strength, they were finally defeated by the Hundred Races who took advantage of this opportunity. With no other choice, they fled to the starry skies outside the realm.

Thirty thousand years later, in an era where the Heaven Fighting Race has already faded to become ancient legend, an amnesiac youth possessing the Heaven Fighting Race’s bloodline is being fostered in an insignificant household. Whilst struggling to live on, he silently awaits the day of the bloodline’s awakening.

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Chapter 401: The Scream In The Darkness

There were at least a hundred martial practitioners of various realms belonging to different factions in the vast hall.

After “get out” was shouted, the already quiet hall became so silent that one could hear a pin drop.

Everyone’s gazes followed the finger of this thin Heavenly Sword Mountain youth and locked onto Qin Lie in the corner of the hall.

Thirty martial practitioners had been standing between Qin Lie and that youth. At this time, these people moved out of the way of their own accord.

The space between the youth and Qin Lie became empty, and the two could look at each other without any obstructions.

Qin Lie, whose back was to the crowd, suddenly felt intense gazes gather on him. He immediately realized that the youth’s anger was directed at him.

In front of him, Chang He of Sea Moon Trade Group furrowed his eyebrows and said in a very small voice, “Leave now. I will sell the Astral Thunder Hammer to you for one thousand Earth Grade spirit stones later on.”

“We will leave now. It... would not be good to create trouble at this time,” Song Tingyu mentioned in a low voice.

She understood Qin Lie better than anyone else.

She knew that the current Qin Lie was not the Qin Lie of the past.

The Qin Lie of the past had a gentle temper and was kind to others. He would not make trouble for those that did not offend him first. He rarely caused trouble, and would only show his fangs when he was forced.

However, since he had merged with his previous personality, there was a kind of madness in Qin Lie's bones. Characteristics of a berserker flowed through his veins.

Even if people did not offend him, the current Qin Lie would occasionally think about causing trouble and offending others. Since the people of Heavenly Sword Mountain had come to challenge him, wasn't that just igniting the gunpowder?

Bi You of Celestial Artifact Sect had arranged for people to search for Qin Lie. If he fought with these people now, it was likely that Bi You would find traces of him and his identity would be exposed.

Song Tingyu was panicking on the inside.

"Let's go." Under the gaze of the crowd, Song Tingyu grabbed Qin Lie's arm, seeking to pull him away and out of the hall.

“Wait a moment!” Qin Lie’s brow furrowed. His feet seemed to be rooted to the ground and he remained unmoved.

Turning around, he looked at the handsome young martial practitioner from Heavenly Sword Mountain.

“Are you talking to me?” Qin Lie narrowed his eyes. He wore an indifferent expression, and there was no amusement at the corners of his mouth.

“I told you to get out! Did you not hear me?” Li Rong’s finger did not stop pointing at Qin Lie. He stood upright, his thin body resembling a sword out of its sheathe.

As a martial practitioner of Heavenly Sword Mountain, Li Rong had never seen anyone dare to talk back to him when he was around Sea Moon Island. Even elders of Copper rank forces who were stronger than him in realm were polite to him, much less someone of the same generation.

He was used to being superior, and he believed that, down to his bones, he was superior to everyone in the hall. Therefore, he was extremely displeased with Qin Lie’s attitude and his expression became even colder.

“Stop messing around. Let’s go, there’s no need to fight with him,” Song Tingyu said in a soft voice.

Qin Lie ignored her, his body unmoving like a boulder. Looking

grimly at Li Rong, he grinned brightly and said, “What if I’m not willing to leave?”

“Then I will beat you until you are willing to!” Li Rong shouted.

A magenta longsword suddenly flew out of Li Rong’s spatial ring. As a martial practitioner of Heavenly Sword Mountain, Li Rong specialized in the sword. When he gripped the handle of the longsword, a wave of intense heat spread from his body.

Li Rong pointed at Qin Lie with the magenta long sword.

“Zzt zzzt zzt!”

Wisps of magenta fire flowed along the length of the sword and rapidly gathered at its tip.

The tip of the sword emitted a speck of crimson energy. As soon as that fiery energy formed, the martial practitioners in the surroundings felt a harsh heat.

Li Rong started moving his arm and the sword in his hand in a circle in front of him. Specks of crimson fire spread from the tip of his sword. As the sword spun, the fire danced in circles.

The specks of fire were like burning raindrops that shot from the tip of the sword. In the blink of an eye, hundreds of these specks merged together to form a fiery drill.

Inside the hall, the other martial practitioners subconsciously moved away from Li Rong and Qin Lie.

A dozen or so Manifestation Realm martial practitioners felt a burning power that was enough to burn their flesh coming from the specks of fire. Their expressions changed and they promptly exited the hall.

“T-this…”

Chang He was sweating profusely. He did not dare to try and get Li Rong to stop, so he could only grit his teeth and shout at Qin Lie, “Friend! I will sell the Astral Thunder Hammer to you for eight hundred Earth Grade spirit stones. Put down the spirit stones, take the Astral Thunder Hammer, and leave! I’m begging you!”

“You shouldn’t be begging me to leave,” Qin Lie snickered. “You should be begging him to.”

He looked at Li Rong.

“I…” Chang He’s face went bright red.

“Get out!” Li Rong shouted.

Li Rong slowly gathered specks of fire, condensing his power in hopes that Qin Lie would retreat and leave the hall of his own

accord.

Li Rong had not predicted that, as he continued to power up his killing move, Qin Lie would remain calm and was even able to laugh.

This made him angry.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The fire drill that had been formed from hundreds of fiery specks was five to six meters long. It howled as it finally shot from the tip of the sword.

Hundreds of fiery crimson wisps shot straight toward Qin Lie’s chest.

Chang He started to scream.

Song Tingyu’s brow furrowed slightly. Seeing the blazing drill heading for them, she also got angry. She felt that the people of Heavenly Sword Mountain had gone too far.

“Give him eight hundred Earth Grade spirit stones!”

As she prepared to attack, she heard Qin Lie laugh loudly. In the next moment, she realized that Qin Lie had broken free of her hand and grabbed the Astral Thunder Hammer on the crystal

showcase, intending to smash it at Li Rong.

“Boom!”

A resounding boom came from Qin Lie’s chest. Numerous bolts of lightning flooded into the Astral Thunder Hammer like snakes slithering into the sea.

Qin Lie swung the hammer!

The Astral Thunder Hammer, which was as long as an arm, suddenly became three times larger, and even grew thicker than Qin Lie’s body.

“Boooom!”

Blue astral lightning was evident inside of the Astral Thunder Hammer. The hammer roared as it ferociously smashed against the fiery drill.

Hundreds of blazing specks scattered in every direction. They resembled the sparks that flew when an enormous hammer struck red-hot metal.

Curses resounded throughout the originally quiet hall. Many martial practitioners that had been observing indifferently from the side screamed as they dodged. They channelled their spirit power to form shields of light, afraid that the flames would touch them.

The Astral Thunder Hammer crashed to the black stone ground.

“Boom!”

Pieces of black stone immediately shattered. The fragments were like cold black stars flying through the sky, all of which were headed toward Li Rong.

Li Rong’s pupils contracted.

“Sword Dance of Fire!”

The magenta sword in his hand quickly stabbed into the air. Crimson sword rays emerged like streams of light.

At a glance, Li Rong seemed to turn into an immortal goddess that was flying through the sky with rainbows. His movements were elegant and contained a strange aura.

There were hundreds of the crimson sword rays, and they formed a whirlwind of blades.

“Pop pop pop!”

All of the black stone fragments were smashed into dust when they came within three meters of Li Rong, the powder dispersing into the air.

Li Rong snorted coldly. Surrounded by the whirlwind of blades, he resembled a sharp sword as he sprinted at Qin Lie.

The black stone tiles in his path were shattered and reduced to dust.

The spectators in the area who saw that Li Rong was truly angry cursed inwardly as they continued to move outside.

Those closest to the four doors were crowded by the people who were moving and were forced to exit, unable to see the fight in the hall.

“If I want you to get out, you have to get out!” Li Rong shouted angrily.

The flaming sword rays shot from his body and formed a waterfall that plunged toward Qin Lie.

“Zing zing zing!”

Earsplitting sounds spread throughout the hall and hurt everyone’s eardrums.

A hint of bloody light suddenly appeared in Qin Lie’s eyes.

He channeled the power of blood!

At this moment, a thick, fiendish blood energy exploded from his sinews, bones, flesh, and blood and merged with his power of lightning and thunder.

Within the Astral Thunder Hammer, the blue astral lightning was tinged with a bloody hue. The vibrations formed by the Astral Thunder Hammer created tiny fragments of dazzling light that shot out of it.

The astral lightning and the sword rays collided.

A blinding, spherical explosion erupted between Qin Lie and Li Rong. The astral lightning and the sword rays exploded over and over.

The lamps above everyone's heads shattered in continuously while the hall that had been brightly illuminated was suddenly engulfed in darkness.

Within that very darkness, everyone heard Li Rong scream.

Chapter 402: Making Out Like A Bandit

The lamps above everyone's heads were shattered by the astral lightning and the sword rays. The originally bright hall was suddenly devoid of light.

The only light that remained came from the four open doors.

Li Rong screamed.

"What happened?"

A voice came from the second floor, and four figures appeared at the stairs. Of the four, one was Zhao Xuan of Joyful Union Sect, and one was Zhang Chendong of Eight Extreme Temple.

The one who had spoken was a middle-aged man with a face as white as jade. He was Han Xing, the president and founder of Blue Star Association.

Next to Han Xing was a youth in blue robes who was around twenty six years old. He also had the special insignia of Heavenly Sword Mountain on his chest.

His name was Luo Chen, and he was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. He was the leader of Heavenly Sword Mountain's young generation.

Luo Cheng's grandmother was Luo Nan, a wielder of one of the five "Heavenly Swords" of Heavenly Sword Mountain. She was one of Heavenly Sword Mountain's most powerful individuals.

Li Rong and the other six martial practitioners had come here with Luo Chen.

Luo Chen had made a special trip to Sea Moon Island to see Zhao Xuan of Joyful Union Sect and Zhang Chendong of Eight Extreme Temple.

These two had become acquainted with Luo Chen with the help of their superiors at Eight Extreme Temple and Joyful Union Sect.

Luo Chen was meeting up with Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong for the Trial that was about to be held. Luo Chen was going to participate in the Trial as a ringer.

Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong each received a sword token from Li Mu and were qualified to participate in the Trial, but they were not confident that they would survive.

As a result, with Zhao Changsheng's and Li Yi's arrangements, they joined Luo Chen. They were going to become members of Luo Chen's group and follow him in the hopes that their chances of survival would increase.

Luo Chen knew that the other Silver rank forces would also send ringers to enter the Trial.

In order to be the champion of the Trial, Luo Chen needed to recruit strong individuals, so Zhao Xuan, and Zhang Chendong could be considered a good match for him.

Today, with the arrangements of Blue Star Association President Han Xing, the three of them met for the first time on the top floor of this large hall.

They had been conversing happily, when they heard the sound of fighting from downstairs. Han Xing and Luo Chen were both cunning people. They did not pay attention to the battle below and continued to talk.

It was only when Li Rong screamed that Luo Chen frowned and stopped his conversation with Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong to descend from the top floor.

“Get a lamp!” Han Xing shouted.

New lamps floated from the entrance to the second floor and were once again above people’s heads.

The large hall became bright again.

“Hm?!

Exclamations of shock resounded throughout the hall as people

turned to look at Li Rong.

Rubble covered the ground at the center of the hall. Three enormous pits that the hammer had made were clearly visible.

Li Rong's chest was covered in blood. He was down on one knee, hate covering his face as he stared at his sword and howled in anger

His longsword had been smashed to pieces by the Astral Thunder Hammer.

This long sword was an Earth Grade One spirit artifact, and Li Rong had cherished it like it was his own life. Since the blade of the sword had been shattered, the spirit diagrams inside had naturally been destroyed. To Li Rong, this was a nightmare.

Along with his wounded body, Li Rong felt as if the sword being shattered had happened to him. He hated Qin Lie to the bone.

"Where is that person?" People searched for Qin Lie.

"Damn it! That person took the Astral Thunder Hammer when he left and didn't even pay a single spirit stone!" Behind the crystal cupboard, Chang He started to curse.

"What happened?" Han Xing glared at Chang He.

“A boy wanted to buy the Astral Thunder Hammer. When he was trying to bargain with me, he offended Master Li, and the two fought…” Chang He wanted to cry as he looked at Han Xing dejectedly, explaining, “H-he slipped away in the darkness and also took the Astral Thunder Hammer.”

“President, all eighteen lamps were completely shattered. They were worth four thousand Earth Grade spirit stones,” a martial practitioner of Blue Star Association that was hanging up the new lamps carefully mentioned.

Han Xing, the present of Blue Star Association, wore an expression of fury on his face. He hollered, “Are all of you stupid? Don’t you know how to search? Find this person, damn it! I want him to pay for this even if I have to skin him!”

Numerous Blue Star Association martial practitioners shot away like lightning and went to search for traces of Qin Lie in every corner of Sea Moon Trade Group.

“Your sword has been shattered, Li Rong. You probably won’t be able to recover you original strength any time soon.” Luo Chen’s voice was cold. He looked at Li Rong with a frown and spoke bluntly. “It is more important for you to recover. Give up on the current Trial. Oh, hand over the sword token. I need to pick someone else.”

The other young martial practitioners of Heavenly Sword Mountain beside Li Rong looked at him with his shattered sword, experiencing some schadenfreude.

“Senior Brother Luo! I... I can still participate.” Li Rong panicked.

Luo Chen shook his head. His expression became slightly colder, and he extended a hand, saying, “The sword token!”

Li Rong pursed his lips. After a moment of thought, he did not dare to resist and meekly handed over a sword token.

“Brother Zhao, Brother Zhang, let us go up and continue what we were doing.” Luo Chen turned and nodded at Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong. He did not spare another look at Li Rong as he walked back to the upper level.

The other six Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners ignored Li Rong as they followed Luo Chen up the stairs in a relaxed manner.

With his sword shattered, the wounded Li Rong didn’t seem like the person that had come in with them.

In their eyes, Li Rong had immediately become a stranger, and with an unspoken understanding, they excluded him.

Li Rong’s chest ached. He felt deep regret. Having ended up in such a terrible situation, he regretted offending Qin Lie.

……

Outside Sea Moon Trade Group.

Having returned to his actual appearance, Qin Lie wore a long black robe as he casually walked along a crowded street.

Song Tingyu had changed her appearance and was ten meters away from him. She bit her lip as she followed him, watching him with amusement.

The moment that the lamps inside of Sea Moon Trade Group's hall had exploded, Qin Lie had taken advantage of the chaos to tear off his fox skin mask. When he passed by Song Tingyu, he notified her in a small voice.

Having always worked well together, the two left in the darkness one after the other. Before other people could react, they had secretly left Sea Moon Trade Group.

One hour later, the two met up at a Profound Heaven Alliance base.

"Qin Lie, oh Qin Lie, you are rotten to the core!"

Sing Tingyu pushed open the door to the room that Qin Lie was in. She took off her mask, a moving smile on her charming face.

Inside the room, Qin Lie smiled as he held the Astral Thunder Hammer and fiddled with it fondly. Without looking at her he said, “I like this Astral Thunder Hammer.”

“You didn’t pay a single spirit stone for it,” Song Tingyu said with a smile.

Qin Lie raised his head when he heard this, surprise on his face as he said, “What? Didn’t you say that you were going to pay for it on my behalf? Did you not throw down the spirit stones when you left? Are you that immoral?”

Song Tingyu was both irritated and amused. “You told me to leave quickly! When would I have had the time to throw down the spirit stones? What if I I return to the Sea Moon Business Association now and pay them?”

“Well, I think the value of those lamps is higher than that of this Astral Thunder Hammer. You can pay for those as well.” Qin Lie laughed strangely. He slapped his head and said, “Oh, I forgot! I also shattered that guy’s sword. Since you’re so generous, pay for that as well.”

“Bastard! I’m going to ignore you!” Song TIngyu giggled and rolled her eyes at him. “You’re so shameless!”

“That guy was the one who was asking for it, why are you blaming me?” Qin Lie grunted coldly and said, “I was fine where I was. He offended me! Wasn’t he asking for it?”

“Ah. Celestial Artifact Sect is searching for you everywhere, then you offended Heavenly Sword Mountain and Blue Star Association. If your identity is discovered, I don’t know how many people on Sea Moon Island will be trying to kill you,” Song Tingyu scolded.

“Don’t worry. We will immediately leave Sea Moon Island as soon as I fix the spirit diagrams inside of this Astral Thunder Hammer and forge Terminator Profound Bombs, ” Qin Lie said indifferently.

“You can fix the spirit diagrams inside of it?” Song Tingyu was surprised.

“If I couldn’t fix them, would I have wasted so much time on that person? Would that rabid mutt from Heavenly Sword Mountain have targeted me?” Qin Lie laughed happily.

“This Astral Thunder Hammer was originally an Earth Grade spirit artifact. If it could be fixed, would the artificers from Blue Star Association have ignored it?” Song Tingyu was even more surprised. “Qin Lie, even Mo Hai wouldn’t be able to! Why are you so confident?”

She could not believe it.

Qin Lie smiled and did not say anything.

Chapter 403: Netherpassage!

Only the basic spirit diagrams inside the Astral Thunder Hammer were damaged. It might take Qin Lie some time to repair it, but it wouldn't be too difficult

Spirit Storage, Spirit Gathering, Amplification, and Strengtening were the most basic spirit diagrams, and Qin Lie had them memorized. The basic spirit diagrams inside this Astral Thunder Hammer were Spirit Storage, Spirit Gathering, and Strengthening.

It was clear that these three spirit diagrams had been simplified from the ancient spirit diagrams that Qin Lie knew of. From his perspective, the structure was very simple.

"Help me buy the main components needed to make Terminator Profound Bombs. I won't be leaving this place for now."

Gripping the Astral Thunder Hammer, Qin Lie took a deep breath. His mind gradually calmed down and he prepared to get to work.

"Mn, I know." Song Tingyu moved over with a smile on her face and stood next to him. Her eyes shone as she looked at the Astral Thunder Hammer, and she did not seem like she would leave.

"Then go." Qin Lie raised his head to look at her.

"I arranged for Uncle Tian to do that before I came here. He will

purchase all of the materials needed for the Terminator Profound Bombs. I don't need to work on that."

Song Tingyu glanced at him and raised an eyebrow. "What? Do you want to send me away? Are you worried that I'll disturb you?"

"I need silence." Qin Lie raised his hands helplessly. "You know that one cannot divide their attention when inscribing spirit diagrams. Any break in concentration can cause a mistake and waste all previous effort."

"Me being here... will divide your attention?"

A blush appeared on Song Tingyu's exquisite face, her beautiful eyes filled with an intoxicating warmth.

She got closer and stopped a few inches away from Qin Lie. Her pink lips parted slightly, and she exhaled on Qin Lie's face. Then she said in a light seductive voice, "Will this divide your attention?"

A cunning light flashed through her eyes.

She was deliberately teasing Qin Lie.

Qin Lie's gaze suddenly became feverish.

With the mask off, Song Tingyu was like a blossoming flower.

Her movements and smile were capable of overwhelming a person's mind, and could prevent that person from taking their eyes off of her body.

At this moment, the naturally mesmerizing Song Tingyu was intentionally being flirty. She made people's minds wander and got their blood to race.

"Fine, you don't need to go. I won't touch the Astral Thunder Hammer for now." Qin Lie put away the Astral Thunder Hammer. His eyes clearly shone with the light of desire, and he reached out to pull her into his arms.

"Go away!"

An orange-red light appeared on Song Tingyu's translucent palm, and she slapped his hand. The light gave off a bright rainbow.

"Crack!"

Qin Lie's outstretched arm went numb when it was swatted away by her jade hand.

"Haha! You can stay here and focus on repairing your spirit diagram. Big Sis won't tease you." Song Tingyu sauntered out, a bell-like laughter left in her wake.

She entered the room next to Qin Lie's.

Inside the room was an enormous copper mirror. Her seductive body suddenly froze when she saw herself in the mirror.

It showed a beautiful, flushed face with a provocative smile. Her bewitching eyes were filled with glee, clearly showcasing her happy mood.

Song Tingyu unconsciously touched her cheeks, feeling heat. This made her feel even more embarrassed.

“The person in the mirror... is me. When did teasing a man start making me so happy?” Her eyes looked pensive, and a complex and strange expression appeared on her face.

She started to think back to how she and Qin Lie met.

Song Tingyu originally found Qin Lie because of the Terminator Profound Bombs which significantly hurt the five factions and opened the evil nether passageway. That was the first time she paid attention to this unknown youth.

Profound Heaven Alliance had arranged for her to go to the poisonous bog to meet Qin Lie and negotiate a partnership. She met him for the first time in the poisonous bog.

When she used her charm concept on Qin Lie, it was the first time it had failed. She was hurt by the backlash and felt that she and Qin Lie had been married for three lifetimes as a side effect. It

had taken her a lot of effort to resolve the backlash.

Then, in order to fool Mo He, she lied and said she was engaged to Qin Lie. The two of them had pretended to hug for a while.

After that, they fell into the Nether Realm together. They fought side by side against the Horned Demon Race, slowly making their way back to the Scarlet Tide Continent step by step.

She gradually discovered that Qin Lie had all kinds of secrets. She became more and more curious. She wanted to know about Qin Lie's identity and origins, of his past, and where many of Qin Lie's special abilities came from.

Just like that, her relationship with Qin Lie had grown closer. They started to trust each other. There were no barriers between them and they could talk to each other freely.

A long time later, Song Tingyu sighed softly.

"It shouldn't be like this," she thought inwardly, lying to herself. "This is definitely the backlash from the concept which hasn't been completely eliminated. It seems like I need to cleanse my mind."

Qin Lie sat in the other room, a burning heat in his eyes.

A moment later, he grimaced and shook his head. He took out the Astral Thunder Hammer again and slowly calmed his mind.

He first examined his Soul Lake.

“Hm?!” he suddenly exclaimed.

The Soul Shadow in the middle of the clear lake that had been blurry had grown and become clearer.

Qin Lie used his mind consciousness to feel it.

Suddenly, a wondrous feeling flowed into his mind and entered every part of his soul.

All of his memories, thoughts, consciousness, past, remnants of thoughts, emotions... all of them turned into threads of wondrous flowing light that flooded toward the Soul Shadow inside his Soul Lake.

Memories, thoughts, personality traits, and other things that filled every part of his mind had been scattered and disorderly.

At this moment however, all of the soul thoughts, memories, experiences, personality traits, and other things that belonged to his soul flooded into the Soul Shadow in the middle of the Soul Lake.

The Soul Shadow, which had been intangible, suddenly became became an actual, tangible existence, and formed a True Soul.

With a shudder, he discovered that his original body, his true self, was the True Soul in the Soul Lake!

Then he felt like he was inside of the Soul Lake—like he was the true form of the True Soul!

Once the source of his soul and all of its imprints melded together, he clearly felt the existence of his soul for the first time. He realized for the first time just how wondrous a fully formed True Soul was.

A Soul Lake was made from mind consciousness and mind power. A True Soul was immersed in the depths of the Soul Lake, and one could use their soul to feel the mind consciousness and mind power within the Soul Lake.

With a thought, threads of mind consciousness within the Soul Lake turned into flowing threads of light that spread outside of his body like thousands of tentacles.

Once the mind consciousness left the Soul Lake, it was invisible to his eyes. However, after his True Soul had formed, he could feel the mind consciousness that had flown out from the True Soul in the Soul Lake.

Qin Lie closed his eyes. When his mind consciousness went out, he could slowly “see” everything in the surroundings.

The mind consciousness was like multiple pairs of eyes. Everything it came into contact with was relayed back to his True Soul.

This was the genuine Netherpassage Realm.

Qin Lie grinned.

When he laughed, he was immediately forced back into his original form, and the wondrous feeling disappeared.

“The Netherpassage Realm! I finally crossed the threshold and formed my True Soul!” His mood shifted, he laughed. He calmed down again and used one thread of mind consciousness to try and reach the neighboring room.

The mind consciousness could easily pass through obstacles like walls, objects, and earth.

“Poof!”

His thread of mind consciousness suddenly hit a thin barrier like a fly and was bounced back.

Qin Lie felt Song Tingyu’s presence in that “thin barrier.” He immediately understood that Song Tingyu had detected his arrival and used her mind consciousness to form a barrier to stop his mind consciousness from going in.

A mind consciousness could fly into the sky and pass through the ground, walls, and other objects. Only barriers that were also made out of mind consciousness could stop it.

"Qin Lie, don't you need to focus on repairing the spirit diagram?" Song Tingyu's soft voice came from the other side of the wall. "Does your mind consciousness get split when you forge artifacts? Does it spread into the surroundings? I'm about to rest, and you released a thread of mind consciousness this way. What do you want?"

Her tone gradually became irritated by the end.

"This is just a misunderstanding." Smiling weakly, Qin Lie hurriedly retrieved that thread of mind consciousness. "I am about to start now. Don't worry, I won't bother you in the future."

"If you dare send mind consciousness over here, I'll have you know that you will pay a price for disturbing me." Song Tingyu snorted.

Chapter 404: Scanning The Island

At the top level of the spirit artifact hall inside Sea Moon Trade Group, someone rushed in to report while Han Xing, Luo Chen, Zhang Chendong, and Zhao Xuan were speaking. “Celestial Artifact Sect’s Bi You has arrived.”

The group stopped talking amongst each other.

“Send him in,” Han Xing ordered.

Before long, Celestial Artifact Sect’s Bi You arrived at the top level, bringing Jiang Tianxing with him.

“President Han, I am here to discuss some matters.” The moment that Bi You entered, he went straight to the heart of matter and said, “I am searching for a martial practitioner who cultivates both the power of lightning and ice. This person has obtained something important from the god corpse that is related to the Graveyard of Gods’ stability. The nine great forces have come to a unanimous agreement that this item must be found as soon as possible.”

Bi You had figured out the truth after meeting Jiang Tianxing, and they were now in a hurry to find Qin Lie.

Han Xing looked at Luo Chen.

Luo Chen nodded slightly. “Our superiors told us to cooperate

with Celestial Artifact Sect and find the person who took the item from the god corpse."

"What are you going to do?" Han Xing frowned.

"I plan to search all of Sea Moon Island with my mind consciousness!" Bi You was at the middle stage of the Fragmentation Realm, and he was actually a bit weaker than Han Xing. However, he came from Celestial Artifact Sect and worked as their deacon. He was not lesser in status than Han Xing.

"You plan to scan every martial practitioner on this island?" Han Xing asked in surprise.

"Mm. I admit that, with my realm, it will be a little difficult to cover the entire island with my mind consciousness." Bi You sighed softly. "However, this matter is urgent, and the Trial is about to start. The nine great forces need that item to stabilize the Graveyard of Gods and reduce the risk to the participants."

"Alright, do it." Han Xing nodded.

With that, Bi You sat down on the ground.

Jiang Tianxing, who hailed from Celestial Artifact Sect just like Bi You, stood beside him. He had regained his sense of reason and wore a kind look since he had not channeled the Blood Spirit Art.

He was quietly examining Luo Chen who was in front him.

Luo Chen was also looking at him.

“Brother Jiang, I have a list of names in my hand. You will be representing Celestial Artifact Sect in this Trial, correct?” Luo Chen suddenly asked in a casual manner.

Jiang Tianxing chuckled. “That is correct. I will represent Celestial Artifact Sect in this Trial. I will do my best.”

Luo Chen raised a corner of his lips while revealing a hint of scorn in his eyes. He did not say anything else.

It was at this moment that a terrific mind fluctuation emerged from Bi You’s body.

The pupils of everyone in the room shrank.

Everyone could feel an enormous magnetic field of mind energy spread from Bi You, flooding in every direction like a tidal wave.

It spread outward to cover the entirety of Sea Moon Island!

It spread across the streets, the houses, Sea Moon Trade Group, Blue Star Association, the strongholds of many great forces, and the shops. Several thousand martial practitioners of different realms detected the tremendous surging aura.

People raised their heads and felt the terror of a giant, invisible web covering all of Sea Moon Island.

Han Xing also wore a look of surprise.

Sea Moon Island was several hundred acres in diameter, and even at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm, it would've been incredibly difficult for him to cover the entire island with his mind consciousness.

Furthermore, Bi You was only at the middle stage of the Fragmentation Realm, but he already possessed such a terrifying mind consciousness. This caused Han Xing to be inwardly surprised.

"As expected of someone from a Silver rank force." Han Xing felt fear and respect, making up his mind to acquire a good position at Heavenly Sword Mountain once he ascended to the Nirvana Realm. He would borrow Heavenly Sword Mountain's resources in order to increase his own strength.

Han Xing was treating Luo Chen carefully because he wanted to get on his good side. He hoped to acquire Luo Nan's help in the future and stand tall in Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Invisible ripples that resembled intangible waves of water spread outwards in many waves.

Wherever the wave of mind energy went, martial practitioners

caught within it would feel from their very souls that they were being watched. It was as if a bolt of electricity were passing through their bodies.

They felt a very uncomfortable feeling, quickly realizing that a powerful martial practitioner was covering all of Sea Moon Island and was specifically searching for something.

Those who were wise did not resist it and disregarded the surveillance, allowing Bi You's mind consciousness to seep in.

Of course, there were people who weren't wise and forcefully formed a barrier to isolate their mind consciousnesses, not understanding the situation.

Immediately, these people were grievously injured. The barriers formed from their mind consciousnesses were instantly blasted apart by Bi You.

On the streets, many low rank martial practitioners inside Sea Moon Trade Group suddenly sat on the ground and went pale.

A few people spat out a mouthful of blood and hatefully looked in Bi You's direction.

There were several other elites in the Fragmentation Realm who were in secluded corners of Sea Moon Island. These people were not afraid of Bi You, and with a cold snort, they stared right at Bi You's location as if their eyes were capable of seeing

extraordinarily long distances.

They formed a barrier of isolation with their mind consciousnesses, forbidding Bi You from taking a single step into their minds.

When Bi You detected these kinds of experts, he would stop his push and automatically withdraw his mind consciousness, avoiding a confrontation with them.

The person that he was looking for was in the Manifestation Realm or the Netherpassage Realm. Anyone who exceeded this realm was obviously not his target.

Bi You's actions made all of Sea Moon Island go into an uproar. Many people whose minds were invaded by his mind consciousness were discussing with each other, wanting to know what was going on.

At Profound Heaven Alliance's stronghold.

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu were a wall's distance away from each other. One of them was concentrating on cultivation, and the other was repairing the Astral Thunder Hammer.

Both of them felt a colossal mind consciousness land on them from the sky above. It was like a gigantic web in the sky that suddenly covered them whole.

Song Tingyu immediately came to realization and cried out, “Qin Lie! It’s coming for you!”

Qin Lie, who was absorbed in the spirit diagram of the Astral Thunder Hammer, suddenly shook and felt as if his very soul were trembling.

Bi You’s mind consciousness surged over.

Qin Lie knew that he could not resist it, and also knew that he needed to stop it from seeping into his mind or he could be exposed.

“Thoughtless Tranquility!”

In that critical moment, he remembered the Soul Suppressing Orb and cut off all random thoughts. His True Soul flew out of his Soul Lake and slipped into the orb.

Although Qin Lie did not feel anything special, Song Tingyu’s bright eyes changed a little.

She could no longer sense his existence.

Song Tingyu felt as if Qin Lie had suddenly become invisible and no longer released a single wisp of soul aura. It was as if he had teleported somewhere.

The mind consciousness covering the sky flooded the entire house like a tidal wave. Everyone felt as if their bodies were being swept through by lightning. Even Tian Pu was not an exception.

Bi You's mind consciousness lingered for a while, and after discovering nothing, he had no choice but to leave.

At this moment, Song Tingyu walked out of her room and opened Qin Lie's door.

Qin Lie was seated at the same spot without a trace of soul aura on him. Even his body was devoid of powerful life energy.

He felt like a beast in hibernation.

With a look of surprise, Song Tingyu's eyes glittered, and she softly said, "He's gone."

"Miss!" Tian Pu's voice came from outside. "The enemy came searching. Will there be any problems? Have they discovered you two?"

"I don't think so," Song Tingyu answered helplessly. Then, in a soft voice, she said, "Uncle Tian, how many people do you sense inside this room right now?"

"Only you, Miss." Tian Pu said respectfully.

Song Tingyu smiled softly and waved her hands in assurance, saying, “Go, then. Everything is fine.”

Tian Pu left, his stomach full of doubt.

Fifteen minutes later, at the top floor of Sea Moon Trade Group’s spirit artifact hall, Bi You opened his eyes.

“I found sixty five people who cultivate spirit arts of thunder, thirty eight people who cultivate spirit arts of ice, and only five who cultivate both. Out of these five people, three are in the Manifestation Realm, one is in the Netherpassage Realm, and another is in the Fulfillment Realm.” Bi You stood up. His mind had already locked on to the five targets. He nodded toward Han Xing in gratitude and said, “I will send out people from Celestial Artifact Sect to seek out these five people and thoroughly search them. We will see if we can find the item on them.”

Han Xing smiled and said, “Please do.”

Bi You and Jiang Tianxing left as hastily as they arrived. A while later, they were completely gone.

“The person who fought against Li Rong at the bottom level of Sea Moon Trade Group is also skilled in the power of thunder. While he was fighting, I felt a vague aura of ice from him,” a Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner softly said after Bi You left.

Han Xing went blank.

“There was also the aura of earth on him as well. It was weak, but it was definitely there,” another person interrupted.

The eyes of Joyful Union Sect’s Zhao Xuan abruptly lit up. “A person who’s skilled in the spirit arts of ice, lightning, and earth. Why do I feel like I’ve heard of such a person?”

“The Scarlet Tide Continent’s Qin Lie!” Eight Extreme Temple’s Zhang Chendong exclaimed.

“That’s him!”

Chapter 405: The Sixth Heavenly Sword

“The Scarlet Tide Continent’s Qin Lie!”

Heavenly Sword Mountain’s Luo Chen exclaimed in a soft tone, his eyes glowing with a strange light.

There were fifteen people from Heavenly Sword Mountain who were participating in this examination, and a total of fifteen sword tokens were made as proof of entry.

Heavenly Sword Mountain had five Heavenly Swords. The people who wielded them, simply referred to as “Heavenly Swords,” ruled Heavenly Sword Mountain together. They issued orders, managed subordinate martial practitioners, and held decision making power in important matters within Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Luo Chen’s grandmother Luo Nan was a Heavenly Sword, one of the most powerful people in Heavenly Sword Mountain.

However, very few people knew that there was another person in Heavenly Sword Mountain who also wielded a Heavenly Sword...

This person did not participate in any of the management or matters of Heavenly Sword Mountain. He did not educate disciples, nor did he have any special responsibilities.

His only responsibilities were to execute traitors and keep an eye

on every person in Heavenly Sword Mountain. This also included the five Heavenly Swords.

This person was called the Sixth Heavenly Sword of Heavenly Sword Mountain. His name was Li Mu.

In all of Heavenly Sword Mountain, very few people knew about the existence of the Sixth Heavenly Sword. Outside of Heavenly Sword Mountain, obviously even less people would know.

Luo Chen learned about Li Mu through his grandmother Luo Nan. Li Mu was never in Heavenly Sword Mountain, and would always be adventuring on a floating island that he controlled.

This man would often not return to Heavenly Sword Mountain for eight to ten years at a time.

The Sixth Heavenly Sword named Li Mu was the sword that hung high above the head of every policymaker in Heavenly Sword Mountain. The moment that anyone betrayed Heavenly Sword Mountain or colluded with foreign enemies, harming Heavenly Sword Mountain's interests, Li Mu would knock upon their doors.

For several hundred years, countless disciples perished at the hands of this man. Every single one of them had betrayed Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Even if these people ran to the corners of Spirit Realm, even if they attached themselves to powerful forces, they would still be

caught by and killed by Li Mu.

The person who was called the “Sixth Heavenly Sword” might not participate in the various matters of Heavenly Sword Mountain or have any real power or authority, but he was the only one who frightened the other five “Heavenly Swords.”

Luo Chen knew about this person because his grandmother Luo Nan had told him. Five out of the fifteen of the sword tokens made by Heavenly Sword Mountain were taken by this man.

It was exactly because of these five sword tokens that Luo Chen paid attention to the Scarlet Tide Continent. He knew that the five sword tokens had been put in the hands of Song Tingyu, Zhang Chendong, Zhao Xuan, Xie Jingxuan, and Qin Lie.

As this time, Zhang Chendong and Zhao Xuan had already come willingly to express their good will. In order to improve his chances in the Trial, Luo Chen went to Sea Moon Island this time around in hopes that he could recruit Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan as his left and right hands.

In his eyes, Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan were members of Profound Heaven Alliance, and Profound Heaven Alliance was a vassal of Heavenly Sword Mountain.

He believed that, just like Zhang Chendong and Zhao Xuan, Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan would not be able to turn him down. He believed that they would follow him blindly and join his team to participate in the Trial.

Luo Chen had also gained an understanding of Qin Lie through various channels.

He believed that there were too many unpredictable aspects about Qin Lie. He did not see Qin Lie as someone he could rope into his group because, without an origin, Qin Li was too dangerous.

Furthermore, according to his knowledge, Qin Lie was only in the late stage of the Manifestation Realm. The only reason he had managed to cause such a commotion in the Scarlet Tide Continent was because he had borrowed someone else's power.

However, in the Trial, there would be no external power for him to borrow. He did not think much of Qin Lie's strength, and he did not believe Qin Lie could help him.

"So you're saying that the person who easily defeated Li Rong and destroyed his sword in an explosion was Qin Lie?" Luo Chen snapped out of his trance as a bright light shone from within his cold eyes. "Could it be that he is the one who had obtained the item inside the god corpse?"

"You've already heard that the man and woman Celestial Artifact Sect's Bi You is looking for rode away on a Flowing Cloud Rainbow Butterfly." Zhang Chendong paused and continued solemnly, "Song Tingyu's mount is precisely a Rank Five Flowing Cloud Rainbow Butterfly!"

"There should be no mistake then." Luo Chen nodded.

His eyes shined with a cold, unfathomable light that resembled tiny criss crossing sword beams as he pondered, and after a moment, he said to Han Xing, “Uncle Han, have your men pay attention to Celestial Artifact Sect’s activities and see if they find this Qin Lie from those five people.”

“Mm,” Han Xing said with a dark face, “I also have a score to settle with him! Not only did he destroy my lights, he even stole the Astral Thunder Hammer.”

“Also, send men to watch Profound Heaven Alliance’s stronghold and see if that Song Tingyu is around. Actually, wait... have them see if a pair has gone in and out of that place lately—an unfamiliar man and woman.” Luo Chen knew that they could just change their faces if they really wanted to hide their identities.

“No problem, leave it to me!” Han Xing agreed.

“Do not tell Celestial Artifact Sect about this matter. Do not let them find out that we have a lock on our target,” Luo Chen instructed again.

“Understood.”

In this way, Celestial Artifact Sect and Blue Star Association split up and began searching throughout Sea Moon Island.

—They all wanted to drag Qin Lie out into the open.

……

Inside Profound Heaven Alliance's house at Sea Moon Island.

Qin Lie's True Soul returned to his Soul Lake, and he continued to concentrate on repairing the Astral Thunder Hammer. A dazzling bolt of electricity sparked from the tip of his finger, twisting and unleashing a surge of refined energy.

This time, Song Tingyu did not leave his side.

She sat on the soft floor inside the house and leaned against a wall seven or eight meters away. Her beautiful eyes glittered as she watched Qin Lie repair the spirit artifact.

This time, Qin Lie did not kick her out.

He did not know if the enemy would scour the place with their consciousness again. Song Tingyu could detect it beforehand and warn him if she was near.

Inside the Astral Thunder Hammer.

The simplified Spirit Gathering and Spirit Storage diagrams, as well as a dozen or so spirit lines, were broken and twisted into a chaotic bundle.

The damage to these dozens of spirit lines massively decreased the power of thunder once it was poured into the spirit artifact. This diluted the spirit energy within the two main diagrams, impacting the Astral Thunder Hammer's full power as a result.

Qin Lie was currently trying reconnect the broken spirit lines. The ones that were twisted into a bundle would have to be slowly untied so that order could be restored.

Since the three basic diagrams had come from the ancient diagrams that he knew of, Qin Lie completely understood every tiny modification to the diagram.

"Zzzt!"

The spirit threads were like refined lightning that slowly twisted within the spirit diagram.

Qin Lie's mind consciousness and spirit energy was swiftly being exhausted.

As time gradually passed, the finger he pressed to the Astral Thunder Hammer began to shake strangely. A strange buzzing sound came from it.

"Boooom!"

A low rumble of thunder came from within the Astral Thunder Hammer. The lightning pattern on the surface of the hammer

suddenly shone with glaring light.

There were many tiny specks of light above the hammer and inside of the lightning. They glittered like evening stars and unleashed a violent, thunderous energy.

These blinking specks of light was the astral thunder that formed after thunder energy was condensed and refined!

A dozen or so strikes of astral thunder quickly formed as Qin Lie injected his power of thunder and lightning. They were like a sea of stars that moved strangely.

Qin Lie's eyes were very bright.

After the spirit diagrams inside the artifact were completely repaired, the thunder and lightning energy he unleashed did not decrease in the slightest. All of it poured into the main diagram and made the Astral Thunder Hammer's power become at least twice as strong!

The power of thunder and lightning was already violent and imposing. After being refined and condensed into astral thunder by the Astral Thunder Hammer, which held power that was even more concentrated, the destructive power of Qin Lie's thunder would massively increase!

Qin Lie believed that, if he swung his Astral Thunder Hammer with all his strength and unleashed a dozen or so strikes of astral

thunder toward his enemy like a starry downpour, then even a martial practitioner in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm would probably only last a second before exploding to death.

This was different from the power of the Terminator Profound Bombs.

After the Terminator Profound Bombs exploded, they would have a violent impact that covered a wide area. This instantaneous explosive power had a wider range, which was why its power was also a little spread out.

The astral thunder formed by the Astral Thunder Hammer was the embodiment of refined and condensed lightning. The impact they dealt was extremely terrifying.

A big man could only topple a big tree if he used a giant stone pillar to ram it, but if he stabbed a tree with a thin sword, then he would be able to completely penetrate it.

The astral thunder formed by the Astral Thunder Hammer would be the equivalent a thin sword's destructive power.

"Boom boom boom!"

Qin Lie stood up and waved the Astral Thunder Hammer, grinning and laughing happily.

A powerful roar of wind and thunder rumbled inside of the room.

Astral thunder continuously glittered on the Astral Thunder Hammer, but it did not actually fly out.

A strange glitter shone in Song Tingyu's eyes when she saw Qin Lie swinging his hammer in excitement. She cheerfully asked, "You succeeded?"

"What do you think?" While Qin Lie laughed, the Astral Thunder Hammer suddenly escaped from his hands.

"Boooom!"

A violent, thunderous explosion resounded from within the Astral Thunder Hammer and locked onto Song Tingyu with a destructive aura.

Song Tingyu's expression changed, and the two silver bracelets on her lucent wrists flew out like two silver moons and glowed with a powerful light.

Dazzling silver light was unleashed as the bracelet howled. It rammed into the lightning power of the Astral Thunder Hammer, causing the interior of the room to become colorful with light.

After a melodious dinging sound, Qin Lie made a grasping motion in midair and withdrew the Astral Thunder Hammer into his spatial ring.

The light of the two silver disc-like bracelets in midair also

became fainter and fainter.

Song Tingyu raised her arms and withdrew her bracelets as well. Then she asked in surprise, “How much power did you use?”

“Seventy percent of thunder power.” Qin Lie smiled.

“It’s really powerful! The power of thunder and lightning coming from it can shatter a middle stage Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner’s protective light barrier in an instant!” Song Tingyu exclaimed. Then she said, “If you unleash everything you have, then you have a fighting chance even against a normal late stage Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner!”

“Normal?” Qin Lie asked in surprise.

“For example, the late stage Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners in Profound Heaven Alliance and Eight Extreme Temple, such as the leaders of Dark Asura Hall and Seven Fiend Valley, can only be considered normal Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners.”

Song Tingyu nodded. “If your opponent is me, or people like Zhang Chendong and Zhao Xuan, we have rare spirit artifacts in our possession and will be clad in precious armor. Our spirit arts are miraculous, and our physiques are tempered in special ways as well... Your current strength might not be necessarily enough to deal with this type of person. Of course, adding that to your other skills and hidden strengths, it may be worth a try.”

Qin Lie's expression changed as he thoughtfully said, "It looks like this Trial will not be an easy trip."

"Even the average person in the nine great silver forces is around the level of Zhao Xuan, Zhang Chendong, and I. Their geniuses will most definitely be a lot more powerful than we are," Song Tingyu said gravely.

"I know." Qin Lie frowned.

Chapter 406: Reunion

In the south western corner of Sea Moon Island, five martial practitioners with bloody faces were kneeling in a zone with coral reefs, their heads facing downward.

Five spatial rings of different colors were in Bi You's palm. He went through them one by one and shook his head in disappointment, "Nothing."

"It's not these five people." Jiang Tianxing sighed softly.

"I've searched through all of Sea Moon Island with my mind consciousness, and I did not miss a single martial practitioner. To think that I still can't find him..." Bi You's eyes were grim. "He's probably not on Sea Moon Island at the moment. Keep searching! Go to Spirit Eagle Island and search the surrounding reef zones. Search all of the boats going to and coming from Spirit Eagle Island!"

"Understood!" A few Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners nodded hastily before respectfully departing. They began searching the surroundings again.

"What secrets are hidden inside that tombstone?" Jiang Tianxing suddenly asked.

Bi You stared at him coldly before snorting, "Your father didn't tell you?"

Jian Tianxing shook his head.

“You know nothing, yet you dream of taking the tombstone all for yourself. You are literally a failure!” Bi You scolded him bluntly.

Anger appeared in Jiang Tianxing’s eyes.

“You guys go look for it as well!” Bi You stared at the five people in front of them.

Five Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners were still restraining the five martial practitioners who cultivated the power of thunder and ice. In order to confirm that they weren’t wearing masks, all five of their faces were nearly torn from their heads. They looked horrifying.

“What do we do with them?” one person asked.

“Kill them all,” Bi You declared before flying away from the crowd and vanishing.

……

Sea Moon Trade Group.

Han Xing and Luo Chen were sitting at the top floor and waiting

for news. They were not in a hurry to leave.

A Blue Star Association martial practitioner dressed in gray quietly walked forward and knelt before Han Xing. With a bowed head, he said, “Celestial Artifact Sect has killed the five people in the south western corner of the island. Bi You left in disappointment, so they probably haven’t found that person yet. Celestial Artifact Sect is still searching for him everywhere…”

Han Xing waved a hand, motioning for him to fall back, then said to Luo Chen, “It seems that Celestial Artifact Sect’s luck is not holding.”

Luo Chen nodded. “It is best if they don’t find him. That thing seems to be related to the Trial. If I obtain it instead of Celestial Artifact Sect… it may be greatly beneficial for our activities during the Trial.”

“You mean…?” Han Xing smiled and asked.

“Ignore Celestial Artifact Sect and just keep a close eye on Profound Heaven Alliance’s stronghold. We shall act once Celestial Artifact Sect leaves in despair.” Luo Chen stood up and said with an indifferent expression, “I will be borrowing your Blue Star Association’s cultivation area to practice my swordmanship.”

“I will arrange it immediately!” Han Xing stood up as well.

“Brother Zhang, Brother Zhao, you should take a walk around

the Spirit Artifact District below. If there are any spirit artifacts that you fancy, put them on my tab." Luo Chen nodded, then walked away.

"Thank you, Brother Luo." Zhang Chendong and Zhao Xuan thanked him together.

……

Time flashed by, and yet another month passed.

Bi You and the others from Celestial Artifact Sect searched around Spirit Eagle Island and Sea Moon Island for a month. However, they still didn't find anything.

In the end, they gave up and left on a flying spirit artifact in disappointment.

Sea Moon Island's partially shut down teleportation formation slowly got up running again with Celestial Artifact Sect's departure.

All the martial practitioners that were trapped on the island could now reach the Heavenly Wither Continent through the teleportation formation.

There currently was only a month and a half left before the Land of Chaos' Trial.

Today.

Dressed in white clothing, Xie Jingxuan arrived late and stepped into the house at Profound Heaven Alliance's Sea Moon Island stronghold.

"Is Sister Tingyu around?" After coming in, she immediately found Tian Pu, the person in charge, and asked about Song Tingyu's activities.

"She is." Tian Pu did not hide that fact.

"Bring me to her," Xie Jingxuan said.

"About that..." Tian Pu looked troubled.

"What's the problem?" Xie Jingxuan's clear, calm eyes stared at him in displeasure. "The Trial is about to start, and both of us are participants. What's wrong with us communicating with each other?"

"Miss Song is not alone," Tian Pu said softly.

Xie Jingxuan's bright eyes glittered. After some thought, she quietly said, "Uncle Tian, it was my Xie Family who took care of you before you came to Sea Moon Island."

Tian Pu lowered his head, and after a few seconds of silence said in a hushed tone, “If I am not mistaken, the person who was arranged to be Miss Song’s follower should be the one who turned all of the Scarlet Tide Continent upside down…”

Xie Jingxuan completely understood and nodded lightly, saying, “Thank you, Uncle Tian.”

Under Tian Pu’s guidance, she walked through a long corridor and headed straight toward the rooms where Song Tingyu and Qin Lie were.

Inside Qin Lie’s room.

The tombstone that was two meters tall stood upright on the stone floor. Qin Lie sat in front of the tombstone with his hand only half an inch away from it.

Wisps of violent, surging blood energy condensed into a thick mist of blood. Under the urging of the seven divine lights within the tombstone, they entered Qin Lie’s palm one after another.

Wisps of bloody light swam across Qin Lie’s body like lightning. He was sweating considerably. All of his clothing was drenched in sweat, and blue veins were popping out of his neck. His eyes were closed, as if he were enduring pain with everything he had.

A powerful, violent blood energy fiercely roamed throughout his nerves, blood, and bones like numerous sanguine ribbons,

tempering his body and increasing the potency of his blood. It made every drop of his blood become filled with vigorous, violent energy.

Song Tingyu executed a restriction inside the house to prevent the blood energy from leaking. She was protecting Qin Lie.

A month had passed. Not only had Qin Lie managed to repair the Astral Thunder Hammer, he had also mastered its secrets and forged twenty five Terminator Profound Bombs.

While he had been forging the Terminator Profound Bombs and meticulously inscribing the spirit diagrams, he discovered that he was able to swiftly stabilize his mind.

The minds of many people would usually be greatly affected when they first broke through to the Netherpassage Realm. This made their realms fluctuate a bit, and it was very easy for them to fall victim to a fiendish rebound while cultivating.

However, by forging the Terminator Profound Bombs and inscribing many spirit diagrams, Qin Lie was swiftly able to pass this phase.

Not only was he successful in stabilizing his realm, he was even acquiring a large amount of blood energy from the tombstone to temper his body. He refined his blood with the Blood Spirit Art and filled himself with the energy of blood.

This was all for the Trial that was about to begin.

Xue Li's soul shadow quietly flew out, resembling a cluster of ghostfire, and quietly observed Qin Lie's physical condition.

"How is he?" Song Tingyu was infinitely bored while protecting Qin Lie. Since Xue Li himself had come out, she asked him a casual question.

She was just bored and had nothing to do. She did not expect Xue Li to bother her either.

"With the tombstone's assistance, his progress of his cultivation in the Blood Spirit Art could only be described as amazing." This time, Xue Li surprisingly appeared to be very interested in talking. The glittering bloody light in his eyes shone with a passionate glow.

"Unfortunate. It's unfortunate that I lost my true body, otherwise I could've swiftly increased my strength through this tombstone as well. The strange blood energy that this tombstone contains is many times more refined and immense than the one in the ultimate blood ground! To us, this item is essentially a godly artifact for cultivating the Blood Spirit Art!"

He finally understood why Jiang Tianxing had come from the Celestial Artifact Sect of the Heavenly Fissure Continent that was ten thousand miles away just to seek the tombstone inside the god corpse.

Jiang Tianxing and Jiang Zhuzhe shared the same appearance. From this detail alone, Xue Li was sure that Jiang Tianxing and Jiang Zhuzhe were related to each other, not to mention that the Blood Spirit Art cultivated by Jiang Tianxing obviously came from Jiang Zhuzhe.

Xue Li even believed that Jiang Tianxing had come to snatch the tombstone after receiving Jiang Zhuzhe's orders.

"What aspect of Qin Lie does the tombstone enhance?" Seeing that Xue Li was interested in chatting, Song Tingyu could not help but ask again.

"Everything!" Xue Li's expression was one of excitement. "The blood energy inside the tombstone enhances his blood energy, tempers his muscles, veins, and bones, and even nurtures his True Soul! If a person's blood is vigorous, then his True Soul will also benefit from it!"

Song Tingyu's eyes shone with a strange light.

"The thunder and lightning spirit art this kid cultivated is already miraculous in the first place. Having been constantly tempered with thunder and lightning from the Ninth Heaven, his body is outstanding, and the blood spirit energy can gradually cleanse his body with the blood energy so that his life force becomes exceptionally powerful. Blood can actually be seen as a source of life, and if a martial practitioner's inner power is immense, then the combat strength of his physical power will become extremely deadly as well!"

Xue Li appeared somewhat excited. “Let’s put it this way—if the current Qin Lie battled any other martial practitioner at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm without using spirit energy or spirit artifacts in a situation where both parties are fighting with just their physical bodies, then Qin Lie’s body will have an overwhelming advantage over the other party’s!”

“Sister Tingyu, are you in here?” It was at this moment when Xie Jingxuan’s cries came from outside.

Xue Li frowned slightly and slipped into Qin Lie’s forehead. Qin Lie, who was cultivating using the wordless tombstone, stowed it away.

His eyes were shockingly red when he opened them. The bloody light in his eyes faded after a few seconds, then he finally nodded slightly at Song Tingyu before saying, “I’m fine now.”

“I’m here,” Song Tingyu answered loudly. Then she softly said to Qin Lie, “Tian Pu used to be a part of the Xie Family. He must have told her about you, so you won’t be able to hide from her even if you choose to avoid this encounter.”

“I want to talk to you about the Trial,” Xie Jingxuan said from outside.

“Okay.” Song Tingyu stood up and opened the door, welcoming her in.

“Hello, Miss Xie.” Qin Lie chuckled, willingly greeting her. He was casually sitting where he was before.

“You’re here as well?” Xie Jingxuan pretended to be surprised.

“The Trial is about to begin, and the teleportation formation on Sea Moon Island is still restricted. One cannot help but feel anxious.” Song Tingyu sighed quietly.

“It has already been unsealed. When I arrived on the island, I heard that anyone could pass through the teleportation formation and go to the Heavenly Wither Continent now.” Xie Jingxuan brought them the latest news. “I came looking for you because I wanted us to go together.”

“I see.” Song Tingyu also looked comforted by the news. “Qin Lie, it’s about time. Can we leave now?”

“Alright.” Qin Lie got up.

“Then we shall walk while speaking,” Xie Jingxuan said faintly.

And so the trio left together. Before Qin Lie departed, he made a new face with his face-changing fox skin mask.

Two hours later, the trio arrived at the teleportation formation on the opposite side of Sea Moon Trade Group. They realized that

it was packed full of people. Many people were holding spirit stones and waiting in line for their turn.

“Gao Yu! Tang Siqi! Elder Mo! Instructor Feng! Lian Rou! Yi Yuan!”

When Qin Lie saw that bunch of familiar faces, he couldn’t help but cry out from the bottom of his heart. His face was full of surprise.

He could not have predicted that these people would appear at Sea Moon Island. Judging from their appearance, they were also getting ready to depart for the Land of Chaos through the teleportation formation.

This both surprised and exhilarated him.

Chapter 407: Together

Qin Lie hadn't thought that Gao Yu would join Mo Hai's group.

Seeing that Gao Yu and the others were waiting in line with spirit stones in their hands, getting ready to step into the teleportation formation, Qin Lie quickly hurried forward.

"Kid! This teleportation formation headed to the Heavenly Wither Continent has been closed for more than a month. It has only been recently unsealed, and everyone is in a hurry to leave. You are in a hurry, and others are in a hurry, but no matter how urgent your matters are, you still have to line up properly!"

A Blue Star Association martial practitioner couldn't help but loudly scold Qin Lie when he saw him heading toward Gao Yu.

Many people's gazes suddenly focused Qin Lie. Gao Yu and the others also turned around to look at him in confusion.

A martial practitioner who had followed Qin Lie's group from Profound Heaven Alliance's stronghold quietly arrived beside the person from Blue Star Association who was in charge and lowered his voice, saying, "Brother Zheng Xiao, these four are the ones that the president is looking for. They... are not allowed to leave Sea Moon Island."

This person had recently been watching the Profound Heaven Alliance residence and paying attention to the activities around it.

After Celestial Artifact Sect's Bi You had led his men away, Luo Chen was about to find a suitable time to personally visit that residence. However, against their expectations, Qin Lie and the others had suddenly left in a hurry.

This made that person rush to send a message to Blue Star Association. He then followed Qin Lie and the others, worried that they might leave his sight.

"The president wants them?" Zheng Xiao, the Blue Star Association martial practitioner responsible for the teleportation formation, asked in a low voice. His expression changed. "Are you sure?"

"The president will personally arrive soon." The person's expression was serious.

Zheng Xiao knew what he needed to do.

"You!" He pointed at Qin Lie, coldly snorting with a frown. "You will not need to line up today. The teleportation formation will shut down very soon. Come tomorrow!"

Qin Lie's expression became grim.

"It isn't even early afternoon yet, why would the teleportation formation shut down now? Blue Star Association is being utterly unreasonable!" Song Tingyu cried out.

The moment she spoke up, everyone's gaze was drawn to her. The eyes of the martial practitioners standing in a line beside the teleportation formation suddenly became hot. Even their breathing became heavier.

"What a beautiful woman!"

"Tsk tsk! That body and that face. How unbelievably seductive!"

"The girl beside her also isn't bad. She's quiet, cool, and just as attractive!"

"It's rare to see such beautiful women. Where did they come from?"

"She is Profound Heaven Alliance Chief Song Yu's only daughter, Song Tingyu! The one in white is Xie Yaoyang's daughter, Xie Jingxuan!"

Someone recognized these two girls and exclaimed in a low voice. It made the crowd's eyes blaze even hotter.

Beauties with an excellent status and background were only more attractive.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan were going to leave Sea Moon Island, so they did not hide their beauty with their masks.

Standing shoulder to shoulder at the crowded teleportation formation, the two of them were like lovely, blossoming flowers that started a small commotion among the crowd.

“Profound Heaven Alliance’s Miss Song!” Feng Rong softly exclaimed.

Gao Yu and the others looked at Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan in surprise.

All of them knew about the series of important events that recently occurred in the Scarlet Tide Continent.

They heard that Qin Lie and Profound Heaven Alliance’s Song Tingyu shared a close relationship with each other. They had been active in the Nether Realm, fighting with their backs to each other. They had a deep friendship.

Now that they saw both Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan appear, they could not help but connect their appearance to someone.

“He’s Qin Lie!” Feng Rong suddenly exclaimed in a low voice.

At the same time, Qin Lie unleashed his Blood Spirit Art and smiled at Feng Rong.

Feng Rong had only identified Qin Lie because of the surging blood energy inside of his body, his smile, and the light in his eyes.

“Qin Lie!”

Gao Yu, Tang Siqi, and the others cried out in low voices. Their eyes glowed with excitement as they subconsciously moved toward him.

“If you leave the line, you’ll have to line up again!” Zheng Xiao snorted.

He glanced at Song Tingyu again and arrogantly said, “This is Sea Moon Island. We of Blue Star Association shall decide when the teleportation formation here shall function or not. If we wish to shut it down, we will shut it down, and if we wish to activate it, we will do so whenever we want. Outsiders will not question our decisions!”

In this region of the sea surrounded by the seven great continents, Blue Star Association had always been the leader.

Heavenly Sword Mountain held Blue Star Association in high regard, and their dominance was unchallenged at Sea Moon Island. They were responsible for managing the teleportation formation that connected to the Land of Chaos, and thus had a monopoly over trade in this surrounding region. Their strength was obviously impressive.

The people of Copper rank forces would feel inferior to a member of Blue Star Association.

The Scarlet Tide Continent's Profound Heaven Alliance did not deserve their attention, which was why he was cold and indifferent toward Song Tingyu's questions.

"We will not be leaving for now."

Feng Rong smiled faintly and became the first person to get out of line. Then Gao Yu, Tang Siqi, Mo Hai, Lian Rou, and Yi Yuan left the line, wearing smiles on their faces.

They all walked toward Qin Lie one by one.

"Long time no see!"

Qin Lie smiled as Gao Yu gave him a powerful hug.

"I didn't think I'd see you here!" Qin Lie responded just as strongly.

Then Feng Rong and Yi Yuan also came over to give Qin Lie a hug. They said in low voices, "It's good that you're safe."

Meanwhile, Mo Hai, Tang Siqi, and Lian Rou just smiled faintly and watched him. Their reactions were not as passionate as Feng Rong's, Gao Yu's, or Yi Yuan's.

"We won't be leaving today. I'd like to reminisce with my friends

about old times," Qin Lie announced, turning to Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan. Laughing loudly, he moved to leave with Gao Yu and the others.

He was overjoyed to meet old friends in a strange land, which was why he did not pay attention to Blue Star Association's unreasonable demands.

"Brother Zheng Xiao, the president is coming right now. Do not let them leave!" The Blue Star Association martial practitioner who was watching Qin Lie said hurriedly. "This is the person who caused trouble at Sea Moon Trade Group and stole the Astral Thunder Hammer!"

After a momentary pause, Zheng Xiang reacted and loudly yelled, "So it was you, brat! Surround them!"

There were more than a dozen Blue Star Association martial practitioners stationed near the teleportation formation. Of their number, Zheng Xiao had reached the middle stage of the Fulfillment Realm. Everyone immediately began to act according to his command.

In a short time, Qin Lie, Gao Yu, and the others were surrounded by the Blue Star Association martial practitioners.

"You are truly an audacious person, kid. How dare you rob spirit artifacts from Sea Moon Trade Group on Sea Moon Island. What a blind, foolish person you are!" Zheng Xiao yelled angrily.

The martial practitioners gathered near the teleportation formation knew all about the robbery that happened at Sea Moon Trade Group not long ago. They were all surprised as they stared at Qin Lie curiously.

“So this is the guy who did it.”

“He truly is an audacious person alright. How dare he rob a spirit artifact from Blue Star Association while in their domain. How immoral!”

“No wonder Blue Star Association was so angry!”

“He has no one to blame but himself!”

No one gave Qin Lie any sympathy. They were all taking joy in his misfortune, and even the few people who were about to be teleported away turned back to watch the show. They were no longer in that much of a hurry to leave.

Considerable doubt appeared in Xie Jingxuan’s calm, clear eyes. She looked at Qin Lie, then at Song Tingyu, before asking in confusion, “Was it really him?”

Song Tingyu smiled bitterly.

She did not know where Qin Lie had screwed up to actually be caught red-handed by Blue Star Association just as they were about to leave Sea Moon Island.

She had visited Sea Moon Island many times and was well aware of Blue Star Association's influence in the surrounding region. She also knew that Blue Star Association's Han Xing would only act humble toward a member of Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Han Xing was arrogant in the face of the mastermind behind Profound Heaven Alliance, Eight Extreme Temple, and Joyful Union Sect's disaster.

"Now we're in trouble..."

She shook her head and sighed, already preparing to suffer financial loss to get out of this predicament.

"The president is here! The president has arrived!"

"It actually is the president of Blue Star Association!"

"It truly is Han Xing!"

"Now this is strange!"

Many people cried out.

As the president of Blue Star Association and an elite at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm, it was said that Han Xing was one step away from the Nirvana Realm.

This person enjoyed a magnificent status in this region, and he had absolute power over the island's affairs. He was often busy with cultivation and seldom showed up on the island.

Wouldn't his personal arrival be overdoing it a little if Blue Star Association was simply pursuing the matter of one stolen spirit artifact?

This confused a lot of people.

"No!"

The moment Song Tingyu heard that Han Xing had himself arrived, her face changed greatly as she immediately came to a realization.

A mere thunder hammer wasn't worth Han Xing's personal arrival. The matter of the tombstone having been stolen from the god corpse must've been exposed!

She turned to look at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie's expression had gone completely grim. He frowned and pressed a hand to his spatial ring, preparing to act at any moment.

He had also figured out the situation.

The crowd automatically parted as Han Xing arrived from the road behind them. He was smiling, wore blue clothing, and carried himself in a calm manner.

Luo Chen stood shoulder to shoulder with him.

“The teleportation formation has been temporarily shut down for the day. Please come tomorrow. I ask that anybody who is unrelated to this vacate the premises,” Han Xing raised his voice and exclaimed after arriving.

“Alright, get out!” Zheng Xiao began to shoo the people away.

When the miscellaneous martial practitioners that were gathered here heard Han Xing’s words, they immediately understood that something was about to happen.

The smart ones quickly left the area around the teleportation formation, but some did not actually leave and simply stood at the entrances to the streets, staring at them from several hundred meters away.

“You leave as well!” Qin Lie frowned and yelled at Gao Yu and the others in a low tone.

Gao Yu’s handsome face was riddled with a venomous chill. His body radiated a terrifyingly evil aura that made him appear like an evil god.

Despite Qin Lie's insistence, he said nothing and simply shook his head.

"You seriously can't stop causing trouble no matter where you go!" Feng Rong harshly glared at him, and also did not leave.

Lian Rou and Yi Yuan remained right where they were, expressions calm as they held each other hands.

Tang Siqi and Mo Hai were equally unmoved.

These people had gone through countless hardships for all sorts of reasons to reach the Land of Chaos from the Scarlet Tide Continent. Even though they knew that staying could get them into a lot of trouble, not a single one of them left.

Qin Lie's face got increasingly grim.

"President Han, it is true that we acted irresponsibly and caused some trouble at Sea Moon Trade Group," Song Tingyu said, picking her words carefully. "We admit our fault. We are willing to pay for all of your losses. Please forgive us this once on the basis that we are young and foolish."

She did not give up, still hopeful that Han Xing had come because of the Astral Thunder Hammer.

If that were really the case, then the matter wasn't serious and could still be easily resolved.

“The Astral Thunder Hammer is but a small matter.” Han Xing shook his head and frowned. “I have come because of your mass slaughter of my Blue Star Association martial practitioners during the appearance of the god corpse in the region of the sea near Spirit Eagle Island.”

The moment he said this, Song Tingyu’s face turned completely bitter. This time, she knew that they had gotten themselves into huge trouble.

Chapter 408: Remember My Face!

“Zheng Xiao, you guys spread out as well. Surround this place. No one is to approach without my authorization.”

Han Xing looked to the side, and with Luo Chen’s support he issued the order to Zheng Xiao, the martial practitioner responsible for the teleportation formation.

“I obey the president’s orders,” Zheng Xiao replied respectfully.

Following his announcement, all of the Blue Star Association martial practitioners near the teleportation formation began to spread out.

These people stayed a hundred meters away from Han Xing and Qin Lie’s group, forming a large defensive circle.

Zheng Xiao realized that the president wanted to talk with those people alone and did not want anyone else to hear their conversation.

They were sent away because they weren’t allowed to know about it.

Soon enough, Han Xing and Luo Chen’s group, and Qin Lie and Gao Yu’s group were the only people near the teleportation formation. Every other person that had nothing to do with them had moved away.

Song Tingyu's beautiful face was currently filled with helplessness. When she learned that Han Xing had not come for the Astral Thunder Hammer, she knew that they were in huge trouble.

"Your Blue Star Association martial practitioners died by the hands of the rampaging god corpse. I did not have much to do with it." Now that his identity had been exposed, Qin Lie no longer tried to hide and said with a grim face and low tone, "Some people were killed by the hands of Celestial Artifact Sect's Jiang Tianxing and your Qiu Yun."

"Is that so?"

Han Xing narrowed his eyes and snorted. "Jiang Tianxing said that you were the one who killed them all! Qiu Yun and Kong Xiang also died by your hand!"

Qin Lie frowned and pondered for a moment, then said, "What's done is done. What exactly do you want to do?"

At this moment, both Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan noticed Zhang Chendong and Zhao Xuan behind Luo Chen. These two people had appeared at Herb Mountain before, so it could be said that they were familiar with them.

Song Tingyu quickly understood that Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong must have been connected due to the fact that Blue Star Association's Han Xing was able to find her and Qin Lie.

“Miss Song, Miss Xie, long time no see.” Zhao Xuan laughed.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan’s faces were cold.

Zhao Xuan rubbed his nose in slight embarrassment. He laughed dryly. “The Trial is about to begin. It is too dangerous for the two of you to enter alone. I suggest that you join us and Heavenly Sword Mountain’s Luo Chen. We can go together, watch each other’s backs, and survive until the end. What do you think?”

“Not interested!” Song Tingyu shook her head.

Xie Jingxuan was indifferent and could not be bothered to even answer. She obviously disliked Zhao Xuan.

Han Xing looked at Luo Chen. “How do you think we should handle this?”

Luo Chen’s eyes were cold. He glanced at Qin Lie’s spatial ring and indifferently said, “I only want what was inside the god corpse.”

Han Xing nodded.

He laid out the conditions to Qin Lie with a smile, “As long as you give us what you took from the god corpse, then all of the grudges between you and the Blue Star Association will be null and void.

We can overlook the deaths of Qiu Yun, Kong Xiang, and the others, the Astral Thunder Hammer you stole, and the losses that you've cost Blue Star Assocation. You will be allowed to go through the teleportation formation to the Heavenly Wither Continent, and even be allowed to use the large scale teleportation formation there to go to the site of the Trial in the Heavenly Fissure Continent."

"You come from Profound Heaven Alliance and can be considered a subordinate of Heavenly Sword Mountain, so I will hide this matter for you. Celestial Artifact Sect will not know about you." Luo Chen looked to Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan, proudly saying, "Your realms aren't bad. Why don't you come with me during this Trial? At the very least, I can guarantee that you will live longer."

He then looked toward Qin Lie and frowned. "You can leave once you give us the item. Your realm is too low and you are not qualified to join us."

Qin Lie had slowly become calm.

"If I tell you that I don't have what you're looking for, what kind of consequences are going to befall me?" He frowned.

"Hehe, if that's the case, then please don't blame me for personally searching you." Han Xing's attitude was leisurely, and his tone completely threatening. "You're called Qin Lie, aren't you? I don't care how big of a commotion you caused in the Scarlet Tide Continent or how sensational you are. On Sea Moon Island, you better act obediently, otherwise...!"

Han Xing's voice went cold, and his eyes shone with wisps of golden rings of light. "I suggest that you be obedient. Even if it is not for yourself, you should consider your friends. Your friends are very loyal, and they all chose to stand by your side. Could you stand seeing them die for your sake?"

He coldly glanced at Gao Yu, Feng Rong, and the others.

Everyone caught in that gaze, such as Gao Yu, Feng Rong, and the others, felt as if they were being glared at by an ancient, ferocious beast. Their backs crawled with fear.

Han Xing was at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm, and he was only half a step away from the Nirvana Realm. Even if everyone here worked together, they still wouldn't be a match for him.

If they were to fight him forcefully, death would be their only option. No one would be able to survive this disaster.

"Kid. Where there's life, there's hope. As long as I am able to acquire the Blood Progenitor's corpse and merge my fragmented soul with it, I will be able to kill this Han Xing easily!" Xue Li's voice resonated within his mind. "Let's admit our defeat for now. We got that tombstone for free anyway, and you've used it to cultivate for some time and were unable to decipher its secrets. It won't matter if we give it away…"

"You better think about this carefully," Han Xing said patiently.

Everyone else was looking at Qin Lie as well.

Qin Lie's gaze was harsh. He was quiet like a ferocious beast, holding himself back this entire time.

After a long moment, he pulled off the fox skin mask and revealed his actual face before everyone's eyes.

"Remember my face. For everything I've suffered today on Sea Moon Island... I will one day have Blue Star Association pay for it ten times over!!" As soon as Qin Lie said this, a blank tombstone suddenly appeared on the ground before him. Seven bolts of colorful divine light violently writhed at the back of the tombstone, giving off a mysterious, magical feeling.

Many people's gazes were attracted by the blank tombstone.

Han Xing and Luo Chen were the only ones coldly staring at Qin Lie.

From Qin Lie's actions and words, Han Xing and Luo Chen could sense a bone deep hatred and reluctance.

Han Xing suddenly regretted guaranteeing forgiveness at the beginning of the negotiation. It would be awkward if he went back on his promise now.

Staring at the current Qin Lie, he suddenly had the feeling that, if he allowed Qin Lie to leave alive, there would be an endless amount trouble in the future.

“Let’s go.” Qin Lie led the way and headed toward the teleportation formation.

Mo Hai, Feng Rong, and the others immediately followed him.

Gao Yu did not leave immediately. His evil, poisonous eyes were like the tongues of poisonous snakes hidden in darkness, flitting across the face of Han Xing and Luo Chen for a while.

It was as if he wanted to memorize their faces by heart.

“There’s another vicious bastard!”

Gao Yu’s dark, icy gaze made Han Xing and Luo Chen feel extremely uncomfortable. They felt as if they were being committed to memory by evil ghosts from the depths of the Nine Hells.

It was only when they felt thoroughly uncomfortable that Gao Yu finally turned to leave with Qin Lie.

“Miss Song, Miss Xie, the two of you will definitely encounter great danger if you head to the Trial. Stay here and come with us. I only mean well,” Zhao Xuan cried out.

However, neither Song Tingyu nor Xie Jingxuan paid him any heed. They both went in Qin Lie's direction.

After stepping through the teleportation formation, Song Tingyu activated a square blue crystal, and as it spun, icy blue rings rippled outward from the teleportation formation.

Before long, the crowd of figures disappeared one by one.

"I don't know why, but I feel troubled by letting them leave alive." Han Xing frowned. "Of those two bastards, one looked more sinister than the other. Maybe I should've killed them."

"You cannot act against him at Blue Star Association. There would be consequences if you killed him here." Luo Chen shook his head.

Luo Chen knew that Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan were specifically appointed by the Sixth Heavenly Sword of Heavenly Sword Mountain. He was also vaguely aware of the fact that Qin Lie and Li Mu shared a subtle connection. This was also why he acted so generously and only asked for the tombstone, not daring to take their lives.

"I feel like they'll be trouble." Han Xing couldn't help but feel uncomfortable.

Every time he recalled Qin Lie and Gao Yu's gazes before they

left, he felt as if he were sitting on needles.

"Don't worry. You can't kill them on Sea Moon Island, so I will take care of them for you in the Trial." Luo Chen stared at the blank tombstone below him and said indifferently, "I could kill whoever I want in the Trial, and there wouldn't be any trouble."

Any martial practitioner who participated in the Trial could potentially be killed. As long as one had enough power, they could kill whoever they wanted in the Trial.

No one would question them!

Hearing Luo Chen's words, Han Xing slowly relaxed and smiled. "I feel much better hearing your promise."

He was very familiar with Luo Chen's strength and temperament. He believed that Luo Chen would definitely make good on his promise.

"Brother Luo, I know that you have put all of your heart into increasing your strength and in tempering your sword, which is why you have no interest in relationships." Zhao Xuan chuckled and narrowed his eyes, saying in a low voice, "The spirit art I cultivate comes from Joyful Union Sect and depends on the relationships between men and women. If you run into Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan in the Trial, could you... leave them to me?"

“Brother Luo, we’re interested in those women as well.” A Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner chuckled.

“Do whatever you want,” Luo Chen said apathetically.

All of his attention was already on the blank tombstone. His eyes burned intensely.

……

The teleportation formation completed its teleportation over and over.

Five teleportations later, the dazzled group suddenly appeared at a giant valley.

The fresh, thick spirit energy of the world lingered inside the valley like white fog.

A huge teleportation formation stood tall inside the valley. There were many martial practitioners garbed in the attire of Heavenly Sword Mountain around the teleportation formation.

This place was the Heavenly Wither Continent and the domain of Heavenly Sword Mountain. All the forces here were subordinate to Heavenly Sword Mountain and needed to act according to their will.

“Where have you come from?” Inside the valley, a middle-aged man with long, flowing hair was seated on top of a metallic stone pillar. He looked down at Qin Lie’s group after they came out of the teleportation formation.

“We came from Sea Moon Island,” Song Tingyu answered.

“Where are you headed?” he asked again.

“We are participating in the Trial,” Song Tingyu answered again.

“Do you have a sword token?”

“Yes.” Song Tingyu took out a sword token.

“Alright. You will first be transferred to the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Then you will be transferred to the Heavenly Fissure Continent through the teleportation formation of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Stand there and don’t move. Wait for the next round of teleportation!” After he looked at them, the man nodded and exclaimed, “Send them away!”

The giant teleportation formation, which was ten times bigger than Sea Moon Island’s formation, activated once more. The group was immediately flooded by a sky of colorful light.

Chapter 409: Black Jade City

Land of Chaos, Heavenly Calamity Continent.

A giant oasis lay deep within a boundless desert. Vegetation filled with life and energy grew around the oasis.

A towering ancient city made from black stone was built around this clear blue lake. Stone towers inside the city resembled mountains piercing right through the clouds, appearing majestic and serene.

There was a giant teleportation formation at the center of the city's giant plaza.

Bright, rainbow rings surrounded the spatial teleportation formation like a screen of flowing color.

From within the rainbow light, one figure exited the formation after another.

It was none other than Qin Lie's group.

"The Heavenly Calamity Continent's Razed Desert. Finally! After more than a thousand years the soul of I, Xue Li, has finally returned to its homeland!"

After Qin Lie exited the teleportation formation, Xue Li's sigh

appeared deep within Qin Lie's mind.

"Where have you come from, and where are you headed?" Many martial practitioners were seated atop pillar-like platforms beside the teleportation formation. One of them looked indifferently toward the bottom and asked.

"We have come from the Heavenly Wither Continent, and are ready to transfer to the Heavenly Fissure Continent." Song Tingyu was once again the person who answered.

"It costs one thousand Earth Grade spirit stones each for cross continent teleportation. There are nine of you, so you will need to pay nine thousand Earth Grade spirit stones!" a man in black said icily. He was responsible for the teleportation matters of this formation.

"We are participating in the Trial," Song Tingyu said.

"I don't care where you're going. If you wish to make use of this teleportation formation, then you will have to pay as the rules dictate!" the man said rudely.

"Nine thousand Earth Grade spirit stones."

Song Tingyu bit her bottom lip as her pretty face became bitter. She subconsciously looked to Xie Jingxuan beside her and said in a soft voice, "I may not have enough spirit stones. How many do you have?"

“Less than six thousand.” Xie Jingxuan frowned.

“It will be enough if we pool our resources.” Song Tingyu grumbled on the inside. She was prepared to cut a hole in her wallet for Qin Lie’s sake.

“Qin Lie, we are still a month and a half away from the Trial. Can you stay here for a while?” Xue Li suddenly asked.

Ever since he left the blank tombstone behind on Sea Moon Island, Qin Lie had been silent and despondent.

It was as if he was holding something back…

When he heard Xue Li’s request, his furrowed eyebrows finally relaxed a bit. “What do you want to do?”

“I’d like to visit the original Blood Fiend Sect,” Xue Li’s soul sighed deeply.

“Is it far from here?”

“Not really.”

“Okay then.”

After they finished interacting with each other, Qin Lie walked out of the teleportation formation and said to the group, “We’ll be staying here for a while.”

Everyone in the group looked each other in the eye before walking out of the teleportation formation one by one.

A look of disdain flashed across the eyes of the black garbed martial practitioner seated on the platform high above. He inwardly thought, ”To be unable to accumulate the spirit stones necessary for a cross continent teleportation... I wonder where these country bumpkins came from. To think that these people actually want to participate in the Trial. They really don’t know how to write the word ‘death,’ huh?”

“Let’s find a place to rest for the moment,” Song Tingyu said.

“Okay.” Qin Lie nodded.

This was the first time that Gao Yu, Tang Siqi, Yi Yuan, Mo Hai, Lian Rou, and Feng Rong had ventured from the Scarlet Tide Continent. Like country bumpkins visiting a city for the first time, they looked at everything around them they with curiosity.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan fared a little better.

They had left the Scarlet Tide Continent before, but had not gone very far from the continent either. They were only active on the Flowing Cloud Continent and the Heavenly Fate Continent.

This was the first time they had visited the Land of Chaos.

The group of nine looked like ants standing amid the towering stone buildings that pierced through the clouds.

“This is Black Jade City. It is presently one of the three great cities of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Black Jade City is situated in Razed Desert and stretches across tens of thousands of miles. It has a population of about thirty million, and it is controlled by the Xiahou Family, one of the nine great Silver rank forces...”

Xue Li’s soul casually chimed inside Qin Lie’s mind. His true body had traversed the Land of Chaos before, so naturally he knew about its current state of affairs.

However, he had been restraining himself ever since his true body arrived in the Land of Chaos. He had never actually entered the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

The Heavenly Calamity Continent had been Blood Fiend Sect’s domain in the past. Xue Li was afraid that he would run into someone familiar in this continent and be discovered, causing unnecessary trouble.

The reason he dared to come over now was because his true body was gone. With only a fragment of his soul living inside Qin Lie’s Soul Suppressing Orb, he wasn’t worried that he would be discovered.

“Black Jade City is one of the three great cities of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Its population numbers around thirty million, and it belongs to the XiaHou Family...” Qin Lie explained to the group.

Everyone looked at him in surprise.

“Xue Li told me.” Qin Lie pointed at his forehead.

With that, the group understood.

“Let’s find a place to rest first,” Mo Hai said.

“Let me ask around.” Song Tingyu walked away from the group.

They were in the plaza of Black Jade City. Since there were plenty of martial practitioners coming in and out using the teleportation formation, there were many employees working in the area as well.

“Foreigners!” Lian Rou exclaimed, covering her mouth.

The group followed her gaze.

They saw several dozen foreigners walking out of the teleportation formation after the bright, colorful lights had dissipated. They were each five to six meters in height, their eyes

were dark green, and they had gray wings beneath their ribs.

They had tall noses, and their dark green eyes were as sharp as an eagle's. They were as tall as they were thin, and at first glance, they looked just like spirit animals who were walking on two legs with their gray wings.

However, other than their wings and dense feathers, they had arms and legs like a normal person.

"These are Gray Wing clansmen. Just like us, they are a highly intelligent species that have four limbs. They are also born with wings, however, and are able soar through the skies from a young age," Xue Li's voice resonated within Qin Lie's mind once more.

"The Gray Wing Race is one of the more peaceful races, and are normally difficult to provoke or quarrel with. They have a long term trade agreement with the Xiahou Family of Black Jade City, and their relationship has always been a close one. In the Copper Continent that is controlled by the Xiahou Family, there is a void passage that connects to the Cloud Realm. The Cloud Realm is a sub world just like the Nether Realm. The Gray Wing Race come from there, and they are probably in the Heavenly Calamity Continent to trade for spirit materials with the Xiahou Family."

Qin Lie's eyes shone with a strange light.

While secretly examining the Gray Wing clansmen, Qin Lie recited Xue Li's words and told the group about this foreign race's background.

Above Black Jade City's plaza, the black garbed martial practitioners on the platform wore impatient looks as they watched Qin Lie's group.

Some of them didn't bother even giving them a second look.

However, when the group of Gray Wing clansmen appeared, the black garbed martial practitioners atop of the platform were immediately filled with smiles.

It was as if they had been waiting for the arrival of the Gray Wing clansmen this entire time. They were watching Qin Lie and the others impatiently because they felt that the group's hesitation at the teleportation formation was delaying the Gray Wing clan's arrival.

"Welcome, honored guests!"

The black garbed martial practitioner that had been cold and indifferent toward Qin Lie's group was now laughing aloud, taking the initiative to jump down from the platform to welcome the group of Gray Wing clansmen. He enthusiastically said to them, "We have been awaiting your arrival for some time. Please come with us, everyone! Our patriarch has already prepared a feast, and the only thing missing is your presence."

"Our clans have had an enjoyable partnership with one another. This time, we have brought a precious treasure from the Cloud Realm, and I believe that it will definitely satisfy your Xiahou

Family!” The leader of the Gray Wing Clan fluently spoke a mouthful of words in the human language. It was slightly odd to hear.

“Great! We, the Xiahou Family, will definitely make sure that your return home is bountiful as well!” The black garbed martial practitioner led the way in front of them.

The surrounding martial practitioners atop the platform jumped down and protected the foreign clansmen at the center like bodyguards.

Another group of black garbed martial practitioners suddenly emerged from the side of the plaza.

They were continuously breaking up the crowd in the surroundings, having everyone around the teleportation formation that was unimportant move away.

Qin Lie’s group was also among the people who weren’t important. They had no choice but to obey the yells of the Xiahou martial practitioners and give way for the alien race.

Thus, with arrogant looks, the group of Gray Wing clansmen began to leave under the guidance of the Xiahou Family martial practitioners.

Meanwhile, Qin Lie and many others were forced to squeeze against each other, staring speechlessly at the arrogant alien

clansmen strutting around on a human continent.

"What the hell is that?" A long time later, after the martial practitioners of the Xiahou Family and the Gray Wing clansmen left, Lian Rou shook her head and bitterly smiled. "On the Scarlet Tide Continent, we put our lives in danger and constantly warred with the alien races to keep them away, but not only is a group of alien clansmen treated as honored guests by a Silver rank force here, they even have us give way for them?"

"I didn't really believe what Senior Xue Li said before, but now, I finally do." Feng Rong sighed quietly.

"The Gray Wing clansmen are treated as honored guests because they bring a lot of benefits to the Xiahou Family." Song Tingyu appeared out of nowhere and looked at where the alien clansmen had gone, sighing. "I guess we will have to get used to the Land of Chaos one step at a time. It really is as senior Xue Li said—there are no racial differences here, and the only conflicts that exist are caused by clashing interests."

"Have you found a place to rest?" Xie Jingxuan looked at her.

Xie Jingxuan had watched Song Tingyu catch a martial practitioner earlier and use her charm concept to completely bewitch him. The martial practitioner answered every question she asked with complete sincerity.

"Come with me. I found a place, and damn it is expensive. To think that renting a small house here for just a month costs five

hundred Earth Grade spirit stones," Song Tingyu grumbled in a low voice. "Other than strength, I guess an ample amount of spirit stones is also needed to survive in the Land of Chaos. Sigh... only after leaving the Scarlet Tide Continent does one learn just how difficult it is to get things done in the outside world. It is far from the rosy dream one would imagine..."

"Let's go," Qin Lie said.

An hour later, Song Tingyu led the group of people to a small house in Black Jade City's North City.

This was a small house with only five modest rooms. There were no exclusive cultivation rooms or artificer rooms, and plenty of similar houses nearby sheltered Manifestation and Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners.

"North City is the poorest region in all of Black Jade City. The people who live here are either low rank martial practitioners or poor. We are not protected by the Xiahou Family here, so be on your guard as much as possible and avoid conflict with others," Song Tingyu said apologetically after she led the group here. "I'm sorry, but there really is no other choice. We need to save some spirit stones for travel expenses to teleport to the Heavenly Fissure Continent, so we have to put up with this for now."

The group was kind of dejected.

They had all been filled with hopes and dreams when they traveled a long distance from the Scarlet Tide Continent to step

onto this land. They had thought too favorably of the outside world.

Now that they were here, they finally realized how difficult it was to do things.

To them, the huge difference between their dreams and reality was literally like a baton to the head.

Chapter 410: One Cult, Two Mountains, Three Sects, Three Families

Inside a little compound in Black Jade City's North City, Qin Lie and the others were gathered in the largest room.

This room was about thirty square meters. Everyone took out mats from their spatial rings and sat down.

Xue Li's soul, which resembled eerie, bloody ghostfire, floated in the middle of the nine people.

"There are nine Silver forces in the Land of Chaos—I am referring to the 'one cult, two mountains, three sects, and three families.' The one cult is Black Voodoo Cult. The two mountains are Heavenly Sword Mountain and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. The three sects are Terminator Sect, Illusory Demon Sect, and Celestial Artifact Sect. The three families are the Xiahou Family, the Su Family, and the Lin Family."

Xue Li explained the Land of Chaos' political climate in detail to them.

"Of these forces, Black Voodoo Cult and Illusory Demon Sect are in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, and Terminator Sect is in the Heavenly Silence Continent. The three families, Xiahou, Su, and Lin, are in the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Heavenly Sword Mountain is in the Heavenly Wither Continent, and Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain are in the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

“Since the nine great Silver rank forces are in them, these continents are considered Silver rank continents. Continents like the Scarlet Tide Continent, the Flowing Cloud Continent, and the Heavenly Fate Continent are only Copper rank continents because the strongest ranking forces in them are Copper rank.

“The five Silver rank continents in the Land of Chaos have nine great Silver rank forces in total. Subordinate to each Silver rank force are nearly a hundred Copper rank forces, nearly a thousand Black Iron rank forces, and more than ten thousand Limestone rank forces.

“Silver rank forces have Nirvana and Imperishable Realm experts. Each force has hundreds of thousands of members in their own faction. Taking the subordinate forces into consideration, the number of martial practitioners in a Silver rank force easily surpasses a million.

“Of course, the majority of these martial practitioners are low in realm. In a Silver force, the true core of strength are those in the Netherpassage, Fulfillment, and Fragmentation Realms. Nirvana and Imperishable Realm martial practitioners are rare in Silver rank forces.

“The Heavenly Calamity Continent we are on is ruled by the three powers. There are three giant cities. Black Jade City belongs to the Xiahou Family, Blue Flame City belongs to the Su Family, and Scattered Rain City is ruled by the Lin Family.

“There are smaller cities and towns near Black Jade City, Blue Flame City, and Scattered Rain City. They belong to the forces that are subordinate to the three powers. This enormous power hierarchy forms the powerful Silver rank forces.

“In the Land of Chaos, other than the five major continents, there are countless islands. In order to expand, accumulate power, and temper their juniors, the nine Silver forces have endlessly waged war on these islands. The weak must rely on the stronger to survive. Otherwise, it would be very hard to survive, and it’s possible that they could be killed at any moment.

“Remember to be careful of strangers in Black Jade City. The Xiahou Family will not care about whether or not you live or die. To survive, you need to rely on yourself.”

“……”

Qin Lie’s group formed a circle in the room. They attentively listened to Xue Li’s explanation with serious expressions.

Xue Li had once lived in the Land of Chaos for many years. He had been active here until just a few days ago, so he knew the disorder of this place and the evil in people’s hearts.

“Gao Yu, why have you come to the Land of Chaos?” A long time after Xue Li finished, Qin Lie looked at Gao Yu.

“I need to participate in the Trial to enter the depths of the

Graveyard of Gods to search for the remains of the Evil Gods," Gao Yu said truthfully.

Qin Lie's brow furrowed. "You need a token of proof to participate in the Trial."

"I will steal one." Viciousness flashed through Gao Yu's eyes.

"How about you, Senior Sister Tang? Elder Mo Hai? Instructor Feng? Why have you come to the Land of Chaos?" Qin Lie asked.

"I go wherever A'Hai goes." Feng Rong laughed softly.

"For a long time now, I was prepared to leave Armament Sect to roam the outside world and break through my rut in artifact forging." Mo Hai's expression was indifferent. "I stayed because Ying Xingran kept urging me to. I made a promise with him that I would leave as soon as I was able to forge Earth rank spirit artifact, but... in the end, a major change occurred at Armament Sect, and Ying Xingran and the three great reverends were killed by you one after another. The sect was also corrupted by Joyful Union Sect, so my heart has calmed down. Since the others were going to roam, I followed."

Qin Lie nodded.

"I have an elder here that hasn't been heard from in many years, so I have come to find them," Tang Siqi said in a soft voice, looking at the ground.

Qin Lie then looked at Yi Yuan and Lian Rou.

Yi Yuan spread his arms and said with a grimace, “I first helped you and Miss Song leave the Nether Battlefield, and then I helped Elder Mo and Instructor Feng. Cloud Sky Mountain, a subordinate force to Eight Extreme Temple, discovered what I did. Eight Extreme Temple wants to make trouble for me, so I can’t stay in the Scarlet Tide Continent. All I could do was leave.”

Lian Rong held Yi Yuan’s hand. She smiled faintly and didn’t say anything.

“Have you even thought about what you can do in the Land of Chaos? How you will survive?” Xue Li inserted.

Everyone shook their heads.

“None of you have a goal. You don’t need to go to the Heavenly Fissure Continent since you will not be able to participate in the Trial.”

Xue Li’s gaze swept across Feng Rong, Mo Hai, Tang Siqi, Yi Yuan, and Lian Rou. He said, “Stay here for now. Don’t leave. Qin Lie and I will visit the original Blood Fiend Sect and see what has happened at its location. If there is a place available, we will make a teleportation formation to have Blood Spear and Lang Xie come and rebuild Blood Fiend Sect. Then you will be able to establish yourself at Blood Fiend Sect.”

Feng Rong, Tang Siqi, and the others hadn't had a goal and nodded upon hearing this.

"Boy, you... have enough strength to participate in the Trial." Xue Li looked at Gao Yu and said, "But you need to get a token to get in."

"I will get one," Gao Yu said harshly.

"Gao Yu, what realm are you now?" Qin Lie asked.

When he met Gao Yu this time, he found that the dark aura on Gao Yu's body was even stronger. When he thought of Xue Lie's words and how Gao Yu had cultivated inside the body of the Evil God at the Demon God Mountain Range, his eyes brightened.

"The same as you, the early stage of the Netherpassage Realm," Gao Yu said.

Qin Lie was shocked. "You've progressed quickly."

"In these past few years, I have been working hard within the body of the Evil God. I didn't move even a single step away and barely managed to get into the Netherpassage Realm." Gao Yu frowned, saying with irritation, "You were causing trouble everywhere, cultivating artifact forging at the same time, and having relationships, yet you also entered the Netherpassage Realm. Compared to you, I am not fast at all..."

His cold eyes swept across Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Tang Siqi as reference.

“Ahem!” Qin Lie coughed lightly. He rubbed his nose and said, “I have never slacked off in my cultivation.”

Gao Yu smirked and a hint of mirth appeared in his cold eyes.

“Haha!” Song Tingyu’s eyes were lively. She seemed to find this interesting.

“Everyone, rest up first.” Qin Lie stood up. “There aren’t enough rooms, so please bear with it.”

The group stood.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan took one room because of their identities and their familiarity with each other.

Tang Siqi, Lian Rou, and Feng Rong took another.

Mo Hai and Yi Yuan shared a room.

Gao Yu’s personality was eccentric, his eyes were cold, and his body was shrouded in ghostly energy. No one was willing to stay with him, so he had his own room.

Qin Lie also had his own room.

They had first started at Sea Moon Island, having been teleported five times before reaching the Heavenly Wither Continent. Then they had gone from the Heavenly Wither Continent to Black Jade City. After this string of teleportations, everyone was tired.

They silently sat and rested.

Qin Lie was alone in his room, but his mind would not settle down. He was still thinking about the blank tombstone.

He had recently gotten used to cultivating with the aid of the blank tombstone. He knew just how beneficial it was to him

The tombstone that he had obtained from the god corpse had been left behind on Sea Moon Island. Qin Lie grew annoyed when he thought of this.

“The tombstone must have ended up in the hands of that Luo Chen. He is also going to be participating in the Trial. If you’re confident, you can immediately take it back once you enter the Trial. If you’re strong enough, you can do anything you want to Luo Chen and the others—you can even kill them!” Xue Li suddenly said.

“Do anything… even kill?” Qin Lie’s gaze became vicious.

“Yes. In that secret realm, you don’t need any reasons or excuses to kill someone!” Xue Li smiled coldly. “Even if two people are from the same sect and want to act but cannot do so in the outside world, they can fight to the death in the secret realm! Don’t think that the people from Heavenly Sword Mountain are a team of allies. If they start the clash by the end, they will be able to immediately fight to the death!”

“So that’s how it is!” Qin Lie smiled coldly.

“If you can help me find the body of the Blood Progenitor, I can slaughter all of Sea Moon Island, execute Jiang Zhuzhe, and rebuild Blood Fiend Sect!” Xue Li shouted.

“What will I gain?”

“You will find out after you enter. If you succeed, you will be able obtain the tombstone again, or maybe you will be able to start solving the Graveyard of Gods’ mysteries with the tombstone! At the very least, after experiencing the bloody battles in the Graveyard of Gods, your realm, battle experience, and power will all increase! If you are able to survive until the end, you will also receive prizes from the nine great Silver forces and become famous all over the Land of Chaos!”

“Tomorrow morning, I will go with you to visit the original Blood Fiend Sect.”

“Mn.”

……

Sea Moon Island.

In the grand cultivation room that Blue Star Association provided to Luo Chen, he stared at the blank tombstone with a pale face.

Reaching out once more, Luo Chen tried to touch the tombstone. However, when his finger was three inches away from the tombstone, the seven divine lights within suddenly lit up.

“Boom!”

An enormous power blew Luo Chen away and made blood drip from his mouth.

He wiped away the blood at the corner of his mouth. His complexion became even more ashen as he stared hard at the tombstone. A long time later, he gave up.

Unlike Qin Lie, Luo Chen wasn’t even able to go near the tombstone, much less use its power to cultivate.

What he didn’t know was, when Qin Lie had been fighting to obtain the tombstone, he sprayed a mouthful of blood on it. The fresh blood permeated the tombstone and left behind a unique imprint.

Due to the existence of that imprint, Qin Lie could cultivate using the tombstone. As an additional result, the tombstone would only allow Qin Lie to touch it.

Luo Chen possessed this great treasure, but he could only observe it from far away, unable to benefit from it.

He eventually gave up.

The next day, Luo Chen left Sea Moon Island with Zhao Xuan and the others to prepare for the Trial.

Chapter 411: Blood Cloud Mountain Range

An Earth Grade Two Cloud Sailboat flew with the wind in the clouds of the vast Razed Desert and traveled ten thousand miles in a day.

The Cloud Sailboat was two hundred meters long and fifty meters wide. Clouds floated by its sails and released a powerful wind which propelled it forward.

This Cloud Sailboat was traveling from Black Jade City toward the Lin Family that was in the eastern part of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. There were hundreds of martial practitioners from the subordinate forces of the Xiahou and Lin Families on the Cloud Sailboat. They moved between the immense areas that the two families ruled.

Qin Lie stood at a corner of the Cloud Sailboat and watched as this flying spirit artifact moved through the air. Under him was an endless desert.

He had already spent seven days on this ship.

The Cloud Sailboat traveled ten thousand miles each day. This meant that he was seventy thousand miles away from Black Jade City.

A person that appeared to be in his fifties was also standing on the deck. He casually asked, “Friend, where are you going?”

“To the Blood Cloud Mountain Range,” Qin Lie answered nonchalantly.

“Blood Cloud Mountain Range?” The person was surprised and said, “There hasn’t been any people there for a long time. Ever since Blood Fiend Sect was destroyed, very few go to the Blood Cloud Mountain Range. Why are you going to the Blood Cloud Mountain Range?”

“To find some special spirit grasses,” Qin Lie deflected.

“Nothing has grown in Blood Cloud Mountain Range since the battle,” the person said.

Qin Lie’s brow furrowed.

“You didn’t know?” The person smiled and then introduced himself. “I am Bei Mo, a martial practitioner that was born and raised in the Heavenly Calamity Continent. One of my elders once participated in the battle that destroyed Blood Fiend Sect, so I know a bit.”

“Can you tell me more?” Qin Lie asked.

“About twelve hundred years ago, Blood Fiend Sect was still the ruler of the Heavenly Calamity Continent. The Xiahou, Lin, and Su Families were just small forces at the time. Of them, only the Xiahou Family was a Copper rank force. The Su and Lin Families

were just Black Iron rank forces. More than a thousand years ago, the Xiahou, Su, and Lin Families were just subordinates of Blood Fiend Sect. They were completely obedient to Blood Fiend Sect and did not dare to disobey its orders!”

Bei Mo seemed to have been bored. When Qin Lie’s question showed his interest, Bei Mo explained with a smile.

Qin Lie’s gaze moved.

Xue Li never said that the three major families of the Heavenly Calamity Continent had once been subordinate to Blood Fiend Sect.

That was definitely because Xue Li found it humiliating. Forces that originally obeyed his whims had become Silver forces more than a thousand years later, while Blood Fiend Sect, who had once ruled the continent, had completely disappeared.

Xue Li definitely wouldn’t be willing to accept that. He would be ashamed of this reality, so he wouldn’t tell Qin Lie of the connection between the three families and Blood Fiend Sect.

“Why was Blood Fiend Sect destroyed?” Qin Lie asked seriously.

“More than a thousand years ago, something occurred at Blood Fiend Sect. Xue Li, the new sect leader at the time, was rumored to have cultivated one of Blood Fiend Sect’s forbidden arts and was imprisoned. His junior brother, Jiang Zhuzhe, took over as sect

master of Blood Fiend Sect. Blood Fiend Sect was one of the strongest forces in the Land of Chaos at that time.

"Yet, not long after, Blood Fiend Sect became chaotic.

"Many of the martial practitioners of the forces in the Heavenly Calamity Continent that were subordinate to Blood Fiend Sect inexplicably disappeared. Everyone was worried and tried to find out why.

"Then someone discovered that the people who had mysteriously disappeared had been captured by members of Blood Fiend Sect and killed upon being drained of their blood for consumption.

"When this matter was exposed, many members of Blood Fiend Sect started to go crazy. They were active all across the Heavenly Calamity Continent, finding those that were powerful and consuming their blood to increase in realm and power!

"The Heavenly Calamity Continent was thrown into chaos by Blood Fiend Sect. The evil actions of Blood Fiend Sect, consuming the blood of martial practitioners, shocked all of the Land of Chaos.

"At that time, the Silver forces of the other continents rebuked Blood Fiend Sect, insisting that they restrain their members. They criticized such actions and did not permit them to continue cultivating by consuming blood.

“However, the sect master of that time, Jiang Zhuzhe, went insane from cultivating the forbidden art. Members of his sect also went crazy and were unable to control their urges.

“The forces in the Heavenly Calamity Continent fled overseas in hopes of finding peace. Blood Fiend Sect quickly realized that the martial practitioners disappeared from this continent. They were unable to control their desire for blood, so they extended their reach toward other continents.

“However, Blood Fiend Sect encountered the combined resistance of all the continents and their forces. More than a thousand years ago, all of the Silver rank forces formed an alliance and stepped into the Heavenly Calamity Continent!

“They initiated the extermination of Blood Fiend Sect.

“In a short half year, almost all of the members of Blood Fiend Sect in the Heavenly Calamity Continent were killed. The alliance then went into the Blood Cloud Mountain Range and the main base of Blood Fiend Sect. Regardless of gender and whether or not they had gone insane, the alliance killed all of the martial practitioners that cultivated the Blood Spirit Art.

“All of the forces in the Land of Chaos have an agreement. Regardless of the location, if they see members of Blood Fiend Sect who cultivate the Blood Spirit Art, they must be exterminated.

“After that, the members of Blood Fiend Sect on other continents and islands, regardless of whether or not they had consumed

human blood, were completely wiped out.

“In the decades afterward, no Blood Fiend Sect martial practitioners could be found in all of the Land of Chaos.

“The Blood Spirit Art became known as an evil art. Anyone who cultivated it would be killed if they were discovered.

“The Xiahou, Lin, and Su Families performed exceptionally well in this battle. After the battle, the three great Families divided the spirit materials of Blood Fiend Sect from the Blood Cloud Mountain Range. They allowed the forces from overseas to divvy up Blood Fiend Sect’s mines, lands, medicinal fields, ponds, and territories in the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

“For the thousand years after the end of Blood Fiend Sect, the patriarchs of the three great families used the enormous resources they obtained to slowly develop and reach their current size.

“It could be said that the three great families consumed the blood of Blood Fiend Sect to become the Silver rank forces of the present.”

Bei Mo’s tone was calm as he explained in detail. He told Qin Lie why Blood Fiend Sect was destroyed, and how the the three great families rose to power.

Qin Lie slowly digested Bei Mo’s words and was inwardly shocked.

“There is nothing left in the Blood Cloud Mountain Range. Anything of value was taken by the three great families.” Bei Mo’s tone was calm as his eyes flashed with an otherworldly light. “Haha, the three families garnered fame and profited from their attack on Blood Fiend Sect. By stepping on the corpse of Blood Fiend Sect, the three families prospered on this land. The patriarchs of the three families are wise. They are people that I, Bei Mo, will admire throughout this lifetime.”

For some reason, Qin Lie could see and hear a deep-seated hatred from Bei Mo’s gaze and tone.

It seemed as though he had a grudge against the three great families. He seemed to despise what the three families had done. This made Qin Lie curious.

“Friend, what is your surname?” Bei Mo suddenly asked.

“Qin. My name is Qin Lie.”

“Oh. It doesn’t matter what your surname is, as long as it isn’t Jiang,” Bei Mo said sharply.

Qin Lie was surprised.

“There isn’t anything to look for in the Blood Cloud Mountain Range. There aren’t any spirit grasses. Going there is a waste of time.” Bei Mo looked at him deeply. Then, after saying those

words, he turned to walk to the rooms of the Cloud Sailboat.

Qin Lie thought that this person was strange.

Three days went by quickly, and the Cloud Sailboat passed through the Razed Desert.

On this day, the Cloud Sailboat stopped at a small city. Many martial practitioners got off the boat, and new martial practitioners got on after paying enough spirit stones.

Qin Lie was among those that got off the boat.

He identified a direction, then left the city at dark, walking alone toward Blood Cloud Mountain Range.

After walking for two days, he stepped into the Blood Cloud Mountain Range around noon.

The clouds above his head seemed to be dyed with blood and were a frightening red. Under the light of the sun, the mountain range was terrifyingly bloody.

A faint odor of blood was mixed among the energies of the world. It was very unique, but Qin Lie did not feel any discomfort when he breathed it in.

Xue Li, who had been silent in for a long time, suddenly spoke

inside his mind, “The Blood Cloud Mountain Range! You’ve reached the Blood Cloud Mountain Range!”

“I’m here,” Qin Lie answered.

“Walk towards the mountain further in. Go to the tallest, crimson mountain peak!” Xue Li’s voice resounded intensely within Qin Lie’s mind.

Qin Lie followed his directions.

Around Qin Lie were mountains that were thousands of meters tall. They were as red as blood and bare—devoid of any flora.

Collapsed structures were visible on the mountain peaks. On the paths at the base of the mountains, there were white bones, clothes, and pieces of armor everywhere.

It was completely desolate. When Qin Lie spread out his mind consciousness, he could not detect any signs of life.

“Someone is following you!” Xue Li said suddenly.

Qin Lie’s steps slowed.

He stood next to a mountain. With a frown, he turned his head and coldly said, “Come out.”

There was no sound. Once again, he searched with his mind consciousness, but he did not discover anything.

“There is a person is behind the piece of rock to the left!” Xue Li advised.

Qin Lie suddenly glared in the direction that Xue Li spoke of and shouted, “How long are you going to sneak around?”

An awkward cough came from behind an enormous piece of rock, then a figure popped out. The person had a strange expression on his face. “You are only in the Netherpassage Realm. How were you able to find me?”

“Bei Mo!” Qin Lie shouted.

It was Bei Mo, the stranger who had come over to talk with Qin Lie on the Cloud Sailboat and explained how Blood Fiend Sect had been destroyed.

“Blood Fiend Sect was destroyed long ago. Almost all the members of the past Blood Fiend Sect were killed. Some of those who managed to get away do not dare to step into the Heavenly Calamity Continent. They stay far away from Blood Cloud Mountain Range, afraid that people will find them.” Bei Mo calmly walked toward Qin Lie and said with a sharp gaze, “Why do you dare to come here?”

“I only came here to find spirit grasses.” Qin Lie frowned.

Bei Mo shook his head with a smile. “You cultivate the Blood Spirit Art... one that is quite pure. I sensed it the moment you stepped onto the Cloud Sailboat at Black Jade City.”

Qin Lie’s expression changed.

Chapter 412: Survivor

“You came to me alone because you know that I cultivate the Blood Spirit Art and wish to talk to me about Blood Fiend Sect?” Qin Lie became cautious on the inside, subconsciously touching the spatial ring with a finger, ready to react to anything.

“Of course.” Bei Mo smiled.

He took one step after another toward Qin Lie, and when yellow rings began to appear on Qin Lie, he slipped past him and headed toward the inner regions of the Blood Cloud Mountain Range.

Qin Lie was surprised.

Bei Mo’s footsteps were easygoing as he showed his back to Qin Lie and walked in the direction of the inner regions of the mountain range on his own.

There were plenty of dried gray brown bones along the way. These dried bones once belonged to the disciples of Blood Fiend Sect. They were all killed more than a thousand years ago.

Bei Mo carefully avoided these bones. He did not step on the dried bones even once, seemingly afraid that he would disturb the slumber of the remains.

“More than a thousand years ago, there were several tens of thousands of Blood Fiend Sect disciples who cultivated the Blood

Spirit Art. Very few of them—not even twenty percent—relied on consuming blood to survive." Speaking as he walked, Bei Mo's tone was calm. "Eighty percent of Blood Fiend Sect disciples never consumed human blood and only worked hard to temper their own blood energy. Women, the elderly, and the young were among those people. Some were babies who had never cultivated in their entire lives, and yet they too were struck by that disaster."

Xue Li's deep sigh resonated within Qin Lie's mind.

"Follow him and hear what he has to say," Xue Li advised.

Qin Lie immediately followed after Bei Mo.

"The three great families—the Xiahou Family, the Lin Family, and the Su Family—all knew about Blood Fiend Sect's circumstances. They knew that eighty percent of Blood Fiend Sect's disciples were innocent. However, they never told the other Silver rank forces this, instead telling those wolves that everyone in Blood Fiend Sect relied on consuming human blood to live... that all of them had fallen to evil ways."

Bei Mo laughed coldly. "They naturally could not wait for Blood Fiend Sect to be slaughtered to the last person. When Blood Fiend Sect was strong, the three great families could only humbly obey them, afraid to put up even the slightest resistance. How could they possibly let go of the chance to free themselves and rise to the top when it was finally presented to them?

"Their poison made all of the Silver rank forces go mad with

carnage. With their goal to exterminate all of Blood Fiend Sect, the Silver rank forces began a sweeping operation on the entire Blood Cloud Mountain Range. My senior said that, during that battle, Blood Cloud Mountain Range was stained with blood, and the many palaces that Blood Fiend Sect built atop the mountains were destroyed. Everywhere within five hundred kilometers was filled with cries of pain and death. It was an appalling sight.

"After the battle, every Blood Fiend Sect disciple in the Blood Cloud Mountain Range was killed. It didn't matter if they'd consumed human blood before, if they cultivated the Blood Spirit Art, or if they were a child or not. All of them were slaughtered to the last man.

"Many years later, the three great families slowly rose to power. When the other Silver rank forces had already forgotten about Blood Fiend Sect, they were still sending experts to the other continents and secluded islands in the Land of Chaos to find martial practitioners who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art and relentlessly kill all of them.

"They are afraid that Blood Fiend Sect will rise to power once more. They are afraid that Blood Fiend Sect will return to the Heavenly Calamity Continent and take back everything that was rightfully theirs."

Bei Mo suddenly stopped.

Qin Lie gave him an odd stare while frowning. "So you support Blood Fiend Sect?"

Bei Mo smiled faintly. “If the Blood Spirit Art you cultivated weren’t pure, I would not have wasted my breath. I wouldn’t have even said a sentence more to you.”

“I think that we’re of the same sect then.” Qin Lie chuckled.

Qin Lie did not need Xue Li’s reminder to see the truth. Just from Bei Mo’s attitude and abnormal actions alone, he could tell.

“Although Blood Fiend Sect was destroyed more than a thousand years ago, there are still people who survived that disaster.” Bei Mo did not deny it, and with narrowed eyes, he indifferently said, “Those who survived did their best to escape from the Heavenly Calamity Continent. They switched to new identities and cultivated other spirit arts to conceal themselves, struggling to survive while afraid of being discovered.

“There are very few people who would dare to return to the Heavenly Calamity Continent, much less come to the Blood Cloud Mountain Range because, every so often, the three great families would join forces and send their experts to scour the Blood Cloud Mountain Range. Any suspicious people would be killed on the spot.”

Bei Mo looked at him with a serious expression. “I have reminded you again and again to leave this place, but you simply refuse to listen. Now that I have explained everything to you, it would be best if you immediately departed as far from Blood Cloud Mountain Range as possible. There’s no telling if the experts of the

three great families will patrol this area and discover your existence. It will be too late for regrets once that happens, and just like these dried bones, you will slumber here forever."

"Go to the seventh mountain in front of us!" Xue Li suddenly cried out. "Bring this man along!"

This briefly stunned Qin Lie, who then frowned and said, "Follow me."

As soon as he did, he started moving faster and slipped past Bei Mo like a breeze between the mountains. He went toward the seventh mountain.

Bei Mo's eyes were filled with doubt. After a brief moment of hesitation, he finally obeyed his curiosity and followed Qin Lie.

The Blood Cloud Mountain Range was made up of fifteen connected mountains that were each several thousand meters tall. When Blood Fiend Sect had been powerful, grand palaces were built on all fifteen mountain peaks. Many Blood Fiend Sect disciples had lived and cultivated on every mountain.

Of the fifteen, the seventh mountain was at the center of the Blood Cloud Mountain Range and was more than ten thousand meters tall. Numerous clouds circled the halfway point of the mountain and shrouded its peak.

The seventh mountain was where Blood Fiend Sect had been

located. It was the main mountain where the sect master of Blood Fiend Sect had lived.

The remaining fourteen mountains surrounded the main mountain in a ringlike pattern. Blood Fiend Sect's elders, enforcers, and disciples would live in the belly of these mountains, and there were even blood pools inside of them that the disciples would soak in to temper their blood.

At present, all fifteen mountains were devoid of human life. There was only a sea of dried bones and corpses that had decomposed after being left untouched for more than a thousand years.

The palaces atop the mountains were in shambles, and the giant caves inside the mountains were either collapsed or destroyed. The massive amount of spirit materials that had been stored inside of them had long since been stripped clean by the Silver rank forces, the Xiahou Family, the Su Family, and the Lin Family.

Rotten bones were the only things that appeared along Qin Lie's path.

These bones were all grayish-brown in color. They did not have the jade-like sheen of a dead expert's remains. It was obvious that the ranks of the deceased had been incredibly low.

An hour later, Qin Lie stopped at the foot of the seventh mountain where there were several thousands of grayish-brown bone remains. These bones were either disintegrating or

dismembered, and a tragic aura permeated the land beneath the blood red clouds.

"Many corpses of experts were collected by the clansmen of the three great families after their bodies rotted away. The remains of an expert were as translucent as jade, and they could be used as materials in artifact forging. The remains of Nirvana Realm and Imperishable Realm martial practitioners contain huge amounts of energy and can even be used as energy sources for many great formations. The three great families naturally did not want to leave such resources untouched."

Standing still, Bei Mo looked at the piles of bones and spoke with a thoroughly icy tone, "The corpses of these low rank martial practitioners did not meet the requirements of artifact forging. Of course they were carelessly abandoned—no one could be bothered to bury them all."

"Go up the mountain and find a cave that leads to the belly of the mountain," Xue Li instructed.

Thus, Qin Lie climbed up the mountain.

The seventh mountain was ten thousand meters tall. Its body was huge, and its surface was bare. Not a single plant lived on it.

After climbing three thousand meters, Qin Lie arrived at the midpoint of the mountain. Under Xue Li's constant guidance, he headed for a cliff at the mountain's rear.

Bei Mo followed him the entire way, the confusion in his eyes continuing to grow. He got more and more curious about Qin Lie's actions.

Another hour passed, and Qin Lie saw many giant caves in an area that faced away from the sun.

These caves were all connected to the belly of the mountain. Qin Lie randomly selected one to enter and found that the belly of the mountain was rather wide. As usual, corpses and remains could be seen everywhere.

It was obvious that the interior of this mountain had been carefully cleaned out in the past.

Every Blood Fiend Sect martial practitioner that had lived here had probably been found and slaughtered.

"Stop!" Xue Li exclaimed.

Qin Lie's footsteps came to a halt.

Bei Mo, who had followed him all this way, also stopped and looked at Qin Lie with bewildered eyes.

"Release me," Xue Li said quietly.

"But he's..." Qin Lie was surprised.

“I wish to meet him,” Xue Li said.

This was the belly of the seventh mountain. It was close to the light that came from the cave entrance, so although this place was dark, their vision was not affected too badly.

If they continued to go deeper, it would get darker and darker, eventually becoming so dark that one would not even be able to see their own fingers.

“What do you want to do?” Bei Mo asked Qin Lie.

“Someone wishes to see you.” Qin Lie narrowed his eyes and unlocked the seal inside the Soul Suppressing Orb, releasing Xue Li from his containment.

A thread of bloody light flew out of Qin Lie’s forehead. Xue Li’s fragmented soul slowly condensed to form a bloody soul wisp.

Thinking that Qin Lie was going to attack him, Bei Mo’s expression changed. He was about to subconsciously move toward the cave entrance.

“Your surname should not be Bei, but Mo, right?” Xue Li spoke in the human language. In a deep tone he asked, “Who is Mo Jun to you?”

“Who are you? How do you know my father?” Bei Mo yelled.

“You are very similar to your father.” Xue Li let out a sigh. “Is your father… still alive?”

“He is alive.” Bei Mo’s curiosity was piqued. “I am actually called Mo Bei. Who are you? Why do you only have a fragment of your soul?”

“I am Xue Li. More than a twelve hundred years ago, I was once the newly appointed sect master of Blood Fiend Sect,” Xue Li said quietly.

“Senior Xue Li!” Mo Bei screamed all of a sudden.

Xue Li stared deeply at him, saying, “I have never cultivated the evil art, and I have never harmed my own kind. I believe that your father knows this.”

“My father once told me that the person who descended into the path of evil was in fact your junior brother, Jiang Zhuzhe. Not long after you were imprisoned, Jiang Zhuzhe killed the old sect master, and in the process, the matter of him consuming human blood was quickly exposed. However, at the time there were already plenty of disciples who had been corrupted by him. There were even plenty of elders who lost their way and consumed human blood to cultivate.”

Mo Bei grew agitated as he explained in a loud voice, “It was

uncontrollable! After more and more disciples discovered that they could use other people's blood to cultivate faster, quickly accumulating their strength and rising in realm, they gradually went insane and began hunting countless martial practitioners belonging to vassal forces on the Heavenly Calamity Continent. They eventually went too far and enraged the Silver rank forces of the Land of Chaos. Blood Fiend Sect walked to its doom because of their evil deeds."

"How many survivors are there?" Xue Li said, trembling.

"Jiang Zhuzhe brought a few trusted aides with him and actually managed to survive with Blood Escape. No one has heard about him since then, and no one knew where he went." Mo Bei took a deep breath and said, "My father and your wife left Blood Cloud Mountain Range after the old sect master was killed. When the disaster happened to Blood Fiend Sect, they had actually been gone from the Blood Cloud Mountain Range for a very long time. That was why they managed to survive."

"My wife! Is my wife still alive?" Xue Li's soul began to shudder intensely.

"She is alive. In fact, you also have a daughter," Mo Bei said softly.

Chapter 413: Half Of The Blood Codex

“Lingye is still alive. Lingye is actually still alive. And I have a daughter…”

Xue Li’s bloody soul flickered in midair like a flame in the wind. He was so excited that he looked like he was about to disappear at any moment.

“Quickly, tell me of my wife Mo Lingye!”

It was only a while later that Xue Li finally regained control of his emotions. His pair of bloody eyes shone with an intimidating light as they stared straight at Mo Bei.

Mo Bei pondered for a moment before saying with a heavy expression, “Senior Xue Li, please calm down. Don’t be upset!”

Qin Lie’s eyes narrowed. He could guess from Mo Bei’s attitude that Mo Lingye’s condition was far from ideal.

“Tell me!” Xue Li’s soul appeared to have taken a deep breath. Although he didn’t need to breathe, he was doing it to rein in his emotions.

“I can accept whatever the situation might be as long as she’s still alive! It’s been more than a thousand years. After being imprisoned for such a long time and going through so many hardships, what else is there that I can’t endure?” Xue Li said with

a bitter smile.

“When Aunt Mo discovered that Jiang Zhuzhe had wronged you and killed the previous sect master, she sought him out to fight a bloody battle. Jiang Zhuzhe dearly loved Aunt Mo, and during the battle he always showed mercy and never tried to actually kill her. In fact, he was preparing to imprison Aunt Mo.

“However, as they were fighting, Jiang Zhuzhe discovered that Aunt Mo was pregnant with your child. He then stopped showing mercy and went out of control, becoming insane.

“After that, Aunt Mo suffered a grievous injury. Nearly all of her nerves and blood vessels were damaged.

“It was my father who saved the severely injured Aunt Mo while Jiang Zhuzhe was still insane. He took Aunt Mo away from Blood Fiend Sect and traveled to the distant Heavenly Slaughter Continent.

“After arriving at the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, my father and a number of Blood Fiend Sect disciples who were still loyal to the old sect master had no choice but to employ the secret arts of Blood Fiend Sect, sealing Aunt Mo in a blood cocoon in order to preserve her life.

“In order to keep her life force from slipping away, Aunt Mo was only left with a simple soul consciousness inside of the blood cocoon.

“She should have been able to give birth to the child a long time ago. However, since her body was too weak and her injuries too severe, not to mention the fact that she had been sealed inside of the blood cocoon all this time, the child’s birth was delayed for more than a thousand years. She was only born twenty five years ago.

“If Aunt Mo had given up on the child and had not injected a large amount of blood energy and life force into the child’s body, Aunt Mo could actually have recovered sooner.

“However, she was determined to give birth to ‘Moyan’ even if it meant being sealed for more than a thousand years. As a result, the child was born successfully, but Aunt Mo’s condition has only worsened. Now, she can’t even form a simple consciousness, and her life force weakens every day.

“Although Aunt Mo’s body was wrapped inside of the cocoon and soaked in a special blood pool to preserve her life, her soul is so already so weak that it is incapable of communication.

“I risked entering the Heavenly Calamity Continent because I heard that a ‘Soul Mending Clover’ that is capable of gathering soul strands and mending the soul was being auctioned in the Lin Family’s Scattered Rain City. I hope to purchase it and see if it can help Aunt Mo regather her soul strands.”

Mo Bei softly sighed and thoroughly explained everything that had happened up until the present day to Xue Li.

“Jiang Zhuzhe! One day, I will devour your flesh and chew your bones!” Xue Li’s shrill howl was filled with sadness, pain, and bone-deep hatred.

“Xue Moyan was also searching for spirit herbs for Aunt Mo’s sake. She heard that the secret realm might contain some holy medicine capable of restoring the soul, so she resolved herself and will be participating in the Trial. She should’ve already made her way to the Heavenly Fissure Continent and prepared to enter the Trial.” Mo Bei was afraid that Xue Li would break under the stress, so he brought up the name of his daughter at an appropriate time to draw his attention.

It worked just as expected.

When he heard Mo Bei bring up “Xue Moyan,” Xue Li quickly regained his composure and muttered, “Her surname is Xue, which means ‘snow.’ She truly is my daughter. My original surname of Xue means snow, but since my master thought that it sounded too much like a woman’s surname, he forcefully changed it to the Xue which stood for ‘blood’ when I became his disciple…”

Xue Li changed the subject and yelled, “How is she? How is her constitution after all these years?”

“She…” Mo Bei sighed on the inside.

Xue Li grew tense and hastily asked, “She what exactly?”

“When Aunt Mo was pregnant, she was severely injured, causing the blood energy inside her to become incredibly weak. Since Aunt Mo was sealed within the blood cocoon for over a thousand years, Xue Moyan’s birth was also delayed for the same amount of time.” Mo Bei sighed deeply. “In reality, Moyan should not have survived. Aunt Mo forcefully went against the laws of the heavens by prolonging her pregnancy for more than a thousand years. Moyan’s life force gradually slipped away during that time. When she was born twenty five years ago, she was nearing her life’s end.”

“H-how can this be?” Xue Li’s roared at the top of his lungs, his soul trembling intensely.

“I do not know the exact situation, but I heard from my father that, at best, she might be able to live to thirty. She still has five years of time, and if a miracle does not happen during these five years, she will lose all of her life force at thirty years old and pass away,” Mo Bei said with a dejected look.

“I want her to live! No matter what kind of price I’ll have to pay, I want her to live as best as she can! I want both mother and daughter to be able to live peacefully!” Xue Li roared, sounding like he would tear his own heart and lungs from his chest.

“Since Blood Fiend Sect’s Blood Spirit Art had become a forbidden art, she was sent to Illusory Demon Sect of the nine great forces at a very young age. Her talents are extraordinary, and she is already at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. This time she is the representative of Illusory Demon Sect. The members of Illusory Demon Sect know of her abnormal condition, and they also wish she will be able to have a fortuitous meeting in the

Graveyard of Gods. They hope that she can cross that line... and live!" Mo Bei exclaimed in a low tone.

Inside of the cave, Xue Li constantly roared in anger, his bloody pupils filled with sadness.

A very long time later, Xue Li eventually calmed down and said, "I want to go into the Trial and see my daughter. I want to refine the Blood Progenitor's body, and help Moyan find the holy medicine and survive this calamity!"

"Senior Xue Li, I don't think you... will be able to enter," Mo Bei suddenly said.

"Why not?" Xue Li's eyes glittered with a bloody light.

"I heard that the secret realm named the 'Graveyard of Gods' has a soul barrier at its entrance. All martial practitioners stronger than the Netherpassage Realm, be it in soul or physical body, will not be able to pass through it," Mo Bei said seriously. "The experts of the nine great silver rank forces once tried abandoning their physical bodies and splitting their souls to enter. They even tried using a Heaven Grade spirit artifact to hide their souls, but the barrier still prevented them from entering."

Qin Lie momentarily froze.

Xue Li was similarly dumbfounded. "Even a Heaven Grade spirit artifact can't help a soul pass through the entrance's barrier?"

Mo Bei nodded with a bitter smile.

Xue Li's bloody shadow began to intensely tremble again, showing his anxiety and worry.

Mo Bei looked at him helplessly.

Qin Lie frowned, unable to think of a better way to help Xue Li at the moment.

After a long time, Xue Li headed toward the deeper parts of the mountain. From the creeping darkness of the cave he said, "Wait for me here."

Qin Lie and Mo Bei stayed where they were, unmoving.

"How did Senior Xue Li come to be with you?" Mo Bei asked.

"I discovered him in the spirit pattern pillars that he was sealed within..." Qin Lie gave a brief explanation of what had happened.

Mo Bei sighed deeply. "Aunt Mo was sealed inside of the blood cocoon for over a thousand years... to think that senior Xue Li went through the same thing. Sigh. The once prosperous Blood Fiend Sect, the ruler of the Heavenly Calamity Continent, has been gone for a long time, and its three lowly vassal forces have become the kings of this land instead. This is truly unbearable."

“I will rebuild Blood Fiend Sect!” Xue Li’s voice echoed from deep within the caves.

Xue Li’s soul shrouded a bone fragment that resembled a bloody jade, suspending it above Qin Lie’s head.

“Keep this,” Xue Li instructed Qin Lie through his soul.

Qin Lie did not even so much as glance at the translucent bone fragment when he raised his hand, grabbed it, and stored it inside of his spatial ring.

“Mo Bei, please leave for a moment. There’s something I need to talk to him about,” Xue Li said.

Mo Bei respectfully walked out.

“What I gave you is the first volume of the Blood Codex, the very foundation of Blood Fiend Sect. Not only does it document the pure, complete version of the Blood Spirit Art, it also contains all kinds of offensive skills and extraordinary blood formations that complement the Blood Spirit Art!” Xue Li had somehow managed to dig half of the Blood Codex out of the cave. His eyes glittering with a bloody light, he solemnly said, “It is said that the Blood Codex was written on a piece of bone from the Blood Progenitor himself. Do not let its size fool you—the words stored inside of it are as plentiful as the stars, and its secrets are immeasurable!”

“Why did you give this to me?” Qin Lie asked softly.

“Even if I am not by your side, you will be able to use this to cultivate the greatest spirit art of the Blood Fiend Sect. This item should also help you collect the Blood Progenitor’s body!” Xue Li said seriously.

“Are you going to leave my side?” Qin Lie came to a realization.

“Since I cannot enter the Graveyard of Gods with you, I can only leave for a while. I think it is time that I see my wife anyway.” Xue Li’s tone was sad. “If you meet my daughter within the Graveyard of Gods, I hope that you will do your best to help her. As for whether or not you tell her about us… that is up to you.”

Qin Lie nodded quietly.

“Put down the spirit materials you gathered back then to build the teleportation formation. I will have Mo Bei carry them. Once we reach the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, I will attempt to connect to the ultimate blood ground.” Xue Li looked at the walls of the cave and sighed. “I originally wanted to build the teleportation formation here. Unfortunately, the three great families probably won’t allow it, so I’ll have to settle for a different place. When you’ve obtained the Blood Progenitor’s body for me and I’ve refined it into my main body, we will consider rebuilding Blood Fiend Sect and the Blood Cloud Mountain Range.”

“How will I find you after I exit the Trial?” Qin Lie asked.

“It should be fine if you just talk with Mo Bei and confirm a location later on,” Xue Li said.

“Alright. Take care of yourself.” Qin Lie pressed the spatial ring and took out the Phantasm Stones, Froststar Stones, Fate Crystals, Ethereal Jades, and the fresh blood of Scarlet Spirit Turtle, putting them on the ground.

“Qin Lie! If you meet my daughter when you enter the Graveyard of Gods, you must take care of her on my behalf!” Xue Li requested solemnly.

“Mn.”

Chapter 414: Lost Contact

Xue Li followed Mo Bei and left.

Mo Bei was originally going to Scattered Rain City to help Xue Li's wife, Mo Lingye, by buying the Soul Mending Clover. Since Xue Li could not enter the Graveyard of Gods with Qin Lie and also desperately wanted to see his wife, he simply left after they agreed on where to meet up in the future.

Once Xue Li and Mo Bei left, Qin Lie sat in the belly of the seventh mountain alone. After some thought, he took out the half of the Blood Codex that Xue Li had given him.

The bone fragment was the size of a palm.

It was extremely heavy and was translucent while it shone with a bloody glow, as if it had been forged from carnelian.

According to Xue Li's explanation, this half of the Blood Codex had been written on a small piece of the Blood Progenitor's bone. The secret arts of Blood Fiend Sect were stored it, and its mysteries were difficult to fathom.

Qin Lie attempted to put a wisp of his mind consciousness into the Blood Codex.

"Boom!"

A shiny ball of bloody light gushed out of the bone fragment, pushing his mind consciousness away from it.

His wisp of consciousness was actually unable to seep into the fragment.

“Huh!”

Softly crying out, Qin Lie’s eyes quietly lit up as he channeled the Blood Spirit Art.

The thick scent of blood spread from his pores and formed a thin blood mist. Then he gathered refined blood energy into his mind consciousness.

Qin Lie once again attempted to soak his consciousness into the Blood Codex!

He did not encounter any obstacles this time, and his mind consciousness slipped straight into the Blood Codex like a long thread of blood.

He suddenly found himself falling toward a sea of bloody symbols.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The hundreds of thousands of bloody symbols and words inside

of the blood bone resembled red, translucent gemstones, yet they flew like bloody butterflies and spirit birds.

The bloody symbols were of fantastic oddities of every description. Furthermore, they constantly transformed, making them truly difficult to fathom.

As he floated amidst the sea of bloody symbols, Qin Lie felt a large amount of information flood into his mind, all of it rebounding toward the True Soul in his Soul Lake.

“Blood Arts: Explode!”

“Blood Arts: Soul Shackle!”

“Blood Weeping Ghost Claw!”

“Blood Demon Art!”

Qin Lie’s mind consciousness lingered within the sea of bloody symbols. Memories and thoughts leaped into his mind like numerous bloody lights, allowing him to learn the numerous cultivation secrets of Blood Fiend Sect.

“This truly is amazing!”

Qin Lie focused his mind and allowed himself to freely soar through the sea of bloody symbols, examining the many magical

spirit arts of the blood.

"Blood Spirit Art! Blood Spirit Art!"

Thousands of giant symbols that resembled translucent gemstones formed a distinct river of blood amidst the bloody sea. The sanguine symbols flipped and turned as if someone were flipping a book.

Qin Lie concentrated and learned.

Time swiftly passed.

An unknown amount of time later, Qin Lie gradually awakened as his eyes, which had been closed, opened.

Very carefully, he stored the translucent bloody bone back into his spatial ring. He wore a complicated expression on his face.

"Cultivation of the Blood Spirit Art is pretty dangerous. No wonder Jiang Zhuzhe and the others fell to evil ways," Qin Lie muttered with a serious expression.

To put it bluntly, cultivation of the Blood Spirit Art was the condensation of one's blood and the use blood energy to temper one's bones, nerves, and flesh. Not only did it allow the practitioner to possess a powerful physique, it also allowed their blood to store a terrifying amount of energy.

The method of speeding up the cultivation of the Blood Spirit Art and building the blood pools were recorded in that half of the Blood Codex. After filling a blood pool with the blood of spirit beasts and adding all kinds of spirit herbs, a practitioner could soak their body in it and absorb the essence of the blood energy within the pool, gradually merging the essence with their own. This tempered their body, enhanced their blood energy, refined their blood...

This was the regular way one would cultivate the Blood Spirit Art.

The blood of spirit beasts did not contain a tangled mess of memories and thought fragments. The cultivation method recorded inside of the Blood Codex used blood pools and added spirit herbs to them to clean the worthless residual thought fragments in the blood, giving them a miraculous blood purifying effect.

Through this method, the practitioner would not absorb the thought fragments and diverse memories when tempering their body with blood energy, enhancing the spirit energy of their blood.

As a result of this, they would not experience a fiendish rebound, lose control when channeling the Blood Spirit Art, or lose their sanity.

On the other hand, the path that Jiang Zhuzhe and his people walked was a shortcut.

—They did not rely on blood pools or the blood of spirit beasts. Instead, they absorbed blood directly from a martial practitioner's body!

In fact, to a disciple of Blood Fiend Sect, the fresh blood of a human was more suitable for cultivation compared to the fresh blood of a spirit beast. The fresh blood of a human did not need to be purified by spirit herbs, cultivated with a blood pool, or absorbed through one's pores. A disciple could just drink it like water.

Blood from one human was similar to another's, after all, but beast's blood wasn't. Therefore, it needed to be purified through a complicated process.

While using human blood was more preferable than beast blood, doing so also had a huge flaw—humans were highly intelligent, and their blood contained many thought fragments, confusing memories, and negative emotions.

Although directly absorbing human blood for cultivation purposes could swiftly increase one's strength, it also meant that one would absorb thought fragments, memories, and negative emotions into their own blood.

The more human blood a practitioner absorbed, the more thought fragments, memories, and negative emotions they would accumulate.

The impurities inside of Jiang Zhuzhe's and Jiang Tianxing's bodies caused them to lose control of their bodies during battle. When the thought fragments, memories, and negative emotions within one's blood erupted, they would take direct control of the practitioner's body, leading to the host itself being controlled by blood!

According to the accounts in this half of the Blood Codex, the people who cultivated using this method would accumulate more and more thought fragments, memories, and negative emotions inside of their blood. In fact, they could even give birth to a terrible blood soul. As the blood soul grew stronger and stronger, it would ultimately devour their own cultivator and replace the main soul of the body.

When that happened, the person who cultivated this type of Blood Spirit Art would no longer be themselves. In fact, they would no longer even be considered human. They will have completely transformed into a "Blood Demon"!

This cultivation method meant that the practitioner would ultimately cultivate to the point of completely losing themselves. It was the same as breeding a monster with a confused soul in their own blood that would ultimately devour them.

This was a tragic ending. However, the moment that a cultivator fell to this evil path, discovering that this cultivation method would allow them to improve at a ridiculous speed, they wouldn't be able to control their thirst for human blood.

Just like being hooked on drugs, they would forever lose

themselves in the act.

After clarifying the differences between the two types of cultivation arts, Qin Lie made up his mind to never cultivate by directly absorbing human blood. He had no intention of losing himself and being devoured by a blood soul, ultimately turning into a blood demon.

He did not know if Jiang Zhuzhe and the others were aware of this consequence. He also did not know what their reaction would be if they realized that they would lose their soul if they cultivated this path to the very end.

Qin Lie was not in a hurry to leave.

In the belly of the mountain, he researched and tested the many secret arts that were meant to complement the Blood Spirit Art, such as Blood Arts: Explode, Blood Arts: Soul Shackle, Blood Weeping Ghost Claw, and Blood Arts: Escape, attempting to simplify them.

Ten days later, he understood how to unleash them and etched them deep into his memory. Only then did he leave the Blood Cloud Mountain Range.

Qin Lie rode the Cloud Sailboat on a scheduled return journey and went back to Black Jade City.

He returned to Black Jade City about ten days later and headed to

the small house in North City.

He hadn’t even gotten close to the house before he came to a stop with a grim face.

Numerous martial practitioners were gathered around the house. Many people were whispering and gesturing toward it.

Qin Lie said nothing, staying a fair distance away from the crowd and listening to their conversation.

As he learned more and more about what happened, he grew quieter by the second.

He eventually understood what was going on.

Not long after he left, some martial practitioners in North City were attracted by the beauty of Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Tang Siqi and attempted to humiliate them by sneaking in at night.

A bloody battle erupted immediately afterward.

During the battle, Feng Rong unleashed the Blood Spirit Art and slaughtered many of the attackers.

She did not know that the Blood Spirit Art was a forbidden art in the Heavenly Calamity Continent. When someone recognized the

Blood Spirit Art she cultivated, they immediately screamed.

Soon enough, Feng Rong realized from the screams that the Blood Spirit Art was considered an evil art and that anyone who used it would be mercilessly killed.

She also learned from those people just how merciless the Xiahou Family, the Su Family, and the Lin Family of the Heavenly Calamity Continent were toward the people who cultivated Blood Spirit Arts.

Feng Rong panicked.

After realizing the truth, they killed all of the attackers and escaped using the Xiahou Family's teleportation formation before they could react.

Not long after they left, some people arrived and recognized that the severe injuries of the deceased were marks unique to the Blood Spirit Art.

These people immediately reported this to the Xiahou Family.

As a result, the elites of the Xiahou Family in Black Jade City immediately mobilized to search the entire city for Feng Rong and her group.

They quickly discovered that, while they were still unaware of everything, Feng Rong and the others had already left the

Heavenly Calamity Continent through the teleportation formation. They had gone to the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

The Xiahou Family, the Su Family, and the Lin Family sent many martial practitioners, who were said to have also gone to the Heavenly Fissure Continent, to kill Feng Rong's group to the last person.

After quietly listening for a moment, Qin Lie shrank into a hidden corner and put on the fox skin mask. Then he quietly left the area.

He prepared ready to leave the Heavenly Calamity Continent as soon as possible.

However, not long after Song Tingyu and the others were forced to leave, Qin Lie encountered a problem—he did not have enough spirit stones to teleport to the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

It costed one thousand Earth Grade spirit stones to teleport to the Heavenly Fissure Continent using the teleportation formation here. However, Qin Lie only had about two hundred Earth Grade spirit stones in his spatial ring.

Song Tingyu was originally going to pay for him, so he had not paid much attention to the matter.

Since Song Tingyu and the others had left in a hurry and the Trial in the Graveyard of Gods was about to start, Qin Lie needed

to gather enough spirit stones as soon as possible to leave this place.

After spending a day's time, he figured out that another group of people had harbored ill will toward Tang Siqi and the others.

When these people rushed to the house during the latter half of the night that Tang Siqi and the others were attacked, they discovered that another group of people had gotten ahead of them. However, this first group of people had been killed. It was the second group of people who noticed the traces of the Blood Spirit Art on the bodies and reported the news to the Xiahou Family, receiving three thousand Earth Grade spirit stones as reward.

At midnight, Qin Lie visited these people at the house in North City.

An explosion roared in the dead of night, engulfing the house. Four Terminator Profound Bombs had blown that group of martial practitioners into smithereens.

Qin Lie then took their spatial rings and quietly left.

He had acquired funds to pay for his journey to the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

Chapter 415: Floating Island

At the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

A stalwart figure abruptly appeared from the blossoming light of a large-scale, altar-shaped teleportation formation.

“Are you here to participate in the Trial, sir?” At a corner of the teleportation formation, a Fragmentation Realm martial practitioner with the burning furnace emblem of Celestial Artifact Sect sewn into the chest area of his clothing asked loudly.

Qin Lie lowered his head, looked at him, and said, “Yes.”

“Which force do you represent?”

“Heavenly Sword Mountain.”

“Please produce your token and allow me to have a look.”

Qin Lie raised his sword token.

After glancing at it and probing it with his soul consciousness, the practitioner nodded slightly and said, “Stand there and don’t move. I will send you to the Trial’s location.”

Qin Lie stood in silence.

He realized that he did not need to pay a single spirit stone to teleport from the Heavenly Wither Continent to the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

This was because the sword token he held represented Heavenly Sword Mountain, and the large-scale teleportation formation in the Heavenly Wither Continent was under Heavenly Sword Mountain's control. Therefore, a Heavenly Sword Mountain participant could use the teleportation formation without paying.

The teleportation formation in Black Jade City was controlled by the Xiahou Family. Since Qin Lie wasn't a member of the Xiahou Family, he had to pay one thousand Earth Grade spirit stones to use it.

The teleportation formation in the Heavenly Fissure Continent belonged to Celestial Artifact Sect.

Since Celestial Artifact Sect was the main organizer of the current Trial, the teleportation of participants became their duty. As a result of this, he was not required to pay any spirit stones.

As he pondered, Qin Lie was flooded by a strong light. Amidst dizziness and the colorful bursts of light, he was teleported away yet again.

When he appeared once more, he discovered that he was on a giant island. The island was noisy, filled with crowds of martial practitioners from all kinds of forces.

“Come out!” a Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner yelled.

Qin Lie stepped out of the teleportation formation and examined his surroundings with narrowed eyes. He looked at the martial practitioners of the nine great Silver rank forces who were here to participate in the Trial.

Qin Lie wanted to seek out Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan to confirm their circumstances. He wished to know if Gao Yu and the others were safe and sound.

“Qin Lie!”

Candid laughter suddenly rang in his ears, causing his body to abruptly shake.

He turned around and saw a lazy figure behind him. A large wolf that was white as snow crouched beside the man—it was the Icestone Snow Wolf King.

“Uncle Li!” Qin Lie yelled.

Li Mu nodded with a smile and beckoned to him, “Come with me.”

Qin Lie excitedly followed.

The large wolf's snow white fur glowed with a translucent, gentle light. Its eyes were filled with intelligence. It also appeared to be much more majestic than before.

The Icestone Snow Wolf King had become even stronger.

Qin Lie was currently in a giant plaza on the island. There were all sorts of martial practitioners gathered in the plaza, and all of them were looking at a jade platform several hundred meters tall with excitement.

All of the people were in heated discussion.

"Each of the nine great forces produced three Earth Grade spirit artifacts, three spirit pills, and three spirit armors as rewards for this Trial! That's a total of twenty seven treasures. Any participants who manage to survive the Graveyard of Gods will be eligible to receive some of these twenty seven treasures!"

"That's right! As long as they are able to hold out for a year, not only will anyone who exits the Graveyard of Gods a year later be able to claim anything from the Graveyard of Gods as their own, they will also be able to acquire some of the twenty seven treasures!"

"As the main organizer of this event, Celestial Artifact Sect has produced three Earth Grade Five spirit artifacts! This includes a Specter Jadeflame Shuttle, a Lunar Fulfillment Ring, and a Demon Slaying Blade. These are things that many Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners desire!"

“Ten Thousand Beast Mountain also wasn’t stingy. They offered three Rank Six spirit beasts, all tamed. The first beast is a Rank Six Golden Winged Luan that can travel fifty thousand miles a day. The second beast is a Blue Blooded Qilin that has extraordinary combat abilities. The third beast is a Fire Crow King that can command thousands of Fire Crows. Even in Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, these three Rank Six spirit beasts are rare creatures. They truly aren’t afraid to splurge!”

“Heavenly Sword Mountain has also taken out three precious Earth Grade swords. The sword will of each sword is said to be able to communicate with spirits. These are also incredibly precious treasures!”

“The Terminator Sect has produced three ‘Seven Apertures Mind Nurturing Pills.’ It is said that they are capable of nurturing one’s True Soul and have an amazing effect on the growth and recovery of one’s True Soul!”

“The three rare sets of armor from the Illusory Demon Sect are also incredibly precious.”

“……”

The martial practitioners were deep in discussion as they excitedly stared at the tall jade platform.

Qin Lie looked up and realized that the jade platform was wrapped in layers of rainbow light. Many shiny spirit artifacts, sets

of spirit armor, and spirit pills kept in jade vases were atop of the platform.

Since the three spirit beasts from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were living things, they were kept somewhere else and looked after by specialists.

Hearing the discussions, Qin Lie was similarly moved and shocked by the generosity of the nine great Silver rank forces.

Normally speaking, a Profound Grade spirit artifact and spirit armor was enough for martial practitioners in the Manifestation or Netherpassage Realms.

Earth Grade spirit artifacts were meant solely for Fulfillment Realm and Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners. Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners weren't able to unleash the essence and power of an Earth Grade spirit artifact.

For example, even though Qin Lie had acquired the twelve spirit pattern pillars, he wasn't able to use all of them. To this day, he still couldn't unleash the magics of the Universal Celestial Sealing Formation.

However, a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner would eventually step into the Fulfillment Realm and the Fragmentation Realm one day. They would have to purchase Earth Grade spirit artifacts when that happened.

It was very common for a normal Earth Grade spirit artifact to cost around several tens of thousands of Earth Grade spirit stones. Only martial practitioners of powerful families could possibly own an Earth Grade spirit artifact.

Many disciples of the nine great forces would not be able to obtain a suitable Earth Grade spirit artifact without the accumulated wealth of their fathers and ancestors.

For this Trial, the nine great Silver rank forces had produced three Earth Grade spirit artifacts, three Earth Grade spirit pills, three Rank Six spirit beasts, and three sets of rare Earth Grade armor. It could be considered a most generous offer.

All the youths of the nine great forces who were confident in their own strength still decided to participate in the Trial in spite of knowing about its risks and extremely high mortality rate.

—They had all been blinded by the twenty seven treasures.

“Alright, that’s enough. If you survive a year in the Graveyard of Gods, at least one of these twenty seven treasures will belong to you,” Li Mu turned around and yelled with a smile. He said, “Come on, your friends are waiting for you.”

“My friends…” Qin Lie’s eyes suddenly lit up.

After that, Qin Lie’s footsteps sped up. The two of them quickly left the central plaza of the island and arrived in a secluded place.

“Let’s go!”

Holding Qin Lie’s arm, Li Mu instantly vanished into the air above the island like a soaring blade.

Deep within the clouds.

An island that was several tens of thousands of acres wide quietly floated within a sea of clouds.

On it there were bejeweled jade palaces, white jade palaces, celestial cranes, spirit turtles, and clear streams. It resembled a paradise or a dreamland.

“This is my flying spirit artifact, Floating Island. I personally prefer silence, so there are very few people here.” Li Mu smiled and landed on the island.

Qin Lie jumped down from the clouds and landed on the island. His eyes were filled with amazement that he was not afraid to voice, “Uncle Li, just what is the grade of your flying spirit artifact? This is infinitely better than Profound Heaven Alliance’s Flowing Gold Firecloud Tent or Joyful Union Sect’s crystalline war chariot!”

“Compared to this Floating Island, our Profound Heaven Alliance’s Flowing Gold Firecloud Tent is practically out of fashion.” Song Tingyu’s figure appeared from inside of a white

jade palace.

“Senior Li.”

“Senior Li.”

Gao Yu and Xie Jingxuan both emerged from two luxurious palaces beside Song Tingyu’s.

When they saw Li Mu, their expressions were respectful, and their eyes contained sincerity.

They had suddenly been found by Li Mu when they were being hunted down by the Xiahou Family in the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

There had been a Fragmentation Realm expert among the people who came after them at the time. They couldn’t see any hope for survival.

The floating island had appeared amidst thick clumps of clouds and white fog during a critical moment.

Li Mu took them up onto the island and sneakily slipped away while the Fragmentation Realm martial practitioner from the Xiahou Family was disoriented.

“Where are Mo Hai and the others?” Qin Lie asked.

“They were not qualified to participate in the Trial, so I did not bring them here. Don’t worry, they’re somewhere safe,” Li Mu explained with a smile.

“Thank you, Uncle Li.” Qin Lie bowed and thanked him sincerely.

Li Mu waved his hands to indicate that Qin Lie did not need to be so polite, then led the group to the palace at the center of the island.

“Come, sit down.” Li Mu smiled.

The group sat on a warm white jade futon inside of the white jade palace and looked at him.

“Gao Yu, you got a participation token?” Qin Lie asked in surprise.

“Mm. I got a token from a pursuer from the Xiahou family. It has ‘Xiahou’ inscribed on it.” Gao Yu nodded slightly.

“Kid, you seem to have caused quite the commotion on the Scarlet Tide Continent, haven’t you?” Li Mu said, taking out a wine jug with a smile and serving himself. Not only did he not look angry, he even appeared to admire Qin Lie.

“The only reason I accepted you at Li’s Shop at that time was because I thought the spirit diagrams you inscribed were quite interesting. I never would have thought that your courage would rival the heavens, and that your luck would be just as extraordinary. You were actually able to come to an understanding with a clan of the Horned Demon Race in the Nether Realm and even forcefully teleported them to the Nether Continent.”

Li Mu smiled and said, “I gave you the Eye of Frost in hopes that you would one day unseal the Giant Spirit Race. I thought that it would take you at least a dozen years or so to achieve that, but who would’ve thought you would do it in just five or six. Haha, I really owe you one.”

“You owe me one?” Qin Lie was surprised.

“Haha.” Li Mu smiled and did not answer.

Without Qin Lie, Li Mu would not have been able to earn the trust of the Horned Demon Race and establish a trade route with them.

This alone greatly enhanced Heavenly Sword Mountain’s strength. It allowed Heavenly Sword Mountain to acquire a stable trading partner, and also allowed them to trade for a lot of extraordinary items that were unique to the Nether Realm.

Nether Hell Demonic Fruit, Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotus, and Black Jade Soul Essence weren’t things that could be bought with spirit stones. It was exactly because they had acquired the Horned

Demon Race's trust that Heavenly Sword Mountain had managed to acquire some of them through trading.

Of course, Li Mu did not tell Qin Lie about such sensitive details.

"Return the Eye of Frost to me, and I will give you a jade token. This jade token belongs to a friend of mine who asked me to unseal the Giant Spirit Race. By helping me achieve this, he now owes you a favor. If you encounter danger in the future, you can use this jade token to seek him out."

Li Mu handed Qin Lie a jade token and said, "Unlike me, this fellow is a free man. I belong to Heavenly Sword Mountain. As a result, I cannot act without considering many things beforehand. He isn't afraid to offend others. As long as you are in the Land of Chaos, no matter how much trouble you encounter, none will dare to kill you as long as he is by your side."

Li Mu paused and grinned, saying, "Even if the fact that you cultivate the Blood Spirit Art were exposed, as long as you are able to seek him out with the jade token, not even the nine great Silver rank forces would dare to harm you."

Chapter 416: The Top Nine Genius Ringers!

Before Qin Lie could answer, Song Tingyu and the other two were the first to cry out with surprised looks on their faces.

After experiencing the huge change at Black Jade City, they understood the situation and knew that any martial practitioners who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art would be met with deadly force if they dared to operate in the Land of Chaos.

The elites of the Xiahou Family, the Su Family, and the Lin Family had chased them all the way from the Heavenly Calamity Continent to the Heavenly Fissure Continent after they discovered that Feng Rong used the Blood Spirit Art. They pursued and bit at them like rabid dogs.

Those who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art were every continent's common enemy. All of them needed to be exterminated.

And Li Mu had just given Qin Lie a jade token and said that, even if the fact that he was cultivating the Blood Spirit Art were exposed, the nine great Silver rank forces would not dare to harm him as long as he could find that person and make use of the token.

Was this person so powerful that even the nine great Silver rank forces had to give him face?

Qin Lie was secretly shocked on the inside.

He looked downward and carefully examined the palm-sized jade token. A hornless dragon was inscribed into the front of it, clawing and biting. A violent, overbearing aura radiated from it, making people regard it with fearful respect.

The back of the token was inscribed with just a single ancient word—”Duan.”

However, this word alone was capable of causing pain to one’s eyes. It could make them feel uncomfortable, as if needles were piercing their entire body.

—It had an edge to it that was as sharp as a blade.

In Qin Lie’s senses, several bolts of light abruptly exploded from the word “Duan” and spread in every direction.

When he closed his eyes and used only his True Soul to look at it, he discovered that the word on the jade token resembled a blazing sun through the lens of his soul perception. It shone with rays of harsh, dazzling, divine light.

Qin Lie hastily stored the jade token into his spatial ring, and with a look of lingering fear, he softly said, “What a powerful mind consciousness!”

“Hehe, that person is even harder to locate than I am. If he hadn’t left a powerful soul intent on the jade token, it would be impossible for you to find him,” Li Mu said with a smile.

“How am I going to find him then?” Qin Lie was surprised.

“It’s pretty simple.” Li Mu sipped a mouthful of wine and smiled. “If you find yourself at a dead end one day, take out the jade token. Use a wisp of refined soul consciousness to enter it, then speak your name and explain your predicament.”

“And then?” Qin Lie was very interested.

“Then he will help you solve your predicament,” Li Mu instructed. After that he smiled and said, “But you must remember that this jade token can only save you once.”

Qin Lie nodded, pondering for a moment. Then he changed the subject and asked, “Blood Fiend Sect’s Jiang Zhuzhe and his son Jiang Tianxing have close ties with Celestial Artifact Sect. Furthermore, Jiang Tianxing is a disciple of Celestial Artifact Sect. They are the true masterminds behind the Blood Spirit Art incident. Is their involvement really unknown to everyone?’

Song Tingyu and the other two were surprised, growing curious.

Li Mu frowned and thought for a moment before answering, “This is a complicated matter that also involves quite a few parties. It’s not that nobody cultivates the Blood Spirit Art in the Land of Chaos. They are just very careful and would not recklessly reveal it. As for you... well, just be careful and try your best not to use it in front of someone. If you do, make sure you leave no trace of it...”

Qin Lie was shocked.

“Alright, that’s enough thinking. Just prepare for the Trial,” Li Mu said with a lazy expression.

“Uncle Li, my grandfather…” Qin Lie started saying once more.

“Hoho.” Li Mu smiled again. “I arranged for you to participate in the Trial specifically because of this matter.”

Qin Lie immediately became attentive.

“The martial practitioner who entered the Graveyard of Gods went insane, and his soul quickly diminished afterwards. The people of Celestial Artifact Sect isolated his memories and sealed them inside of a Memory Fragment Crystal so that they could be viewed by all parties…” Li Mu’s expression turned serious. “I was one of the lucky ones who were allowed to examine that Memory Fragment Crystal, but I didn’t find anything extraordinary in it. Little Ice, however, discovered something.”

Qin Lie looked around but did not see the Icestone Snow Wolf King. It was probably still at the island on the ground below.

“Where is your wooden sculpture?” Li Mu suddenly changed the subject.

Slightly confused, Qin Lie took out his wooden sculpture.

Li Mu did not ask to see it. Instead, he just glanced at it from afar before saying, “Is your grandfather the one who carved that wooden sculpture?”

Qin Lie nodded.

Li Mu went silent.

“What’s going on, Uncle Li?” Qin Lie quickly asked.

“In the Memory Fragment Crystal, I saw a corpse that was covered in dense fog. The corpse’s face was indiscernible, but beside the corpse was that same exact wooden sculpture. It was the same size as the one in your hands and looked just like it, so it should have also been carved by your grandfather.” Li Mu frowned. “I do not recognize the wooden sculpture, but Little Ice does…”

Qin Lie went pale as fear promptly appeared from deep within his eyes. “That’s impossible. That couldn’t possibly be my grandfather. That can’t be…”

“As I said, the corpse’s face was indiscernible and it might not actually be your grandfather,” Li Mu pointed out, sighing softly. “However, it did have a wooden sculpture that was identical to yours. If he isn’t your grandfather, then in my opinion, he must be related to him in some way. In light of this, I summoned you to the

Land of Chaos to participate in the Trial to get to the bottom of this."

"It can't be him! It definitely isn't him!" Qin Lie shook his head repeatedly. "Anyone above the Fulfillment Realm cannot enter that Graveyard of Gods. All of you have tried! My grandfather is definitely stronger than the Fulfillment Realm. If he can't even enter, how could he possibly be inside?"

"That corpse definitely isn't new. It has definitely been there for many years already." Li Mu nodded.

"Qin Lie, it hasn't been more than ten years since your grandfather left, has it?" Song Tingyu once carefully investigated Ling Town and Herb Mountain. She knew that it hadn't been long since Qin Shan left Qin Lie, which was why she interrupted the conversation.

Qin Lie, who had suddenly become anxious and worried, gradually calmed down. After sorting out his thoughts, he relaxed once more and nodded. "It is not my grandfather."

"Mn. It is probably just related to your grandfather." Li Mu looked at him seriously. Then, with narrowed eyes, he gently said, "The corpse is not your grandfather, yet whoever it is had your grandfather's wooden sculpture and has been dead for many years. In that case, your grandfather... has definitely lived for a very long time. He might be older than Heavenly Sword Mountain."

"I will go and find out!" Qin Lie exclaimed solemnly.

“The Trial will begin in five days. Once it does, you guys can go in together,” Li Mu said with a smile. “You can still stay on my floating island for five days. Once the time is up, I will send you to the entrance. The rewards for this Trial are pretty impressive, so work hard, everyone.”

“If we survive for a year, will we obtain the rewards?” Song Tingyu asked.

Li Mu nodded. “Those who come out alive can take some of the twenty seven treasures. The less people there are, the more they get.”

“They are encouraging the participants to slaughter each other,” Xie Jingxuan said calmly.

“It has always been like this.” Li Mu frowned. “Say your prayers and watch your backs. Since you’ve decided to participate, you must be prepared to be killed. Less than ten percent of the participants survived the previous Trial.”

Everyone’s expressions changed slightly.

“Rest well and prepare yourselves for the bloody feast in five days. If you come out alive, you may become a core disciple of Heavenly Sword Mountain if you want.” Li Mu smiled. “Even if you do not join Heavenly Sword Mountain, proving yourself in the Trial means that you will be known throughout the Land of Chaos and be able to choose to join any great Silver rank forces you like.”

Once he said this, Li Mu leisurely stood up and left the four of them to converse amongst themselves.

“What have all of you learned about this Trial?” Qin Lie asked.

“How did you fare at Blood Fiend Sect?” Song Tingyu asked.

“Oh, it was nothing.” Qin Lie gave an ambiguous answer and asked, “Did you guys figure out who the important participants from the nine great Silver rank forces are?”

“Of course.” Song Tingyu smiled beautifully.

“The genius ringer of Heavenly Sword Mountain is that Luo Chen guy we met on Sea Moon Island. He seems to be the grandson of one of the five Heavenly Swords, Luo Nan. This guy is a sword arts genius, and it is rumored that his body contained a harsh sword intent from the moment he was born. A person like him who was born with natural sword intent is practically a monster, and at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm, Luo Chen will be a character that’s extremely difficult to deal with.

“On the side of Black Magus Cult, the leader of their participants is called Ye Yihao. This person is skilled in the mysterious, eerie voodoo arts of the Black Magus Cult. It is rumored that, when he was just in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, he once used a bizarre voodoo art to make three Fulfillment Realm experts bleed from their seven orifices all at once and die! What’s scary is that the three were five hundred kilometers away from him at the

time. They never realized who killed them, not even at the moment of their deaths.

"The leader of Illusory Demon Sect's participants is called Xue Moyan. This woman is skilled in the illusory arts of Illusory Demon Sect, and it is rumored that she can transform herself into a dozen different appearances. This woman is the scariest out of all of them. Not only can she transform whenever she wants, she can even transform her soul aura, her mind intent, and even her smell to be exactly the same as that of the person she chooses to impersonate. If we meet her after getting scattered, she would be able to transform into anyone of us and assassinate us when our guard is down. She could kill us, and we would never know that she was the one who attacked us.

"The proud son of the Terminator Sect is called Chu Li. This person has a terrible temper, and he always carries a large number of Terminator Profound Bombs with him. It is said that the Terminator Profound Bombs he uses can kill even Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners. He is extremely dangerous. If he gets angry, everyone within a radius of a few kilometers could be blasted to smithereens.

"The Xiahou Family's Xiahou Yuan, the Su Family's Su Yan, and the Lin Family's Lin Dongxing might be weaker than those people. The period in which the three great families ascended to become Silver rank forces was too short after all, and their accumulated wealth is lacking compared to that of the others. However, these three great families are similar to Profound Heaven Alliance in that they are quite united. In fact, Xiahou Yuan, Su Yan, and Lin Dongxing grew up together, and the three of them have a solid alliance. If they are together, then they truly won't be afraid of

anyone.

"The participant of Celestial Artifact Sect is called Feng Yiyou. He has a boatload of artifacts on him at all times, and it is said that all ten of his fingers are decked out in spatial rings. His father, Feng Yi, is Celestial Artifact Sect's sect master, and he loves his son to death. It is said that Feng Yiyou is literally armed to the teeth. Anyone who encounters him will probably be turned into dust by his spirit artifacts.

"Ten Thousand Beast Mountain's participant is called Yu Men. Since he was young, he has been capable of communicating with spirit beasts using his soul and commanding them to do his bidding. The spirit art he cultivates is extremely special, allowing him to transform into a beast with an extremely tough body. Furthermore, he can summon a spirit animal from his body to fight with him. He is famous for being a difficult character to deal with."

The more Song Tingyu explained to Qin Lie, the worse her expression became. She had a feeling that the light at the end of the tunnel had disappeared.

"These are the elite ringers that are the hopes of the nine great Silver rank forces. They are all at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm!" Xie Jingxuan added. "It is rumored that any one of them, even the weaker Xiahou Yuan, Su Yan, and Lin Dongxing possess the strength to battle those beyond their realm!"

"They don't just 'possess' the strength to battle those beyond their realm. They really can!" Song Tingyu smiled bitterly. "I've

checked with people. Before these nine participants were chosen, they had to go through many stages of selection. Furthermore, these nine participants battled early and middle stage Fulfillment Realm martial practitioners within their sect. Apparently those freaks were actually victorious! That is how they managed to secure their core positions!”

Chapter 417: Things Unknown

Five days later.

The floating island moved toward the islands in the sea below at a steady rate.

Qin Lie and the others had taken five days of rest on the floating island. Each of them honed themselves, using the spirit stones, pills, and medicines to get in their best condition.

They did not need to worry that others would spy on them here, so Qin Lie dared to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art and tried to use the strange methods recorded in the Blood Codex.

“Your token was obtained from a dead Xiahou Family member. The Xiahou Family could recognize you. In order to avoid unnecessary trouble, do not be in a hurry to enter. Wait for the participants of the Xiahou Family, the Lin Family, and the Su Family to enter before you,” Li Mu said softly.

“Wouldn’t they be mistakenly believed to have cultivated the Blood Spirit Art, Uncle Li?” Qin Lie asked.

Song Tingyu and the others had been staying with Feng Rong. Feng Rong’s Blood Spirit Art had been discovered, so Song Tingyu and the others might be considered remnants of Blood Fiend Sect.

“It’s fine.” Li Mu smiled. “They haven’t really cultivated the

Blood Spirit Art. If they can come out of the secret realm alive, they will be qualified to enter Heavenly Sword Mountain. The three great families on the Heavenly Calamity Continent naturally wouldn't dare to say more."

Qin Lie nodded.

A short while later, the floating island came to be suspended above a part of the sea. Qin Lie and the others looked down and saw the island they had once left.

Many youths were gathered in the south side of the island. They all seemed alert and in peak condition.

The people of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain in the same area were shouting something, seemingly maintaining order.

At dusk, an enormous whirlpool suddenly appeared in the water south of the island.

Bright lightning could seen in the depths of the whirlpool. The whirlpool was deep, and there was no telling where it led.

"That is the entrance," Li Mu said with narrowed eyes.

Qin Lie and the others became alert. They examined the entrance intensely and prepared.

“Do not rush. Let other people enter first. This entrance will be open for two hours,” Li Mu reassured them.

Everyone calmed down.

“There is something you need to remember. Even if all of you go in together, you might not be together when you reach the Graveyard of Gods,” Li Mu warned them, suddenly remembering something important. “In other words, every participant can be thrown to different parts of the secret realm the moment they enter. The moment the four of you enter, there is a possibility that you will be separated. It would not be a surprise for you to end up tens of thousands of miles apart.”

Qin Lie was shocked.

“The sword tokens that Heavenly Sword Mountain forged can detect each other within a distance of one hundred miles. This was done to make it convenient for the participants to communicate.” Li Mu explained the feature of the sword tokens. “You can only find other members of Heavenly Sword Mountain that are within one hundred miles of you. However, Luo Chen is the leader of Heavenly Sword Mountain’s participants. This was done to make it easy for Luo Chen to gather everyone. In light of that, the people that you detect within a hundred miles of you might not be you four.”

Li Mu frowned and then said, “Oh, that’s not exactly right. Gao Yu has a token from the Xiahou Family. After you enter, it would

best for you to immediately throw the token away. Otherwise, the Xiahou family will target you.”

Gao Yu nodded slightly.

“The rest of you...” Li Mu looked at Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan. After a moment of thought, he gravely suggested, “It would best for you three to also throw away the tokens after you enter.”

“Why?” Xie Jingxuan asked.

“To lessen the risk.” Li Mu sighed and said, “The nine great Silver rank forces forged similar tokens that can communicate with each other. This has it benefits, but also has its disadvantages...”

After pausing for a moment, he continued to explain, “Since people like Ye Yihao of Black Voodoo Cult, Xue Moyan of Illusory Demon Sect, Chu Li of Terminator Sect, and others are strong enough, they will take the tokens after killing martial practitioners of other forces. They will have tokens from various factions and try to sense their targets within the Graveyard of Gods. They will constantly eliminate others and decrease the number of participants inside.

“In the end, the strongest participant will have tokens from the nine forces and use them to find prey. If you have tokens, they will be able to track you within one hundred miles and kill you.

“Unless you are confident that you can fight them, throw away your tokens after entering. Find a remote place and hide. If you are not found in one year, you will be considered to have successfully survived and will receive a reward when you come out.”

“I’m not going in to hide.” Qin Lie shook his head.

“Neither am I,” Gao Yu declared.

The two of them belonged to the group of participants with the lowest realms, yet their eyes flashed with viciousness and ambition.

This made Li Mu smile, shake his head, and laugh. “Two people who are unfamiliar with the world.”

“How large is the Graveyard of Gods?” Song Tingyu suddenly asked.

“I don’t know. No one knows.” Li Mu thought to himself and then said, “If you go in and walk through all of the Graveyard of Gods, maybe you’ll find out.”

“What about the previous secret realms?” she asked.

“Some were as large as the Scarlet Tide Continent, others were as small as an island. There were also those that were bigger than the Land of Chaos.” Li Mu’s eyes narrowed and his expression became grim. “Remember! Everything about this secret realm is unknown.

The only person who has entered before has already died, and his soul was destroyed. Those with high realms are restricted from entering and cannot even detect anything with their souls!”

Li Mu took a deep breath. “Highly intelligent races and powerful beasts might be in there!”

When these words were spoken, everyone paled and looked terrified.

“In the past, the Land of Chaos found a passageway to a secret realm and they held a Trial. The end result was the death of every participant.” Li Mu grimaced and sighed deeply. He said, “That secret realm was the present Asura Realm.”

“The Asura Realm that just formed an alliance with Terminator Sect?” Song Tingyu shrieked.

Li Mu nodded.

“Heavens!” Song Tingyu gaped.

There were many spatial passageways in the Land of Chaos that led to different sub worlds.

Asura Realm was like the Cloud Realm that the Gray Wing Race lived in. It was a separate sub world that the extremely bloodthirsty, vicious Asura Race lived in.

Seven hundred years ago, the Asura Race invaded the Land of Chaos. The great Silver rank forces banded together to fight back and both sides paid a heavy price.

In the end, Forefather Terminator of Terminator Sect used the combined apocalyptic power of nine terrifying Terminator Profound Bombs to destroy the strongest invaders of the Asura Race. This was a heavy blow to the Asura Race, and they were forced to make a non-aggression pact with the Land of Chaos.

This was similar to how Qin Lie had used the Terminator Profound Bombs in the past, killing the strongest of the five Copper rank forces.

The Asura Race respected those that were stronger than them. They feared the Terminator Profound Bombs of Forefather Terminator. Rather than holding a grudge, they instead sought out Forefather Terminator and requested an alliance with Terminator Sect who desired a business relationship.

Terminator Sect became powerful through the rare spirit materials that flowed to them through the Asura Race from the Asura Realm. This single sect controlled an entire continent—the Heavenly Silence Continent.

“Asura Realm was the secret realm for the Trial after it was discovered?” Xie Jingxuan’s gaze became complex.

“Yes. Many great people were among those that participated

then. There were even people that were stronger than me. It's a pity that their luck wasn't good. They didn't even manage to last three months before they were all killed." Li Mu sighed. "The Asura Race managed to force them to reveal the spatial passageway that led to the Land of Chaos, invading and creating a storm of blood."

"I hope that we won't be that unlucky." Song Tingyu could only pray on the inside.

"That usually isn't the case. However, the Graveyard of Gods is also wondrous. Be careful after entering. If you encounter highly intelligent races that are alive... then flee as far as possible," Li Mu reminded them with good intentions.

Everyone went silent.

"I've said what needs to be said. I can only wish you good luck in surviving. The time is about right, you can enter." Li Mu manipulated the floating island. This island slowly descended from the clouds.

"The floating island! Are you Elder Li Mu of Heavenly Sword Mountain?" someone on the island below shouted.

"Mn, I'm sending off some people who are participating in the Trial." Li Mu smiled.

Qin Lie and the others took out their tokens and raised their

hands.

That person looked at the token Gao Yu had. Curiosity showed on his face, but he did not say anything. “You are the only ones remaining. Please enter as soon as possible so I can seal the passageway from the outside.”

“Go,” Li Mu urged.

Qin Lie and the others jumped directly into the spatial passageway and disappeared.

Chapter 418: Graveyard Of Gods!

There were no stars in the sky, nor was there a sun. Instead, fire blazed through the air.

Falling from the sky like meteors, long trails of fire burned through the sky as they descended.

Like a meteor shower, the fire continuously fell. The terrifying fiery power contained within it was enough to instantly reduce Fulfillment Realm and Fragmentation Realm martial practitioners to dust.

Streams of fire erupted from burning volcanoes in an area low elevation. The lava resembled waterfalls as it flowed down toward the base of the volcanoes in long streams.

The crimson ground was filled with a dry, burning, suffocating flame aura. The curving, winding streams flowed with with terrifying lava.

All of the rocks that were visible were red. They were surrounded by the lava on the ground and the flames in the sky.

Neither vegetation nor weak individuals could survive in such an extreme environment.

A figure suddenly appeared at the base of a volcano.

Upon appearing, this figure exclaimed, “This is the secret realm called the Graveyards of Gods?”

Qin Lie landed on a giant red boulder. He felt as though his shoes were going to spontaneously combust any second. Smelling the stench of sulfur in the air, his expression became extremely grim.

He did not feel any spirit energy in the dry, hot air!

This meant that there was no spirit energy in all of the Graveyard of Gods to help him recover spirit energy and continue cultivating.

This also meant that, once all of his spirit energy was used up, he would be as weak as an ordinary mortal and would not be able to tolerate the cruel environment.

“Spirit stones! Surely I have spirit stones!”

He immediately reacted and hurriedly inspected his spatial ring to see how many spirit stones he had.

After using his mind consciousness to check, he felt reassured and his expression became slightly better.

Luckily, before he left the Heavenly Calamity Continent, Qin Lie used Terminator Profound Bombs to flatten a compound and take some spirit stones to gather what was needed to use the teleportation formation.

More than seven hundred Earth Grade spirit stones were in his spatial ring.

These spirit stones would be vital to the recovery of his spirit energy in the Graveyard of Gods!

“Whoosh!”

A bright, fiery meteor fell from the sky. Its fiery presence filled the sky as it descended.

The skyfire meteor was several dozen meters away from him, yet an overwhelming wave of burning heat washed over him. It made all of his clothing and flesh start to burn.

Qin Lie was astonished.

He did not care about preserving his power and had to channel his Frost Arts. He used the three frost natal palaces in his body and formed a glowing shield over of his skin.

The power of the ice emerged and its cool aura immediately made him feel comfortable.

He quickly calmed down.

Seeing that the skyfire meteor was about to land near him, he

grew frightened and hurriedly moved away so he wouldn't be affected.

"Boom!"

The flame meteor landed in a stream of lava with a splash. Drops of burning liquid sprayed in every direction, carrying a shocking light.

The enormous crimson boulder that Qin Lie had landed on was hit by one of the burning beams of light and immediately shattered.

As it shattered, many pieces of it flew through the air. Five of the pieces were as clear and luminescent as carnelian. When they spun in the air, they released a bright prismatic light that was beautiful and eye-catching.

"Heavenly Flame Crystal!

When Qin Lie flew away in retreat and saw the enormous boulder get hit by the beam of fire, he shouted as it promptly exploded.

His eyes became bright as he looked at the five wondrous, clear crystals that seemed to have flames flickering inside of them.

Those crystals resembled the best, brightest carnelians. Their red sheen was intoxicating.

This was an Earth Grade spirit material. Heavenly Flame Crystal was a very rare source of fire used for forging. Those that cultivated the power of fire could absorb this rare fire crystal directly to increase their spirit power.

A Heavenly Flame Crystal the size of a walnut would be worth one thousand Earth Grade spirit stones in the Land of Chaos!

“What a wondrous place. It doesn’t have any worldly energy, but it has produced Heavenly Flame Crystals!”

Qin Lie sighed in wonder. Watching the ripples of lava and the lights die down, he hurriedly flew in the direction that the Heavenly Flame Crystals had fallen.

Two of the five Heavenly Flame Crystals had fallen into the stream of lava. The burning heat from this stream made it something that Qin Lie did not dare to touch, so he had to give up.

There were three other Heavenly Flame Crystals. The two smaller ones were each the size of a fist. One of them would be worth at least twenty five hundred Earth Grade spirit stones. The biggest piece was the size of a person’s head. It would be worth at least ten thousand Earth Grade spirit stones!

If he sold these three Heavenly Flame Crystals in the Land of Chaos, they would be worth fifteen thousand Earth Grade spirit stones in total. Qin Lie would be able to buy an Earth Grade one or two spirit artifact.

Putting the three Heavenly Flame Crystals into his spatial ring, Qin Lie's gaze turned to the stream that was spitting burning flames.

A Heavenly Flame Crystal was at the bottom of that stream. If he squinted his eyes, he could make out a blurry shape.

Taking a deep breath, he channelled his Frost Arts at full power. His left hand immediately became covered in a layer of hard ice. This ice gradually thickened to cover his arm.

Cold white mist rose from his arm. If he used the Frost Arts in this burning land, the expenditure would be great.

The burning heat could melt the ice energy on his body, so he had to constantly channel frost energy to support it.

"People die for riches, and birds die for food! I'll do it!" Qin Lie gritted his teeth. His left hand darted out like lightning and entered the stream of lava.

He immediately grabbed the fist-sized Heavenly Flame Crystal and threw it into his spatial ring.

"Sssssssss!"

Qin Lie's left arm was covered in cold mist. The ice melted at a

terrifying speed, as if it were soaking in boiling water.

The drops of lava that were on him were a horrifyingly high temperature. The flame power quickly permeated the ice he created using Frost Arts, meaning that it would not last long.

In a flash, the ice that had been several inches thick was almost completely melted.

Qin Lie started to shout and wave his hand to shake off the drops of lava.

He finally managed to clean off the drops of lava from the stream before the ice on his arm had completely disappeared. He went slightly pale.

“There is one more Heavenly Flame Crystal. How about...” He looked toward another spot, his gaze was filled with hesitation.

A long time later, he took a deep breath. Using the same method, he took the other Heavenly Flame Crystal out of the fiery liquid.

He shook his arm furiously.

Several drop of lava accidentally flew onto his chest while he hastily shook his arm.

“Sssssss!”

The thin glowing shield covering his body was not able to withstand this and immediately melted.

His chest was instantly burned by the fiery liquid. The drops of lava also had a corrosive property. After his initial fright, Qin Lie decisively used a blade of ice to carve that piece of flesh from his chest.

This finally stopped the fiery corrosion from spreading!

“Motherf***er!”

Qin Lie’s expression was ugly as he panted. He looked at the fiery meteors that were falling out of the sky, the long, winding streams of lava, and the flickers of flame that came out of the volcanoes that could erupt at any moment.

He gradually realized that, even if the people from the nine great Silver rank forces weren’t hunting him, it would be a luxury to manage to survive in this secret realm.

“I first need to find somewhere to recover spirit energy!”

In this little bit of time, one of his three frost natal palaces had nearly run out of frost power.

Qin Lie had been jumping on rocks and avoiding the skyfire

meteors. He had also used a lot of spirit energy when he had fished out the two Heavenly Flame Crystals.

Also, he had to continuously to gather his power to form the ice shield while in this area of flame to keep the flame power from getting to him.

At this time, thirty percent of his power had been used up.

In this place, he could encounter martial practitioners from the nine forces at any time. If he used up too much power, he wouldn't be able to fight at full power when he encountered an enemy.

"Ding!"

The clear sound of a bell suddenly rang out from the sword token at his waist. Qin Lie, who had been preparing to find a place to recover using spirit stones, suddenly wore a serious expression.

The sword token on him wouldn't do that for no reason. Someone else with a sword token must've been within a hundred miles of him, feeling out the surroundings and ascertaining his presence and position. That was probably what triggered the sword token.

"Who could it be?" Qin Lie's brow was deeply furrowed. He raised his guard and prepared for battle.

Chapter 419: Friend Or Foe?

Qin Lie quietly sat atop a dark red rock. He held six Earth Grade spirit stones, three in each of his hands.

Wisps of thin smoke rose from the translucent spirit stones. The spirit energy inside them was slowly being absorbed into the nerves in his palms, which were like strings that led straight to his dantian's spirit sea.

Absorbing a spirit stone's energy obviously felt kind of different from absorbing worldly spirit energy. The energy of a spirit stone was considerably thicker and more refined than worldly spirit energy, and it was also much easier and more comfortable to absorb.

The six Earth Grade spirit stones contained a huge amount of spirit energy, and when he absorbed it all at once, he could clearly sense his dantian's spirit sea once again filling with energy.

Qin Lie was completely absorbed in the process.

"Ding!"

The sword token at his waist continuously rang with the crisp sound of a bell as if heralding his death. It could definitely frustrate and bother someone.

Qin Lie, however, was unmoved by it.

As the urgent ringing sound grew louder and louder, he knew that a martial practitioner with a sword token was swiftly heading in his direction.

This person could be Song Tingyu or Xie Jingxuan, but it was more likely to be a talented youth from Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Qin Lie needed to recover his spirit energy as soon as possible to be able to deal with this potential trouble. He needed to be in peak condition!

As he absorbed the spirit stone's power, Qin Lie attempted to release his mind consciousness and sense if there was any soul activity in the area.

However, he was quickly disappointed, realizing that his mind consciousness was greatly affected by this burning land.

It was incredibly difficult for his mind consciousness to search an area that had no worldly spirit energy. It was like a breeze blowing through the depths of a jungle—it would encounter with many obstacles and be greatly slowed.

When Qin Lie realized that his mind consciousness could not spread as far as it was capable of in the outside world, he became calm and quietly waited for the person to arrive.

The power contained within the spirit stones was easier and

more convenient to absorb. Although it wasn't capable of instantly restoring one's strength like pills could, it was still a lot faster than normally recovering with the world's spirit energy.

The translucent and shiny surfaces of the six Earth Grade spirit stones slowly dimmed as the energy within them faded.

With that, the spirit stones gradually became grayish white.

The three frost natal palaces inside his dantian's spirit sea were now filled with power.

"Prak! Prak!"

The sound of feet thudding against stone could already be clearly heard.

Qin Lie opened his eyes.

They blazed with dazzling lightning, and the icy barrier covering his body radiated a powerful icy energy.

He sat still atop the rock, coldly staring ahead.

Large rocks that had rolled down from the mountains beside the twisting rivers of lava were in front of him. Many of these rocks were covered in lava and were as red as hot iron. They emanated with shocking heat.

Qin Lie did not dare to stay on these red rocks for too long. When he passed them earlier, he had immediately jumped away the second he stepped on them.

However, a young man was currently stepping on these crimson rocks, calmly walking toward him.

The young man was not in a hurry, and sometimes he would even look to the side and pause to crouch, gazing into the streams of lava.

“Splash!”

The young man suddenly stuck his hand into a stream and held up a shiny Heavenly Flame Crystal.

“Here’s another one!” Du Xiangyang grinned and carefully put the Heavenly Flame Crystal into his spatial ring. His eyes shone with a light of satisfaction.

The sword token around Du Xiangyang’s waist that shook every so often was proof of his identity as a Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner.

He was very lucky.

As a cultivator of a fire spirit art, the first place he was thrown

into after going through the passageway was a land of flames.

In this place, skyfire meteors would crash every so often, the sky constantly burned, and the small volcanoes continuously spewed liquid flame like fire dragons.

Fire, streams of lava, and fire ponds formed from liquid flame were everywhere.

This place was incredibly dangerous for many people, and most had to form a light barrier to protect themselves from the corrosive fire.

Du Xiangyang, however, did not have this trouble at all.

On the contrary, he found the heat in this place incredibly soothing. Breathing in the dry, hot air, he felt as if every pore of his body were singing.

What amazed him even more was the discovery of the Heavenly Flame Crystals!

He knew better than anyone exactly how useful a Heavenly Flame Crystal was to someone who cultivated a fire spirit art like him!

He had found seven Heavenly Flame Crystals along the way, and his eyes had been burning with desire for a long time now. He increasingly felt better, and excitement shone in his eyes more and

more.

When he learned that there was another Heavenly Sword Mountain participant in this area using the sword token, he grew even more excited.

However, when he finally made his way over and found that the fellow with a sword token was a complete stranger, he suddenly froze.

Du Xiangyang and Qin Lie were several hundred meters away from each other, separated by flowing streams of lava and bubbling fire ponds.

Du Xiangyang examined Qin Lie from head to toe before smiling. “I know who you are now.”

Qin Lie frowned. “I’ve never seen you before.”

“You are called Qin Lie, right?” Du Xiangyang did not move closer. With narrowed eyes, he calmly said, “Heavenly Sword Mountain forged fifteen sword tokens in total. Five of them were sent to the Scarlet Tide Continent to be held by Qin Lie, Xie Jingxuan, Song Tingyu, Zhao Xuan, and Zhang Chendong. I already saw Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong before entering the Graveyard of Gods, and among all the participants, there are only three people I haven’t met yet. That would be you and the two women.”

After a momentary pause, Du Xiangyang said, “You’re obviously not a woman.”

“That’s correct. I am Qin Lie.”

When he was at Sea Moon Island, Qin Lie once saw Luo Chen bring seven trial-goers with him. Li Rong was only one of them.

Five of the fifteen sword tokens were distributed to the Scarlet Tide Continent. When Qin Lie was at Sea Moon Island, he had encountered the other eight Heavenly Sword Mountain participants including Luo Chen. Du Xiangyang was not among them. He was clearly one of the remaining two people that Qin Lie hadn’t seen.

“Heh, you’re lucky that you ran into me.” Du Xiangyang smiled. “Luo Chen already told everyone to kill you the moment they found you after entering the Graveyard of Gods. Luckily for you, I find Luo Chen disagreeable…”

After a moment of surprise, Qin Lie suddenly grinned and laughed oddly. “I was ready for a war.”

“Oh?” Du Xiangyang lifted his eyebrows and nodded, saying, “Since you’re ready to fight… we might as well give it a go then!”

Just as he finished speaking, Du Xiangyang’s handsome white face abruptly turned crimson.

Hot, fiery waves shot out of every pore of his body. His eyes resembled a pair of blazing bonfires, and it was as if his entire person had instantly turned into a fireball.

He slapped toward the giant, fiery crimson rocks on both sides of him.

The fiery rocks that were the shape of discs rose from the bed of the lava river and rolled toward Qin Lie under the command of Du Xiangyang's fiery power.

"Whoosh whoosh!"

The giant rocks rolled through the air, burning like two enormous fireballs.

Qin Lie was still.

His eyes suddenly burst with thunderous light, and if someone were to look closely, they would see numerous dense, crisscrossing lightning bolts.

"Rrrmb!"

A deafening roar resounded from within Qin Lie's body. He stood still as he watched the two burning rocks roll toward him. Then he threw his fists forward.

“Crak crak!”

Bolts of dazzling lightning that were the size of human arms blasted the fiery rocks with a booming rumble.

The two giant rocks were shot down by the lightning bolts, and the fire on them dispersed.

The fiery power surrounding the rocks was completely purified by the lightning.

However, the rocks themselves were still rolling toward Qin Lie with tremendous force!

Du Xiangyang wore a calm expression, never looking away from Qin Lie.

He had no ties with Qin Lie whatsoever. From the bottom of his heart, he believed that the participants from the Scarlet Tide Continent—Qin Lie, Zhao Xuan, Song Tingyu and the others—were unworthy. Du Xiangyang even thought that Qin Lie and the others had completely wasted five of their slots for nothing.

“Rather than letting you be killed by martial practitioners of other forces and have them look down on Heavenly Sword Mountain’s strength, I might as well kill you myself!”

That was what Du Xiangyang thought.

If Qin Lie was weak, then he would show no mercy and kill him immediately.

He believed that was better than allowing him to shame Heavenly Sword Mountain!

“Get out of my way!”

Qin Lie roared and thrust his palms out in front of him. The terrifying physical strength concentrated in his palms erupted outward.

“Crack! Crack!”

After losing their fiery energy, the two giant disc-shaped rocks instantly shattered when they were slapped by Qin Lie’s palms.

They exploded into rocky shards and fell to the ground.

Qin Lie had tempered his body for a very long time. He had used only the eruption of his physical strength and a small amount of the Blood Spirit Art’s energy to shatter the rocks.

Du Xiangyang’s eyes widened as the giant rocks exploded.

He looked surprised. He did not see the light of spirit energy light come from Qin Lie when he slapped the rocks.

This meant that Qin Lie had relied on pure physical strength to shatter them!

To think that an early stage Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner was capable of destroying the rocks he threw with his physical body alone...

Du Xiangyang was kind of surprised.

Chapter 420: Burning Soul Firebeam!

Du Xiangyang realized that he had misjudged Qin Lie's abilities. However, instead of being surprised, he was overjoyed and even grew a little excited.

Five of the fifteen sword tokens that had been forged by Heavenly Sword Mountain were given to Qin Lie and the others. The remaining ten were held by Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners.

Prior to the exploration of a secret realm, the nine great Silver rank forces would often choose a core individual from among the group to be the leader.

Once the leader was chosen, the selection of the remaining martial practitioners would then revolve around the leader so that it would be convenient for the leader to manage the group.

For example, once Heavenly Sword Mountain had confirmed Luo Chen as their ringer, they immediately made him the leader, then chose Li Rong and seven other martial practitioners who were blindly loyal to him.

This was done to make things convenient for Luo Chen so he could gather the strength to go up against the ringers of the other Silver rank forces and obtain the final victory during the Trial.

The selection of the leader was often an intense competition. Du Xiangyang and another Heavenly Sword Mountain female disciple

called He Wei both competed against Luo Chen for the position.

In the end, both Du Xiangyang and He Wei lost terribly.

That was also why Heavenly Sword Mountain arranged for seven martial practitioners who were close to Luo Chen to participate in the Trial. Those seven had even been handpicked by Luo Chen himself.

This greatly enhanced Luo Chen's power.

If Du Xiangyang had won against Luo Chen during the competition, he would have been able to choose his own friendly group of martial practitioners and enter the secret realm with a powerful force.

Both he and He Wei were unwilling to withdraw from the Trial despite losing horribly to Luo Chen. They ultimately had to enter alone.

He naturally did not think well of Luo Chen.

As for Qin Lie, Luo Chen had planned to get rid of him as soon as possible. Worse still, Qin Lie held a Heavenly Sword Mountain sword token. If Qin Lie really was pathetically weak, then Du Xiangyang wouldn't mind killing him early on so he could save Heavenly Sword Mountain from future embarrassment.

However, if Qin Lie were strong and could potentially cause

trouble for Luo Chen, that would definitely be a wonderful thing for Du Xiangyang.

“Whoosh!”

A bright, colorful skyfire shot toward the area that Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang were in like a comet, leaving a long tail of fire behind it.

Flames that contained a shocking amount of fire energy continuously fell from the burning sky.

Even someone like Du Xiangyang who cultivated a fire spirit art looked at the descending flames in fear.

If no external force interfered with these descending flames, they would land between Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang. In fact, they might even land closer to Qin Lie.

Qin Lie was calm, and his eyes shone with a bizarre color.

The thunder aura around his body withdrew. A vast earth aura that was unwaveringly oppressive rippled out of his body.

The surrounding gravity fields instantly changed!

Due to the gravity’s influence, the blazing flames fell even faster than before.

In that moment, the bizarre change in the gravity field made the dazzling flames in the air shift course at an incredibly odd angle.

It was only a slight distortion, but the supernatural flames immediately changed direction…

…falling toward Du Xiangyang even faster.

A terrifying wave of heat capable of roasting thousands of beings alive—a sea of flames that looked as if it could envelop heaven and earth—swarmed toward Du Xiangyang.

The sight struck terror into Du Xiangyang.

“The work of a devil!”

Du Xiangyang screamed. Holding a burning sword in his hand, he transformed into a fiery sword beam, and shot away from his earlier position.

“Boom!”

The skyfire fell from the sky and crashed in that very spot, and several hundred bolts of flame scattered throughout the surroundings.

“Prak!”

The fiery rocks in the area exploded into smithereens, resulting in the appearance of two Heavenly Flame Crystals.

Qin Lie's eyes lit up. With an odd chuckle, he flew out, prevented the two Heavenly Flame Crystals from falling into the lava pond, and threw them into his spatial ring.

Once he got the Heavenly Flame Crystals, lightning shone from his eyes as he looked at Du Xiangyang once more.

"Rrrmb!"

Amidst the dull rumbling, two head-sized Thunder Lightning Balls howled toward Du Xiangyang like two brilliant suns.

Cursing non-stop, Du Xiangyang had barely escaped from the descending flames when he suddenly discovered that two Thunder Lightning Balls were shooting toward him.

Meanwhile, after unleashing the Thunder Lightning Balls, Qin Lie charged across the giant rocks toward Du Xiangyang.

"Dammit!"

Du Xiangyang swore, spinning the Scarlet Fire Sword in his hands to use a sword art and summon clusters of fire.

The tip of the Scarlet Fire Sword shot a narrow, needle-like beam of fire into the surroundings.

He used the momentum of that beam to fly backward.

With the flames concealing his figure, Du Xiangyang was able to escape from where he had originally been. The beam of fire seemed to have a mind of its own, avoiding the Thunder Lightning Balls and piercing toward Qin Lie.

“Boom boom!”

The two Thunder Lightning Balls smashed into where Du Xiangyang had been, scattering fire everywhere.

Qin Lie suddenly experienced an acute feeling of discomfort.

A multicolored beam that resembled a burning needle had locked onto his forehead, flying straight toward it.

He felt as if his True Soul was being burned to dust, and the harsh sword aura contained within the rainbow beam made every hair on his body stand on end.

“Frost Shield!”

Qin Lie immediately stopped chasing Du Xiangyang and pressed his palms together. Cold mist began to shroud his palms.

“Krak krak krak!”

A thick, translucent shield of ice instantly formed in front of his palms.

“Ssss!”

The fire beam struck the shield, creating a shrill noise.

In response, the shield of ice began to swiftly melt!

The beam of fire resembled a pangolin, swiftly penetrating Qin Lie’s ice shield and travelling toward his forehead.

Such a sight shocked Qin Lie.

Since the ice shield was about to melt completely, and seeing as he had no viable plan in mind, Qin Lie could only dodge using Blood Escape like how Du Xiangyang had avoided his Thunder Lightning Balls.

The refined blood energy inside of Qin Lie’s blood instantly exploded forth.

He escaped in a burst of bloody light, appearing over a dozen kilometers away.

“Pfft!”

Qin Lie spat out a mouthful of blood. His face paled slightly, and he wore an ugly expression on his face.

He currently stood beside a pond of liquid fire more than a dozen kilometers away from the battlefield. The pond burned with terrifying flames, and its bubbling surface radiated a frightening amount of heat.

He could clearly feel that he had used up a great deal of blood energy.

Blood Escape required the activation of the energy inside one’s blood and instantaneous power. Upon unleashing this skill, a portion of the practitioner’s blood would evaporate, leaving them weak for a short period of time. This was actually a bloody art that damaged the practitioner that used it.

Qin Lie sat cross legged and took out the spirit stones from before, absorbing spirit energy from them and recovering as he did earlier.

The sword token around his waist no longer emitted a low, ringing tone. This meant that Du Xiangyang had stopped searching for him, or chose not to immediately chase after him.

“I can’t believe that sword beam was so fierce and terrifying. If I

had known about that, I would not have tried to take it head on. I should have just escaped," Qin Lie said with a grim expression. He realized that he had underestimated Du Xiangyang. He hadn't thought that he would be so powerful.

What Qin Lie didn't know was that Du Xiangyang was even more shocked and upset than he was.

Several kilometers away.

Halfway up a volcano, Du Xiangyang constantly swore. "Dammit! He's crazy! What a madman!"

After testing Qin Lie's true strength, Du Xiangyang had been ready to stop there to talk to Qin Lie about the possibility of joining forces against Luo Chen.

He had already been prepared to show Qin Lie goodwill...

However, he hadn't thought that Qin Lie would forcefully alter the trajectory of the descending flames with a strange gravity field and throw them at him just as he was about to propose a truce.

After fleeing from the fiery meteors that fell from the sky, two Thunder Lightning Balls shot toward where he stood before he was able to utter a single word. After shooting the Thunder Lightning Balls, Qin Lie himself had charged toward him.

The man actually hadn't given him a single moment to breathe.

Left with no other choice, Du Xiangyang could only use his true strength and form a “Burning Soul Firebeam” with his spirit energy and soul consciousness to stop Qin Lie’s mad charge.

Burning Soul Firebeam was one of Du Xiangyang’s ultimate techniques. It was a powerful attack created by combining a large amount of refined spirit energy and imbuing it with soul consciousness.

It took a lot out of him to create a Burning Soul Firebeam, so he definitely regretted doing so.

However, just before the Burning Soul Fire Beam could pierce Qin Lie, he vanished.

Du Xiangyang had been busy dodging an attack, so he had not noticed how Qin Lie managed to escape. When he realized this and checked his sword token, Qin Lie had already escaped more than a dozen kilometers away.

“Dammit! I really screwed myself over this time. I didn’t think that this guy from the Scarlet Tide Continent would be so ruthless and powerful,” Du Xiangyang said, panting. His expression continuously changed as he touched his sword token.

A long time later, he decided to give up on searching for Qin Lie and instead prepared to recover his strength with spirit stones.

He did this to avoid martial practitioners of other forces from finding him and taking him out due to his exhaustion.

“Looks like this Qin Lie fellow can cause a bit of trouble for Luo Chen,” Du Xiangyang thought.

After testing each other’s strength, Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang took time to recover. In this time, a group of four young martial practitioners with “Xiahou” sewn to the shoulder area of their clothing were also operating near the fiery volcanos.

“Brother Yuan, this is a sword token that we got by killing a Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner.” Xiahou Shang took out a sword token and passed it to his leader. “The Xiahou Family’s luck is good. We did not end up far from each other. Since we gathered together so quickly, we must use this advantage and kill as many people as possible! Otherwise, when the other martial practitioners have gathered into groups, it will be very difficult for us to kill anyone.”

Xiahou Yuan was tall and stalwart. He had a shiny bald head and he wore a black martial practitioner uniform with golden fringes. His face was plain, but his eyes glittered with a brutal light.

“Go see if there are any Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners nearby. Kill them all as long as none of them are Luo Chen!”

Xiahou Yuan nodded repeatedly and probed the sword token with his soul consciousness.

After a while, he shook his head in disappointment. “No one is nearby.”

“Widen the area and keep searching. We must take advantage of this sword token!” Xiahou Yuan commanded.

Their group of people began to move in a certain direction.

Four hours later, when Xiahou Yuan made another attempt to search the area with the sword token, he exclaimed with an excited expression, “There’s a reaction! We found two Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners!”

“Then let’s go and kill them!” Xiahou Yuan laughed wickedly.

Chapter 421: The Tombstone That Flew Back On Its Own!

A spirit stone in Qin Lie's hand turned grayish-white, its spirit energy completely exhausted.

"Crack!" The spirit stone shattered to pieces.

Qin Lie didn't pay attention to it, instead continuing to absorb spirit power from other spirit stones and fill his dantian's spirit sea with spirit energy.

Wisps of refined spirit energy were slowly extracted from his dantian's spirit sea like rays of light or streaks of lightning before melting into his blood.

Other than enhancing his blood spirit energy through the blood pond, cultivating the Blood Spirit Art could also convert the spirit energy inside his dantian's spirit sea and fuse it with his blood.

At this moment, Qin Lie channeled the Blood Spirit Art and absorbed the spirit energy within his dantian's spirit sea into his blood to replenish the blood he used for Blood Escape.

The blood in every one of his blood vessels energetically flowed like rivers that extended in every directions.

An extremely thin mist of blood quietly seeped from his pores,

making it look like Qin Lie was covered in bloody smoke. It was incredibly strange.

Then, all of a sudden, Qin Lie's blood began to boil!

It was as if the activity in his blood had triggered something from extremely far away.

A thick blood energy a great distance away was unleashed. It felt as if it had reached right into Qin Lie's mind.

"The blank tombstone!"

Qin Lie shook, opening his closed eyes. They shone with a strange light.

His blood seemed to have triggered a change in the blank tombstone, and even from a far distance, he was able to sense the aura of his own blood!

Qin Lie suddenly recalled that, when he took the tombstone, he had spat a mouthful of blood on its surface. Furthermore, the blood had immediately soaked into the tombstone's seven divine lights and turned them into the color of blood.

In the Graveyard of Gods, Qin Lie was actually able to sense the blood aura within the tombstone from afar while channeling the Blood Spirit Art and absorbing spirit energy into his blood.

What was going on?

Qin Lie was surprised.

At the other end of the Graveyard of Gods.

There was a strange land covered in poisonous clouds that kept all martial practitioners inside of it from seeing more than a dozen or so meters of their immediate area.

Luo Chen was seated on a bush that was knee height. His face was grim, and his eyes stared directly at the tombstone in front of him.

He had attempted to touch the blank tombstone many times, standing tall amidst the bushes, but he would be repulsed by the force inside the tombstone every time.

“It’s still not working!”

He originally thought that, by bringing the blank tombstone into the Graveyard of Gods, he would be able to trigger a change in it tombstone and decipher its secrets.

Yet, after trying to do so multiple times, he discovered that he was still unable to touch the tombstone. Even staying close to it would generate such a strong repulsive force that made it hard for him to breathe.

“Perhaps that Qin Lie lied to me from the start!” Luo Chen’s expression was icy as he inwardly thought, “He must have done something to it! That must be why I have been unable to approach the tombstone this entire time!”

“Boom!”

A blurry bloody light abruptly shone from the blank tombstone. The seven godly lights inside of it became bright with color.

Luo Chen grew excited. “It’s reacting! It’s finally reacting!”

He was utterly overjoyed.

However, just as he was about to try and touch the tombstone again, it suddenly flew into the sky. The tombstone that had been standing tall amidst the bushes turned into a ray of rainbow light and flew off into the distance.

Luo Chen screamed at the top of his lungs and pursued relentlessly the tombstone like a flying sword.

Unfortunately, the blank tombstone flew faster and faster—to the point where he was unable to even track it with his soul consciousness.

Ultimately, Luo Chen could only watch the tombstone farther

and farther until it completely vanished from his sight and the range of his other senses.

“What’s going on? What’s going on?” Luo Chen refused to give up. With a dark expression, he continued to chase the tombstone in the direction it had disappeared.

He believed that the direction which the tombstone had flown in harbored huge secrets. Perhaps the Graveyard of the Gods’ essence was there!

In the fiery land.

Qin Lie’s sword token rang again, indicating that yet another person with a sword token had found him.

“How persistent.” His expression turned cold as he stood up from the ground. The spirit stones in his hands had completely shattered.

Qin Lie thought that Du Xiangyang had come to fight him again after regaining his strength, so he prepared for battle.

“Boom!”

At this moment, a rainbow light descended from a distance and landed right in front of him.

Qin Lie initially thought it was a fiery meteor and was caught off guard. However, after looking at it closely, he froze.

It was actually the blank tombstone he had lost!

Standing upright in front of him, the tombstone shone with blurry bloody light. It had actually flown back to him.

This surprised and delighted Qin Lie. He rushed next to the tombstone, prepared to put it back into the spatial ring.

However, just as he was about to raise his hand, the blank tombstone actually flew up into the air once more and off into another direction.

Qin Lie was surprised. He did not know what was going on, nor did he understand the situation.

He only knew that the tombstone seemed to be kind of different after entering the Graveyard of Gods.

Seeing the tombstone floating into the distant sky like a lantern, he didn’t think too much and simply hurried to follow it.

Qin Lie followed the tombstone as it flew leisurely, a frown on his face.

At the same time.

Xiahou Yuan's group of four had locked onto Qin Lie's position with a sword token and were rapidly approaching.

Having recovered significantly, Du Xiangyang noticed that another disciple with a Heavenly Sword Mountain sword token had already found him and Qin Lie. That person was closing in on Qin Lie.

Du Xiangyang smiled cheerfully. "It must be one of Luo Chen's men."

He was happy to watch a show from the sidelines, so he rushed toward Qin Lie's position while tracking him with his own sword token.

If someone were to look at this fiery land from a bird's-eye view, they would see a strange sight.

A tombstone was leisurely soaring through the air toward a certain direction while a person that wore an expression of surprise was below, struggling to follow it.

Another two groups of people were approaching toward the tombstone's location with excited expressions, as if they were about to begin a hunt.

One of the groups was even crying out, making weird noises and yelling, "We're close! We're almost there!"

This chase had been going on for four entire hours, stretching over hundreds of kilometers.

Suddenly, the tombstone stopped above a giant lake.

This lake, the endpoint of countless fiery streams, was at the center of a gushing volcano.

Fiery liquid ferociously burned inside of the giant lake. Every so often, the lake would bubble with flame and lava, creating waves of heat and causing explosions

Standing beside the lake, Qin Lie had to continuously exhaust his power of extreme frost just to barely be able to endure the terrifying heat.

He did not know why the tombstone had come here.

Concentrating on the lake, Qin Lie discovered that he could not see through the boiling heat, serpentine outpours of fire, and constant explosions.

Suspended above the fiery lake, the tombstone abruptly shone with seven godly lights that penetrated deep into the liquid of the lake below.

“Boom boom boom!”

Giant waves of fire rose from the lake's interior. As if the lake itself was roaring, the explosions grew more and more intense.

Deep within the lake, the seven divine lights formed a shield of light around a particular object.

The seven divine lights resembled dazzling ropes that continuously twisted upward, slowly pulling the foreign object that had been submerged in the lake toward the surface.

"A Fire Qilin! Oh my god, that's actually the corpse of a Rank Eight spirit beast, a Fire Qilin!"

At the other side of the lake, Du Xiangyang lost his composure and cried out, his eyes shining with extreme desire.

He stared dead-eyed at the body that had appeared from deep within the lake.

The corpse of a Fire Qilin, a creature with the head of a dragon that had four limbs and a fiery tail similar to those of a majestic lion, was slowly pulled to the surface by the seven divine lights. Its body burned with bright flames.

Qin Lie was also completely stunned by the sight.

A Rank Eight spirit beast like a Fire Qilin was the equivalent of an

Imperishable Realm martial practitioner. This was a legendary beast with unstoppable strength and fire all over its body. It could also fly through the air.

This Fire Qilin's body had been submerged within this giant lake for god knows how many years. Its soul had long since disappeared, yet its body still burned with such a terrifying, stifling pressure.

"Could this lonesome Fire Qilin corpse be the reason why this land of fire, with its endlessly erupting volcanoes, is so terrifying?" Qin Lie subconsciously thought.

"A Fire Qilin! It's the body of a Fire Qilin, a Rank Eight spirit beast!"

At this moment, Xiahou Yuan's cry rang from the other side of the lake.

The eyes of the other three Xiahou Family martial practitioners were bloodshot, as were Xiahou Yuan's. Like leopards and wolves that smelled blood, their eyes shone with the red light of greed.

Chapter 422: Bitter Battle!

Du Xiangyang and the Xiahou Family arrived one after another and immediately saw the spectacle at the center of the burning lake.

A tombstone was suspended high above the lake's center, and it shone with seven dazzling, divine lights.

The divine lights resembled ropes and chains, firmly wrapped around the Fire Qilin that burned with brilliant flames.

The corpse of the Rank Eight spirit beast was gradually being dragged out of the lake. The seven divine lights entangling the Fire Qilin were like ribbons that seemed to be draining something.

"A Fire Qilin!"

"The Rank Eight spirit beast... Fire Qilin!"

Du Xiangyang exclaimed in shock.

Xiahou Yuan screamed as well.

The eyes of both groups blazed with desire as they stared intensely at the tombstone and the Fire Qilin. They looked so anxious that it seemed like they could hardly control themselves, yet they did not know how to approach these treasures.

Qin Lie in particular was frowning in shock at the spectacle.

The tombstone and the Fire Qilin were both quietly suspended above the center of the lake.

Everyone stood beside the lake and felt incredibly uncomfortable in the terrifying heat. Qin Lie and Xiahou Yuan aside, even Du Xiangyang, who cultivated a fire spirit art, did not dare to jump into this lake.

The burning lake and its roiling flames were more than enough to melt him into a pool of blood!

It was in this way that the three factions were scattered at the edges of the lake, staring at the tombstone and the Fire Qilin's body hovering above the lake's center, wracking their brains to try and come up with a plan.

Unable to think of anything, everyone was surprised to discover that the wild flames on the Fire Qilin shrunk at a shocking rate, slowly dying out.

Everyone's gazes focused.

They immediately discovered that the seven divine lights shooting down from the tombstone seemed to be devouring some sort of energy from the Fire Qilin's corpse. They watched as the divine lights inside of the tombstone grew brighter and brighter

until the tombstone itself glowed with dazzling divine light.

The Fire Qilin's body, on the other hand, seemed like it was being drained of its aura and flesh.

The flames on its body gradually went out, and the dazzling light hovering above its scarlet body also faded bit by bit.

Everyone could see that the huge amount of energy inside the Fire Qilin's body was being absorbed by the tombstone.

The tombstone, which had been suspended in midair for so long, suddenly moved again.

It moved in the direction of Qin Lie!

Du Xiangyang and Xiahou Yuan immediately grew excited. They stared dead-eyed at the tombstone and walked toward Qin Lie at the same time.

"Xiahou Shang! Xiahou Qiang! Xiahou Ta! Kill that person from Heavenly Sword Mountain!" Xiahou Yuan roared, pointing at Du Xiangyang in the distance.

The three Xiahou Family experts laughed cruelly as they rushed toward Du Xiangyang like three gusts of wind.

Du Xiangyang's face darkened as he wordlessly unsheathed the

Scarlet Fire Sword. His skin was a frightening red that resembled that of a cooked prawn.

A terrifying aura filled with fiery energy burst from Du Xiangyang's body. The Scarlet Fire Sword in his hand transformed into a blazing dragon, spitting a tongue of flame that was half a meter long.

"Hehe... as long as you're not Luo Chen, you're basically dead!" Xiahou Shang chuckled strangely.

Xiahou Qiang, Xiahou Ta, and Xiahou Shang each took out a three meter long flag. The flags depicted pitch black clouds, purple flames, and dark green skulls. It looked incredibly bizarre.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

Wisps of pitch black smoke emerged from the flags. Icy cold purple flames and dark green skulls were mixed into the smoke.

A bloodcurdling aura instantly enveloped Du Xiangyang and everything around him like a huge, dense web.

The pitch black smoke also shrouded Xiahou Shang and the other two. They laughed, channeling their spirit arts together.

Smoke engulfed Du Xiangyang.

As that was happening, the Xiahou Family's ringer Xiahou Yuan charged toward Qin Lie. His bald head was shiny, and his laughter was sinister. "Too bad you didn't meet up with Luo Chen as soon as possible. Tough luck, kid! Say goodbye to the world of the living!"

Xiahou Yuan wore exquisite, purplish red gauntlets on his fists that were covered in extraordinary gash marks.

He continuously swung his fists as he charged at Qin Lie. A pair of violent, fearsome energies surged into his gauntlets, and his arms expanded like balloons.

"Whoosh whoosh!"

Two purple dragons suddenly erupted from his fists. They looked as if they were alive, and strange horns were visible on their heads.

The tombstone was currently floating above Qin Lie's head, slowly moving to him while dragging the Fire Qilin's body.

Qin Lie didn't know why the tombstone was returning to him or how it found the Fire Qilin's body. He also didn't know why it dragged the Fire Qilin's body from the depths of the lake or why it absorbed the energy that remained inside of it.

He was only certain of one thing—since the tombstone returned, it belonged to no one else but him!

“Heh... I dare you to try and take what’s mine,” Qin Lie said, grinning.

The Astral Thunder Hammer suddenly flew out of his spatial ring. The sound of booming thunder and crackling lightning resounded from his body as numerous thick bolts of electricity flooded into the Astral Thunder Hammer.

A shocking explosion flared as dense patterns of lightning appeared above the Astral Thunder Hammer. Numerous motes of light that resembled stars flew out of the hammer and shot toward the area in front of Qin Lie.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!”

The astral thunder struck the two purple dragons and exploded, reducing them to countless purple spirit lights that scattered everywhere.

The explosion also scattered the fiery liquid of small lava ponds nearby. Xiahou Yuan snorted coldly, yet could not help but temporarily stop his swift charge.

Only when all of the lava had fallen from the sky did Xiahou Yuan say, “Hmph. A mere brat in the early stage of the Netherpassage Realm dares to try fighting me? What a fool. Surrender the tombstone then cut your own neck. If you do that, I’ll leave your corpse intact. If not, I won’t leave any trace of you!”

“Oh, really?” Qin Lie licked the corner of his lips, his eyes shining with the light of excitement. “I’m standing right here. I dare you to show me how you’ll leave no trace of me!”

“Fine!”

Xiahou Yuan laughed wickedly as he took a giant bow out of his spatial ring. He nocked a silver arrow and aimed at Qin Lie from afar.

The bow was even taller than Xiahou Yuan. Strange, tiny symbols were engraved into the silver arrow. These runes resembled ancient, knife-shaped characters that radiated simple but severe pressure.

At the peak of Netherpassage Realm, Xiahou Yuan was the ringer of the Xiahou Family. Not only was his realm astonishingly powerful, he also had plenty of precious spirit artifacts at his disposal.

The Divine Wood Spirit Bow was one of the spirit artifacts that he possessed. This bow was an Earth Grade Two spirit artifact. The arrows it used were made with Immortal Wood as the main component. Each one was carefully crafted and engraved with numerous extraordinary spirit markings that enhanced the penetrating capability and destructive power.

“Creak!”

Xiahou Yuan drew the bow to its limit and stared at Qin Lie with eyes as sharp as an eagle's. A terrifying aura that felt as though it could obliterate everything flowed from his body.

Qin Lie's pupils shrank. Feeling Xiahou Yuan's sharp aura, he could not help but be cautious.

"Swoosh!"

A silver arrow soared like a rainbow, intent on piercing Qin Lie's face. It carried a frightening aura of intimidation that pained Qin Lie's soul.

The arrow was imbued with all of Xiahou Yuan's strength, immense refined spirit energy and the strange energy of the ancient markings.

"Crack!"

Qin Lie instantly formed wall of solid ice in front of him. It exploded when the arrow struck it, scattering ice in every direction

Yet the arrow continued to fly as powerful as ever.

"Bang!"

A thick wall of yellow earth appeared, and as the power of earth faded immediately afterward, it exploded.

The tip of the arrow shook, but the force of the arrow still hadn't been exhausted.

There was a thunderous rumble as the Astral Thunder Hammer hurtled downward to smash the silver arrow into smithereens.

When the sharp arrow exploded, Xiahou Yuan laughed coldly and took out another one.

Qin Lie, however, chuckled strangely in return, his eyes staring into Xiahou Yuan's with icy cruelty.

Xiahou Yuan suddenly realized that something was wrong.

—Then he saw several metallic silver balls by a pool of lava near his feet. These metallic balls seemed to have landed there when the wall of solid ice, the wall of yellow earth, and his own silver arrow exploded.

He had initially thought that they were sword fragments.

However, now that he lowered his head and examined the metallic balls, he felt thunderous energy inside of them.

"Terminator Profound Bombs!"

Xiahou Yuan suddenly shouted as if he had seen a ghost. He flew

backward in retreat, completely disregarding everything else.

“Boom!”

Four Terminator Profound Bombs exploded all at once. A terrific explosion covered the entire area.

Bolts of lightning spread amidst the thunderous explosion. Xiahou Yuan’s cry of pain faintly rang out in the midst of it.

A streak black lightning flew out of the explosion, spilling blood. Xiahou Yuan howled angrily as he swiftly escaped into the distance.

Chapter 423: Blood Of The Fire Qilin!

Xiahou Yuan screamed in pain as he escaped from the explosions of the Terminator Profound Bombs, leaving behind a trail of blood in the blast radius.

“What a pity.” Qin Lie frowned and snorted softly before putting away the other Terminator Profound Bombs he tightly gripped in his left hand.

Xiahou Yuan’s realm was powerful, his spirit energy was immense and refined, and he wielded many high rank spirit artifacts. He was a formidable individual.

Qin Lie had to completely focus to fight Xiahou Yuan, unleashing his Frost Arts, Records of Geocentric Magnetism, Heavenly Thunder Eradication, and Blood Spirit Arts. Even with all of that, Qin Lie only managed to fight him to a standstill.

Qin Lie’s realm was weaker than Xiahou Yuan’s, and the quantity of Qin Lie’s spirit energy could not compare to Xiahou Yuan’s.

Were it not for the Terminator Profound Bombs in his possession, he wouldn’t have necessarily been able to win if the battle had continued.

“Gaaaah!”

At the same time, a terrible cry of pain erupted from a person

who had been attacking Du Xiangyang.

Xiahou Qiang's forehead had been pierced by a beam of fire. His eyes were bulging, and all seven of his orifices were bleeding.

The True Soul in his Soul Lake had actually been ignited by a wisp of fire and swiftly began to burn intensely.

Xiahou Qiang's soul aura quickly weakened, and in just a moment, his True Soul was burned to oblivion.

The beam of fire was none other than Du Xiangyang's Burning Soul Firebeam and it was also that speck of fire which could reduce a soul to nothing.

Last time, Qin Lie had noticed the terrifying power hidden within this Burning Soul Firebeam, which was why he used Blood Escape to avoid it.

Xiahou Qiang was in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, yet his soul had been quickly incinerated, and he was killed. From this, one could tell just how deadly that beam of fire was.

"Retreat!"

Since Xiahou Qiang had been killed and Xiahou Yuan had been forced to escape in humiliation after being bombarded with Terminator Profound Bombs, Xiahou Shang and Xiahou Ta did not

dare to stay behind any longer.

Their gazes lingered on the tombstone and the Fire Qilin one last time before they finally left.

The pitch black smoke, the purple flames, and the strange chuckling skulls turned into rays of light that followed them closely.

Du Xiangyang, who had been flooded by three kinds of attacks, burned with purplish red flames. His eyes were also alight with fire.

His Scarlet Fire Sword resembled a roaring fire dragon that flew out, dragging a tail of flames that was several meters long behind it.

The Scarlet Fire Sword relentlessly chased after Xiaohou Shang and Xiahou Ta.

Meanwhile, Du Xiangyang was panting heavily, blood seeping from his chest and waist.

Even though he had managed to kill Xiahou Qiang, Du Xiangyang had suffered grievous injuries under the assault of the three Xiahou Family martial practitioners.

Yet his eyes were still staring greedily at the Fire Qilin. He obviously wasn’t willing to give up just yet.

At the same time, the tombstone had arrived above Qin Lie's head, and the Fire Qilin's body, which was as red as hot iron, had also landed near him.

The energy that remained in the Fire Qilin might have been mostly extracted by the tombstone, but Qin Lie was still able to feel a terrifying wave of heat from the Fire Qilin rush at his face.

He turned his gaze from the Fire Qilin, narrowed his eyes, and looked toward Du Xiangyang with a grin.

From Du Xiangyang's perspective, that smile was unspeakably cold.

"You seem to be injured." Qin Lie smiled and walked toward Du Xiangyang.

Du Xiangyang's expression changed. He gathered his fiery power as the orange flames on his body trembled.

He had transformed into a man on fire.

"Cough, cough... Qin Lie, I wouldn't dream of obtaining that Fire Qilin any longer. It's yours, it's yours!" Du Xiangyang forced out a smile and hurriedly said, "Everything from earlier was just a misunderstanding! I wasn't really trying to kill you. You're very strong, and your existence can cause a lot of trouble for Luo Chen. I loathe Luo Chen—he plans to kill me here! We actually have a

common enemy. We can work together! Seriously, we can work together!”

“Whoosh!”

The Scarlet Fire Sword returned to Du Xiangyang, summoned to him while he spoke. He raised his hands and grabbed it tightly, yelling, “Qin Lie! We don’t have a grudge between us. There really is no need for us to fight to the death over a small misunderstanding!”

“A misunderstanding?” Qin Lie shook his head. “I don’t think that what happened earlier was a misunderstanding! If my strength had been any weaker, my soul would’ve been incinerated, and I would’ve ended up like that corpse beside you. My True Soul would’ve been burned to oblivion by your beam of fire!”

“Rrrmb!”

The rumble of thunder endlessly sounded from within the Astral Thunder Hammer. It looked fearsome with the interweaving of the arcing lightning that covered it.

“I… I’ll leave right away!”

Du Xiangyang gritted his teeth, turned around, and headed in the direction opposite from the one that Xiahou Yuan had gone.

Du Xiangyang’s body had been severely injured by the terrifying

attacks of the Xiahou Family members, and his spirit energy had been greatly exhausted. If he actually tried to fight Qin Lie to the death here and now, the chances of him being killed would have been extremely high.

All he could do was forcefully suppress his desire for the Fire Qilin. No matter how much he didn't want to do that, escaping was the only way for him to survive.

Qin Lie did not pursue him.

On one hand, he had the tombstone and the Fire Qilin's body behind him.

On the other, he wasn't sure if those people from the Xiaohou Family had really left.

Qin Lie was afraid that the Xiahou family members would be hiding nearby. He was also afraid that, if he engaged Du Xiangyang in a battle to the death, Xiahou Yuan's people would ambush them.

Qin Lie actually just wanted to force Du Xiangyang away and have him disappear from his sight.

"A spatial ring and a Xiahou Family token..."

He walked forward and removed two items from Xiahou Qiang's corpse.

Qin Lie invaded the Xiahou Family token with a wisp of his mind consciousness, surveying his surroundings through the token.

The word “Xiahou” on the token suddenly lit up. This meant that Xiahou Yuan and his men had not gone far!

Carefully taking stock of the area through the Xiahou Family token, Qin Lie was sure that Xiahou Yuan and his men weren’t more than five kilometers away from him.

This was a dangerous distance.

“Whew. Good thing I didn’t continue to tangle with Du Xiangyang. If I had, Xiahou Yuan would have definitely struck back,” Qin Lie said with a grim face, then turned around and walked to the tombstone.

He knew that the Xiahou Family must have had a Heavenly Sword Mountain sword token in their possession. Through that sword token, they would be able to track both his and Du Xiangyang’s activities and accurately sneak toward them.

Arriving beside the tombstone, Qin Lie discovered that the seven divine lights were still wrapped around the Fire Qilin’s body. The tombstone was still absorbing a large amount of energy from it.

Frowning, Qin Lie wasn’t sure if he should store the tombstone and leave the area first.

After the energy in the Fire Qilin's body had been almost entirely extracted, the burning flames on it went out, and it gradually returned to normal.

Qin Lie's pupils suddenly shrank.

The seven divine lights wrapped around the Fire Qilin gradually withdrew, pulling the body toward the tombstone.

At the center of the tombstone, where the seven divine lights were, a dazzling light that was the size of a grain of rice had appeared.

The dot of light grew larger, then it suddenly devoured the Fire Qilin's body whole like a giant, gaping maw.

A bolt of fiery light instantly entered the tombstone as the Fire Qilin vanished.

The tombstone shook intensely as the seven divine lights grew brighter and brighter.

A short while later, the seven divine lights stopped shaking. It was as if they had finished digesting the Fire Qilin. The entire situation was extremely bizarre.

Qin Lie looked shocked.

He did not dare to closely examine the tombstone right this moment. He reached out, preparing to put the tombstone into his spatial ring.

However, just as his fingers were about to touch the tombstone, drops of blood seeped out of its surface. Like morning dew, they quietly remained on top of the tombstone and didn't move.

There were three drops of blood!

Each drop of blood was only the size of a toe, was as blood red as bloodstones, and had fire in the shape of a Fire Qilin burning within them.

It was extraordinary!

"This is..." Qin Lie stood with shock filling his eyes.

While he was dumbfounded, the three drops of blood that burned with the Fire Qilin's flames suddenly slid off of the tombstone.

Qin Lie subconsciously grabbed them.

"Zzzt! Zzzt! Zzzt!"

The second that Qin Lie grabbed them, the three droplets that resembled bloodstones immediately corroded his palm like acid.

His palm bled profusely.

The blood that came from his palm instantly mixed with the three blood drops that burned with the Fire Qilin flames. The terrifying heat that exploded from his palm almost made him go insane.

He cried out in pain, shaking his hand in an attempt to rid his body of the three drops of Fire Qilin blood.

Unfortunately, no matter how he twisted or struggled, the three drops could not be cast from his body. They had already merged with his own blood.

As Qin Lie swung his arm, a terrible heat spread from the blood in his arms to every blood vessel within his body!

His skin and flesh turned fiery red at a shocking rate. His blood boiled at a shockingly high temperature.

Just as Qin Lie was about to succumb to the heat and be burned to dust from inside out, the seven divine lights suddenly flew out from the tombstone and wrapped around his body.

And his painful howls immediately stopped.

Chapter 424: Fire Demon's Rampage!

The seven divine lights resembled a calm breeze, thin rain, or soothing spring water sprinkling down onto Qin Lie, quickly alleviating the burning heat inside of his blood vessels.

His roars of pain came to a sudden halt.

The three drops of refined Qilin blood that were like bloodstones diffused into his blood and flowed throughout his body.

Previously, all of the blood blood in his body felt as if it were on fire. Now, however, only the areas in which the three drops of blood roamed were burning hot.

Yet, compared to before, the heat had greatly diminished to the point that Qin Lie was able to endure it.

He focused his senses and noticed that seven strands of scattered lights had seeped into his body, entering the three drops of refined Qilin blood.

"Refined blood! The Blood Refinement Art... refining one's own blood into blood essence!"

A thought appeared in Qin Lie's mind. He raised his eyebrow, eyes shining with a dazzlingly bright light.

Inside of the half of the Blood Codex that Xue Li had given him, a “Blood Refinement Art” was recorded. This Blood Refinement Art was used to temper the blood inside of one’s body, cleansing and concentrating it into a purer, more powerful “blood essence.”

This Blood Refinement Art was similar to the brewing of alcohol. It took the purest, most refined energies in an individual’s blood and tempered them, turning them into blood essence!

Every drop of “blood essence” contained a tremendous amount of power and the essence of the Blood Spirit Art, and could complement the secret arts of the Blood Codex to unleash a terrifying amount of power.

According to the records of the Blood Codex, not only did blood essence have a myriad of uses, it could greatly enhance a martial practitioner’s combat power as well.

One of its simplest uses was the swift recovery of a martial practitioner’s injuries. If a body part were pierced by a sharp weapon, and the bone within had been destroyed, the wound would quickly recover on its own with just one drop of blood essence enveloping it!

When unleashing Blood Arts: Explode with blood essence inside of his body, Qin Lie could even cause a huge change in the blood of another person, killing them by rupturing their blood vessels.

At this moment, the three drops of refined Qilin blood continuously flowed through his blood vessels, yet it was neither

diluted nor merged with his blood.

The three drops of blood were also a type of blood essence. They contained an incredibly powerful blood energy that was remarkably refined.

“Let’s try refining them into three blood essences of my own! Blood Refinement Art!”

Unwavering determination appeared in Qin Lie’s eyes. Throwing the potential threat of Xiahou Yuan and Du Xiangyang to the back of his mind, he began to summon his blood energy right beside the giant lake of fire, wrapping the three drops of Qilin blood inside of his blood vessels with his own blood.

Qin Lie channeled the Blood Spirit Art, and a large amount of blood energy gushed toward the three drops of Qilin blood. He began tempering the blood with the Blood Refinement Art recorded in the Blood Codex.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Flames that resembled meteors fell from the sky, streaking downward into the land of flames.

The burning sky suddenly became a hundred times fiercer, and the occasional descent of meteoric fire intensified into a full-fledged storm of terrifying meteoric flames.

At a glance, it seemed as if the burning sky had collapsed. A storm of countless blazing meteors leaving trails of dazzling flame rained throughout the sky and scorched the land.

“Rrrrmb!”

The small volcanoes exploded while spewing lava and draconic flames.

The earth shook as the ponds of lava and rivers of fire began to bubble.

Since the Fire Qilin’s corpse had been extracted from the lake of fire, this land of fire was currently undergoing a shocking transformation.

Xiahou Yuan, Xiahou Shang, Xiahou Ta, Du Xiangyang, and other martial practitioners in the area noticed this and felt shocked to their very cores.

Anyone who was struck by a falling fiery meteor would be unable to escape death. They would immediately be burned to ash.

A few people in the secluded areas of the land of fire had suffered such a fate.

However, even though he was beside the fiery lake at the center of the land of fire, Qin Lie was unaffected for some reason.

The storm of blazing meteors only landed near him. Some of them were clearly headed toward him, but as if detecting some kind of aura in the process, they would change direction and avoid him.

“Crack! Crack!”

Strange voices rang out from the lake of fiery lava next to Qin Lie. As someone who was refining the Qilin blood with the Blood Refinement Art, he knew about the strange things that were happening around him. However, he did not act.

He simply examined everything with his soul consciousness.

Qin Lie saw numerous creatures that were made of fire and stone. They were about four to five meters tall with lava flowing from their bodies and fire burning all around them. They simply walked out of the giant lake of lava, each sporting a pair of Heavenly Flame Crystals for eyes that shone with ghastly flames.

“Fire Demons!” Qin Lie exclaimed out of shock.

It was said that, at the heart of volcanoes and lands of fire, creatures made of fire and stone would sometimes be born.

These creatures were called Fire Demons.

A Fire Demon's life energy was determined by the flames it was shrouded in. It only had a simple consciousness and could not be considered intelligent. It could only act according to its instincts.

The places that could give birth to a Fire Demon, however, were often covered in lava and flames. They were usually an unbelievably high temperature. A Fire Demon could run amuck in such a place, doing whatever they wanted. This made them extremely frightening.

Fire Demons did not fear pain or death. They would only obey their basest instincts to kill and chase away all other living creatures who stepped into their domain. It was only when they killed all beings that were not Fire Demons that they would become calm.

A Fire Demon's size alone determined their strength and power.

The bigger a Fire Demon was, the scarier they were, and the more difficult it would be to deal with them.

While Qin Lie was refining the Qilin's blood with the Blood Refinement Art, more than a dozen of Fire Demons that were each around four to five meters tall had climbed out of the lake of fire one after another. Creaking sounds emanated from their stone limbs as they moved.

They seemed to have been peacefully resting inside of the fiery lake all this time, slumbering along with the Fire Qilin's body. That is, until the tombstone forcefully dragged out the body out,

forcing them to wake up in anger.

Dozens of Fire Demons wildly charged in every direction amidst the blazing meteor shower and erupting volcanoes.

Fire and lava scattered from their bodies as they ran, spewing everywhere. The fire on their stone limbs blazed as they moved, making them appear extremely intimidating.

When Qin Lie detected the rampage of the Fire Demons with his soul consciousness, he started to panic and prepared to temporarily stop the Blood Refinement Art to avoid them.

The fire energy that the Fire Demons contained was comparable to that of Netherpassage and Fulfillment Realm martial practitioners. They were not very intelligent, nor did they have extraordinary techniques or spirit artifacts. They relied purely on their instincts.

If this were anywhere else, a Fire Demon would not be that scary, but in a land of fire like this one, a Fire Demon was free to do whatever it wanted. It did not need to fear the burning liquid, ponds of lava, or even the showers of fiery meteors. Here, their combat power ascended to an entirely new level and made them significantly scarier to deal with.

Just as Qin Lie was about to escape, he discovered that the Fire Demons that were headed his way actually passed by him as if they did not detect his presence at all.

Qin Lie froze.

A while later, he came to a sudden realization. “The aura of the refined Fire Qilin’s blood!”

The three drops of Fire Qilin blood that he was currently refining with the Blood Refinement Art were currently in his bloodstream. Naturally, he would have the aura of a Fire Qilin.

These Fire Demons had slumbered deeply alongside the Fire Qilin within the fiery lake. They had partially been born because of the subtle connection they shared with the Fire Qilin’s dissipated soul. This was why they instinctively treated Qin Lie as their own kind.

They completely ignored Qin Lie.

This both shocked Qin Lie and filled him with joy. After confirming his conclusion once more, knowing that none of the Fire Demons would harm him, he eventually relaxed and continued refining the Qilin’s blood.

What he didn’t know was that many Fire Demons that overflowed with burning liquid were also climbing out of the lava ponds all over this land of flames.

These Fire Demons were simply acting according to their instincts, hunting and slaughtering any martial practitioner of the nine great forces who appeared in this area.

In their simple minds, this was their home and their world.

They would not allow any creature that wasn't one of them to freely move about the area. Therefore, they moved to kill all who had basically invaded their land.

Xiahou Yuan's group, Du Xiangyang, and martial practitioners from other Silver rank forces who had accidentally stumbled into this fiery landscape were suddenly being hunted by Fire Demons.

The Fire Demons were essentially cleaning out the entire region!

The martial practitioners who thought themselves powerful quickly realized how difficult it was to fight Fire Demons.

The Fire Demons knew neither pain nor death. Their fire forged stone bodies were incredibly tough, and every movement they made splashed their surroundings with fire and burning liquid. Every time a fiery meteor struck the Fire Demons, their power didn't weaken—rather, the Fire Demons became even stronger than before.

Those who fought the Fire Demons were quickly slaughtered by them. Martial practitioners who were smart like Du Xiangyang immediately escaped the moment that they noticed the situation was not to their advantage.

Fire Demons could be seen hunting down any living being that had entered the land of fire.

Figures fled from the burning environment, afraid to remain in it any longer.

The foolish few who had fought the Fire Demons were now humanoid shapes of burning charcoal left forgotten beside streams of fire. They were all completely and utterly dead.

Meanwhile, Qin Lie leisurely refined the Qilin's blood beside the lake at the center of the land of fire. He was unaware of the bloody slaughter that was taking place throughout the area.

In just a day's time, Qin Lie was the only martial practitioner left in the entire region.

The fiery meteor shower that rained through the sky seemed to have finally stopped as the sky became a dark gray. The sky was no longer burning.

The numerous small volcanoes had erupted, causing lava and flames to spread everywhere. This had formed new lava ponds and twisting streams.

After the Fire Demons confirmed that all foreign beings had either been eliminated or chased away, they roamed for a little longer before returning to the bottoms of the fiery lakes, seemingly intent on restoring their spent strength within the lava.

However, this land of fire had still become a forbidden land.

Despite the fact that the region had quieted down, those who had escaped did not dare to enter again.

Time passed swiftly.

Seven days passed in a flash, and the land of fire was peaceful and quiet.

There were no falling meteors of flame, no volcanic eruptions, and no roaming Fire Demons.

On the seventh day, countless flaming sparks flew out of the land of fire's lava ponds and bubbling streams, heading toward the center of the region as if every single one had a simple consciousness of their own.

It was as if there were hundreds of thousands of flaming butterflies flying through the air.

Chapter 425: Refining Blood Essence!

The flames that resembled thousands of burning butterflies flew from every corner of the fiery landscape toward the lake of fire.

At this moment, Qin Lie sat on a brown red rock beside the burning lake, staring at the three drops of Qilin blood in surprise.

The three drops of translucent blood, which resembled stones made of blood, were suspended in front of Qin Lie at chest height, spinning in midair. Three wisps of scarlet flame shaped like the Fire Qilin burned on the inside of drops of blood and shone with a beautiful red light.

These were the blood essence that Qin Lie had refined using the Blood Refinement Art from the Blood Codex, nurtured using his own blood, cleansed using his own soul consciousness, and tempered using the drops of Qilin blood. These were the lifeblood essences that belonged to him and him alone!

Upon marking these essences with his signature soul imprint, Qin Lie could vaguely sense that he had become connected to them. He had the extraordinary feeling that they were compatible with his own soul.

Right as he attempted to use the three drops of blood, he was suddenly dumbfounded as he realized that there were thousands of flame wisps converging on him from all over the land of fire.

The flames seemed to have a simple, limited kind of

consciousness of their own. Like moths charging toward light, the flames flew straight for the three drops of blood floating in front of Qin Lie.

The flames gradually soaked into the blood drops and vanished.

Qin Lie seemed to be in high spirits. His eyes shone with a joyful light as he stared intently at the blood drops floating in front of him.

All of the flames were vanishing into the three drops of blood. The scarlet flames within the blood that were shaped like the Fire Qilin burned brighter and brighter. They radiated a terrifying heat.

The three lifeblood essences that were imprinted with Qin Lie's soul imprint seemed to have developed their own basic consciousnesses. They appeared to have gained life of their own, becoming simple life forms. It was so miraculous that even he found it a little hard to believe.

Soon enough, the thousands of flame wisps that had flown from all over this fiery landscape had vanished into the three lifeblood essences.

The three drops of blood seemed to have transformed, transitioning from liquid to solid, translucent crystal. The blood drops radiated a shockingly high temperature, the tremendous heat energy contained within them having been exceedingly concentrated

Qin Lie tried to store the three drops of refined blood into his body.

The thought had barely formed in his mind when the three blood essences immediately responded to his call.

The blood essences instantly vanished into his chest, leaving trails of bloody light. They soaked into his blood vessels and boiled within them.

However, the heat that had previously tortured him did not flare into existence.

It was as if the three blood essences had truly become self-aware. Knowing that Qin Lie's blood vessels and body could not endure the terrifying heat of the Qilin's blood, they automatically restricted that heat to the fire inside of the blood droplets upon entering his body.

"This is amazing!" Qin Lie's exclaimed in admiration, his eyes alight.

He changed what he was thinking once more.

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh!"

The three lifeblood essences flew out of his chest, and like three

sanguine lights, they shot toward a fiery red rock in front of him.

"Boom!"

The rock was instantly overwhelmed by three frightening clusters of flame. Amazingly, the rock gradually melted from the heat.

"What terrifying firepower!" Qin Lie grinned and laughed.

He believed that most of Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners didn't have bodies as tough as that rock. If they were caught off guard and struck by the three lifeblood essences, without the protection of spirit armor or a shield of light, they would quickly be burned to ash once their body was ignited.

"Haha!"

Qin Lie's interest was piqued as he continuously played with the three blood drops that he had gotten through unexpected events by the lake of fire.

The three drops of refined blood were completely under his control. Since they were connected to his soul, they were the spirit artifacts he was most comfortable with.

With a single thought, the three blood essences charged toward their target. The three blood essences would transform into three rays of sanguine light, shooting toward his surroundings.

The rocks would either be blasted to pieces by the dreadful impact of the essences or be covered in flames and melt instantly.

Qin Lie enjoyed manipulating the blood and attacking his surroundings without becoming tired.

He quickly discovered that, just like martial practitioners, the three miraculous drops of blood would lose their energy as they attacked.

—What they consumed was fire energy.

After numerous attacks, Qin Lie could sense that the three drops of blood were making less and less of an impact on the rocks around him, and their heat diminished in the same way. The Qilin-shaped fire inside the blood drops mirrored that decline, growing smaller and smaller. Its temperature dropped sharply as well.

“They’re like a bizarre kind of organism that can sense my orders through their connection to my soul. However, they can also become weak and will require fire energy to be restored. Interesting…”

After a long period of observation, Qin Lie more or less understood how the three blood drops worked and became more and more astonished.

He rescinded his previous order and sent a new command to the

blood drops with his soul consciousness—Replenish your energy.

The instant that he thought this, Qin Lie was amazed to discover that the three blood drops actually began moving on their own.

As if they had transformed into three fire spirits, each of the refined blood drops flew in different directions at shocking speeds.

He stared at them blankly for a moment before closing his eyes and using his mind consciousness to examine the area instead.

Many amazing scenes were suddenly reflected into his heart and seen by his True Soul.

It was as if, at this very moment, the three refined drops of blood had become eyes!

Through the three blood droplets, Qin Lie could observe the surrounding area and see what they were doing.

They were actually searching the land of fire for Heavenly Flame Crystals!

One blood drop flew into the fire lake in front of Qin Lie and charged straight to the bottom. It found several dozen huge Heavenly Flame Crystals and instantly dove into the largest among them.

Another blood drop had flown to a gigantic rock several dozen kilometers away from Qin Lie and vanished inside of it.

There was another huge Heavenly Flame Crystal inside of that rock, and it was absorbing the fire energy from it.

The last blood drop submerged itself in a stream of lava and swam inside of it. Dozens of Heavenly Flame Crystals were resting at the bottom of it, enabling the blood drop to absorb fire energy from them.

The fire energy contained within these Heavenly Flame Crystals could swiftly replenish their fire energy, allowing them to quickly recover.

This discovery made Qin Lie become more and more amazed.

Through this observation, he was sure that the three lifeblood essences that he had refined with the Blood Refinement Art each had a basic intelligence of their own. They could instinctively restore the energy they had consumed.

“Amazing! This is truly amazing! I can’t believe how miraculous these three lifeblood essences are!” Qin Lie was extremely excited. “Heavenly Flame Crystals! Heavenly Flame Crystals can replenish the energy they use up. It looks like I should do my best to find as many Heavenly Flame Crystals as possible in this fiery land!”

He quickly came to a realization.

He currently saw these blood essences as a powerful weapon, the kind that was very deadly and impossible to defend against.

To use this weapon effectively, he would need plenty of Heavenly Flame Crystals to replenish their energy. Only then would the three blood essences be able to help him at any time and burn his enemies to a crisp.

In light of this, he got to work.

The three blood essences were the perfect tools for seeking out Heavenly Flame Crystals. Qin Lie only needed to follow their trails and collect the Heavenly Flame Crystals.

The Heavenly Flame Crystals in the lake of fire, however, were currently out of his reach. They were enormous, so he could only give up on them for now.

Qin Lie went to the two other places.

He shattered the huge rock with the Astral Thunder Hammer and exposed the crimson crystals inside of it. He immediately stored them in his spatial ring.

Qin Lie sent a command with his mind, and one of the blood drops searched for more Heavenly Flame Crystals in other places, leaving behind a blazing trail.

Soon enough, it discovered numerous Heavenly Flame Crystals scattered around a volcanic crater.

“There is a ridiculous amount of Heavenly Flame Crystals in this region. Since it’ll probably be difficult to find more after leaving this place, I must collect them as many of them as I can. Whenever these blood drops exhaust their fire energy, they need to use Heavenly Flame crystals to replenish it. The more the better!”

Qin Lie made up his mind and began searching the land of fire for Heavenly Flame Crystals using the blood drops.

“Eh! A smoldering corpse... and this is a Xiahou Family token! This guy was killed by a meteor!”

“There’s another body... a Black Voodoo Cult token! This guy was killed by a fire demon!”

“Here’s another corpse... this guy was from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain!”

“……”

As he searched for Heavenly Flame Crystals, Qin Lie discovered numerous black, charred corpses. He managed to obtain a considerable number of tokens from them.

There were the Xiahou Family tokens, Black Voodoo Cult tokens, Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain tokens, and Illusory Demon Sect

tokens.

These people had been killed by Fire Demons, blazing meteors, or volcanic eruptions.

Their tokens and spatial rings were just picked up by Qin Lie. He profited by doing nothing.

Chapter 426: Voodoo Toxin

Time passed, and yet another half a month went by.

Over the course of that half-month, Qin Lie had collected over two hundred Heavenly Flame Crystals of varying sizes, seven tokens, and seven spatial rings.

At this moment, he had tokens from Heavenly Sword Mountain, Black Voodoo Cult, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and the Xiahou Family. Using the tokens of these four forces, he would be able to sense the movements of their martial practitioners within a certain distance.

In the same way, the martial practitioners of the four forces could track him within a certain distance through the tokens in his possession.

When Qin Lie used the three drops of refined blood to seek out the Heavenly Flame Crystals, he often borrowed the tombstone to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art and enhance the purity of his blood spirit energy. By doing this, he continuously tempered his body and nurtured his True Soul.

“This land of fire stretches across several thousand kilometers. I’ve already gone through all of that and collected all of the Heavenly Flame Crystals and the tokens of victims I could find. This place has long since become devoid of life, so it’s about time for me to leave.”

When Qin Lie traveled throughout the entire land of fire and gathered enough Heavenly Flame Crystals and tokens, he was not able to sense anybody through the tokens.

So he went to a lush forest nearby that was the exact opposite of the land of fire.

Ancient trees made up this thriving forest. Every tree was at least several dozens of meters tall, and their branches and leaves resembled dark clouds that shrouded the sky. This made the forest seem mysteriously dark.

“There isn’t enough worldly spirit energy in this fresh air for me to use for recovery or cultivation Spirit stones still are my only option.”

Stepping into the vast forest, Qin Lie took out four tokens from Heavenly Sword Mountain, Black Voodoo Cult, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and the Xiahou Family. He hung them around his waist, preparing to sense activity in his surroundings at a moment’s notice.

He walked beneath the ancient trees alone, appearing both confident and relaxed.

The three refined blood that he had acquired from the land of fire were powerful weapons that he had at his disposal. He believed he would be able to deal Du Xiangyang and Xiahou Yuan a terrifying blow with just the blood essences if he encountered them again.

Two days swiftly passed.

Qin Lie didn't sense any life in this seemingly lively forest—not even birds or insects. Everything felt strange.

"Ding!"

On his third day in the forest, the sword token that hung at Qin Lie's waist softly rang out.

His expression changed as he lifted the sword token and examined the area with his mind
.

There was a sword token about thirty kilometers away from Qin Lie. The person who held that sword token was swiftly approaching him—most likely after sensing him nearby.

Having yet to encounter someone for such a long time, Qin Lie grinned and also ran in the direction of other sword token.

A short time later, a curse came from the leaves of an ancient tree in front of him. "Dammit, why is it you again?"

Du Xiangyang emerged from the bushes and looked at Qin Lie with a wretched expression. "What terrible luck. I thought I could meet someone from Luo Chen's side, but it's just you again. So, how did you manage to not die in the land of fire, madman? You should have been at the center of everything when the Fire

Demons went on a rampage, right? How did you survive?”

“Heh. I was in that fiery landscape for the past half a month.” Qin Lie calmly walked to the ancient tree that Du Xiangyang was near. He narrowed his eyes and said, “You’re the first person I’ve seen in a while.”

“Well I had no intention of seeing you!” Du Xiangyang snorted coldly, then turned around and ran off into the distance.

Du Xiangyang had tested Qin Lie’s strength already and knew that he was incredibly difficult to deal with. He thought that Qin Lie was practically a battle-crazed nutjob.d

Having realized that Qin Lie was not a weakling, Du Xiangyang no longer had any desire to clash with Qin Lie. He did not want to provoke trouble.

“In the direction to your right, about one hundred fifty or two hundred fifty kilometers away, I came across a sword token. A faint fragrance that could only belong to a woman was on it. Very few women are representing Heavenly Sword Mountain in this Trial, and He Wei would not willingly part with hers. I figured that you might be familiar the woman who threw that sword token away.”

Du Xiangyang’s voice rang out in sporadic intervals, “I saw martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult not to long ago. They seemed to be pursuing someone. That person might be one of the women you know...”

He told Qin Lie all of this out of goodwill.

“Xie Jingxuan! Song Tingyu!” Qin Lie frowned.

Qin Lie was originally going to chase Du Xiangyang and take revenge for the attack in the land of fire, but after hearing his words, his expression immediately grew heavy.

Xie Jingxuan was in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, and Song Tingyu was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. They could be considered some of the strongest youths in the Scarlet Tide Continent.

However, in the eyes of the Land of Chaos’ nine great Silver rank forces, and in comparison to their geniuses, their power might as well have been non-existent.

Song Tingyu was decent. In a one on one fight against a normal practitioner from a different force, she would at least be able to fight them to a standstill.

Xie Jingxuan, however, was slightly weaker than her.

If Xie Jingxuan accidentally encountered the experts of other forces, then her situation would become extremely dire. She could very well encounter some unfortunate circumstances.

“It has to be one of them!”

Qin Lie took a deep breath and immediately abandoned the thought of pursuing Du Xiangyang. He chose to move in the direction that Du Xiangyang had indicated.

Both Xie Jingxuan and Song Tingyu had more or less helped him back in the Scarlet Tide Continent.

When he was trapped in the Nether Realm, it was Xie Jingxuan who resolutely supported the Ling Family. When they had been oppressed by Seven Fiends Valley, she had been the one to ensure that they did not dare to go too far.

After Qin Lie had been betrayed by Profound Heaven Alliance, Qin Lie contacted Xie Jingxuan through Dark Asura Hall’s Liang Zhong and had her send word to Song Tingyu, who then gathered the Spatial Spirit Stones.

Both of these women had given him a helping hand when he was in danger, and they had never treated him wrongly.

“Between the two of them… who would it be?”

Qin Lie frowned deeply and took out the Black Voodoo Cult token. He constantly looked at the token while he rushed, hoping that it could provide some clues.

An hour later.

The token made by the Black Voodoo Cult suddenly emitted a shrill noise that sounded like the wailing of a ghost.

In spite of that, joy appeared in Qin Lie's eyes as he hastily examined the area and tracked their location through the Black Voodoo Cult's token.

"There are three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners! They've grouped together and are swiftly moving toward something! They're chasing someone!"

Qin Lie immediately reacted and charged in the direction that the token was pointing at top speed.

"Twenty kilometers!"

"Seventeen kilometers!"

"Ten kilometers!"

"Almost there!"

Qin Lie cut through the forest, swiftly approaching the other party like a bolt of lightning.

"Swoosh!"

Suddenly, not far from him, a beautiful figure shot through the forest.

It happened in a flash, but it was enough to raise Qin Lie's spirits—it was Song Tingyu!

"Stop!" Qin Lie yelled loudly, frenziedly chasing her from behind.

The beautiful figure immediately stopped running and shakily cried out, "Qin Lie! Is that you?"

"It's me!" Qin Lie swiftly rushed to her.

The beautiful figure came to a stop beside the roots of a thick, ancient tree. She was crestfallen and black tendrils of smoke leaked from deep within her pupils every so often. Her eyes looked like they had been stricken by something. It was an incredibly strange sight.

When Qin Lie appeared, she tore at the mask on her face and revealed a beautiful, yet completely pale face. It was Song Tingyu.

She was breathing rapidly as if she were suffering from a terrible illness. As the black tendrils of smoke in her eyes grew darker, her shapely body trembled intermittently. She bit her white lips like her life depended on it, seemingly holding back tremendous pain.

“Run! They’ll be here soon! Run with me, Qin Lie!” Song Tingyu screamed in panic after spending a great deal of effort to overcome the intense pain she was experiencing. “Run! We must be quick! If we aren’t, then it will be too late!”

“Is it the Black Voodoo Cult?” Qin Lie’s face was cold and his eyes were murderous.

Song Tingyu was in horrible condition. He could sense clearly that her life force was gradually dissipating.

With his current understanding of blood and life energy, Qin Lie didn’t think that Song Tingyu had more than half a month before she lost all of her life force and died.

Qin Lie didn’t know what had happened, but the moment he saw Song Tingyu’s pitiful appearance, he felt like killing someone.

“Where’s Xie Jingxuan? Have you seen her?” Qin Lie sucked in a deep breath and continuously forced himself to calm down. “Is she okay?”

“Jingxuan?” Song Tingyu forced a smile that was even uglier than a crying face. “I don’t know. She might already be dead since she was cursed with this Voodoo Toxin even earlier than I was. If I’m unable to cure it, then it’ll probably be even more impossible for her.”

Chapter 427: Head-On Clash!

Qin Lie had never seen Song Tingyu in such a terrible state.

She had obviously been tainted by a deadly poison. Her face was pale, her eyes were dim, and there were black tendrils of smoke leaking from deep within her pupils.

Her life force was gradually fading. It was clear that she could not cure what was happening to her.

This was not the Song Tingyu that Qin Lie used to know.

“What happened?” Qin Lie asked as calmly as he could, struggling to suppress the anger and murderous intent in his heart. “What happened to you and Xie Jingxuan while I was gone? Why is the Black Voodoo Cult chasing you?”

“Let’s go! We’ll speak after we get out of here!” Song Tingyu said hurriedly.

“We can’t escape,” Qin Lie said with a grim expression. He pulled out the Black Voodoo Cult token from his waist and shook it before her eyes, “They can lock us down through this token.”

“Just throw it away then!” Song Tingyu said urgently.

“Some problems can’t be solved by just running away. Leave

these three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners to me," Qin Lie said murderously.

"Don't! You're no match for them. These Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners are extremely powerful. Even the Terminator Profound Bombs might not work against them!" Song Tingyu begged, shaking her head repeatedly. "Trust me, you're definitely not their match. Let's leave already. I've thrown my sword token away and it won't be easy for them to find me. If you throw this token away right now, we might be able to escape from them. I'll tell you everything once we get out of here. Quickly!"

A shrill howl suddenly rang out from the Black Voodoo Cult token in Qin Lie's hand. A shadow garbed in a long, dark robe on the face of the token howled like a terrifying demon.

When the howl started, the black tendrils in Song Tingyu's eyes grew even darker and more frightening.

"Uaahh!" Song Tingyu's body began to violently shake once more. She couldn't resist howling in pain as she curled into herself, hugging her knees with her hands. She rolled on the ground, spasming in pain from time to time.

"Throw it away! Throw it away! Stop the screaming, I can't take it anymore!" Song Tingyu cried at the top of her lungs.

Qin Lie hastily put the token into his spatial ring.

The second that the howl from the Black Voodoo Cult token stopped, Song Tingyu's horrible cries subsided.

Her rose-red dress was smeared with soil. Beads of sweat dripped down her face as she repeatedly panted and regained her composure. Even her voice had become raspy. "Leave me, Qin Lie. Escape on your own. I've been poisoned by the Black Voodoo Cult's voodoo toxin. I don't have much time. If I stay with you, I'll just be dragging you down."

"I'll find a cure, I swear! No matter what I have to do, no matter what the cost, I will definitely get you the cure!" Qin Lie roared like a trapped beast.

He suddenly took Terminator Profound Bombs out of his spatial ring. He took out nine of them in total, hiding them in the soil, the grass, the leaves, and between the tree trunks.

"Go and hide for now!" Qin Lie pointed in a direction.

"It's useless. The explosive power of the Terminator Profound Bombs is too spread out. The Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners all possess sharp soul perception. The second they enter this area, they'll immediately sense the thunder energy," Song Tingyu said, trying to convince him, and attempted to pull him away. "Out of the three people chasing me, two are in the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm and one is in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm. All three of them wield extremely high rank spirit artifacts, and the spirit arts they cultivate are also extremely bizarre. If they catch you off guard and poison you with their voodoo toxin, you'll quickly lose your life

energy just like I currently am."

Song Tingyu was extremely terrified of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners and didn't believe that Qin Lie could go up against them. She just wanted to stay as far away from them as possible and spend the rest of the time she had in peace.

"Don't worry. I might not necessarily lose. I won't be the one who dies in this fight!" Qin Lie said with a frosty expression.

"You won't change your mind?" Song Tingyu glared at him angrily. "Qin Lie! These Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners are far scarier than I, Xie Jingxuan, Zhao Xuan, or Zhao Chendong! I'm serious, you aren't a match for them! Trust me, if we escape right now, you can still live through this!"

"It's too late. They're about to reach us. I'd like to see what kind of people they are for myself!" Qin Lie yelled.

Song Tingyu went silent.

She no longer tried to persuade him. She seemed to have come to terms with the situation. With both her mind and body severely damaged at this point, she was resigned to her fate.

Surprisingly, all traces of urgency had vanished from her face. In fact, she even appeared somewhat serene.

"Qin Lie, there's something I want to ask you," she said softly.

“Tell me.” Qin Lie stood beneath a huge tree, facing the direction that the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were coming from. His expression was cold, and his eyes shone with a terrifying killing intent.

“Have you… have you ever… loved me?” Song Tingyu lowered her head. Her voice and her shoulders trembled in unison.

“Stay focused. You’ll be fine. I swear, I’ll definitely save you!” Qin Lie exclaimed in a reassuring tone.

Song Tingyu raised her head, her beautiful face twisting in a helpless smile. “I disagree. Even if these three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners don’t come after me, I wouldn’t live for more than half a month. Tell me, Qin Lie. Have you ever loved me? Yes or no?”

“Yes!” Qin Lie practically yelled through clenched teeth.

A dim light appeared in Song Tingyu’s sickly eyes. Her pale face reddened a tiny bit as she smiled softly and nodded, saying, “That’s wonderful…”

“Sasasa!”

The rustling of leaves suddenly came from afar, indicating that someone was running through the trees. A cold, dark aura spread toward Qin Lie and Song Tingyu like a cold, invisible mist.

“They’re coming. I can feel them getting closer and closer…”

Song Tingyu felt cold. She subconsciously gripped her clothing tighter as her voice lost its usual charm and became kind of forlorn.

Qin Lie’s eyes grew more and more bloodshot.

“Thump thump! Thump thump!”

His heart beat out of his chest at a constant rhythm. The three drops of refined Qilin blood in the area of his heart and abdomen began to boil. The fire in them, which was shaped like a Qilin, began to gradually burn as if it were ignited.

Qin Lie had activated the power of the blood in advance!

“Zzzt! Rrrmb!”

Thunder and lightning rumbled from within his bones. The Astral Thunder Hammer in his hand crawled with thick strands lightning, just waiting to be unleashed.

A few minutes later.

Three men garbed in long, black robes, whose bodies, necks, and even faces were covered in black, suddenly appeared like ghosts.

Three pairs of cold, merciless eyes shone with a terrifyingly cold light from within the robes.

They all stared at the eager Qin Lie.

“Who are you?” asked the taller man in the center of the three. “You’re not from the Black Voodoo Cult. Where did you get your hands on that token?”

His voice sounded like weapons grating against one another. It was an unspeakably sharp, ugly sound.

“It doesn’t matter who I am. What matters is that I will have three new Black Voodoo Cult tokens very soon,” Qin Lie said grimly.

“Yu Xi, Yu Jie, one of you kill him while the other captures that woman,” the man said impatiently. He did not wish to waste even a breath on such nonsense.

The two Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners beside the man rushed at Qin Lie and Song Tingyu like two black ghosts.

The one that charged at Qin Lie suddenly began to strangely shake mid-flight.

Wisps of mist that were as pitch black as ink, twisting and

writhing like black, venomous snakes, shot from his black robe and streaked toward Qin Lie. They resembled bolts of lightning size of a finger and were more than a dozen meters long.

A dark, evil and eerie aura spread from the black mist. Qin Lie felt an icy, bone-chilling cold even though the mist was still a hundred meters away from him.

“Hehe!” The man laughed softly as an illusory shadow appeared from his icy cold eyes hidden within the black robe.

Like invisible tentacles, an extremely invasive energy shot from the man’s eyes and headed straight for Qin Lie’s mind.

A poisonous centipede with a hundred feet suddenly appeared in Qin Lie’s mind out of nowhere. The centipede was completely black, and a sported a pair of small black wings. It nimbly slid through his mind and dove into his Soul Lake.

The hundred-foot centipede was dozens of meters long. It was an evil secret art formed from fragmented souls. It leaked a dark aura as it savagely bit and tore at Qin Lie’s True Soul.

It was there to tear Qin Lie’s soul apart!

“Absolutely pathetic.” The man shook his head, his icy cold eyes overflowing with disdain. “He does not even know how to form a defense with his soul consciousness during combat. His mind is weak like paper, and he has no experience with soul combat. Heh...

he's even lousier than that woman. At the least she managed to endure for a long time. If the voodoo toxin hadn't seeped into her soul, she would've been a little difficult to handle."

"Shut up with your nonsense! Deal with him quickly and stop causing trouble for me!" the leader yelled impatiently.

"With pleasure," the person who was charging at Qin Lie answer casually.

"Thunder energy! Your feet! Beneath your feet!" the leader suddenly screamed.

As they approached Qin Lie and Song Tingyu, the two black-robed martial practitioners sensed the abnormality.

At this moment, they were still around a dozen meters away from Qin Lie and Song Tingyu. Their eyes showed panic as they hastily retreated.

"God dammit! This guy's from Terminator Sect! It's the Terminator Profound Bomb!" the leader roared angrily.

In the middle of his angry roar, the space between him and Qin Lie collapsed, and an abnormal pattern appeared out of nowhere. It looked as if space itself had been cut to pieces.

Countless bolts of lightning and thunder energy instantly exploded.

The ground was blown apart and dust flew everywhere. The ancient trees were immediately reduced to ash.

Two figures that were covered in blood flew out of the explosion. Their bodies were covered in a black light that continuously collapsed and reformed.

At the same time.

Thick bolts of lightning appeared within Qin Lie's mind, instantly covering his Soul Lake.

The gigantic centipede struggled violently amidst the thunderous blasts, its hundred feet wiggling in vain until it gradually faded and disappeared like smoke.

Chapter 428: Burning The Voodoo Insects!

The explosion of the Terminator Profound Bombs instantly injured the two Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners. They had been charging at Qin Lie and Song Tingyu as their leader yelled for them to retreat.

Huge pits were now separating Qin Lie and Song Tingyu from the three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners. The dense lightning, rumbling thunder, and distorted spatial energy mingled, making that particular area chaotic and unstable.

“He purposely pretended to be weak so that you would look down on him and then detonated the Terminator Profound Bombs while you were careless. What a ruthless, malevolent heart.” The leader’s serpentine eyes shone with a dark icy light. “Yu Xi, have you planted the voodoo toxin’s seed?”

“It has been planted!” The black robed martial practitioner smiled wickedly.

The explosions of the Terminator Profound Bombs had blown away their long, black robes. The black hats that connected to their robes has similarly been reduced to shreds.

It was in this way that two young faces were revealed.

Embedded in the center of each Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner’s forehead was a tiny black centipede. Half of the centipede’s body was deep inside of their flesh, while the other half

protruded from it. They wriggled every so often, as if absorbing the flesh blood of the foreheads they were in to nurture themselves.

These two could have been considered handsome, but they appeared unfathomably sinister because of the black centipedes in their foreheads.

The centipedes in their foreheads were voodoo insects that the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners raised. The voodoo insects were embedded into their foreheads to make it easier for the insects to absorb their mind energy.

These two were called Yu Xi and Yu Jie. They both came from an ancient family in the Black Voodoo Cult. For the longest time, this family passed down the evil inheritance of the Black Voodoo Cult, assisting Yu Xi and Yu Jie in breeding voodoo insects and refining voodoo toxin.

The disciples of this family were often sent to the Black Voodoo Cult at a young age to learn its bizarre spirit arts and serve the core disciples of the Black Voodoo Cult, treating them as their masters.

Upon deciding which master they wished to serve, voodoo insects were forcefully put into their foreheads.

Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners covered their faces and wore black robes to prevent others from seeing the voodoo insects in their foreheads. They did not want anyone to see how strange and scary they were.

“Good.” The leader raised his hand and gestured for his men to stand down and be patient.

They were waiting for the distorted, chaotic energies in the area to stabilize.

From her position at the base of an ancient tree near Qin Lie, Song Tingyu cried out, “Oh no! Qin Lie, you’ve been poisoned with the voodoo toxin! How could you be so careless?”

She could see black tendrils appear from within Qin Lie’s eyes. These tendrils were a sure sign of the voodoo toxin seeping into his True Soul.

“Voodoo toxin?” Qin Lie frowned. “That shouldn’t be possible.”

He immediately examined his mind consciousness. He could clearly see the black centipede with a hundred feet being blasted to dust by thunder and lightning. When had the voodoo toxin infected him?

“The centipede in your head is the voodoo toxin!” Song Tingyu said weakly.

Qin Lie’s face became grim. At this point, even he had realized the abnormality in his mind.

Wisps of black smoky began to appear in his mind once the centipede was eradicated. Just when Qin Lie thought that he had taken care of the enemy's soul attack, the tendrils seeped into his True Soul without him realizing it.

The True Soul in Qin Lie's Soul Lake, which looked exactly the same as Qin Lie and was the culmination of numerous soul imprints, was currently ensnared by a myriad of thin black soul threads.

These black threads were slowly but surely seeping even deeper into his True Soul!

"This voodoo toxin can corrupt a soul and forcefully expel a person's life force at a rapid rate. Your body will begin weakening in every way once you are poisoned." Song Tingyu's expression was dim, and her eyes were filled with bitterness. "If I am unable to cure the voodoo toxin, you probably won't be able to either. Sigh... why did you ignore my advice and forcefully clash with them? Just what do you want me to say?"

The situation had turned out how she said it would.

The moment Song Tingyu finished speaking, Qin Lie sensed the changes occurring within his body. He noticed that the energy in his blood gradually seeped out of the pores of his body against his wishes.

His soul aura also began to weaken bit by bit.

His True Soul slowly became indistinct.

These were the effects of the voodoo toxin.

It was only then that he realized how truly terrifying the Black Voodoo Cult was. He finally recognized the source of Song Tingyu's fear and anxiety.

After a martial practitioner was infected with the voodoo toxin, their life force would fade and their True Soul would gradually dissipate. They could feel themselves get weaker every second, yet they were unable to stop it. This feeling could make many people immediately go insane.

The stronger a martial practitioner was, the harder it would be for them to face their inevitable weakening. Seeing their incoming death yet being unable to do anything but inch closer to it... such terror was truly frightening.

Qin Lie understood Song Tingyu's fear and despair. He understood why Song Tingyu, who was usually confident and shrewd, would become depressed to the point of losing the courage to fight her enemies to the death.

As time passed, the distorted energy of the blast site between the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners and Qin Lie gradually stabilized.

The three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners exchanged

glances before standing up all at once. As they secretly scanned for any abnormalities around them, they took slow steps toward Qin Lie.

They all saw the black tendrils in Qin Lie's eyes.

This put them at ease and made them think that, even if Qin Lie had the power to surprise them, it would be nothing more than a pathetic last ditch attack.

They were extremely confident in the voodoo toxin, and they believed that very few experts participating the Trial would be able to survive it.

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu obviously weren't counted among them.

"There are no more Terminator Profound Bombs." The leader of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners, Yu Yuan, was in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm. He stopped thirty meters away from Qin Lie and stared at him wickedly, saying, "Your Terminator Profound Bomb seems to be of inferior rank, and its explosive power is too scattered... it isn't concentrated enough. How unfortunate for you. If you were Terminator Sect's Chu Li, then my two companions definitely would not have survived the explosion. Even I would have only been able to escape in defeat. However... you are not Chu Li."

After a momentary pause, Yu Yuan gravely said, "So death is your only option!"

Qin Lie said nothing in return.

Yu Yuan waved his hands and leisurely said, “Have the voodoo toxin penetrate deeper.”

Yu Xi took out a Black Voodoo Cult token and activated the evil formation inside of it. The token suddenly began to wail.

The moment the wail began, Song Tingyu immediately cried out in pain, her face deathly pale. She writhed in terrible pain, clearly suffering.

Even Qin Lie noticed that the black tendrils digging into his True Soul began to constrict, torturing it.

The black tendrils felt like iron strings and sharp blades, cutting deep into his True Soul. Even Qin Lie trembled slightly because of the pain.

What was even scarier, however, was the speed at which the black tendrils seeped into his True Soul. It clearly grew faster as the token wailed

Qin Lie realized that he had to kill these Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners with his fastest, deadliest skill. Only then would he be able to focus on destroying the voodoo toxin.

He had to kill them while he could still fight.

The spatial ring in Qin Lie's hand suddenly lit up, and the six spirit pattern pillars flew out. The Universal Celestial Sealing Formation took shape before Yu Yuan and the other two could react, descending upon them

The second the sealing formation was complete, Qin Lie's eyes shone with a bloody light as he immediately summoned the three drops of Fire Qilin blood with his mind.

Three finger-sized blood crystals emerged from his chest, turning into sanguine streaks of light that shot toward Yu Yuan and his subordinates. Each one headed for their own target.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

As if sensing Qin Lie's anger and killing intent, the fire inside of the Fire Qilin blood burned brighter and fiercer.

"Boom!"

The astounding three droplets of lifeblood essences suddenly transformed into the shape of three lifelike Fire Qilins.

Terrifying flames capable of reducing every creature in the world to ash surrounded the Fire Qilins, charging at the trapped trio with a soundless roar.

“Fire Qilins?! Fuck, why are there Fire Qilins!”

“Oh no!”

“I’m trapped!”

Layers of pitch black light shields covered and protected the three. Despite the lack of wind, their black robes flapped as the spirit armor underneath them unleashed all of the defensive energy they had.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The three Fire Qilins snarled, growing increasingly larger.. Resembling giant fiery clouds, they flooded over the trio.

“Plink plink—ka-crack!”

The defensive light shields of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners could not endure the Fire Qilin’s heat. Seconds later, the shields shattered into numerous rays of pitch black light and scattered.

In the same way, the spirit armor beneath their black robes could not protect their bodies. The countless flames of the Fire Qilins scorched their bodies.

Yu Yuan and his followers immediately became actual flaming men, screaming in terrible pain as their hair, faces, clothing, and blood were set alight.

“They truly are exceptional!” Qin Lie grew spirited.

Next to the heat of the searing flames, Song Tingyu’s dark gray eyes also seemed to regain a trace of excitement.

“The fiery soul of the Fire Qilin, a Rank Eight spirit beast!” Song Tingyu exclaimed.

“Leave one alive! Qin Lie, leave one of them alive!” she suddenly cried out to remind him.

Qin Lie came to a realization and formed a thought. The burning Fire Qilin wrapped around Yu Yuan immediately weakened the intensity of its flames.

Meanwhile, the terrifying flames completed evaporated the blood and water in the bodies of the other two Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners. They burned to death in short order, becoming as black as charcoal.

Since the intensity of the flames engulfing him had been reduced and he was powerful in the first place, the leader, Yu Yuan, was the only one to survive.

Yu Yuan’s black robes had been reduced to ash, and his body had

been burned black. The surrounding air smelled of charred flesh.

After being scorched by the flames, Yu Yuan's face looked unbelievably ugly and disgusting. Worse yet, the horrible centipede in his forehead actually wasn't dead. It still writhed with life.

"Qin Lie! The voodoo insects on the foreheads of the other two are still alive!" Song Tingyu said, bringing the matter to his attention.

It was only then that Qin Lie noticed the hundred feet centipedes in Yu Xi and Yu Jie's foreheads were still alive. Even though their hosts had been burned to cinders, they continued to squirm erratically. The life force of these insects was truly terrifying.

"Keep burning!"

The two fearsome clusters of flame immediately grew ferocious once more, burning the two voodoo insects with even greater intensity.

The two voodoo insects actually flapped their little wings and tried to slip away from Yu Xi and Yu Jie's bodies, but they were tightly trapped by the Fire Qilins that burned with even greater heat than before.

Soon enough, the voodoo insects were slowly burned to death by the frightening heat.

“The young master will not let you escape! The young master will definitely torture you to death!” Yu Yuan’s screams were as terrible as a wraith’s.

Chapter 429: Eight-Winged Centipede Queen

As Qin Lie burned the two voodoo insects with his Qilin fire, terrible cries rang throughout the forest every so often.

In a land of ancient trees over five hundred kilometers away from Qin Lie.

An intelligent looking youth stood in the center of seven Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners that had dark eyes and wore black robes.

The youth was thin, and his hair was styled modestly, tied up with a black band. The corners of his face were sharp, and his eyes resembled pitch black gemstones that shone with a scary, ruthless light.

“Argh!”

He suddenly clutched his chest with both hands and released a terrible howl, discharging a shocking aura to the dark gray forest around him.

“Rip!”

He tore at the clothing on his torso and exposed his chest. The skin around it was transparent, making it possible to see his heart.

There was a horrifying voodoo insect wrapped around his heart!

It was a pitch black centipede with one hundred feet—it was completely identical to the ones that had been embedded in Yu Xi, Yu Jie, and Yu Yuan's foreheads!.

As a matter of fact, the centipede that had been in Yu Yuan's forehead was a larva of the centipede wrapped around this youth's heart!

This centipede was completely stuck to his red heart. Every one of its feet were like sharp blades that either pierced into the heart muscle or clung to its arteries.

As the youth's heart continued to thump, the bizarre centipede expanded and contracted along with it.

It was as if it had become one with his heart.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

At this moment, the pitch black centipede trembled sporadically. Its sharp feet dug into the youth's heart, making him scream constantly.

The dark eyes of the seven Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners all shone with a cold, harsh light.

“Yu Xi and Yu Jie are dead. The voodoo insects in their bodies were burned to death. Yu Yuan has probably suffered a grievous injury as well… his condition doesn’t look good.”

The youth would occasionally let out a terrible howl, his expression appearing savage and distorted. His pitch black gemstone-esque eyes, however, were so calm that it was disturbing.

It was as if he were able to keep his calm despite the pain, as if his judgement weren’t affected by the pain at all.

“Yu Feng, lead your men over there and find out what’s going on! Find the person who burned the voodoo insects! Remember—I want him alive!” the man yelled coldly.

“I shall go right away, young master!” A Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner garbed completely in black robes saluted respectfully before swiftly departing with two of the men.

……

“Young master? Your young master should be Black Voodoo Cult’s Ye Yihao, right?” On the other side of the ancient forest, Qin Lie arrived beside Yu Yuan with a cold expression, staring at the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner. He was on the verge of death, his body charred black. Qin Lie casually asked, “How do you cure the voodoo toxin?”

Having recovered some of her resolve, Song Tingyu walked over as well. She glared at Yu Yuan, a cold gleam in her eyes.

The three refind blood that resembled bloodstones withdrew into Qin Lie's body once more and mingled with the blood on his palms.

Each of Qin Lie's hands currently gripped a Heavenly Flame Crystal that was even larger than a fist. The three blood essences in his palms were currently absorbing the fire energy inside these Heavenly Flame Crystals.

The Heavenly Flame Crystals radiated a bright scarlet halo. Wisps of fiery energy continuously spread to his palms and were swiftly absorbed by the blood essences.

"You want to cure the voodoo toxin? Haha, dream on!" Yu Yuan laughed madly. "Only the young master and the 'Eight-winged Centipede Queen' around his heart can cure it! Just sit there and enjoy the taste of death as the young master absorbs your soul and life energy through the Eight-winged Centipede Queen every day, every hour, every minute, and every second!"

He pointed at Song Tingyu and laughed wickedly. "In less than half a month, your life energy will be completely exhausted. You will soon know exactly what kind of pain that has in store for you!"

"As for you..." he said coldly, looking at Qin Lie. "Even you have only a month of time left! Even if you aren't hunted down and killed by our men, you will end up just like her! You will tread the

exact same path of death that she has and die an agonizing death not unlike mine! Hahaha!”

“Splurt!”

A cold, sharp dagger stabbed into Yu Yuan’s thigh. The blade twisted and turned inside of his flesh, poking at the bones until they creaked.

Qin Lie stabbed the dagger upward, slicing from Yu Yuan’s thigh to his waist.

“I want the cure,” he said with a straight face.

The pain made Yu Yuan scream at the top of his lungs.

“Nothing but the Eight-winged Centipede Queen coiled around the young master’s heart and neutralize the toxin!” he cried out. “There is no other cure!”

Qin Lie, unconvinced by Yu Yuan’s words, drove the dagger further upward.

Yu Yuan’s eyes bulged and his cries of pain grew worse and worse. His body spasmed repeatedly as if his last breath would come at any moment.

Qin Lie glanced at Song Tingyu.

Song Tingyu understood the meaning behind that glance and immediately produced a Memory Fragment Crystal, pressing it against one of Yu Yuan's eyes.

Suffering horribly from Qin Lie's torture, Yu Yuan was unable to put up any resistance. By the time he noticed that a Memory Fragment Crystal had been pressed against his eye, it was already too late.

Song Tingyu's eyes were filled with hatred as she slapped at Yu Yuan's skull. His skull shattered, and the light in Yu Yuan's eyes swiftly faded away.

Song Tingyu hurriedly unleashed her secret art as the Memory Fragment Crystal began absorbing Yu Yuan's memories.

"The voodoo insect!" she suddenly exclaimed in a low tone.

After Yu Yuan's True Soul faded away, the centipede embedded in his forehead flew out and attempted to escape.

Three bloody lights shot out from Qin Lie's palm like lightning.

The larva of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen had barely flown a meter from Yu Yuan's forehead before it was devoured by the three clusters of flame. The Fire Qilin's terrifying flames burned it alive.

The small voodoo insect struggled and screamed amidst the burning flames, displaying a shocking vitality.

This last for a full hour before the voodoo insect was finally burned to ash, completely killed.

“The vitality of a voodoo insect is even more formidable than that of these three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners. How scary!”

Song Tingyu stared at the voodoo insect that had been burned to ash. Fear lingered on her face and in her eyes.

Overall, three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners and three voodoo insects were killed by Qin Lie.

……

“Yu Yuan is also gone.”

Deep within the forest, the Black Voodoo Cult youth had howled for a full hour. The pain only stopped when the last voodoo insect was completely dead.

The voodoo insects of Yu Yuan and the other three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners had come from the Eight-winged Centipede Queen coiled around his heart. These insects were larvae of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen that he had embedded into their foreheads. Since he fed on their mind energy, they could

assist him in releasing the voodoo toxin.

Everyone who was infected by the voodoo toxin would gradually lose their soul and life energy. These energies weren't lost to the world—instead, they were consumed by him and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen fed on life energy, whereas the youth sought soul energy.

In this way, he would be able to increase his own soul energy at a tremendous rate. Through the slow deaths of the toxin-afflicted martial practitioners, he was able to nurture his own strength along with the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's.

He could use this to grow stronger and stronger.

"Three larvae died in a row! Three! Do you know how much energy and effort it takes me to breed just one?" he scolded angrily.

All of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners beside him were silent.

"If you clansmen of the Yu Family are dead, you're dead. It doesn't affect me much. All of you are utterly incomparable to a single larva!" the youth declared heartlessly, frowning at them. "Remember! If you know that you won't be able to escape from a situation alive, immediately sever your soul connection with the

voodoo insect so that the voodoo insect can escape!”

The Yu Family martial practitioners said nothing.

“I hope you understand that it was you, the Yu Family who chose to become my vassal force. The Yu Family will only become strong if I become strong! If anything happens to me and my strength decreases, then the entire Yu Family will also pay the price! Have I made myself clear?”

“We understand, young master.”

“If the situation looks bad, we will sever our soul connection with the voodoo insect to increase its chances of survival as much as possible.”

“We understand.”

All of them bowed their heads and expressed their subservience.

“Now this is what a professional vassal force looks like. You should know what comes first and obey the greater good.” It was only then that the youth nodded in satisfaction.

……

“Did you find anything?”

Beside the three charred corpses, Qin Lie removed their spatial rings and acquired three Black Voodoo Cult tokens. After examining them closely and finding no information about a cure for the voodoo toxin, he turned to ask Song Tingyu.

Song Tingyu gripped the Memory Fragment Crystal one one hand. She coincidentally finished her analysis on Yu Yuan's memories right when Qin Lie spoke, releasing her grip on the crystal.

"What an evil, vicious spirit art... what a terrifying voodoo insect!" Having interpreted Yu Yuan's memories, her expression became incredibly serious. "Their young master is Ye Yihao. He has an Eight-winged Centipede Queen coiled around his heart. He uses the Eight-winged Centipede Queen as the mother from which to breed larvae, controlling those larvae and releasing the voodoo toxin through them. Everyone who is infected with the voodoo insect's toxin has their soul and life energy consumed by Ye Yihao and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen. He feeds on soul energy to strengthen himself while the voodoo insect feeds on life energy to strengthen itself.

"That truly is a terrifying spirit art." Qin Lie's expression changed. "Have you found a way to cure it?"

"Yu Yuan wasn't lying." Song Tingyu quietly sighed in disappointment, helplessness in her eyes. "A larva can only release voodoo toxin. It is incapable of doing anything else. The mother of the insect is needed to cure it. We will only be able to cure the voodoo toxin if the mother insect is dead or if we've obtained its blood. Aside from those, there is no other way."

“So it’ll fine as long as we kill the mother insect?” Qin Lie’s eyes shone with tremendous killing intent.

“That’s correct. The moment the mother insect dies the voodoo toxin will automatically dissipate.” Song Tingyu shook her head and said bitterly, “I know what you’re thinking. To kill the other insect, one must first kill Ye Yihao. This person is extremely frightening. He is on an entirely different level compared to these four. Furthermore, the mother insect around his heart is an even greater weapon, I could sense significant fear toward the Eight-winged Centipede Queen from this person’s memories—as if the mother insect were stranger and more powerful than the martial practitioner.”

After a pause, she let out yet another deep sigh. “The most important thing is that the mother insect can speed up how quickly the voodoo toxin spreads and make it penetrate even faster than before. If we enter the mother insect’s range, it can stimulate the voodoo toxin and make it spread faster, killing us before we even get close to it.”

Chapter 430: Thunder And Lightning Soul Refinement!

“Does that mean there’s no way to survive?” Qin Lie asked, his brow furrowed.

“It’s possible that... there really isn’t,” Song Tingyu said with a sigh.

“There is no poison that cannot be neutralized! As long as we believe, there’s definitely a way!” Qin Lie already decided to actively oppose the people of the Black Voodoo Cult. He wanted to kill Ye Yihao and burn the Eight-winged Centipede Queen to death.

To that end, he took out a Black Voodoo Cult token and tied it to his waist, intent on waiting for the martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult to come find him.

“Don’t worry. We killed three of their people. They’ll come find us again,” Qin Lie said coldly. “Next time, that Ye Yihao might actually appear in person.”

“No, he won’t.” Song Tingyu shook her head. “He will arrange for people from the Yu Family to come for us. With his realm and identity, he wouldn’t consider us important.”

Upon hearing this, Qin Lie’s expression became even uglier.

In the following three days, he and Song Tingyu moved toward the area where the Black Voodoo Cult was.

In that time, Qin Lie did everything he could think of to try and eliminate the voodoo toxin in their True Souls, but none of the methods were effective.

Spirit power couldn't purge the toxin, and normal antidote pills were also unable to get rid of it. Even when he used Frost Arts to freeze himself and Song Tingyu, it was still impossible to prevent the loss of soul and life energy.

He finally understood how terrifying the Black Voodoo Cult's toxin was.

Three days later, Song Tingyu became even weaker. Her long, glossy black hair gradually lost its sheen, and her bright eyes became dim, still, and devoid of hope.

"I should only have about ten days left," she said peacefully.

She had gradually accepted the situation as it was. She seemed to understand that her life was coming to an end and thus did not struggle.

"There's still time!" Qin Lie shouted.

Song Tingyu gave him a tragic smile and shook her head. However, she did not say anything.

Qin Lie went silent as well.

The fourth day.

Qin Lie was sitting under the canopy of a great ancient tree with one hand caressing the token from the Black Voodoo Cult, probing it with his mind consciousness. He wanted to see if martial practitioners from the Black Voodoo Cult would come find him.

He found that his mind consciousness was gradually becoming scattered and it was difficult to focus.

His expression became extremely solemn. He knew that, in these four days, much of his soul and life energy had been lost.

This greatly decreased his fighting capability.

“This can’t go on! I need to find a way to at least slow the poison, otherwise I’ll lose the ability to fight before I even see Black Voodoo Cult’s Ye Yihao.”

Holding his head, Qin Lie’s expression was twisted as he thought of all kinds of extreme ways to fight the toxin.

“Heavenly Thunder Eradication! The five levels of Heavenly Thunder Eradication: Thunder Lightning Body Refinement, Thunder of the Ninth Heaven, Thunder Lightning Soul

Refinement, Thunder Conception, Lightning Pool Refinement. After reaching the Netherpassage Realm, one can enter the third level of Heavenly Thunder Eradication,Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement, to temper the soul. The soul will gradually become able to tolerate thunder and lightning, and it will even be unaffected by lightning in the future!”

A spark flashed through his mind. His eyes lit up, and he decided to try this method.

Any ghosts, evil spirits, vengeful spirits, and wraiths who did not have tangible bodies considered thunder and lightning their nemeses. Even the souls of powerful martial practitioners were unable to endure being attacked by thunder and lightning.

Xue Li’s restored realm was powerful, and his soul was strong.

Yet even he had been imprisoned and suppressed by the lightning seal in the Soul Suppressing Orb, unable to escape.

If it were a soul, they would not dare to remain exposed to thunder and lightning. Xue Li was not an exception.

To use thunder and lightning to refine one’s body, to have the soul become able to endure thunder and lightning... this was the third level of Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

It was a level that he had to reach.

Only upon reaching the Netherpassage Realm, when the Soul Lake turned into the True Soul, could Qin Lie finally cultivate to this level of Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

Presently, he had finally reached this level and met the necessary requirement to cultivate it.

Under the ancient tree, tendrils of lightning emerged from Qin Lie's body. A boom of thunder came from his chest and made Song Tingyu's expression change slightly.

She turned to look at Qin Lie.

Lightning roamed Qin Lie's body like snakes, moving from his limbs and chest to gather at his neck.

Blinding light that resembled silver metallic hoops clung to his neck.

Roars came from the lightning. Thunder energy was being compressed and shrouded by the lightning and slowly rose to the point right below his jaw.

Qin Lie's face suddenly went completely red as if he were suffocating. His expression was frightening.

"Boom!"

Immediately after a muffled sound, slender threads of faint lightning shot from his neck, charging deep into his mind.

Appearing in his mind, the lightning carried heavenly thunder and slowly gathered at his Soul Lake.

Qin Lie's Soul Lake became filled with flashes of thunder and roars of lightning. Thunder and lightning collided and exploded as they headed for the True Soul inside his Soul Lake.

"Bam!"

Under the barrage of thunder and lightning, the True Soul in his Soul Lake exploded.

Threads of soul imprints that had been pieced together, essence, memories, and thoughts scattered. They flew out of the Soul Lake and turned into wisps of light that spread to every corner of his mind.

The cultivation of Qin Lie's Netherpassage Realm seemed to have taken a step back, returning to the Manifestation Realm.

In the Manifestation Realm, the soul was not cohesive, it was scattered. The essence, memories, and thoughts were disorganized and chaotic.

Martial practitioners would usually be seriously injured after their True Soul collapsed. They would lose their combat ability

and would even be unable to recover for a lifetime.

However, Qin Lie did not feel weak at all.

It was the opposite for him. To his surprise, he discovered that, after his True Soul exploded, the feeling of weakness in his soul and life force had miraculously disappeared.

Qin Lie became excited.

The voodoo toxin from the Black Voodoo Cult had permeated his True Soul. By corroding the True Soul, it had slowly consumed his soul and life force.

Since his True Soul had just exploded, the voodoo toxin naturally scattered as well.

Qin Lie hurriedly searched through his mind. As expected, he found black threads that remained in the center of the lake. They were like poisonous snakes calmly waiting for his True Soul to gather again.

It was as though the voodoo toxin would immediately infect and consume his True Soul if he formed it again. It would devour all of its power.

Qin Lie did not rush to reform his True Soul.

Instead, he channeled Heavenly Thunder Eradication, gathering the thunder and lightning to attack the voodoo toxin.

The black threads did not react to the ferocious assault of thunder and lightning!

This greatly astonished Qin Lie.

“The poison of the voodoo toxin is not formed from the soul… it’s an actual poison! It’s a tangible existence!” Qin Lie finally understood the problem.

Thunder and lightning had absolute destructive power against things in soul form, but it didn’t have any way of dealing with a poison like this.

“The blood of the Fire Qilin!” A new idea floated into Qin Lie’s mind.

The blood of the Fire Qilin could purify the voodoo insect and burn it to dust. Would it be able to eliminate the voodoo toxin that it had left in his True Soul?

When Qin Lie thought about this, he realized that the three blood essences that had been sleeping within his blood vessels had flowed to the artery at his neck, easily reaching the depths of his mind.

The three blood essences took the shape of the Fire Qilin, appearing above his Soul Lake.

A terrible scalding heat filled his mind. It was so hot that his Soul Lake was almost unable to withstand it.

Qin Lie hesitated.

He did not know what the consequences of throwing these flames shaped like the Fire Qilin into his Soul Lake would be.

Yet, as he hesitated, he was surprised to find that the voodoo toxin seemed to recognize the current situation was not good for it.

Before Qin Lie could hurl the flames into the Soul Lake, the black toxin actually flew out of it and fled from his mind.

“Just as I suspected... the Fire Qilin’s blood has purifying effects!” Qin Lie exclaimed in realization.

The balls of flame resembled enormous Fire Qilins that flew into his mind and killed the voodoo toxin.

The threads of voodoo toxin were purified by the Fire Qilins before they could escape.

The poison was burned to dust!

Qin Lie opened his eyes. No black threads remained in his body!

He had completely purified the voodoo toxin!

“I’m fine.” Qin Lie looked at Song Tingyu and gave her a wide smile, his expression completely relaxed.

“You… really?” The light of hope appeared in Song Tingyu’s eyes once more.

“I really am okay, I’ve purified the voodoo toxin,” Qin Lie said confidently.

Chapter 431: Chance

Qin Lie's eyes no longer held any hint of black smoke and were once again full of energy.

His soul and life energy had stopped seeping away. None of the voodoo toxin remained in his mind.

The voodoo toxin had been purified by the Fire Qilin's blood.

"So... can I also do this? Can I also cure myself?" Hope welled inside of Song Tingyu. She urgently asked, "How did you do it?"

"I..."

Qin Lie opened his mouth but suddenly froze. His brow furrowed.

"What's wrong?" Song Tingyu detected his anxiety.

"I first used thunder and lightning to attack my True Soul and destroy it, then used the Fire Qilin's blood to slowly purify the voodoo toxin." Qin Lie's expression was solemn. "I don't know if you can use this method."

Song Tingyu's face paled, and then she shook her head bitterly. "My True Soul is already very fragile. I won't be able to even tolerate one strand of lightning. I am not the same as you. I have

not cultivated thunder and lightning spirit arts. My True Soul cannot endure lightning—it would just be destroyed."

"Sit down. I will try using the Fire Qilin blood to see if it can force the voodoo toxin out of you." Qin Lie did not give up and instead prepared to try another method.

Once Song Tingyu was ready, Qin Lie used his mind consciousness to manipulate the Fire Qilin's blood. Three drops of crimson blood emerged from his chest and transformed into burning flames.

Three flames shaped like Fire Qilins slowly approached Song Tingyu.

Bathed in red by the light of the fire, Song Tingyu's face seemed like she had recovered.

"How is it? Is there any change?" Qin Lie asked.

"No. The voodoo toxin is deep inside my True Soul. It hasn't reacted at all." Song Tingyu sighed.

Qin Lie manipulated the blood essences to approach Song Tingyu until they threatened to burn her clothes.

"Don't move them any closer. I fear that I'll be burned to dust by the fire before the voodoo toxin is forced out." Song Tingyu's face was full of helplessness.

Qin Lie had to recall the blood essences.

“It’s no use. I’ve come to terms with the fact that I’m going to die.” Song Tingyu smiled weakly.

Qin Lie was silent. A long time later he said, “Are you not able to destroy your True Soul?”

“Destroy my True Soul?” Song Tingyu was shocked.

“Mn, if your True Soul is destroyed, your essence, soul, memories, and thoughts will be scattered. You will fall from the Netherpassage Realm to the Manifestation Realm. This might force the voodoo toxin that has penetrated your True Soul to be exposed.” Qin Lie tried to find the words to explain. “If that happens, I can try to use my True Soul to attract the voodoo toxin and absorb it from your mind into my True Soul. Once I’ve done that, I can refine it. Do you think this could work?”

“I don’t know how to destroy my soul.” Song Tingyu said with a furrowed brow, thinking. A long moment later, she shook her head helplessly.

She then said, “Didn’t you destroy your soul? How will you lure the voodoo toxin away?”

“I can gather and reform my soul after destroying it. I actually cultivate a kind of spirit art that refines the soul with thunder and

lightning. In the early stages of this, my True Soul was continuously destroyed and reformed. This process is repeated over and over. It is difficult for the True Soul to get used to the attacks of thunder and lightning, so I needed to go through it incrementally," Qin Lie explained.

"I don't know how to destroy my soul." Song Tingyu understood what Qin Lie was saying, but she could not do it. Her mood worsened even more.

Qin Lie knew that his method of destroying the soul was not suitable for Song Tingyu. She did not cultivate thunder and lightning spirit arts, so she was unable to tolerate the attacks of thunder and lightning.

Qin Lie went silent once more.

Later, after a long time had passed, he still didn't have a good solution. He could only stand up and say, "I'm no longer affected by the voodoo toxin. I will find Ye Yihao as fast as possible and kill the Eight-winged Centipede Queen coiled around his heart and cure you!"

"Don't! You'll just end up dying as well. That Ye Yihao is terrifying and much stronger than his followers. The voodoo insect at his heart is evil and strange. You are no match for him. Don't worry about me..."

"I have to do this!"

“To tell you the truth, I am already content with just seeing you in the last moments of my life and having you keep me company.”

“That’s not enough! It’s far from enough!”

Another two days passed.

Song Tingyu’s situation became even worse. It was even difficult for her to channel spirit power.

Qin Lie was stubborn. He carried her on his back as he charged in the direction that Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were gathered.

“Ding!”

A pleasant tone rang clearly from the sword token at Qin Lie’s waist. This meant that people from Heavenly Sword Mountain were nearby and had detected his position with sword tokens of their own.

Qin Lie did not pay any attention to it. He didn’t care who they were and continued to travel in the direction of Black Voodoo Cult.

Yet the owner of the sword token was very curious and came looking for them.

Six hours later, a woman in blue robes with a simple ponytail

suddenly appeared in front of him.

The woman wore no makeup, and her clothing was plain. Her appearance could only be considered pretty, not outstanding.

She held a sword token. She stood in front of Qin Lie, brow furrowed, and carefully examined him. Then she suddenly asked, “Are you Qin Lie from the Scarlet Tide Continent?”

Qin Lie stopped. “Are you He Wei?”

“I am He Wei.” The blue-robed woman nodded slightly. She focused on him and Song Tingyu, then became serious when she saw the black threads writhing in Song Tingyu’s eyes. Sighing, she asked, “Have you been poisoned with Black Voodoo Cult’s voodoo toxin?”

“Mn.” Qin Lie confirmed.

“Ah…” He Wei sighed again and said, “Nine days ago I saw another woman that had been poisoned with the voodoo toxin. She was from Scarlet Tide Continent just like you. When I saw her, she was almost dead.”

“Jingxuan! That was definitely Jingxuan,” Song Tingyu said weakly.

He Wei’s expression went still. “Are you Song Tingyu of the Scarlet Tide Continent’s Profound Heaven Alliance?”

“I am. What happened to the woman you saw?”

“I could not save her. She accepted her fate and left by herself. She said she was going to find a quiet place to wait for the end,” He Wei said, her tone calm. “Counting the days... she should have passed away by now.”

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu’s eyes dimmed.

“Ye Yihao is the leader of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners participating in the current Trial. He has a profound mastery over the voodoo toxin. The Eight-winged Centipede Queen coiled around his heart is one of the most famous voodoo insects of Black Voodoo Cult. It is very powerful. If one isn’t careful when fighting against a member of Black Voodoo Cult, the voodoo toxin will permeate the True Soul and they will only be able to wait for death. It is rare for people to survive.”

Worry was evident on He Wei’s face as she spoke. It was clear that she also feared the voodoo toxin.

“One can either obtain a drop of fresh blood from the voodoo insect or kill it. Otherwise, the person afflicted with the poison can only wait for death.”

Qin Lie’s expression was grim. Just as he was about to respond, his eyes flickered and he looked into the forest behind He Wei.

“He Wei, are you done mincing words?” A man emerged from the woods, impatience obvious on his face. “Don’t waste time, my junior brother is badly poisoned. I need to find Ye Yihao, that son of a bitch!”

This person looked to be about twenty seven or so. His figure was athletic, and he was dressed in the robes of Terminator Sect, the chest of which was embroidered with an insignia of the Terminator Profound Bomb

Beside him were three martial practitioners from Terminator Sect. One of them had black threads in his eyes, having clearly been poisoned as well.

That person appeared to be even worse off than Song Tingyu. The veins in his face bulged, and his expression was twisted.

If this person did not receive the antidote in five days, they would die even faster than Song Tingyu.

“What are you in a hurry for, Chu Li? Do you know where Ye Yihao is? Do you know the location of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners?” He Wei turned to glare at him.

Chu Li?

Qin Lie’s expression shifted and he examined Chu Li seriously, raising his guard.

Chu Li of Terminator Sect, just like Luo Chen and Ye Yihao, was one of the ringers from the nine great forces. Terminator Sect was famous for its strength in the Land of Chaos, and the people of that sect had fiery tempers.

Nan Zhengtian, Forefather Terminator of Terminator Sect, was famous for his protective nature. The Terminator Profound Bombs that Terminator Sect forged were divided amongst the members of the sect of various realms so that they could do as they pleased.

People in the Land of Chaos rarely dared to offend member of the Terminator Sect, afraid that doing so would cause endless trouble for them.

They were all afraid that Forefather Terminator would go crazy, charge into their sect, and activate a Terminator Profound Bomb to turn the world upside down.

“You’re searching for Ye Yihao of Black Voodoo Cult too?” Qin Lie’s interest was piqued.

“Yes, I’ve been looking for that bastard for a long time,” Chu Li snarled. “If I find him, I’ll destroy that insect of his and crush his bones to dust!”

“Then you definitely need a Black Voodoo Cult token.”

Qin Lie touched his spatial ring and four Black Voodoo Cult tokens appeared in his hand. He threw one of them to Chu Li.

“Not bad, kid! You killed four of those Black Voodoo Cult scum?” Chu Li’s eyes lit up.

“Mn.” Qin Lie nodded and indifferently said, “I will continue to kill them until everyone from Black Voodoo Cult is dead. I will only stop when I kill the voodoo insect that released the toxin.”

“Wonderful! It seems that we cut from the same cloth!”

Chapter 432: Attack First!

Chu Li and the others had been searching for the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners for some time now.

Unfortunately, they couldn't pinpoint the location of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners and also didn't have a Black Voodoo Cult token to do so. This made their search inefficient to the point where it could just be called mindlessly roaming through the forest.

In addition to that, the martial practitioner in their number that had been afflicted with the toxin gradually worsened and became unable to resist it.

That person only had five days left.

If Chu Li could not find Ye Yihao within five days and kill the Eight-winged Centipede or get a drop of its blood, his poisoned junior brother's True Soul would dissipate. His junior brother would die.

This was why Chu Li was in a rush and did not want to chat more with He Wei and Qin Lie—he did not have time to waste.

However, when Qin Lie took out a Black Voodoo Cult token and threw it into his hand, Chu Li's impatience and restlessness disappeared along with the arrogance on his face.

“We’re cut from the same cloth!” Chu Li exclaimed, his eyes lighting up.

“Four Black Voodoo Cult tokens!” Surprise shone in He Wei’s bright eyes, her opinion of him rising.

Behind Qin Lie, the three members of Terminator Sect that held themselves arrogantly were inwardly shocked.

They knew exactly how difficult it was to deal with martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and knew how strange and malevolent the Yu Family clansmen were.

Having obtained four tokens and killing four Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners, Qin Lie immediately won a sliver of their respect.

“Senior Brother, take the Black Voodoo Cult token and find the position of those Black Voodoo Cult scum!” a member of the Terminator Sect shouted. “Ren Peng doesn’t have much time left!”

“I know.” Chu Li gripped the token and probed it with his mind consciousness, his expression solemn.

“Qin Lie, put me down,” Song Tingyu whispered into his ear.

“Wait,” Qin Lie replied. He was waiting for Chu Li’s response, his brow deeply furrowed.

He Wei of Heavenly Sword Mountain walked over to Qin Lie out of curiosity. She looked at him and Song Tingyu closely, asking in a small voice, “Did you two really kill four Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners?”

“I didn’t do anything.” Song Tingyu’s expression was indifferent. “Qin Lie killed them by himself.”

He Wei was even more surprised.

After a moment of thought, she said in a soft voice, “Be wary of Luo Chen. Before entering the Trial, he declared that he would make trouble for you.”

“Du Xiangyang told me the same thing.” Qin Lie’s expression was disdainful.

“You encountered Du Xiangyang?” He Wei asked in surprise.

“We met and fought once. He’s very powerful,” Qin Lie said.

“Of course he’s powerful. He originally had a high chance of being Heavenly Sword Mountain’s ringer in this Trial. If Luo Chen had not taken part, he would be the leader of Heavenly Sword Mountain’s participants. Such a pity...” He Wei shook her head slightly. After a short pause, she then asked, “Since you fought Du Xiangyang... who won?”

“He did.”

Qin Lie narrowed his eyes and thought back to the fight in the land of fire. When Du Xiangyang formed the Burning Soul Firebeam, Qin Lie had to use Blood Escape to avoid it.

He had been the loser.

However, he hadn’t understood the power of the Burning Soul Firebeam at the time. He also hadn’t refined the three drops of Fire Qilin blood into blood essences.

Upon meeting Du Xiangyang a second time, Qin Lie wanted to have a rematch.

Du Xiangyang, however, did not indulge him.

When Du Xiangyang encountered Qin Lie for a second time, he had hid far away and considered him bad luck. He hadn’t wanted to waste time and energy on him.

“Yes, I thought that would be the case.” He Wei chuckled softly as if that were the way things ought to be.

She was familiar with how powerful Du Xiangyang was. She knew that Du Xiangyang was only slightly less powerful than Luo Chen.

—and Luo Chen was the most terrifying Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner in Heavenly Sword Mountain!

"However, I'll admit that you're pretty strong as well. You were able to kill four Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners, which is more than enough proof of your ability to protect yourself in the Graveyard of Gods." He Wei's voice took on a low tone and she advised, "Come with me. You cannot fight Black Voodoo Cult alone. Ye Yihao is even more frightening than Du Xiangyang. You definitely can't measure up to him. Only by coming with us will you be able to help your friend."

Qin Lie looked at He Wei in suspicion.

He felt this He Wei was very strange. This woman was from Heavenly Sword Mountain but was close to Chu Li. Furthermore, she had been friendly to him since the beginning.

This puzzled Qin Lie.

"What is this woman planning?" Qin Lie thought inwardly.

As if she could see Qin Lie's hesitation and suspicion, He Wei thought to herself for a moment and then, in an even softer voice, she said, "Uncle Mu and my father are very close. I heard Uncle Mu talk about you. You also have a recipe to forge the Terminator Profound Bomb, right? That came from Uncle Mu..."

Qin Lie gaped in shock.

“My dad... is from Terminator Sect. Since I like practicing swordsmanship, and because he is a good friend of Uncle Mu, my father sent me to Heavenly Sword Mountain to learn the way of the sword,” He Wei explained.

Qin Lie nodded, finally understanding, and said, “So that’s how it is.”

No wonder this He Wei had been friendly to him since the moment they met. She was not like Du Xiangyang who had only stopped acting against Qin Lie after discovering that he was powerful after fighting him.

She was acting this way because of Li Mu.

“I cannot find any trace of Black Voodoo Cult movements. They probably aren’t anywhere within a fifty kilometers of us.” Chu Li shouted in irritation. He stopped scanning the surroundings and pulled at his hair out of stress.

“We know the general direction they are in,” Qin Lie said in a timely manner.

Upon hearing him say this, Chu Li, He Wei, and the other martial practitioners looked at him in surprise.

“Take out the Memory Fragment Crystal,” Qin Lie said softly.

Song Tingyu immediately handed it over.

“See for yourself.” Qin Lie gave the Memory Fragment Crystal to He Wei. “Sealed within this Memory Fragment Crystal are the memories of a Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioner. If you examine it, you can discern the general direction that the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners are in and figure out where they gather.”

“Good!” Chu Li was elated. “You did pretty good, little brother!”

He Wei took the Memory Fragment Crystal, and instead of handing it to Chu Li, she examined it herself.

Ten minutes later, He Wei opened her eyes and gave it back to Qin Lie. She then pointed in the same direction that Song Tingyu had specified earlier. “Over there!”

“Go!” Chu Li shouted. He nodded at Qin Lie and asked, “Want to come with us? You’re trying to cure your woman. If Ye Yihao and that voodoo insect are killed, she will definitely be fine.”

“I…” Song Tingyu’s pale cheeks faintly flushed red.

She wanted to say that she wasn’t Qin Lie’s woman, but Qin Lie already nodded and firmly shouted, “Gladly!”

“Let’s go!” Chu Li ordered.

So Qin Lie carried Song Tingyu on his back, joining Chu Li and He Wei's group in heading toward the gathering place of Black Voodoo Cult.

The second day.

Qin Lie and He Wei's sword tokens softly rang at the same time. The ringing gradually intensified.

"Five sword tokens... which means five people from Heavenly Sword Mountain. Definitely Luo Chen's group." He Wei touched her sword token to sense the situation then prepared to ignore it. "We will continue. Don't stop for them."

Qin Lie didn't respond and simply continued to carry Song Tingyu in silence.

"Ding! Ding!"

Qin Lie's and He Wei's sword tokens continued to chime more and more frequently. This meant that people with their own sword tokens were constantly sending messages and quickly approaching them.

"So irritating!" He Wei frowned, her face full of anger. "They know that we're going to ignore them, yet they're still going to pursue us. What are they trying to do?"

“Aside from you, Du Xiangyang, and those of us from the Scarlet Tide Continent, every other Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner in the Graveyard of Gods follows Luo Chen. If we were also on Luo Chen’s side, we would have met up with them. Since we were in such a hurry to get away from them, they can definitely tell who we are. They should be coming for me.” Qin Lie’s gaze was filled with murder.

“Luo Chen’s people?” Chu Li turned to look back at He Wei from his position at the front, an irritated expression on his face.

“Mn, it’s definitely them.” He Wei nodded.

“They won’t leave us alone?” Chu Li asked.

He Wei nodded again.

“Stop for now.” Chu Li waved his hand and came to a halt. His face was grim and he sneered, “I want to see what they want to do when they get here!”

“This is none of your business! They’re coming for me!” Qin Lie yelled.

“This was none of my business before you gave me the Black Voodoo token and the Memory Fragment Crystal.” Chu Li’s brow furrowed. “Now, however,, you’re coming with me to kill people from Black Voodoo Cult. From now on, your business is my business!”

Chu Li waved a hand, stopping Qin Lie just as he was about to speak, and said, “Don’t waste your breath. I want to see what they really want to do!”

His face was full of disdain as he scoffed, “I hate people that fight their fellow martial practitioners the most! This Luo Chen is the ringer of Heavenly Sword Mountain, but he doesn’t understand how to unite people and only wants to use the Trial to eliminate others. This kind of person… ha! I despise people like him!”

“Don’t worry, Qin Lie,” He Wei said, trying to comfort him. “Nothing will happen. Even if Luo Chen appears, he wouldn’t dare to try anything with Chu Li here.”

“I don’t have anything to be afraid of.” Qin Lie shook his head, not bothering to explain further. He knew that Chu Li and the others had good intentions.

“Let’s wait!” Chu Li shouted irritably.

An hour later.

A group of five people burst out of the woods. The person leading them was Luo Chen.

Luo Chen was dressed in white, and his gaze was as sharp as a sword. Almost in a flash, he arrived in front of Qin Lie’s group.

Behind him, along with two other Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners, were Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong.

“Chu Li! He Wei!”

Upon arrival, Luo Chen swept his gaze across Qin Lie. His main focus, however, was on the other two, and he couldn’t help but shout.

Chu Li snorted coldly and didn’t respond.

He Wei frowned and impatiently asked, “What are you in such a hurry to do, Luo Chen? Are you taking action against us?”

Luo Chen had an icy expression on his face. He shook his head and nonchalantly said, “I have no grievances with you.”

“Then why have you come?” He Wei asked coldly.

“I came for him!” Luo Chen pointed at Qin Lie, releasing a sharp blade-like presence. “I have some business with this person! If you do not interfere in the matter between the two of us, you can just leave. I definitely won’t say another word.”

“He Wei, look after her for me.” Qin Lie calmly put Song Tingyu down and walked toward Luo Chen.

Before he could go far, however, a figure suddenly moved to

block him.

It was Chu Li.

With his back to Qin Lie, Chu Li faced Luo Chen and provoked him, “I want to interfere! What are you going to do about it?”

Luo Chen’s face became cold as he suddenly became silent.

Qin Lie was shocked.

After a moment, he moved past Chu Li and said, “This is between me and him.”

“I already told you! Since you offered that Black Voodoo Cult token and the Memory Fragment Crystal, your business is now my concern!” Chu Li snorted in a domineering manner. His figure flashed, and he appeared next to Qin Lie once more. He impatiently shouted, “I have so much pent up anger and didn’t have someone to vent it on! Since these people came searching for us, don’t blame me for using them to vent! In this Graveyard of Gods, a person can do whatever they want if they’re powerful enough. The more people die, the better!”

Chu Li had been feeling wretched as his junior brother slowly weakened. Since he hadn’t known how to find the people of Black Voodoo Cult, he needed an outlet for his emotions.

The arrival of Luo Chen and the others gave him that outlet

Regardless of whether or not he had a close relationship with Qin Lie, Chu Li was going to take advantage of this opportunity.

He was clearly kicking up a ruckus on purpose.

Qin Lie froze. Looking at this murderous person whose eyes were filled with fighting spirit, he was stunned.

From Chu Li's actions alone, even if he didn't have anything to do with Luo Chen, it was clear that he was ready to make trouble. Luo Chen just happened to come at such an inopportune time.

Chapter 433: Meeting

“Chu Li, why must you poke your head into our business?”

Luo Chen was extremely angry with Chu Li. He did not wish to provoke Terminator Sect and clash with him so early, but Chu Li’s obvious provocation made him incredibly frustrated.

This was especially the case considering that Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong were right behind him.

If he, Luo Chen, backed down in front of Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong, they would doubt his abilities and no longer respect him.

This was something that Luo Chen definitely didn’t want to see.

“That’s right, I want to poke my head into your business. What are you going to do about it?” Chu Li said forcefully.

Several silver metallic balls suddenly flew out of Chu Li’s spatial ring. These metallic balls were only the size of walnuts, and exquisite patterns that resembled lightning were etched into them. They faintly radiated powerful, thunderous energy.

They were none other than the Terminator Profound Bombs!

The Terminator Profound Bombs that Chu Li held were one size

smaller than Qin Lie's, but the patterns on each of their surfaces were denser and more complicated. The thunder energy contained within them were several times more powerful as well.

There were nine metallic balls in total, and the thunderous light they discharged made them look like nine bright little suns.

The nine metallic balls floated around Chu Li, circling him as the thunderous energy inside of them intensified.

"I want to interfere with your business and meddle. What are you going to do about it?" Chu Li asked scornfully, taunting Luo Chen as he walked toward him step by step. His eyes brimmed with tremendous fighting spirit.

There was no way that Luo Chen could back down from this.

Luo Chen's cold eyes shone clearly as a longsword, the blade of which was about two fingers wide and as thin as a cicada's wing, slowly appeared from inside of his right sleeve.

Luo Chen had been using his skin and flesh to nurture this longsword. Carved from a special kind of jade, it was translucent, shiny, and nearly see-through.

Luo Chen prepared for combat.

"Oooooooo!"

It was at this moment that the tokens around Luo Chen's and Qin Lie's waists began to howl strangely.

Everyone looked at the two of them.

Qin Lie calmly looked at his waist and lifted up a token. He frowned and said, "It's the Xiahou Family."

Luo Chen also lifted up his token and looked in a certain direction, his eyes and face cold.

"Brother Luo," Zhao Xuan suddenly interrupted, lowering his voice. "This is not the right place to fight them to the death. Let us... take care of the other troubles first, shall we?"

"Let's deal with Xiahou Yuan first," Zhang Chendong also advised.

They seemed to hold a grudge against Xiahou Yuan, and the moment that Luo Chen realized that the Xiahou Family was nearby, murder shone from his eyes.

After a moment of consideration, Luo Chen's blade-like eyes stared intensely at Qin Lie before he suddenly moved in the direction of the Xiahou Family, saying, "I'll let you go this time, Qin Lie! I know that the tombstone is once more in your possession. I also know that you're the one playing dirty tricks from the shadows!"

“You’re letting me go?” Qin Lie shook his head with a strange chuckle. “I can’t wait for you to act right now!

Chu Li also chuckled. “Same here!”

“Brother Luo!” Zhao Xuan exclaimed.

Just as he was about to give in to their taunts and turn to fight them, Luo Chen forcefully suppressed the anger in his heart and left the area as quick as lightning.

Zhao Xuan and the others followed closely behind him as they left like the wind, vanishing from sight as quickly as they had arrived.

They were gone in an instant.

Once they left, Qin Lie said, “Thank you, Brother Chu.”

Chu Li waved his hands. He actually appeared rather disappointed that he did not get to fight Luo Chen. “Let us continue on our way. There’s no need to bother with them.”

“Mn. There’s no need for us to fight Luo Chen and the others. This is actually better for us.” He Wei let out a sigh of relief and said, “We cannot waste too much time here. Both Ren Peng and Song Tingyu’s... conditions... are extremely dire. It would be best

for us to find Black Voodoo Cult's Ye Yihao as soon as possible."

"Let's go!" Chu Li exclaimed in a low tone.

And just like that, their group and Luo Chen's group went their separate ways.

Qin Lie carried Song Tingyu on his back once more and followed Chu Li and the others. He continued to madly dash in the direction in which the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were gathered.

"If it weren't for Chu Li, Luo Chen would never have let you go. This Chu Li... may be somewhat arrogant and imposing, but he is a person that one can befriend." Song Tingyu gently said, lying against Qin Lie's shoulders. "Has your True Soul reformed yet?"

"It will soon," Qin Lie answered casually.

The third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement, required its practitioner to continuously temper their True Soul by blasting it with thunder and lightning. The True Soul initially wouldn't be able to endure the thunder and lightning and would constantly shatter.

Qin Lie's True Soul would slowly get used to the thunder and lightning during this period, shattering and reforming repeatedly. Once it was finally able to endure the onslaught, he could gradually enter the more pleasant stage in which he would actually temper,

nurture, and strengthen his True Soul!

Yet another day passed.

“Uaahhhhhh!”

The Black Voodoo Cult tokens around Qin Lie’s and Chu Li’s waists emitted shocking, shrill howls at the same time.

Song Tingyu and Ren Peng, having both been poisoned by the voodoo toxin, covered their ears and simultaneously cried out in pain. The rate at which the black tendrils deep in their eyes spread grew a bit faster.

“Found them!” Chu Li exclaimed in excitement.

Qin Lie’s eyes also became filled with a harsh light.

“Over there!” Chu Li pointed in a specific direction.

Their group rushed in that direction as quickly as possible.

An hour later.

Three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners led by Yu Feng suddenly appeared before Qin Lie’s group. Although partially obscured by his bamboo hat, Yu Feng’s eyes were icy cold.

He was just about to send out the order to slaughter the illegitimate Black Voodoo Cult token holders, but then suddenly discovered that, instead of Qin Lie, Chu Li was the one howling madly and charging toward them.

“Chu Li! It’s Terminator Sect’s Chu Li!” Yu Feng screamed, quickly changing his mind ordering, “Retreat! We must return to the young master! We are no match for him!”

The three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were very familiar with how difficult it was to deal with Chu Li. They quickly turned around, trying to escape even faster than they had arrived.

“Fuck you! If I let you escape, I’ll write my name upside down from here on out!”

Three walnut-sized Terminator Profound Bombs flew toward Yu Feng and his group like silver bolts of lightning, their speed nearly imperceptible.

At the same time, bright stars appeared from within Chu Li’s silver robe.

Powerful star energy discharged from every pore of Chu Li’s body as he flashed before Qin Lie’s eyes like he was riding on starlight.

“Rumble! Rumble! Rumble!”

Three destructive explosions resounded from the direction that Yu Feng and his group fled. The explosive power of the thunderous energy seemed to rend the sky itself, destabilizing even the thick barriers isolating the secret realm.

Chaotic, distorted, explosions continuously erupted in three different directions.

Dragons made of lightning swam through the air, writhing in three different directions like living, sentient creatures.

Qin Lie narrowed his eyes as he sensed the explosions of the three Terminator Profound Bombs. Surprise leaped to his face.

“The explosions of Chu Li’s Terminator Profound Bombs are immense and not scattered. It’s so strange that such a powerful explosion can be focused entirely on the target. Every lightning bolt and massive wave of thunder seems to lock onto the target’s location as if possessing minds of their own,” Song Tingyu said in surprise as she examined the scene with her senses as well. “These explosions... all the thunder and lightning, everything instantly hones in on their target! How frightening. It’s as if these Terminator Profound Bombs possess rudimentary intelligence of their own, knowing which target to hunt down and kill!”

Qin Lie was also shocked and scared by that revelation.

He walked forward in an attempt to get a closer look at the power of the Terminator Profound Bombs. He wanted to see just how terrifying and miraculous Terminator Sect’s godly thunder was.

“It’s better if you don’t go. The shockwaves will continue for some time, and you will be affected if you go now.” He Wei raised her hands to stop Qin Lie, casually smiling. She said, “Relax. Those three Black Voodoo Cult fellows should not be able to escape Chu Li’s onslaught.”

“Oh.” Qin Lie obeyed her words and stopped.

He could not see Chu Li’s battle, but he could hear his angry roars. “Fuck you! How dare you poison someone from Terminator Sect. If I don’t fucking kill all of you fucking Black Voodoo Cult bitches, my name ain’t Chu Li!

“Do you know how to do anything other than use voodoo toxin? Come on, fight me! Show me what you got!

“What, we’re done already? You died this quickly? You trash!

“Get up!”

In the area filled with thunderous rumbling and intense, chaotic waves of energy, Chu Li’s angry roars resounded every so often.

Soon enough, Chu Li stopped shouting. It was obvious that he had killed the three Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners.

“Hey y’all! Come and take a look! There are still three voodoo

insects alive! Holy shit, their masters are already dead but these voodoo insects are still alive! They sure are tenacious!” Chu Li shouted, making a big fuss.

“Voodoo insects!” Qin Lie frowned and rushed over.

Chapter 434: Joining Of Multiple Forces

Qin Lie knew just how scary those voodoo insects were and was worried that something would happen to Chu Li. That was why he was rushing toward him.

Last time, Qin Lie had been able to burn Yu Xi and the other Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners to death with the blood essences, but the voodoo insects themselves were actually able to survive the heat. Their tenacity was enough to make Qin Lie feel anxiety.

It ended up taking almost an hour to envelop the voodoo insects with the blood essences and refine them to ash.

The three Fire Qilin blood essences exhausted a huge amount of energy to refine the voodoo insects and were only able to slowly recover that energy after consuming a dozen or so Heavenly Flame Crystals.

From this alone, one could see just how powerful the voodoo insects were.

And these were just larvae of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen...

“Senior brother, be careful of the voodoo insects! They’re very powerful!” a Terminator Sect martial practitioner hastily warned as he rushed over.

He Wei screamed, “Chu Li! You mustn’t get too close to the voodoo insects!”

“What’s there to be afraid of? Do you really think these putrid worms could hurt me?” Chu Li’s tone was full of disdain, clearly indicating that he didn’t think much of their warnings.

In reality, Chu Li wasn’t afraid of the voodoo insects. As Terminator Sect’s ringer and the most talented youth in the entire sect, he had many hidden trump cards and the confidence to face any danger.

The three voodoo insects flapped their wings and released a strange whistling sound, circling Chu Li and searching for an opportunity to attack him.

Since their soul connections with Yu Feng and his flunkies had been broken beforehand, they were freely moving about.

Yu Feng had decided to do this because of Ye Yihao’s order for them to release the voodoo insects and allow them to escape if they knew that they wouldn’t survive an encounter.

Ye Yihao was the person the Yu Family chose. The Yu Family could only remain strong as long as Ye Yihao did.

Therefore, even if they did not like Ye Yihao, they could only grit their teeth and preserve the Yu Family’s future by sacrificing their

own lives to protect the voodoo insects.

This was why the three voodoo insects were able to completely avoid the explosions of the Terminator Profound Bombs.

“Come on, you smelly insects, show me what you’re made of!” Chu Li laughed madly.

Mysterious starlight shone from within his silver robes. A powerful defensive energy field completely covered him, forbidding any external energy from penetrating it.

The voodoo insects circled around him, but no matter where they were, they couldn’t find an opening.

Chu Li simply grinned in the meantime, constantly waving his hands. Rays of starlight that resembled sharp blades or rainbows continuously shot from him.

“Pak pak pak!”

The voodoo insects were blasted by the starlights until sparks flew everywhere. The tiny exoskeletons of the insects trembled in midair.

Yet in the end, they were not eliminated.

The tenacious life force of the voodoo insects became evident to

Chu Li, shocking him on the inside.

“God damn it, just how were these voodoo insects cultivated? I can’t believe that they’re so hard to kill.” Chu Li’s gaze gradually turned serious.

Considering his level of power, the starlight that Chu Li released would definitely blast the soul of a martial practitioner at the same rank as him to smithereens if they took his attacks repeatedly.

The tiny bodies of these voodoo insects, however, just trembled after weathering the attacks. In fact, they were tirelessly looking for an opportunity to break through his guard and bite him to death.

This revelation finally made Chu Li stop underestimating Black Voodoo Cult.

“Stop!”

A thought suddenly occurred to Chu Li during his brawn and wit battle with the voodoo insects. He immediately cried out, “Stay back! It’s dangerous, don’t come any closer!”

He finally realized it, but it was unfortunately a little too late.

Qin Lie, He Wei, and the other two people of Terminator Sect had rushed over, anxious to see what was happening.

Having tried to attack Chu Li for so long yet being unable to find any opportunities to do so, the voodoo insects immediately switched targets upon sensing new prey—they charged at Qin Lie and the others.

Chu Li's expression changed as soon as he noticed that the situation changed, and he loudly yelled, "Be careful of the voodoo insects! These smelly insects are dangerous!"

"Poof poof poof!"

The bodies of the voodoo insects emitted strange sounds, almost as if they were discharging gas. Black mist made up of pitch dark motes as tiny as grains of sand suddenly spread from them.

These black motes quickly shot through the mist and spread toward Qin Lie and He Wei.

The three voodoo insects continuously released shrill howls. They opened their mouths, bared their blade-like mandibles, and flapped their wings, charging directly into the center of Qin Lie's and He Wei's group.

"Not good!" Chu Li rushed over, his face grim.

"Ugh!"

“Ah!”

“I’ve been bitten!”

“Something is seeping into my soul!”

Amidst the harsh howls of the voodoo insects, the scattering black motes, and the spreading black mist, He Wei and the other two Terminator Sect martial practitioners cried out in surprise.

The moment Chu Li heard those cries, he realized that he was too late. His expression became extremely ugly.

As the voodoo insects howled, three bloody lights shone from Qin Lie’s body amidst the black mist.

The bloody lights flew out into the open and turned into three burning flames shaped like Fire Qilins. The three clusters of flame burned the mist until crackling noises came from it.

The mist was swiftly driven away.

The three howling voodoo insects had been heading for the foreheads of He Wei and the two Terminator Sect martial practitioners, but as soon as they saw the burning flames heading their way, they immediately flapped their tiny wings and fled..

It was as if they could sense the aura of their natural enemy.

The voodoo insect closest to Qin Lie wasn't able to escape in time and was caught by one of the Qilin flames.

That voodoo insect shrieked in pain, charging left and right from within the flames, but it ultimately was unable to escape.

When the remaining two voodoo insects noticed that the situation had turned bad, they fled even faster, resembling two rays of black, warping light.

However, black threads could already be seen in the eyes of He Wei and the other two Terminator Sect martial practitioners.

This was the clearest sign that they had been infected with the voodoo toxin.

"Damn it!" Chu Li had rushed over, but two of the voodoo insects had unfortunately escaped already, and He Wei and the others had been poisoned. This made Chu Li feel so frustrated that he nearly lost control of himself. "I was too stupid! God damn it, I should've warned you guys to stay away from the very beginning! This is all my fault!"

"Prak!"

The remaining voodoo insect burned intensely, enveloped in the Fire Qilin's flames.

It continued to unleash shrill howls capable of piercing one's eardrums.

He Wei and the other two martial practitioners that had been poisoned by the voodoo toxin suddenly went silent as sadness clouded their eyes.

The three of them wordlessly sat where they were and closed their eyes. All of them were trying to purge the voodoo toxin with their own unique methods.

A terrible killing intent shrouded Chu Li as he constantly muttered, "I'm going to kill all of those Black Voodoo Cult bastards! I'm going to break every bone in that bastard Ye Yihao's body!"

Two blood essences reverted back to their bloodstone form and returned from off in the distance.

Qin Lie extended his hands and returned them to the blood of his palm. He took Heavenly Flame Crystals out of his spatial ring and used them to replenish their energy.

The other lifeblood essence was still in the form of Fire Qilin flames and refining the remaining voodoo insect.

One hundred and fifty kilometers away, Ye Yihao was seated on the floor. He clutched at his nearly transparent chest, screaming in terrible pain as he watched the mother insect coiled around his

heart.

It was only when Qin Lie had completely refined the voodoo insect that his terrible screams gradually stopped.

Beside Ye Yihao, Xiahou Yuan and a group of men and women were gathered, chatting amongst each other and occasionally looking at Ye Yihao.

After Ye Yihao stopped screaming, his expression returned to normal and he walked to Xiahou Yuan and the others as if nothing had happened, saying, “Brother Xia, Brother Lin, and Sister Su should be well aware of the relationship your great families share with Black Voodoo Cult, right?”

The three people that Ye Yihao called, “Brother Xia,” “Brother Lin,” and “Sister Su” were none other than the Xiahou Family’s Xiahou Yuan, the Lin Family’s Lin Dongxing, and the Su Family’s Su Yan. They were the ringers of the Heavenly Calamity Continent’s three great families.

Each of the three had five to six clansmen with them. The three families had always maintained a friendly relationship with each other and used arranged marriages and mutual benefits to keep it that way.

Although they were raised by different families, Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing, and Su Yun had grown up together. They had an established relationship with each other, and shared a mutual understanding.

“Of course we’re aware of it.” Su Yan giggled. She was born beautiful and her figure was seductive. She had peachy doe eyes, and every move she made was provocative. “If it weren’t for Black Voodoo Cult, our three families could not have become Silver rank forces. Without Black Voodoo Cult, we would still be Blood Fiend Sect’s vassal forces and have to obey their every whim. Hehe, it was also thanks to Black Voodoo Cult that we were able to acquire a rich amount of spirit materials after Blood Fiend Sect perished. We have always been grateful to Black Voodoo Cult.”

“It is wonderful that you understand.” Ye Yihao nodded. “More than a thousand years ago, Blood Fiend Sect was Black Voodoo Cult’s greatest enemy and competitor. The reason we, Black Voodoo Cult, were able to encourage all the Silver rank forces to eliminate Blood Fiend Sect in one fell swoop is because you, the three families, found their weakness. Of course we wouldn’t treat you poorly.”

“Big Brother Ye, just tell us what you need us to do.” Su Yan winked at him and smiled. “We will do whatever you say.”

“Another of the voodoo insects I released has been eliminated. It is likely that the enemy is Terminator Sect’s Chu Li.” Ye Yihao’s expression was grave. “Chu Li is not easy to deal with and will come to us very soon. It would take a lot of twists and turns for me to kill Chu Li alone. I need your help.”

After a pause, Ye Yihao said, “I hope that Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families will be the only ones to survive until the Trial’s conclusion. I hope that not a single person of the other

forces will remain when that time comes!”

“That just so happens to be what our seniors planned for us as well.” Xiahou Yuan chuckled.

“Everybody that isn’t from Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families will die!” Ling Dongxing exclaimed in a low tone.

“I will do as you say, Big Brother Yen,” Su Yan said.

“Very well! With your help, no one will be our match in the Graveyard of Gods!” Ye Yihao was extremely satisfied with their attitudes as he promised, “Don’t worry. Black Voodoo Cult will not keep anything that we acquire in the Graveyard of Gods from you!”

“Thank you, Big Brother Ye.” Su Yan smiled seductively.

“Now go and prepare. When Chu Li arrives, he will be the first one we kill!” Ye Yihao snorted coldly.

“Heavenly Sword Mountain’s Luo Chen is also nearby. Although we’ve managed to throw him off our tail for the moment, he will definitely find us if they keep looking.” Xiahou Yuan frowned.

“We will kill whoever comes to us first!”

“All right!”

Chapter 435: Winning Respect!

The voodoo insect was ultimately burned to ash, refined by the blistering hot flames of the Fire Qilin.

Chu Li wore an expression of irritation. He constantly growled in a low tone like a bloodthirsty animal.

An hour later, He Wei and the two Terminator Sect martial practitioners opened their eyes one after another and stood up.

Their eyes were dull.

All three of them had given up on trying to cure the voodoo toxin.

“It cannot be cured.” He Wei’s expression was dim. “Our soul and life energy are gradually fading, and although we can’t stop it at all, we can clearly sense it happening... This is the kind of despair that is felt when you see your own death, but have no choice but to walk toward it.”

“I finally understand how Ren Peng feels,” a Terminator Sect martial practitioner said.

“I’ll go check on Song Tingyu.” Qin Lie wasn’t sure what to say when he looked at these people. He was worried about Song Tingyu, so he turned and left.

“This Qin Lie actually wasn’t poisoned by the voodoo toxin,” a member of the Terminator Sect said in realization.

“It’s really strange. This person’s realm is average, but not a single one of the voodoo insects dared to go near him while they were rampaging,” another person said.

“He even refined a voodoo insect to death. Even I have no way to deal with the voodoo insect. I also can’t think of a way to refine them to death.” Chu Li sucked in a deep breath. “This Qin Lie is very powerful. It appears that I will truly need him to kill Ye Yihao.”

“Chu Li. Qin Lie... more or less shares a subtle connection with Terminator Sect,” He Wei suddenly said.

Chu Li went blank, staring at her in surprise and waiting for her to explain further.

“He knows how to forge Terminator Profound Bombs. He should have some in his possession,” He Wei explained.

All three of the Terminator Sect martial practitioners were surprised when they heard this.

“What? He knows how to forge Terminator Profound Bombs? But... how did he learn to do so?” Chu Li cried out in surprise.

“The blueprint in his possession is the one that my father gave to

Uncle Mu. Uncle Mu then passed it down to him," He Wei said, somewhat embarrassed.

"But that was just a forging blueprint. Did he have a detailed blueprint of its spirit diagram combination?" Chu Li frowned.

"Of course not. My father would never be that careless. He would never give out a detailed blueprint of the Terminator Profound Bomb's spirit diagram combination," He Wei cried out.

"He managed to forge Terminator Profound Bombs with just this spirit material forging blueprint?" Chu Li couldn't believe it.

"It's true. Uncle Mu told me this, so it's shouldn't be a mistake," He Wei said in confirmation.

"This guy..." Chu Li's eyes were filled with shock and doubt.

In the other area.

Leaning against an ancient tree, Song Tingyu and Terminator Sect's Ren Peng appeared dispirited.

Seeing Qin Lie walking over, Song Tingyu softly asked, "How is everything?"

Ren Peng also looked at him.

Qin Lie's face was grim as he shook his head and sighed, "It's very bad."

Song Tingyu and Ren Peng's expressions changed.

"Aside from Chu Li, everyone has been poisoned by the voodoo toxin. The situation is grave," Qin Lie said honestly.

Ren Peng opened his mouth and weakly cried out. His eyes were filled with despair.

Song Tingyu let out a quiet sigh.

The fact that He Wei and the other two Terminator Sect martial practitioners had been poisoned by the voodoo toxin meant that they would not be able to participate in the attack on Ye Yihao.

Everyone afflicted by the voodoo toxin would be detected by the mother insect coiled around Ye Yihao's heart. If they got within range of the mother insect, not only would the voodoo toxin spread faster, an unforeseen event could happen as well.

This meant that Qin Lie and Chu Li were the only ones who had managed to preserve their combat power.

Just how were they going to fight against Black Voodoo Cult, kill Ye Yihao, and cure everyone of the voodoo toxin?

Both Ren Peng and Song Tingyu felt hopeless.

“You’ll be fine.” Qin Lie said softly, trying to comfort Song Tingyu. “Don’t worry. I’ve been making preparations to face all of Black Voodoo Cult by myself since the beginning.”

Song Tingyu shook her head, a distressed look on her face. “Forget about it, Qin Lie. Seriously, don’t push yourself any more. In order to cure the voodoo toxin, you had to fall to the Manifestation Realm. No matter how you look at it, you are not Ye Yihao’s match right now. You will only add to the death toll if you go.”

He Wei lost control of herself and cried out, “What? Qin Lie was previously poisoned by the voodoo toxin?”

She, Chu Li, and the others had come over, and when she heard Song Tingyu’s words, she was incredibly shocked.

Chu Li, Ren Peng, and the other two Terminator Sect martial practitioners that had been poisoned by the voodoo toxin wore strange expressions, their eyes wide with disbelief.

“There isn’t a trace of black threads in your eyes at all. Your soul and life energies are incredibly vigorous!” He Wei sucked in a deep breath, clearly growing excited. “You’ve actually cured the voodoo toxin! How did you do it, Qin Lie? Quick, tell me!”

He Wei could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The eyes of Ren Peng and the others who had been poisoned by the voodoo toxin also lit up as they grew excited.

Chu Li was both shocked and doubtful. “Qin Lie, you seriously cured the voodoo toxin?”

“I did,” Qin Lie said earnestly.

“How did you do it?” Chu Li grew lively. “Do you have a way to cure He Wei and the others too?”

“If I did, Song Tingyu would’ve already been cured. I would’ve treated her a long time ago.” Qin Lie smiled bitterly.

As soon as he said this, the excited crowd cooled down like someone had poured buckets of ice water over their heads.

Song Tingyu’s condition was obvious to everyone. If Qin Lie could truly cure the poison, would she be looking like this?

“But Qin Lie, how’d you do it? Just tell us. Who knows? Maybe we’ll be able to copy you.” He Wei was not willing to give up just yet.

“Well... first I destroyed my True Soul with thunder so that it would shatter and my realm would fall to the Manifestation Realm. The voodoo toxin was forced from my True Soul when this

happened. Then I poured flames into my mind and gradually refined the voodoo toxin just like how I used flames to refine the voodoo insect just now…" Qin Lie explained the process in great detail, serious and sincere. "If you can use the same method that I did—destroying your True Soul with thunder and enduring my flames—then maybe you will be able to cure the voodoo toxin and return to normal."

When he finished explaining, he noticed that everyone had grown silent. Everyone, including Chu Li, was staring at him as if they had seen a monster.

"What's wrong?" Qin Lie wore a look of confusion.

The crowd was still silent.

After a long time, He Wei quietly said, "You destroyed your own True Soul in order to cure the voodoo toxin? You poured fire into your mind and burned the voodoo toxin with it?"

"Yes." Qin Lie nodded.

"Your determination is formidable!" Chu Li sighed and shook his head. Then, with a complicated expression, he said, "Even if I had a way to shatter my True Soul, I would never do such a thing so confidently. Shattering one's True Soul means the fall of one's realm. We may never recover our full strength, or our souls might just explode and die right there and then. This kind of destruction… might be even scarier than slowly being eaten alive by the voodoo toxin."

“For a martial practitioner, the fall of one’s realm and strength, the possibility that one might not recover in their entire lives, can sometimes be even harder to accept than death itself!” He Wei finished.

When they looked at Qin Lie again, there was a bit more respect in their eyes. They all thought that this guy was terrifyingly insane.

“He’s a ruthless character,” Chu Li thought.

It was only now that Qin Lie finally won a place of respect in his heart. It was only now that he truly considered Qin Lie a person worthy of respect.

A person who could decisively shatter their own soul and use a near suicidal method to cure the voodoo toxin was, in Chu Li’s opinion, truly terrifying.

“If you can shatter your own soul and endure fire seeping into your own mind, then I can help you cure the voodoo toxin. What do you think?” Qin Lie’s gaze swept across their faces.

He Wei and the others who had been poisoned by the voodoo toxin shook their heads repeatedly, their faces pale.

“F-forget about it. That’s impossible for us. Our souls could not endure lightning, and our minds could not endure those flames

either.”

“Those flames killed even the voodoo insects. What are we compared to them?”

“I may have been poisoned, but I am currently alive. I have no intention of dying right away.”

Qin Lie looked around and found that all of them were shaking their heads and waving their hands. He had no choice but to helplessly say, “Then I have no way of helping you.”

“Killing Ye Yihai and eliminating the mother insect is still the easiest method of curing the voodoo toxin,” Chu Li exclaimed.

“I guess so,” Qin Lie agreed.

“Let’s go.”

Six hours later.

Qin Lie’s expression changed and he suddenly said, “We should not be far from Ye Yihao.”

Chu Li looked at He Wei.

Having roughly figured out where Ye Yihao was using the

Memory Fragment Crystal, He Wei nodded and said, “He should definitely be close.”

“He Wei, you guys find a spot to hide,” Chu Li said with a helpless expression. “Since you’ve been poisoned with the voodoo toxin, you guys can’t get close to the mother insect. I cannot bring you with me.”

“I understand,” He Wei said bitterly.

On the other side of the group, Qin Lie put Song Tingyu down and said with a low voice, “Relax. I’ll make sure that you’ll be fine. Just stay with them for the moment, okay?”

“Qin Lie, you can choose not to go, you know? I… don’t want be a burden.” Song Tingyu sighed quietly.

“I’ll be fine.” Qin Lie waved his hands.

“You guys watch yourselves, okay?” Chu Li instructed.

“Relax, we still have some combat strength for now. Plus, we have already been poisoned by the voodoo toxin. No one would care about someone already slated for death,” He Wei said in dismay.

Chu Li said nothing more. After glancing at Qin Lie, he took his leave first, leading the way.

Qin Lie followed closely behind him.

Two hours later.

Stepping into a lush forest, Chu Li's expression suddenly changed as he yelled, "Someone is rapidly approaching us!"

He had just finished speaking when two women dressed in Illusory Demon Sect attire, each with a bloody hole in their foreheads, suddenly attacked Chu Li and Qin Lie.

The eyes of these two women were strange and overflowed with an inhuman light. Their bodies were icy cold and lacked heat like a corpse would.

However, they were as swift as lightning, and when they moved, all kinds of realistic illusions materialized out of thin air.

In an instant, it was as if there were a dozen women charging toward Qin Lie and Chu Li from every direction.

An evil, freezing aura enveloped Qin Lie, making every hair on his body stand on end.

This feeling was extremely disturbing to say the least.

"Chu Li! Guard your mind and beware of the voodoo toxin!

Voodoo insects have bored into their brains and are controlling them!” Qin Lie cried out.

At the same time, his three blood essences flew out into the open.

Keeping one of them nearby to protect himself, Qin Lie sent the others into the air and had them charge at the two women.

“Buzz buzz buzz!”

The moment the two voodoo insects detected the Fire Qilin aura, they let out a shrill cry.

They immediately understood that they’d run into Qin Lie once more. Almost instantly, they flew out of the women’s foreheads and escaped before the flames could catch them, howling all the while.

The Fire Qilin’s flame captured and burned the two Illusory Demon Sect women alive, but they were one step too late.

The voodoo insects had escaped once more.

“Over there! I saw Little Die and Little Wan running over there. Sister Xue, come quickly!”

At the same time, a feminine cry came from in front of Qin Lie and Chu Li.

A couple of Illusory Demon Sect women swiftly moved through the forest and appeared in front of them.

They saw the burning visages of their companions as soon as they arrived. Their eyes immediately turned bloodshot.

Qin Lie and Chu Li exchanged glances and saw the bitterness in the other's eyes. They both inwardly lamented their bad luck.

Chapter 436: This Is A Misunderstanding!

The voodoo insects had flown away earlier, and the two Illusory Demon Sect girls were currently being burned by the flames. The bloody holes at the center of their foreheads had been scorched black. The entry wounds could no longer be seen.

Meanwhile, the newly arrived Illusory Demon Sect disciples had only seen their fellow disciples getting burned to death, so they did not understand what actually happened earlier.

Qin Lie and Chu Li could not be absolved of the blame even if they jumped into the yellow spring.

The five Illusory Demon Sect girls wore bright yellow dresses. They had bright eyes, white teeth, and skin like snow. They were as beautiful as flowers.

They were all in the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm.

The eyes of all five girls were currently filled with angry light. They surrounded Qin Lie and Chu Li almost immediately.

“Sister Xue! This way!” someone cried out.

A person could be heard moving swiftly through the forest. Another woman was heading their way.

“It’s not what you think,” Chu Li awkwardly said, attempting to explain.

“Do you think we’re blind?” a girl with an oval face asked with eyes that might as well be spitting fire. “We have eyes. We can see what happened! Stop your babbling!”

Chu Li’s face darkened, and became irritated, no longer attempting to explain. “Whatever.”

Qin Lie frowned and inwardly lamented his bad luck. He wasn’t sure how to deal with this.

The voodoo insects had already flown away, so he was only wasting the fiery energy of his blood essences by keeping them burning. In light of this, he hurriedly drew them back into his body.

The two Fire Qilin shaped flames flew from the charred corpses of the two Illusory Demon Sect girls and transformed into translucent drops of blood in midair. They obediently returned to Qin Lie’s side.

“It’s him!”

Every one of the Illusory Demon Sect girls focused their hateful gazes on Qin Lie’s person.

The situation was now plain for all to see. The two girls had been

burned to death and the Fire Qilin blood droplets had flown to Qin Lie. Who else could have done it but him?

The three blood essences sank into Qin Lie's palm. He took out several Heavenly Flame Crystals to replenish their fiery energy.

Since the leader of the Illusory Demon Sect martial practitioners hadn't arrived yet, he tried to think of a way to explain the situation and avoid a fight.

The Illusory Demon Sect's ringer was none other than Xue Moyan, Xue Li's biological daughter.

Xue Li was aware that he had a daughter, Xue Moyan, and knew that she would be participating in the Trial, so he had urged Qin Lie to think of a way to help Xue Moyan. Xue Li wanted Qin Lie to do his everything he could to find the holy medicine that would cure Xue Moyan's soul.

To that end, Xue Li had even given Qin Lie half of the Blood Codex.

Qin Lie had long since decided to act according to Xue Li's wishes and do his best to help Xue Moyan if he did run into her in the Graveyard of Gods.

But he could never have imagined that his meeting with Xue Moyan would turn out like this.

He still couldn’t think of a good way to explain the matter after a long while.

Qin Lie had a terrible headache.

“Sister Xue!” the oval-faced girl cried out.

A tall girl with snow white skin dressed in a bright yellow dress suddenly appeared before their eyes.

She stood right beside the burned corpses.

The girl looked to be about twenty years old. She had a pair of long, artistic eyebrows and a pair of eyes that resembled pools of crystal clear water.

“Chu Li.” The girl raised her head and looked at Terminator Sect’s Chu Li. Her eyebrows furrowed softly, and her voice was crisp and pleasant. “You killed them, didn’t you?”

She didn’t even spare Qin Lie a glance.

Chu Li snorted coldly and didn’t bother explaining. He knew that it would be pointless to try since they wouldn’t believe him anyway.

“It wasn’t Chu Li, it was him!” the oval-faced girl gritted her teeth and glared at Qin Lie, her eyes full of hate.

It was only then that Xue Moyan looked at Qin Lie.

Her eyebrows were still furrowed, but now there was a hint of doubt in her clear eyes. “Who are you?”

She did not recognize Qin Lie.

Xue Moyan had investigated all the martial practitioners of the other eight great forces before the Trial began. She hadn’t investigated just ringers like Chu Li either—every person from every force who was even remotely notable and powerful had their realm and appearance roughly investigated.

For example, even though Du Xiangyang and He Wei were not chosen as Heavenly Sword Mountain’s ringer, they were powerful enough to be included in her research.

It could be said that the glaring, dangerous individuals of every force had caught her eye.

Qin Lie obviously had not been one of them, indicating that he was not qualified worthy of Xue Moyan’s attention.

Furthermore, he was not wearing the uniform unique to Heavenly Sword Mountain. In addition to that, even though he was obviously working with Chu Li, he wasn’t wearing Terminator Sect’s uniform. Therefore, he did not seem to be a member of Terminator Sect either.

This was why Qin Lie's identity and background made her doubtful and confused.

"My name is Qin Lie. I hold a sword token of Heavenly Sword Mountain and am representing them in this Trial. I hail from the Scarlet Tide Continent," Qin Lie said, introducing himself.

This introduction did not lessen Xue Moyan's confusion and instead made it worse. She shook her head and said, "I've never heard of such a person in Heavenly Sword Mountain or the Scarlet Tide Continent."

In her heart she had already put Qin Lie in the category of small fries who were not worthy of notice.

"I don't care if you believe me or not, but I will still explain myself regardless. Your companions died at the hands of the Black Voodoo Cult's voodoo insects. Their deaths have nothing to do with us." Qin Lie ultimately decided to try and explain anyway. "This is really just a misunderstanding!"

"He's lying, Sister Xue! There are no voodoo insects at all!" the oval-faced girl said harshly, pointing at Qin Lie. "We only saw him unleashing his flames and burning Little Die to death!"

Xue Moyan nodded slightly and decisively ordered, "Take them out!"

Including Xue Moyan, there were a total of six girls from Illusory Demon Sect. When they moved, they created numerous beautiful illusions that looked exactly like them. The illusions even possessed life and soul auras.

It was impossible to distinguish which ones were real.

The six girls and their illusions moved at the same time, resembling beautiful fairies who were about to overtake Qin Lie and Chu Li in an instant.

“Indiscriminate women!” Chu Li snorted coldly.

Bright silver Terminator Profound Bombs suddenly appeared in Chu Li’s hand. Terrifying thunderous rumbles immediately resonated from within them.

Since Chu Li couldn’t be bothered to explain himself, he planned to blast his way out with the Terminator Profound Bombs, step over the corpses of the Illusory Demon Sect girls, and leave.

“Leave Chu Li to me!” Xue Moyan cried out softly.

The five Illusory Demon Sect girls paled and moved away when they saw Chu Li take out the Terminator Profound Bombs.

They knew exactly how powerful they were.

Xue Moyan was the only one who continued to circle Chu Li like an ephemeral fairy, continuing to create more and more illusions.

“Brother Chu, please don’t kill her!” Qin Lie suddenly screamed.

Chu Li was just about unleash the Terminator Profound Bombs and help Qin Lie when he froze and looked at him with eyes full of doubt.

Qin Lie smiled bitterly. “Brother Chu, please give me face this once and don’t fight them. Let us leave this place and speak later.”

“I need a reason!” Chu Lie yelled.

“I will give you a reason once we leave!” Qin Lie answered solemnly.

“I can leave, but can you?” Chu Li snorted coldly.

“Of course.” Qin Lie took out a Terminator Profound Bomb that he had refined himself and tossed it, yelling, “Explode!”

An Illusory Demon Sect girl was in the direction that he had tossed the Terminator Profound Bomb. Her expression changed as she hastily moved out of the way.

An intense shockwave exploded from that direction, and Qin Lie charged through the terrifying lightning and explosive shockwave.

“Stop him!” the oval-faced girl screamed.

“I have a lot of Terminator Profound Bombs!” Qin Lie snorted.

Just as he said, many more Terminator Profound Bombs the size of fists appeared in his left hand. Based on how they looked, they did not seem to be any weaker than the ones in Chu Li’s hand.

The Illusory Demon Sect girls all paled at the sight.

As a result, Qin Lie charged out of the encirclement by threatening to indiscriminately destroy everything with the Terminator Profound Bombs, frightening the girls and making them cautious.

“Brother Chu! Give me face and don’t fight with them now. I’ll explain everything later!” Qin Lie cried out from afar.

Chu Li snorted and dazzling starlight shone from his clothes just as Xue Moyan’s illusions charged at him.

Amidst the blinding light, Chu Li actually used his spirit armor and flew up into the sky. Once he was in the air, he vanished with a flash.

Xue Moyan wasn’t able to touch him.

“After them!” she ordered.

The girls of Illusory Demon Sect attempted to chase after the two like numerous yellow butterflies.

Using the spirit armor, Chu Li flew into the air and immediately ascertained Qin Lie’s position. He dove toward the ground and arrived beside Qin Lie.

“Let me carry you!” Chu Li yelled.

“Okay!” Qin Lie responded.

Chu Li quickly moved to Qin Lie and grabbed his shoulders. Since the girls of Illusory Demon Sect could only move along the ground, Chu Li and Qin Lie were able to fly into the distance and leave.

It was in this way that the two of them escaped from the curses and attacks of the girls, ultimately disappearing from sight.

“Bang!”

Having been released by Chu Li, Qin Lie fell from the sky and landed in some thorny bushes.

Chu Li did this to vent his frustration.

Considering how tough Qin Lie was, the thorns of this bush did no other damage than tearing his clothing.

"What happened back there?" Chu Li snorted. "Have you never seen a woman before? Were you so confounded by their beauty that you would let them slaughter you however they pleased?"

Qin Lie smiled bitterly. "About that..."

Just as Qin Lie was about to explain, he suddenly remembered that Xue Moyan was the daughter of Mo Lingye and Xue Li and had intimate ties to Blood Fiend Sect—

—the Blood Fiend Sect that was a taboo in the Land of Chaos.

If Xue Moyan's identity were accidentally exposed because of his explanation, wouldn't Xue Moyan be in great danger?

Qin Lie could not tell Chu Li the truth!

However, since Chu Li was still waiting for an explanation, it would probably be difficult for them to work together if Qin Lie could not appease him.

Qin Lie thought about it then sighed. He forced himself to lie and began spouting nonsense, "Illusory Demon Sect's Xue Moyan is actually my fiancée. Our marriage was set up by her father and my grandfather, but we've never seen each other before. I came all the way from the Scarlet Tide Continent and participated in the Trial

to seek her out and see what kind of a woman she is…”

“It’s that complicated?” Chu Li’s expression twisted in confusion.

“Er… I didn’t expect to cause such a huge misunderstanding with the voodoo insects during our first meeting. I can’t say anything if she believes that I am the killer, so I’m waiting for her to calm down and figure out the truth before explaining our relationship in the future. Please forgive me, Brother Chu.” Qin Lie smiled bitterly.

“What’s your relationship with Song Tingyu then?” Chu Li asked, rubbing his chin.

“Ahem… I am a man… and a man sort of lacks self-control when it comes to these matters. You understand, right?” Qin Lie laughed dryly.

“Oh, right, I understand. I understand completely.” Surprisingly, Chu Li actually patted Qin Lie’s shoulders in a friendly manner and even smiled. There was no trace of the anger from earlier. “Kid, we’re similar in that we both want to kill Ye Yihao. I didn’t think we’d be similar in this way as well!”

“Brother Chu, you too?” Qin Lie asked in surprise.

Chu Li laughed proudly, a look of satisfaction on his face, and said, “Brother Lie, if we set aside other matters and compare notes on this alone, then I am definitely qualified to be your elder

brother! Hahahaha!”

“Big Brother Chu is amazing.” Qin Lie saluted Chu Li.

“Oh, it’s nothing, I’m just average.” Chu Li waved his hands humbly. “It’s only three or five women. It’s nothing, haha! Totally nothing.”

Chapter 437: Illusory Demon Orb!

Xue Moyan and the five Illusory Demon Sect girls could only curse, having been forced to give up on pursuing Qin Lie and Chu Li upon seeing that they could not catch up.

"That person was acting very strange just now. He stopped Chu Li from using the Terminator Profound Bombs even though he obviously wanted to stay and fight. He went so far as to warn us before he threw out a Terminator Profound Bomb."

A round-faced Illusory Demon Sect girl swore for a while after they stopped pursuing the two, but when she calmed down, she noticed something strange and thought that something about the situation was somewhat odd.

"He must have known that he wasn't our match and pretended that he did not want to fight us. Humph!" The oval-faced girl named Huang Zhuli seemed absolutely certain that Qin Lie was the killer.

"Yet that guy showed us mercy in every way," the round-faced Pan Qianqian said.

"What's wrong with you, Qianqian?" Huang Zhuli asked in irritation. "Didn't you see that Little Die and our sister were obviously burned to death? That guy is just some nameless small fry at the early stage of Netherpassage Realm. How could someone as weak as him possibly show us mercy?"

Pan Qianqian was momentarily unable to say anything.

All of them were able to use their True Souls to sense that Qin Lie's realm was weak. It seemed like he hadn't even completely formed his True Soul yet.

If a small fry like him didn't have Terminator Profound Bombs, he would literally be someone they could kill with a flip of the hand.

Yet Pan Qianqian still thought it was strange. She was used to observing other people, and from Qin Lie's reaction, helplessness, bitter smile, and small movements, she suspected that things might not be as clear cut as they seemed.

However, it was true that she did not have any actual proof to support this.

In the end, she chose to keep quiet.

"That wasn't how Chu Li would usually act." It was at this moment that the ringer of Illusory Demon Sect, Xue Moyan, spoke up. She frowned and spoke with a crisp voice, "I may not have encountered this Chu Li before, but I have heard about his personality. This person isn't afraid of anyone in the Land of Chaos. He literally shares almost the exact same personality as Forefather Terminator and loves causing trouble. If anyone argues with him, he would immediately fight them. He is a stranger to tolerance."

All the girls who had previously heard of Chu Li's character nodded slightly and agreed, "Chu Li is definitely that arrogant."

"Yes, Chu Li's actions today were kind of unusual compared to what he's known for." Pan Qianqian's bright eyes shone with the light of doubt. "Lili, weren't you with Little Die and Little Wan today? Why were you suddenly separated from them?"

Huang Zhuli's expression was somewhat unnatural. "I... I needed to relieve myself and left them for a moment. When I came back, I heard their screams and chased them all the way here. When I arrived I saw them burn to death..."

"Let us go and investigate Xie Die and Xie Wan's corpses." Shock and doubt began to creep into Xue Moyan's clear eyes as well. "Illusory Demon Sect and Black Voodoo Cult are both situated in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. Both sides have never stopped fighting, either openly or in secret. We all know how terrifying Black Voodoo Cult is, and we know that high rank voodoo insects can burrow into a person's brain and directly control that person."

"Mm. Black Voodoo Cult is frightening, and Ye Yihao is the most talented voodoo insect and voodoo toxin user among the younger generation. We must be careful," Pan Qianqian said.

"Let's go. When we return, we'll carefully check the bodies," Xue Moyan ordered.

The group of Illusory Demon Sect girls went back to the site that their sisters had been burned to death in an attempt to reveal the

truth.

“Buzz buzz buzz!”

However, just when they were about to return to the bodies, the eerie howls of the voodoo insects rang out.

The two voodoo insects that had been forced to leave after being burned by Qin Lie’s blood essences had not actually gone very far. When they discovered that Qin Lie had left and no longer sensed any aura of strong fire in the area, they returned once more.

“Voodoo insects! Two voodoo insects!” Pan Qianqian cried out in surprise. “I don’t think that guy lied! He said that there were voodoo insects in the area, and now there are exactly two of them!”

As soon as the Illusory Demon Sect girls saw the two charging voodoo insects, they immediately came to that realization.

The dirt on Qin Lie’s person was washed away just like that.

“Be careful! They are the larvae of the Eight Winged Centipede Queen, one of the scariest voodoo insects of Black Voodoo Cult!” Xue Moyan cried out softly, warning the others.

The two voodoo insects locked onto Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian before charging at them.

The voodoo insects flew toward them and released bizarre howls, black motes of light, and thin black mist gushing from their flapping wings..

“Don’t let them get near your foreheads!” Xue Moyan cried out.

The moment those words left her mouth, she suddenly tossed an orb the size of a peach into the air.

The orb should have been translucent, yet it appeared somewhat misty. The haze inside of the orb portrayed continuously changing images, transitioning between sceneries of celestial palaces, visages of terrifying beasts, a glaringly bright sun, and the faces of numerous people.

It was as if the orb hid a small yet real world within it. It was mysterious and unfathomable.

This orb was called the Illusory Demon Orb. It was one of five such orbs, the five major components of Illusory Demon Sect’s most renowned spirit artifact, the “Illusory Demon Sphere.” The Illusory Demon Sphere was the spirit artifact of Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master. The Illusory Demon Sphere contained a world that had its own unfathomable secrets and mysteries.

The five Illusory Demon Orbs could communicate with the Illusory Demon Sphere and, as components of the Illusory Demon Sphere, they also contained extraordinary power and astounding abilities.

The Illusory Demon Orb that Xue Moyan currently held was one of the five Illusory Demon Orbs. Yu Lingwei had personally given the orb to her and taught her how to use it since she was participating in the Trial as Illusory Demon Sect's ringer.

The Illusory Demon Orb suddenly glowed with bright colors.

The light immediately illuminated the area and made thin, clear, white mist appear out of nowhere, instantly transforming the area into a celestial domain.

In an instant, Xue Moyan became the ruler of this domain.

Even the tiniest wave of energy in this area was unable to escape her perception. While she was borrowing the extraordinary power of the Illusory Demon Orb, Xue Moyan was able to control the world under its influence.

"Withdraw!" Xue Moyan exclaimed in a soft tone.

The Illusory Demon Orb's light suddenly retreated.

The dream-like scene instantly vanished like a mirage. The five Illusory Demon Sect girls abruptly returned to reality.

They didn't understand what was going on, but they did notice that Xue Moyan now had two voodoo insects in her hands.

Furthermore, the voodoo insects directly moved into the Illusory Demon Orb and were captured as the light went out.

“Qianqian! Qianqian… you!” Huang Zhuli screamed.

Everyone looked at Pan Qianqian and saw that black threads were seeping from her eyes.

“What’s wrong?” Pan Qianqian herself had not noticed anything.

“Y-you’ve probably been poisoned with the voodoo toxin,” Huang Zhuli exclaimed.

Pan Qianqian’s expression changed, and after she examined herself for a while, her eyes went dim. “H-how was I poisoned? I didn’t feel anything.”

“Sister Xue!” The rest of the girls immediately looked to Xue Moyan.

“We will find Ye Yihao!” Xue Moyan gripped the Illusory Demon Orb tightly and observed the two voodoo insects inside of it, saying, “We will exchange these two voodoo insects for a drop of the mother insect’s blood! Ye Yihao will perform the exchange! It is incredibly difficult to raise a voodoo insect, and each one is definitely more precious than a drop of the mother insect’s blood. He should know what to do.”

“That damned Black Voodoo Cult!” Huang Zhuli yelled angrily.

“Let’s go.”

……

Meanwhile, within a forest of thorn-ridden foliage.

Qin Lie and Chu Li were chewing through dried meat. Each held a wine jar. They were eating.

The two of them were beginning to call each other “Little Brother Lie” and “Big Brother Chu.” They seemed to have gotten quite close to each other.

“I’ve heard about that girl, Xue Moyan, before. She’s not a simple martial practitioner. Even if you hadn’t stopped me earlier, I may not have necessarily been able to beat her.”

Chu Li chewed his dried meat with a savage look before guzzling down a mouthful of alcohol. Then he said, “I heard that Illusory Demon Sect’s sect master personally gave her an Illusory Demon Orb. That orb is incredibly powerful, and if she had used it earlier, the power of the shockwave caused by my Terminator Profound Bombs would have been reduced by nearly half. I would not have been able to hurt her at all.”

“An Illusory Demon Orb? What’s so special about it?” Qin Lie asked, a surprised look on his face. The corner of his mouth was stained with alcohol.

“The Illusory Demon Orb can connect to the Illusory Demon Sphere and borrow power from it. The orb would then change its surroundings into an extraordinary domain. Within that domain, the senses of that girl become several times stronger than before, enabling her to detect even the slightest wave of energy. Furthermore, that domain automatically reduces her enemy’s power and forces them on the defensive. She would be aware of everything they do before they do it.”

Oddly enough, Chu Li grew increasingly serious as he spoke. “If she used the Illusory Demon Orb’s spirit art and set up a trap beforehand, turning herself into your closest companion, you might not know what truly happened even upon death…”

“Be more specific,” Qin Lie said.

“Let me put it this way. If she had gone to Song Tingyu and He Wei and seen them beforehand, she would be able to borrow the Illusory Demon Orb and flawlessly take on their appearances. With the illusion art of the Illusory Demon Orb, she would be able to transform herself into either one of them. If you and I had accidentally entered her domain, we would have assumed that we got lost and returned to Song Tingyu’s and He Wei’s side for some reason.”

Chu Li rubbed his chin and thought for a moment. Then he smiled bitterly and said, “If it were you, she would take on Song Tingyu’s appearance. If it were me, she would take on He Wei’s appearance. If this happened, then she would toy with us until we died, or until she reverted to her actual appearance. Otherwise,

both of us would assume that Song Tingyu and He Wei killed us, unable to rest in peace."

"Is it really impossible to tell what's real and what isn't?" Qin Lie grew shocked.

Chu Li shook his head and said, "Unless your realm, soul perception, insight, and instinct are better than hers, it would be incredibly difficult to do so. You would not know who really killed you even after you died."

Qin Lie looked like he had been overcome with caution.

"You don't have to worry too much." Chu Li slapped his shoulders and carelessly said, "She's your fiancée, right? Just tell her about your relationship and you should be fine."

"If she uses Song Tingyu's appearance to kill me, I wouldn't have any idea that it's her. What should I do then?" Qin Lie asked.

"Oh. I guess you can just kiss yourself goodbye then," Chu Li said dryly.

"What about you? Aren't you afraid of her?" Qin Lie asked in surprise.

"Of course I'm scared, but it wouldn't be that easy to kill me." Chu Li chuckled. "I would ignite all of the Terminator Profound Bombs on me before I die. Since you can forge Terminator

Profound Bombs, you obviously understand that it only takes a thought to trigger their detonation. Heh... Xue Moyan would have to be near me if she wanted to kill me. Even with the Illusory Demon Orb, she wouldn't necessarily survive if I ignited all of the Terminator Profound Bombs on me at the same time!"

In a fit of madness, Chu Li declared, "I'll definitely take someone down with me when I die!"

"I guess lunatics really are everywhere in the Land of Chaos!" Qin Lie smiled bitterly on the inside.

What he didn't realize was that, in Chu Li's eyes, he was also a lunatic.

Chapter 438: Lock On!

After they finished eating, Qin Lie and Chu Li sat in the same spot and used spirit stones to recover their strength.

Qin Lie held a few Earth Grade spirit stones in one hand and a Heavenly Flame Crystal in the other.

The blood essences were in the palm of the hand gripping the Heavenly Flame Crystal. These three drops of blood were swiftly absorbing the fiery energy within the Heavenly Flame Crystal.

Inside of Qin Lie's mind.

Wisps of soul imprints and essence gradually gathered toward his Soul Lake like the threads of a spider web.

The blurry shadow of a True Soul vaguely started to take shape inside of his Soul Lake once more.

The True Soul seemed to contain a weak aura of thunder. There was an obvious, miraculous wave of thunder energy.

Qin Lie was reforming his True Soul.

Even if people mastered a way to shatter their own True Soul, very few would carelessly dare to attempt it. This would still be the case for those poisoned with voodoo toxin—few would decisively

shatter their own souls because there was no guarantee they would be able to reform it.

The shattering of one's True Soul sometimes meant the termination of that soul and the death of its owner.

For Qin Lie, however, the shattering and reforming of his soul was simply a necessary process—a step that he needed to complete at the third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, "Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement."

The shattering of his soul had been very simple.

The gathering of his True Soul also seemed much easier than he initially thought it would be.

When he focused his mind and examined the process, he could confirm with acute accuracy that his scattered soul imprints were gathering from every corner of his brain in a swift and orderly manner, flowing toward his Soul Lake like rivers flowing to the sea.

Qin Lie's blurry True Soul grew clearer and more distinct inside his transparent Soul Lake with every passing second.

His True Soul was swiftly reforming!

This lifted Qin Lie's spirits.

To his surprise he discovered that, not only did his reformed True Soul emanate thunder energy, it also grew stronger and more compact. Quite a lot of energy was stored inside of his soul!

It was just as he suspected. “Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement” was a way to temper, enhance, and essentially cultivate an individual’s True Soul!

According to what Qin Lie knew, methods that allowed one to cultivate and refine their soul were the rarest of any that forces of sects possessed.

Even in the Land of Chaos, the nine great silver forces did not have many ways that allowed Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners to specifically cultivate their souls.

“Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement cultivates and tempers the True Soul with the power of lightning and thunder. It fills the soul with thunder energy to make it immune to thunder, a soul’s natural enemy. Upon being filled with thunder and lightning, the True Soul no longer fears thunder or lightning attacks.. Furthermore, the soul is then able to control thunder itself—it will definitely be interesting when that happens!”

Qin Lie grew increasingly certain that his grandfather had purposely given him Heavenly Thunder Eradication so that he would cultivate this deep and profound spirit art from the start.

This was definitely an extremely powerful and domineering

spirit art.

Chu Li had not truly fought the Illusory Demon Sect girls seriously, so he did not spend much spirit energy either and quickly recovered.

Chu Li opened his eyes and carelessly threw away the grayish-white spirit stones in his hand, then idly stared at Qin Lie.

His eyes gradually filled with the light of wonder.

To his amazement, he discovered that Qin Lie's hair, face, and even nostrils sparked with lightning from time to time.

When Chu Li focused his senses and took in the scene with his soul consciousness, he quickly discovered that Qin Lie's soul consciousness actually contained a weak aura of thunder.

This discovery shocked Chu Li to the core.

Chu Li came from Terminator Sect, and the sect's strongest martial practitioner, Forefather Terminator, was skilled in the power of thunder and lightning.

In reality, plenty of disciples in Terminator Sect cultivated thunder and lightning spirit arts.

Chu Li might be an exception since he cultivated a different spirit

art bestowed upon him by Forefather Terminator, but he was well aware of the secrets, advantages, and uses of a thunder and lightning spirit art.

He naturally knew that thunder energy was a soul's natural enemy. Thunder could be used to destroy evil, eliminate wandering souls, and eradicate vengeful spirits.

Almost nothing with soul consciousness that lacked a physical form could escape the blast of thunder and lightning.

A martial practitioner's True Soul was not an exception. It was also weak to thunder and lightning attacks.

According to Chu Li's knowledge, Forefather Terminator dared to temper his soul with thunder and lightning only when he had reached the Imperishable Realm.

There were several thousands of people who cultivated thunder and lightning spirit arts in all of Terminator Sect, but Forefather Terminator was the only one who dared to directly temper his soul with thunder to increase its strength.

Meanwhile, Qin Lie was only in the Netherpassage Realm and had just shattered his soul. Yet when he was in the process of reforming it, his soul actually contained the aura of thunder.

This shocked Chu Li to his very core.

Forefather Terminator had to cultivate to the Imperishable Realm before his soul was capable of surviving thunder and lightning.

Compared to Qin Lie, Forefather Terminator was a tortoise that lagged far behind the rabbit.

An hour later.

Qin Lie opened his eyes as a surge of thunder and lightning energy flashed through his eyes. When he saw that Chu Li was staring at him, a look of amazement on his face he asked, “Big Brother Chu, what are you staring at?”

“Are you tempering your soul with thunder and lightning?” Chu Li’s expression was odd.

“Mn.” Qin Lie nodded, but he did not provide an explanation.

Chu Li did not question him about it either, and after a moment of thought, he suddenly asked, “When the Trial is over, and if time allows it, will you come with me to Terminator Sect?”

“What for?” Qin Lie asked in surprise.

“I’d like to recommend you to someone,” Chu Li said with a grin. “Relax, I won’t harm you. I just think that you should meet him at least once.”

“No problem,” Qin Lie agreed.

“Ready?” Chu Li stood up.

“Ready!” Qin Lie also stood up.

“Let’s go!”

……

Deep within a lush forest.

Ye Yihao sat in the center of a leaf of an ancient tree, a dark expression on his face. He narrowed his eyes and looked as if he were sensing something with his mind.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen coiled around his heart wriggled slightly, seemingly transmitting some sort of news to him.

A few newly arrived Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners garbed in pitch black robes stood quietly beneath the ancient trees. They resembled black ghosts.

Off to the side, martial practitioners of the Xiahou Family, Lin Family, and Su Family were enthusiastically chatting, discussing the best way to deal with enemies who would come to them.

“There is no need for you to go on the offense at all. You only have to stay here and wait for them to fall into our trap,” Ye Yihao suddenly said from his position amidst the tree leaves.

“The senses of my voodoo insects are much more acute than yours, so they will search the forest for life signatures of foreign martial practitioners The second they discover a foreign martial practitioner, the insects will poison them with voodoo toxin. As soon as the foreign martial practitioners realize the toxin has entered their bodies, group after group will automatically come to our doorstep one after another, looking for me.”

“That would be best.” Xiahou Yuan chuckled strangely, his bald head shining in the dark environment.

“A person among the Illusory Demon Sect was poisoned with the voodoo toxin. They will come to us as well,” Ye Yihao said darkly, his expression strange. “Speaking of which, that Xue Moyan of Illusory Demon Sect shares a deep connection with your three great families.”

“How so?” Xiahou Yuan sat up straight.

Su Yan and Lin Dongxing also showed interest as they raised their heads and looked at Ye Yihao, waiting for his explanation.

“Xue Moyan’s mother is called Mo Lingye, and her father... is most likely Xue Li!” Ye Yihao exclaimed.

Xiahou Yuan and the others shuddered, asking at the same time, “How is that possible?”

“Big Brother Ye, are you sure you’re not mistaken? We have heard a little about that Xue Moyan as well, but she should be quite old, right? Mo Lingye and Xue Li are people from a thousand years ago. Even if they had a daughter, she shouldn’t be young enough to participate in the Trial.” Su Yan looked doubtful.

“This matter is a little complicated to explain. In the Heavenly Slaughter Continent, Illusory Sect Demon is our sworn enemy. While we were investigating their young elites, we discovered this information through a secret channel. However, I can guarantee that this information is true!” Ye Yihao said confidently.

“If Xue Moyan truly is a remnant of Blood Fiend Sect, your Black Voodoo Cult could have exposed her at any time. As long as this information is out in the open, she and the other Blood Fiend Sect survivors would have nowhere to hide!” Xiahou Yuan did not understand.

“Illusory Demon Sect and Blood Fiend Sect were quite close to each other in the past, and Yu Lingwei is quite protective of Xue Moyan. We also do not have solid evidence. Additionally, we don’t want this information to leak too soon, so we can only keep quiet about it.”

Ye Yihao’s eyes were dark and cold. “This woman may very well carry the burden of reviving Blood Fiend Sect on her shoulders,

and Blood Fiend Sect could be said to have once owned the entire Heavenly Calamity Continent. In comparison, everything your three great families own once belonged to Blood Fiend Sect. Do you understand what you have to do?”

“She will not leave the Trial alive!” Xiahou Yuan exclaimed murderously.

The eyes of Lin Dongxing and Su Yan glowed with a venomous look reminiscent of poisonous snakes locking on to their prey.

“Ding!”

The sword token hanging at Xiahou Yuan’s waist suddenly emitted a low tone.

“It’s Luo Chen’s group!” He grinned savagely. “I guess it’s about time they showed up! Hehe, I didn’t think he’d be faster than Chu Li.”

“Kill whoever arrives first!” Amidst the leaves, Ye Yihao narrowed his eyes and indifferently said, “All of you, spread out and find a good place to hide. The Xiahou Family will be the only ones to stay here. We will await our first group of prey!”

“Understood!”

The martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the Lin Family, and the Su Family all began to move out.

This place was filled with ancient trees, the branches and leaves of which covered both the sky and the ground. It was all too easy to find a place to hide.

All of these people vanished in an extremely short amount of time. They all hid their auras as well.

Xiahou Yuan and a few other Xiahou Family martial practitioners stayed in the same spot and waited for Luo Chen's arrival, their eyes shining with a cold, venomous luster.

"Ooooo!"

Just as Ye Yihao hid himself and Luo Chen was about to arrive, the Black Voodoo Cult token hanging from Ye Yihao's waist rang as well.

"Well met!" Ye Yihao licked his lips, eyes filled with violence. He looked like a beast that thirsted for blood.

The token's ringing sound meant that Chu Li's group was now within a fifty kilometers.

"We've finally tracked him down!" Fifty kilometers away, Chu Li cried out excitedly, "Let's see where else that bastard Ye Yihao could run off to!"

“Oooo! Ding!”

The Black Voodoo Cult token and the Heavenly Sword Mountain token hanging from Qin Lie’s waist rang at almost the same time.

When he touched the token and examined it, Qin Lie’s face distorted into an indescribably odd expression.

Both Luo Chen and Ye Yihao were in the same direction!

Chapter 439: Ambush

“Something’s not right!”

Qin Lie stopped walking and gripped the two tokens, his expression grave.

Chu Li also noticed that something was wrong and shouted in shock, “Ye Yihao and people from Heavenly Sword Mountain are together?”

“The tokens are telling us that they’re in the same place.” Qin Lie’s brow furrowed. “When Luo Chen’s group left, they said that they found Xiahou Yuan and the others. Why would they be with people from Black Voodoo Cult?”

“Who knows?” Chu Li felt that things had become slightly difficult.

He would have had trouble with just Ye Yihao of Black Voodoo Cult, but he was confident that he would be able to face him.

The ringers from the nine great silver forces were all at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. They possessed rare, high level spirit artifacts, spirit pills, spirit medicines, spirit armor, and other equipment.

Strictly speaking, other than the three families’ Xiahou Yuan, Su Yan, and Lin Dongxing that were slightly weaker, the best of the

other six forces had slightly differing levels of power, but that difference would not be very great.

In other words, Chu Li, Ye Yihao, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men were similar in strength.

Chu Li always thought of himself as the strongest. He was confident that he wouldn't lose when facing any of the remaining five.

He had a reason for that.

—If he were facing two of them, however… his confidence would be non-existent.

If Ye Yihao and Luo Chen were working together, Chu Li did not think he would be able to achieve victory and kill Ye Yihao along with the Eight-winged Centipede Queen.

Chu Li was arrogant and domineering, but he wasn't stupid.

The moment he realized that Ye Yihao and Luo Chen might be working together, his expression turned grim and he seemed restless and irritated.

Common sense told him that he shouldn't go because he might end up being killed.

Yet when he thought of Ren Peng's state, and He Wei also being inflected by the voodoo poison in need of an antidote, he could not stand by and watch.

Chu Li fidgeted frantically.

At this time, Qin Lie was silently looking at him with a cool gaze and calm expression.

Qin Lie's personality had been strange from the start as a kind of craziness had always been hidden in his bones.

Prior to merging with his previous personality, he would usually seem gentle and stoic, although wooden at times.

Yet upon being stimulated in a certain matter, he would show his crazy side and become hysterical!

This could be seen from how he had challenged Du Haitian in the past in Icestone City when he learned that Du Haitian had caused the deaths of Ling Ying, Ling Xiao, and the other Ling Family clansmen. He used the Terminator Profound Bombs to kill Du Haitian without regard to its consequences.

If not for Li Mu's protection at the time, he probably would have died a terrible death.

Later on at Armament Sect, Liang Shaoyang became the focus of attention after causing a change in the spirit pattern pillars,

receiving acknowledgement from Ying Xingran and the three reverends and he had been thought of the future successor of Armament Sect. It had been Liang Shaoyang's most glorious time.

Yet even during Liang Shaoyang's most glorious and brightest time, Qin Lie had dared to thrust an ice blade through Liang Shaoyang's heart and destroy the hope of Armament Sect right in front of its own gates.

That time, if it wasn't for his own outstanding performance and the change he caused in the twelve spirit pattern pillars, he would also have died a terrible death.

However, the current him had even more craziness in his bones than before.

Thus, he had already decisively made a decision at the start—a decision to kill Ye Yihao!

After all, Xie Jingxuan had possibly died from poisoning, and Song Tingyu was now on her last gasps. There seemingly wasn't much time left for her.

Determined, Qin Lie's expression was calm, unlike Chu Li, who was still bitterly struggling between reason and emotion.

A moment later, Chu Li inhaled deeply and shouted, "If Ye Yihao and Luo Chen have teamed up, I'm afraid the outcome will not be in our favor should we go over. Little Brother Lie, even I, for one,

am hesitant right now. What about you, what do you think? I would like to hear your opinion!”

“I don’t care if you go or not.” Qin Lie said, pausing after each word. “Either way, I’m definitely going!”

Chu Li’s expression shook as he looked at Qin Lie in shock . “You… have you clearly thought about this?”

“I’m not thinking about anything right now! All I know is that if that bastard Ye Yihao doesn’t die, my woman will definitely die!” Qin Lie grit his teeth as his eyes became filled with savagery and viciousness and his body began to release an intense murderous intent.

“Damn it! It seems that I have thought too much!” Chu Li suddenly bellowed, his blood boiling from Qin Lie’s words. His rationality, thoughts of death, and plans, were all suddenly thrown to the back of his mind. “Qin Lie! You really have style! Let’s go and kill those two scum!”

“I was just waiting for those words!” Qin Lie grinned viciously.

At this time, although Qin Lie’s cultivation realm, status, and strength were weaker than Chu Li’s, the presence of his craziness, brutality, and savagery was in fact slightly greater than Chu Li’s.

When the two crazed people agreed on a decision, they both felt their blood rise. Red glints flashed through their eyes as they began

to charge towards Ye Yihao and Luo Chen with great murderous intent.

At their normal speed, a distance of a hundred miles would take around an hour.

But in their crazed states, their spirits had seemingly increased. Even their speed increased!

They reached Ye Yihao's position a full ten minutes earlier than it would have normally taken them.

"Boom-om-om! Woosh-oosh-oosh! Crack! Pah-pah-pah!"

The clashing of spirit artifacts, the collisions of spirit energy, and the sound of power exploding could be heard from a long ways off.

At their destination, they saw enormous old trees breaking and falling, brilliant displays of spirit lights, various spirit artifacts spiralling into the air, and violent explosions of power.

The two people brimming with murderous intent exchanged looks with each other and saw the joy in each other's eyes.

"Brother, it seems that we are not destined to die. Damn it, it seems like Ye Yihao and Luo Chen are infighting. Hahahaha!" Chu Li laughed madly.

Qin Lie's eyes also lit up.

Both of them became excited.

Regardless of how crazed they were, they still knew that there was a higher chance of death if it was the two of them facing Ye Yihao, Luo Chen, and their protectors.

But if Ye Yihao and Luo Chen had become enemies and were fighting, then it really was a chance for them.

"It seems that the heavens are on our side!" Qin Lie also howled.

"Ye Yihao, you son of a bitch, your daddy Chu Li is here!"

"Luo Chen, haven't you been wanting to settle your debts with me? Your granddaddy has come!"

Qin Lie and Chu Li both laughed arrogantly as their bodies flashed across the enormous trees on the ground and appeared on the battlefield.

When they stopped and looked, they became stunned.

Atop the chaotic battlefield, swords, long blades, short spears, and other spirit artifacts continuously collided as fire, wind, and frost energies clashed together. In the very center,group of people were intensely fighting.

Those people were Luo Chen, Zhao Yuan, Zhang Chendong and the others, and they were fighting against Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing's group.

There were two corpses on the ground already. Based on the clothing, the two were from Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Zhao Yuan and Zhang Chendong both had blood flowing from their bodies, and their eyes had dimmed. Faintly visible black threads were apparent within their pupils.

They had been poisoned with the voodoo poison.

Only Luo Chen in his silver robes was still wielding his sword and fighting back against the attacks of Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing, and the seven other martial practitioners.

As he swung his jade-like longsword which was as thin as a cicada's wings, sharp sword beams were continuously released. These sword beams resembled a rain of jade-like crystal meteors that were ten meters long and two fingers wide and contained a terrifying sword concept.

Xiahou Yuan and Ling Dongxing, as well as their respective clansmen, had surrounded Luo Chen and were casting all kinds of spirit artifacts and spirit arts in a barrage against Luo Chen.

With one sword, Luo Chen managed to block the attacks of all

nine people.

But occasionally, wounds and streaks of blood would appear on his body.

On the side, Ye Yihao of Black Voodoo Cult and Su Yan of the Su Family were standing side by side as they chatted idly with relaxed expressions.

They were clearly prepared for the Xiahou and Lin Families to exhaust Luo Chen till his death.

Even though Luo Chen was stronger than Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing, the two had teamed up together and also enlisted the help of seven other people. Eventually, Luo Chen's spirit power would be exhausted.

That time would be the calling of death for Luo Chen.

There were three sides fighting and two sides that were watching. Upon hearing Qin Lie and Chu Li's laughter and seeing the two charge in, they all stopped what they were doing.

Everyone's gazes gathered on the two of them.

When Qin Lie and Chu Li saw the scene in front of them, they were stunned.

The two of them who had become as excited as if they had discovered a new continent upon seeing the intense fighting happening in this place suddenly felt as if a bucket of cold water poured over their heads and immediately became clear minded.

The two of them became bitter as they realized that they had guessed the process but not the result.

Ye Yihao and Luo Chen were on opposite sides, but it had never occurred to them that the Xiahou, Su and Lin Family would side together with Ye Yihao.

This situation was likely worse than them facing Ye Yihao and Luo Chen together!

How could they laugh?!

“So unfortunate.” Chu Li cursed as he spat on the ground. Under the unfriendly gazes of Ye Yihao and the others, he shouted harshly, “Damn it, what are you looking at! I’m just here to kill you, Ye Yihao, you bastard! Do you think that I’m afraid just because there are more people?”

“Brother Chu, I have already waited a long time for you.” Looking at the two, Ye Yihao suddenly laughed as if in a good mood.

In his eyes, Qin Lie and Chu Li were two rash idiots. They charged in without even knowing the full situation and had

believed that they would be the side that would benefit... they were adorably stupid.

"Was it you who killed my voodoo insect?" Ye Yihao only looked at Chu Li.

In truth, from beginning to end, he didn't even look at Qin Lie.

Just like Xue Moyan, he didn't recognize Qin Lie. To him, people he didn't recognize were just minor people not worth mentioning.

"Four voodoo insects, I first refined three to death, and then another one later on. The other two escaped." Qin Lie cut in with a smile. After a short moment, he calmed down again. "However, it's too troublesome to refine the little insects one after another so I came this time to be more efficient and just directly kill the mother insect."

When he spoke these words, he didn't just successfully attract Ye Yihao's attention, he also immediately enraged him.

Chapter 440: Intolerable!

It took a great effort to get the Eight-Winged Centipede Queen to give birth to a single larva. Then, in order to get the larva to trust him and form a mental connection with him, even Ye Yihao needed to use his True Soul and his mind consciousness to nurture it for a period of time.

Thus, every larva was extremely precious to Ye Yihao.

That was why he had once told Yu Feng that the value of a larva was greater than the lives of Yu Feng and the others.

Ye Yihao did not care too much about the deaths of Yu Feng and the others because the Yu Family had many Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners. After coming out of the refinement convention, he could use the larvae to find new hosts in the Yu Family.

But Ye Yihao could not let go of the deaths of the four larvae. He could not help but feel angered.

“You?”

The smile on Ye Yihao’s face slowly faded as his gaze became cold and vicious, and sparking with murderous intent.

Qin Lie said calmly, “Me.”

“I will have the voodoo insect slowly burrow into your head, bit by bit, and consume your brain.” Ye Yihao stared at him and said darkly, “You will not die immediately, but will instead be conscious and able to hear the sound of the voodoo insect devouring your brain and bones. Tsk tsk, I guarantee that this experience will be one which you have never felt before in your life. I guarantee that even when you die, you will not forget it!”

The words caused many people’s hairs to stand up on end.

Not only did the expressions of Chu Li and Luo Chen change, but also those of Zhao Yuan, Zhang Chendong, and the martial practitioners from the three families on good terms with Ye Yihao.

Many people felt terrified of Ye Yihao from the bottom of their hearts. They decided that if they accidentally landed in Ye Yihao’s hands one day, they would be decisive and kill themselves to save themselves from the inhuman torture.

Strangely, Qin Lie showed indifference as his gaze didn’t change.

He was even slightly puzzled.

For some reason, he felt that he had once tormented people in a manner like how Ye Yihao had just described, and it had not just been once.

Deep inside, he actually thought that this inhuman kind of torture was quite normal and nothing major.

It seemed that he had done things even crueller and more insane in the past...

Yet in the eyes of other people, his daze was an expression of being stricken dumb.

Ye Yihao and the martial practitioners of the three major families all had disdainful expressions. They thought Qin Lie was just a little person who had been scared to death by just words.

Even Luo Chen, who was surrounded by the Xiahou Family and the Lin Family, looked coldly at Qin Lie and snorted, “You really embarrass my Heavenly Sword Mountain.”

Qin Lie suddenly woke up.

He gradually cleared out the disorganized thoughts in his mind whilst maintaining his mental clarity and calmness.

He glanced at Luo Chen and frowned, saying, “Your mouth is still so nasty for someone about to be buried in dirt.”

“If I die, do you think that you will be safe?” Luo Chen sneered.

“Hm?” Su Yan was surprised. She giggled as though she found something new and said, “So interesting, it really is interesting. You two are both from Heavenly Sword Mountain but are enemies,

this is really interesting.”

“He is not qualified to be a martial practitioner of Heavenly Sword Mountain! He only knows how to take shortcuts and fawn over elders to get a sword token.” Luo Chen said mockingly.

From the start, Luo Chen had assumed that Qin Lie was only able to receive the favor of Li Mu because Qin Lie was good at flattery and getting on the good side of people.

At Sea Moon Island, he hadn’t targeted Qin Lie just because Qin Lie had received the blank tombstone.

Actually, ever since he discovered that Li Mu had picked Qin Lie to attend the Trial and learned a bit of the relationship between Qin Lie and Li Mu, Luo Chen had desired to kill Qin Lie.

Because of Qin Lie’s status as apprentice, and the fact that he had once stayed in Li Mu’s Li’s shop.

During the time when Qin Lie had nowhere to go in Icestone City, it had also been Li Mu that stood up and helped him leave.

In Luo Chen’s view, Li Mu and Qin Lie were not only teacher and student, but also friends.

This caused Luo Chen to feel great jealousy.

What others didn't know was that Luo Chen had shown great talent during his youth, and had made great accomplishments in the way of the sword.

What others didn't know was that at his most glorious moment, his grandmother Luo Nan had secretly taken him to find Li Mu in hopes that Li Mu would take Luo Chen as an apprentice.

Luo Nan understood how powerful Li Mu was, and knew his skill on the way of the sword better than anyone. She had taken Luo Chen to ask Li Mu and hoped that Li Mu would take him as an apprentice out of consideration for her and Luo Chen's own astounding talent.

In the past, Luo Chen's talent with the sword had astounded all of Heavenly Sword Mountain, making him very proud and arrogant. He had believed that everyone in Heavenly Sword Mountain would compete to take him on as their apprentice.

He had thought that Li Mu would not be an exception.

Perhaps it was this proud attitude which had displeased Li Mu during their meeting, and so Li Mu had refused.

Incontent, his grandmother Luo Nan had bitterly begged in hope that Li Mu would accept. But Li Mu would not allow it, his attitude cold and indifferent.

Watching his grandmother, who was so powerful in Heavenly

Sword Mountain, begging for his sake in front of Li Mu, the young and proud Luo Chen impulsively attacked Li Mu verbally and began arguing with him.

Li Mu had also been infuriated by the young and proud Luo Chen. He said that Luo Chen was not qualified to be his disciple because Luo Chen was not talented enough and did not have a good personality.

This was the greatest setback which Luo Chen had encountered in his life.

Luo Chen, who had always had his eyes up in the sky and believed that no one could compare to his talent, was deeply pricked by Li Mu's undisguised disdain.

Starting from that year, Luo Chen began to work even harder. He wanted to prove himself and give Li Mu a slap in the face. His breakthroughs on the path of the sword grew increasingly faster, and finally, Luo Chen became the strongest martial practitioner under Fulfillment Realm in Heavenly Sword Mountain!

He Wei and Du Xiangyang who were of the same generation and similarly as outstanding were completely suppressed and outshone by his light.

But even then, Li Mu only ever looked at him with mockery and disdain during their several later encounters with each other.

He seemed to still think that Luo Chen was not qualified to become his disciple.

This had always been a thorn in Luo Chen's heart, and caused him to feel great discomfort.

Thus, when he heard that the relationship between Li Mu and Qin Lie reached a level of friends which went beyond teacher and student and discovered that Li Mu was very concerned with Qin Lie, the thorn in his heart grew.

He, Luo Chen, had never received recognition from Li Mu. How could this Qin Lie, a little martial practitioner from an unknown place of the Scarlet Tide Continent, a person who did not have outstanding talent and strength which was only between Manifestation Realm and Netherpassage Realm receive Li Mu's recognition?

He was not willing to accept it.

However, he could not vent on Li Mu, so he could only direct it all towards Qin Lie.

This was the true reason for why he had always targeted Qin Lie from the moment he learned of Qin Lie.

"I do not qualify to become a martial practitioner of Heavenly Sword Mountain?" Qin Lie laughed strangely as he shook his head and mocked back without any politeness. "You think that everyone

is the same as you, proud of the fact that they are a martial practitioner of Heavenly Sword Mountain? Just what do you have to be proud of? You were born at Heavenly Sword Mountain, and your grandmother is Luo Nan. From birth, you have grown up in an environment of medicine and all kinds of sword arts. Yet even with the teachings of your grandmother and the elders, you are just in Netherpassage Realm? Right now, aren't you also in a dangerous situation? I don't see you dominating? Do you really think that you are so great?"

"Ha, as long as Qin Lie is willing, after the Trial is finished, the gates of my Terminator Sect will always be open to him!" Chu Li grinned and inserted, "I am sure that if he entered Terminator Sect, he would be a core disciple personally taught by the old forefather!"

Luo Chen stilled.

Qin Lie continued to speak, "Luo Chen, you are not unique. Forget about all of the Spirit Realm, just even in this Trial, there are five people who are no weaker than you in any area. Where exactly does your pride comes from? Laughable!"

Luo Chen's face turned into a variety of colors.

After the two had started arguing, the martial practitioners from the three major families had all stopped with strange expressions.

Ye Yihao also did not interrupt and just watched. Once the two finished speaking, he suggested, "Speak all you want, but in the

end, those are just words! If you two have a score to settle, you can settle it now. I don't mind waiting for one of you to die first."

"We can also wait," Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing stated after exchanging looks.

They wanted Qin Lie and Luo Chen to fight and waste more of Luo Chen's energy—they all assumed that Qin Lie would not be a match for Luo Chen.

However, they all felt that Qin Lie was no weaker than Luo Chen in terms of scathing remarks.

But just in that.

"It won't take much for me to kill a little martial practitioner in the early stages of Netherpassage realm," Luo Chen said icily.

"Brother Qin, although I am a woman, even I wouldn't be able to tolerate him at a time like this!" Su Yan cheered from the side. "If I was you, even if I died in battle, I would first settle my debts with this arrogant person! He's really looking down on you!"

"Damn it, what is all this?" Chu Li fiercely spat on the ground.

He had never expected that the situation would intensify and degenerate further for the worse, and turn into the one which he had wanted to see the least.

He had hoped for Luo Chen and Ye Yihao to fight and for Luo Chen to exhaust at least some of the other's energy.

Then, he and Qin Lie would at least have a sliver of a chance. If they focused on dealing with Ye Yihao, there was a tiny chance that they could kill Ye Yihao.

Now, if Qin Lie and Luo Chen had a fight to the death, Luo Chen would be unable to exhaust some of Ye Yihao's energy, and Qin Lie would also not be able to help him.

He would have to face Ye Yihao and all the people from the three major families by himself!

In that case, he wouldn't even have a chance, not even to escape!

But he did not urge Qin Lie to be calm and endure.

Because if he was Qin Lie, he wouldn't be able to tolerate it at all!

Naturally, Qin Lie also could not tolerate it!

He charged straight at Luo Chen.

Several Terminator Profound Bombs suddenly appeared on his hands. Without a care for the Xiahou and Lin Family's responses, and without care for who was beside Luo Chen, he threw a dozen

of the Terminator Profound Bombs out together.

Before Luo Chen could respond, Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing's group started to swear and scream as they all fled for their lives.

Chapter 441: Bloody Fight!

The dozen silver Terminator Profound Bombs rolled and fell towards Luo Chen's position.

The terrifying fluctuations of thunder which came from within each thunderball caused everyone's expression to change.

Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing, the poisoned Zhao Yuan, and Zhang Chendong all felt their souls about to leave their bodies.

They cursed, screamed, and shouted, as they resented their parents for not giving them two more legs so that they could flee even faster.

Of them, only Luo Chen was still calm. With just his sword, he still released a sharp sword concept that could tear the sky.

"This..."

Chu Li's eyes were filled with shock as he looked dazedly at Qin Lie. As he watched the Terminator Profound Bombs roll out, he quickly understood something.

Chu Li's mind shifted.

He suddenly shouted, "Ye Yihao! You scum! I will bomb your voodoo insect!"

As Qin Lie leapt towards Luo Chen, Chu Li also started to move. He roared like a lion and also took out several Terminator Profound Bombs.

There were numerous martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult around Ye Yihao, as well as Su Yan and several Su Family martial practitioners.

These people's attention had originally been on Qin Lie and Luo Chen's sides as they watched Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing haphazardly try to escape.

They hadn't expected Chu Li to also go crazy and start throwing out Terminator Profound Bombs like Qin Lie.

The expressions of Su Yan and the Su Family martial practitioners changed just like the expressions of Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing's group. They didn't even notify Ye Yihao as they screamed and cursed while they fled.

Only the Yu Family martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult had terrified expressions but did not dare to flee.

"Get out of my way!" Ye Yihao shouted.

The black-robed people from Black Voodoo Cult were finally allowed to leave as they quickly fled, chasing after Su Yan and the others.

The situation had originally been at a standstill. Ye Yihao had been gathered with the Su Family in one area while Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing had surrounded Luo Chen in another area.

Yet because Qin Lie and Chu Li both took out Terminator Profound Bombs, the entire battlefield had become chaotic.

The ground became pitted with holes as ancient trees fell to the ground. Rubble was strewn everywhere, as were signs of the intense battle. A new storm had come.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The Terminator Profound Bombs would spin after Qin Lie and Chu Li released them as they flew in the direction of Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing as well as the direction of Su Yan and the Black Voodoo Cult escapees as though they were intelligent.

The duo’s targets were not just Luo Chen and Ye Yihao, but everyone!

To the two of them, everyone was a target. Back to back with each other, they each took out Terminator Profound Bombs and threw them.

“Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom…”

The destructive sounds of explosions drowned out the area as the ground began to violently shake and even frightening cracks appeared in the grey sky.

Crack after crack apparently emerged in the sky as if the sky had been sliced open by sharp blades.

Within the cracks, it was possible to see countless rays of light and the tails of meteors.

An eternal and desolate presence which could extinguish life emanated out from these space cracks.

Everyone's minds felt like they had frozen over. It was as though they had suddenly entered the apocalypse and pulled into the current of ancient chaos.

Everyone felt terror.

"Boom boom boom!"

In this moment, the entire densely packed forest was violently shaking and furiously exploding.

All of the martial practitioners in the area could clearly feel the brutal vibrations and the enormous transformations which were shaking the ground.

Xue Moyan of Illusory Demon Sect and her sisters had been struggling to find Ye Yihao's precise location, but after the explosion, they immediately figured out the location.

Du Xiangyang had been roaming alone aimlessly within the dense forest.

But after the frightening noise in the area, he immediately moved in that direction without almost any hesitation.

There were also many scattered martial practitioners from other major factions that were in this dense forest. They all felt the roaring of the earth and hurried over.

They all wanted to know what had happened.

"That was the explosion of several Terminator Profound Bombs! So strong. H-how many would have needed to explode together to create an explosion this terrifying?" Exclaimed He Wei, who had been hiding in a dense patch of wood on the other said.

"It's only Qin Lie and Chu Li, how could they create such a great disturbance?" Song Tingyu was secretly also shocked on the inside.

"Let's try to approach towards that area," He Wei suggested.

Everyone nodded.

They all started to move.

All of the martial practitioners in this dense woods felt the shocking change and weren't able to suppress their curiosity as they gathered over from all directions.

In one corner of the forest was a rotten old tree, one which had thicker rhizomes than all of the trees around it.

It was bald and leafless, and there were profound marks of age on its gray-colored branches. It was unknown how long it had lived.

There were no signs of any life on its trunk and portion of its rhizomes above the ground. It seemed to have died a long time ago.

Yet for some reason, as the forest shook due to the explosion of the Terminator Profound Bombs, a trace of life suddenly reappeared in the roots of this enormous old tree which were most deeply rooted in the ground.

When this trace of vitality appeared, the ancient tree seemed to awaken slowly as if it had recovered its consciousness.

Extremely strangely, its withered, rotted, and dried roots gradually began to show tints of greenness as its rhizomes slowly began to give off vitality.

But the branches and leaves of the large trees around it were quickly yellowing as they withered away and rotted at a visible

rate.

It was as though their wood essence energies were being pulled out.

No one knew of the situation occurring here. No one knew that a new change was happening in this corner of the forest.

Because everyone was heading towards the depths of the forest.

There, Qin Lie, Chu Li, the Black Voodoo Cult, the three families, and the martial practitioners of Heavenly Sword Mountain were all howling deafeningly as they fought.

“You already knew that the Terminator Profound Bombs which you released would have their powers spread out, and that their energies cannot all gather in one area.” Inside a large pit, Luo Chen’s face was ashen and his eyes were sharp as he said coldly, “So, regardless of whether I fled or not, I would experience the same impact within this large area!”

He looked with a strange expression at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie was being attacked by four martial practitioners from the Xiahou and Lin Family.

“I’m going to skin him alive!” a martial practitioner from the Xiahou Family howled angrily. “He killed my younger brother! Damn it, I don’t care what grudge he has with Luo Chen, I’m going

to kill him with my own hands!”

“My cousin also died in his explosion! Damn it, I want to kill him first!” a member of the Lin Family also shouted.

The simultaneous explosion of a dozen Terminator Profound Bombs had caused a large area around Luo Chen to be affected by thunder, lightning, and the sharp blades of space.

Luo Chen knew so he had not tried to dodge. Instead, he had used his strongest defensive method of numerous sword rays to defend the place he was at.

While he had used up large amounts of energy, he had managed to survive unharmed.

Zhao Yuan and Zhang Dongchen had already known about Qin Lie from Scarlet Tide Continent. The two had fled even faster than the Xiahou Family and the Lin Family when they saw Qin Lie come.

Those two had also surprisingly managed to survive.

But three martial practitioners of the Xiahou and Lin Family had been torn apart by the space barrier of the Graveyard of Gods. They had been hit by several of the spatial blades and directly rendered to pieces.

Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing, and the remaining four had avoided

the spatial blades but were affected by the furious wave of lightning and thunder. They had all either spat blood, become burnt all over, or begun to strangely howl.

They were all wounded to some degree.

When the explosion dissipated, they had immediately attacked Qin Lie without a care for the enmity between Qin Lie and Luo Chen. They were afraid that Qin Lie would die too quickly at Luo Chen's hands, making them unable to get revenge for their brothers.

Qin Lie's dozen of Terminator Profound Bombs had killed three and resulted in the Xiahou Family and the Lin Family chasing him.

Meanwhile on the other side, Chu Li had been even more vicious.

All of the trees within several miles of Chu Li had been turned to powder, and numerous deep, seemingly bottomless, holes had appeared in the ground. The cracks in space were like wounds on a body and had not healed even now.

There weren't any bits left of six Su Family and Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners.

In Su Yan's hand was had a large scale Earth Grade Four defense spirit artifact. It had been turned to powder, and she had to spit out blood before she managed to successfully protect three members of the Su Family.

Ye Yihao of Black Voodoo Cult had also used up a valuable spirit artefact. It was called “Firecloud Amitabha Shield,” and was Earth Grade Five!

This “Firecloud Amitabha Shield” had been specifically prepared for use against Chu Li by him even before he had entered the Trial. It was to face Chu Li’s madness and the explosions of the Terminator Profound Bombs.

Ye Yihao did not seem to care at all that the spirit artifact had shattered as he calmly stood beside an enormous hole atop this field now covered in giant holes and devoid of trees. “I knew a long time ago that you, Chu Li, would be the most difficult of all the opponents in this Trial. My “Firecloud Amitabha Shield” was specifically found just to face you. I knew that it would shatter sooner or later. Thankfully, it hasn’t disappointed me and has helped me survive this.”

Pausing, Ye Yihao suddenly started to laugh darkly. “Now then, you should have used up all the Terminator Profound Bombs you have right? Haha, I want to see what you can do now!”

“Chu Li! I want you to die a horrible death!” Su Yan shrieked. The left side of her face had been wounded by the explosion of her spirit artifact. It was bloody and had greatly reduced her beauty. “Kill him! Kill him for me!”

“Go.” Ye Yihao narrowed his eyes and ordered.

The remaining martial practitioners of the Su Family and the Black Voodoo Cult immediately charged at Chu Li under his and Su Yan's orders.

Before Chu Li entered the fight, he reflexively looked behind him to check on how Qin Lie was doing.

As expected, Qin Lie was surrounded and being attacked by the four Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners who had higher cultivations than him.

But what astonished Chu Li was that Qin Lie was still standing strong under their attacks.

Chapter 442: Fearsome!

The four martial practitioners of the Xiahou and Lin Family were all at the middle stage of Netherpassage Realm, wielded exquisite spirit artifacts, and looked to be utterly furious right now.

After all, their close ones had all perished in the explosion earlier.

Their four respective spirit artifacts, the ‘Frost Bone Thorn’, ‘Purple Flame Wheel’, Rainbow Sound Sword’ and ‘Seven Birds Tail Feathers’, which were all Profound Grade Seven spirit artifacts!

The reason these four people were able to wield these spirit artifacts was because they were all among the core members of the Xiahou and Lin Families. , and because their own household seniors held some status within their families.

Under the control of their respective practitioners, these four spirit artifacts dazzled with spirit light, shot lightning rainbows and clusters of purple flames, and unleashed terrific waves of energy.

Qin Lie tightly gripped his Astral Thunder Hammer as thunder and lightning crawled atop his entire body. Secretly gathering the power of blood, he used his powerful physique and a dense web of lightning and explosive thunder to defend himself against the quartet’s attacks.

His abnormal body was further covered in a layer of brown

yellow light and frost.

This was a precious spirit energy armor formed from both the power of both earth and ice.

When he swung the Astral Thunder Hammer, a violent energy slammed heavily into the flying wheel ablaze with purple flames.

The sides of the disc-like flying wheel were embedded with many sharp thorns. The Astral Thunder Hammer clashed against those thorns and let out many sparks.

“Bang!”

Sparks flew off the Purple Flame Wheel as it was struck by the Astral Thunder Hammer and sent flying into the distance while roaring.

Like a flash of lightning, Qin Lie then instantly moved horizontally, dodging the Rainbow Sound Sword’s piercing attack.

Afterwards, a translucent ice shield swiftly formed on his back over his heart,blocking the Frost Bone Thorn’s ambush.

Channeling Records of Geocentric Magnetism, the gravitational field around him abruptly changed, causing the flying, unpredictable Seven Birds Tail Feathers to abruptly fly erratically and lose track of his position.

Right now, the four miraculous spirit arts he mastered: Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Records of Geocentric Magnetism, Frost Arts, and Blood Spirit Art were all being switched around naturally and smoothly.

After another short moment, Qin Lie's eyes turned cold as wisps of frost energy gathered on his body and shot ice blades in every direction following his arms movements.

Then, his spirit art changed yet again as his aura turned immovable and earthly as he caused the gravitational field around him to abruptly increase.

Before the quartet was able to adapt to it, he changed his spirit arts once again as thunder began to rumble inside him and bolts of lightning shot from his body.

Normally, some time for transition and conflict between spirit arts were unavoidable when a martial practitioner attempted to switch between them. Some people would expose huge openings when they were switching out their spirit arts.

However, Qin Lie did not seem to have this kind of weakness at all.

Because of a godlike technique called the Spirit Arts Fusion, the four spirit arts were merged and smoothed out, allowing for the transformation of spirit arts to become natural and allowing for no pauses whatsoever in between switches.

It was as if it had no flaws at all.

At the very least, the four clansmen of the Xiahou and Lin Families could not notice any flaws.

Qin Lie fully brought out his various spirit arts and powerful physique into battle. With his great physical advantage, Qin Lie could clash forcefully against the quartet's attacks when need be, and dodge out of the way when he could not.

Sometimes, the Purple Flame Wheel would ram into him, or the Seven Birds Tail Feathers would scratch him, leaving wounds on his body.

However, he overall did not fall into a situation of absolute disadvantage. He hadn't collapsed from the first blow like many people had imagined he would.

Meanwhile, Chu Li clashed against Su Family and Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners. He was howling and fighting madly at the same time.

Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing had obviously underestimated Qin Lie's tenacity a little, as well as his strength.

In their opinion, Qin Lie, who was only at the early stage of Netherpassage Realm, should've been instantly taken out under the attacks of their four clansmen.

However, the current situation was a far cry from what they'd predicted earlier.

Yet, despite wanting to kill Qin Lie very much, neither Xiahou Yuan nor Ling Dongxing participated in the battle.

The reason for that was because Luo Chen was right beside them.

Both Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing were afraid that Luo Chen would take the opportunity to charge out of the encirclement if they exhausted much of their spirit energy. Therefore, they had to place a certain amount of attention on Luo Chen.

The second Luo Chen moved and displayed any intent to leave the fight, they would join hands and kill him, no matter what the cost.

Previously, much of Luo Chen's strength had been exhausted by the nine men's joint attack. Then, he had been blasted once by Qin Lie's Terminator Profound Bombs. Right now, Luo Chen had to be at his weakest state, so naturally the two of them were unwilling to let go of this opportunity.

That was why they hadn't acted immediately.

While Chu Li was just observing Qin Lie, Qin Lie similarly observed Chu Li's condition.

Chu Li was even unluckier than him for six Su Family and Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were attacking him at once.

Moreover, Ye Yihao was watching like a predator on the side, as was Suyan, who was gritting her teeth with a cold expression on her face.

Chu Li's was being pressured even more than him.

"Go!" Qin Lie ordered with his mind.

As he dodged yet another attack, three blood droplets fell off his palm. The blood droplets withdrew their auras and sneakily left amidst dust and soot on the ground without unleashing their terrifying fiery powers.

They headed in Chu Li's direction in preparation for ambushing Ye Yihao when the time was right.

Qin Lie was multitasking as he had never forgotten his trip's real objective—to kill Ye Yihao and the mother insect.

While the intense battle ensued, a couple of people had arrived from amidst the parts of the forest which had not been blasted by the Terminator Profound Bombs.

Du Xiangyang blankly watched the battle with shock and amazement from on top of a big tree which was tens of meters tall.

On the other side, the trees had completely vanished. What was left were many gigantic pits which clearly manifested the terrible destruction from earlier.

From this, Du Xiangyang was sure that this place had been given much ‘care’ by the Terminator Profound Bombs earlier.

Since there were no trees blocking his sight, he could clearly see the people battling and the minor changes which occurred in the area even though he was somewhat far away from them.

“I can’t believe it’s that Qin Lie guy again,” Du Xiangyang muttered.

As he furrowed his brows, he chose to watch from the sidelines. He did not want to get himself into that mess.

On another side directly opposite of Du Xiangyang’s current position, Illusory Demon Sect’s Xue Moyan and five other girls were hiding behind an ancient tree’s leaves like lightweight birds.

They were also seriously observing the situation.

“It’s actually that guy!” The poisonous tendrils in Pan Qianqian’s eyes had already seeped to the pupils. Her face was ashen, and she appeared to be in low spirits, “Why has he gotten into a fight with the Xiahou and Lin Family?”

“Su Yan is standing beside Ye Yihao. This means that the three great families have joined forces with Black Voodoo Cult. I knew this would happen even before I came in.” Xue Moyan’s clear eyes were immediately filled with a cold, murderous intent the moment she saw the martial practitioners of the three great families from Heavenly Calamity Continent.

Although she knew that Blood Fiend Sect’s destruction was largely due to Jiang Zhuzhe, she also knew that the three former vassal forces of Blood Fiend Sect, the Xiahou Family, Lin Family, and Su Family had also played a definite role in it as well.

In fact, her hatred and anger towards the three great families were even greater than her hatred and anger towards Jiang Zhuzhe.

“Sister Xue, what should we do?” Huang Zhuli asked softly.

“We must seek out Ye Yihao and ask for the voodoo poison antidote. However, we can just wait and observe for now.”

The five Illusory Demon Sect girls nodded lightly and grew quiet, their bright eyes widening as they stared at the intense battle.

“Quick, look at that guy!” Pan Qianqian pointed at Qin Lie.

The girls’ gazes immediately focused onto Qin Lie, their eyes sparkling.

“He’s about to die,” Huang Zhuli suddenly said in a soft tone.

At this moment, the quartet who had been unable to truly severely injure Qin Lie suddenly made a massive breakthrough.

The Lin Family martial practitioner called Lin Yenian wielded his Rainbow Sound Sword as he rushed towards Qin Lie as if intending to fight Qin Lie in close combat.

This was exactly what Qin Lie had been hoping for, so he allowed Lin Yenian to get close to him. When Lin Yenian came close to him, Qin Lie abruptly charged and snatched Lin Yenian’s sword right out his grip.

He clearly did not care about Lin Yenian’s attack at all!

Qin Lie was extremely confident with his powerful physique. He was sure that there was nothing Lin Yenian could do which would severely injure him as long as Lin Yenian wasn’t using the Rainbow Sound Sword.

However, what he did not expect was for Lin Yenian to directly give up his sword!

While Qin Lie snatched the Rainbow Sound Sword, Lin Yenian used a strange footwork technique to suddenly slip from his armpits to his back like a slippery mud fish.

Before he could react, Lin Yenian abruptly jumped onto him from

the back and tightly gripped his shoulders. With his entire body pushing down from Qin Lie's back, he used every bit of his remaining strength to yell, "Xiahou Tai! Stab his forehead with the Frost Bone Thorn and crush his head directly! Quickly take him out!"

Lin Yenian's arms were tattooed with an extremely bizarre and strange, greenish brown vine picture.

While the vines on his arms grew madly, a dark green wood spirit energy gushed out from both his arms, causing them to become unbelievably tenacious and filled with great gripping power as if his arms had turned into a ten thousand year old vine demon. .

At the same time, Lin Yenian's legs tightened around Qin Lie's with the same method.

They felt just like two thick vines.

Even with Qin Lie's abnormal physique and strength, he wasn't able to struggle out of Lin Yenian's grip.

Although he had gripped Lin Yenian's Rainbow Sound Sword, he wasn't able to find a good angle at all to reverse stab the sword at Lin Yenian, who was sticking to his back like glue, to force him off his back.

Lin Yenian himself was extremely cunning. After he hid himself behind Qin Lie, he curled himself up and hid his head under the

Qin Lie's nape.

This foiled Qin Lie's thoughts of stabbing Lin Yenian's head with the Rainbow Sound Sword as well.

So Qin Lie channeled the Frost Art and filled his body with an intense frost energy, but Lin Yenian grit his teeth and endured it without a sound.

Then, Qin Lie unleashed Heavenly Thunder Eradication and blasted bolts of lightning into Lin Yenian's body from his back behind his heart.

However, Lin Yenian was a middle stage Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner after all. He had immense spirit energy, and thus both the frost and lightning energies were both entangled by the wood spirit energy upon entering into his body. Consequently, Qin Lie wasn't able to severely injure him in a short period of time.

As for the power of earth, it was good for defending, but no so much for offense. It would similarly be ineffective against Lin Yenian.

The Blood Spirit Art techniques could only be unleashed when he was directly facing Lin Yenian , so he wasn't able to explode Lin Yenian to death in an instant either.

Qin Lie howled and struggled madly as he angrily grit his teeth, but he wasn't able to find a way to quickly escape Lin Yenian's

grasp.

“”Yenian! Well done! Just hold on for a bit longer! I’m coming!”

Xiahou Tai, who wielded the Frost Bone Thorn, was the closest to Qin Lie. He laughed savagely as he flew towards Qin Lie.

He only needed to stab forward with the Frost Bone Thorn and pierce Qin Lie’s forehead while Qin Lie was immobilized by Lin Yenian to immediately kill him.

“He’s dead.”

This was the unanimous thought of the six Illusory Demon Sect girls and Du Xiangyang.

After all, they themselves would not have been able to escape Qin Lie’s predicament had they been in his position.

This was pretty much a situation of certain death.

Illusory Demon Sect’s Huang Zhuli had even turned her head away to observe Chu Li.

She believed that Qin Lie’s ending was already decided.

“Ah!” It was at this moment she heard Pan Qianqian crying out,

“This person, this person... is so ruthless! He’s even so ruthless towards himself!”

Huang Zhuli abruptly turned back towards Qin Lie and shuddered as tremendous shock surged into her eyes.

“Holy shit! What a man! What a true man!” Du Xiangyang abruptly cried out in an odd tone.

Just as Xiahou Tai had been about to reach him, Qin Lie had grit his teeth and resolutely stabbed the Rainbow Sound Sword at the spot beneath his heart.

He actually pierced his own body with that strike!

The tip of the Rainbow Sound Sword pierced through his body, coming out from his lungs and continuing forwards!

It directly pierced right through Lin Ye’s neck curled up behind him.

It was a one hit kill!

At a glance, the Rainbow Sound Sword was like the wooden pole of a sugar coated Chinese hawthorn fruit stringing both Lin Yenian and him together as one.

Qin Lie was severely injured, but at least he was still alive.

However, Lin Yenian had perished on the spot!

Chapter 443: Trading Injury For Life!

Du Xiangyang and the six Illusory Demon Sect girls who were hiding in the shadows and observing all cried out at once.

A hint of shock even emerged on Luo Chen's cold face as his eyebrows wrinkled.

He was also shocked by Qin Lie's ferocity.

By mutilating himself, Qin Lie had broken free from this sure death scenario, even though it had caused him some grievous injuries!

Right now, the thin and sharp Rainbow Sound Sword was still stringing Qin Lie together with Lin Yenian. Although Qin Lie was screaming harshly, Lin Yenian had drawn his last breath.

"Fearsome!" Du Xiangyang thought silently.

Xue Moyan's clear eyes also shone with a hint of admiration as she spoke softly, "A truly fearsome person should look like him. They must not only be cruel to their enemies, but also cruel to themselves. Such people generally have hearts and minds far more tenacious than others, will also be the ones who survive in the endwhen fighting against an opponent of equal strength."

Pan Qianqian and the other Illusory Demon Sect girls all nodded lightly. Their bright eyes all shined with the light of shock and

fear.

They were all intimidated by Qin Lie.

“Thank goodness I was smart enough to avoid provoking this fellow any further. Otherwise, I would’ve met with severe consequences. This lunatic, this fellow is a true lunatic. I must avoid him in the future...” Du Xiangyang silently made up his mind.

“Yenian!”

The three Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners couldn’t help but scream as their eyes became bloodshot upon seeing his instant death.

Even Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing’s pupils shrank as cold murderous intent filled their faces.

They were growing restless.

At this moment, Luo Chen’s sword abruptly overflowed with a lonely, sharp, and terrifying sword intent.

Many sword beams shot out of the tip of his sword like rays of light flying towards the sky.

With a pair of narrowed eyes and a straight back, Luo Chen was

like an unsheathed sword gleaming with incredible sharpness.

“Your opponent is me.”

The dozen or so sword beams that had just flown up into the clouds abruptly shot downwards from the sky once more like a rain of meteors.

Their targets were none other than Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing!

The several dozens sword beams were all filled with a dense, flowing sword intent. The two felt like a sword that vaguely enveloped them.

Thus, Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing’s pressure immediately increased, forcing them to no longer put their attention on Qin Lie. They immediately focused all of their strength on Luo Chen.

At this critical moment, Luo Chen, who had been clashing head to head against Qin Lie and attempting to kill him, actually changed his target and locked onto Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing once more.

“Kill him! He has already severely injured himself!” Xiahou Tai roared angrily.

Like a maddened wild beast, Xiahou Tai swung his Frost Bone Thorn and generated a sky full of white, boney thorns which

whistled towards Qin Lie like a rain of arrows.

The other two martial practitioners who were slightly further away from Qin Lie also controlled their respective Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers and unleashed all of their power toward Qin Lie.

Qin Lie, who had pierced his own lung abruptly shook and blasted Lin Yenian off his back.

He pulled out the Rainbow Sound Sword from his chest, spraying blood, which landed on the floor like bright, bloody flowers, everywhere.

“Crack crack!”

The second the Rainbow Sound Sword was pulled out, his wounds were quickly encased in ice as he used the Frost Art to suppress his wounds temporarily.

“AHHHHHHH!”

While roaring angrily, Qin Lie gripped the Astral Thunder Hammer with his right hand and Lin Yenian’s Rainbow Sound Sword with his left hand as he unleashed a terrific and heavy aura from his body.

He flew tens of meter into the air like a human tank and brutally charged head on towards Xiahou Tai.

“Boom!”

The second the Astral Thunder Hammer was swung, it formed several thunderous stars that exploded beside Xiahou Tai.

The explosions were so fierce that Xiahou Tai was frightened.

Xiahou Tai had not missed a single detail when Qin Lie had cruelly and brutally dispatched Lin Yenian. Thus, he now had a deep recognition towards Qin Lie’s madness and brutality.

He was now deeply wary of Qin Lie and felt a hint of fear towards him.

This fear prevented him from unleashing his full strength, and prevented him from steeling himself and fighting against Qin Lie with his life on the line.

“Fight harder!” Xiahou Tai yelled.

The other two martial practitioners, who were on Qin Lie’s left and right, were still a distance away from Qin Lie and unable to arrive instantly.

But their spirit artifacts could!

“Whoosh! Whoosh!”

The Purple Flame Wheel burning with purple flames and the Seven Bird Tail Feathers that had seemingly transformed into a beautiful peacock charged towards Qin Lie even faster than the two martial practitioners.

Thus, Xiahou Tai's courage was abruptly bolstered, but in the next moment, fear quickly reappeared in his eyes once more!

Qin Lie actually ignored both the Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers and simply glared at him with his scarlet eyes which were filled with infinite killing intent.

Xiahou Tai felt as if he was being watched by a savage primitive beast.

"Pop pop pop pop!"

The boney white thorns of the Frost Bone Thorns and the Astral Thunder Hammer's astral thunder exploded against each other.

Thunder and lightning roared in the area where he and Qin Lie were battling as countless sparks scattered towards the surroundings and countless boney white thorns vanished, one after the other.

Qin Lie, who was descending from the sky, looked like he would charge right into Xiahou Tai in the next moment.

It was at this moment that the Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers simultaneously rammed into Qin Lie's left and right shoulders.

The brown yellow halo on Qin Lie's figure instantly shattered and turned into many fragments of scattered light.

A portion of the thin ice surrounding his shoulders had also stabbed into his own flesh, tearing both flesh and blood.

"Pfft!"

Qin Lie even had to spit out a mouthful of blood.

His charging figure abruptly wobbled as if he was about to drop out of his mad charge towards Xiahou Tai.

Xiahou Tai looked overjoyed by the sight as he stabbed forward with the Frost Bone Thorn in his hand towards Qin Lie's forehead again.

"No matter how crazy or brutal you are, you cannot escape death!" Xiahou Tai laughed madly.

"I will have you die ahead of me!" Qin Lie roared savagely.

While wobbling, he fell unsteadily towards Xiahou Tai without the staunch and brutal aura from before. After the Purple Flame

Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers had rammed into him, his figure looked as light as a falling leaf, giving off the feeling that a single breeze could blow him away.

However, he still swung the Astral Thunder Hammer in his right hand towards Xiahou Tai.

“Bang!”

Sparks flew everywhere as the Frost Bone Thorn and Astral Thunder Hammer clashed against each other.

Xiahou Tai’s figure shook once under the impact.

However, as he knew very well that Qin Lie had a powerful physique and a great close combat power, Xiahou Tai ignored the shaking of his body and got ready to retreat.

He wanted to wait for the next attacks of the Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers.

Right now, after being rammed by the Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers, Qin Lie’s unsteady, stumbling figure was falling towards Xiahou Tai.

“Clang! Clang!”

When the two came close to each other, Qin Lie swung the Astral

Thunder Hammer in his hand continuously against the Frost Bone Thorn, causing many sparks to scatter through the sky.

“Whoosh!”

Qin Lie finally landed on the ground and noticed Xiahou Tai’s intent to retreat from the battle. Abruptly, his expression grew grim with determination.

Right now, he was almost within reach of Xiahou Tai. Sparks flew everywhere between the two as the great waves of energy from their spirit artifacts clashed against one another.

A brutal energy was about to form between the duo and push them away.

This was exactly what Xiahou Tai was hoping for.

He wasn’t good at close quarter combat and his physique was far inferior to Qin Lie. He had no intention of getting too close to Qin Lie!

The second he managed to pull away and start a new round of attacks with the other two people, Qin Lie would be dead for sure!

“You can’t leave!” Qin Lie laughed sinisterly.

“How can you possibly stop me?” Xiahou Tai also laughed madly.

Right now, the spirit energy that was becoming increasingly stronger in between the two continuously pushed them apart.

As long as their spirit artifacts continued to clash against each other and cause greater and greater spirit energy shockwaves, Xiahou Tai believed that Qin Lie could not do anything to him.

However, before Xiahou Tai could react, Qin Lie's foot abruptly stepped out like lightning just as he was about to be blown away.

He had stepped directly onto Xiahou Tai's foot.

Qin Lie had stepped fiercely onto Xiahou Tai's right foot with his left foot!

"Swoosh!"

At the same time, Qin Lie threw out the Rainbow Sound Sword that had snapped in half like lightning.

The broken Rainbow Sound Sword was now like a dagger, and about an arm's length. It first penetrated through Qin Lie's foot before nailing his left foot and Xiahou Tai's right foot together.

This was almost exactly the same tactic he used to kill Lin Yenian!

He first stepped onto Xiahou Tai's foot with his own so that he would not be able to pull free immediately.

Then, he stabbed his own leg with the broken Rainbow Sound Sword and nailed his and Xiaohou Tai's feet into the ground!

"AHHH!"

Xiahou Tai immediately let out a bloodcurdling scream.

"Hehe, your physique is so much weaker than mine. I can bleed more and endure more pain, and thus am able to exchange one leg for your life!" Qin Lie laughed madly and savagely, "It is very much worth it!"

Xiahou Tai screamed in terrible pain as they were both blasted by the rampant spirit energy exploding between them.

Qin Lie forcefully endured it all like a rock even as his chest was torn into bloody pieces by the bone thorn.

As for Xiahou Tai, he failed to escape in time and had astral thunder entering his chest, causing the bones in his entire body to explode like fried beans.

Blood poured incessantly out of Xiahou Tai's mouth. He hadn't been able to escape at first notice and had endured the full brunt of the thunderous explosion created by Qin Lie's Astral Thunder Hammer. As a result, he died horribly.

Meanwhile, Qin Lie relied on his powerful physique to forcibly endure the Frost Bone Thorn attacks. But as a result, his chest was badly mangled and he had broken more than just a bone.

But Qin Lie had survived yet again.

Xiahou Tai was the one who had followed Lin Yenian's footsteps and been forcibly killed.

Di Xiangyang and the six Illusory Demon Sect girls who were hiding in the forest were once again shocked by the series of events.

"The man is literally more brutal than a beast!"

"He is a savage beast wearing human skin!"

"He is a lunatic, an utter and complete lunatic! He is willing to sacrifice anything and even mutilate himself without any hesitation to kill his enemy! He is the most brutal and terrifying kind of opponent to face!"

"Mm. He is only at the early stage of Netherpassage Realm, but he has managed to kill two martial practitioners at the middle stage of Netherpassage Realm in this way!"

"It is simply too brutal!"

“I can’t believe it. Did he actually tell Chu Li not to clash against us earlier? I thought he was just cowardly and afraid of going up against us. I thought he was afraid of our strength and identity. Thank goodness he didn’t fight us earlier. When this guy goes crazy, he’s even scarier than Chu Li!”

When the six Illusory Demon Sect girls recalled what had happened earlier, fearful, yet thankful looks appeared on all of their faces.

—They were thankful that Qin Lie hadn’t minded their accusations earlier.

Chapter 444: Accumulation Pill

“Pfft!”

A mouthful of blood forced its way out of Qin Lie’s mouth once more.

Although their physical bodies were not as tough, and their spirit arts were not as varied and refined as his, Lin Yenian and Xiahou Tai were both still martial practitioners at the middle stage of Netherpassage Realm, which was a full cultivation level above him. As a result, their combat experience and use of strength were not in any way weaker than him.

The reason he was able to kill both of them was purely because of his ruthlessness and his willingness to risk his own life for theirs!

As of now, he had traded heavy injuries for both Lin Yenian and Xiahou Tai’s deaths. His lungs and one of his legs were pierced through by his own hands by using the Rainbow Sound Sword, and his chest had suffered from the Frost Bone Thorn’s terrific blow.

He was completely drenched in blood, as if he was born a blood man. His appearance was miserable and sorry to the max.

It seemed that no extra push was needed before he himself would simply falter and collapse.

But at least for right now, he was still standing there tenaciously.

His foot was still stepping on Xiahou Tai's foot, and both of their feet were still strung together by a broken Rainbow Sound Sword.

The remaining two martial practitioners who had been attacking him together all this time were in fact not far away from Qin Lie, and were still capable of starting a new wave of attacks.

However, for some reason or another, the duo had surprisingly become frozen where they stood, and did not attempt kill Qin Lie while he was heavily injured.

This was because the duo were terrified by Qin Lie's methods!

They were both deeply frightened by both Qin Lie's brutality and valiantness. They couldn't shake off the feeling that they would turn into miserable corpses just like Lin Yenian and Xiahou Tai if they attacked him immediately.

That was why they had hesitated.

"Kill him! Kill him!" Xiahou Yuan's roar resounded at an appropriate time.

When the two hesitating martial practitioners had heard his roar, they immediately woke up from their dilemma.

The duo matched eyes and steeled themselves once more.

“Whoosh! Whoosh!”

The Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Bird Tail Feathers simultaneously roared once more as they began unleashing a terrific amount of spirit energy.

The Purple Flame Wheel spun madly in midair like a burning disc. A terrific flame that could extinguish the very soul was unleashed by the Purple Flame Wheel, purple, bright-colored and bizarre flames which blossomed on the on the disc like many blossoming, purple demonic flowers.

Meanwhile, the Seven Birds Tail Feathers transformed into a rainbow peacock about a dozen or so meters long. Its entire body sparkled with the colors of the rainbow, and when it flapped its wings, it released a cold and harsh wind.

Neither martial practitioners dared to go too close to Qin Lie. They both only dared to remotely control their spirit artifacts from afar with their True Souls as they tried to minimise the danger to their own lives while they attempted to kill Qin Lie.

Qin Lie grabbed the broken Rainbow Sound Sword as he channeled wisps of frost energy through it to his hurting leg, swiftly decreasing the pain.

It was a lot harder for him to move agilely due to this leg injury.

So he gave up on trying at all and just sat down on the spot.

He secretly summoned the Blood Spirit Art, ready to expose its existence at this critical moment to catch the remaining two off guard and kill them with it.

He was ready to throw everything away.

“Zhao Xuan! Zhang Chendong! What are you waiting for?”

At this moment, Luo Chen, who was equally bathed in blood and setting off a gigantic sword storm suddenly yelled harshly.

After they were poisoned by the voodoo poison, attacked together by Xiahou Family and Lin Family, and scattered by Qin Lie’s Terminator Profound Bombs, Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong had finally returned after staying away from the battlefield for a long while.

The moment they appeared and heard Luo Chen’s yell, they subconsciously charged over to help Luo Chen deal with Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing.

“Get out of the way!” Luo Chen yelled with a frigid expression as he formed many sword rainbows amidst the giant sword storm, “I do not need your help! Kill the rest of the Xiahou and Lin Family clansmen!”

The gigantic sword storm was like a tornado that could destroy

any hard objects in the world as it travelled on the ground.

The earth, the rocks, the wood and even the air itself were crushed to bits by the ball-shaped sword storm.

Right now, Luo Chen's eyes were looking at the remaining two Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners.

He was staring right at the martial practitioners who were remote controlling the Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers to kill Qin Lie.

"This..."

Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong froze.

They both saw the doubt in each other's eyes.

Since Sea Moon Island, the moment Luo Chen learned of Qin Lie's existence, he had been directing his animosity at Qin Lie at every corner.

When Qin Lie was ready to leave Sea Moon Island by using the spatial teleportation formation, it was he who stepped out and stopped Qin Lie's footsteps, forcing Qin Lie to surrender the blank tombstone.

Even then, he wasn't ready to let things end there, and had even

promised Blue Star Association's president that he would kill Qin Lie in the Graveyard of the Gods.

Zhao Xuan did not know what kind of hatred existed between Luo Chen and Qin Lie, but they knew that Luo Chen was extremely disgusted by Qin Lie and had every intention of killing the man.

But right now, Luo Chen's instruction was clearly and aid to Qin Lie. This caused them to be both confused and puzzled, to the point where they even thought that they had understood Luo Chen's meaning wrongly.

That was why they froze and did not act immediately, wanting to further confirm Luo Chen's intention once more.

It was at this moment Luo Chen said yet again, "I must kill that person with my own hands!"

He had his own pride!

It was a pride neither Zhao Xuan nor Zhang Chendong could understand!

In his entire life, Li Mu was the only one who humiliated, looked down and even ignored him.

Li Mu said that he wasn't qualified to become his disciple, but Qin Lie was the person Li Mu acknowledged as half his disciple.

Therefore, he had to kill Qin Lie with his hands and decapitate him with his own sword. Only then he would be able to prove Li Mu wrong and continue to protect his own pride!

That was why Qin Lie must live!

Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong did not understand Luo Chen's pride but they did understand his words. Therefore, they no longer hesitated and charged towards the remaining two Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners.

The duo who was going to kill Qin Lie while he was heavily injured lost their best chance to do so due to Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong's interference.

After killing Lin Yenian and Xiahou Tai in a row, thanks to Luo Chen siphoning the pressure from Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing, thanks to Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong's interference, Qin Lie actually had some free time to himself now.

No one had the leisure to deal with him.

Miraculously, he had a moment's leisure to enjoy while many sides were battling each other intensely in this chaotic area.

Not daring to waste even a single moment, he hastily took out the spirit stones and recovered in secret while he was still seated at the same spot. At the same time, he opened his eyes and examined his

surroundings closely in case a new change was to occur. He used the Blood Spirit Art to heal his injuries and suppress the pain of his wounds, stabilizing them so that they would not worsen further.

It was at this moment a white jade porcelain bottle wrapped in orange flames suddenly flew out of a thick bush, looking to land on top of his head.

Qin Lie's expression changed like he had encountered a mortal enemy, and got himself ready to act at any moment.

"This is the Profound Grade Six Accumulation Pill. It helps heals the physical body's wounds and is extremely beneficial to the user's heart and lungs. This pill isn't too precious but it is very suitable for the injuries you're suffering from right now." A lazy voice rang from the bush. It was none other than Du Xiangyang.

There's someone there!" The Illusory Demon Sect girls hurriedly looked in Du Xiangyang's direction the moment they heard him speak.

Worldly spirit energy did not exist inside the Graveyard of the Gods. This caused the hearing of a martial practitioner's True Soul to become greatly weakened.

Du Xiangyang and the Illusory Demon Sect girls were hiding at different places, and they were a little far apart from each other. That was why they had not realized each other's existences.

It was only until Du Xiangyang had spoken up on his own and appeared that Xue Moyan and the others realized that someone was even there earlier than they were.

“You don’t seem like a kind person.” Qin Lie’s expression was dark as he stared at the fire wrapped bottle landing slowly and stably in front of him.

The fire automatically flew away after putting down the white porcelain bottle, not hanging around for even a second longer.

“This is a show of good will.” Du Xiangyang smiled, “Back at the Land of Fire, it was I who acted too rudely and provoked a madman like you. However, I have avoided you since, and I was the one who told you that your friend was poisoned by the voodoo poison. I know that you are in a hurry to take revenge from Ye Yihao, and that you must have managed to find your friend through the information I give you. Now that I think about it, you actually owe me one…”

Qin Lie snorted.

“The Accumulation Pill is right in front of you. It is up to you whether to use it. I am here only as a bystander. It’s not as if I or a friend of mine got inflicted with the voodoo poison so all this has nothing to do with me.” Du Xiangyang said leisurely.

Qin Lie thought with a darkened face before picking up the white porcelain bottle in front of him. After pulling its stopper and sniffing it once, he swallowed all five Accumulation Pills inside the

bottle and said indifferently, “From this point onwards, the grudges between you and I are completely settled.”

Du Xiangyang let out a bitter laughter and said casually, “As long as you don’t look for me with trouble in mind in the future. Let’s just say that I’m scared of you.”

Qin Lie narrowed his eyes and did not answer him. Instead, he used his heart and sensed the medicinal powers of the Accumulation Pills.

The second the five Accumulation Pills had entered his stomach, he immediately forced them to spread out with his powers. Five wisps of gentle and nurturing medicinal energy were pulled towards his heart, lungs, and leg like five streams of warmth.

The pain of the these two injuries immediately lessened quite a bit.

This caused his eyes to lit up. He realized that Du Xiangyang’s gift really was incredibly effective to his injuries.

Therefore, he split out a wisp of consciousness and guided the medicinal energies of the Accumulation Pills to heal his two wounds.

However, his eyes were still focused onto Chu Li and Ye Yihao. He secretly paid attention to the three Fire Qilin blood essences, not daring to relax for even a second.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Chu Li was like a star that flashed non-stop amidst the galaxy as he dodged the Black Voodoo Cult and Su Family’s martial practitioners attacks. He was so swift that it was almost impossible to catch his figure with one’s eyes.

Two out of the six martial practitioners who surrounded Chu Li had already died horribly under his retaliations. They were both Su Family martial practitioners.

Chu Li’s spirit armor looked like it was woven from many stars. It was dazzling, magical, and filled with a grandiose and beautiful aura of the stars.

From time to time, his body would shake and stars would abruptly shot out of his body.

Like a porcupine’s needles, the stars would shoot everywhere with terrific force behind them.

The explosive power of the stars caused his attackers to be bitter beyond words. It forced them to cease their attacks and surrender their greatest defenses to block the attack.

Chu Li did not seem to have fallen into a disadvantageous position despite fighting six martial practitioners on his own and killing two of them already.

If Ye Yihao and Su Yan wasn't here, then Qin Lie would even think highly of his position and believe that he would quickly secure victory.

Unfortunately, Ye Yihao still hadn't acted and simply watched from the sidelines coolly all this time.

It was as if everything was proceeding according to his plans.

Chapter 445: Soul Control

Ye Yihao was calm and collected.

Su Yan was gritting her teeth. Half of her beautiful face was covered in blood, greatly damaging her beauty.

If Ye Yihao hadn't stopped her with a smile, she would've charged towards Chu Li and destroyed him.

Right now, Qin Lie had earned a brief moment as he used the Accumulation Pills to heal himself and observed Chu Li's battle with narrowed eyes.

Accumulation Pills were not exceptionally rare but they had an incredible healing effect on his wounds' stability and recovery.

He began to channel the Blood Spirit Art in secret.

"Eh?" He couldn't help but exclaim softly in his heart.

To his surprise, he discovered that while he was utilizing the Blood Spirit Art and summoning the power of blood, the blood spirit energy in his blood vessels actually converged onto the two wounds on their own.

Traces and wisps of refined blood energy quickly converged where his body was injured.

The blood spirit energy and the medicinal energy of the Accumulation Pills were mingled in one another as they began to heal his wounds through an extraordinary method.

When he used his mind to probe his wounds, he even felt that his pierced lung and foot were recovering little by little!

He subconsciously lowered his head to look.

After the frost energy around his chest had dissipated, he discovered that his wound was slowly forming a scab.

The same was happening to his legs as well.

The formation of the scab meant that his wounds were healing and stabilizing swiftly.

This caused him no small measure of surprise.

“Accumulation Pills shouldn’t be this powerful. It was after all just a profound grade pill. There’s no way it can achieve such a powerful healing effect.” Qin Lie thought in silence before his eyes suddenly lit up, “The Blood Spirit Art! The refined blood can swiftly recover a physical body’s wounds. Although my lifeblood essences aren’t around, the effects still happened when the energy in my blood flowed to the wounds! Blood energy is also a kind of life energy, and it is capable of healing the heavy injuries of one’s corporeal body!”

He suddenly understood.

He thought of the way to form one's lifeblood essences recorded in the half volume of the Blood Codex. He recalled one of the many miraculous uses of the lifeblood essences—the healing of the heavy injuries of one's mortal body!

Therefore, he began operating the Blood Spirit Art with even greater concentration than before, using the energy contained inside his blood to nurture his wound and increase the rate of recovery.

His wounds swiftly stabilized.

"Sister Xue, what do we do now?"

On the other side, a Illusory Demon Sect girl subconsciously looked towards Xue Moyan and asked softly.

Xue Moyan looked through the bushes at the faraway battle with clear eyes. She said with a soft voice and calm expression, "Let's wait some more."

She was not in a hurry. She knew that it was imperative to be calm the more critical the situation was.

"Don't worry, Qianqian. I have two voodoo insects in my hands.

We have the ability to bargain with Ye Yihao.” Xue Moyan said.

“Mm. I believe that Sister Xue will save my life.” Pan Qianqian said obediently.

“Big Brother Ye, why do you not let me act? Why... aren’t you getting anxious?” Su Yan looked towards Ye Yihao.

Ye Yihao’s eyes were indifferent. From the beginning to the end, he had just been standing there and giving off a feeling of enigma. She did not know how she should cooperate with him, “More and more people would notice the activity going on around here and come to us. When more people came and found out that you are poisoning the people with the voodoo poison, I’m afraid that they will...”

“Attack me en masse?” Ye Yihao smiled coldly.

“That is the obvious outcome.” Su Yan said worriedly.

“In fact, the reason I haven’t acted all this time is to wait for these people to come!” Ye Yihao said with a dark and cruel grin, “Moreover, you don’t know that there are already quite a lot of people who are hiding around us.”

His cold, dark eyes couldn’t help but gaze towards where the Illusory Demon Sect girls were hiding. It was as if he had seen through their hiding spot already.

“Ah?” Su Yan cried out in surprise.

She grew even more confused as to what Ye Yihao was trying to do.

“There is no need for you to bother with Chu Li. Go there first.” He pointed a finger at Qin Lie and Luo Chen before instructing indifferently, “Take care of those troubles first. You are not needed here; someone else will handle him. Chu Li… is dead for sure!”

“This…” Su Yan was both shocked and confused.

Ye Yihao did not explain anything.

He suddenly sat down on the ground.

Under Su Yan’s confused gaze, Ye Yihao tore away the clothes before his heart and revealed the half translucent chest.

Su Yan looked deeply at the spot.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen was encircled around Ye Yihao’s heart at the half translucent chest area. Its body thumped along with his heartbeat, expanding and contracting rapidly. Its many legs were sunk deep into Ye Yihao’s blood vessels and nerves like sharp blades, seemingly connected to his entire body.

It was at that moment the Eight-winged Centipede Queen

abruptly howled and pierced through Ye Yihao's half translucent chest and bore out under Su Yan's shocked gaze.

While howling harshly, it abruptly floated above Ye Yihao's head and stayed suspended above his hair.

Many invisible soul threads flew out of Ye Yihao's temples and become connected with the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's hundreds of feet.

An eerie aura of connecting souls were unleashed from his and the mother insect's body, causing people to feel anxious and worried.

"Zzz zzz zzz!"

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen suspended above his head suddenly howled towards the sky. The half wings that were as black as the reaper's blade flapped continuously.

"Ouch!"

"Ah!"

"Something's invading my mind!"

"……"

For a time, every person that was in hiding began to hug their heads and scream. Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong were also included in that group.

Their eyes instantly became distant, and this bewilderment did not last for long before their eyes suddenly shone with an inhuman, cold and dark light.

They felt as dead as corpses.

“Qianqian!” Xue Moyan’s shocked cries rang at the same time.

The pure and intellectual gleam in Pan Qianqian’s eyes were completely gone. Poisoned by the voodoo poison, what replaced that light was a cold and merciless expression that struck fear into people’s heart.

Ignoring Xue Moyan’s obstruction, Pan Qianqian abruptly ran out of the bushes and headed towards Ye Yihao like lightning.

While Xue Moyan was crying aloud, five other figures had also run out from the surrounding large forest.

Those people were dressed in the clothing of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect. Their eyes were covered in black tendrils, and their expression were cold and merciless.

They were all poisoned by the voodoo poison!

Even Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong had their minds robbed away by the harsh cry and began charging towards Ye Yihao's direction.

Pan Xuanxuan, Zhao Xuan and eight other figures quickly arrived at Ye Yihao's location before attacking Chu Li without the slightest hesitation.

"Have your Su family members depart the battle." Ye Yihao chuckled strangely while instructing.

The obvious light of shock shone from Su Yan's eyes.

In just ten short seconds, Ye Yihao had suddenly joined the fray and turned the entire situation on its head.

Ye Yihao actually could control the martial practitioners who were poisoned by the voodoo poison directly through the Eight-winged Centipede Queen!

As Pan Qianqian and another six people charged out, people began to emerge one after another from the forests that weren't flattened by the explosions yet. The people in hiding were exposed all at once!

Since there was no worldly spirit energy in this place, every martial practitioner's senses had been limited greatly. No one could notice the surrounding lives and souls around them.

Du Xiangyang and Illusory Demon Sect's Xue Moyan were not too far apart form each other, but before Du Xiangyang had opened his mouth, Xue Moyan did not kow that Du Xiangyang was hiding there either.

However, even if the others couldn't, Ye Yihao could.

Through the Eight-winged Centipede Queen, through the voodoo poison's aura, he could sense more clearly the people hiding around him.

He was stronger than everyone in this place based on this point alone. He could also retailor his plans to fit the arrival of the poisoned.

"Chu Li! One of the eight people who are attacking you madly now hails from Illusory Demon Sect, and another two from Heavenly Sword Mountain. The remaining five comes from Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. Heh, they have all been poisoned by the voodoo poison, so let's see if you're going to kill them or not!" Ye Yihao laughed madly, "While they would do everything in their power to kill you, the second you kill them the onlookers from Illusory Demon Sect, Heavenly Sword Mountain, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect would never help you and team up against you! Hahaha! Let's see how you choose this!"

He then looked at Su Yan once more, "Now, are you still worried that we would be teamed up against? Let me tell you this. Anyone

who is poisoned by the voodoo poison who dares show up within five kilometers of me would immediately have their True Souls and mind controlled by me through the mother insect. I can kill them immediately if I want to!”

Su Yan was incredibly shocked.

She finally understood why Ye Yihao hadn’t acted all this time.

This was because Ye Yihao did not need to do so at all. He wasn’t afraid about being teamed up against in the least.

On the contrary, he waited on his leisure for more people to come because he knew that some of these people would be poisoned by the voodoo poison.

These people would become Ye Yihao’s blades. Not only would he be able to borrow their hands to kill Chu Li, he could control the infected’s companions through them.

For example, Xue Moyan was one of them.

“Just stand there and watch. If you dare attack me, I can guarantee you that your poisoned companion will commit suicide in three seconds.” Ye Yihao stared at Xue Moyan who had revealed herself in the distance and laughed cheerfully.

A few Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners were included in Ye Yihao’s warning as well,

“If you do not wish your companion to die a horrible death then just stand there and watch! Haha, either they kill Chu Li, or Chu Li kills them! Heh, if Chu Li did kill them, what will you all do, I wonder?”

Xue Moyan and the other martial practitioners who were not poisoned wore dark and ugly expressions on their faces.

The reason they brought their poisoned companions was to cure them.

Judging from this, it was likely that they shared a good relationship with each other. The reason they rushed over was because they did not wish to see their companions die bit by bit.

Xue Moyan especially viewed all of her sisters with great importance. She treated Pan Qianqian as her sister, and she absolutely would not allow Pan Qianqian to die just like that.

She absolutely could not accept Chu Li killing Pan Qianqian either.

In this case, the groups of martial practitioners who had gathered over from all directions because of the rampant energy exposing Ye Yihao’s position in this place were unable to form a threat against Ye Yihao at all because of their controlled companions.

On the other hand, Ye Yihao could cause Chu Li to hesitate through the infected.

If Chu Li fought carefully and was unwilling to kill his attackers, then he might very well be killed by the infected after Ye Yihao had expended much of his strength through sheer numbers.

If he threw aside all caution and destroyed all of the infected around him, then Xue Moyan and the others would absolutely not ignore this act. At least half their hatred would be transferred to Chu Li instead.

In that case, not only would Chu Li not be able to obtain their assistance, he would have made some new enemies instead. He was one hundred percent going to die in this place.

The second Ye Yihao acted after observing from the sidelines all this time, he had managed to control the entire situation. This caused everyone to lean heavily onto the defensive and become fearful of acting carelessly.

……

Chapter 446: Paranoia

“They truly are from Black Voodoo Cult, trapping everyone with their belly full of evil schemes.”

Du Xiangyang scolded once and walked out from his hiding spot. Step by step, he shifted toward Qin Lie’s position with a relaxed expression.

He was alone, and he was not infected by the voodoo poison. His companions were safe as well.

Among the crowd, he was the only one who could ignore Ye Yihao’s threat completely.

This was because he had no weaknesses in Ye Yihao’s hand.

After Pan Qianqian had left their hiding spot, Xue Moyan and the four Illusory Demon Sect girls knew that they had been exposed and that there was no need to hide any longer. They walked out into the open one by one.

They walked towards Ye Yihao.

“You have two voodoo insects in my hands.” Xue Moyan tried to keep her tone calm as much as possible, “My objective here is very simple. Give me a drop of your mother insect’s blood, and I’ll return you two live voodoo insects.”

She sid not plan to play around with Ye Yihao any longer. She immediately showed him her bargaining chips and forced Ye Yihao to submit.

“I want Qianqian to be safe, or I will kill these two voodoo insects.” She took out the Illusory Demon Orb.

Inside the orb filled with many unpredictable illusions, two small sealed voodoo insects could be vaguely seen inside it. While raising the orb towards Ye Yihao, she said, “I know that the creation of the voodoo insect is not cheap. Every voodoo insect’s nurturement requires a portion of the mother insect’s blood and your own soul to raise them slowly. A drop of mother insect blood for your two voodoo insects should be a very worthwhile trade. What do you think?”

Ye Yihao’s dark eyes stared deeply at the Illusory Demon Orb and the two voodoo insects trapped inside it.

After a moment of pondering, he frowned and said, “If Chu Li is killed beforehand, and if your companion is still alive, then I can trade the voodoo insect with you. Just wait, wait until their battle has come to an end. In the meantime, you have better stand at the sidelines and do nothing.”

“You aren’t afraid that I will kill your two voodoo insects?” Xue Moyan’s face turned cold.

The voodoo insect is very important to me, but I believe that your companion is more important to you as compared to the

voodoo insects to me, am I correct?" Ye Yihao smiled coldly, "If the two voodoo insects die, I only need to spend some time and effort to have the mother insect breed more of them. At best, I will exhaust some blood and soul energy. However, the moment your companion is dead, I doubt you can revive her, can you?"

Xue Moyan suddenly fell silent.

Terrible murderous intent and chilliness shone from her clear, cold eyes. A while later, she said, "Let my companion go, and give me a drop of blood. I will put down the voodoo insects and leave immediately."

Ye Yihao chuckled and shook his head.

Xue Moyan sucked in a deep breath and stared at Pan Qianqian from afar. Gritting her teeth on the inside, she suddenly warned Chu Li, "If you kill Qianqian, I will not let you go!"

Her words meant that she had compromised.

Therefore, Ye Yihao let out a mad laughter.

"Go over there. Kill Luo Chen and Chu Li's companion!" he instructed Su Yan.

"Alright!" Su Yan completely lost her worries.

This was because she believed that Ye Yihao had taken control of the situation.

Therefore, she obediently headed towards Luo Chen and Qin Lie.

Qin Lie, who was recovering from his injuries with the Blood Spirit Art suddenly grew cautious when he saw Su Yan coming towards his directions.

The two Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners who were entangled by Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong had begun controlling the Purple Flame Wheel and Seven Birds Tail Feathers and gotten ready to attack him once more.

Su Yan's eyes looked at him from afar, looking like she would start her slaughter with his life first.

This forced him to stop recovering for the moment and get prepared for battle.

"I will buy you fifteen minutes' time." Suddenly, Du Xiangyang's voice rang from behind him.

Du Xiangyang actually stood still in front of him and stared lazily at Su Yan and the other two Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners, "You guys will have to get through me first."

Qin Lie suddenly froze.

With a frown, he said in a low tone, “Our grudge has been written off already.”

“I just want you to owe me a favor! What, you don’t allow that?” Du Xiangyang turned his head and let out a bright smile, “I want you, Qin Lie to owe me once!”

While he was speaking, Su Yan floated over and said, “Du Xiangyang, this has nothing to do with you. Do you really plan to interfere?”

“This had nothing to do with me.” Du Xiangyang smiled at Su Yan and the Xiahou and Lin Family martial practitioners. However, his expression abruptly darkened as he yelled, “But Qin Lie had come here holding the sword token of our Heavenly Sword Mountain! Luo Chen, Zhao Xuan, and Zhang Chendong are also holding our Heavenly Sword Mountain’s sword token! There are also a few Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners who had died horribly under the voodoo poison’s toxin!”

Su Yan looked startled.

She had researched Du Xiangyang before and knew that Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen did not mesh well with each other. Before the examination, he had even lost to Luo Chen, and participated in the examination as a loner.

She did not understand why Du Xiangyang would jump out at this critical moment and say something like this.

She couldn’t understand.

“It is because they belong to Heavenly Sword Mountain, and I am a Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner as well!” For once, Du Xiangyang had grown serious, “They cannot tolerate my existence, and view me as a thorn in their side. But they are still Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners! If you want to kill them in front of my eyes, then I forbid it! They represent the honor of Heavenly Sword Mountain, and I forbid anyone from humiliating Heavenly Sword Mountain’s honor!”

The moment he said this, blazing fire abruptly gushed madly from Du Xiangyang’s body.

The blazing flames had transformed into a fiery and colorful phoenix. While carrying a sky full of fire, it flew towards Su Yan and the other two martial practitioners with unmatchable grace and beauty.

At the same time, Du Xiangyang also swung his sword while his entire body was enveloped in flames.

The sky full of flames gushed towards Su Yan and enveloped them entirely.

Qin Lie suddenly froze.

A dispirited Luo Chen was attacked by both Xiahou Yuan and Lin

Dong and suffered a multitude of wounds while drenched in blood.

However, he was also looking at Du Xiangyang with an astonished expression.

He remembered clearly that he had to use every method he had during the competition to choose the core ringer of Heavenly Sword Mountain before he finally defeated Du Xiangyang with force, forcing him to submit the position of Heavenly Sword Mountain's representative.

He thought that any future encounters between Du Xiangyang and him since then inside the Trial would only end with one of them dead.

In fact, he was even planning to seek out an opportunity to eliminate Du Xiangyang so as to prevent him from causing problems for him if he survived the examination.

He never thought that Du Xiangyang would help him to resist against the enemy.

He never dreamed that the one he thought to be his biggest rival in Heavenly Sword Mountain would come out at a critical moment and fight the enemy in a do-or-die battle.

He realized that he never understood Du Xiangyang.

However, Qin Lie did, if only a little.

When he first saw him, this Du Xiangyang had suddenly attacked him with the reason, “if you’re going to die in someone else’s hands anyway and humiliate Heavenly Sword Mountain’s name, then I might as well take you out myself.” He had attempted to kill him from the moment he saw him.

However, after Du Xiangyang fought him and confirmed his strength, his attitude had suddenly experienced a great change.

After that, whenever Du Xiangyang ran into him once more, not only did he not provoke him on purpose, he would even get out of his way and not enter a deadlock with him.

Even the news that Song Tingyu was infected by the voodoo poison was informed by Du Xiangyang to him. That was how he managed to find Song Tingyu.

Otherwise, Song Tingyu would probably have died a long time ago.

Qin Lie finally understood. This Du Xiangyang was a true Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner! He was someone who would be proud of Heavenly Sword Mountain’s honor, and be shamed by Heavenly Sword Mountain’s humiliation!

The reason Du Xiangyang wanted to kill him at the beginning was simply because he thought that his realm was weak and would be easily eliminated by any martial practitioners of the other eight forces. He thought that Qin Lie would shame them and cause

humiliation for Heavenly Sword Mountain, which was why Du Xiangyang had acted to kill him without hesitation for Heavenly Sword Mountain's honor.

This time, Su Yan and the others wanted to kill him, and Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing had almost ground Luo Chen to death. He had jumped out once more with the excuse that he wanted Qin Lie to owe him a favor.

It was still for Heavenly Sword Mountain's honor!

Du Xiangyang prided himself as a Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner. He could not allow anyone to humiliate Heavenly Sword Mountain, and he and Luo Chen who wielded the Heavenly Sword Mountain sword token represented Heavenly Sword Mountain itself.

Therefore, Du Xiangyang had stood up resolutely despite the many oppositions.

This was because he wanted to protect Heavenly Sword Mountain's honor!

Qin Lie suddenly felt a trace of respect for Du Xiangyang. This was a slightly paranoid, slightly obsessed, and slightly unreasonable fellow.

This person hailed from Heavenly Sword Mountain.

The reason Heavenly Sword Mountain was able to rise from a nameless power all the way to a silver rank force in less than a thousand years was not due to anyone but paranoid people like Du Xiangyang!

It was people like Du Xiangyang who had supported Heavenly Sword Mountain!

“Alright! I admit this. I, Qin Lie, owe you Du Xiangyang a great favor!” Qin Lie suddenly yelled, “If in the future, Du Xiangyang requests me to return this favor, then I shall definitely return it!”

“Hahaha! As long as you remember!” Du Xiangyang laughed out loud with a cheerful expression.

Qin Lie no longer said anything else and instead sucked in a deep breath and sat down once more.

He no longer paid attention to Luo Chen in danger, Du Xiangyang who had barged into the battle, Chu Li attacked by the eight infected martial practitioners or Xue Moyan...

He only looked at Ye Yihao.

He knew better than anyone that the only breakthrough in this complete deadlock lay on Ye Yihao!

If he wished to breakthrough this conundrum, then he could only focus on Ye Yihao and cause the Eight-winged Centipede

Queen to lose control of the infected people!

Otherwise, every present martial practitioner and newcomer who could aid him in fighting Ye Yihao could only watch at the sidelines and do nothing. Some of them might even switch their target to Chu Li because the infected people were killed by Chu Li.

He had clearly recognized this situation.

While narrowing his eyes, he summoned the three lifeblood essences, the three scarlet blood with his mind. They had sneakily landed in the gray sand beside Ye Yihao due to his remote control earlier.

The three blood of the Fire Qilin lay very close to Ye Yihao!

Previously, Ye Yihao neither allow the Eight-winged Centipede Queen to fly out, nor built a connection with the mother insect. He had been extremely cautious to the point where Qin Lie was unable to find an opportunity to launch a sneak attack.

But now, Ye Yihao had ordered the Eight-winged Centipede Queen to float above his head, and with his True Soul built a connection with the mother insect to control the eight people infected by the voodoo poison. Naturally, he would not be able to protect himself.

It was also why he had ordered the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners who were fighting Chu Li earlier back to his side.

This was to prevent anyone else from suddenly attacking him.

In reality, when Ye Yihao was building a connection with the mother insect, he had purposely put some distance between him and the battle.

Right now, not only was he extremely far away from Chu Li, he was also very far away from Xue Moyan.

Naturally, Qin Lie was even further away from him since Chu Li, Xue Moyan and the others lay between him and Ye Yihao.

There were no one else besides Ye Yihao except a few Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners.

He could never imagine that Qin Lie, who was the furthest away from him had been plotting against him since the beginning of the battle; since the moment the Terminator Profound Bombs had caused a giant smokescreen of dust.

There was no one beside Ye Yihao.

But there were three blood droplets of the Fire Qilin lying in wait at the gray sand beside him.

Chapter 447: Breakthrough

Right now, Chu Li's body was rammed repeatedly by the spirit artifacts due to the fearless attacks of the eight infected practitioners.

Chu Li wobbled in midair while garbed in starlight. His expression was twisted into a sinister snarl, desperately trying to hold himself back.

He was holding back from killing the eight people outright.

He knew very well that this was Ye Yihao's devious scheme. The second he fell for it, not only would Xue Moyan and the other onlookers not help him, they would even turn on him.

Staring at Chu Li from afar, Qin Lie knew his predicament and that he would absolutely not go down quietly at the end.

He would kill all eight people to protect his own life.

From Chu Li's expression, Qin Lie knew that that moment was approaching closer and closer.

He understood that Chu Li would not be able to hold himself back much longer.

Beside him, Du Xiangyang was defending himself against Su Yan

and the two martial practitioners' attacks. While wielding a burning sword and commanding a fiery phoenix conjured from his fire spirit art, he did not manage to gain too great of an advantage from the three opponents.

Not far away, Luo Chen had long since been bloodied all over and looked to collapse at any moment under both Xiahou Yuan and Lin Dongxing's attacks.

Every other person who could threaten Ye Yihao were either wary of the consequences and thus did not dare to act recklessly, or in great danger themselves.

No one could afford a hand to kill Ye Yihao. They were either afraid to do so, or could not.

The situation was still in Ye Yihao's hands. He continued to observe the general situation coolly with a calm expression.

"Sister Xue..." an Illusory Demon Sect girl exclaimed softly with a look of worry.

The other four Illusory Demon Sect girls were equally wrought with worry. They were all looking anxiously at Pan Qianqian and did not know what to do.

"We wait. We wait and hope that an opportunity would present itself. Otherwise, otherwise we can only hope that Qianqian and the others can kill Chu Li." Xue Moyan sighed in her heart. There

were no better plans, so she had no choice but to wait and observe for an opportunity.

She did not dare to act recklessly.

If she dared to raise a hand against Ye Yihao, Pan Qianqian would die a horrible death instantly. This was absolutely not the results she was hoping for.

But she also knew that Chu Li was absolutely not the negotiable type of person. When he was ultimately forced to a dead end, he would definitely act to kill to protect his own life.

There was a huge likelihood that Pan Qianqian was going to be killed by Chu Li.

When that happened, even if she knew that it wasn't Chu Li's fault, there was no way she wouldn't feel a grudge towards Chu Li.

This would cause her to be unable to work seamlessly with Chu Li.

The other few Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners at the side were watching the battle with a cold eye just like her. They too had friends and brothers who were attacking Chu Li, which was why they did not dare to act recklessly.

They had the same idea as Xue Moyan.

They were hoping for a turning point that enabled them the opportunity to overturn this disadvantaged situation in one go.

They were all waiting quietly with hope in their hearts.

Suddenly, three scarlet blood that looked like bloodstones transformed into three beams of light and appeared from in front, behind and Ye Yihao's left side instantly.

They were so fast that it almost escaped a person's eyes!

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

The three bloody beams of light transformed almost instantly into three balls of Fire Qilin. They burned hotly with flames that reached the sky.

They charged straight at the Eight-winged Centipede Queen above Ye Yihao's head.

Beside Ye Yihao, the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners who had been guarding him closely all this time failed to react in time at all.

While they were all screaming, the three Fire Qilin flames had wrapped themselves around Ye Yihao and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen abruptly and burned them intensely.

“AHHHH!”

Ye Yihao’s expression changed for the first time as he howled at the sky. Dazzling dark green rings appeared around him and protected his body tightly.

However, there was only one Fire Qilin blood that was actually aimed at him.

The objective of the other two burning Fire Qilin flames was the Eight-winged Centipede Queen. While he was busy protecting himself, the two burning flames had already wrapped around the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and scorching it with wild and tremendous flames.

“Shriiiii!”

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen let out a shrill whistle that was like a sharp weapon that pierced fiercely into the people’s eardrums.

Everyone’s heads hurt so much that it was like it would break. Pan Qianqian, Zhao Xuan, Zhang Chendong and the others began bleeding dark blood from their eyes, nose, ears and their mouth in this instant, painting the infected group in an extremely scary light.

Surprisingly, although the eight people were bleeding from all

seven apertures, their mad attacks on Chu Li had also stopped all at once.

The dark and merciless light in their eyes swiftly faded away, and a perplexed look appeared on all of their faces. They actually seemed like they're regaining their rationality.

Because the Eight-winged Centipede Queen was being burned by the Fire Qilins, it wasn't able to focus its mind and combine its power with Ye Yihao's to continue control the infected people.

The eight people whose minds and souls who were controlled abruptly returned to normal as if a shackle had been released.

"Qianqian! Qianqian looked like she woke up!'

"Qianqian regained her reason!"

"This is great!"

"Third brother! Third brother, have you awakened?" On the other side, a Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioner was also yelling.

The light of bewilderment in a Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioner who was also infected by the voodoo poison faded. It was obvious that he had awakened, "I'm fine now."

The eight infected people instantly awakened and let out looks of lingering fears.

Everyone's eyes were focused onto Ye Yihao at this moment. They all watched Ye Yihao being burned by the three Qilin flames.

Chu Li aside, no one knew what happened, or where did these three Qilin flames come from.

However, they all wore joyful looks on their faces and felt grateful at the three Fire Qilin flames and the person who unleashed it from the bottom of their hearts.

"Everyone who is infected by the voodoo poison, get out of this place! Now! With your fastest speed! Do not stay behind for even a second!" Qin Lie, who was very far away from Ye Yihao suddenly exploded into a yell, "I may not necessarily be able to refine the mother insect, and I do not know how much longer I am able to hold out! So faster!"

The moment he said this, everyone who was looking at Ye Yihao abruptly turned their eyes own Qin Lie.

Some of them even suspected if Qin Lie really was the person who unleashed the three Fire Qilin flames.

This was because Qin Lie was neither emanating with a terrific flame energy, nor a cultivator of a fire spirit art, so how could he possibly control the three blazing flames?

Many people's eyes then turned towards Du Xiangyang in passing. This was because Du Xiangyang was surrounded in fire, and the blade in his hand was also drawing fiery lines while it cut across the air.

They thought that Du Xiangyang was the key person who had changed the situation.

"Qianqian! Leave this place!"

"Third brother! Run quickly!"

"Fifth brother! Escape now!"

"Zhao Xuan, Zhang Chendong, run at your top speed!"

They might hold doubts but they weren't stupid. They knew what kind of decision to make was the most sensible in this situation.

Therefore, they had all raised their voices and warned the infected.

Meanwhile, with Pan Qianqian and Zhao Xuan among the first to awaken, the rest of the eight infected practitioners woke up in succession and quickly figured out the situation around them.

They were all decisive and sensible people. They knew what kind of disaster they would face if they continued to stay.

Therefore, they all escaped the place with their fastest speed.

They turned into eight beams of light that escaped towards eight different direction. While howling and screaming; like electric and escape art, they all escaped the place at top speed.

“Du Xiangyang! It must be Du Xiangyang! Su Yan! Xiahou Yuan! Lin Dongxing! Kill Du Xiangyang first!” Ye Yihao howled madly from within the three Fire Qilin flames.

He too believed that the person who unleashed the Fire Qilin flames were right among these people, and the only person who cultivated and achieved great attainment in the fire spirit art was Du Xiangyang!

Meanwhile, he viewed the yelling Qin Lie as merely a bait for Du Xiangyang. He was there only to cover from Du Xiangyang.

His roar solidified everyone’s doubts into certainty.

—Qin Lie was covering for Du Xiangyang!

Because of this, everyone was now looking at Du Xiangyang with grateful eyes.

They all assumed that Du Xiangyang was the only who overturned the tides.

In their eyes, Qin Lie was merely a leaf that added to Du Xiangyang's greatness.

"Protect Du Xiangyang!" a person in Heavenly Artifact Sect yelled.

"Defend Du Xiangyang!" the people of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were also screaming.

Four figures zoomed out like lightning and threw the spirit artifacts in their hands from afar. Amidst dazzling spirit lights, the spirit artifacts were all aimed at Su Yan.

They had all assumed that Du Xiangyang was the key and became spirited thus staked their lives to protect him.

Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing and Su Yan also thought that Du Xiangyang was the key to everything, and thus they charged madly at Du Xiangyang in attempt to kill him immediately. They aimed to affect him so much that he could no longer control the Fire Qilin flames. They aimed to allow Ye Yihao regain control of the situation and force the infected people to return.

"I..." Du Xiangyang opened his mouth and tried to explain.

However, Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing and Su Yan's attacks had

flooded over him entirely by this point, forcing all the words in his mouth back down his throat.

Qin Lie also became dumbfounded at the situation.

He watched Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing and Su Yan suddenly went crazy and unleashed their strongest techniques at Du Xiangyang, surrounding him in a circle.

Meanwhile, Du Xiangyang felt like crying.

He knew that he was unjustly attacked on Qin Lie's behalf, but unfortunately for him he did not even have the time to explain himself.

Chapter 448: Suppression

For a time, Du Xiangyang had become Ye Yihao, Su Yan and the others must kill target, whereas no one was bothering with Qin lie.

They did not think of Qin Lie as a threat.

In reality, even Xue Moyan, Luo Chen, the martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect also thought that it was Du Xiangyang who broke Ye Yihao and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's control over the infected people.

Chu Li was the only person among them who knew that Qin Lie was the one who did it during this critical juncture!

"Xue Moyan! What else are you waiting for? Help me kill Ye Yihao!" Chu Li yelled.

A glittering banner abruptly flew out of his spatial ring, and it unfolded to reveal a full sky of dazzling starlight.

A mysterious and grand star energy abruptly rippled from the banner, and as if it had transformed into a dazzling river of stars that would penetrate both heaven and earth, it abruptly fell on Ye Yihao's head.

Illusory Demon Sect's Xue Moyan abruptly reacted and cried out, "Help me deal with Black Voodoo Cult's Yu Family!"

She herself grabbed the Illusory Demon Orb and ran towards Ye Yihao while dragging many dreamlike illusory shadows behind her back.

She had seen through the situation.

No matter who it might be, the targets to kill after the three Qilin flames had destroyed the control Ye Yihao and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen had over the infected were still Ye Yihao and the mother insect.

Illusory Demon Sect and Black Voodoo Cult had always clashed against each other like fire and water on the Heavenly Slaughter Continent. The two voodoo insects she currently sealed killed Little Die and Little Wan, so even if she acquired the mother insect's blood, she would still go back to Ye Yihao later to take revenge.

Now that there was such an excellent opportunity in front of her, she obviously knew what she should do.

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The three Fire Qilin flames continued to wrap around Ye Yihao and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen, burning them intensely.

The winged voodoo insect howled shrilly within the flames. Its howl shook until everyone felt that their scalps were numb and that their souls were about to crumble.

Dark green haloes rippled from Ye Yihao's body as he defended his body with the energy light shield and resisted against the flame's fiery refinement with everything he got. He was also baring his teeth in a sinister look.

"Kill Du Xiangyang now!" Ye Yihao yelled angrily.

Su Yan, Lin Dongxing, Xiahou Yuan, and two other martial practitioners attacked Du Xiangyang continuously as they threw spirit artifacts at him and fired spirit lights splashed from their bodies.

"Bang!"

Su Yan wielded a feather fan forged from gold iron and inscribed with an exquisite running dragon totem. As her spirit energy gathered, the pitch black young dragon actually leaped out of the fan while howling.

It bit ferociously at Du Xiangyang's chest.

Lin Dongxing pointed a finger and conjured an arm long golden axe shining with sharp, golden light. This weapon also sliced towards Du Xiangyang's direction.

Meanwhile, Xiahou Yuan was howling angrily while channeling his spirit art. He caused tornadoes to appear around Du Xiangyang and blocked both Du Xiangyang's sight and senses.

“Whoosh!”

The fiery phoenix Du Xiangyang conjured with his power of flames abruptly shattered, and amidst torrential flames his body was suddenly thrown into the air.

Bang! He landed beside Qin Lie.

Blood flowed down the corner of Du Xiangyang’s mouth, and his face was completely flushed red. His eyes were filled with bitterness.

“Protect Du Xiangyang!”

It was at this moment the martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect, and Luo Chen finally arrived.

They immediately joined the battle and blocked the core ringers of the three great families, stopping them from attempting to kill Du Xiangyang once more.

“It’s not me. I really didn’t conjure those Qilin flames...” Du Xiangyang explained with a bitter smile.

“I know it’s not you.” Qin Lie was feeling helpless as well.

He didn't think that he would attract the crowd's attention for only an instant when he yelled out that he was the one who unleashed the Fire Qilin flames just now.

After that, everyone assumed that Du Xiangyang, the practitioner who was at the late stage of Netherpassage Realm and cultivated the fire spirit art was the true culprit.

In their eyes, he was simply covering for Du Xiangyang.

"I seriously took a bullet for you." A stomach of gloominess filled Du Xiangyang.

Qin Lie didn't answer him anymore, instead focusing on Ye Yihao and connecting with his three lifeblood essences through his mind.

The three lifeblood essences transformed into Fire Qilins and burned intensely while wrapped around Ye Yihao and the mother insect. They were stopping Ye Yihao and the mother insect from regaining control of the situation in this instant.

Right now, Chu Li and Xue Moyan flew out and was attacking Ye Yihao in unison.

Chu Li's banner floated in midair and continuously formed stars and rivers of light to blast him from every angle.

Xue Moyan conjured hundreds of illusory shadows and surrounded Ye Yihao. Her force was equally impressive.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Illusory Demon Sect girls held back the Black Voodoo Cult's Yu Family clansmen so they could not assist Ye Yihao.

"Get out!"

Ye Yihao pressed a hand on his heart while his other hand suddenly took out a wilted wooden staff from his spatial ring.

The wilted wooden staff was faint gold in color and had natural wooden patterns in it, and it contained a certain wisdom and magic of the world.

The moment the wilted wooden staff was taken out, the dark green ring on Ye Yihao's body abruptly expanded rapidly.

He swung the staff at Chu Li.

"Zzzt zzt zzzt!"

Countless vines and dark green light beams that were like tree branches shot right at the starry light screen on the sky, piercing Chu Li's banner until it was completely torn up.

"My Sky Wood Staff is an Earth Grade Four spirit artifact. Your Nebula Banner is only an Earth Grade Three spirit artifact! Moreover, you've exhausted yourself far too much during the

previous combat and could not unleash its full power at all. How are you going to beat me?” Ye Yihao grinned and laughed madly.

While laughing, he stabbed the Sky Wood Staff fiercely into the ground before him yet again.

A tremendous amount of wood energy surged through the Sky Wood Staff and rippled outward, spreading towards the surroundings within a radius of a few kilometers

“Whoosh!”

Many ancient trees actually started swaying on their own without a backwind. It was as if they were responding to the Sky Wood Staff in Ye Yihao’s hand.

Surprisingly, many vines and sharp shrubberies abruptly appeared from the feet of the illusions of Xue Moyan that were flying in the sky.

The illusions were attacked by the wood energy as they exploded swiftly.

There was only one person who charged within ten meters of Ye Yihao while holding the Illusory Demon Orb.

This was her true body.

Ye Yihao was well versed in wood spirit arts. That was why he had chosen this lush forest to set up his trap. Here, he was like a fish in water, capable of borrowing the land advantage and enhancing his own combat power at a critical moment.

“The ancient trees are moving! They’re coming towards us!” the girls of the Illusory Demon Sect suddenly cried out.

They noticed that the land that was once flattened by the Terminator Profound Bombs had become filled with life once more.

The many big trees far, far away from this land was actually moving strangely towards their direction through gliding roots after Ye Yihao had stabbed the Sky Wood Staff into the ground. They were swiftly approaching Ye Yihao’s position.

“Not good!” A Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioner couldn’t help but cry out, “This guy cultivates the wood spirit art, and at this place his strength becomes stronger than usual. He can even use his spirit artifact to control these ancient trees. What a headache!”

“This doesn’t change anything.” Xue Moyan suddenly said softly.

The Illusory Demon Orb in her hand abruptly shone with countless beautiful light. A violent magnetic field abruptly spread out from inside the orb.

Ye Yihao abruptly looked loss for a moment. He stared at Xue Moyan and looked like he had gone stupid for a moment.

It was as if Xue Moyan had transformed into the person he was closest with and most respected.

He was obviously taken in by Illusory Demon Sect's illusion arts!

"Chu Li!" Xue Moyan yelled in a low tone.

A Frost Steel Blade glittering with starlight appeared in Chu Li's hand, and he instantly slashed it on the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's body.

"Clang!"

Sparks flew as the Eight-winged Centipede Queen screeched in pain. Its violent eyes were filled with irritation.

It had obviously been severely damaged by Chu Li.

"How is it not dead yet?!" After a shocked pause, Chu Li got ready to slice downward yet again.

It was at this moment Ye Yihao suddenly woke up and said sinisterly, "You're digging your own grave!"

Several dozen of dark green wooden arrows formed from spirit energy instantly pierced Chu Li's chest like sharp blades.

"Pfft!"

Chu Li's chest immediately became bloodied as he spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Universal Celestial Sealing Formation!" Qin Lie yelled in a heavy tone.

Six sky obelisks glittering with refined light whistled to the sky from Qin Lie's position and enveloped Ye Yihao abruptly with a world shackling aura.

Qin Lie's eyes stared firmly at Ye Yihao. With his soul consciousness, he controlled the spirit pattern pillars and built the great shackling formation.

He only needed to seal Ye Yihao for an instant so that he wouldn't be able to afford the time to attack Chu Li.

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Chapter 449: Joint Attack

The six spirit pattern pillars released rivers of starlight, twisting long rivers, and flying spirit birds before falling down on Ye Yihao's head.

"Universal Celestial Sealing Formation!" Qin Lie exclaimed in a low tone from afar.

A shackling power that could bind the heaven and earth, imprison one's soul, and even stop the channeling of spirit energy abruptly appeared in the space amongst the six spirit pattern pillars.

Ye Yihao was right within them!

Just as Ye Yihao was raising the Sky Wood Staff and was about to ram it into Chu Li's chest, his body abruptly stopped.

Every one of his actions suddenly became impossibly slow, difficult and exhausting.

Chu Li spat out a mouth of blood before flying out of the center of the six spirit pattern pillars.

Meanwhile, Xue Moyan had dove head first into the formation, and her actions also became sluggish the second she entered the Universal Celestial Sealing Formation's area. She felt as if her soul was being imprisoned, and the circulation of her spirit energy had

become indistinct. Even her limbs felt like they were being bound by ropes, greatly hindering her movement.

“Qin Lie!”

The second Chu Li exited the formation and raised his head, he immediately saw Qin Lie charging rapidly towards him. He could not help but cry out.

“Suppress!” Qin Lie yelled heavily.

Strange rings of light rippled from the six spirit pattern pillars like the ripples on a lake, both gorgeous and dazzling.

The ripples seemed to have formed into a new round of shackles that applied themselves layer after layer on Ye Yihao’s body. They also landed on Xue Moyan, who had barged into the formation.

Inside the Universal Celestial Sealing Formation, the duo felt like they were sunk deep inside mud. Their movements were restricted, their spirit energies were affected, and even the perception of their soul had fallen off greatly.

Chu Li immediately reacted to the scene. It was Qin Lie who had suppressed Ye Yihao with the spirit pattern pillars at a critical moment!

On the other side, Du Xiangyang was also staring with bright eyes and a surprised expression at the six spirit pattern pillars.

“Isn’t that one of the eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts of our Heavenly Artifact Sect, the Sealing Obelisks?”

“There are a total of twelve sealing obelisks in total. Why are there only six? That being said, their appearance and power do indicate that they are indeed the sealing obelisks!”

“The sealing obelisks have been lost for many years. Why are they in this person’s hands?”

“Who knows.”

While the few Heavenly Artifact Sect martial practitioners were aiding Du Xiangyang by intercepting Su Yan and the others, they suddenly saw the six spirit pattern pillars ascend. They were all shocked by the sight.

The twelve spirit pattern pillars had originated from Heavenly Artifact Sect. They were one of the eighteen great Earth grade spirit artifacts of Heavenly Artifact Sect.

Every disciple in Heavenly Artifact Sect was extremely familiar with these Earth Grade spirit artifacts. They knew about their traits and rough appearances.

Now that they saw the sudden appearance of the six spirit pattern pillars, and the spirit formations familiar to Heavenly Artifact Sect such as the Radiant Galaxy Diagram, the Nine Winding River

Diagram and so on, they abruptly came to a realization.
These six spirit pattern pillars were the lost sealing obelisks of Heavenly Artifact Sect. They were one of the eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Heavenly Artifact Sect!

“Do you really think you can seal me?” Ye Yihao howled angrily.

The natural patterns on the Sky Wood Staff in his hand wriggled unnaturally like many tiny fear-inducing snakes.

The Sky Wood Staff was stabbed into the ground in an instant once more.

As if attracted by the strange energy inside the Sky Wood Staff, fifteen ancient trees nearby that were at least several dozens meters tall moved swiftly underground and actually pierced right through the defense line formed by the spirit pattern pillars, forcing their way into the formation.

The many lush ancient trees immediately rooted themselves around Ye Yihao and suddenly unleashed a severe aura from their leaves and branches.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

As if turned into many sharp wooden swords, the tree branches were scattered towards every direction.

At the same time, an immense wood energy abruptly erupted

from inside Ye Yihao.

“Boom!”

The seal formed by the six spirit pattern pillars was instantly shredded in an instant. The six spirit pattern pillars were blasted by the shockwaves into the air, unable to shackle Ye Yihao any more.

As the ancient trees closed in, even the Fire Qilin flame on Ye Yihao’s body was unable to hurt him again.

“Bzz bzz bzz!”

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen continued to whistle sharply. Its whistle was capable of tearing apart one’s eardrums and causing massive headaches to anyone who heard it.

Tendrils of green refined energy flew out of Ye Yihao’s hair and entered the mother insect’s body, aiding it in swift recovery.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen swiftly became spirited once more. A thin green film even appeared on its pitch black surface and formed a defensive barrier.

Seemingly knowing that they had lost their best chance to refine the Eight-winged Centipede Queen to death, the three life blood essences automatically flew into the air.

The three blazing fire Fire Qilin blood transformed into three rays of light and whistled towards Qin Lie.

Then, they entered Qin Lie's body.

Everyone was caught off guard.

"It actually wasn't Du Xiangyang!"

"It really was him!"

"How strange!"

It was only now that the crowd realised that they all had been mistaken. It was only then that they learned that the person who had burned Ye Yihao and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen with the three Fire Qilin flames, causing him to lose control of the infected people at a critical moment was actually Qin Lie.

This greatly exceeded their expectations.

"So it was you! My larvae were refined to death by your flames, weren't they?" Ye Yihao finally understood the situation.

"So what if they were?" Qin Lie frowned and withdrew the six spirit pattern pillars one by one. He sighed on the inside.

It was the same problem. He was lacking in cultivation, and thus could not control more spirit pattern pillars than six. If he could control all twelve spirit pattern pillars and form the strongest “Universal Celestial Sealing Formation,” he believed that Ye Yihao would definitely not be able to struggle his way out.

After all, even Xue Li was suppressed by the twelve spirit pattern pillars. How could Ye Yihao possibly escape?

Unfortunately, due to his weak realm and strength, he could only control six spirit pattern pillars. That was why Ye Yihao had managed to escape.

“You must die!” Ye Yihao exclaimed harshly.

“Crack! Crack!”

Wooden armor began to grow on his skin as if his body was made of wood. At first glance, it was as if Ye Yihao had turned into an impossibly strange wooden man.

However, an extremely terrifying aura was unleashed from his body at the same time.

The aura caused everyone’s expression in the area to change!

“The spirit art that Ye Yihao cultivates is bizarre, and he is able

to use these trees' life force to boost himself for a short period of time!" Chu Li yelled.

"Everyone be careful!" Xue Moyan also screamed.

On the other side, Luo Chen and the others' expressions changed. They could all sense the powerful wood aura that had sprung up within the area. Some of these aura obviously contained Ye Yihao's soul will.

This caused everyone to become worried!

"Qin Lie! Come and burn these ancient trees with me!"

Du Xiangyang led the assault and shot an ancient tree while drawing a long flame tongue with his sword.

At the same time, the spirit energy inside his body sprung up as many clumps of flames flew out of every part of his body, forming a gorgeous fiery phoenix.

"He can temporarily sap strength from these ancient trees! If we burn them, he will have no external power to borrow from!" Chu Li also reminded.

"Okay!" Qin Lie exclaimed softly.

The three refined Fire Qilin blood droplets shot out out his body

and turned into three fire beams, shooting towards an ancient tree each.

The ancient trees that were coming in from the sides were flooded by huge flames in succession as Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang burned them.

Chu Li, Xue Moyan and the far away Luo Chen actually charged all at once into the huge flames. Amidst the sea of fire, they unleashed their powerful spirit arts and terrifying spirit artifacts, madly attacking Ye Yihao all at once.

Qin Lie, who had released the three refined Fire Qilin blood droplets, wasn't idle either. He also threw out his Astral Thunder Hammer and imbued the weapon with all the thunder energy inside his body. With his mind consciousness, he controlled the Astral Thunder Hammer and tossed it at Ye Yihao.

Surrounded by the burning ancient trees, Ye Yihao howled harshly and angrily as dark green beams flew all around his body.

Countless wooden swords, branches, and blocks scattered towards every direction from where he was. They were all incredible powerful.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen was also whistling sharply and flying out from the top of his head. It charged towards Xue Moyan and the others to kill them while its entire body was enveloped in thick, black smoke.

“Don’t allow the voodoo insect to get close! It has the voodoo poison all over it!” Xue Moyan reminded.

“Use your spirit artifacts to attack the voodoo insect! We will deal with Ye Yihao!” Luo Chen yelled in surprise.

At that time, Du Xiangyang had already charged head first into the burning combat zone. He too was howling in a strange note and catching Ye Yihao in a pincer.

Meanwhile, Qin Lie, who had been injured severely earlier did not choose to charge in recklessly. While watching the smoke-filled area, listening to the crowd’s shrill cries and the spirit artifacts’ mad banging noises, he cautiously maintained a connection with the three refined Fire Qilin blood essences.

He focused all of his concentration on burning the shifting ancient trees with those lifeblood essences.

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Chapter 450: Out Of The Way! Allow Me!

Attracted by the Sky Wood Staff, the ancient trees coming from every direction were all burned by Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang's flames.

Ye Yihao was absorbing the ancient tree's refined wood energy to empower himself and increase his combat power.

When the ancient trees had all been burned, when he no longer had any refined wood energy to borrow, he obviously wouldn't be able to unleash strength beyond his usual limits.

"Starfall!"

Chu Li's angry roar pierced through the sea of flames as many dazzling stars appeared out of nowhere and abruptly fell down.

Immense energy brimmed from the stars, causing the burning flames to suddenly become suppressed.

"Half Moon Slash!" Luo Chen was also yelling coldly at the side.

A glittering silver sword arc the shape of a half moon fell down from the sky like a crescent moon. It was sharp and deadly, landing straight toward the sea of fire.

"Mind Capture!"

While holding Illusory Demon Sect's Illusory Demon Orb and channeling her magical spirit art, Xue Moyan's eyes lit up and seemed to knock right into Ye Yihao's heart.

Du Xiangyang was also hooting and pointing the flames gushing out of his body at Ye Yihao.

All of the strong attacked Ye Yihao at once, unleashing their distinguished spirit arts, extraordinary spirit artifacts, and techniques in attempt to kill Ye Yihao on the spot.

Qin Lie stood outside the sea of flames and controlled the three refined Fire Qilin blood droplets to burn the ancient trees while probing carefully the activity inside the flames.

Through the thick smoke, he could see many rays of colorful spirit light that clashed against one another like radiant meteors, spraying extremely beautiful and dazzling sparks everywhere.

He could hear Ye Yihao's severe shouts and the shrill whistles of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen. From their howls, he knew that Ye Yihao had probably suffered a terrible blow and was dealing badly with the group beating.

He realized that he probably did not need to do anything more now that the situation had reached this point.

On the other side, the martial practitioners of Heavenly Artifact

Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain dragged down Su Yan, Lin Dongxong, and the others so that they were too busy to help Ye Yihao.

The Illusory Demon Sect girls Xue Moyan had brought over were also preventing Black Voodoo Cult's Yu Family members from assisting Ye Yihao.

No matter how one looked at it, Ye Yihao was most likely going to die at that place after being attacked by so many people.

This caused Qin Lie to relax just a little.

While surrounded by fire, Ye Yihao also looked shocked and fearful for his life now that he was being attacked by Chu Li, Luo Chen, and Xue Moyan—three martial practitioners at the same level as him—and Du Xiangyang.

He formed a dark green shield of light with the Sky Wood Staff in his hand, and an emerald, leaf-shaped light appeared on the barrier covered in green, wooden patterns.

Originally, he could absorb the energy from the ancient trees around him through the Sky Wood Staff to greatly enhance the light shield's defensive power and protect himself from all angles.

However, after Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang had burned the ancient trees with intense flames, he could no longer borrow any refined wood energy from them.

Therefore, he was no longer certain of his victory.

But just as the entire barrage of skills were about to land on him, an extraordinarily powerful life energy suddenly appeared at a corner of this lush forest. At the same time, an immense wood life energy gushed beneath his feet like a spring!

It poured straight into the Sky Wood Staff!

In an instant, Ye Yihao's energy increased by almost three times, and the Sky Wood Staff in his hands also unleashed a terrific and dazzling green light.

"Boom boom boom!"

The falling stars, the crescent sword beam, Xue Moyan's soul strike and Du Xiangyang's burning sun were all blocked by the light shield.

Meanwhile, the hand Ye Yihao used to hold the Sky Wood Staff had only become bloodied from the shockwave inside the light shield.

The green shield actually did not shatter under the combined attack, and although Ye Yihao was bleeding from the corner of his mouth, his eyes were still bright.

On the contrary, blood droplets actually appeared all over the slightly distant Eight-winged Centipede Queen that looked spirited just moments ago. It began spasming repeatedly in midair.

“Wound transfer!”

“He transferred a portion of the wounds he had suffered onto the voodoo insect. This guy is ruthless!”

“God dammit, did he seriously survive that?”

Everyone cried out at the same time.

An unusual soul aura entered Ye Yihao’s mind straight from beneath his feet.

A voice was calling to him from a forest corner, telling him to come over as quickly as possible.

Ye Yihao was greatly shocked by the voice. Then, he wiped the blood of his mouth and let out two laughs with a nasty grin, saying coldly, “You will all die. I guarantee that every one of you will die!”

After he said this, the Sky Wood Staff in his hand suddenly turned into a lush, little tree.

This dark green little tree wrapped around Ye Yihao instantly and dove into the ground. He had vanished in an instant.

At the same time, the Eight-winged Centipede Queen unleashed the pitch black voodoo poison around its body and looked like it would escape while flapping its wings and whistling strangely.

“Ye Yihao escaped! Try and kill the voodoo insect if possible, and even if we can’t, we must get as much of its blood as possible!” Xue Moyan yelled.

Everyone reacted and targeted the Eight-winged Centipede Queen in an instant. Lin Dongxing, Su Yan, Xiahou Yuan and some Black Voodoo Cult disciples all reacted at nearly the same time and escaped towards all directions.

However, everyone’s attention was attracted by the Eight-winged Centipede Queen right now. They could not be bothered to stop them at all.

Even Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s people hastily gathered over and surrounded the voodoo insect from all angles.

If the voodoo insect didn’t die, then their poisoned friends and family would all die a horrible death one after another.

This was something none of them could accept.

Even Qin Lie had grown anxious after realizing that Ye Yihao had somehow managed to miraculously escape. He charged towards

the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and did not bother with the wounds on his body.

“Voodoo poison! It has unleashed too much voodoo poison! There’s no way to approach it at all!” The Illusory Demon Sect girls were screaming.

“God dammit! What a thick cloud of voodoo poison. We can’t see anything, just how are we going to attack it!” the Heavenly Artifact Sect martial practitioners were also swearing angrily.

The surrounding area was covered in a dozen or so meters of dense voodoo poison. It was as black and sticky as ink, preventing anyone from seeing anything.

It also kept everyone from getting closer.

They all knew how terrifying the voodoo poison was, and the horrendous appearance of their poisoned friends and family were etched well within their minds. They knew that there was no way for them to cure the poison at all.

Therefore, although everyone wanted to kill the voodoo insect and snatch the blood of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen, no one dared to charge into the area covered in voodoo poison.

This was one of the reasons why a voodoo insect was so scary.

Once this Eight-winged Centipede Queen had unleashed all of the

voodoo poison inside its body, the surrounding voodoo poison spread further and thicker over time. While it was escaping towards the distance, the thick voodoo poison surrounded it constantly, causing everyone around the area to retreat like they'd seen a ghost.

No one dared to charge into this land that was covered in voodoo poison.

In this place, the perception of soul consciousness was restricted by the unique environment of this secret realm. This prevented them from attacking the area covered in voodoo poison with spirit artifacts and spirit arts just by feeling alone.

—it would just be a plain waste of spirit energy.

Someone needed to charge in and confirm the voodoo insect's position. They had to be able to see the voodoo insect to be able to attack it.

Only then would they be able to severely damage or kill the voodoo insect and acquire its blood. Only then would they be able to cure the infected people.

Unfortunately, no one seemed to dare charge into the area covered in voodoo poison. No one dared to risk their life. Therefore, the group looked like they would miss their chance to surround the voodoo insect.

“Get out of the way! Allow me!”

It was at this moment Qin Lie yelled explosively and charged straight into the poison filled area like a bolt of lightning that cut through the sky.

He was the only person who could shatter his soul and refine the voodoo poison even after he was infected.

Out of everyone in the crowd, he was the only one who wasn’t afraid of dying a horrible death after being infected by the voodoo poison.

“What a suicidal maniac!”

“He truly is fearsome and fearless!”

“Qin Lie! It’s all on you now!”

Everyone cried out. Some people were secretly pleased by Qin Lie’s irrationality, whereas some people were secretly grateful for Qin Lie’s initiative.

When he charged into the thick voodoo poison, he immediately sensed tendrils of toxin seeping straight into his soul consciousness and invading his true soul.

He completely ignored them.

He realized that the deeper he went, the thinner the voodoo poison became. When he went to the deepest area, he immediately saw the Eight-winged Centipede Queen.

“Klak klak klak!”

This voodoo insect seemed to have suffered some terrible injuries. Its eight thin wings flapped with great difficulty, and right then it was actually relying on its many legs to escape quickly on the ground.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen had over a hundred legs. When they all moved at once, they actually propelled the Eight-winged Centipede Queen to move an unbelievable speed.

It was not much slower than when it was flying in the air.

There were many blood droplets on its wings. While it was crawling swiftly, new blood droplets were forming occasionally on them.

Chapter 451: He Did It For A Woman...

The Black Voodoo Cult's voodoo insects were as tough as steel and difficult to harm physically. The usual fire and water powers were hardly a threat either.

This was also why Black Voodoo Cult had a shady spirit art like 'Wound Transfer'. A martial practitioner would be able to transfer their heavy injuries to the voodoo insects through the shared flesh and soul connection between the martial practitioner and the voodoo insect.

This way, the martial practitioner that was struck with a terrible blow would be able to minimise the damage they suffered.

Ye Yihao had transferred a large majority of the damage he suffered directly to the mother insect instead. This caused the lively Eight-winged Centipede Queen to become instantly dispirited and listless, unable to flap its wings and even fly to the air.

"Clak clak clak!"

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen's hundred feet danced across the ground like many sharp blades. They gleamed with confusing spirit light.

The voodoo insect that had escaped Ye Yihao's body was only half a human male arm's length and completely black in color. It looked like it was forged from highly perfected iron, and when it

flapped its eight wings blood droplets could be seen seeping out of them.

Extraordinarily, the blood droplets did not fall off its wings. Instead, they stuck onto the voodoo insect's wings as if they had extraordinary viscosity.

"Qin Lie! Do your best to eliminate that voodoo insect. If you really can't, then do your best to acquire as much of its blood as possible!" Chu Li's shouts rang through the thick mist of voodoo poison outside.

Qin Lie did not answer. Instead, he watched the voodoo insect closely while holding the Astral Thunder Hammer in his right hand. He immediately channeled Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

Bolts of lightning shot out of the Astral Thunder Hammer. Locking his gaze onto the Eight-winged Centipede Queen, Qin Lie concentrated and chased after the voodoo insect.

"Swoosh!"

His entire being seemed to have transformed into a thick and long bolt of lightning. Seamlessly united with the Astral Thunder Hammer in his hand, he created a violent and invincible aura.

He slammed the Astral Thunder Hammer hard towards the Eight-winged Centipede Queen.

“Bzz zz zzz!”

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen suddenly sensed the danger behind it and let out an ear bursting howl while flapping its eight wings.

The howl was as sharp as iron needles piercing into everyone’s minds and innards nearby. It caused everyone to abruptly shudder and feel pain coursing all over their bodies.

Qin Lie was closest to it, and thus bore the full brunt. Instantly, he felt a kind of fear that was as if his heart was pierced by ten thousand arrows. Even his consciousness had blurred instantly.

“Boom!”

Along with his hammer, Qin Lie crashed heavily from midair and completely lost all sense of direction.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen abruptly came to a stop and turned around. Its little dark green eyes shone with a cold and ruthless gleam. This voodoo insect had high level intelligence, and it could think and have its own opinions just like a human.

When it turned around, it stared coldly at Qin Lie and experienced an instantaneous moment of hesitation.

It was hesitating whether it should take the opportunity to kill Qin Lie.

It immediately noticed the black tendrils of the voodoo poison in both of Qin Lie's eyes. It knew immediately that Qin Lie was infected with the voodoo poison, and thus thought that Qin Lie's death was inevitable.

Those who were poisoned by the voodoo poison would walk step by step towards death while clearly feeling the loss of their own soul and life energy.

That lost energy would then be consumed by both it and Ye Yihao, helping them both recover swiftly...

It did not think that it needed to kill Qin Lie immediately. It thought that allowing Qin Lie to die a slow death would be more beneficial to both it and Ye Yihao.

Therefore, it decided that it no longer needed to waste time on Qin Lie.

And so, after it hesitated for just a moment, it then moved its hundred feet and ran far away again once more.

It had obviously misjudged Qin Lie's persistence and tenacity!

Just as it ran for about three hundred meters, Qin Lie regained consciousness and noticed that he was now at the edge of the area covered in voodoo poison the second he opened his eyes.

He did not look towards the voodoo insect immediately, and instead watched Chu Li, Xue Moyan, Du Xiangyang and the others chasing closely from behind. These people did not dare to go too close to the voodoo poison in fear that their souls would be penetrated by the voodoo poison. Therefore, they could only chase from the back.

“Qin Lie! How is it?” Chu Li yelled.

“Where is the Eight-winged Centipede Queen?” Du Xiangyang asked.

“You’ve gotten inflicted with voodoo poison!” Xue Moyan covered her mouth and exclaimed softly.

Qin Lie finally recovered, and did not answer any of them. Instead, he charged head first into the black area covered in voodoo poison once more while howling angrily.

“He had obviously been inflicted with the voodoo poison. If he can’t kill the mother insect and acquire its blood, then he will die slowly just like all other infected. He will see his life slip through his fingers.” An Illusory Demon Sect girl said in a low voice.

“This person is truly a mad man.” Another person interrupted.

“When he was fighting the two martial practitioners, he had pierced his lungs without hesitation to kill the enemy. From this alone you can see just how crazy he was.”

“From the moment he charged into the area covered in voodoo poison, we all knew that he would definitely be inflicted with the voodoo poison. What’s so strange about that?” Du Xiangyang countered.

The group suddenly turned silent.

That’s right. From the moment Qin Lie took the step no one dared to, they all knew that Qin Lie would definitely be inflicted with the voodoo poison!

In that case, why were they still surprised after he was poisoned by the voodoo poison for real?

Perhaps, they all had the tiniest bit of illusory hope in their hearts that Qin Lie could avoid the effects of the voodoo poison?

“He would be fine!” Chu Li suddenly let out a heavy snort.

The shock in everyone’s eyes grew even brighter.

Heavenly Sect Artifact and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s people shook their heads lightly and sighed, “Although he was brave, it was ultimately a stupid and rash action.”

“A person who was inflicted with the voodoo poison, chasing after the mother insect that released that voodoo poison in the first

place. This is an absolute dead end." Another person agreed.

"This is why I didn't charge in in the first place. It's not that I do not have the courage to save my cousin, but, but... I just know that I won't survive it." Someone voiced an excuse for his own weakness.

"Stop finding excuses for yourself. To put it bluntly, we are all not as courageous as he was." Xue Moyan's thin and long eyebrows wrinkled as she spoke softly, "That friend of his who was inflicted with the voodoo poison must be very important to him. They must be so important that... he would even stake very life in attempt to save them."

"He did it for a woman." Du Xiangyang suddenly said.

"For a woman..." Xue Moyan was slightly surprised by the revelation before nodding slightly, saying, "That woman is so lucky."

The eyes of the group of Illusory Demon Sect girls, and the girls from Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain all shone with a strange light. They all thought higher of Qin Lie and thought that he was truly a good man.

A woman was most likely to open her heart to a man like this.

Meanwhile, Chu Li stared at Xue Moyan with an odd expression on his face.

In his mind, Xue Moyan was Qin Lie's fiancée, and right now Qin Lie was staking his life to save Song Tingyu. This made him feel a little weird.

"Gravity Change!"

It was at this moment, Qin Lie's loud cry rang from inside the area thick with voodoo poison.

Even the people outside could sense that the gravity around them had suddenly grown several times stronger.

"Clak! Clak clak!"

Inside the poison entangled area, The escaping Eight-winged Centipede Queen's footsteps abruptly slowed due to the abrupt change in gravity.

The powerful gravity field caused its tiny body to suddenly become as heavy as a mountain.

Ye Yihao had transferred a large amount of damage to it in the first place, making it incapable of even flapping its wings and flying away. Now, this change in gravity had brought it a whole new pressure.

While it was caught off guard, Qin Lie crashed down from the sky

with his hammer like a cannon ball, dragging with him a skyful of thunder and lightning.

This time, Qin Lie's body was wrapped in icy light and lightning. He had also protected his ears with spirit energy. This was purposely done to prevent the insect's howl from invading his body.

"Bzz zzzz!" As expected, mother insect began to howl once more.

However, this time Qin Lie wasn't shaken off as pathetically as before. He continued to lock onto the voodoo insect's position and abruptly swung downwards.

"Boom!"

The Astral Thunder Hammer heavily struck the voodoo insect's pitch black back armor. Countless sparks sputtered as the voodoo insect was sent straight into the underground, being dealt heavy damage once more.

Countless blood droplets seeped out and became attached to its wings. They were ripe with a strange fragrance.

Qin Lie raised his Astral Thunder Hammer and was about to swing down yet again.

"Crack!"

Suddenly, the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's eight wings separated from its body.

Eight bizarre energies instantly shot out and covered the voodoo insect's body. The energies were like a vanishing art that instantly caused the voodoo insect to disappear.

Qin Lie was struck dumb while the hammer was still raised in his hand.

Beneath him, there remained the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's four pairs of wings. The main body of the voodoo insect had obviously escaped already.

This voodoo insect actually knew how to cut off a part of itself to form a secret escape art.

This greatly exceeded Qin Lie's expectations.

……

Chapter 452: Controlling The Crux!

The voodoo insect successfully escaped from his hand at the cost of eight wings that had been left behind.

There was clearly blood of the voodoo insect on the eight wings. The fresh blood was one of the antidotes to the voodoo toxin!

Qin Lie paused only for a second.

In the next moment, he reacted. He immediately took out a jade bottle from his spatial ring and carefully picked up a wing.

There were some drops of blood that had yet to dry on this wing. He carefully moved it to the mouth of the bottle and shook slowly to tip the drops of blood into the bottle.

One drop, two drops, three drops, four drops...

There were only four drops of blood on this wing, and also a portion of sticky dried blood that would not come off. Qin Lie didn't know if it had any value so he did not touch it.

He picked up the second wing and continued to harvest the blood carefully. His expression was unusually serious.

He knew better than anyone else that each drop of blood represented a life, it meant that he could rescue one person who

had been poisoned.

Because of the voodoo insect's escape, the voodoo toxin that covered this area did not shift or thicken.

It was gradually dissipating.

"Qin Lie! How is it?"

"The voodoo toxin has not moved and there isn't any sound from inside, what happened?"

"Qin Lie, are you still there?"

Many people on the outside saw the signs and started to ask. They wanted to know what had happened inside.

Focused on harvesting the voodoo insect's blood, Qin Lie did not immediately respond. With a grave expression, he carefully and cautiously collected the drops of blood on the wings.

He gathered them into two jade bottles.

"Seventeen drops! There are seventeen drops in total!"

Moments later, he looked at the two jade bottles in his hands. The careful and nervous expression on his face eased slightly.

Seventeen drops of blood. Seven of those were prepared for his side, Song Tingyu, He Wei, and the three martial practitioners of Terminator Sect. All five were poisoned and needed the blood of the voodoo insect.

One of the extra drops was for Xie Jingxuan and the other was for Gao Yu.

Even though he heard He Wei say that Xie Jingxuan had not lasted and was going to find a quiet place to wait for death and also thought that Xie Jingxuan was most likely not alive... they hadn't seen Xie Jingxuan's corpse.

As long as there was a thread of hope, a drop of the voodoo insect's blood could save her life.

As for Gao Yu, he didn't know if Gao Yu was able to escape if so many people got afflicted with the voodoo toxin.

So, as an insurance, he left a drop for Gao Yu.

He put the other ten drops in a new jade bottle and prepared to have a good discussion with the people outside.

He sat down where he was with the eight wings of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen in front of him. The blood on these eight wings had turned sticky and congealed. He didn't know if he could use this. He was waiting for the voodoo toxin to dissipate.

“I’m still here.” After planning in his mind, he shouted in response to the urgent calls of the martial practitioners outside.

“Friend, did you kill the voodoo insect?” a martial practitioner from Heavenly Artifact Sect inquired.

“Did you get the blood?” someone from Ten Thousand Beast Sect spoke.

“Qin Lie, are you alright?” That was Chu Li’s voice.

“Haha, you really are lucky, you survived even that!” Du Xiangyang laughed strangely.

There were great differences in the words said by different people in Qin Lie’s ears.

Chu Li was firstly concerned if he was alright, and did not mention the voodoo insect and the blood.

Du Xiangyan was alone and was not poisoned. He did not have much interest in the life and death of the voodoo insect and was purely bantering.

The people from Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were clearly more concerned about the voodoo insect and its blood. They clearly wouldn’t be interested in him if he

didn’t get the voodoo insect’s blood.

Through these simple questions, Qin Lie judged and had his own thoughts.

“The Eight-winged Centipede Queen sacrificed his eight wings and managed to escape from me. However, I did get some fresh blood. After the voodoo toxin dissipates, you guys can come in and we can chat,” Qin Lie responded calmly.

“Good! As long as you have got the blood!”

“Great!”

“Cousin can be saved!”

“Qianqian can be saved!”

Many people became excited.

Even Chu Li had an expression of joy. He clearly was relieved. He said, “Brother Lie! Great!”

Many people discussed heatedly around the dissipating voodoo toxin with joyful smiles on their faces.

Among these people, only Luo Chen had an awkward expression.

He stood there silently and his gaze was also strange.

Of all the people present, only he had disagreements with Qin Lie.

Zhang Zhendong and Zhao Yuan had come with him at his invitation. He had promised the two that he would do his best to protect them.

Right now, the two were poisoned, and desperately needed the voodoo insect's blood.

But the blood was under Qin Lie's control.

Consequently, everyone would fawn over Qin Lie. Xue Moyan, the people of Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Chu Li and Du Xianyan were all on Qin Lie's side.

Even if he wasn't wounded gravely now, even if he was at full power, he probably wouldn't have a chance of stealing from Qin Lie under the eyes of these people.

Then what should he do now?

Luo Chen's expression changed. He stood there along with a great conflict inside. His expression turned from twisted to depressed and was changing constantly.

Inside the area of dissipating voodoo toxin, Qin Lie sat with his legs in lotus position. He was adjusting himself and inspecting his wounds before the voodoo poison dissipated.

He found to his wonderment that his injuries were not as serious as he had imagined. The blood spirit energy in his body clearly was of great benefit to his injuries at his lungs and at the bottom of his foot.

At this time, he used his mind to feel and found that the holes in his chest and foot had already scabbed over. Also, his cells and fibres were coming back together!

The power of blood was quickly healing the wounds of his physical body. His freakish body possessed an extraordinarily strong healing power.

When the abilities gathered together, it caused his heavily injured body to heal at a fantastic speed.

His mood was stabilized and he relaxed after his inspection.

One hand was channeling blood spirit art, while the other was holding several pieces of spirit stones. As he recovered his spirit energy, he had the three drops of Fire Qilin blood absorb fire power.

In this manner, he waited for the voodoo poison to dissipate.

It took a full hour for the voodoo toxin to dissipate. In this hour, the people that had fled after being poisoned were summoned back by their friends and relatives using the tokens in their possession.

Pan Qianqian, Zhao Yuan, Zhang Chendong, and the other five martial practitioners from Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, eight in total, came back.

These people quickly familiarized themselves with the situation. They learned that Qin Lie had the antidote to release them from the corrosive pain of the voodoo toxin. This caused all eight of them to become excited.

“Sister Xue.” Pan Qianqian looked piteously at Xue Moyan.

Xue Moyan nodded. Her clear and beautiful face was serious. “Do not worry. No matter what, I will ask this person to give you a drop of blood!”

“Sister Xue, d-didn’t we offend him earlier? We misunderstood him and Chu Li, and chased him for such a long time. He probably won’t forgive us so easily…” a young female from Illusory Demon Sect said worriedly.

“Ah, that was our mistake, it’s bad.” Another young female sighed.

Pan Qianqian also panicked. “Then, then what do we do?”

“We will pay the price!” Xue Moyan gritted her teeth. “If he is willing to give a drop of blood, no matter what condition he raises, I will agree! At most, at most, we will all kneel down and beg him!”

“Sister Xue…” Pan Qianqian’s eyes turned wet.

“Brother Luo.” On the other side, Zhao Yuan and Zhang Chendong were dispirited. “Is it that guy that has the voodoo insect blood?” Zhao Yuan asked.

Luo Chen’s complexion was gray like a defeated roost. He lost his past pride and his head was lowered. He said, “Yes.”

Zhao Yuan and Zhang Chendong looked at each other and wanted to cry.

Luo Chen had targeted Qin Lie and they were his accomplices. Even at Scarlet Tide Continent, the roles they had played were not good.

But now Qin Lie had the antidote that could decide their life and death. What should they do now?

Chapter 453: Quarrel!

The voodoo toxin slowly dissipated.

The martial practitioners of various factions had waited for a long time. When the last wisps of the black mist dissipated, they rushed towards Qin Lie's location.

"Are you really alright?" Chu Li came over and looked closely. He could not see any signs of serious injury on Qin Lie's body and couldn't help but ask for confirmation.

Qin Lie smiled as he shook his head. "I'm fine!"

"Good! Very good!" Chu Li grinned.

"Calamities last for a thousand years as expected." Du Xiangyang tsked in wonder. "You are a calamity and didn't die. Ye Yihao, that calamity, escaped. Even that voodoo insect escaped. It seems that being good does not pay off and evil people live longer."

He was putting Qin Lie among the ranks of evil people.

"You got the blood from the Eight-winged Centipede Queen?" The eyes of a martial practitioner from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were bright as his gaze was locked at the jade bottle in front of Qin Lie.

The half-filled bottle contained ten drops of blood.

Everyone's gazes focused on that jade bottle. Their expressions changed slightly and their gazes were curious.

"Inside this bottle are ten drops in total." Qin Lie reached out to grab the jade bottle.

"Only ten drops?" Chu Li's mind was alarmed.

"Ten drops?" The martial practitioner from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain who had inquired first stilled. He turned back to look at the people behind him and suddenly said. "That's enough, There are eight people in total that are poisoned. There are even two extra drops."

"Until now, Qin Lie and I have been fighting for the death of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen and its blood. The two of us will require at least five drops!" Chu Li snorted coldly.

When these words were spoken, the group that had thought there was more than enough voodoo insect's blood immediately became silent.

"Qin Lie himself is poisoned, and needs a drop. This way..." Du Xiangyang dragged out the world and said, "There is only four drops left for other people."

Pan Qianqian, Zhao Yuan, Zhang Chendong and the other five

that were poisoned had a desirous glint burning in their eyes.

They were staring unwaveringly at the jade bottle in Qin Lie's hand.

Chu Li's expression suddenly became serious. He shouted, "Qin Lie! Keep a firm grip on the jade bottle!"

"Heh!" Du Xiangyang started to laugh strangely.

Qin Lie gripped the jade bottle tightly in one hand and sat motionlessly on the ground. He glanced at everyone and used his gaze to indicate a wing of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen. He said, "There is some concealed blood on its wings. Can that blood be used as an antidote to the voodoo poison?"

"No." Xue Moyan was the first to speak. "The congealed blood is not fresh enough and cannot attract the voodoo poison from the soul. Only liquid blood, even just one drop, can take out the voodoo toxin from inside a person's soul. Once the blood is permeated with poison, it cannot be used twice..."

She furrowed her brow, sighed inside and said, "Ten drops of fresh voodoo insect blood can only heal ten, and not one more."

Everyone became even more quiet.

At this time, their eyes burned with an ever greater desire as they looked at the jade bottle in Qin Lie's hand.

The atmosphere became tense, almost hostile.

Especially the martial practitioners of Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain whose eyes betrayed their murderous intent. Even their bodies started to exude a cold presence.

There were only ten drops of fresh voodoo insect blood. Taking the six drops of Qin Lie and Chu Li's side into consideration, there were only four drops to be divided.

But there were eight people here that were poisoned, how could this be divided?

Those that did not get one would slowly walk towards death. Their life and soul power would slip away. They would have to watch as their relatives and friends leave them.

Thoughts of stealing or attacking arose in their minds.

At this point, after a battle, Chu Li was injured and his spirit power was used up. Luo Chen was even worse off. Qin Lie was poisoned and his cultivation was low...

In their view, only Du Xiangyang and the people of Illusory Demon Sect were of any threat to them.

Du Xiangyang was not poisoned, but he was alone. They did not need to pay too much attention to him.

There was only one poisoned among Illusory Demon Sect. If they reached an agreement with them, and gave them one drop of blood, it would be enough to take care of the others.

Thinking this way, there were not many present that could threaten them.

They could take all the voodoo blood for themselves!

“Miss Xue, I am Niu Shaojun of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. I have a suggestion, what do you think?” that martial practitioner from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain suddenly said.

He only looked at Xue Moyan.

“What suggestion?” Xue Moyan said neutrally.

“There are ten drops of Eight-winged Centipede Queen’s blood. Our Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect will take five drops.” Niu Shaojun smiled slightly and looked at the person beside him.

That person was called Situ Tong, a martial practitioner from Heavenly Artifact Sect. He smiled and nodded as well.

Niu Shaojun had an unspoken agreement with him already. Seeing the other nod, Niu Shaojun was even more confident. “Illusory Demon Sect can do as you please with the remaining five drops. We will not have any opinions. Miss Xue, what do you think?”

When the words were spoken, the battle that had just settled down seemed as though it would start again.

At this time Luo Chen was bandaging himself, swallowing pills and medicines to recover. Zhao Yuan and Zhang Chendong were standing to the left and right of him.

Luo Chen’s ashen and handsome face turned icy. His eyes were intimidatingly murderous. “Niu Shaojun! Situ Tong! You dare to dismiss me? Even if Feng Yiyou was here, he would not disregard me so, who do you think you are?”

“Young Master Luo Chen, if this was in the past, we naturally would not dare to disregard you. In fact, in the past, we would have avoided had we seen you.” Situ Tong chuckled and looked disdainfully at him. He said, “But the present is not the same as the past. You are heavily injured, and cannot reach even three-tenths of your usual power. Hah, we can actually ignore the present you!”

“The two next to you are not martial practitioners of Heavenly Sword Mountain and are infected by the voodoo toxin. They cannot help you.” Niu Shaojun looked mockingly at him and said, “Your current combat ability is not enough to make us nervous, so you do not qualify to receive the blood.”

The duo's words were painfully direct and self-serving.

They were as ruthless as a blade and crushed the temporary alliance that everyone had formed to face Ye Yihao to pieces.

"Damn it! I'm a dying tiger that's being bullied by a dog. I can humiliate little people like you usually. I would have never thought that I would be ignored now!" Chu Li smiled in anger.

"Hah, Boss Chu, don't be angry. The words that we just said to Luo Chen are also suitable for you. We also ... want to say it to you." Situ Tong's eyes were narrowed and he was not polite at all.

"Du Xiangyang, this has nothing to do with you. You can not interfere," Niu Shaojun said with a frown.

He was still careful when facing Du Xiangyang. Du Xiangyang was only lightly injured and was still a strong fighter. If he really became enemies against them, he could cause significant trouble.

So he hoped that Du Xiangyang would stay out of this and not interfere. This way, their chance of success would be higher.

The two of them inquired about Xue Moyan's opinion, humiliated Luo Chen, challenged Chu Li and urged Du Xiangyan. The only thing they did not do was ask Qin Lie's opinion.

And Qin Lie was actually the person who had risked his life and did everything he could, even at the price of being poisoned, to get the ten drops of blood.

They chose to dismiss Qin Lie's opinion!

Because Qin Lie wasn't just poisoned, he was wounded. Also, in their view, he was weak in cultivation—unable to be of any threat to them.

"Miss Xue, please give an answer," Situ Tong said.

All gazes gathered on Xue Moyan.

Even the young women of Illusory Demon Sect had nervous and anxious expressions. They also wanted to know what Xue Moyan's stand on the matter was.

Her position would decide the direction of further developments.

There were six young women from Illusory Demon Sect. Other than Pan Qianqian, none of them were poisoned. Xue Moyan had not been wounded heavily in this battle and was still in her best condition.

It could be said the present Xue Moyan was the strongest person present.

Illusory Demon Sect was not a faction that Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect could face individually.

Even if the two factions teamed up, they would not have a hundred percent chance of achieving victory against the Illusory Demon Sect young females led by Xue Moyan.

Because of their great wariness, they expressed the appropriate respect all this time and inquired for Xue Moyan's opinion.

"Give me one drop, I will take my sisters and immediately leave this place. I only want one drop!" Xue Moyan suddenly shouted at Qin Lie.

"No." Qin Lie coldly responded.

Chapter 454: I Won't Give!

Qin Lie's refusal caused everyone to look in bewilderment.

Xue Moyan's delicate face was filled with astonishment. She looked at him with question marks in her eyes.

She thought that her demand was not a high one.

Compared to Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, she was already very friendly. Her Illusory Demon Sect was so strong in combat. She was just asking for a drop of blood, was it still too much to ask for?

A drop of blood in exchange for the six of them from Illusory Demon Sect to leave. Having such a strong opponent leave, why did he not agree?

She could not understanding Qin Lie's reasoning.

Chu Li, Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang and the others also could not understand and had astonishment written all over their faces.

Xue Moyan and Illusory Demon Sect were who they were all most wary of.

In their eyes, Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beats Mountain were not as great a threat as Illusory Demon Sect.

“Qin Lie!” Chu Li shouted.

His expression was one of strong urging.

“One drop of blood to have one less opponent like Illusory Demon Sect, it is worth it.” Du Xiangyang rubbed his chin and said.

Niu Shaojun, Situ Tong, and the martial practitioners of Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, including those poisoned, also wore serious expressions.

They hadn’t expected that Xue Moyan of Illusory Demon Sect was not greedy for more of the voodoo insect blood and just wanted one drop.

This came as a surprise to them.

Yet even more unexpected was Qin Lie’s response; Qin Lie had directly refused such a beneficial transaction!

It puzzled them, and also had them sighing in relief.

If Qin Lie agreed, Xue Moyan would get the drop of voodoo insect blood and leave with the young females of Illusory Demon Sect. With the people they had, they should be able to kill Luo Chen, Chu Li, Du Xianyang, Qin Lie and the others, but it would not be

easy.

They would definitely have to pay a price!

—That was not an outcome they wanted to see.

The best outcome was that they would ally with the strongest group, Illusory Demon Sect, and divide the ten drops of blood. They would have the absolute advantage and achieve their goal without any cost; that was what they wanted!

“I will ask one more time! The last time!” Xue Moyan’s expression turned icy. Her clear eyes showed a hint of undisguised anger. “Just one drop of voodoo insect blood, and all of Illusory Demon Sect will leave. Will you give it or not?”

“Qin Lie!” Chu Li shouted.

“Kid, be a bit tactful, will ya?” Du Xiangyang put away his playful attitude and called out with a stern face.

Qin Lie suddenly became silent.

He had put away the other jade bottle and said there were only ten drops of blood. This was to cause the illusion that the resource was rare. He was going to use this to bargain with the others, to force Luo Chen to put down his pride, kneel and beg him. It was to get enough spirit materials and benefits from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect.

Of course, because of Xue Li's connection, he had planned from the start to give a free drop to Xue Moyan.

But he would not be so polite to other people, and had the plan to take them for all they were worth.

These ten drops of voodoo insect blood had been obtained by him and Chu Li risking their lives.

There was no reason to give them to others for free!

He hadn't expected that when he said there were only ten drops, Niu Shaojun and Situ Tong's expressions would change and so did their auras.

In that moment, he realized that the two had intention of killing him.

After that, the words the two had said angered him!

Originally, he had planned on scalping Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Mountain for spirit materials, force Luo Chen to kneel down and apologize before giving the ten drops of blood.

Now he did not plan on doing that.

He was very angered by the attitude of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heaven Artifact Sect. It ignited the mad fire inside of him.

“I will not!” Qin Lie refused Xue Moyan again.

Just like before.

“Alright.” Xue Moyan took a deep breath and nodded slightly. She said, “Our Illusory Demon Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Heavenly Artifact Sect has reached an agreement.”

“Good!”

Niu Shaoyun and Situ Tong laughed at the same time. The martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect also had excited expressions.

These people took out spirit artifacts, their bodies rippling with spirit energy that unconsciously spread. They were about to surround Qin Lie and the others.

“Du Xiangyang! What do you say?” Situ Tong shouted coldly.

Du Xiangyang grimaced. He first looked at Luo Chen and then at Qin Lie. He felt extremely vexed and cursed, “Are you f*cking insane?”

“Aren’t I poisoned?” Qin Lie pretended to be dumb.

“Prepare to fight. I hope that you don’t die too quickly and embarrass Heavenly Sword Mountain!” Du Xiangyang cursed but he still took out his sword.

He would still fight for the glory of Heavenly Sword Mountain!

Now Qin Lie understood everyone’s attitudes.

“Whoosh!”

A flame shaped like a Fire Qilin suddenly appeared above the hand that was holding the jade bottle. His fingers that were holding the bottle loosened.

The jade bottle holding the ten drops of voodoo insect blood was exposed like this under the Fire Qilin shaped flame. If the flame came down, the ten drops of blood inside the jade bottle would immediately evaporate.

“Xue Moyan, you and your sisters from Illusory Demon Sect will help us kill the martial practitioners from Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.” Qin Lie’s voice was unusually calm. “Otherwise, I will immediately boil the voodoo insect blood in this jade bottle.”

Xue Moyan was stunned.

The young females of Illusory Demon Sect also stilled. They bit their lips and looked in surprise at the jade bottle.

The martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect also had expressions of alarm. They were intimidated by this sudden change.

“Qin Lie! Don’t mess around, Song Tingyu and He Wei are both poisoned!” Chu Li shouted.

“Are you crazy?” Du Xiangyang shouted.

“I don’t believe that you will burn all of the voodoo insect blood.” Three seconds later, Xue Moyan recovered her calm. “For that woman, you charged into the area covered in voodoo toxin without a care. You wanted to kill the voodoo insect at the cost of being poisoned yourself to get the blood antidote. If you burn this bottle of blood, she will also die. I don’t believe you can bear to abandon her.”

“Hm! I also don’t believe the boy will dare to do that!” Niu Shaojun snorted and said.

“He’s just pretending!” Situ Tong’s expression was impatient. “He isn’t even afraid of death for that woman. Would he waste the woman’s last hope for life? He definitely doesn’t dare!”

Everyone thought that Qin Lie was just threatening them.

“Oh? You really think that I don’t dare?” Qin Lie looked around and his gaze swept across the expressions of the people. Then, he screwed open the cap and poured out a drop of blood.

“Poof!”

The drop of voodoo insect blood flew into the Fire Qilin fire with a flick of his finger and evaporated immediately.

“That was the first drop, next will be the second!”

Before everyone could react, Qin Lie poured out another drop to burn it. Then he said coolly, “If Illusory Demon Sect does not act, then I will continue to burn them until you start to attack.”

As he said this, he went to pour out the third drop.

Xue Moyan finally crumbled and screamed, “Kill the people of Ten Thousand Demon Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect!”

The mental defenses of the Illusory Demon Sect females had been destroyed by Qin Lie burning the two drops of blood.

They screamed and shouted. All of them moved their spirit artifacts. They vented their displeasure, depression, discontent, and anger onto the people from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect!”

“Luo Chen, if you can kill two people from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect, I will give you two drops of blood for Zhao Yuan and Zhang Chendong!” Qin Lie shouted.

Luo Chen met his gaze again.

From Qin Lie’s eyes, he saw true viciousness and savagery. For the first time, he felt that this little martial practitioner from Scarlet Tide Continent had traits that made people fear and respect him.

“Alright!” Luo Chen agreed.

“Du Xiangyang!” Qin Lie smiled viciously. “You kill as well! For everyone person you kill, I will give you ten pieces of Heavenly Flame Crystals!”

As he spoke, the spatial ring on his hand lit up. Piece after piece of Heavenly Flame Crystal appeared in front of him.

When Du Xiangyang saw the enormous number of Heavenly Flame Crystals, he put them away again.

“Alright!” Du Xiangyang’s eyes were already burning as he started to howl with laugher.

“Big Brother Chu, you can tolerate those people who were

humiliating you just now?" Qin Lie grinned and stood up first. He raised the Astral Thunder Hammer and said with a snarl, "If it was me, I definitely would not stand for it!"

"I won't tolerate it!" Chu Li immediately howled.

Chapter 455: Curing The Voodoo Toxin!

“Then let’s kill them all!”

Qin Lie stomped heavily on the ground as an immense power of the earth immediately penetrated deep beneath the ground, causing its internal gravity to change abruptly.

Situ Tong and Niu Shaojun’s group immediately paled when they saw the tide turning against them instantly.

Just when they were ready to do something and turn things around, Xue Moyan’s clear eyes abruptly shone with sharp killing intent. She actually became the first person to charge towards the front.

“Thousand Threaded Illusory Demon Hands!”

Many thin, long arms stretched out of the Illusory Demon Orb. These arms were snow white, translucent and shiny. Thousands of threads flew out tip of every finger.

In a moment, a sky full of arm shadows and silver threads enveloped every Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect martial practitioner inside it like a cloth cover.

The bright silver threads were entangled with white mists. It created a dream-like realm that could confound one’s mind, causing a martial practitioner great difficulty when attempting to

arouse their fighting will.

Fear glinted through Situ Tong, Niu Shaojun and the others' eyes. They were very worried on the inside as well.

It was at this moment gravity abruptly changed and dropped a terrific burden on them. They felt as if they were carrying a heavy mountain on their backs, and they found it difficult to even move as they wished.

These people grew more and more afraid.

"Half Moon Slash!"

The sword beam brimming inside Luo Chen's sword transformed into a half moon's shape before it landed right on top of the enemy like a cold crescent moon.

"For the Heavenly Flame Crystals!"

Du Xiangyang grinned and laughed loudly before he switched his sword art and conjured three gigantic fire pythons into existence, directing them with a roar right towards Situ Tong's direction.

"Starfall!" Chu Li laughed sinisterly.

As if summoned into reality, the brilliant stars and light dots on his clothes fell from the sky with terrific impact after being

mingled with Chu Li's spirit energy.

After Qin Lie had changed gravity with a single stomp, he too raised his Thunder Hammer and joined the battle while his body was entangled with thunder and lightning, laughing harshly in the process.

Three Fire Qilin flames also roared and locked onto three different targets.

He did not feel the slightest bit of good will towards either Situ Tong or Niu Shaojun. Both of these people were complete snobs who immediately attempted to join forces with Illusory Demon Sect to kill them and snatch the voodoo insect's blood after they realized that his cultivation was weak, and Chu Li and Luo Chen both were severely injured.

These people absolutely deserved to die for their sins!

"Boom! Boom boom boom!"

When the combined strength of the group, when the violent and forceful spirit arts and spirit artifacts were tossed towards the Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect martial practitioners, they had collapsed under the pressure instantly.

"Run!"

"Retreat!"

“Let’s escape this place first! We’ll find a chance to take revenge later!”

The martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect all cried out in shock and reminder as they executed all sorts of extraordinary escape techniques to outrun the devastating power that was about to fall on them.

Some of them had transformed into rainbow lights and vanished from view in a single breath. Some of them dove head first into the ground and hid underground. There were also some people who suddenly turned invisible and were gone like they never existed...

However, not everyone was lucky enough to escape.

When the group’s combined attack had fallen, those who were unable to escape in time or lacked the necessary escape spirit arts to escape in the first place were immediately flooded.

Amidst the gigantic sounds of explosion and brilliant shockwaves, the sounds of breaking ribs, bursting chests and roars of pain instantly erupted all at once.

Three people had died instantly from the attack.

Another two people had their bodies penetrated and wrapped completely by the silver threads conjured by Xue Moyan’s Thousand Threads Illusory Demon Hands.

Although the duo had not died instantly, they were trapped and were unable to escape. When Luo Chen came close, he swiped his sword across their necks and killed them both amidst blossoms of blood as well.

“Burn!”

Another person was caught by Du Xiangyang’s orange flames and was now burning intensely.

Both Qin Lie and Chu Li had charged to the front with angry yells, but they found that their targets had escaped through the use of some escape techniques.

“Heh, thank goodness the Illusory Demon Sect martial practitioners decided to help you. Otherwise, it would not have been this easy.” Du Xiangyang arrived behind Qin Lie and grinned with an open mouth, saying, “If they had joined hands with Illusory Demon Sect then we would have been the unlucky ones instead. Their downfall may have very well been our downfall...”

“Both Niu Shaojun and Situ Tong managed to escape. They are not actually weak, you know. They are both at the peak of Netherpassage Realm.” Chu Li frowned.

“I would not have given small fries like them a second glance if this was any other day!” Luo Chen exclaimed with a cold expression, “Once my strength has recovered, I will kill those two bastards with my own hands!”

“Small fries, tsk tsk, everyone is a small fry in your eyes.” Du Xiangyang ridiculed him.

Luo Chen frowned, but surprisingly, he did not retort Du Xiangyang’s words.

This was not how he used to be.

Even Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong were looking at him with a strange look in their eyes.

They knew very well how prideful a person Luo Chen was.

“You’ve only killed one person.” Qin Lie waved the jade bottle in front of Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong’s faces, “So, you can only get one drop of blood. Only one of them may continue to live…”

Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong’s expression changed at the same time.

“Give me two blood droplets. On my name, I swear that I’ll never cause you trouble again from here on out!” Luo Chen exclaimed softly.

“Hahahaha!” Suddenly, Qin Lie was amused.

He laughed so hard that he was rocking back and forth and

tearing up.

He pointed at Luo Chen and said, “Since Sea Moon Island, you, Luo Chen, are the one who has been causing me trouble. Consider me curious; Just when the hell have I offended you? After the matter at Sea Moon Island, it was also you who had proclaimed that you would kill me inside the examination. Earlier just now, when you and I both encountered each other, it was again you who had attacked me first. Hah. From the beginning to the end, it was you, Luo Chen, who provoked me again and again!”

The smile on Qin Lie’s face faded bit by bit. When he was finished speaking, his expression was already ice cold.

“And now, you’re telling me that you will not cause me trouble any longer if I give you an extra drop of blood?” Qin Lie’s face was completely void of any temperature, “Have you ever considered that I would turn around and give you trouble instead? Have you ever thought how I plan to deal with you?”

Luo Chen’s eyes darkened.

“You’re at the end of your strength, man, what the hell are you acting so arrogant for?” Chu Li scolded without any politeness in his tone at all, “If Qin Lie, Du Xiangyang, and I were to join forces to kill you, it would not actually be too difficult at all!”

“Oh no, please count me out of this!” Du Xiangyang waved his hands repeatedly, “This is the internal strife within Heavenly Sword Mountain. At best, I would stand by and watch, but I would

not interfere with either side.”

“Kneel on one knee and beg me to give you this blood droplet.” Qin Lie said coldly while gripping the jade bottle, “Originally, you’d have to kneel on both knees to get two droplets of blood, but since you did kill one person, I will only ask you to kneel on one!”

“You dare!” Luo Chen’s eyes shone with a powerful sense of humiliation.

“It’s up to you whether you want to kneel or not.” Qin Lie shrugged his shoulders, “I guess it’s understandable. Both Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong are not your brothers. You, Luo Chen, may not necessarily be willing to put down your pride just for their lives I guess.”

Both Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong suddenly bowed their heads and did not look at Luo Chen in a quiet sign of defiance.

“Make your choice.”

Qin Lie no longer bothered with them and beckoned Illusory Demon Sect’s Xue Moyan.

Xue Moyan and a hungry-looking Pan Qianqian walked over and looked at the jade bottle in his hands.

“Get a bottle. I’ll pour you a drop of blood right now.” Qin Lie said.

Pan Qianqian hurried passed over a jade bottle with hope in her eyes. Even her hands were trembling a little.

With every moment and every passing second, her life and soul were fading away bit by bit.

She could sense this clearly.

This pain and fear couldn't be described with words.

Even in her dreams, she wanted to obtain a drop of voodoo insect blood.

"Here!" Now, Qin Lie was giving her the blood she desired in order to help her escape this agony.

Pan Qianqian accepted the jade bottle and immediately sat down on the ground. She carefully dropped the voodoo insect blood onto her forehead.

The crowd's attention was instantly focused onto Pan Qianqian. They were all looking at the voodoo insect blood on top of her forehead.

Everyone at this place had more or less heard about the voodoo toxin's secrets. They all knew that they must acquire a drop of blood from the mother insect or kill the mother insect directly to

cure the Black Voodoo Cult's voodoo toxin.

Everyone knew that the mother insect's blood could be used to cure the voodoo toxin. But no one had actually seen it in effect before.

They all wanted to confirm this through Pan Qianqian right now.

Qin Lie's eyes lit up. He was also staring at Pan Qianqian's forehead closely.

The blood from the Eight-winged Centipede Queen was like a cinnabar mole on Pan Qianqian's forehead. Its color was so vivid that it was a little eerie.

Pan Qianqian's eyes were currently entangled with many black threads. Then, the black threads actually seeped out of her eyes as if they sensed something at once and slipped into that blood droplet one after another.

Everyone could see that the gray color and paleness of Pan Qianqian's face was fading bit by bit.

What replaced the darkness was a luster that was gone a very long time ago and an encouraging mind fluctuation.

Pan Qianqian was recovering swiftly!

“It’s working!”

That was the thought in everyone’s hearts right now.

About ten minutes later, the blood on Pan Qianqian’s forehead turned into a black lump that fell on the ground.

Pan Qianqian’s gray dark eyes had regained its light.

“All of the voodoo poison had been absorbed by that blood. I’m fine now!” Pan Qianqian exclaimed in joy like a bird.

“Burn that congealed blood now!” Xue Moyan instructed.

“Yeah, got it.” An Illusory Demon Sect girl who was well versed with fire spirit arts summoned a clump of light blue flames and burned the black blood lump completely.

“Sister Xue, I’m fine now. I’m completely healed.” Pan Qianqian said cheerfully.

Xue Moyan’s eyes also gleamed with joy as she nodded lightly and said towards Qin Lie, “I’ve misunderstood you and Chu Li last time.”

“It’s nothing.” Qin Lie waved his hands and pondered for a moment before saying, “In reality, I have planned to gift you a drop of voodoo insect blood from the beginning. I’ve never

actually thought to coerce you, Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain, and Heavenly Artifact Sect with the voodoo insect blood. I hadn't expected them to be this vicious either..."

"As long as Qianqian is healed, all is well." Xue Moyan was indifferent now that it was over and said, "Let's just leave it at this. Since we, Illusory Demon Sect, are fine now, we will be departing here."

"I think that it is best if we stick together." Du Xiangyang suddenly said.

The girls in Illusory Demon Sect all looked at him in surprise. They did not understand why he had suddenly said this.

"Ye Yihao isn't dead. The Eight-winged Centipede Queen is still alive. The core members of the three great families are safe and sound as well."

Du Xiangyang sighed, "In this forest, Ye Yihao has the land advantage. When he recovers and reconvenes with them, we will probably be in a disadvantage once more. Alone, none of us may stand a good chance against him. For example, both Luo Chen and Chu Li were almost killed by him this time. If it wasn't for Qin Lie destroying Ye Yihao's control over the infected with his flames, everyone here would have been killed by him already!"

Once he said this, the crowd suddenly turned silent once more.

The Illusory Demon Sect girls were no longer in a hurry to leave. They were obviously deeply wary of Ye Yihao and his people.

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Chapter 456: Luo Chen Kneels!

“Sister Xue?”

Pan Qianqian stared at Xue Moyan while her face was riddled with worry and seriousness.

Huang Zhuli and the few other Illusory Demon Sect girls looked worried and solemn as well.

They were all scared of running into Ye Yihao and the three great families’ martial practitioners in this lush forest. It was obvious that Ye Yihao and Ling Dongxing’s group had formed an alliance. In this case, it wasn’t really smart to go against them with Illusory Demon Sect’s power alone.

They also thought that it was for the best if they do not leave for now.

After thinking for a moment, Xue Moyan nodded slightly under the girls’ expectant gazes, saying, “We shall stay with them for the moment.”

The five girls all let out secret sighs of relief.

Chu Li rubbed his chin while staring back and forth between Xue Moyan and Qin Lie with an odd gaze. He was obviously delighting over the misfortune he foresaw would fall onto Qin Lie.

“That is hell in front of you, kid…” Chu Li thought on the inside.

He thought that Xue Moyan was Qin Lie’s fiancée, but Qin Lie had gone through heaven and hell to save Song Tingyu. The second Xue Moyan realized Qin Lie’s identity, would she fly into humiliated rage? How would she treat Qin Lie?

Chu Li was starting to feel a headache for Qin Lie.

“Over there!”

The battle’s over there!”

It was at this moment He Wei’s voice came from afar.

Chu Li suddenly turned spirited at the voice as he yelled, “We’re over here!”

The crowd turned towards the direction of the voice.

Before long, He Wei, Song Tingyu, Ren Peng and the others had appeared one after another.

“Chu Li, are you fine?” He Wei cried.

“Qin Lie, how are you doing?” Song Tingyu exclaimed.

The gazes of the Illusory Demon Sect's girls suddenly shot towards Song Tingyu all at once. Their eyes were filled with curiosity.

They knew very well just how heavy the price Qin Lie had paid in order to save this woman, to the point where he nearly lost his life in the process. They wanted to know what kind of woman she was to be able to make Qin Lie willing to sacrifice his own life.

The second the glanced at Song Tingyu, they immediately understood why. They all exclaimed inside their hearts, "What a beautiful woman!"

Although she was infected with the voodoo toxin and looked both haggard and spiritless, Song Tingyu's perfect proportions and extraordinarily beautiful face were undeniable.

No one could deny that she was a beauty who could capture every man's heart if they took even a single glance at her.

"Qin Lie has acquired the voodoo insect's blood!" Chu Li exclaimed.

He Wei, Song Tingyu and the other infected people looked like they had lit up and become several times spirited the moment they heard the news.

"Here, five voodoo insect blood droplets. You will take one drop each and put it at your forehead. The blood will automatically suck

out the toxin…”

Qin Lie smiled and took out another jade bottle. He poured five blood droplets into that jade bottle and passed it swiftly to Chu Li so he could help cure his friends’ ailment.

Chu Li accepted the jade bottle and glanced once at the final two droplets of blood. Suddenly, he let out an odd chuckle.

On the other side, Luo Chen, who had been quiet all this time suddenly looked towards this side.

He stared straight at Qin Lie’s hands.

There were a total of ten blood droplets inside the jade bottle. In order to coerce Xue Moyan to go up against Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect, he had burned away two blood droplets and passed one to Pan Qianqian later on.

Now, he had taken out another five blood droplets to cure He Wei, Song Tingyu and the others.

Now, he only had two blood droplets left in the jade bottle in his hands.

He had promised one blood droplet to Luo Chen as a reward for him killing a Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioner.

The other blood droplet would only be given if Luo Chen knelt to Qin Lie on one feet.

However, Qin Lie himself had been poisoned by the voodoo toxin. Didn't he need a voodoo insect blood to cure himself as well?

There were plenty of people who came to realization...

"This guy is so bad. He's obviously just playing Luo Chen. There's no way he's not using a blood on himself." An Illusory Demon Sect girl muttered and rolled her eyes at Qin Lie from afar.

The rest of the girls also thought that Qin Lie was purposely toying with Luo Chen.

Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong also thought that they figured out what was going on as their expressions abruptly turned dark.

They thought that even if Luo Chen was willing to kneel and beg the voodoo insect blood for their sake, Qin Lie would never pass the two blood droplets to Luo Chen.

This meant that one of them was going to waste away slowly due to the voodoo toxin.

No one here realized that Qin Lie still had another jade bottle containing seven unused voodoo insect blood.

“Qin Lie! Are you toying with me?” Luo Chen suddenly yelled.

Qin Lie went blank for a moment before he suddenly coming to realization when he stared at the two remaining voodoo insect blood droplets in his hand. After a frown, he shook his head and laughed coldly, “I am not toying you. As long as you’re willing to kneel on one knee, as long as you’re willing to beg me, then I will pass the remaining blood to you. I only have one question. Will you do it, or not?”

“You obviously only have two blood droplets left, and you are infected by the voodoo poison as well!” Luo Chen roared angrily.

“You don’t need to worry about me.” Qin Lie chuckled oddly, “I am simply asking if you’re willing to kneel to me for their life? Are you willing to put down your so-called pride?”

“Give me the two blood droplets first! Then, I’ll kneel!” Luo Chen sucked in a deep breath and exclaimed in a cold tone.

“No problem!”

To their surprise, Qin Lie agreed to Luo Chen’s proposal and raised his hand amidst the people’s shocked gaze, saying, “You shall all be my witnesses!”

Illusory Demon Sect’s Xue Moyan, the five girls, Du Xiangyang, Chu Li, and the late coming He Wei and Song Tingyu’s group all froze at once.

Their gazes were instantly focused onto Qin Lie, and the jade bottle he was lifting in the air. They saw the two blood droplets inside the jade bottle.

“I will pass this to you first.”

Under their gaze, Qin Lie actually walked closer to Luo Chen and pass the jade bottle to Luo Chen.

Once he was done, he even said, “You can pass this to Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong first and cure them to test if this voodoo insect blood is real or not.”

Everyone froze.

Luo Chen’s gaze was indescribably odd as he held the jade bottle in his hands and froze on the spot, at a loss as to what he should do.

“Brother Luo, Brother Luo!”

Luo Chen was awakened from his daze by Zhao Xuan’s soft cries, and after he came to, he subconsciously passed the jade bottle in his hands to Zhao Xuan and said, “Test and see if this is the real thing.”

Both Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong had never let their eyes

move away from the jade bottle in Qin Lie's hands. They dared say that Qin Lie absolutely did not switch it with something else, and these two blood droplets were definitely the cure to the voodoo toxin.

Both of them were incredibly excited.

Carefully, they put the two voodoo insect blood drops onto their foreheads.

Following He Wei and Song Tingyu's posture, they sat down on the ground and used their True Souls to sense the activity inside their own bodies.

The group could clearly sense the voodoo toxin toxin exiting from their pupils like strings and flowing into the blood at their foreheads.

The effects were exactly the same as what was going on with He Wei and Song Tingyu right now.

This proved that the blood droplets were real.

Qin Lie had honored his promise beforehand and gifted them both drops.

The group subconsciously looked towards Luo Chen. They all wanted to know the decision this core ringer of Heavenly Sword Mountain, the heaven blessed son, the genius of the sword way

would make.

Would he kneel?

No one could figure out the answer immediately.

They could all see the struggle, the difficulty, and the embarrassment in his eyes...

Song Tingyu's gray eyes slowly brightened as she cured the poison inside her body. An odd light rippled through her eyes as her heart was filled with extraordinary feelings.

Not long ago, back at Sea Moon Island, Luo Chen was given great regards by Blue Star Association's president and served greatly as the core ringer of Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Meanwhile, they were discovered by them just before they were about to leave Sea Moon Island and forced to surrender the blank tombstone.

For their sake, for Tang Siqi, Lian Rou, Yi Yan, Mo Hai and everyone else, Qin Lie had chosen to endure the humiliation and submit the blank tombstone obediently.

A long time had passed since then, and Qin Lie never brought that matter up again. He was also silent for quite a while.

Song Tingyu knew very well that that incident was a huge humiliation for Qin Lie.

She thought that it would take Qin Lie another ten years or so to experience a giant leap in his realm and status before he could reclaim his pride.

He would never imagine that Qin Lie was going to clean up his shame in the Trial in just a few months time.

The humiliation to Luo Chen by asking him to kneel on one knee was probably no lesser than the humiliation he subjected on Qin Lie.

“This person will probably go back on his promise, won’t he? He is the sword genius of Heavenly Sword Mountain, and the strongest of his generation. Can he really put down his pride?” Song Tingyu shook her head slightly.

Chu Li was smiling coldly, and Du Xiangyang’s expression was cheerful. Meanwhile, Xue Moyan and the other Illusory Demon Sect girls wore odd gazes.

They were all waiting for Luo Chen’s decision, but deep inside their hearts, they did not believe that Luo Chen would kneel to Qin Lie.

After all, once today’s matter was spread out, Luo Chen would never be able to lift his head in front of Qin Lie again.

How could Luo Chen possibly duo such a thing?

However, what happened in the next moment shocked everyone in the area.

“Thump!”

Luo Chen bowed his head and knelt on one knee heavily in front of Qin Lie.

“It was I, Luo Chen, who had acted rudely. I apologize!” He gritted his teeth and exclaimed word by word.

No one saw that Luo Chen had bitten his lips so hard that they were bleeding. No one knew how terrible it was for Luo Chen to kneel either.

He was the only one who understood it.

By kneeling to Qin Lie, it meant that Qin Lie had completely torn his pride to shreds!

From here on out, he, Luo Chen would not hold the slightest bit of pride when he was before Qin Lie.

As long as Qin Lie was alive in the future, he would be a soundless badge of humiliation for Luo Chen!

“Ah!”

Pan Qianqian covered her mouth and lost control of her voice. Her face was filled with astonishment.

The Illusory Demon Sect girls had also cried out in surprise.

Chu Li, Du Xiangyang, He Wei and even Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong had frozen suddenly with shock written on their faces.

Everyone knew about Luo Chen’s pridefulness, and that he was a miracle in swords since the moment he was born. They knew that he was raised as the future leader of Heavenly Sword Mountain.

He had never let down anyone’s expectations before!

He Wei and Du Xiangyang were both talented people and sword geniuses in Heavenly Sword Mountain among the same age group. However, they were both suppressed by Luo Chen from the beginning to the end!

When Heavenly Sword Mountain was brought up, among the young generation, Luo Chen had always been the brightest and most powerful person of them all.

No one could deny this point!

However, today, this proud and bright figure had actually put down his pride in front of a nameless small fry.

Luo Chen had actually knelt down to his knee!

Chapter 457: New Lease On Life

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Even Qin Lie was caught a little off guard. He also did not expect that Luo Chen would actually kneel before him.

“Then this is the end of this matter!” Qin Lie exclaimed in a low tone.

“I hope to see you alive next time!”

After throwing down this line, Luo Chen abruptly went zipped far away like a sword beam.

He did not allow anyone to see his facial expression.

Both Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong froze and wanted to leave immediately as well. However, the voodoo toxin on their bodies was not completely cured yet.

Therefore, they did not depart immediately.

“He wants to see me alive next time...”

Qin Lie shook his head while rubbing his chin with an odd expression.

“Hehe.” Chu Lie also smiled.

He knew that Qin Lie could live even without the voodoo insect blood despite being poisoned.

He Wei, Song Tingyu, and the others also wore relaxed expression on their faces.

Du Xiangyang and the confused Illusory Demon Sect girls were the ones who were still in shocked and doubtful.

“Actually, I still have seven voodoo insect blood drops with me.”

Qin Lie grinned at Du Xiangyang, Xue Moyan and the others with a great deal of satisfaction. He seized the moment to take out the other bottle containing the other voodoo insect blood.

“At first, I merely wanted to coerce Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect to give us some valuables, but I didn’t think that they would harbor malice in their hearts and attempt to rob us when they see that we’re weak.” Qin Lie explained.

When the Illusory Demon Sect girls saw that he still had a bottle of voodoo insect blood with him, they were all unsure whether to laugh or cry at the outcome.

“You are such a bad person!” Pan Qianqian curled her lips and rolled her eyes at him, “You brought this upon yourself. If you haven’t thought to extort them a ridiculous sum of valuables, would they have been driven into desperation?”

“Why should I give someone else for free something I literally fought with my own life to obtain?” Qin Lie snorted coldly, “If those people from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect wanted to get the voodoo insect blood, why haven’t they charged into the voodoo toxin area themselves?”

Pan Qianqian was instantly at a loss for words.

“I simply wanted them to pay a price, that’s all. But who would think that not only did they try to get away for free, they even tried to join hands with your Illusory Demon Sect to kill me and forcefully snatch away my voodoo insect blood!”

“That is true.” Pan Qianqian nodded.

“Qianqian, let us find a place to recover our spirit energy.” Xue Moyan beckoned her.

The Illusory Demon Sect girls chose a spot with tree leaves not far away from Qin Lie’s group and sat down.

They took out their spirit stones to recover their spirit energy and maintain peak condition.

“Here, the Heavenly Flame Crystals I promised you.” Qin Lie raised his hands.

Ten fiery red crystals flew out of his hands like beautiful meteors towards Du Xiangyang.

Du Xiangyang was overjoyed. While laughing loudly, he stretched his hands to withdraw the ten Heavenly Flame Crystals and said, “Qin Lie, oh, Qin Lie, you sure are an interesting fellow.”

“Du Xiangyang, you know this guy?” He Wei said doubtfully.

“Of course, of course!” Du Xiangyang said with a cheerful expression, “When I first met this guy I almost tried to kill him, but I was the one who got played instead. After that, every time I encounter this malefic lunatic I would avoid him. Haha, thank goodness that he and I are not enemies now though.”

The enmity was finally in the past after recent developments.

“I still owe you a favor.” Qin Lie pondered and said suddenly while rubbing his spatial ring, “If possible, I would like to return this favor through the Heavenly Flame Crystals. Give me your price.”

When he was attacked by Su Yan and the others, Du Xiangyang was the one who jumped out and defended him for a moment so he could recover smoothly.

He had acknowledged Du Xiangyang from the bottom of his heart, and realized that this guy was actually not a bad person.

“Oh no, let’s have you owe me for now.” Du Xiangyang waved his hands hastily, “There may be a time when I, Du Xiangyang, would have need of you in the future. Let’s have you owe me for now so you can repay me in the future.”

“Sure.” Qin Lie smiled.

“Everyone, go get some good rest. As long as Ye Yihao isn’t dead, we haven’t truly escaped danger yet.” Chu Li said solemnly.

He was the first to sit down and swallowed a couple of Terminator Sect’s pills in a gulp. He suddenly looked towards Qin Lie and asked, “Do you need some pills to recover your spirit energy faster?”

“It’s fine, the spirit stones are sufficient.” Qin Lie turned him down with a smile.

Chu Li did not force the issue either. The pills he took were refined for him specifically by the Terminator Sect. they might not necessarily have been one hundred percent compatible with Qin Lie.

While conversing, the crowd sat down one by one on this former battlefield and began recovering their strength through the spirit stones.

Before long, Zhao Xuan and Zhang Chendong had finished curing the voodoo poison in their True Souls with the help of the two drops of voodoo insect blood.

Without a word, the duo simultaneously stood up and took out their Heavenly Sword Mountain sword tokens. After confirming Luo Chen's direction, they rushed over to him.

After they left, the Illusory Demon Sect girls were the only ones left nearby who were recovering their combat strength.

"Prak prak prak!"

Lightning shot out of Qin Lie's body and entered his brain instantly.

Once again, he shattered his True Soul with thunder and lightning!

The shattering of his True Soul caused his soul threads, imprints and thought origin to become scattered once more.

Two Fire Qilin blood essences seized the moment to enter his mind. The second they went in, the voodoo poison immediately noticed something amiss and was about to exit his body through his pupils.

However, there was another Fire Qilin blood essence that was suspended in front of his eyes and waiting for these voodoo toxin to come out.

“Swoosh!”

This ball of burning Fire Qilin blood instantly wrapped around the voodoo toxin and refined them with crackling sounds.

The voodoo poison was refined completely.

The voodoo toxin discharged by the Eight-winged Centipede Queen was destroyed by him just like that without leaving behind even a bit of residue.

On a floor of scattered leaves, Xue Moyan had opened her eyes while surrounded by the Illusory Demon Sect girls without anyone noticing and stared curiously at Qin Lie.

After Qin Lie had refined the voodoo toxin and opened his eyes, he noticed her gaze and subconsciously gave her a bright smile.

Xue Moyan nodded slightly as a hint of understanding appeared within her clear eyes. She seemed to realize that Qin Lie had unwittingly cured the voodoo poison just now.

Qin Lie smiled again and did not explain anything. He simply returned a nod of respect.

Xue Moyan no longer paid attention to him and bowed her head, concentrating on absorbing the spirit energy inside the spirit stones.

Qin Lie had become quiet as well.

The group of people gripped their own spirit stones and absorbed the spirit energy inside them to replenish their own powers.

The stronger one's realm, and the worse their injuries, the harder and slower it was to recover.

For example, Chu Li and Xue Moyan's process of recovery was much slower and difficult compared to the others.

This was especially true for Chu Li.

Not only did he exhaust most of his strength, his injuries were not light as well. It was nearly impossible for him to become fully revitalised in a short period of time.

If Ye Yihao led the three families' martial practitioners and returned during this period, then it would be extremely difficult for them to resist.

This was also why the Illusory Demon Sect girls did not leave in a hurry. Although Luo Chen was gone, he too hadn't gone too far

away from this place.

Everyone was wary of Ye Yihao.

“The feeling of being free of voodoo poison is so good, so relaxing, so comfortable.”

Ren Peng, who was poisoned the longest let out a long sigh of relief after the voodoo toxin was fully cured. His expression was incredibly relaxed and comfortable.

He had a feeling that he was reborn into the world again.

“Yeah, it feels as if the countless shackles on our bodies were released all at once. It is instantly relaxing.” He Wei also let out a smile.

Song Tingyu nodded slightly in agreement.

An attractive luster appeared on her beautiful and seductive face once more. Every move and every smile she made was now charming again.

Suddenly, she looked deeply at Qin Lie while her eyes flowed with a dazzling, attractive luster.

Four hours later.

Everyone opened their eyes one after another. Most of them had recovered their spirit energy. Chu Li was the only one who hadn't fully recovered because his exhaustion was too great and his injuries were pretty serious.

"This is a Heavenly Sword Mountain sword token for you Illusory Demon Sect. If you run into Ye Yihao again, you may summon us within fifty kilomters."

Du Xiangyang was full of energy since a while ago, and when he saw that Xue Moyan was about to leave, he willingly searched a token from a Heavenly Sword Montain martial practitioner's body and tossed it to Xue Moyan.

Xue Moyan grabbed the sword token and touched it for a moment. Then, she hung it at her waist and nodded towards Du Xiangyang, saying, "If you ran into Ye Yihao, please notify us as well. We have lost two our sisters to the voodoo insects."

"No problem." Du Xiangyang agreed immediately.

"Let us leave now." Xue Moyan stood up.

The five Illusory Demon Sect girls moved along with her and slowly disappeared before the crowd's eyes.

"The Graveyard of the God's Trial has just started not long ago. Before the end is over, anyone can become our enemies!" Chu Li suddenly said this.

The group had turned silent once more.

That's right. The Trial at the Graveyard of the Gods lasted for an entire year. This was just the beginning.

If they were to experience any conflicts of interest in the future, there was no telling if they would clash against Xue Moyan and the others.

"But no matter what happens in the future, I, Chu Li, and you, Qin Lie, will never clash against each other!" Chu Li promised solemnly.

Qin Lie opened his eyes and grinned at him.

The words need not be said.

Chapter 458: Recovery

The cured Song Tingyu, He Wei, and others had recovered their spirits, and currently only needed a short period of recuperation to nurture their souls and strengthen their physical energy before they could make a full recovery.

Even though Luo Chen's three-man group and Illusory Demon Sect's disciples led by Xue Moyan left Qin Lie's side, they weren't too far away.

All three sides had a tacit understanding with one another and never stayed more than fifty kilometers away from each other.

They were able to form a connection with each other easily and exchange information through the Heavenly Sword Mountain sword tokens.

This was so that they could deal with Ye Yihao's counter-attack at any moment.

Three days later.

With an exception of Chu Li, everyone had recovered their spirit energy. Even Qin Lie had almost fully recovered except for his lung injuries.

In combat, this injury would no longer greatly affect him, nor would it decrease his combat strength by too much.

Beneath an ancient tree so big that it would take ten people to hug it.

Qin Lie was seated beneath the tree while tendrils of bright silver lightning entangled his body like thick chains.

“Boom boom boom!”

Many violent and intense thunderous rumbles roared from inside his chest. They were incredibly deafening.

Song Tingyu, dressed in bright colored clothes, was leaning lightly against the thick tree’s trunk with half of her body. Her beautiful eyes gleamed with an attractive luster as she watched Qin Lie with interest.

An hour later.

The violent energy of thunder on Qin Lie’s body gradually faded. He opened his eyes while intimidating tendrils of lightning zipped through them. “After the soul shattering, my True Soul’s endurance towards thunder and lightning has significantly improved.”

“To temper one’s soul with thunder and lightning. Your spirit art is pretty rare, so it must contain some amazing power.” Song Tingyu drew a beautiful curve with the corner of her lips as she asked cheerfully, “Chu Li, Du Xiangyang and He Wei are all people

that we can connect with. As for that Heavenly Sword Mountain Luo Chen, his relationship with you is subject to change after this incident... That Xue Moyan is Xue Li's daughter, right?"

"Mm." Qin Lie nodded while pondering. Suddenly, he asked, "Why have you brought up so many people in a sudden?"

"The Graveyard of the Gods' Trial lasts for a whole year, and no one can predict what will happen in the future. I'm planning ahead for you as fast as I'm able to so that we can avoid some unnecessary risks in the future. I hope that both of our futures will be a little easier if I do this." Song Tingyu sighed quietly.

Since she was inflicted with the voodoo toxin, Song Tingyu had become depressed for some time. She had fallen into despair and helplessness, thinking that she was dead for sure.

Now that the voodoo toxin was cured, she seemed to have returned to the Song Tingyu from the Scarlet Tide Continent once more. She was once again filled with confidence, intellect and coolness.

"Luo Chen and Xue Moyan had maintained a level of tacit understanding with us because of the threat Ye Yihao represented. However, this tacit understanding is not firm..." Song Tingyu's expression was solemn as she said seriously, "The moment Ye Yihao dies or becomes severely injured, the moment he is no longer a threat to them, the tacit understanding you share will no longer exist. As for Xue Moyan, whether or not she would believe in the relationship between you and Xue Li, whether or not she would acknowledge and befriend you because of Xue Li is also a

predicament. As for Luo Chen, well that's a moot point. He is huge trouble."

Qin Lie nodded again and said, "What suggestions do you have?"

"From the moment Ye Yihao and the three great families became united, from the moment Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Heavenly Artifact Sect joined hands, we could see that the great forces had in fact come to a tacit understanding with each other in secret a long time ago." Song Tingyu sighed on the inside and said, "Only by uniting as many strengths as possible can we survive in the Graveyard of the Gods till the end."

"Mm. I understand." Qin Lie said.

While speaking, he tapped the spatial ring lightly with his finger and with a thought, summoned the blank tombstone from it.

The tombstone stood vertically in front of him while seven rays of magical rainbow light shone vibrantly from the inside.

"I'm going to cultivate for a little longer." Qin Lie's finger slowly approached the tombstone.

Song Tingyu looked to the surroundings and listened for a moment. Hearing nothing, she quietly sat down and began nurturing her body and soul with pills and medicine.

"Zzt!"

When Qin Lie's finger was about to touch the tombstone, a terrific blood energy suddenly emerged.

The energy flooded through his finger and into his entire circulatory system like a broken dam.

It was far more intense than ever before!

Qin Lie hastily condensed this terrific blood energy with the blood spirit art to hide it within his blood vessels. He also used his mind to probe around.

His eyes exploded with scarlet light that was as red as blood and looked incredibly terrifying. The pores of his body were permeating with a thin red mist and unleashing a powerful stench of blood and bloody energy with him as the center point.

"Blood Weeping Ghost Claw!"

Qin Lie executed the Blood Fiend Sect spirit art and conjured many ghastly Blood Weeping Ghost Claws in midair. They were incredibly terrifying.

A violent and bloodthirsty desire shot up uncontrollably from the bottom of his heart bit by bit. It was as if it would take him to the abyss of evil.

Beside him, Song Tingyu, who was cultivating felt her expression change as she looked somewhat surprisedly at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie reacted and hastily suppressed the powerful blood energy inside his body so that it would not be overly obvious.
Two and a half kilometers away.

Beside a clear, small river winding amidst the forest Xue Moyan was keeping watch on her lonesome. She allowed the five Illusory Demon Sect girls to bath inside the river and wash the dirt off their bodies.

While leaning against a rock by the shoreside, she narrowed her eyes and quietly cultivated a spirit art that required her to show her back to her people.

There was a trace of blood color deep inside her clear eyes. It added a seductive charm to her quiet and exquisite face.

She was secretly cultivating the Blood Spirit Art.

Her mother was Mo Lingye, and her father was Xue Li. Her grandfather was the former sect master of Blood Fiend Sect, and her bloodline belonged to Blood Fiend Sect.

Her attainments in Blood Spirit Art was in fact not too far behind her attainments in Illusory Demon Sect spirit arts. In reality, before she entered Illusory Demon Sect, she had always been cultivating Blood Fiend Sect’s spirit arts and spirit techniques.

It was just that Blood Fiend Sect's spirit art had now become a taboo.

For her own growth, after she joined Illusory Demon Sect, she had no choice but to spend most of her energy on cultivating Illusory Demon Sect's spirit arts and spirit techniques.

However, she did not give up cultivating Blood Spirit Art.

She had always thought of herself as a part of Blood Fiend Sect.

Abruptly, shock flashed across Xue Moyan's eyes.

She abruptly looked towards where Qin Lie was and exclaimed in a low tone, "What a powerful stench of blood! Someone is cultivating the Blood Spirit Art! Who is it?"

The first person she thought of was Jiang Tianxing.

She knew about Jiang Tianxing and Jiang Zhuzhe's relationship. Jiang Tianxing had represented Heavenly Artifact Sect and participated in this term's examination in the Graveyard of the Gods. Logically speaking, there was a possibility that she would run into Jiang Tianxing.

However, after sensing seriously for a moment, she immediately rejected the idea, "It's not him!"

This terrific stench of blood was incredibly pure!

This was the purest form of Blood Spirit Art!

The Blood Spirit Art Jiang Tianxing and Jiang Zhuzhe cultivated had already mutated, so there was no way they could produce such a pure stench of blood. This person was most definitely not Jiang Tianxing.

Who could it be then?

“There’s actually someone who cultivates the same orthodox Blood Spirit Art as I do!” Xue Moyan suddenly grew excited.

For the past year, most of Blood Fiend Sect’s disciples had either died or ran away. The ones who did survive had also chosen to conceal their identity and very seldom walked out in the open.

While she was taking care of a portion of her mother’s Blood Fiend Sect disciples, she was also searching for more in secret wherever she went. She hoped that she could gather everyone of the Blood Fiend Sect once more. However, the actual results were subpar.

“You guys watch over yourselves for a bit. I’m going to take a walk. I’ll be back pretty soon.” Xue Moyan suddenly said to the girls bathing in the river.

Then, she quietly left and swiftly ran towards the rough direction she had sensed the blood stench earlier.

“How strange. It actually comes from the direction of Chu Li’s group. It’s one of them.” The closer Xue Moyan went, the more curious she grew.

Xue Moyan was like a forest spirit, and when her snow white figure ran the forest zipped behind her like an illusion.

Unfortunately, when she was about halfway there, the clear wave of blood energy suddenly vanished completely.

Xue Moyan froze in an instant.

“Why did it suddenly disappear? What’s going on? Why did he stop?”

While holding various doubts in her mind, Xue Moyan slowed down her footsteps but still headed towards the direction where she sensed the blood stench earlier.

Fifteen minutes later.

Xue Moyan finally arrived at that huge ancient tree. She did not see anyone around here, nor did she notice anything amiss.

This caused her to grow more and more confused.

Unwilling to give up, she searched around the area once more and even inspected the gaps between the tree leaves carefully.

But she still didn't find anything.

Finally, Xue Moyan helplessly gave up and left completely dejected. Along the way, she had been glancing backwards again and again.

……

Chapter 459: Deference

“Strange. How did she know that you’re cultivating the Blood Spirit Art from so far away?”

A few minutes after Xue Moyan had left, Song Tingyu came out from inside a clump of tree leaves. A five-colored light ray was rippling magically around her body.

Qin Lie was inside the light ray as well.

When he’d detected Xue Moyan’s approach, he immediately withdrew the blank tombstone and told Song Tingyu to use the spirit artifact and hide their presence. The duo then hid themselves inside it.

The duo had stuck close to each other and placed themselves inside the small light barrier. Through the tree leaves, they watched Xue Moyan searching around with a deeply suspicious look before ultimately leaving with great reluctance.

Since Xue Moyan had left the place already, Song Tingyu slowly withdrew the colorful light barrier.

While sniffing the fragrance from Song Tingyu and pressing close to her shapely and attractive body, Qin Lie couldn’t help but feel a little hot on the inside as he began to think of certain things.

In silence, he continued to stick close to Song Tingyu while his

eyes shone with a fiery and passionate light.

“Why are you avoiding her? You should tell her the relationship between you and Xue Li. You should have befriended her as soon as possible; this will be beneficial to our future activities in the Graveyard of the Gods…” Song Tingyu muttered in a small voice.

Qin Lie still didn’t say anything.

Feeling strange on the inside, Song Tingyu turned around to glance at him before she froze suddenly. An intoxicating blush quietly appeared on her beautiful face.

She had noticed the passion in Qin Lie’s eyes in first glance, and knew what Qin Lie was thinking in his mind right now.

“This scoundrel…”

Song Tingyu scolded on the inside, but was smart enough to keep silent at this opportune moment.

When they were hiding inside the bush, Song Tingyu was at the front while Qin Lie was at the back. They were leaning close to each other and could feel each other’s body temperature clearly and even hear the faint but rapid heartbeats.

The atmosphere was incredibly charming and gentle right now.

A dozen or so seconds later, Qin Lie subconsciously hugged Song Tingyu's sexy body into his arms.

Amidst soft cries, Song Tingyu's half-lidded eyes watched on as Qin Lie's face swiftly grew larger in her vision.

In the next moment, Qin Lie suddenly leaned close and kissed her.

"Mn..."

She did not put up any resistance at all. Song Tingyu closed her eyes obediently and returned his kiss passionately.

"Sha sha!"

The sounds of leaves and their own bodies rustling against each other resounded from within the tree leaves.

"Bang!"

Qin Lie, finding himself unable to move as he wanted inside the tree leaves, suddenly dropped down from the tree while holding Song Tingyu.

While hugging each other, the duo dropped beneath the tree with Song Tingyu's back pressed against the tree. A pair of big hands explored her shapely body and the seductive valleys and peaks

without restraint.

Song Tingyu's eyes were lost and distant as she panted in a soft tone. The impressive blush that appeared on her neck was literally irresistible.

She had a tall figure and her bosom was round and full. The bounciness of her breasts were equally amazing, and Qin Lie loved it so much that he couldn't wait to make all kinds of shapes with them.

Another one of Qin Lie's hands roamed down her back and attacked her secret spot wantonly, invading the private area that belonged to him and him alone.

Song Tingyu did not even put on a token resistance. She was completely lost in both heart and body.

She had already acknowledged Qin Lie fully inside her heart. When she was infected with the voodoo toxin, losing both her life and soul energy little by little while being hunted by Black Voodoo Cult's martial practitioners relentlessly—

—she had already made up her mind to not hesitate and hide her feelings if she could run into Qin Lie once more.

Just when she thought she was about to die a horrible death and never see Qin Lie again, the gods actually seemed to heed her prayer and presented Qin Lie before her!

Qin Lie had successfully saved her from the claws of the Black Voodoo Cult's followers.

After that, for a period of time Qin Lie attempted all kinds of methods in order to cure the voodoo poison. When he discovered that nothing was working, he then carried her on his back and set out with the goal of finding Ye Yihao and killing the mother insect so he could save her from the poison.

Even she did not hold any hope at all and thought that Qin Lie would fail in his attempt. She did not think that she would be able to survive.

But Qin Lie ultimately succeeded in acquiring the voodoo insect's blood!

As a result, she was pulled back from the edges of death through the use of one drop of voodoo insect blood.

Everything Qin Lie did for her sake, she saw. From Du Xiangyang and Chu Li, she even learned that Qin Lie had charged regardless of all perils into an area covered with voodoo toxin and fought the Eight-winged Centipede Queen bravely...

Everything Qin Lie did filled her heart up with his figure until it was full.

She had completely acknowledged Qin Lie in both body and

mind.

Therefore, she could not raise even a bit of resistance towards Qin Lie's needs at all.

Her clothes were pulled open, revealing a huge area of her white breasts. Her white, jade-like skin was glowing with such an attractive luster that it was as if a person's eyeballs would become sucked to it.

Qin Lie had completely fallen for her charm.

"Tap tap! Tap tap!"

A rapid series of footsteps swiftly returned from afar.

The duo who was about to lose control swiftly broke out of their trance as Song Tingyu hurriedly covered them both with the light shield once more.

The duo's figure swiftly became invisible.

Xue Moyan's beautiful figure had appeared into the opening once more. Her suspicious eyes observed her surroundings for a moment before she ultimately left again in dejection.

A long time later.

The light shield beneath the tree was released as the duo's figure showed up once more. With half a breast exposed and a face filled with embarrassment and a playful pout, she said, "Thank goodness I reacted in time, or, or..."

The fiery passion in Qin Lie's eyes too faded bit by bit as he grinned, "Or what?"

"Or we would've been caught red-handed." Song Tingyu smiled beautifully and lightly pushed him away, "You scoundrel. It hasn't been that long since the voodoo toxin on me was cured, but you're already thinking about bad things. Thank goodness Xue Moyan came back, or I would've been preyed on by you already. You pervert!"

She pulled back her disheveled hair flirtatiously without a hint of anger on her face at all. Her cheerful expression obviously showed that she was not angry.

"Right, I never finished my question just now. Why are you avoiding meeting up with her? I believe that you should explain the relationship between the two of you while possible and ally with Illusory Demon Sect sooner." Song Tingyu brought up business once more.

"I promised Xue Li that I would do my best to help her inside the Graveyard of the Gods if I see her. However, it would seem that I couldn't help her out much at all, and telling her about my relationship with Xue Li would make it look like I'm requesting something from her through this connection or something. After all, she is stronger than us right now, and she herself is pretty

strong-willed person.” Qin Lie touched his own chin.

“Ah?”

Song Tingyu began making a fuss, “Since when are you so good at understanding others? Oh, wait a second, you’re good at undressing others as well…” she glanced at her own clothes and said not too subtly.

Qin Lie let out a dry laugh.

“Didn’t you care for her at every turn when we first met her? Don’t tell me it is all because of Xue Li?” Song Tingyu could not quite believe it.

“Xue Moyan may appear to be extremely strong right now, but, sigh, her lifespan is limited. If she does not have a fortuitous encounter in this examination and acquire a precious holy medicine, she…”

Qin Lie shook his head, “This girl is actually pretty pitiful. Adding that to my friendship with Xue Li, I believe that it is best that I aid her from the shadows as much as I can. I do not want to give her too much trouble. As you know, I am a restless person, and my luck has always been kind of rotten. Trouble comes to me very easily. If I told her about our relationship too early, I may cause her to fall into my trouble so soon that she does not have the time to sort out her own things.”

“You do not want to disturb her own pace?” Song Tingyu came to a realization.

Qin Lie nodded slightly.

“Bzz bzz zzz!”

An odd noise abruptly rang from inside his spatial ring. Before he could figure out the cause, the Eight-winged Centipede Queen’s wings abruptly flew out of his spatial ring.

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu’s expressions changed at the same time.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

The eight wings abruptly flapped towards the distance and vanished in a flash. They looked like arrows that had pierced through the air.

“It must be Ye Yihao’s doing!” Qin Lie snorted.

“What powerful summoning strength. You’ve already put all eight wings inside the spatial ring, but the mother insect was still able to detect them,” Song Tingyu said while feeling shocked on the inside.

“Ye Yihao may be coming up with some new scheme very soon.” Qin Lie smelled something fishy from this.

“Should I notify Chu Li and the others?”

“Mn.”

At the same time, the token around his waist let out a melodious ring.

The token belonged to Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. The ringing meant that the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners had also discovered his location.

Qin Lie grabbed the token and probed around for a bit. His expression grew heavier and heavier, “Those guys from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain had come over.”

“If they dare come to us at this kind of time, they must have found some powerful reinforcements.” Song Tingyu thought for a moment before saying with certainty, “They must have met with the core ringer of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Yu Men!”

Chapter 460: Flesh Sacrifice

Song Tingyu's judgment was correct.

A fifty kilometers away, after Niu Shaojun locked onto Qin Lie's position using a Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain token, he turned his head and said to someone beside him, "I found them!"

The person he was talking to was a tall, dark-skinned young man.

He was almost two meters tall, clad in beast skin, and was as stalwart as a mountain. Every muscle on his body was bulging, and he had a head of long hair resting carelessly on his shoulders.

His entire being gave off an extremely wild, brutal, and savage feeling that terrorized others.

A few days ago, Niu Shaojun had appeared extremely arrogant and forceful in front of Qin Lie, Chu Li, Luo Chen, and the others. Even when he was before Xue Moyan, he had not an ounce of respect in him at all.

However, when he was looking at this person, Niu Shaojun's eyes were filled with fearful respect.

He was deeply afraid of this person.

Naturally, this man was none other than Yu Men, leader of Ten

Thousand Beast Mountain's new generation. He was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm, well versed in all sorts of rare Ten Thousand Beast Mountain spirit arts and could communicate with spirit beasts since young.

It was said that Yu Men was exiled to the land of ferocious beasts when young. He had lived alone like an animal and experienced all kinds of trials.

He had a heart and tenacity that was like a wild animal's, and even now it was rumored that this man enjoyed eating raw meat and drinking a spirit beast's blood, living the life of half a man and half a beast.

He struck fear in many of his peers at Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

Niu Shaojun's heart might have been sinister and his methods cruel, but he was also afraid of Yu Men.

"Chu Li was the one who killed our men?" Yu Men asked.

"Mm. Chu Li, a person called Qin Lie, Luo Chen, and Du Xiangyang," Niu Shajun said affirmatively.

"These people had formed an alliance?" Yu Men frowned.

When he frowned, the wrinkles on his forehead actually pressed together to form a natural "王". It looked just like a king of beast's

symbol.

“It probably isn’t a solid alliance, but a temporary one,” Niu Shaojun answered.

“Both Chu Li and Luo Chen are hurt?”

“Yes, and their injuries aren’t light too!”

“Mn.”

Yu Men nodded and said in a raspy voice, “There are no friends in the Graveyard of the Gods. It doesn’t matter if enmity exists between Ten Thousand Beasts Mountain and them. If we have a chance to kill them, we don’t let go of it!”

Niu Shaojun’s expression turned joyful.

“It isn’t just Terminator Sect and Heavenly Sword Mountain.” Yu Men snorted. “This guideline applies to everyone!”

“Understood!” The Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners behind them exclaimed in unison.

……

At a secluded corner of the forest.

An ancient tree that looked like it would wither away was now glowing with new life. Soft shoots were appearing on its bald tree trunk once more.

This ancient tree's roots were deeply buried underground and looked rather spectacular just like a large human heart. They were emanating a terrific life energy.

Many of the lively trees around it had their energy extracted and refined, swiftly wilting and rotting away.

Meanwhile, the ancient tree grew more and more exuberant.

Ye Yihao was sitting beneath the old tree. Many soft tree branches were entangled onto Ye Yihao's body like ropes. They were glowing with a dark green luster and were quietly transferring energy into his nerves and blood vessels.

At his heart, the Eight-winged Centipede Queen lay quietly as its body expanded. It looked like it was putting effort into taking a deep breath.

Three larvae crawled into the brains of the three martial practitioners dressed in the clothes of Heavenly Sword Mountain, Heavenly Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. Their eyes were empty and lifeless, and they sat in a triangle beside Ye Yihao.

Tendrils of visible flesh and blood energy were pouring non-stop into Ye Yihao's chest and entering his heart.

The bodies of these three people swiftly shriveled like meat chunks that had been eroding for many years. There was not a bit of life left in them.

They looked just like salted meat that was being dried at a fast rate.

A few Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were standing not far beside Ye Yihao as the dark eyes beneath their black robes stared closely at Ye Yihao's heart.

They knew very well that what Ye Yihao was unleashing right now was an ancient voodoo art of the Black Voodoo Cult—Flesh Sacrifice.

Through the flesh sacrifice of three offerings, Ye Yihao was healing the Eight-winged Centipede Queen's wounds while aiding it in summoning its eight broken wings.

"Bzz zzz zzz!"

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen let out an odd whistle that shook the very earth and nearly burst the eardrums of the people around it.

Ye Yihao's eyes grew brighter and brighter.

The mother insect's shrill whistle lasted for a whole hour.

"Swoosh swoosh!"

The eight wings that had separated from its body abruptly returned and instantly landed on its body.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen settled once more.

"Poof poof poof!"

The three martial practitioners who were used as offerings in the flesh sacrifice abruptly exploded and caused blood to be splattered everywhere.

The three larvae flew out from amidst the exploding flesh and flew into Ye Yihao's chest, returning to their mother's side.

Tendrils of soft and gentle tree branches abruptly fell down from the ancient tree and lay on top of that splattered blood.

The tree branches were instantly dyed red.

"Glug! Glug!"

The blood droplets swiftly vanished as if they were being sucked

in by the tree branches.

Even the scattered meat bits were devoured by the tree branches. The branches lowered by the ancient trees were like straws that were feeding on the blood and flesh bits scattered around the area, devouring the three blown up martial practitioners completely.

A dark green light appeared at the center of Ye Yihao's forehead. A small, pocket-sized tree imprint appeared from inside the halo.

A strange energy swiftly entered his mind consciousness through the imprint at his forehead, swiftly establishing a connection with Ye Yihao.

"Relax, I'll bring you out of this place. I will leave the Graveyard of the Gods alive!" Ye Yihao appeared to be talking to himself, "But before this, I want you to help me kill all my enemies inside this forest!"

"Sha sha sha!"

As if responding to Ye Yihao's words, the ancient tree's branches began to twist madly.

They appeared incredibly bizarre.

.....

“What? The eight wings of the Eight-winged Centipede Queen actually flew out of Qin Lie’s spatial ring?” He Wei opened her eyes wide with a look of disbelief.

Chu Li, the Terminator Sect martial practitioners, and Du Xiangyang came over when they heard this.

Song Tingyu explained the situation once more.

After they were finished listening, both Chu Li and Du Xiangyang frowned, thinking that Ye Yihao had probably used some secret arts to summon the mother insect’s broken wings back to his side.

“This means that Ye Yihao has probably recovered already.” Chu Li’s expression was severe, “Strange. Technically speaking, he should have been hurt quite badly. How did he recover so quickly?”

“Black Voodoo Cult has a lot of evil arts.” Du Xiangyang sighed.

Everyone turned silent in an instant.

“Where’s Qin Lie?” Chu Li looked behind Song Tingyu.

“He is reforming his True Soul. It will take a few more days,” Song Tingyu answered. After a moment of thought, she said, “Illusory Demon Sect knows the Black Voodoo Cult the best. Du Xiangyang, do you wish to tell them about this news and ask for their opinion?”

“Okay!” Du Xiangyang agreed immediately.

He took out his own sword token and seeped his mind consciousness into it. He immediately detected the two groups’ existence.

One group of people was obviously made up of Luo Chen, Zhao Xuan, and Zhang Chendong. The other group was Illusory Demon Sect under Xue Moyan.

He chose to establish a mind connection with Xue Moyan through the sword token and briefly spoke with her.

The crowd looked at him.

A while later, Du Xiangyang’s expression slowly turned solemn. He withdrew the sword token and exclaimed in a heavy tone, “Xue Moyan said that Ye Yihao has used a Black Voodoo Cult ancient voodoo art and recovered the voodoo insect’s broken wings through a flesh sacrifice. She said that if Ye Yihao could execute a flesh sacrifice, then he must have almost fully recovered already. Moreover, he could also determine our location through the summoned broken wing, so she told us to be careful and keep in contact with her. She said that they will join us soon.”

“Notify Luo Chen too,” He Wei said softly.

Du Xiangyang looked blank for a moment before he chuckled,

“Don’t you hate him?”

Du Xiangyang wasn’t the only one who suffered defeat by Luo Chen’s hands during the competition for Heavenly Sword Mountain’s core seed position. He Wei was not an exception.

Moreover, He Wei was even injured during the battle.

Du Xiangyang thought that He Wei would hold a grudge against Luo Chen and wish for his ignorance and subsequently, death.

“Why should I hate him?” He Wei curled her lips and said, “He hurt me in a fair and square fight. I am not so petty, not to mention that we need Luo Chen’s strength right now.”

After a pause, He Wei said again, “Luo Chen may be a disgusting person, but his strength is undeniable.”

“That is true.” Du Xiangyang admitted, “In the Graveyard of the Gods, there aren’t many people who can beat this guy one on one. Even Ye Yihao had next to no chance of killing Luo Chen if he hadn’t borrowed the power of both the forest and numbers!”

They had both dueled Luo Chen before, and if they ignore his temper, then it seemed they did think quite highly of Luo Chen’s strength.

……

At Xue Moyan's side.

The six girls were cultivating on their own at different locations within the forest.

Xue Moyan had just ended her conversation with Du Xiangyang when she stood up and cried out loudly, "Everyone come over. There is news. We will be joining Chu Li's group again."

Pan Qianqian, Huang Zhuli, and the other two girls quickly came over and asked questions clamorously.

"Where's Little Yun?" Xue Moyan asked.

"She's right above that tree at the front," Pan Qianqian answered.

"Go call her for a moment," Xue Moyan instructed.

Pan Qianqian laughed softly before chasing forward like a wisp of clear wind, "This girl, she must have fallen asleep during her cultivation, or there's no way she couldn't hear sister Xue so close to her."

Like a floating willow, she streaked up the tree leaves and was about to wake the Illusory Demon Sect girl with a shout.

“Ah!”

Suddenly, a terrible cry rang from Pan Qianqian’s mouth.

Standing on top of the tree trunk, Pan Qianqian covered her mouth and stared at Little Yun amidst the tree leaves. She broke out into a cry and said, “Little Yun, what’s happened to you Little Yun? Don’t scare me!”

The four girls’s expressions changed as they hurried to her side.

Xue Moyan was the first to arrive beside Pan Qianqian. When she uncovered the tree leaves and took a look, she took cried out in surprise.

Like a porcupine, the girl amidst the tree leaves was completely punctured by tree branches. She actually died a long time ago.

No one knew when she died.

No one knew how she was killed either. They never even heard the sounds of fighting.

The five girls looked terribly saddened as they stared in shock and fear at the young girl’s corpse. They searched everywhere, hoping to find some kind of clue that could tell what happened.

At the same time.

Qin Lie was cultivating hard beneath an ancient tree with his eyes closed. He was gathering his True Soul back bit by bit.

He did not know that the tree branches above his head had suddenly become sharp blades that inched soundlessly towards him.

Chapter 461: The Forest Of Death

A dozen gray-brown tree branches as thick a fingers and long as a dozen meters gradually descended from the tree.

It looked as though this ancient tree was reaching out with long tentacles to grab something below.

But there was only Qin Lie under the tree.

At this moment, Qin Lie was still immersed in his own world. He was focusing his mind consciousness to reform his True Soul.

The third stage of the Heavenly Thunder Eradication was using thunder and lightning energy to temper the True Soul. It would cause the True Soul to contain the power of thunder and lightning and not have the weakness of being weak to attacks of lightning.

His cultivation was in a good state. If he continued like that, he would be able to finish this stage of the Heavenly Thunder Eradication in Netherpassage Realm.

When this stage of the Heavenly Thunder Eradication was completed, every thread of his mind consciousness would contain the power of thunder and lightning!

In the future when he fought other people, he could use his mind consciousness to permeate another's mind and use thunder and lightning to destroy their True Soul!

Mind consciousness that contained the power of thunder and lightning would reach a faster speed by moving through the air. It would directly increase the offensive abilities of his True Soul.

The tree branches were like sharp swords. After a period of slow descent, just as they were about to come close to his head, they suddenly sped up!

Like arrows leaving bows, the dozen tree branches stabbed towards Qin Lie's head, neck, organs, and other vital spots.

"Pop! Pop! Pop!"

Qin Lie's body gave off a burst of popping as though he was attacked powerfully.

Bleeding wounds appeared at his head, neck and chest. Blood shot out.

"Argh!"

Qin Lie suddenly howled at the sky. His bones cracked and popped. A great power of blood suddenly erupted from his body.

The bright yellow power of the earth which carried intimidating frost energy erupted from every one of his pores. It formed a furious wave that cut off the dozen tree branches.

Qin Lie's eyes suddenly became cold. He raised his head to look at the tree. "They say that all things are alive, today, I've finally confirmed that!"

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Tens of thousands of tree branches filled the sky, falling like a rain of arrows.

All of them aimed at Qin Lie.

"No matter whether you are truly alive or being manipulated by Ye Yihao's soul, I will destroy you completely!" Qin Lie snorted coldly, "Burn for me!"

Three drops of scarlet blood flew out of his hands. They turned into a great fire that filled the sky and lit up this ancient tree.

At the same time, blood flowed through Qin Lie's blood vessels and like a streak of blood, he moved out from under the tree.

The rain of branches shot towards where he had originally been standing and completely covered this area with arrow like tree branches.

"Crack crack!"

After attacking with all of its might, the ancient tree was drowned in the sea of fire. All of the greenery, all of its vitality was burned away by the great fire.

At the same moment.

Yu Men and the martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were moving in the woods and heading in the direction where Qin Lie and the others were gathering.

When they came to a dense patch of trees, the leaves that swayed in the wind and the branches suddenly came alive.

Those tree branches also turned into sharp arrows that shot madly at Yu Men, Niu Shaojun, and the others.

Caught off guard, two Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners were unable to use their spirit power to protect their body in time. Their bodies were also not as strong as Qin Lie's.

They were immediately poked full of holes by the tree branches.

"Damn it!" Niu Shaojun's face darkened. He hurriedly avoided the wave of attacks and shouted angrily, "It definitely is Ye Yihao's doing!"

"He cultivates a wood spirit art and does have the skill to manipulate ancient trees. This guy found the forest and hasn't left because he wants to use the land here to eliminate all others." Yu

Men snorted. “He’d better not meet me!”

On the other side.

Chu Li, Du Xiangyan, Song Tingyu, and their group were also attacked by the ancient trees in another grove.

Fortunately, there was Du Xiangyan. He cultivated a flame spirit art and it was the perfect bane of the ancient trees in the forest. They had coincidentally been gathered together in a discussion so they had managed to avoid the attack in time.

Subsequently, Du Xiangyan attacked the nearest ancient trees with fire and burned all of them to black ash before he relaxed.

In a corner of the forest.

Ye Yihao sat under the ancient tree filled with vitality. Branches coiled around his body. There was a little ancient tree mark at the center of his forehead. It blinked as though it was communicating with him.

The martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, Lin Dongxing, Xiahou Yuan, Su Yan and the others were also gathered around him.

They all looked at him with both awe and fear.

A long time later, Ye Yihao opened his eyes. His eyes were an eerie oily green as though tender tree seedlings were growing in his eyes. “I killed a few people but did not kill anyone important. It seems that we need to act ourselves.”

Xiahou Yuan and the others bowed slightly but did not speak.

“You should have recovered almost completely?” Ye Yihao asked.

Everyone nodded.

“Good, then follow behind the Tree God and search with me to find the nearest person to attack,” Ye Yihao shouted.

The branches coiled around him suddenly became as soft as cotton and pulled him up into the leaves.

The complex root network of this tree brimming with vitality started to slowly move.

The ancient tree was moving!

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

Beside a burning ancient tree, Qin Lie suddenly appeared. With a glance, he saw Song Tingyu and others’ expressions of lingering fear.

“Were you also attacked by the ancient trees?” Qin Lie shouted.

“You too?” Song Tingyu was surprised.

“Mn.” Qin Lie’s expression was serious as he said, “Ye Yihao should have recovered. He cultivates a wood spirit art, an ancient voodoo spell of the Black Voodoo Cult, it is very eerie. Here, he seems able to control the ancient trees. We need to be careful from now on, and be wary of the flora around us!”

“It seems that it will not be so easy to walk out of this forest.” He Wei felt a headache coming on.

“Xue Moyan will come soon.” Du Xiangyan held a sword seal. After probing for a while, he said, “Luo Chen is also nearby.”

Everyone was surprised.

“We will discuss after they’ve come,” Qin Lie said.

“Mn.”

An hour later.

Xue Moyan of Illusory Demon Sect walked over with four young females. They all wore dim expressions and were in low moods.

“Have you also encountered trouble?” Du Xiangyan called out.

“One of our sisters is dead, we have not found the culprit yet, she was shot to death by tree branches,” Pan Qianqian said serenely.

“The culprit is Ye Yihao, there’s no need to search. You were not the only ones, we were also attacked.“ Du Xiangyan pointed at the burning trees. “They were the ones who attacked.” He then explained in detail.

After listening to Du Xiangyan’s explanation, the five women from Illusory Demon Sect gradually came to an understanding.

“Ye Yihao! Him again!” Xue Moyan gritted her teeth and her eyes were cold as she shouted.

“Luo Chen has also come!” He Wei said in a small voice.

Everyone turned their heads to look in the other way.

Luo Chen appeared in the distance with three other people. Other than Zhao Yuan and Zhang Chendong, there was another Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner that he had found.

“We were also attacked, by trees!” Luo Chen said coldly.

Everyone nodded in understanding. They did not say anything more.

“We must stay here together or think of a way to leave this forest.” Song Tingyu stood next to Qin Lie. Her beautiful eyes gazed at the group and she suddenly said, “How did everyone get in? Do you know how to get out?”

“Are we lost?” Du Xiangyan grimaced.

He was like Qin Lie and had come from the Land of Fire. Not long after entering this vast endless forest, he had lost his direction.

He could not find the way back.

Song Tingyu looked at the others. He found that Xue Moyan, Chu Li, and the others were all shaking their heads as though they did not know the way out.

But Luo Chen who was standing the furtherest away from the group frowned. He suddenly said, “I know how to get out of this forest.”

When these words were spoken, everyone looked at him in joyful surprise.

“You do?” He Wei said in shock.

“I came from a place filled with thunder and lightning. Heavenly lightning would come down occasionally. Even I felt a headache

there. When I found that the forest was peaceful, I naturally came in. I had not expected ...” Luo Chen shook his head and said with a frown, “that this isn’t a good place either.”

“You know the way out?” Du XIangyan said in surprise.

“I know the general direction,” Luo Chen said proudly.

“What does everyone think?” Du Xiangyan looked at the group. “It is not wise to stay and fight against Ye Yihao here. Why don’t we first leave and then think it out?”

“Our Illusory Demon Sect is prepared to leave,” Xue Moyan expressed.

“I was dropped here from the beginning. I also want to visit other parts of the Graveyard of Gods.” Chu Li nodded.

“Qin Lie, you?” Du Xiangyang asked.

“Hah, of course I’m going with you,” Qin Lie said with a smile.

His eyes were bright. “A place full of thunder and lightning?”

Right now, his third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement, was at a crucial stage.

At this time, if he could find a place filled with thunder and lightning, and used this outside thunder and lightning to help him refine his soul, it would greatly increase his cultivation speed!

This Graveyard of Gods was clearly divided into different areas. Each area was filled with all kinds of wonders.

In the Land of Fire, there were meteors that rained down. He had also found the corpse of a Fire Qilin through the blank tombstone.

This dense forest seemed to hide evil tree spirits. The wonder of this place could be seen from how the ancient trees knew to attack them.

Would there also be other beings related to thunder and lightning in that area of thunder and lightning?

If there were, would they be of great benefit to him, someone that cultivated a thunder spirit art and needed thunder and lightning to refine his soul?

At the very least, in the area of thunder and lightning, he would have an absolute advantage like Ye Yihao in this forest.

At the very least, he was not afraid of being attacked by thunder and lightning!

“He would beg for a place of thunder and lightning!” Chu Li chuckled.

Coming from Terminator Sect, he knew the thunder and lightning spirit art that Qin Lie cultivated was extremely wondrous. He also knew that Qin Lie was refining his soul using thunder and lightning. He knew that Qin Lie would be like a fish in the water in the area of thunder and lightning.

In that place, even Ye Yihao would not be able to easily match Qin Lie!

“Luo Chen, lead the way for us!” loudly said Du Xiangyan as he saw that they reached a consensus.

Luo Chen nodded.

……

Chapter 462: Difficult To Avoid One's Enemies

Everyone quickly found a common goal—leave this forest first.

Luo Chen was responsible for leading the way.

Every tree in the vast forest was more than a dozen meters tall. The trees covered the sky. When people walked through the forest, they felt only darkness and cold.

Especially when people realized that each of the ancient trees was a potential threat.

Luo Chen walked in the front of the group silently. Zhao Yuan, Zhang Chendong, and a martial practitioner from Heavenly Sword Mountain were following at a measured pace behind him.

Behind the Zhao Yuan and others were Xue Moyan and the females from Illusory Demon Sect.

These five young females were of few words. Their expressions were alert, paying attention to the ancient trees around them.

Qin Lie, Chu Li, Du Xiangyang, and their group were in the back, maintaining a distance from Xue Moyan up ahead.

"I feel that these trees have eyes. I feel like Ye Yihao can find our

positions through them." He Wei had been feeling discomfort along the way. Beneath the trees, she felt uncomfortable all over.

"Hss, hss, hss!"

As she spoke, she heard the sound of the leaves moving in the wind. The noise caused her to become nervous.

"Maybe I am just paranoid." He Wei smiled in self-scorn.

"I hope it is so," Du Xiangyang added with a helpless grimace. "This forest is full of trees everywhere. I cannot burn all the trees wherever I go. Hah, I am just a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner. I do not have the ability to burn the entire forest using my fire spirit art. Also, flora here clearly has simple intelligence, so I would need to constantly add fire power."

"We also do not have the time to wait for you to do that." Chu Li's brow creased and he snorted. He said, "Ye Yihao could only try to mount a sneak attack on us through these trees when we were unguarded. Now that we are on our guard, it will not be so easy if he wants to kill us."

"I agree." Du Xiangyang smiled.

Qin Lie and Song Tingyu walked side by side at the back.

"How are you?" Song Tingyu's eyes were bright as she asked in a quiet voice.

“What?” Qin Lie was stunned.

“How has the formation of your True Soul been?”

“Almost done, I hope that we can reach the area covered by lightning and thunder as soon as possible. I have a feeling that the third stage of my Heavenly Thunder Eradication, and the progression of my realm will possibly be realized there.” Qin Lie’s eyes were filled with ambition.

“If you can enter the intermediate stage of the Netherpassage Realm, you will truly have the power to protect yourself in the Graveyard of Gods!” Song Tingyu said excitedly.

“Mn, only then might I be able to match those geniuses.” Qin Lie glanced at Luo Chen at the front of the group.

He had a general guess of Luo Chen’s true power.

Many days ago when Luo Cheng had fought against Lin Dongxing and Xiahou Yuan, he had focused and observed from the side.

Even exhausted and heavily injured, the power of Luo Chen’s sword strike was enough to create a deep mark on the hard ground. Qin Lie still clearly remembered that terrifying and sharp presence.

Luo Chen's "Half Moon Slash" was like a crescent moon falling down. It was eye-catching and peerless in power. The power it contained surpassed even the strength of average Fulfillment Realm martial practitioners.

This was a move that could allow Luo Chen to fight above his level and kill early stage Fulfillment Realm martial practitioners. It was a terrifying sword art that would allow him to show his true power.

Qin Lie concluded that it wasn't very likely for him to stop Luo Chen at full power in his current state.

Chu Li had killed two Su Family martial practitioners under the attack of five.

Then, he had showed his dominance among the barrage from five martial practitioners that were poisoned with the voodoo toxin.

After these two hard battles, he still showed himself when he entered into the battle against Ye Yihao.

Chu Li was also astounding in his battle capabilities.

He had not seen Xue Moyan fight at her true power, but he knew that Xue Moyan was still skilled in all the secret arts of Blood Fiend Sect that she had not used yet.

He believed that Xue Moyan was also terrifying.

Other than these three, Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Feng Yiyou of Heavenly Artifact Sect were famous in the Land of Chaos. They were the winners of the explorations they had experienced within their own factions and were the best of their area.

They also could not be underestimated!

There was also a Ye Yihao that was recovering...

Qin Lie realized that there were many vicious beasts hidden around him. He needed to do everything possible to strengthen himself in order to live to the end of this bloody banquet.

Each step in this land was filled with danger.

There were some enemies that he had yet to encounter. He wasn't sure if there were other beings in this secret realm called the "Graveyard of Gods."

If he was so unfortunate to encounter them, how could he survive without sufficient power?

Without realizing it, they came to a place filled with trees and strange vines.

"Be careful, this place doesn't feel right," Du Xiangyang

reminded everyone. He channelled his spirit art. Circles of orange-red flames suddenly sprouted from his body.

A clear orange-red shield of light wrapped around his body like a goose shell.

“Everyone, take care,” Xue Moyan called out as well.

The clothing of the Illusory Demon Sect members suddenly glowed. They seemed to be woven from rainbow light as they became a thin shield that protected their entire bodies.

He Wei and the people of Terminator Sect copied them and used spirit power to form a protective shield.

The group seemed to have become lanterns, each of them having bright glowing shields of light as they used spirit power to protect their bodies.

Only Luo Chen, Chu Li, and Xue Moyan, people that were absolutely confident in themselves were not so cautious. They did not act.

However, sharp sword intent came from Luo Chen’s body.

The spirit armor that Chu Li wore seemed to glitter with light and he was wary inside.

“Ah!”

A terrified shout came from the mouth of the Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioner at the front. The silver shield he had suddenly cracked like an egg.

The strange vines closest to him immediately turned into a demon. Countless vines wrapped around him.

At the same time, the nearby shrubbery became sharp saws that cut at him.

This person immediately was covered in wounds and blood.

Everyone looked at him. They all started to panic and shout in shock.

Subsequently, all of the strange vines and shrubs seemed to become bloodthirsty and furiously attacked them.

A strange atmosphere formed here and caused them to feel terror.

“Little Ye!” Pan Qianqian cried in pain.

This was a female from Illusory Demon Sect that was about twenty. She was tiny, adorable, and had a middle Netherpassage Realm cultivation.

She had been completely swallowed by a banana-like shrub. The enormous shrub seemed to chew, and Pan Qianqian, being close, could hear the sound of her bones cracking.

“Pew!”

At the front, the chest of Zhao Yuan, who came from Scarlet Tide Continent’s Joyful Union Sect, was penetrated by a vine. Blood spilled rapidly from the wound.

The light in his eyes quickly faded.

“Careful! Protect those around you!” Chu Li shouted furiously as he pulled He Wei next to him. His expression was savage. “Bomb the surroundings!”

Qin Lie hurriedly looked at Song Tingyu.

The strange vines were like tentacles as they moved and stabbed at Song Tingyu.

“Tingyu!” Qin Lie shouted.

“Don’t worry, I am not as weak as you think.” Song Tingyu smiled.

She could see the deep worry that Qin Lie felt for her from his

face. This made her heart feel sweet.

“Rainbow Circle!”

A bright circle surrounded by clouds suddenly shot out of the rainbow cloud. The circle suddenly grew big and viciously hit the vines coming at her.

“Pa pa pa!”

Sparks flew on the vines and they exploded. Fragments of wood landed on the ground.

Song Tingyu pointed with a finger. The rainbow cloud circle radiated layers of light. The sound of explosions came from wherever the light passed.

The vines that came from nearby shrubs were minced into fine powder.

“Qin Lie! Come over here!” Chu Li shouted.

“Alright!” Qin Lin dashed like lightning next to Song Tingyu, grabbing her and quickly coming next to Chu Li.

“Bomb this!” Chu Li ordered.

Ren Peng and the other two martial practitioners from Terminator Sect took out the Terminator Profound Bombs from their spatial rings.

When the dozens of Terminator Profound Bombs came out, the females of Illusory Demon Sect screamed and hurriedly ran to hide in Luo Chen's direction.

They knew the power of the Terminator Profound Bombs well.

"Boom! Boom boom boom!"

The dozen Terminator Profound Bombs furiously exploded around Qin Lie and the others.

The nearby vines and shrubs were turned to powder in this terrifying explosion.

Enormous, deep holes that covered dozens of square meters appeared.

"All of you, come here!" Chu Li beckoned at Luo Chen and Xue Moyan in the distance. He said, "My people will use the Terminator Profound Bombs to blast a way out of here!"

Even a person as proud as Luo Chen knew, that he could not match the Terminator Profound Bomb after seeing its power and came docilely from the front.

Xue Moyan sighed. She forced back the sorrow she felt and nodded minutely. She said, “Regroup with Chu Li first.”

They had lost another sister.

“Ren Peng! Use the Terminator Profound Bombs to make a path. I don’t believe Ye Yihao is undefeatable!” Chu Li cursed.

“Understood!”

“Boom! Boom boom!”

The Terminator Profound Bombs exploded in front of them. All of the shrubs and vines were blasted into powder in this kind of explosive barrage.

They moved forward relying on this method.

After six hours and thirty five Terminator Profound Bombs, they finally managed to struggle out of that patch of vines and shrubs.

“Aoo!”

All of them had the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain tokens hanging from their waists. When they charged out of the dangerous patch, howls came.

A group of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners was among a dozen broken trees. Their expressions were grave as they sat on the ground and panted.

Niu Shaojun was among them.

Qin Lie and the others that had just made it out raised their heads and saw the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners in the distance.

Yu Men naturally saw them as well.

Their gazes met in the air.

“It’s them!” Niu Shaojun shouted.

“Niu Shaojun!” Luo Chen smiled coldly.

It truly was difficult to avoid one’s enemies.

……

Chapter 463: Collision!

“Luo Chen, Chu Li, Xue Moyan!”

Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain raised his head and saw the procession coming out of the area that was exploding. His craggy face was filled with a strange smile.

Niu Shaojun and the other Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners were sitting in lotus position behind him.

There were a dozen old trees that were torn apart around them. Clearly, before Qin Lie and the others had arrived, they had also been attacked by Ye Yihao and had fought a hard battle.

At this time, for Qin Lie, Luo Chen, and the others, or for Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, it was not a good time to fight.

That would just benefit Ye Yihao.

However, for some, when they were angry, they would not care about the circumstances, or about what they should or should not do.

Luo Chen was also a person like that.

“Cold Moon Wheel!”

The silver sword beam of Luo Chen's sword turned into a cold moon that was as large as a wagon wheel. It spun in the dark sky and then flew towards Niu Shaojun.

It seemed like a cold moon shooting at him.

"Niu Shaojun, in the eyes of I, Luo Chen, you are a small person not worthy of mention!" Luo Chen mocked cuttingly. "No matter if I am wounded or not, a small fry is a small fry. If I want to beat a dog like you, I won't even care who your owner is!"

A few days ago, Luo Chen and Chu Li had endured a hard battle. Both had expended much energy and were heavily wounded.

At that time, Niu Shaojun and Situ Tong had tried to kill him and Chu Li for the fresh blood of the voodoo insect.

They had also said some words that Luo Chen had remembered hatefully.

Days later, Luo Chen had recovered. His pride had come back, and naturally, he wouldn't be polite when he saw Niu Shaojun again.

The Cold Moon Wheel was like the moon falling. As it spun, rays of cold light were like swords that fell towards the people of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

Niu Shaojun's face immediately darkened. He raised his head to

look at the disk that was about to come down, but didn't dare to move.

Because Yu Men had not said anything yet.

"Don't even care who the owner is? Hmph!" Yu Men suddenly twisted his mouth.

His book-sized left hand was wrapped in a glove in the shape of a vicious beast head. It appeared as though a vicious beast was eating his left hand.

Just as the Cold Moon Wheel fell down, Yu Men's left hand punched into the air.

"Aooo!"

That vicious beast head glove gave a furious howl. Circles of blue-purple light formed along with his punch above people's heads.

The layers of blue-purple light rippled and spread into the surroundings.

They were like a clear and transparent mirror.

Among the ripples, it was possible to see the miniaturized forms of the remnants of beast souls that looked to be roaring.

Roars also occasionally sounded out.

“Bam bam bam bam!”

The Cold Moon Wheel that was formed from a sword beam continued to shoot at the purple lights. They created a spray of sparks that released rainbow lights.

Under the multiple layers of light, all the martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain remained unharmed.

“Beast Manifestation!” Yu Men shouted in a hoarse voice.

The blue-purple light suddenly changed.

All of the ripples of light coalesced into a dozens of meters long vicious beast with the body of a lion and the head of a snake.

The vicious beast’s feet were covered in bloody clouds. It roared furiously as it charged at Luo Chen.

At the same time, Yu Men’s entire skeleton started to pop and snake. His broad and powerful body that was almost two meters tall actually grew even taller.

Yu Men was like a human-shaped monster. He started to exude a vicious and savage aura, while his eyes filled with a bestial gleam.

“Roar!”

Yu Men’s body changed into mostly that of a beast. At that moment, he seemed to posses the power of hundreds of beasts, and his aura was terrifying.

Even Qin Lie, who was on the side watching, changed expression and showed seriousness.

Out of everyone present, he was probably the only one that would dare to fight this Yu Men in melee combat just using physical power.

Yu Men’s sudden eruption of power definitely came from his body, and a mutation of flesh!

Qin Lie who had once used beast blood in the blood pool to cultivate could smell the scent of a vicious beast from Yu Men’s body. This meant that both Yu Men’s blood and flesh had changed due to some terrifying spirit art.

“Seven Moon Slash!”

Seven new moons appeared and spun above Luo Chen’s head with a cool and sharp aura.

They seemed to have formed a complete circle.

As Yu Men roared and shouted, about to charge, the moons created for the sword beast suddenly fell down towards him.

The moonlight filled the sky and attracted everyone's eyes!

"Ye Yihao is hurrying over… "

Just as the two were about to start viciously fighting, the cool and pleasing voice of Xue Moyan of Illusory Demon Sect suddenly came over.

A slender and soft figure floated into the air between the two. Numerous blue, white, green, and indigo lights flew from her sleeves.

A strange field that was like quicksilver suddenly formed in the area between Luo Chen and Yu Men. A restraining power that blocked spirit power also appeared.

Both Luo Chen's Seven Moon Slash and Yu Men, who was in his beast form, immediately felt it was difficult to advance when they touched the barrier.

"The Graveyard of the Gods Trial is still far from over. There will be many chances to battle in the future, there is no need to fight now," Xue Moyan said in a cool voice between the two.

"Too many people have been entrapped by Ye Yihao in this forest. Why don't we all rest first, and then eliminate him?" He

Wei also came in. “At the very least, shouldn’t we make some distance to escape Ye Yihao’s perception?”

“Yes! We should rest!” Song Tingyu added.

The females came out to persuade everyone to be patient.

Qin Lie, Chu Li, and Du Xiangyan crossed their arms and were just watching. They didn’t try to act as peacemakers.

They acted as though it had nothing to do with them.

“Hm! You better keep control over your dog!” Luo Chen glared at Niu Shaojun and put away his sword art.

“We will have a fight sooner or later,” Yu Men gave a strange laugh.

His strong bestial aura gradually faded. It seemed that he also knew this was not a good time to have a fight to the death with Luo Chen. In addition to that, Xue Moyan had personally come out to act as a peacemaker, so he stopped fighting.

The two geniuses that had just engaged in a fight retreated back to their original positions.

“Let’s go.” Yu Men waved his hand and moved forward first.

The group of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners closely followed him.

“Yu Men shouldn’t be offended. This guy is the same as Chu Li, he loves to cause trouble and doesn’t submit to anyone.” He Wei grimaced as she shook her head.

“Who likes to cause trouble? If you want to curse Yu Men, do it, but why drag me into it?” Chu Li rolled his eyes.

“Within the Land of Chaos, who has caused the most trouble among the contenders from the Silver factions?” He Wei glared at him fearlessly. “There was a period of time when even the forefather couldn’t stand you and imprisoned you. It was only then that you became docile. Otherwise, just the love debts you caused are irritating enough for Terminator Sect!”

When she mentioned love debts, Chu Li immediately became docile. He smiled uncertainly, rubbed his nose, and said, “There aren’t any... you are the only one in my heart, don’t you know that?”

He Wei snorted and ignored him.

“Qin Lie, that Yu Men... his body is very strong. He might be a great enemy for you.” On the other side, Song Tingyu reminded him in a low voice.

Qin Lie nodded inside.

Of the geniuses from the forces that had attended, other than seeing Feng Yiyou of Heavenly Artifact Sect, he had came into contact with the other eight.

Of these eight, Lin Dongxing, Su Yan, and Xiaohou Yuan of the three families were clearly a bit weaker. The three great families clearly did not have enough of a foundation which caused Su Yan, Lin Dongxing, and Xiahou Yuan to be slightly weaker.

The five, Luo Chen, Chu Li, Ye Yihao, Xue Moyan, and Yu Men who had just appeared were all extremely powerful.

After secretly observing, Qin Lie felt that these five had power that was not weaker than a martial practitioner in the early stages of the Fulfillment Realm, and might even be a bit stronger.

Of the five, Luo Chen, Chu Li, Ye Yihao, and Xue Moyan did not focus on the cultivation of their bodies. Their great battle abilities came from spirit artifacts or special spirit arts.

Yu Men was the only exception.

Just now, he had closely observed Yu Men's fighting style. He found that this person, when he attacked, would always charge towards his enemy.

It was clear that he was very skilled in close combat. His powerful body and his animalistic intuition caused him to have an

advantage in close combat.

This was someone that had a battle style similar to his.

“Yu Men cultivates the Hundred Beast Art of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. From childhood, he lived and ate together with all kinds of vicious beasts, absorbed the savage energy of hundreds of beasts, fought against them, and tempered his body.” Du Xiangyan suddenly started to explain, “This guy might be the most accomplished in this generation of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain! He was born with the skill to speak to beasts, and can converse with them just through his gaze. He also understands the personalities of the beasts. Fortunately, this is the Graveyard of Gods and there are no places where beasts gather. Otherwise, it is likely no one could beat Yu Men.”

“How do you know that the Graveyard of Gods doesn’t have any places where beasts gather?” He Wei glared at him. “It is just that you did not see it! If it was as your inauspicious mouth said, and Yu Men found a place like that, he probably would be scarier than Ye Yihao!”

When she said this, everyone became shocked.

Just a sheer thought of a possibility made people feel anxious.

“You say that Ye Yihao is about to come? How do you know when he is arriving?” Luo Chen asked at the front.

“I don’t know when he will come.” Xue Moyan shook her head. “I only know that he is definitely heading towards our position!”

“I suggest for everyone to leave this forest as soon as possible!” Du Xiangyan shouted.

“I think the same!” He Wei expressed her opinion.

“Luo Chen, continue leading the way.”

“Yes, lead the way!”

“Alright.”

In a patch of forest hundreds of miles away from the group.

There was an enormous and ancient tree with a great canopy that was moving rapidly through the forest. It appeared to be floating in an ocean and it flashed by along with the ripples of the ground.

On the branches of the ancient tree, Ye Yihao’s expression was dark. There were tree branches inserted into his body, and a little mark of a tree that flashed on his brow.

He was communicating with the spirit tree.

“What? They are about to get out of the forest? How could they

recognize the way out?” Ye Yihao suddenly became restless.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!” The leaves of the ancient tree shook as though it was objecting.

“Quick! Faster! Use your power to move the nearby trees and stop them!” Ye Yihao shouted.

“Crack! Crack!”

Branches of the ancient tree suddenly snapped. The emerald green branches suddenly flew into the distance.

As the branches passed, the trees along the way started to move.

Chapter 464: The Wooden Sculpture's Change!

Qin Lie's group abruptly came to a stop.

A shabby village suddenly appeared before them. The village looked as if it was hidden within the ancient trees, its flat stone floor covered with grass, leaves, and dust.

The group became dumbstruck as they stared blankly at the village ahead of them, then at Luo Chen with strange looks on their faces.

Luo Chen's eyes were filled with puzzlement as well as he shook his head beneath their gazes, "When I came here, it was probably through this path. But I did not notice that there was a village along the way."

"Are you… lost?" Du Xiangyang taunted him bluntly.

Surprisingly, Luo Chen did not object to his accusation. After frowning for a moment, he said honestly, "I might be."

The crowd immediately broke out in a clamor.

"Luo Chen! What the f*ck are you doing?" Chu Li was the first one to voice his frustrations as he scolded, "Do you know the road or not? We've ran into countless troubles and lost a few men along

the way, but you brought us to this place instead? Do you have a hidden agenda or something?”

The Illusory Demon Sect girls all turned anxious and worried. They looked everywhere with doubtful gazes.

Qin Lie was also angry on the inside.

However, he did not join in. He knew very well that Luo Chen absolutely could not stand his angry rebukes.

He did not wish to fight against Luo Chen right then, so the best course of action would be to keep his silence and find out what exactly was going on first.

“Luo Chen, do you still recognize the path? Are you still confident that you can lead us away from this place?” He Wei asked for confirmation.

Luo Chen appeared to be a little hesitant.

“Why is there a village in the forest? This is the Graveyard of the Gods, the ultimate battlefield where experts fought and were buried in this strange land. Why is there a village in this place?”

Puzzlement and confusion appeared in Xue Moyan’s clear eyes. After a moment of ponderment, she suggested, “Let’s go in and take a look.”

Everyone agreed to her suggestion.

Luo Chen was the only one who did not speak. He took out a pocket-sized silver sword from his spatial ring and rubbed its blade with his palm.

The palm-sized silver blade glittered with silver light and let out a crisp sword ring.

“Ring!”

Several hundred meters away, an identical sword ring resonated and vaguely heeded the call of this small silver sword.

While he was doing this, the group’s attention fell on him once more.

“Wait for me!”

After throwing down such a line, Luo Chen headed in the direction of the sword ring, seemingly wanting to test something.

The group did not walk into the strange village and waited for Luo Chen. They wanted to see what kind of answer he would give them.

Luo Chen went swiftly, and returned just as quickly.

Before long, he held up another small silver sword and appeared before the group once more.

“The direction of our path is probably correct.” Luo Chen pointed at a location, “As long as we continue in that direction, we should be able to leave this forest. I have used this small sword to confirm my path. These are small swords that can transmit signals with each other, and they’ve been forged by the same person who made Heavenly Sword Mountain’s sword tokens. It was my grandmother who entrusted him to help forge another batch of these small blades for me…”

Luo Chen explained to the group.

There were a total of thirty five Sound Summoning Swords. They could sense and communicate with one another within fifty kilometers.

This batch of Sound Summoning Swords came from the same person who forged the Heavenly Sword Mountain sword tokens.

Ever since Luo Chen entered the forest from the thunder-filled zone, he had been stabbing Sound Summoning Swords into ancient trees and marking his path this way.

He had prepared a path of retreat for himself since the beginning.

The reason he had confidence that he could lead the group away

from the forest and into the thunder-filled land wasn't because he had a terrific sense of direction. It was purely because he had many Sound Summoning Swords to lead the way.

After listening to his explanation, the people who suspected his motives earlier no longer said anything.

"The reason I didn't find this village before is because the ancient tree I stabbed with a Sound Summoning Sword had moved elsewhere on its own. However, it hadn't moved too far away. It is at the edge of the village right now. I am still confident about the approximate path of retreat..." Luo Chen said.

"So this is how it is." He Wei nodded and smiled apologetically, "It seems that we have blamed you wrongly."

Everyone saw with their own eyes that the ancient trees in the forest could move. Naturally, they no longer suspected Luo Chen's explanation.

"There is another Sound Summoning Sword fifty kilometers to the front. There is no mistaking the direction." Luo Chen withdrew the two small silver swords and turned around to glance at the shabby village. He said indifferently, "Ye Yihao may be rushing towards us. Would you like to leave as soon as possible, or enter this village and look around for a bit?"

"Let's head in and have a look," said Chu Li, rubbing his chin.

“This village is very strange. I also think that we can go in and inspect it for a bit. Maybe we’ll discover something.” Xue Moyan agreed.

“What about you guys?” He Wei looked at Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang.

“I’m fine. I’m just going to follow the biggest crowd no matter what. I have no intention of facing that Ye Yihao alone,” Du Xiangyang nonchalantly shrugged.

“With our joined numbers, I do not believe that Ye Yihao and the people of the three great families can do anything to us!” Qin Lie grinned and looked just as unconcerned, “Let’s go in and take a look!”

“What about you, Luo Chen?” He Wei said again.

“I’m fine with whatever.” Luo Chen’s expression was indifferent.

“Then let us go into this strange village and have a look.” He Wei had also become interested.

“Let’s go!”

Therefore, due to the change in movement of the ancient trees, the group of people who passed by the village formed their respective colorful light shields with spirit energy and carefully stepped in.

The village's limestone floor was filled with dead leaves. It was as thick as snow, reaching all the way up to one's knees.

The many ebony houses were only one or two stories high. They gave off a simple and crude feeling.

With cautious expressions, the group investigated the many small wooden houses while being on guard against potential danger.

"Creak!"

A wooden house's doors were pushed open by Du Xiangyang, letting out a creak that suggested it could not bear the heavy force.

Qin Lie followed closely behind.

The wooden chairs and beds inside the house were covered in thick dust. The place had probably been devoid of life for thousands of years.

All furniture appeared to be simple and crude, they could not be considered fine or delicate at all.

It was as if tools used to carve them were an entire era behind those used by the Silver forces of the Land of Chaos.

“There is no life here. There’s nothing at all.” Chu Li’s voice came from a wooden house.

“There’s nothing here as well,” Xue Moyan also said loudly.

“There’s no need to go through them one by one. Let’s just go to the center of the village and see if there is anything unusual. If not, let us leave as soon as possible,” Luo Chen said impatiently.

“Alright,” the group answered him in succession.

The group of people walked out of their respective wooden houses and gathered together once more. They headed straight into the deeper areas of the village.

“Sha sha sha!”

There were only the sounds of their feet pressing against dried tree leaves inside the silent village.

“The front! Look in front!” He Wei screamed.

The group looked towards the indicated direction.

There was a stone well and a floor of corpses at the center of the village.

Those corpses obviously did not belong to humankind.

They had gray brown skin and their bodies were as dry as logs. Upon closer inspection, it was as if the trees had suddenly grown consciousness and turned from tree trunks into humanoid beings.

These corpses had four limbs and a head just like a human being. However, they felt like wooden sculptures.

Were they wooden men?

“They are clansmen of the Wood Race. The Wood Race is an ancient race of forest elves. They are highly intellectual and capable of cultivation just like us. However, they can only cultivate the power of wood,” Xue Moyan explained in a soft voice.

The Wood Race?

A bolt of inspiration suddenly flashed past Qin Lie’s mind. A blurry memory gradually grew clearer in his head.

It was a memory related to the Wood Race…

He did not say anything. Instead, while frowning and narrowing his eyes, he slowly combed through the memory in his mind.

He didn’t know why, but he had subconsciously taken out the wooden sculpture his grandfather left him from the spatial ring as

he watched the Wood Race corpses.

Li Mu once told him that he had seen a corpse covered in mist from the memory of a person condensed into a Memory Fragment Crystal. There was also an identical wooden sculpture beside that corpse.

Li Mu could not identify the corpse's face, nor did he know where the corpse was. He only saw the wooden sculpture clearly.

The wooden sculpture in Qin Lie's hand suddenly lit up!

He hadn't combed through the memories of the Wood Race completely, but he could clearly sense that there was something causing the change of his wooden sculpture in the nearest wooden house beside the stone well at the front!

Everyone noticed the abnormal change on Qin Lie.

"Qin Lie, you?" Chu Li asked him with wide open eyes.

Qin Lie looked at the wooden house beside the stone well and walked step by step towards it with an intimidating look in his eyes.

Everyone in the group was staring at him with shock.

……

Chapter 465: Demon Sealing Tombstone!

The wooden sculpture in Qin Lie's hand had started up a couple of times before. Once, it was in the Nether Realm when he first met Ku Luo of the Horned Demon Race.

It was caused by another wooden sculpture in Ku Luo's possession.

The other time was when he saw the white bone nether spirit altar at the back of Herb Mountain. He had obtained the Nine Hells Evil Scripture and a soul message from another member of the evil races that time.

This was the third time.

The sculpture was emanating with dark wood-colored light. It wasn't especially bright, but it was very eye-catching.

It was a thing inside the wooden house beside the old well that triggered the change in the wooden sculpture.

Qin Lie's footsteps quickened!

Chu Li, Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang chased after him.

Stepping over many wood clan corpses, Qin Lie charged into the wooden house and smashed the doors open.

A person who absolutely shouldn't have shown up at this place suddenly entered Qin Lie's eyes—it was Xie Jingxuan!

On the bed inside the shabby wooden house, Xie Jingxuan, dressed in white, sat alone like a ghost.

The voodoo toxin in her body obviously hadn't fully dissipated yet. Black tendrils still remained within her pupils.

But she was still hanging on to life!

Not only was she alive, she was even gripping a wooden sculpture that was a size smaller, but exactly identical to the one he had in his hand!

This shocked Qin Lie greatly.

However, just when Qin Lie was about to question her, Xie Jingxuan suddenly charged at him from the bed like a beam of cold light.

A cold and immense energy that was filled with the refined scent of plants enveloped the entire wooden house.

In the next instant, a terrifying feeling of being entangled tightly by thousands of vines enveloped Qin Lie. The shackling power made even his breathing difficult.

Since when did Xie Jingxuan possess such a terrifying power?

Qin Lie looked at her in utter shock.

Black and white spots appeared deep within Xie Jingxuan's dark gray pupils. A blank expression appeared on her face.

It was as if she didn't recognize him at all.

Just when Qin Lie was about to cry out, Xie Jingxuan forcefully snatched the wooden sculpture tightly gripped in his hand and turned blurry.

A cold and white mist spread eerily throughout the entire wooden house. Qin Lie could feel the invisible vines shackling him swiftly dissipating inside the room.

Qin Lie soon recovered a short while later. The white mist inside the room had also dissipated.

Xie Jingxuan had vanished as well.

There was an open window beside the wooden bed. It seemed to be the path where she left from.

All of this had happened in the blink of an eye. It was so quick that Qin Lie did not even manage to react or let out a cry of shock.

When Chu Li, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan and the others had come over and walked into the wooden house, they neither saw anything nor noticed anything amiss.

They only saw Qin Lie's pale face and the huge shock in his eyes. He appeared to have been greatly shocked by something.

"What is it?" Song Tingyu came in and asked gently.

"Who do you think I saw just now?" Qin Lie's expression was odd to the extreme.

"Who was it?"

"Xie Jingxuan."

"Ah?!"

Song Tingyu covered her mouth and exclaimed softly, "She's... she's still alive? How did she manage to hold out after being infected by the voodoo toxin for so long?"

He Wei had also cried out in surprise, "She was already about to collapse when I last saw her. Logically speaking, she should've died a long time ago." She was also wrought in disbelief.

Meanwhile, Xue Moyan and the rest of the people looked

confused by the situation.

"Not only is she alive, she even hid in this wooden house on purpose and waited for my arrival while holding the wooden sculpture. The second I walked in, she shackled me with a great power and immobilized me in an instant. After she snatched the wooden sculpture from my hands, she then escaped through that window!" Qin Lie sucked in a deep breath and exclaimed, "I dare not say if she is still the Xie Jingxuan I know. The aura she unleashed and that immense power was absolutely far greater than her peak form!"

"Just what on earth happened to her?" Song Tingyu was incredibly shocked.

"Why didn't you go after her?" Chu Li asked.

"Go after her?" Qin Lie smiled bitterly, "I know I can't catch up to her. The reason she lured me with the wooden sculpture was for the wooden sculpture I possessed. I'm confused as to what happened and I want to know what happened to her as well. I want to know if the... current her is still the real her!"

The group fell into a momentary silence.

While frowning deeply, Qin Lie carefully inspected everything inside the wooden house to see if there was anything out of the ordinary.

Ultimately, he retreated in helplessness.

According to He Wei's explanation, Xie Jingxuan had been deeply infected by the voodoo toxin earlier. The voodoo toxin would absorb her soul and life energy every second until she was empty and passed away.

Taking timeline into consideration, there was no way for Xie Jingxan to survive up to this point if a miracle hadn't happened.

But now that he met her again, Qin Lie discovered that she was still fine despite still being infected with the voodoo toxin.

It was as if Xie Jingxuan had a huge amount of life and soul energy to be expended.

"The Wood Race, the Wood Race,..."

He recalled the memory that had appeared in his mind when he experienced the flashback earlier and carefully combed through it again.

At the same time, after he walked out of the wooden house, he summoned the blank tombstone from his spatial ring with a thought.

The tombstone containing seven bolts of rainbow light instantly appeared in front of the group, causing everyone's faces to change instantly.

“This tombstone came from the God Corpse’s bellybutton. It is said to be related to the Graveyard of Gods.” Qin Lie explained, “The seven divine lights inside the tombstone are probably related to the other seven God Corpses, and this tombstone… had been in Luo Chen’s possession for a short time. Then, it had flown towards me on its own and even led me to the Fire Qilin’s body at in the Land of Fire…”

For the first time, he explained everything that had happened after he discovered the God Corpse, how he obtained it from Jiang Tianxing and how he lost and recovered it later. He also explained blank tombstone’s powers.

He looked towards the group and asked, “Does any one of you know anything relating to the Graveyard of Gods and this tombstone?”

He observed everyone’s faces one by one.

He saw doubt and confusion on Luo Chen’s face, and he saw indescribable surprise on Du Xiangyang and He Wei’s faces as well.

It was obvious that these people did not know anything about the tombstone and the Graveyard of Gods.

Qin Lie then looked at Chu Li.

Chu Li was rubbing his chin while his eyes shone with the light of

ponderment. He seemed to be sorting out the thoughts in his mind.

Meanwhile, the translucent eyes of Illusory Demon Sect's Xue Moyan were shining with many crisscrossing lights. It was as if there were many secrets contained behind them.

She knew something about this!

Qin Lie's expression changed, and he put all of his attention on Xue Moyan. As his eyes grew brighter and brighter, he exclaimed, "I have taken out the tombstone and showed you my sincerity. What do you know about the Graveyard of Gods and the tombstone?"

After the wooden sculpture he left behind had been snatched away by Xie Jingxuan in an odd fashion, a huge seed of doubt grew inside Qin Lie's heart.

He desperately wanted to know what kind of secrets were hidden in the Graveyard of Gods and the tombstone.

Right now, he felt like a headless fly flying around without aim or purpose throughout the Graveyard of Gods. He felt as if he was trapped in a thick mist, completely baffled by the sudden developments around him.

While Xue Moyan was still hesitating, the seven brilliant rainbows inside the blank tombstone standing in front of Qin Lie

began to twist and turn like a snake.

Imposing magical energy abruptly spread out.

“Glug glug! Glug glug!”

An odd sound of water flowing came from inside the stone well surrounded by the Wood Race corpses.

The stone well actually contained water!

The people closest to the stone well immediately looked at it. Qin Lie was among them.

Inside the stone well, the dark green water was bubbling as if it was being boiled.

After the bubbles popped, they released a grass-green mist that floated up and filled the air around the well.

This energy was full of life and natural, refreshing aura of refined wood. This green-colored mist was spreading towards them.

“The ageless spring, also known as the Spring of Life, can replenish one’s life energy and greatly increase one’s lifespan.” Xue Moyan suddenly spoke up, “The reason that Xie Jingxuan managed to hold out until now after she was infected by the voodoo toxin was probably because she drank from this Spring of

Life. It maintained her life force at a peak state, and since the rate at which her life was dissipating was slower than the rate at which her life was replenished, she was able to survive until now…”

“The Spring of Life!” Chu Li’s eyes lit up.

Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang immediately became spirited as well.

“Sister Xue, the holy medicine you’re looking for is the spring water of the Spring of Life, am I right?” Pan Qianqian asked.

“Correct. The reason I came to the examination is because I hoped to find the Spring of Life.” Xue Moyan was lost in thought as she stared at the stone well beside her and frowned, “However, it would seem that the spring water of this Spring of Life has been tainted. There seems to be something polluted inside the well.”

“What is it?” The group of people attempted to make heads or tails of the situation.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh!”

Inside the tombstone, the seven dazzling bolts of divine light began to twist madly like chains.

The picture of a sapling vaguely appeared on the tombstone’s smooth surface. The sapling shook continuously as if it was trying to struggle out of its bindings, but the chains formed by the seven

godly lights kept it firmly shackled.

“The wood spirit inside the Demon Sealing Tombstone is changing! Ye Yihao is about to arrive!” Xue Moyan’s face was filled with severity.

“Wood spirit? Demon Sealing Tombstone?” After a surprised pause, Qin Lie exclaimed, “Just how much did you know?”

“I didn’t think that you would have the Demon Sealing Tombstone.” Chu Li also sighed.

“What did you know?” Luo Chen also exclaimed.

“Chu Li!” He Wei yelled angrily.

Chu Li and Xue Moyan matched each other’s eyes before Chu Li spoke, “We do know something about the secrets of the Graveyard of Gods and the Trial. Once we’ve dealt with Ye Yihao’s attack, we will tell you everything we know.”

“Alright!” Qin Lie snorted.

“Withdraw the Demon Sealing Tombstone first! During the short time you exposed the tombstone, the wood spirit had probably sensed it already. Quickly!” Xue Moyan urged him.

Qin Lie looked at Chu Li. He trusted him.

“Listen to her!” Chu Li yelled.

Only then did Qin Lie withdrew the blank tombstone.

“Now we can only for Ye Yihao’s arrival. He will be very happy to know that there is the Spring of Life here.” Xue Moyan sighed quietly.

Both her and Chu Li obviously knew a bit more than the rest about the Graveyard of Gods and the Trial. However, they did not immediately explain its secrets, so Qin Lie and the others were still completely clueless.

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Chapter 466: Wood Spirit

There was only a single stone well at the center of the numerous Wood Race corpses that were as dry as rotten wood. The dark green water in the well was currently boiling up and bubbling.

Every time a bubble burst, wisps of grass green smoke seeped out and filled the air with the refreshing scent of plants and life.

Everyone was gathered around the stone well.

Qin Lie looked down and noticed that the dark green water inside the well was filled with black-and-white spots.

They were exactly the same as the spots that appeared deep inside Xie Jingxuan's pupils.

This caused Qin Lie to experience a strong feeling of oddness—did these black-and-white spots appear because Xie Jingxuan drank from the well?

What did these black-and-white spots mean?

He realized that he had far too many questions during his journey in the Graveyard of Gods. He, Luo Chen, He Wei and Du Xiangyang obviously lacked basic understanding about the Graveyard of Gods.

"Pak pak pak!"

The sounds of destroyed wooden houses gradually came from afar. The people beside the stone well were all paying attention to their surroundings.

“There are a lot of trees that are moving towards this village.”

Du Xiangyang stood on the rooftop of a wooden house and was looking into the distance. His face was riddled with surprise.

The group jumped atop taller houses one after another and looked into the distance with narrowed eyes.

Many black and densely packed trees slowly filled up the village. It was as if the forest itself was slowly shifting towards them.

Among them, the biggest ancient tree was over a hundred meters tall. It had lush leaves and branches, and it was moving across the ground like a little hill.

It was coming at them at top speed!

“That’s the wood spirit!” Xue Moyan sucked in a deep breath, “Ye Yihao probably communicated with the ancient trees of this forest through the wood spirit. If the wood spirit is here, so is Ye Yihao!”

“Wood spirit?” Qin Lie’s eyes were filled with confusion.

“It is an ancient tree that was worshipped and gifted faith by the Wood Race for over ten thousand years as their god. Gradually, the ancient tree gained intelligence and a blurry consciousness of its own. It evolved to have a wood spirit body and was called a wood spirit from that point onward.” While composing her words, Xue Moyan explained slowly, “The Fire Qilin you saw at the Land of Fire is the fire spirit.”

“I still don’t really understand.” Qin Lie shook his head.

“It’s hard to explain in such a short time.” Xue Moyan was also helpless, “Let’s wait until we’ve dealt with Ye Yihao.”

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

Many big, ancient trees swiftly approached the crowd’s location as tree leaves were scattered everywhere.

Ye Yihao appeared on top of the tallest ancient tree. His body has been pierced with countless tree branches that were so green they looked like they would ooze color. A small tree’s imprint flashed on top of his forehead, and his eyes shone with a strange green luster.

The refreshing scent of plants emerged from the ancient trees from every direction and spread throughout the entire village.

“Glug glug! Glug glug!”

The water in the stone well behind Qin Lie boiled even stronger and bubbled non-stop.

“We meet again.” Ye Yihao let out an odd grin and laughed.

Lin Dongxing, Xiahou Yuan, Su Yan and the martial practitioners of the three great families appeared one after another from behind the ancient trees. They all looked spirited and recovered.

“How many of you were killed by the Tree God?” Ye Yihao laughed brashly.

Luo Chen and Xue Moyan’s faces turned green.

“You think that you can dominate the Graveyard of Gods just because you formed a contract with the wood spirit and controlled this forest?” Xue Moyan bit her teeth and fished out the Illusory Demon Orb.

“Maybe I can’t dominate the Graveyard of Gods, but at the very least I can fully unleash my powers inside this forest!” Ye Yihao said confidently.

He tore off the shirt on his chest and revealed the Eight-winged Centipede Queen nested around his heart. Beneath his translucent skin, the Eight-winged Centipede Queen’s eight wings had reconnected with its main body and made the creature appear as if it had never taken any damage.

“Bzz zzz zzz!”

The voodoo insect within Ye Yihao’s skin and flesh whistled shrilly, seemingly howling and explaining something madly to Ye Yihao.

Ye Yihao listened closely to its words.

At the same time, the ancient tree imprint before his forehead twisted fiercely as if it was issuing orders to its subordinates.

Ye Yihao’s eyes focused onto Qin Lie, and his face was riddled with shock, “The one who broke my queen’s wings is you. The one who holds the Demon Sealing Tombstone is also you!”

Through the voodoo insect and wood spirit, Ye Yihao seemed to know everything.

“Just who is this guy?” Xiahou Yuan’s bald head was shiny, “He was the one who caused the massive change in the lava pond at the Land of Fire. He used the Demon Sealing Tombstone to forcefully pull out the Fire Qilin’s body from the depths of the lava pond!”

“Who knows!?” Lin Dongxing snorted.

“Qin Lie, if you see Ye Yihao weakening and find an opening, remember to release the Demon Sealing Tombstone and seal the wood spirit!” Chu Li suddenly messaged Qin Lie, “Just like how you sealed the fire spirit earlier and sucked the Fire Qilin into the

Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

Sealing the fire spirit? Sealing the wood spirit? The Demon Sealing Tombstone?

Qin Lie slowly figured out the key points from these bits of words. He understood that the Demon Sealing Tombstone he owned existed to seal the strange spirit bodies inside the Graveyard of Gods.

The Fire Qilin was the fire spirit, and this ancient tree that could control trees was the wood spirit.

Were there other spirit bodies then?

As if noticing the doubt in his mind, Chu Li explained again, “If my information is correct, there are seven such spirit bodies in the Graveyard of Gods…”

Seven spirit bodies?

Was this what the seven divine rainbow lights inside the Demon Sealing Tombstone meant?

“It is incredible that you guys managed to find the Spring of Life’s location, but unfortunately you are unable to drink it the way it is right now.”

Ye Yihao looked at Xue Moyan, clicked his tongue, and said, “Xue Moyan, the holy medicine you sought inside the Graveyard of Gods was probably the Spring of Life, wasn’t it? Heh, if you can drink a pure portion of the spring of life then maybe you’d really be able to live longer. But now…”

Ye Yihao shook his head and laughed derisively, “You are just wasting your time.”

“Sister Xue, wh-what did he just say?” Pan Qianqian exclaimed in surprise.

Another Illusory Demon Sect girl also turned pale with surprise as she exclaimed, “Sister Xue, what’s the relationship between the Spring of Life and your life?”

Huang Zhuli was the only one who did not seem surprised. She seemed to know about the inner details.

Luo Chen, Chu Li, and the others also wore confused looks on their faces.

But Qin Lie understood his meaning.

The problem that confounded Xue Moyan was her lifespan. She had expended too much of it inside her mother’s womb, which led to her being born with a life force that was almost depleted.

The Spring of Life could replenish one’s life force. As long as she

drank even a portion of it, she would be able to extend her life and truly live.

This was the reason she entered the Graveyard of Gods.

“Before I die, I will take revenge for Little Wan and the others. I will do my best to kill as many Black Voodoo Cult people as possible, and you.”

“You stand no chance,” Ye Yihao said arrogantly.

“I don’t understand what you guys are talking about, and I’m not interested in listening further!” Luo Chen had gotten impatient.

A cold and bright crescent moon formed from a sword beam suddenly fell from the sky like a dazzling disc.

Luo Chen’s back straightened, and like a sword that had exited its sheath, his body immediately overflowed with sword will.

Then, a wisp of silvery sword light rose right into the air with amazing force like a fire beacon.

The sword ray transformed in midair and formed crescent moons one after another.

“Seven Moon Slash!”

Seven cold crescent moons crashed down upon Ye Yihao like countless shiny wheels that were emanating with deadly sword intent that could cut the sky and shatter the earth itself.

Thousands of silver sword beams fell like rain from the sky onto the ancient trees that were everywhere.

“Crack crack!”

Many ancient trees were broken and blasted away by the sword rain’s rainbow ray impact.

“Heh, as expected of Luo Chen. You truly are impressive.” Ye Yihao praised him before censuring him, “However, this is my domain!”

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

At the ancient tree he was on, the thin, long tree branches that were as green as jade were glowing with the luster of gemstones.

Wisps of visible green energy flowed through every tree branch and looked astonishingly like the spirit energy in a human’s body.

A great and invincible dark green energy instantly enveloped the surrounding area like a dome of light screen.

The sword rain fell on the dark green light screen and exploded

into many dazzling explosions, but they were unable to break through the green light screen.

“Break the walls!” Chu Li yelled.

Xue Moyan, Du Xiangyang, He Wei, and the others all unleashed their spirit weapons and attempted to destroy the green wall formed by the ancient tree and damage Ye Yihao himself.

However, there was one person who was faster than all of them!

A white light streaked by, and a person appeared out of nowhere and stabbed fiercely at the green wall while using a wooden sculpture as a spear.

It was Xie Jingxuan yet again!

Chapter 467: Spring Of Life

“Jingxuan!”

Song Tingyu abruptly cried out.

He Wei also wore a look of surprise as she stared disbelievingly at the Xie Jingxuan who had appeared out of nowhere like a ghost.

Besides Qin Lie, only Song Tingyu and He Wei were familiar with Xie Jingxuan and knew that her True Soul was infected with the voodoo toxin, and that she could be killed by it at any moment.

When Qin Lie said earlier that Xie Jingxuan was not only alive, but filled with extraordinary strength, both Song Tingyu and He Wei were frankly half believing and half doubtful of his words.

Now, however, they believed him completely.

Xie Jingxuan’s soft and jade-like hands were gripping a wooden sculpture each, and a careful glance would reveal that her palms had turned dark green. The nerves and blood vessels beneath her skin were also green and were like delicate tree branches.

While gripping the wooden sculptures and stabbing them fiercely at the green wall, rays of green light blossomed from her whole body like a peacock spreading its tail.

She was as dazzling as a green sun!

The two wooden sculptures seemed to have turned into the sharpest spears in the world and displayed an unbelievable amount of elegance.

The tip of the wooden sculpture, the place where the piece of wood was carved into the shape of Qin Shan's head, stabbed powerfully against the green light screen formed by the ancient tree.

"Rip!"

Two narrow and long cracks instantly split open at the thick and solid green wall like it was a thin film.

"Pak pak pak!"

The many green and tender tree branches of the ancient trees instantly exploded and shattered into smithereens like jade stones on the floor.

Ye Yihao was currently enshrouded by the ancient tree's lush leaves and branches. The distinct small tree imprint on Ye Yihao's forehead suddenly turned dim.

Ye Yihao's face had obviously paled a little as well.

“Lowly servant! How dare you act savagely even after you’ve been infected by the voodoo toxin!” Ye Yihao yelled harshly.

“Bzz zzz zzz!”

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen lying around his heart suddenly howled angrily. The shrill whistles pierced through everyone’s ear drums like a bladed weapon.

Even those who were not poisoned by the voodoo toxin felt their scalp crawl and were unable to hear anything around them for a time.

Xie Jingxuan, who took out the ancient tree’s green wall with a single strike suddenly bled from all seven apertures and looked absolutely horrible to the extreme.

The voodoo toxin was still inside her True Soul, and even if she had acquired a sudden burst of godly power and strength, she could not completely escape the voodoo toxin’s eroding effects.

Naturally, there was a unique and fearful reason the why Black Voodoo Cult’s ancient voodoo art, their signature voodoo toxin, was famed throughout the entire Land of Chaos and stuck terror in many people.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The wood spirit that had wrapped around Ye Yihao with its tree

leaves began to shake its trunk violently, causing its branches to shake wildly.

Ye Yihao's eyes abruptly concentrated at the stone well behind the group.

"Glug glug! Glug glug!"

Inside the stone well, the spring water of the Spring of Life boiled violently like it was being boiled.

"Good! Very good! The spring water of the Spring of Life has begun its purification process under the effects of the Demon Sealing Tombstone!" Ye Yihao opened his mouth and laughed loudly, "That pollution should've been purified and kept from causing trouble a long time ago!"

Qin Lie turned his head to look behind himself.

The dark green Spring of Life inside the stone well was bubbling non-stop.

A bubble burst, and a thin wisp of wood green smoke seeped out and hovered about two meters above the well.

There was nothing unusual if one were to look at them with their eyes. However, when Qin Lie attempted to sense it with his own soul consciousness, he discovered that the thin smoke floating above the well was filled with fragment souls and shattered

thoughts.

The tiny black and white spots inside the well seemed to be decreasing as the well continued to boil up.

The black and white spots were the pollution Xue Moyan and Ye Yihao were speaking of. Those black and white spots had also appeared deep within Xie Jingxuan's pupils earlier.

Qin Lie couldn't help but feel that they shared a connection with each other.

"The Wood Race, the Spring of Life, the pollution, the purification, the cleansing..."

The words flashed across his mind one after another as he frowned deeply while pondering. He was attempting to sort out a memory that had suddenly entered his mind.

"Kill Ye Yihao!" Luo Chen called loudly.

Chu Li, Xue Moyan and Du Xiangyang all rushed towards that direction.

"Kill them all!" Ye Yihao also issued his order.

Xiahou Yuan, Lin Dongxing, Su Yan and the rest of the martial practitioners of the three great families also charged out from

behind the ancient trees to cut off the crowd.

Colorful spirit light barriers, dazzling but harsh lightning, and countless magical and exquisite spirit artifacts filled the air for a time.

A bitter battle between Qin Lie and Ye Yihao was drawn in an instant.

“Qin Lie! Don’t forget to find a chance to seal the wood spirit with the Demon Sealing Tombstone!” Chu Li did not forget to message Qin Lie again even in battle.

At the same time, everyone around him including Song Tingyu had participated in the battle.

While standing beside the stone well and staring at the floor of Wood Race corpses around it, he frowned deeply and crouched on the ground. He stretched a hand and touched the closest corpse beside him.

He touched the corpse’s arm.

The arm was like rotten, wilted wood, devoid of any luster or green color at all. It was gray, dry, and very dead.

It was as if something had extracted all of its life force and energy.

The corpse's eyes sockets were sunken, and its entire being gave off the impression of despair, anger and fear. It was as if this person had gone through something horrific while they were still alive.

"The Spring of Life!"

An inspiration flashed across his mind and sent a shudder through Qin Lie's body. Suddenly, the memory became clear in his head.

It was a memory relating to the Wood Race!

He looked at the giant ancient tree wrapping around Ye Yihao and said suddenly with a dark face, "The Spring of Life inside this well had originated from the surrounding Wood Race clansmen's life essences. They were refined alive and all of their life force and energy were extracted to form the Spring of Life inside this well!"

"Hehe, it looks like you know quite a lot, don't you kid?" Ye Yihao chuckled strangely.

Tree branches that were like long spears and sharp blades shining with a green and exuberant luster swung all around where Ye Yihao was to create a sky full of green light and shadow, whipping at Xue Moyan and Luo Chen.

He was obviously borrowing the wood spirit's strength.

He was no longer met with any danger that came close to the time when Xie Jingxuan shattered the wood spirit's green wall with a single strike and damaged both him and the wood spirit.

Despite Xue Moyan, Chu Li and Luo Chen's ferocious attacks, they were actually unable to get close to him at all. They were unable to charge through the lush bushes and land a solid strike on him.

He appeared to be far more collected than anyone else in the area.

The Wood Race was a powerful race of the ancient times, and they were well-versed with the spirit energy of wood.

It was rumored that there was an ancient Ancient Life Tree standing between heaven and earth, and the Wood Race was a highly intellectual race that had relied on the Ancient Life Tree to evolve to what they were.

Every Wood Race clansman addressed the Ancient Life Tree deferentially as "Mother." It was said that the emerald green leaves of the Ancient Life Tree formed the Spring of Life after they were squeezed into juice.

The Spring of Life contained life energy, and they could replenish a living creature's life energy and extend their lifespan greatly.

Besides that, the life energy contained within the Spring of Life could literally raise the dead and rob the world's very own fortune.

Legend said that as long as a living creature still had a breath of air left in their lungs, then no matter how severe the damage to their physical body, they could be saved by the Spring of Life.

The Spring of Life was the Wood Race's panacea in ancient times!

Normally speaking, the Spring of Life was created by plucking the tree leaves of the Ancient Life Tree and squeezing them into juice.

However, after a long time passed and countless racial wars, clansmen of the Wood Race became extremely rare, and even the Ancient Life Tree's very existence was questionable.

It was gradually growing impossible to obtain a Spring of Life through this method.

Therefore, a second method had appeared...

The Wood Race clansmen who were of high realm and pure blood could obtain energy from the Ancient Life Tree and strengthen themselves continuously while cultivating wood spirit energy.

A small amount of the Spring of Life would remain inside their blood. By using some extreme methods and refining them alive to their deaths, it was possible to obtain the Spring of Life from their

blood.

There was a flaw to this method, however—the Spring of Life they obtained this way was not pure.

The Wood Race clansmen were high level living creatures after all. They had intelligence, and they had souls and memories. There were fragment thoughts and souls inside their very own blood.

Just like how Jiang Zhuzhe and the others would absorb impurities when they drank another person's blood to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art, the Spring of Life obtained from a Wood Race member's blood after refinement would contain such impurities as well.

These so-called impurities were in actuality the wood clansmen's unyielding soul fragment and will!

These black and white spots were these impurities.

If they could not be purified completely, the person who drank the Spring of Life directly would be affected by the unyielding will and soul fragments contained inside the blood of the wood clansmen who were cruelly refined to death.

Xie Jingxuan had obviously drank the tainted Spring of Life after being driven to a dead end by the voodoo toxin. Therefore, she was corrupted by the wood clansmen's soul fragments and will.

“Kid, the Demon Sealing Tombstone in your hands can purify the pollution inside the Spring of Life! Heh, the well water boiled because the wood clansmen’s remaining wills were being purified, and when the Spring of Life in this well was purified and absorbed by the Tree God, it will have this tiny bit of chance to evolve into a Ancient Life Tree!” Ye Yihao grinned and laughed loudly, “And I will be able to acquire a breakthrough speed unmatchable by any man alive through the Tree God!”

“These wood clansmen who were refined to death were actually the deeds of your so-called Tree God, weren’t they?” Qin Lie smiled coldly.

“If the Tree God wants to walk out of this forbidden area of the wood, if the Tree God wants to walk out of the Graveyard of Gods, then it must do so!” Ye Yihao’s expression was cruel, “The seven great spirit bodies and eight God Corpses have suppressed and sealed the Graveyard of Gods for far, far too long. Now that its entrance has been discovered, and we have entered into the Graveyard of Gods, this place is no longer the peaceful place it once was. The seven great spirit bodies have long since lost their obligation to continue suppressing this place!”

After he had formed a contract with the wood spirit, Ye Yihao had an understanding of the Graveyard of Gods that far exceeded everyone else.

“The Tree God and I are connected by soul now. It will not be as easy as you think if you wish to seal the Tree God with the Demon Sealing Tombstone!” Ye Yihao grinned sinisterly, “Even worse for you is that you are in the forbidden area of wood! Here, the Tree

God and I are the real masters!”

“Ooooo!”

While the duo were speaking, Xue Jingxuan howled in pain in a low tone while still gripping the two wooden sculptures and pressing the back of her hand against her forehead.

Her life and soul energy were being swiftly extracted.

No matter how powerful she was, she could not avoid the voodoo toxin’s erosion as long as the voodoo toxin was still in effect and the Eight-winged Centipede Queen was screeching shrilly.

This was especially true when she was so close to the voodoo insect.

The voodoo toxin was far scarier than the Wood Race clansmen’s soul fragments that had invaded her mind!

“Qin Lie! Cure her with a drop of voodoo insect blood!” Chu Li messaged him.

Qin Lie’s spirit shook at the thought.

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Chapter 468: Seal!

Xie Jingxuan's previous attack had instantly shattered the wood spirit's wall and dealt a terrible blow to both Ye Yihao and the wood spirit.

This was an attack Chu Li and the others wouldn't have been able to accomplish.

Regardless of whether Xie Jingxuan had been corrupted by the soul fragments of the Wood Race clansmen or not, at least her current targets were Ye Yihao and the wood spirit—she could really wound them!

The only thing keeping her from doing that was the voodoo toxin that had seeped into her True Soul!

The moment the voodoo toxin was cured, Xie Jingxuan would be able to torment Ye Yihao and the wood spirit!

Qin Lie quickly understood Chu Li's idea of using Xie Jingxuan to deal with Ye Yihao.

This idea would definitely work!

"Spurt!"

A thin, tender branch that forked from the Tree God's larger

branches pierced Zhang Chendong's chest like a jade green sword.

The chest of Zhang Chendong, who had been fighting alongside Luo Chen, was completely pierced by the thin branch. Like a water pump, it sucked the blood and essence inside his internal organs out of his body and sent them gushing into the Tree God.

At this moment, Luo Chen's last comrade was mercilessly killed.

"The direction you were escaping in was perfectly fine. If you hadn't entered this village or stopped to rest, maybe you would have actually been able to leave the Forbidden Land of Wood." Ye Yihao laughed coldly and shook his head. "How unfortunate. It's regrettable that you failed to suppress your curiosity and instead entered this place.

"Strangle them to death!"

All of the trees in the area twisted toward Qin Lie and the others; as far as the eye could see, branches of all shapes and lengths shot at them from every direction, resembling strange snakes seeking to wrap around them and kill them.

These tree branches seemed to possess basic intelligence, specifically avoiding the people of the three great families and Black Voodoo Cult and only attacking the martial practitioners of Illusory Demon Sect and Terminator Sect.

"Qin Lie!" Chu Li exclaimed abruptly.

Qin Lie, who was guarding the stone well behind him, finally reacted to Chu Li's voice and bolted toward Xie Jingxuan like lightning.

His spatial ring flashed, and the jade bottle that contained a drop of voodoo insect blood appeared in his hand.

"Whoosh!"

The jade bottle rolled through the air and headed toward Xie Jingxuan like a falling star.

"That's a drop of voodoo insect blood!" Qin Lie exclaimed softly.

At the same time, three drops of blood resembling bloodstones flew out of his palm and transformed into three burning Fire Qilins.

The three Fire Qilins roared as their intense flames formed a raging inferno barrier that defended Xie Jingxuan.

"Put the drop of blood in your forehead!" Song Tingyu instructed loudly.

"The blood can cure the voodoo toxin!" He Wei shouted.

Xie Jingxuan had drunk the spring water of the Spring of Life

and used the life energy in it to maintain her life force. However, she was corrupted by the unbending, fragmented will of the Wood Race clansmen inside the Spring of Life and left in a state of unconsciousness.

They were worried that Xie Jingxuan was unable to think and didn't know how to use the voodoo insect blood, so they pointed out how it worked.

"Boom boom boom!"

Thunder surged through Qin Lie's body as he swung the Astral Thunder Hammer and spread intense lightning everywhere to shatter the branches that were heading in his direction.

On top of that, he was also doing his best to protect Xie Jingxuan.

The black and white dots deep inside of Xie Jingxuan's eyes suddenly flickered with an unusual light.

Her face surged with immense life force, and her lifeless expression changed.

Xie Jingxuan gripped the wooden sculpture and used it to accurately strike the jade bottle that was falling toward her head. The jade bottle shattered as a drop of blood appeared in the air.

Xie Jingxuan reached out with her free hand and made a pulling motion.

A beam of light that was a grassy green emerged from her hand and wrapped around the drop of blood like soft green ribbons.

The voodoo insect blood flowed downward and came to rest on her forehead like a tiny cinnabar mole.

Wisps of black and brown smoke rapidly escaped from her eyes. They stuck to the voodoo insect blood as if magnetically attracted.

The drop of blood turned black after absorbing the voodoo insect toxin, becoming viscous and then solid. An evil, intimidating aura gushed from it.

“Plop!”

The now solid drop of blood fell from Xie Jingxuan’s forehead, her cries of pain having stopped long ago.

Her eyes that had been covered in black and white spots regained their intimidating, evil light, and dark green haloes rippled from her body like those of the deep sea.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

Xie Jingxuan opened her mouth, pointed in the direction of the stone well, and inhaled.

All of the thin green mist above the well, still mixed with chaotic energy and the soul fragments of the Wood Race clansmen, rushed into Xie Jingxuan's mouth.

Xie Jingxuan's eyes shone with unnatural green light.

Gripping a wooden sculpture in her other hand, she floated in midair like a green ghost. Then, resembling a demon, she flew through tiny gaps in the attacking branches and instantly arrived next to Ye Yihao

The two wooden sculptures she held unleashed a terrifying light and resembled two immeasurably sharp, unbreakable godly swords.

"Crack! Crack!"

As if wielding two swords, Xie Jingxuan continuously slashed at the wood around Ye Yihao's body, chopping through and breaking numerous jade green branches.

"Bite her to death! Bite her to death now!" Ye Yihao screamed.

The Eight-winged Centipede Queen burst through his skin and flew out of his chest yet again.

The voodoo insect howled as it flew toward Xie Jingxuan to bite her. Its eight wings glowed with a cold black light, making them look like eight sharp blades.

“Burn it! Burn it with fire!” Xue Moyan yelled.

Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang acted in unison.

The fire sword in Du Xiangyang’s hand suddenly burned significantly hotter as it transformed into a fire dragon and rushed at the voodoo insect.

At the same time, Qin Lie ordered the three lifeblood essences.

The three drops of blood transformed into Fire Qilins that were several meters tall and surged with towering flames, shooting toward the voodoo insect as well.

Xie Jingxuan’s white clothes were completely stained in soil and dust, her white skin was just as filthy, and she hadn’t bathed in half a month. She had already lost her simple elegance, and instead she had grown more and more ruthless

Her combat power, however, had risen by several levels!

Even the two wooden sculptures she held exuded a terrifying might.

It was as if she knew how to manipulate their power!

Dazzling green divine light shot out of the two wooden sculptures

like the blades of heavenly gods.

The light cut outward, seeming to actually contain a spatial energy that was capable of slashing through everything in this world.

Upon being cut apart by the dazzling green light, the wood spirit's branches that were tightly wrapped around Ye Yihao broke like ropes.

Soon enough, Xie Jingxuan sheared away every tree branch that connected the wood spirit and Ye Yihao.

"Their souls have been separated! Qin Lie, get the Demon Sealing Tombstone out now!" Chu Li roared explosively. "The wood spirit's soul is no longer connected to Ye Yihao's, so it will not be able to resist the sealing powers of the Demon Sealing Tombstone!"

"Sha sha sha!"

All of the tree branches on the Tree God's body twisted madly and resembled tens of thousands of strange snakes. Every single one of them wanted to reconnect with Ye Yihao's body.

They wanted to rebuild the soul connection with Ye Yihao.

It was at this moment that, following Chu Li's words, Qin Lie summoned the tombstone.

The tombstone floated into the sky the moment it appeared, the seven divine lights on its surface growing impossibly bright. Like seven rigid chains, they extended from the tombstone's surface.

The seven divine lights were as long as a heavenly river and resembled chains that connected heaven and earth. They anchored themselves to the wood spirit's huge body.

The wood spirit was nearly a hundred meters tall and several acres wide. It shrouded the sky and covered the land.

On the other hand, the seven divine lights were like the divine river deep within the blue dome of heaven. They stretched out and forcefully shackled the huge body of the wood spirit.

"Creek crack!"

The dazzling divine light and terrifying power radiating from these seven long chains made everyone tremble in shock.

"No!" Ye Yihao cried out in pain.

Although its roots were embedded deep underground, the wood spirit that resembled a ten thousand year old tree demon was shackled by the seven divine lights and uprooted.

It was being pulled toward the tombstone bit by bit!

The tombstone wasn't large. In fact, from its position suspended above the giant tree, it looked like a tiny cloud in the sky.

Yet at this moment, the godly might and massive, unrivaled strength that it unleashed would inspire awe in anyone.

Just like how it had absorbed the body of the Fire Qilin, the seven divine lights that shot out of the Demon Sealing Tombstone wrapped around the wood spirit and slowly absorbed it into its surface.

Everyone raised their heads and looked toward the heavens. They were all watching the wood spirit slowly shrink until it completely disappeared within the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

The wood spirit of the Forbidden Land of Wood was sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, just like what had happened to the fire spirit of the Land of Fire.

The branches that were heading over from every direction suddenly stopped moving after the wood spirit had been sealed.

It was as if they had just returned to normal.

"Follow me!" Ye Yihao's cold voice rang out.

Thick clouds of voodoo toxin appeared where he stood, and the

poisonous clouds swiftly spread to the surroundings.

Luo Chen, Chu Li, Xue Moyan, and everyone else that had gathered in the area hastily avoided the clouds in shock and fear.

On the other hand, Lin Dongxing, Su Yan, Xiahou Yan, and their men hastily entered the area shrouded in voodoo toxin, afraid that they would become targets of the people outside.

“I shall wait for you at the Land of Buried Gods!” Ye Yihao’s voice echoed from within the voodoo toxin.

The black voodoo toxin smoke that enveloped Ye Yihao and his people shifted under everyone’s gaze and swiftly retreated from the village.

Chu Li, Xue Moyan, and Luo Chen were unable to do anything and could only watch Ye Yihao leave.

They all knew how terrifying the voodoo toxin was, and no one dared to go into the voodoo toxin and fight Ye Yihao in it.

Although Qin Lie wasn’t afraid of the voodoo toxin, he wasn’t arrogant enough to think that he could fight Ye Yihao and the elites of the three great families alone. Therefore, he also couldn’t do anything but watch them leave.

The seven divine lights returned to the tombstone and went quiet, and the blank tombstone suspended above Qin Lie’s head

returned to its tranquil state once more.

Xie Jingxuan, eyes covered in black and white dots, watched the tombstone and how it sealed the wood spirit inside itself once more. It felt as if the soul fragments within her were finally able to rest in peace.

Traces of thin, grassy green smoke emerged from Xie Jingxuan's eyes, nose, and ears before gradually vanishing into the world.

Her long lost soul seemed to have pushed away the clouds and finally seen the light of day again.

The black and white spots in her eyes slowly disappeared, and her gray dark eyes eventually regained their light.

"Jingxuan!" Song Tingyu softly cried out, hoping to awaken Xie Jingxuan and that she would regain her true self.

After a long moment, Xie Jinxuan suddenly exclaimed, "Sister Tingyu!"

She was surprised, as if she had just woken up from a deep, nightmare-plagued slumber.

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Chapter 469: Difference In Opinion

The best news for Qin Lie was Xie Jingxuan's awakening.

"Where did your wooden sculpture come from?" Qin Lie urgently asked as he walked over, his eyes shining.

The main reason he said yes to Li Mu and came to the Graveyard of Gods was the wooden sculpture.

He wanted to use the wooden sculpture to find news of his grandfather and learn more about his past.

"Wooden sculpture..."

Xie Jingxuan's brow furrowed. She thought long and hard, then pointed at the desiccated body of a Wood Race clansman next to the stone well.

"Him?" Qin Lie's gaze flashed.

Chu Li and the others also looked at the corpse of the Wood Race clansman.

This was a thin Wood Race clansman. His grayish brown skin was like the trunk of a rotten tree that had no light or signs of life.

It was clear that the wood spirit had sucked the blood and life

energy from this Wood Race clansman and refined it into the Spring of Life.

He had been dead for many years.

After drinking from the unpurified Spring of Life and being controlled by the soul fragments of the Wood Race clansmen, Xie Jingxuan had taken the wooden sculpture from the Wood Race clansman's body.

"What do you remember?" Qin Lie's expression was serious.

"Let me think." Xie Jingxuan rubbed her head and painfully tried to remember.

"Give her a bit of time," Song Tingyu said in a soft, comforting voice.

Qin Lie nodded. He looked at Xie Jingxuan deeply and didn't continue to press her.

At this time, everyone's gazes gathered on the stone well and the Spring of Life within it.

The spring water of the Spring of Life gradually stopped boiling and bubbling. No more grass green smoke came out of it.

When the wood spirit was sealed by the Demon Sealing

Tombstone, all the lingering souls of the Wood Race clansmen seemed to have been put to rest, gradually dissipating.

Within the stone well, the Spring of Life was no longer black and white. It seemed as though it had truly been purified.

Qin Lie looked down into the well.

Having been completely purified, more than half of the Spring of Life had disappeared.

The stone well was not deep.

Since the Spring of Life had been purified, the well water was clear, and Qin Lie could see to the bottom of it.

The stone well was actually very shallow. From the mouth of the well to its bottom, it was probably a little over a meter in distance. Rather than call it a well, it might have been more accurate to call it a large stone basin.

The purified Spring of Life was a clear dark green. There was only about a bucket of water at the bottom of the well.

This was significantly less than everyone had expected.

“The Spring of Life can replenish life energy. Not only does it aid cultivation and the refinement of the body, it can also bring

someone back to life.” Chu Li’s eyes lit up.

“Just one bucketful of spring water from the Spring of Life.” Luo Chen’s eyes narrowed. He looked down and then suddenly said, “Heavenly Sword Mountain, Terminator Sect, and Illusory Demon Sect. The three of us have people here, so how are we to share it?”
“Sister Xue, is this the holy medicine you wanted to find?” Pan Qianqian asked. “Is it enough?”

Without a word, Xue Moyan’s calm eyes focused on the Spring of Life within the well.

“One kind of Spring of life is obtained from the sap of the Ancient Life Tree. That kind of Spring of Life is pure and contains great life energy.” Qin Lie suddenly interjected. “The other kind is a Spring of Life obtained by refining the blood essence of Wood Race clansmen. Even after being purified, the life energy contained this Spring of Life is not as dense and pure as the kind from the Ancient Life Tree.”

He looked at Xue Moyan.

Xue Moyan sighed.

This bucketful of spring water did not come from the Ancient Life Tree, and the amount of life energy it contained was limited. Even if all of it were given to her, it would only solve the problem for her and her mother.

The life force of her mother, Mo Lingye, was about to run out, and just like Xue Moyan, she needed enormous amounts of life energy to replenish it.

Since Xue Moyan had stayed inside of her mother's body for too long, half of her lifespan had been prematurely used up and resulted in it being limited from birth.

She also needed a great amount of life energy in order to survive.

Yet this Spring of Life did not belong to her alone. Luo Chen, Chu Li, Du Xiangyang, He Wei, and the others knew just how rare and precious the Spring of Life was. Who would be willing to step aside and let her have it?

If everyone split it equally, each receiving a small portion of the Spring of Life, Xue Moyan would not have enough to save herself, much less her mother.

Just as everyone was heatedly discussing how to divvy up the Spring of Life, Xue Moyan gritted her teeth and said in a small voice, "I-I need the spring water of the Spring of Life to save my life. Can this spring water... be given to me?"

She wore a conflicted expression.

She knew that her request was outrageous, and according to fairness, she definitely could not have the spring water of this Spring of Life to herself.

The Spring of Life belonged to everyone here.

“Give all of it to you?”

Ren Peng of Terminator Sect had a part of his life force sucked away because of the voodoo toxin and had yet to recover.

He earnestly wanted to use the Spring of Life to replenish that life force and return to peak condition in preparation for future battles.

He Wei, Song Tingyu, the two martial practitioners of Terminator Sect, and even Pan Qianqian had been infected with the voodoo toxin.

Everyone that had been poisoned would have had their life energy sucked away by the Eight-winged Centipede Queen. It would be impossible to quickly replenish that energy.

Such a thing required a long period of time.

Spring water from the Spring of Life could shorten this recovery period and directly help them replenish the energy that was lost.

“We admit that you, Xue Moyan, also participated, and it is reasonable for you to take a portion of the spring water,” Another Terminator Sect martial practitioner said coldly. “Yet you want all

of the spring water? All of it! You're being too unreasonable!"

"For those of us that were afflicted with the voodoo toxin, the Spring of Life can quickly aid us in replenishing life energy. Life energy is not spirit power; it isn't something we can recover using spirit stones. It's the energy of the body—energy that takes a long time to recover!" Ren Peng snorted coldly. "You think you can just take all of it for yourself?"

"Let's split the spring water based on the number of people," He Wei suggested. "Wouldn't that be reasonable?"

At this time, Terminator Sect had Chu Li, He Wei, and three other martial practitioners, making up five people in total.

They were the largest group. Luo Chen was only one person, and so was Du Xiangyang. If this were split based on number of people, it would undoubtedly benefit Terminator Sect the most.

As for Xue Moyan's group, they had four people left including her. If this were split evenly between each person, they would not lose much.

Qin Lie had Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan. They were also three people and would not lose too much.

The true loser would be Luo Chen.

He Wei was protecting the gains of Terminator Sect, Qin Lie, and

Xue Moyan. Her method of dividing the spring water based on the number of people was relatively fair.

She had also been infected with the voodoo toxin. She needed to get spring water from the Spring of Life for her, Song Tingyu, Ren Peng, and the others in order to recover.

“What do you say, Luo Chen?” Chu Li shouted.

“I want two extra shares of the spring water. Two of my people died here, but they also contributed!” Luo Chen snorted and said coldly, “I alone should count as three people. Otherwise, I will not lead you out of this forest!”

Everyone’s expressions darkened.

“Du Xiangyang!” Chu Li prompted.

Du Xiangyang casually shrugged. “I don’t have any objections. One part is fine, I wasn’t poisoned with the voodoo toxin and none of my friends were either.”

“How about you, Qin Lie?” Chu Li asked about Qin Lie’s opinion.

At this moment, after defeating the threat of Ye Yihao, Terminator Sect was the strongest group.

In Chu Li’s mind, he grouped Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie

Jingxuan on his side. If their opinions were the same, he could ignore Luo Chen and Xue Moyan.

As a result, the opinion that he valued the most was Qin Lie's.

In this period of time, Qin Lie's actions had won Chu Li's respect. Chu Li was a person that valued friendship and virtue, and he treated Qin Lie as a brother.

"I..." Qin Lie took a deep breath.

"Brother, why are you hesitating? What can we not say between us?" Chu Li was shocked.

Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Xue Moyan's groups all focused on Qin Lie.

They knew that, once Qin Lie and Chu Li expressed the same opinion, the division of the spring water from the Spring of Life would most likely be settled.

Terminator Sect had five people, Qin Lie had three, and Du Xiangyang was also on good terms with Qin Lie and He Wei, so he was definitely on their side.

Their forces were enough to fight against Luo Chen and the four people from Illusory Demon Sect.

“Big Brother Chu, I-I feel it would be best to give the spring water to Xue Moyan,” Qin Lie said.

As soon as these words were said, everyone was shocked. Ren Peng and the other people from Terminator Sect immediately exploded and shouted.

“Why? Illusory Demon Sect did contribute, and it isn’t wrong to give them a share of the Spring of Life, but it definitely cannot be all of it!”

“We also had the voodoo toxin. We need the Spring of Life to replenish our life energy! Why should we give all of it to them?”

“Qin Lie, is something wrong with your head?” He Wei also shouted.

Terminator Sect’s people weren’t the only ones who were in astonished.

The people of Illusory Demon Sect were even more shocked. Xue Moyan covered her mouth with her hand as she looked at Qin Lie in disbelief.

She never imagined that Qin Lie would say such a thing. Was Qin Lie actually in favor of giving all of the Spring of Life to her?

Even she thought that she heard wrong.

Before all of this, she hadn't known Qin Lie at all. Before entering the Graveyard of Gods, she had studied every force and their participants. As far as she could remember, Qin Lie hadn't been one of them.

The first time she encountered Qin Lie was when two of her Illusory Demon Sect sisters had been controlled by the voodoo insects and Qin Lie had burned them to death. She had wrongly assumed that Qin Lie was a monster and took Pan Qianqian along to pursue and kill him.

Considering that debacle, it was already good enough news that Qin Lie hadn't teamed up with Chu Li to take the share of the Spring of Life that belonged to Illusory Demon Sect.

She never would have dreamed that Qin Lie wouldn't be against them, but he even favored giving the Spring of Life to them!

Xue Moyan couldn't believe that what she heard was true.

"Brother Qin, I know that Miss Xue is very beautiful, but isn't it outrageous for you to hold beauty above friendship and disregard our troubles just to win her favor?" Terminator Sect's Ren Peng mockingly asked.

He only thought that Qin Lie was trying to garner her favor because she was beautiful. He couldn't think of any other reason why Qin Lie would help Xue Moyan.

The moment he said this, the expressions of Terminator Sect's people, and those of Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, He Wei, and the people of Illusory Demon Sect grew strange

They examined Qin Lie and Xue Moyan with peculiar gazes.

People even thought, "Isn't Song Tingyu clearly right next to them?"

Then all of them felt scorn.

Chapter 470: Beauty Over Friendship?

Aside from those who knew the truth, other people thought that Qin Lie said to give the water from the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan to gain her favor.

This made Ren Peng and the others to feel scorn toward him.

Qin Lie's decision would damage their benefits. If all of the spring water were given to Xue Moyan, it would take a long time to recover the life energy they lost.

As a result, their bodies would not be in peak condition that entire time.

Xue Moyan and the other women of Illusory Demon Sect didn't know the truth. They didn't know that Qin Lie was just doing this for Xue Li and helping Xue Moyan whenever he could.

"Sister Xue, this Qin Lie... is most likely pursuing you," Huang Zhuli said in a small voice.

Her voice was quiet, but in the abrupt silence, many people still heard what she said.

Pan Qianqian and another of the Illusory Demon Sect women agreed, nodding as though it were true.

They didn't think that Qin Lie was deeply in love. Instead, they actually thought that Qin Lie was shameless... because Song Tingyu was right next to him!

"I misjudged him..." Pan Qianqian thought.

Previously, in order to help the poisoned Song Tingyu, Qin Lie fearlessly charged into the area shrouded in voodoo toxin to fight the voodoo insect. He had had refined the voodoo insect to cut off its eight wings and get the blood drop antidote.

At that time, the Illusory Demon Sect women felt moved.

They had thought that Qin Lie was a faithful lover and felt that, even if Song Tingyu died, it would be worth it to have such a man willing to risk his life for her.

Qin Lie's previous actions had won all of them over.

Now, however...

Pan Qianqian shook her head. When she looked at Qin Lie again, she felt an unspeakable disgust.

"Tingyu! You should control him!" He Wei shouted. "No men are good. I finally understand that now!"

She hatefully glared at Chu Li.

Chu Li innocently spread his hands with a wry grimace.

“I’m on his side.” Song Tingyu covered her mouth and laughed freely as though she didn’t care. She embraced Qin Lie’s arm, appearing docile and seductive. “Even if he wants three wives and four concubines, I will accept it.”

The men were dumbstruck.

“Qin Lie, I really, truly respect you!” Du Xiangyan gave a thumbs up and said, “You are great!”

The women of Illusory Demon Sect were all astonished by Song Tingyu’s response.

He Wei’s face twisted. She stomped her foot and scolded, “Tingyu, are you stupid as well?”

“Regardless of what he does, it is always right in my eyes,” Song Tingyu said with a smile.

Qin Lie felt completely at ease.

Song Tingyu knew Xue Moyan’s identity and that she needed the Spring of Life more than any other person. However… she had been poisoned too and lost a portion of her life energy as well.

She didn’t have any connection to Xue Moyan.

Yet, at this moment, she could ignore her own needs and stand by his side without hesitation.

She knew that Xue Moyan’s origin as someone of Blood Fiend Sect was sensitive, so she helped hide it. She pretended to be the stupidest woman who unconditionally trusted him…

“Big Brother Chu, can you give me some face?” Qin Lie asked seriously.

“Chu Li!” He Wei screamed.

“Senior Brother!” Ren Peng shouted.

The Terminator Sect martial practitioners were alarmed.

Chu Li thought that Xue Moyan was Qin Lie’s fiancée. He had learned early on through Xue Moyan and Ye Yihao’s exchange that the holy medicine she had worked so hard to find was the Spring of Life.

He also guessed that Xue Moyan had a reason for needing to obtain the Spring of Life.

“Loss of life energy cannot be recovered in moments—it requires time.” Chu Li paused and looked at He Wei, Ren Peng, and the

others as he said seriously, “But at least one can recover! If you are infected by the voodoo toxin, your death is certain! Ren Peng, He Wei, both of you were poisoned. The reason you are alive is because Qin Lie risked his life to go into the area shrouded in voodoo toxin and get the blood of the voodoo insect for you!”

Chu Li inhaled deeply, snorted, and said, “All of you owe Qin Lie your lives!”

When those words were said, He Wei, Ren Peng, and the other two Terminator Sect martial practitioners immediately went silent, their expressions full of guilt.

“Think of it as paying Qin Lie what you owe him!” Chu Li shouted.

He Wei and the others were reluctant, but after Chu Li expressed his opinion, they could only keep silent.

This could be considered agreeing with this.

Qin Lie looked at Du Xiangyang. “I will give you ten Heavenly Flame Crystals!”

Du Xiangyang naturally understood the meaning of Qin Lie’s words. Du Xiangyang nodded with a grin and said, “I love helping others! Using all of the Spring of Life to win a woman’s favor… haha, Qin Lie, you’re amazing! I bow to you, I really bow! Your woman didn’t even say a thing, so what can I say?”

Qin Lie also nodded.

Without another word, Qin Lie took ten Heavenly Flame Crystals out of his spatial ring and tossed them to Du Xiangyang.

After receiving them, Du Xiangyang's smile became even happier. "Haha, I respect you even more."

Finally, Qin Lie looked at Luo Chen.

Luo Chen smiled coldly. "I'm not so easy to appease!"

"I'll owe you a favor!" Qin Lie said with a frown.

"A favor isn't enough!" Luo Chen said with a cold snort. "I don't believe that you are asking everyone to give up the Spring of Life just to gain her favor. A reason! I need an actual reason!"

Xue Moyan, standing at the other side of the village, looked at him as she spoke. "I also need a reason. I don't want to owe you, and I don't believe that I am worthy of you doing so much for me..."

She thinking the same thing as Luo Chen. She also didn't believe that Qin Lie was asking everyone to give up the Spring of Life and help her just because of her beauty.

The time that she and Qin Lie had known each other was very short.

However, she was almost certain that a person who could be extremely cruel and insane to themselves would not be so amazing as to do everything to help a stranger just for her beauty.

That was not realistic.

“What do you want?” She asked again.

She thought that, in doing this, Qin Lie had something to ask of her or Illusory Demon Sect.

What do you want?

Many other people, such as He Wei, Du Xiangyang, and Luo Chen, were thinking this as well. They all looked at Qin Lie.

“You will know why in the future,” Qin Lie said calmly.

“Our cooperation ends now!” Luo Chen looked over coldly. Seeing that Qin Lie did not intend to explain, he nodded and turned to leave.

He naturally would not guide them any longer.

“Let’s go, Chu Li.” He Wei snorted.

“Go? Go where? Wait for Qin Lie!” Chu Li said in bewilderment.

He had not detected He Wei’s anger.

“If you don’t go, we’ll go!” He Wei glared at him. “The wood spirit is sealed and Ye Yihao is no longer a threat. What are you doing with this fellow that puts beauty above friendship? Chu Li, decide for yourself. Are you going to be with him or me?”

After making this declaration, He Wei turned and walked out of the village without looking back.

“Senior Brother!” Ren Peng and the others also started to urge him.

Just as they saw that they could use the Spring of Life to replenish their life energy, Qin Lie interfered. As a result, they had to completely give up on the Spring of Life.

After this, they bore ill will toward Qin Lie. It was difficult to pretend that nothing had happened, and it was hard to continue traveling together.

Chu Li also saw the division between them and Qin Lie. He knew that He Wei was still unhappy with what Qin Lie did and didn’t want to stay with Qin Lie.

“Brother, this…” He looked at Qin Lie with a conflicted expression.

“Big Brother Chu, go. I understand. This matter is my problem, I apologize.” Qin Lie grimaced.

“Let’s split up for now and wait for He Wei’s anger subside before meeting up again.” Chu Li scratched his head, was slightly embarrassed. “Women have to be talked to. Give me some time.”

“Go.” Qin Lie smiled honestly.

So Chu Li led Ren Peng and the two other Terminator Sect martial practitioners to split from Qin Lie and hurried to find He Wei.

He was worried that He Wei would be in danger on her own.

“How about you, Brother Du?” Qin Lie asked.

“Ha! If you don’t mind, how about I come with you?” Du Xiangyang smiled.

“My pleasure!” Qin Lie nodded joyfully.

Song Tingyu stood by Qin Lie’s side with a determined smile.

Xie Jingxuan's eyes were still closed as she focused on thinking back to her previous experiences. She hadn't paid any attention to what had just occurred.

Xue Moyan stood by the mouth of the well. Before she moved to take the spring water from the Spring of Life, she asked again, "Many people have left. Now can you tell me the reason why?"

"You will know in the future." Qin Lie smiled, waved his hand, then left.

He was afraid that Xue Moyan would keep asking and he would still be unable to answer. He was afraid that he would expose Xue Moyan's identity as a survivor of Blood Fiend Sect.

Chapter 471: A Present From The Demon Sealing Tombstone!

In the old, decrepit village, after Qin Lie and the others left, Huang Zhuli stared at the Spring of Life in the well. Confused, she said, “This Qin Lie is a really strange person. I have no idea what he’s thinking.”

“Why does he want to gain Sister Xue’s favor?” Pan Qianqian was also confused.

“Regardless, this is not detrimental to us. We are about to get the Spring of Life.” Huang Zhuli’s expression was excited.

Xue Moyan’s expression was indifferent. She did not respond to the two, instead standing there in a daze and looking in the direction that Qin Lie had left.

“Why did he do this?”

She also didn’t understand why Qin Lie hadn’t just given up his share of the Spring of Life, but insisted that Terminator Sect, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, and the others give up their shares of the Spring of Life as well.

She knew that she had no connection to Qin Lie.

“Sister Xue. In my opinion, he’s obviously pursuing you!” Huang

Zhuli laughed.

“It’s very likely.” Pan Qianqian also nodded.

“No, that definitely isn’t the case…” Xue Moyan shook her head. She still couldn’t think of a reason after considering the matter for a while, so she ordered, “Secure the Spring of Life for me.”

“I’ll do it!” Huang Zhuli said, taking the initiative.

“Mn, be careful.”

“Don’t worry! I’m simply getting the Spring of Life. It’s nothing major. Sister Xue, Qianqian, you two rest first. You can leave this to me.”

Huang Zhuli’s eyes were bright.

……

Peace returned after the wood spirit in the Forbidden Land of Wood was sealed. The ancient trees no longer became monsters that attacked people.

The shrubbery that had razor sharp leaves lost their frightening viciousness and became friendly plants again.

The previously dangerous Forbidden Land of Wood became incomparably tranquil. There were no other incidents of plants killing people.

The martial practitioners split up according to the forces they belonged to, each faction travelling through the forest and searching for a way to leave it.

In an area of lush, vibrant trees, Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and Xie Jingxuan slowly made their way through the woods

The direction in which they were moving was the general direction that Luo Chen had previously indicated.

“Qin Lie, you really shouldn’t have been in a hurry to leave. At the very least, shouldn’t you have asked Xue Moyan about the mysteries of the Graveyard of Gods?” Song Tingyu suddenly asked. “Only Chu Li and Xue Moyan seem to be familiar with the details about it. Furthermore, they agreed to tell you what they knew after the problem with Ye Yihao had been solved”

“There’s no need to dig any further. Because of Chu Li and Xue Moyan’s discussion, as well as what Ye Yihao said, I have a general understanding of the mystery behind the Graveyard of Gods.” Qin Lie stopped walking.

He turned his head to look back at Xie Jingxuan.

Xie Jingxuan had been silently deep in thought ever since they left the village in the Forbidden Land of Wood.

She was still trying to make sense of her hazy memory.

Qin Lie sighed.

“I actually want to know more about this wooden sculpture.”

Leaning against an old tree, he took the two wooden sculptures out of his spatial ring and caressed them with his finger. He released his mind consciousness to inspect them.

Xie Jingxuan had given both wooden sculptures to Qin Lie after she came to her senses. Between the two sculptures, the one that Qin Lie’s grandfather had left for him was clearly bigger.

Xie Jingxuan had found the other, slightly smaller sculpture beside the corpse of the Wood Race clansman that the wood spirit had refined to death. The remainder of that clansman’s soul and thoughts had taken over Xie Jingxuan, allowing her to use the power of the wooden sculpture in battle.

“She might need a long time to think about and understand what happened when she was unconscious,” Du Xiangyang theorized. “It’s possible that she won’t be able to remember.”

“Can you learn anything from that wooden sculpture, Qin Lie?” Song Tingyu asked.

Qin Lie shook his head. “I tried, but there aren’t any messages or memories. Just a spirit diagram.”

“Then we can only wait for Jingxuan to remember.” Song Tingyu was also out of ideas.

Du Xiangyang carefully observed Xie Jingxuan.

“She doesn’t seem okay...” After a moment of hesitation, Du Xiangyang’s eyes flashed and he cautiously said, “She seems to be in a wondrous state. Look at her... although she wears a dazed expression, powerful fluctuations are clearly radiating from her.”

Upon having this pointed out to them, Qin Lie and Song Tingyu focused and turned their attention to the state that Xie Jingxuan was in.
Green waves would occasionally emanate from her, making her life force seem even more lively.

A strong blood energy came from her body. Every cell, blood vessel, and muscle seemed to contain a significant amount of life force.
Xie Jingxuan’s soul was at peace, and her body incessantly moved as though it were transforming in a certain way.

“This should be some sort of life cleansing process. Life energy is the energy of the body. Her life energy is receiving a considerable boost. She probably consumed a substantial amount of the Spring of Life. The spring water in that well was formed from the blood

energy of the Wood Race clansmen. Those very clansmen had taken control of Xie Jingxuan's soul and thoughts. Her body is changing... I cannot ascertain why."

"Gaaaaah!!"

Xie Jingxuan suddenly gripped her head, unleashing a horrible scream.

She seemed to be in great pain.

"What's happening?!" Song Tingyu's expression twisted in worry.

Tendrils of smoke came out of Xie Jingxuan's body. The smoke was a grassy green and filled with the energy of nature. If one looked closely, they would find that the smoke constantly changed into strange, curved threads.

They resembled the shapes of leaves and trees. They were complex and exquisite and felt as though they contained the laws of the universe.
"Her face!" Du Xiangyang shouted.

An invisible brush seemed to be painting the patterns on her body, carefully carving her.

The exquisite green patterns were on her face, her neck, and all of her exposed white skin. They flashed with green light.

“This is a wondrous inheritance method!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed with an expression of shock.

“Inheritance? The inheritance of the Wood Race clansmen?” Qin Lie was also shocked.

“Yes!” Du Xiangyang inhaled sharply, his expression grave. “She has gained a blessing in disguise. Although I don’t know the details, I’m sure that this is some kind of inheritance of the Wood Race clansmen. The patterns of leaves and trees that are appearing on her skin are all transformations of the wood spirit art and an expression of life energy!”

“Let’s protect her.” Qin Lie laughed.

“This is great!” Song Tingyu wore a happy expression.

“An inheritance means the acceptance of a spirit art, inherited memories, and duties. If she’s lucky, she may also learn about the history of the Wood Race and what happened in the recent past.” Du Xiangyang rubbed his chin, interest piqued. “She might actually obtain information about the origin and powers of that wooden sculpture that you so desire.”

Qin Lie’s eyes lit up.

“Let’s guard Jingxuan while we recover our spirit energy.” Song Tingyu’s smile was happy and relaxed.

She sat down next to Xie Jingxuan with her legs in the lotus position. She took spirit stones out from her spatial ring. With her eyes half-closed, she started to absorb the power of the spirit stones.

“Good idea.”

Du Xiangyang also sat down with a smile. He took out a Heavenly Flame Crystal and started using it to replenish his fire spirit energy.

Seeing these two become quiet, Qin Lie did not speak. He smiled and moved a bit further from them two before taking out the Demon Sealing Tombstone once more.

Qin Lie wanted to cultivate using the Demon Sealing Tombstone and learn about its mysteries. He wanted to see the state of the wood spirit sealed inside of it.

Extending a finger, he moved to touch the surface of the Demon Sealing Tombstone and was about to examine it with his mind when a vast, lively presence suddenly flooded out of it!

This presence was wood spirit energy. It was great and vast and made him feel as though he were suffocating.

At the same time, an intense heat came from his chest.

That heat was the presence of the Fire Qilin!

“Ah!” Qin Lie exclaimed in shock.

He saw three drops of emerald liquid slowly being squeezed from the surface of the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

—just like the three drops of Fire Qilin blood!

The three jade-like drops of liquid resembled spring water from a deep mountain, faded green and clear.

The three drops of emerald liquid flashed, coming to a sudden stop in Qin Lie’s palm.

It was as if the Demon Sealing Tombstone were giving him a present!

The three drops of liquid rippled with light. Three tiny tree seedlings could be seen inside of them.

They were tiny yet beautiful, and were just like the Fire Qilin shapes within the three blood essences.

Just as shock and confusion struck Qin Lie, the three drops of emerald liquid entered his hand and flowed into his blood vessels.

His blood immediately exuded a dense life energy. In that moment, Qin Lie felt that his life energy had begun to surge and flourish.

Qin Lie's eyes lit up with happiness. He became excited and almost couldn't help but laugh out loud.

These were the lifeblood essences that the Demon Sealing Tombstone extracted from the wood spirit after refining it!

Qin Lie owned the Demon Sealing Tombstone and used it to seal the wood spirit. He helped the Demon Sealing Tombstone in fulfilling its wish, so it gave him a reward—

—just like when he used the Demon Sealing Tombstone to absorb the Fire Qilin and create the three blood essences in the process.

Qin Lie came to a sudden realization.

If he could locate the body of a spirit within the Forbidden Lands and seal them, he would be able to reap rewards.

He immediately identified a goal to strive for.

"Just like with the Fire Qilin blood, since the wood spirit's lifeblood essences are inside of my blood, I can refine it with the Blood Refinement Art and have them become my own blood essences!" Qin Lie was excited.

Qin Lie sat down next to the Demon Sealing Tombstone. Concentrating on sensing the drops of emerald liquid, he used his own blood to slowly envelop them.

He gradually released his soul consciousness, using it to slowly enter the wood spirit's lifeblood essences like invisible tentacles and permeate them.

This was the Blood Refinement Art recorded in the Blood Codex.

Chapter 472: Hallucination

The three drops of emerald liquid had been created after the Demon Sealing Tombstone refined the wood spirit.

These droplets melted into Qin Lie's blood, causing a strong, seemingly infinite amount of vitality to awaken inside of his flesh and blood, making his entire body feel extremely relaxed.

He immediately tried to refine it with the Blood Refinement Art.

The Blood Refinement Art recorded in the Blood Codex allowed one to increase the purity of their blood, turning it into magical, everlasting blood essence.

This process could, to an extent, purify blood that lacked residual will. By gradually immersing the blood in one's body with their own soul consciousness, one would be able to imprint their own will upon the purified blood and form blood essence.

The three drops of refined Fire Qilin blood had been slowly refined and transformed in this way.

Not only would the three drops of refined Fire Qilin blood be considered his own purified blood essences, they also contained his soul imprints

That was the only reason why he could communicate with and control them with his mind.

Qin Lie was now beginning that process once more.

Since the emerald drops of liquid did not contain impurities, residual souls, or memory fragments after being refined by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, they could already be considered pure lifeblood essences that were extremely suitable for refinement.

As Qin Lie thought about this, the thick, viscous blood in his veins and arteries moved in according to the Blood Spirit Art and quietly converged on the center of his palm.

His palm slowly turned a strange sanguine color as blood vessel after blood vessel became visible, faintly revealing the feverish red blood within.

Thin currents of blood gathered at Qin Lie's palm. At the same time, he focused his mind and began to meditate, dividing all of the memories and thoughts in his Soul Lake into separate wisps.

These soul wisps resembled invisible spirit lines as they dissolved into the thin currents of his blood and marked them with his soul energy and soul imprints.

"Glug glug!"

As the strange sound of boiling blood emanated out from within Qin Lie's blood red palm, it seemed to become a roiling spring of blood.

Like blindingly bright stars, three emerald dots of light flashed inside of his palm.

Those lights were the drops of the wood spirit's lifeblood essence that had emerged from the Demon Sealing Tombstone!

"With my blood as the fire and my soul as the guide, Blood Refinement Art!"

A crimson glow suddenly shone in Qin Lie's eyes as a streak of bloody light shot out from the crown of his head like a bloody rainbow piercing through the sky.

Wave after wave of fierce blood energy fluctuations continuously surged outward from his body, saturating the area around him with a wild, violent energy.

Blood red smoke began to escape from Qin Lie's palm as his blood frenziedly burned and boiled.

Within his blistering blood, wisp after wisp of his unique soul imprints slowly penetrated the three emerald drops of liquid, like faint smoke infusing into three immature, delicate seedlings.

Time swiftly passed.

Within the silent forest, Qin Lie refined the blood essences using

the Blood Refinement Art. In the distance, Xie Jingxuan was in the process of receiving an ancient inheritance, while Du Xiangyang and Song Tingyu were recovering spirit energy and guarding her at the same time.

Six more hours passed by quickly.

Du Xiangyang was the first to finish recovering. He glanced at Xie Jingxuan beside him, then looked up and observed Song Tingyu who was still recovering. He eventually stood up quietly.

“What is it?” Song Tingyu opened her eyes.

“It’s been quite a while since there was any movement in the area that brat Qin Lie is in. I’m going to go take a look,” Du Xiangyang said, clearly confused.

Although Qin Lie had left by himself to cultivate with the assistance of the Demon Sealing Tombstone, Du Xiangyang had long since detected the intense waves of blood energy created by Qin Lie’s usage of the Blood Refinement Art to refine the lifeblood essences.

In spite of this, Du Xiangyang had spent all this time enduring, refraining from asking questions or going over to pry.

He knew that everyone had secrets. For Qin Lie to deliberately move so far away, it was clear that this secret was something he didn’t want anyone to know about.

Du Xiangyang was very disciplined. He had not gone and troubled Qin Lie, nor had he tried to get to the bottom of this.

But now, six hours later, the intense waves of blood energy coming from the direction that Qin Lie was in had not shown any signs of stopping and had instead grown even more turbulent. This shocked Du Xiangyang quite a bit.

“I’m afraid that fellow may have encountered some trouble,” Du Xiangyang said, his heart filled with concern.

Song Tingyu’s brows furrowed.

Since Xie Jingxuan was still undergoing her inheritance transformation and temporarily couldn’t be disturbed, it would be best for them to stay by her side and guard her.

Song Tingyu was completely aware of the Blood Spirit Art that Qin Lie cultivated, and had also felt the intense waves of blood energy emanating from his direction. She had originally planned to leave guarding Xie Jingxuan to Du Xiangyang while she went to check on Qin Lie’s condition.

After a moment of deep thought, however, she realized that she didn’t actually understand Du Xiangyang that well. In fact, she was not familiar with him at all.

She couldn’t trust him.

“Qin Lie shouldn’t be having any problems. You don’t need to worry about him. He... probably doesn’t want anyone to disturb him,” Song Tingyu eventually said.

Du Xiangyang went blank for a moment, then nodded.

“Alright then,” he said as he sat down again.

Under an ancient tree.

On top of the Demon Sealing Tombstone that stood behind Qin Lie, seven rays of divine light mingled together to form a flickering, blinding radiance. Because of this, the Demon Sealing Tombstone, which wasn’t that tall, radiated an incomparably mysterious feeling that permeated the forest.

Completely focused on refining the three drops of lifeblood essence in his palm, Qin Lie continuously consumed ray after ray of bloody light that floated above him. He didn’t dare to relax for even a moment.

He was currently on the verge of succeeding.

Suddenly, an elegant shadow approached the area. The figure seemed to have wanted to pass by quickly, but it came to an abrupt stop after inadvertently glancing around and seeing Qin Lie, who was clearly in a critical situation, under the Demon Sealing Tombstone.

“Hm?!”

Huang Zhuli stopped in her tracks, not daring to get too close to Qin Lie as she quickly hid herself behind a tree and secretly observed the scene before her.

She stood there and observed Qin Lie’s every move.

After quietly snooping around for a while, her eyes shone with a cold luster as she came to a few realizations. “Such an intense, fiendish blood energy! This Qin Lie clearly cultivates the evil arts of Blood Fiend Sect—he must be a remnant of that sect! No wonder he risked his life to protect Xue Moyan. So it was actually like this…”

After observing for a while, Huang Zhuli silently sneered. The corners of her mouth dripped with murderous intent as she silently began to circulate the spirit arts of Illusory Demon Sect.

Streaks of flowing light gathered on her face as if drawn on by a mysterious divine brush. A moment later, her appearance had become that of Xue Moyan.

Her cold, frosty eyes transformed into a pair that were bright and clear. In an instant, even her grace and aura had transformed to be similar to Xue Moyan’s.

Taking out a crystal mirror, Huang Zhuli made several more

modifications to her appearance until even she couldn't even see any flaws. Then, she quietly approached Qin Lie.

Within the Graveyard of Gods, the air was completely devoid of spirit energy. This resulted in the spirit sense of practitioners being greatly stifled.

In this place, there were times where one's own eyes were even more useful than one's spirit sense.

Therefore, Qin Lie only sensed Huang Zhuli's subtle movements when she was ten meters away from him. He immediately opened his eyes.

"Xue Moyan!" Qin Lie was surprised at first, then immediately regained his calm as he casually chuckled and asked, "Do you finally understand?"

Since Qin Lie was still in the process of refining the lifeblood essence using the Blood Refinement Art, he assumed that Xue Moyan had, like last time, been drawn by the intense blood energy fluctuations.

"I understand. So you're a part of my Blood Fiend Sect." Huang Zhuli gently nodded, then asked, "What I'm curious about is, how did you obtain the Blood Spirit Art that I cultivate, and how do you know that I'm from Blood Fiend Sect?"

"Haha, the ties between us are much deeper than you think. I'm

not helping you simply because I cultivate the same Blood Spirit Art," Qin Lie frankly said, believing the person before him to be Xue Moyan. "I'm helping you because of your father! Before I entered the Graveyard of Gods, your father begged me to do everything I could to help you. Your father... he is still alive."

A strange shine suddenly emerged from Huang Zhuli's eyes.

Blood Fiend Sect's former sect leader, Xue Li, who had turned the heavens and the earth upside down a thousand years ago was still alive?

Her mind was filled with shock.

"Do you not believe my words?" Qin Lie grinned, then nodded. "Frankly speaking, it is certainly quite hard to believe, but don't worry. I have something that can prove my words!"

As he spoke, he took the first half of the Blood Codex out of his spatial ring.

"This is Blood Fiend Sect's founding scripture, the basis for all of its spirit arts—the Blood Codex!" Qin Lie exclaimed.

Huang Zhuli's eyes took on a bright glow as she asked, "Can I look at it for a moment?"

"Of course." Qin Lie handed the half of the Blood Codex over without thinking twice.

From his point of view, he was facing Xue Moyan, the true heir of Blood Fiend Sect and Xue Li's biological daughter.

She was definitely the most qualified person to hold the Blood Codex.

Qin Lie didn't have any doubts whatsoever as he handed the first half of the Blood Codex over to Huang Zhuli.

The glow in Huang Zhuli's eyes became even brighter as she received the Blood Codex, her hands trembling.

As the founding scripture of Blood Fiend Sect, the Blood Codex was a treasure that Black Voodoo Cult had been secretly searching for all this time!

Very few people were aware of this, but Blood Fiend Sect and Black Voodoo cult were the two oldest forces to exist in all of the Land of Chaos.

Blood Fiend Sect was founded by the Blood Progenitor, whereas Black Voodoo Cult was founded by the Voodoo Progenitor. Even in ancient times, the two forces had been enemies. That competitive relationship still continued today.

The eradication of Blood Fiend Sect could be blamed on Jiang Zhuzhe, the Su Family, the Lin Family, and the Xiahou Family, but Black Voodoo Cult was the true culprit. They had been secretly

pulling the strings the entire time.

“What luck! I’ve actually managed to get my hands on the Blood Codex!” Huang Zhuli celebrated inwardly.

Chapter 473: Hidden Pawn!

The Blood Codex was a blood red bone piece of jade. It was as big as a person's palm and as translucent as a bloodstone. Bloody light circulated within it.

The moment Huang Zhuli received the Blood Codex, she could not suppress the joy that leaped to her eyes. Her lips also curled into a satisfied smile.

No one knew that she secretly belonged to Black Voodoo Cult. No one was aware that she had been keeping in touch with Ye Yihao either. She was the reason why Illusory Demon Sect's Little Wan and Little Die had been bitten and controlled by voodoo insects.

She was also the first one to blame Qin Lie for that.

"This half of the Blood Codex was personally given to me by your father. It is the foundation of Blood Fiend Sect," Qin Lie said solemnly.

"Very good! You've done very well!" Huang Zhuli could not contain her joy.

Not only did she manage to steal a bucketful of water from the Spring of Life from Xue Moyan, she now obtained the Blood Codex from Qin Lie's very hands.

She felt that her good luck was currently overflowing.

She no longer needed any rewards from the Graveyard of Gods. As long as she leave the Trial alive and give the first half of the Blood Codex to Black Voodoo Cult, she would immediately get everything she ever wanted!

She was drawing up beautiful delusions in her mind.

It was at this moment that a scarlet, bloody light erupted from the first half of the Blood Codex, blinding Qin Lie and Huang Zhuli!

“Boom!”

As if a flash flood were occurring on a mountain or a bloody dragon were breaking free from the shackles that imprisoned it, a powerful shockwave erupted.

Rays of scarlet light and the stench of blood spewed from Huang Zhuli’s hand.

“Crack!”

Huang Zhuli’s hands echoed with the sound of bones breaking.

When Qin Lie turned his attention to the sound, he was surprised to discover that the bones of one of “Xue Moyan’s” hands had exploded. The first half of Blood Codex, in the shape of a bone fragment, shot back to Qin Lie’s side like a beam of bloody light.

“Zzzt zzt zzzt!”

Rays of bloody light remained on “Xue Moyan’s” body, continuously attacking it and damaging an illusory power on it that was maintaining her appearance.

Amidst a spray of bloody light, “Xue Moyan’s” translucent skin cracked and shattered apart like an egg shell breaking to pieces, slowly revealing a different face.

“You’re not Xue Moyan! You’re the girl that was by her side!” Qin Lie’s face turned cold.

When Xue Li passed the Blood Codex on to him, he said that the Blood Progenitor had left behind an imprint inside of it. The imprint could detect and confirm the aura of those who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art.

Only those who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art and exuded a stench of blood could hold the Blood Codex.

As the all-important heir of Blood Fiend Sect, the real Xue Moyan would definitely cultivate the orthodox version of the Blood Spirit Art. This fact was indisputable!

No matter how good Huang Zhuli’s disguise was, she had never cultivated the Blood Spirit Art. Qin Lie hadn’t been able to tell, but the Blood Codex had discovered the truth.

As a result, the Blood Codex had directly broken Huang Zhuli's Illusory Demon Sect illusory art.

When she saw Qin Lie's face darken, she immediately flashed him a soft smile and said to Qin Lie in a gentle voice, "I'm Huang Zhuli. I was just kidding with you, so don't be mad."

She said this because she was hoping to find another chance to seize the Blood Codex.

"Just a joke, huh?" Qin Lie's eyes glowed with a bloody light. "Have fun with this, then!"

"Roar!"

The scarlet red beams formed a bloody dragon that roared and moved to bite Huang Zhuli.

"Blood Dragon's Roar!"

Qin Lie gave a sinister grin as bloody light shot from two of his fingers and compressed to form Blood Weeping Ghost Claws.

Alongside the blood dragon, two bloody claws that resembled steel anchors swiped at Huang Zhuli.

A bloody energy immediately enveloped the space where Huang

Zhuli was standing, making her feel as if she were sinking deep into a pool of blood.

“Why are you acting like this?” Huang Zhuli coquettishly protested, gritting her teeth and refusing to give up. “Sister Xue told me to come find you. She wanted to leave with your group. I thought you were pretty interesting and just played with you a little. Don’t you think you’re being a little too sensitive?”

“Then I’ll restrain you and wait for Xue Moyan to arrive. She can explain things to me personally!” Qin Lie snorted coldly.

This girl had taken on Xue Moyan’s appearance and pointed out that he cultivated the Blood Spirit Art to get close to him.

She even knew about Xue Moyan’s true identity!

This was obviously too strange. Qin Lie had seen the fear in her eyes when the Blood Codex broke her illusory art.

He immediately guessed that something about her wasn’t right.

The bloody dragon, seemingly made of blood, angrily roared and tore toward Huang Zhuli, a visage of terror and evil.

It attempted to tear Huang Zhuli to pieces.

At almost the same time, Du Xiangyang and Song Tingyu cried

out as they swiftly approached Qin Lie and Huang Zhuli from a distance.

Huang Zhuli instantly realized that she was in trouble.

The bitter smile on her face quickly disappeared, and her eyes gradually became cold. Even her heartbeat took an extremely bizarre turn.

A terrifying voodoo insect openly appeared on her snow white neck. It was a black scorpion with a hook-like tail that was cold and sharp.

The voodoo insect seemed to have been hiding in her body this entire time, feeding on her blood to survive.

At this moment, the pitch black scorpion flew out of her flesh and suddenly emitted a sharp whistling sound.

An evil soul-twisting aura spread from the scorpion's body and spread in every direction like a wave.

"Pak pak pak!"

The blood dragon formed from Qin Lie's blood spirit energy exploded in midair and shattered into numerous rays of bloody light, fading from existence.

The immense, evil energy even brushed the Blood Weeping Ghost Claws aside.

“Black Voodoo Cult!” Qin Lie yelled.

Accompanied by thunderous rumbling, the Astral Thunder Hammer flew out and gathered thick bolts of lightning, falling toward Huang Zhuli.

“Split the earth!”

Qin Lie summoned the power of the earth and caused an earthquake in front of him, constantly rocking Huang Zhuli.

In addition to that, the three blood essences that resembled bloodstones shot out, attempting to kill the voodoo insect

“Qin Lie!”

As they got closer, Du Xiangyang and Song Tingyu’s voices urgently rang out.

“Consider yourself lucky this time!” Huang Zhuli snorted with a cold expression.

Carrying the scorpion in her mouth, she turned around and left.

With a shake of her body, a black light blossomed from her back. Like a scorpion manipulating its tail, the light enabled her to escape like a flash of pitch black lightning. She vanished in the blink of an eye.

However, just from the vigor she displayed in that instant, she probably wasn't any weaker than Ye Yihao!

It was clear that she was a hidden pawn of Black Voodoo Cult!"

Du Xiangyang and Song Tingyu rushed to Qin Lie's side. Upon arrival, they discovered that Qin Lie was the only one around.

"What happened?" Song Tingyu asked anxiously.

"It was a girl from Illusory Demon Sect called Huang Zhuli or something. She almost fooled me." Qin Lie chose not to pursue Huang Zhuli. Instead, he frowned and said, "She's probably from Black Voodoo Cult. She has a voodoo insect in her, and judging from the rank of that voodoo insect, it might not be any weaker than Ye Yihao's Eight-winged Centipede Queen."

"She's been hiding in Illusory Demon Sect all this time?" Du Xiangyang's expression changed as he yelled, "This is bad! She's probably harmed Xue Moyan and the other girls by the village!"

Qin Lie's heart sank.

As of this moment, Huang Zhuli had obviously parted ways with

Illusory Demon Sect. There could only be two explanations for this: either her identity was exposed or she had killed Xue Moyan and everyone else.

“She probably exposed her identity for the Spring of Life!” Song Tingyu said.

“That’s probably the case!” Du Xiangyang was thinking the same thing.

“No one is with Xie Jingxuan!” Qin Lie frowned and immediately ran in the direction she was in.

Du Xiangyang and Song Tingyu rushed to follow him.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

The earsplitting sound of spirit energy being discharged erupted from where Xie Jingxuan was.

Qin Lie’s group grew more and more anxious. They rushed toward Xie Jingxuan at top speed.

“Dammit! This is another tough nut to crack. She’s even harder to deal with than Xue Moyan’s group!” Huang Zhuli’s curse echoed from afar.

When Qin Lie arrived, he discovered that Huang Zhuli was trying

to escape by walking in a strange manner that resembled a scorpion's movements.

No one knew when Xie Jingxuan had woken up.

Her eyes glowed with a strange, emerald light. The spirit energy that formed around her was as flexible as vines and spirit snakes, extending and probing in every direction.

Every ribbon of green spirit light was filled with shocking amounts of energy!

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh!"

Like an ancient tree, the green vines around Xie Jingxuan's body twisted, causing a crackling sound to spread through the air.

It seemed as though Huang Zhuli hadn't been able to find any chances to attack Xie Jingxuan and, consequently did not manage to get anything from her. Seeing that Qin Lie and the others had rushed over, she had no choice but to back off.

Once Huang Zhuli escaped, the green halo in Xie Jingxuan's eyes gradually subsided. The green ribbons of light extending from her body withdrew into her body one after another.

She seemed to have really awakened.

“The person that this wooden sculpture belonged to was called Ya Ji. He had used a gap in space to enter the Graveyard of Gods outside. He came here to search for something, and after he had arrived in the Forbidden Land of Wood, the wood spirit found him, captured him, and refined him.” Xie Jingxuan stared at Qin Lie calmly and said, “Those two wooden sculptures were made using an ancient wood like that of the wood spirit.”

Chapter 474: Black Crystal Sky Scorpion

Xie Jingxuan was obviously a bit different after she had awakened. Her body was surging with strong refined life energy, and her bright, glittering eyes were full of confidence.

“Jingxuan, have you made a breakthrough?” Song Tingyu’s eyes lit up.

“Mn. I am rather fortunate to be able to smoothly enter the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm,” Xie Jingxuan said calmly.

Prior to participating in the Trial in the Graveyard of Gods, she had been at the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm. Her realm was a bit stronger than Qin Lie’s and slightly weaker than Song Tingyu’s.

On this trip, Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, Gao Yu, and Xie Jingxuan were participating in the Trial together.

Although Qin Lie and Gao Yu’s realms were slightly weaker than Xie Jingxuan and Song Tingyu’s, the spirit arts they cultivated were strange and unpredictable. Their true strength was actually quite formidable.

Song Tingyu was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. Her realm was the highest among everyone in the group. She was capable of protecting herself and possessed many spirit artifacts.

Xie Jingxuan had actually turned out to be the weakest among them.

In reality, she had been infected with the voodoo toxin not long after she entered the Graveyard of Gods and was the first to fall.

If she hadn't accidentally stumbled upon the village and drank the impure water of the Spring of Life, she probably would've died a long time ago.

Now it could be said that she had gained something from all of the setbacks.

Not only had she received the Wood Race's inheritance, she had even entered the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm in a smooth manner. Both her realm and her strength had massively increased.

This was why, even though Huang Zhuli had wanted to kill Xie Jingxuan while escaping, she had failed to get even the tiniest bit of benefits from her body. In the end, she could only curse while retreating.

After the inheritance was complete, Xie Jingxuan seemed to recall certain memories, so she immediately told Qin Lie about the wooden sculpture.

"Ya Ji? The wood used to make the wooden sculptures is the same as the wood spirit's?" Qin Lie became excited. "What else did you find out? Can you recall anything else about Ya Ji and the

wooden sculptures?”

“Ya Ji brought this wooden sculpture into the Graveyard of Gods He entered through a gap in space.” Xie Jingxuan’s tone was calm as she spoke of what she knew. “Ya Ji was an elite of the Wood Race. Someone trusted him to bring this wooden sculpture into this place. He also seemed to be looking for something. He called the person who gave him the wooden sculpture… Venerable One.”

Qin Lie’s mind reeled.

Ku Luo of the Horn Demon Race and other people called his grandfather Venerable One as well. The Horned Demon elite with eight horns who left the Nine Hell Evil Scripture inside of the White Bone Nether Spirit Altar also called Qin Lie’s grandfather Venerable One.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the person who gave the wooden sculpture to Ya Ji and instructed him to enter the Graveyard of Gods to search for something was most likely his grandfather, Qin Shan!

Qin Lie let out a sigh of relief.

Before he entered the Graveyard of Gods, he had been worried that the person who died there and became covered in thick layers of mist was his grandfather.

When his grandfather quietly left Ling Town and vanished

without warning years ago, Qin Lie had already been worried that his grandfather might have gotten into an accident.

Although Qin Lie did not get any solid information from Xie Jingxuan, at the very least it was proven that Qin Shan wasn't dead. This alone was good news to Qin Lie.

"What did Ya Ji hope to find in the Graveyard of Gods?" Qin Lie calmed down and changed the subject. "Do you have any idea?"

"After Ya Ji was refined, his soul and thought fragments were mixed with the Spring of Life. I have only drunk a portion of the Spring of Life, and the memories I obtained were also scattered and chaotic. I can only remember so much." Xie Jingxuan shook her head.

"After the wood spirit was sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, the Spring of Life inside the stone well was refined. Because of this, all of his soul and thought fragments have entirely dissipated. We may no longer be able to extract more memories." Song Tinyu thought for a moment and sighed softly. "That Huang Zhuli girl abandoned Illusory Demon Sect. She must have fought against Xue Moyan and the others. Perhaps she even stole their Spring of Life..."

"That's extremely likely!" Du Xiangyang yelled.

"Qin Lie, do you... want to return to the village and check?" Song Tingyu knew that he promised Xue Li to do his best to help Xue Moyan. That's why she asked him this.

“Never mind.” Qin Lie shook his head and frowned. “Too much time has passed. If something did happen, it happened a long time ago. Plus, if Xue Moyan and the others are still alive, they won’t necessarily be at the village still. They might be searching everywhere for Huang Zhuli.”

“That’s right.” Du Xiangyang nodded.

“Let’s go. The Forbidden Land of Wood is no longer worth staying in. We will head to the land covered in lightning,” Qin Lie exclaimed softly.

Song Tingyu and the others nodded in agreement.

……

A dozen or so kilometers away, Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian walked through tall bushes with icy expressions on their faces.

“I can’t believe that Little Li is actually a member of Black Voodoo Cult!” Pan Qianqian ground her teeth until they popped. “Not only did she kill Manman, she even stole the Spring of Life. Even I was nearly infected with the voodoo toxin. S-she…”

A trace of blood on Xue Moyan’s left arm stood out. She had obviously been injured in combat.

“It wasn’t just Manman. She may have killed Little Wan and Little Die as well,” Xue Moyan said harshly, pursing her lips. “She wasn’t much weaker than Ye Yihao. The voodoo insect inside her body is the Black Crystal Sky Scorpion. Just like the Eight-winged Centipede Queen, it is one of Black Voodoo Cults unusual breeds of voodoo insects. It has an intelligence comparable to a human’s, must be raised with its practitioner’s own blood, and shares a connection with its practitioner’s soul! This type of voodoo insect can only be obtained, bred, and raised by the most important disciples of Black Voodoo Cult.”

“Sister Xue, are you saying that Huang Zhuli has an incredibly high status in Black Voodoo Cult?”

“Her status probably isn’t any lower than Ye Yihao’s!” Xue Moyan said with an icy expression, softly gritting her teeth “She is even more hateful than Ye Yihao!”

Including Little Die and Little Wan, a total of six Illusory Demon Sect girls were killed one after another.

In Xue Moyan’s eyes, these six sisters had all been directly or indirectly killed by Huang Zhuli.

She was the true culprit behind everything!

“Sister Xue, s-she took the Spring of Life. Will that affect you?” Pan Qianqian asked softly.

Xue Moyan's eyes went dim as she quietly said, "It's fine. It is of little short term consequence. At the very least, I will be fine without the Spring of Life while in the Graveyard of Gods."

"Sister Xue, you insisted on entering the Graveyard of the Gods for the Spring of Life, didn't you?" Pan Qianqian asked.

"Let's not bring this matter up again. Right now, finding the rest of our sisters is the most important thing. We must not let Huang Zhuli find them first!"

"Ah!" Pan Qianqian's expression changed.

She had also thought of the worst case scenario.

The girls in their group were not the only Illusory Demon Sect participants who had entered the Graveyard of Gods. Some were scattered to other locations upon entering.

At a certain distance, Huang Zhuli would be able to sense other Illusory Demon Sect participants using the sect's unique token. The moment she discovered the scattered members, there probably wouldn't be any chance of the Illusory Demon Sect girls surviving her evil hands.

They would be killed one after another, just like their six dead sisters.

……

At the center of six large trees.

Ye Yihao and the martial practitioners of the three great families were seated cross-legged on the ground and recovering using spirit stones.

The crowd's expressions were immeasurably dark.

At first they thought that they'd be able to do whatever they wanted in the Forbidden Land of Wood after Ye Yihao and the wood spirit formed a soul contract.

In the end, the wood spirit had actually been sealed by the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and the rest of them weren't able to do anything to the combined forces of Terminator Sect, Illusory Demon Sect, and Heavenly Sword Mountain. They had no choice but to helplessly retreat.

This was the second time they suffered such a terrible defeat.

The first time, they lured Luo Chen in and surrounded Chu Li. Using the voodoo toxin's influence, they forced Xue Moyan, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Heavenly Sword Mountain to stand by and watch.

If it weren't for Qin Lie's sneak attack with the intense Fire Qilin flames, forcing the Eight-winged Centipede Queen to lose control of the people who had been poisoned, they would've already won

at that time.

“It was all because of that bastard Qin Lie!” A faint wound marred one side of Su Yan’s face, spoiling her beauty. Su Yan’s eyes shone with a hateful light, and with a cold face, she said, “If it weren’t for Qin Lie’s flames, and later on the blood he took from the Eight-winged Centipede Queen, those people would’ve been severely injured if not dead!”

“This time, it was because he had the Demon Sealing Tombstone as well!” The bald Xiahou Yuan snorted coldly.

“If he hadn’t cured the voodoo toxin afflicting Xie Jingxuan with a drop of voodoo insect blood, that woman would not have been able to hurt the wood spirit. You also wouldn’t have failed a second time!”

It was at this moment that Huang Zhuli’s voice rang out from an ancient tree nearby.

Her eyes were cold, and she overflowed with arrogance. She actually walked towards the crowd calmly.

“She’s that girl from Illusory Demon Sect!” Su Yan smiled coldly.

“You’re looking to die, huh?” Xiahou Yuan laughed sinisterly as he got ready to attack.

“You bunch of trash!” Huang Zhuli snorted. “What have you

three great families been doing? If Xue Moyan doesn't die here and manages to obtain the Spring of Life, she'll be able to save her mother and revitalize Blood Fiend Sect! Her father has also returned from overseas. When Blood Fiend Sect emerges once more, it will also signify the end of the three great families of the Heavenly Calamity Continent!"

Her words shocked Su Yan and the others.

Some Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were also looking at her in surprise.

Ye Yihao was the only one whose expression didn't change. "Why have you come, senior sister? Have you finished off everyone at Illusory Demon Sect?"

The moment he said this, the three great families, and even the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, were shocked by his words.

Senior sister?

Huang Zhuli was actually Ye Yihao's senior sister?!

"I only managed to get the Spring of Life and kill another Illusory Demon Sect girl. Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian are still alive. Xue Moyan... isn't so easy to deal with," Huang Zhuli said with a sinister expression, then snorted. "I've killed six Illusory Demon Sect members throughout the Trial. What about all of you?

Despite the fact that there are so many of you, have you succeeded in anything at all?”

Ye Yihao frowned in silence.

The three great families and the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult had already recovered from their earlier surprise. Upon hearing her words, they all looked ashamed and were unable to say anything in response.

“Something interesting happened after you guys left. That Qin Lie... he told everyone to give their share of the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan. Do you know why?” Huang Zhuli looked everyone in the group in disdain.

This news shocked all of them.

“He’s a surviving member of Blood Fiend Sect, just like Xue Moyan! Blood Fiend Sect’s Blood Codex is in his possession!” Huang Zhuli laughed coldly. “But the funny thing is, you people don’t know anything about this!”

“Please guide us, senior sister!” Ye Yihao said solemnly.

“From here on out, I will take charge of this group!” Huang Zhuli snorted. “I will also take care of our future plans!”

“Alright.” Ye Yihao was the first to nod in agreement.

Chapter 475: Forbidden Land Of Thunder

“We finally got out!”

Outside the lush forest, a vast wilderness stretched out into the distance.

Surveying the view before her, Song Tingyu wore a look of joy on her face as if their days of hardship had finally come to an end.

“We walked in the direction that Luo Chen pointed out to us for the past ten days. At long last, we know that we were not on the wrong path.” Du Xiangyang also smiled. “After the wood spirit was sealed, the forest returned to normal as well. The ancient trees no longer move around on their own. That’s why we didn’t get lost and were able to leave this forest!”

“Is this wilderness the Forbidden Land of Thunder that Luo Chen previously mentioned?” Song Tingyu asked doubtfully.

“What do you think, Qin Lie?” Du Xiangyang asked with a smile.

“We’ll reach the Forbidden Land of Thunder after we’ve passed through this wilderness!” Qin Lie said affirmatively.

“How do you know?” Xie Jingxuan could not help but ask.

“I sense the powerful fervor of a thunder lightning field!” Qin Lie

said excitedly.

The Forbidden Land of Wood and Forbidden Land of Thunder were separated by a field of wilderness. At the other end of the wilderness was an intense thunderous commotion.

He knew that they were heading in the right direction.

“Then let us pass through this wilderness,” Du Xiangyang said cheerfully.

“Let’s go!”

A day later.

Upon passing through the wilderness, a swampy area covered in a torrent of rain and crisscrossing lightning became visible to them.

At first glance, there were all kinds of ponds, puddles, and swamps along with mountains of various heights.

“Prak prak prak!”

Bolts of light blue lightning accompanied by thunderous rumbling would reverberate from every direction of the swampy area every so often. They were deafening.

“This is the Forbidden Land of Thunder!” Qin Lie’s eyes gleamed with an odd light as he broke out into a smile. “How wonderful! This place is great!”

“What’s so great about it?” Du Xiangyang asked with curled lips.

“It’s good for my cultivation! Hehe!” Feeling happy, Qin Lie didn’t say anything else to Du Xiangyang and stepped into the forbidden land.

Du Xiangyang and the others had no choice but to follow.

The Forbidden Land of Thunder was a place where wind, rain, rumbling thunder, and lightning would frequently appear. Its weather was extremely nasty.

Ponds, puddles, and swamps filled every corner of the area. A single misstep might lead to someone sinking deep into the ground.

Qin Lie’s group could hardly find a place that was dry along the way. There was rarely a time when the sky wasn’t filled with rain or lightning.

“There isn’t much to be worried about. As long as we aren’t struck by lightning, we’ll be fine.” Qin Lie kept comforting the group. “We simply need to replenish our spirit energy with the spirit stones for now, that’s all.”

A shield of scarlet light surged to cover Du Xiangyang's body. Xie Jingxuan's shield of light was green, whereas Song Tingyu's was a rainbow of color.

They formed the barriers of light with spirit energy from inside their bodies, using them as precious clothing that covered their entire being and nullified the lightning that would occasionally strike from the sky. The shields protected them from actual harm.

However, maintaining the shields of light required energy, and every once in a while, they would have to recover that energy using their spirit stones.

Qin Lie was the only one exposed to the elements, completely wet.

He only wore short, animal-skin pants, baring his nude upper body while calmly walking amidst the raging storm.

Lightning would strike his body every so often, causing huge sparks to appear. The energy from the lightning would then vanish into his body.

It was as if his body were absorbing it.

Sometimes he would grin and laugh aloud, looking incredibly comfortable and relaxed. It was obvious that this Forbidden Land of Thunder suited him greatly.

When they arrived at the foot of a small mountain, Qin Lie examined its peak and saw that it was covered in dense thunder and lightning energy. He was immediately attracted to it.

“I’m going to cultivate for a while. You guys go dig out a cave and hide inside of it.”

“Do whatever you want.” Du Xiangyang shrugged his shoulders.

He took out the sword that burned with scarlet flames and began to dig a hole in the body of the mountain. He was the first to slip inside.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan looked each other in the eye before taking out their own weapons, digging their own caves, and hiding in them as well.

This way, they did not need to get wet in the rain or be on guard against random lightning strikes. This allowed them to breathe a bit easier.

For the time being, this was how they recovered their strength.

At the peak of the small mountain.

Wearing a pair of leather pants and exposing a large portion of his body, Qin Lie quietly sat in the thick of the raging thunderstorm.

At the third stage cultivating Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Qin Lie needed to temper his soul with thunder and lightning. He would need to borrow the power of thunder and lightning to support his cultivation. This meant that, the more that thunder and lightning were gathered in one spot, the faster he would be able to progress through this stage of his cultivation.

Qin Lie had previously used the power of his thunder Natal Palace in his dantian's spirit sea to temper, shatter, and reform his soul.

In reality, this method wasn't very efficient and wasn't where the true magic of this stage of the cultivation occurred.

Qin Lie ultimately needed actual thunder and lightning for this stage of his cultivation. He needed to be tempered by natural lightning bolts!

The Forbidden Land of Thunder was mired in perpetual rumbling thunder and crisscrossing lightning. For Qin Lie, this was the cultivation paradise he always dreamed of.

Just like how the ultimate blood ground could greatly benefit those who cultivated the Blood Spirit Art, the Forbidden Land of Thunder could also improve the efficiency at which he cultivated Heavenly Thunder Eradication to the maximum!

Qin Lie began circulating Heavenly Thunder Eradication and attempted to draw thunder into his own body.

“Boom boom boom!”

With a thought, every organ in his body and every pore on its surface began to rumble with the indistinct sound of thunder.

The lightning bolts that were gathered above this small mountain all focused on the spot that Qin Lie sat like magnets that were attracted by one another, or spirit snakes that smelled the scent of blood.

From time to time, the deafening roar of thunder would resonate nearby. The increasingly oppressive giant web of lightning that covered the sky slowly descended.

Lightning twisted and turned in midair, dancing like serpents and dragons while filling this land with dazzling electrical light.

“Prak prak prak! Boom!”

A sudden bolt of lightning as thick as a pail descended from the sky, striking Qin Lie’s shoulders.

Tendrils of lightning and waves of thunder surged into his body and soul..

Violent, berserk thunder energy instantly flooded his entire body, causing it to involuntarily tremble.

“Good!” Qin Lie grinned amidst the raging thunderstorm and howled angrily like a beast. “Again!”

Bolts of lightning descended from the sky and mixed with the sound of thunder.

Like earthworms or spirit snakes, numerous lightning bolts reached his sea of consciousness and Soul Lake, blasting his True Soul.

Qin Lie’s True Soul was like a spirit artifact that had been tossed into a furnace and refined. It was constantly tempered and refined by an obscene amount of lightning bolts and explosive thunder.

As that thunder and lightning tempered his True Soul, it became immeasurably tough, resembling a piece of fine iron that had been tempered hundreds and thousands of times.

It was as if the impurities inside of his soul were gradually being burned away by the power of lightning and thunder.

Even Qin Lie’s Soul Lake grew clearer and clearer as his True Soul underwent this strengthening process. The wisps of his soul consciousness and thoughts became compact and pure, as if they were being tempered by a flaming iron hammer.

The third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, where one tempered their soul with thunder and lightning, was obviously a

miraculous soul tempering art that was mysteriously profound.

To top it all off, this was a soul tempering process that used thunder and lightning, the bane of all souls!

Amidst the raging storm of rain and lightning, Qin Lie was half naked as he sat at the peak of the small mountain. He relentlessly tempered his True Soul, releasing odd howls from time to time.

Once this cultivation begun, it was as if it would never stop. Day by day, time passed. Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang had recovered a long time ago, and every time they awakened and walked out of their stone caves, they would inwardly click their tongues.

Qin Lie, who was attracting thunder and lightning into his body, caused every trace of the two in the surrounding area to gather. This made the strength of the thunder and lightning in this particular area become nearly ten times more frightening than any place nearby!

The second Song Tingyu and the others left their stone caves, they would be met with an apocalyptic deluge of lightning strikes. This made all of them grumble on the inside.

They weren't even able to climb up to the peak of the small mountain and check on Qin Lie's condition. They could only hide in their caves and wait for the moment that Qin Lie stopped cultivating.

They ended up waiting for nearly half a month.

“It stopped! It finally stopped!” Du Xiangyang cried out, poking his head out of his cave one day.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan followed suit and appeared from their own caves.

The thunder and lightning, which had only intensified for the last half month, had completely disappeared.

The previously raging storm no longer plagued the area either.

The world seemed to have found peace in this instant, causing the three who had been painstakingly waiting all this time to finally let out a sigh of relief.

They hurriedly ran up to the peak.

Qin Lie still sat atop this small mountain, back straight, unmoving, and half naked.

After half a month of hard cultivation and being assaulted with thunder and lightning countless times, not only did Qin Lie’s body not appear to be scorched, it was even filled with a jade-like luster.

Threads of fine electricity casually swam across his dazzling skin while the somewhat melodious sound of thunder occasionally

rumbled from within his body. The sounds didn't evoke any fear or discomfort.

Qin Lie suddenly smiled and opened his eyes.

Two bolts of dark blue electricity shot out of his eyes like electric snakes.

This immediately surprised Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang.

There was no mistake. It wasn't a gaze that just looked like lightning. Lightning actually shot out of his eyes!

"Qin Lie, you... have you made a breakthrough?" Du Xiangyang cried.

"Mn. I have entered the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm." Qin Lie grinned.

"Congratulations." Xie Jingxuan's tone was calm.

"Oh you, the speed of your progress is also pretty amazing!" Song Tingyu's eyes were filled with joy.

"I heard that you shattered your soul twice in order to destroy Black Voodoo Cult's voodoo toxin, forcing your realm to fall from the Netherpassage Realm to the Manifestation Realm." Du

Xiangyang had a strange look in his eyes. “You shattered your soul twice and dropped to the Manifestation Realm twice, but now you’ve taken a step further and directly entered the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm. This is… inconceivable.”

“For me, shattering my soul is but a process in my cultivation that I must go through.” Qin Lie calmly stood up with a gentle smile.

He noticed that he was obviously a little different than before. After this duration of tempering his soul with thunder and lightning, it was as if the many negative emotions in his soul had been purified.

He suddenly felt as if his mind had become remarkably calm.

It felt like he was returning to his original self from the abnormal state he had recently been in.

“How strange… The feeling you’re currently giving me is so strange…” Xie Jingxuan frowned and stared at him deeply. She took a moment to solemnly think to herself before saying “The feeling you’re giving me is very similar to the one I felt when I first met you. I remember you being a simple apprentice of Li’s Shop at the time.”

“That’s right! That’s exactly it!” Song Tingyu exclaimed softly.

“What do you mean?” Du Xiangyang looked confused.

“Give me some time to think.” After zoning out a little bit, Qin Lie gradually came to a realization and closed his eyes to ponder.

The third stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement, was the tempering of one’s True Soul with thunder and lightning. Through repeated lightning strikes, Qin Lie’s True Soul would be purged of impurities so that it would become clean and spotless, as would his mind...

“Other than the fact that Heavenly Thunder Eradication by itself is an exotic spirit art, grandfather took me to Ling Town, taught me this spirit art, and told me to diligently cultivate it because... it could also purify my soul!” Qin Lie finally understood.

Previously, when he had been fighting Fan Le in the poisonous bog of Armament Sect, Qin Lie was accidentally invaded by the past memories of his soul and influenced by them.

Now that his soul was tempered and baptized by thunder and lightning, those negative emotions seemed to have been burned away as well.

In other words, he had removed the influence of the past “him.”

“This is actually very good for you,” Xie Jingxuan said quietly.

“This is the real you.” Song Tingyu gave him a soft smile.

Chapter 476: Hunter!

It constantly raining cats and dogs inside the Forbidden Land of Thunder. Thunder, lightning, wind, and rain were seldom absent.

Under the dark gray sky was a dangerous swampy land littered with ponds and pools of muddy water.

“We need to find the true location of the Land of Buried Gods,” Du Xiangyang said with a gloomy face. “According to Chu Li, Xue Moyan, and that Ye Yihao, the Land of Buried Gods is the real key to the Graveyard of Gods. Supposedly covered with the remains of ancient elites, it’s where the true essence lies and where the biggest secrets can be uncovered!”

“And you know where it is?” Song Tingyu cast a glance at him.

Du Xiangyang gave her a bitter smile. “If I knew, I would’ve led you guys there a long time ago.”

Today the location they were in wasn’t experiencing heavy rain or thunder, but it could still be considered a wetland.

Du Xiangyang and the two women did not need to summon their spirit energy shields of light. This rare moment of relaxation allowed them to leisurely discuss their future plans.

Qin Lie calmly followed them with a smile on his face. He only listened quietly, not expressing any opinions.

Qin Lie felt that he was currently in excellent condition, and after going through half a month of True Soul tempering, he discovered that his soul consciousness now contained the might of thunder.

It was initially very difficult for a martial practitioner to sense the surrounding spirit energy in the Graveyard of Gods since there wasn't any worldly spirit energy to sense.

Now, however, he could.

This was the Forbidden Land of Thunder. From the moment that Qin Lie's True Soul was tempered by lightning, his consciousness contained the power of lightning. He could use it to sense the tiniest of movements in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

He could even attract the thunder and lightning in the sky, easily manifesting the might of thunder to strike at the surrounding area.

In this Forbidden Land of Thunder, Qin Lie's strength was definitely much stronger than it had been in the Forbidden Land of Wood. If he ran into Ye Yihao again, he was confident that the current him, which had broken through to the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm, tempered his True Soul, and was able to use this land to his advantage, would not be at a disadvantage if he forcefully clashed against Ye Yihao.

"What do you think, Qin Lie" Mid-discussion, Song Tingyu turned around to look at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie smiled calmly and said, “The supposed fire spirit of in the land of flames was the Fire Qilin. Even though it was just a corpse when I found it, the Demon Sealing Tombstone still sealed it away. I can feel that the Demon Sealing Tombstone became a bit different after doing that.

“In the Forbidden Land of Wood, the Demon Sealing Tombstone sealed the wood spirit. The wood spirit still possessed its sentience and soul, and after sealing it, the Demon Sealing Tombstone once again changed slightly.” Qin Lie paused for a moment, then seriously said, “There should be a thunder spirit inside the Forbidden Land of Thunder as well. If we can find it and seal it, I believe that... it may be useful to our journey in the Graveyard of Gods!”

In reality, Qin Lie had some thoughts about the Demon Sealing Tombstone’s gift.

After sealing the fire spirit, he obtained three refined blood essences from the Fire Qilin. After sealing away the wood spirit, he acquired three emerald drops of immense life energy. Would he obtain another reward if he sealed the thunder spirit as well?

“What kind of strange creature would the thunder spirit be?” Du Xiangyang asked after a moment of pondering. “And how do we find it?”

“Let’s keep moving. As long as this thunder spirit exists, I should be able to detect it within a certain range.” Qin Lie smiled

confidently.

"Are you saying that consecutively sealing the fire spirit, wood spirit, and thunder spirit has something to do with the Graveyard of Gods?" Du Xiangyang's eyes gradually grew brighter.

"Chu Li and Xue Moyan both said something about seven spirits. They should be talking about the seven types of spirits in seven great forbidden lands. The Forbidden Land of Fire has a fire spirit, and the Forbidden Land of Wood has a wood spirit. Naturally, there is a thunder spirit at the Forbidden Land of Thunder as well."

"What?" Du Xiangyang's expression shook.

"I think that the Demon Sealing Tombstone is the actual key to the Land of Buried Gods!" Qin Lie softly exclaimed.

"Hahaha!" Du Xiang laughed and nodded, saying, "That makes sense... that makes a lot of sense! Before I coming here, I asked around and learned that the martial practitioners of all nine great Silver rank forces were searching for this tombstone. They had shackled all eight god corpses together and trapped them in an underwater island before allowing us to enter the Graveyard of Gods. The Demon Sealing Tombstone came from one of those eight god corpses, so it's probably closely connected to the Land of Buried Gods!"

"What are you so happy about?" Song Tingyu was confused.

“I’m just happy that I made the right choice. Right now I’m in your group, so maybe I’ll be able to obtain something from the Land of Buried Gods through Qin Lie!” Du Xiangyang said, appearing quite pleased with himself.

“I owe you a favor, so if we really find the Land of Buried Gods and are able to obtain rewards through the Demon Sealing Tombstone, we naturally won’t forget yours!”” Qin Lie smiled and promised.

“Heh heh!” Du Xiangyang nodded over and over. “I don’t know why, but I keep on feeling like the current you is more trustworthy! So… I trust you!”

Xie Jingxuan glanced at Qin Lie and also nodded slightly. “I think so too.”

Qin Lie was surprised by their reactions.

It was at this moment that a strange ripple of energy came from the token at Song Tingyu’s waist.

“Eh, it’s token of Celestial Artifact Sect. There are Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners in the area.” She took a moment to inspect the token, then said, “They’re very close!”

“It can’t be that Situ Tong and his ilk, can it?” Qin Lie frowned.

“There’s only one person,” Song Tingyu said. After another brief

moment of surveilling their surroundings, she declared, “They’re swiftly approaching us.”

“We’ll wait for them!” Qin Lie smiled.

The Graveyard of Gods had always been filled with cruel competition. When martial practitioners of different forces encountered each other, bloodshed would often follow.

Powerful forces would acquire the tokens of rival forces by hunting and killing other martial practitioners. They would then use those tokens to find and kill more of them—.

—all for the sake of exterminating the opposition.

“The four of us currently have tokens of the other eight great forces in our possession. This means that, wherever we go in the future, we’ll be able to immediately detect martial practitioners of those eight forces.” Du Xiangyang smiled bitterly. “Of course, they will be able to detect us as well, so if their strength exceeds ours, then we’ll be the ones out of luck.”

The martial practitioners of eight great Silver rank forces—the three great families, Black Voodoo Cult, Heavenly Sword Mountain, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Terminator Sect, and Celestial Artifact Sect—had been killed one after another.

Qin Lie happened to participate in all of those killings.

Except for Xue Moyan's Illusory Demon Sect, Qin Lie and company now held one or several tokens of eight of the great Silver rank forces.

"If we were anywhere else, I wouldn't dare to think of us as hunters. However, in this Forbidden Land of Thunder, we definitely aren't prey!" Qin Lie grinned. "This is especially true since I've broken through to the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm!"

"Feeling confident, are we?" Du Xiangyang chuckled strangely.

"Even if we ran into Luo Chen, Ye Yihao, or Yu Men, I'm certain that I'd win by a small margin!" Qin Lie said full of confidence.

"That's great!" Du Xiangyang grew increasingly happy. "In that case, the four of us can go anywhere we want in the Forbidden Land of Thunder!"

Du Xiangyang himself was only a bit weaker than Luo Chen, Chu Li, and other ringers. Song Tingyu was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm, and even Xie Jingxuan's strength had largely increased after she acquired an inheritance and stepped into the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm.

Adding Qin Lie, a martial practitioner who could control thunder and lightning, to their midst, they truly were a force to be reckoned with in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

They almost didn't need to be afraid of anyone!

"Let's see who it is. If it's Situ Tong, we'll just kill him outright!" Song Tingyu snorted coldly.

"As we should!" Du Xiangyang laughed loudly.

Not only did their group of four not move away, they even approached the newcomer of their own accord.

An hour later, an unfamiliar Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner appeared in front of them, a look of shock on his face.

He was a martial practitioner at the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm with treacherous eyes and a nose shaped like a bird's beak. He looked to be around thirty years old and wore the uniform of Celestial Artifact Sect.

The second he came near and discovered that the person with the Celestial Artifact Sect token wasn't a Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner, and that there were actually four people, his expression immediately changed.

"You people..." Zhang Sheng frowned, gripping his Celestial Artifact Sect token. "Why do you have tokens of my sect?"

"Why do you think we would have them?" Du Xiangyang countered with a smile.

Zhang Sheng frowned.

The answer was clear. These four people must have killed martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and robbed them of their tokens.

“He isn’t one of the people we saw working with Situ Tong. Should we...?” Song Tingyu turned around to look at Qin Lie beside her.

“This is the Graveyard of Gods. When martial practitioners of opposing forces meet, bloodshed often follows.” Qin Lie’s tone was indifferent. “I don’t really like the way he looks.”

“Same here,” Xie Jingxuan said calmly.

“Then let’s kill him.” Song Tingyu let out a beautiful smile.

“Hey, Qin Lie, didn’t the two beautiful ladies say you became more benevolent? Why are you acting the same?” Du Xiangyang asked in surprise.

“Benevolent?” Qin Lie shook his head and smiled calmly, saying, “That depends on the person. I’m getting a bad vibe from this person, and I feel that killing him will save us a lot of trouble.”

“Alright!” Du Xiangyang wore an odd expression, but he accepted

it in the end. “Leave him to me.”

The moment he said this, he took out his Scarlet Fire Sword. A soul-burning fiery light gradually formed at the tip of his sword.

After a moment of amazement, Zhang Sheng hastily screamed, “Situ Tong and I are not of the same group! I am here to find people who will work with my young sect master. We have have discovered a strange land and are sure that there are good things inside of it. We can’t handle the situation alone, so we need allies!”

“Strange land? Good stuff?” Du Xiangyang hesitated.

“What strange land? Also, by young sect master, you mean Feng Yiyou, right?” Song Tingyu frowned.

“That’s right, Feng Yiyou is the young sect master of Celestial Artifact Sect. He is also our leader in this Trial! As for that Situ Tong, he’s only pretending to be friendly with our young sect master. We aren’t working together. The land we discovered is filled with incredibly dense lightning, powerful life energy, and sentient beings!” Zhang Sheng shouted loudly. “We need allies!”

“What do you think, Qin Lie?” Du Xiangyang turned around.

“This guy’s probably up to no good.” Xie Jingxuan said to Qin Lie in a low voice.

Qin Lie shrugged. In a relaxed, confident manner, he said, “Lead

the way!”

“Lead the way?” Zhang Sheng looked dumbfounded.

“We are your allies! Now lead us to Feng Yiyou and the strange land you discovered!” Qin Lie’s smile was warm. “We can fight side by side.”

Chapter 477: Having Ulterior Motives

The Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Lightning would occasionally strike in this gray, gloomy swampland. Wet pieces of land resembled islands in the watery landscape that looked like a broad sea.

Six Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners wearing clothes with the emblem of a furnace were gathered at a wet hill that looked like a small island, grimly staring at the scene before them.

Several thousand meters ahead of them, the thunder and lightning were clearly more violent than usual. The view was filled with a distorted field of lightning.

Lightning bolts descended through the dark gray sky like bead curtains. They flooded into the violent, energy-filled area.

“Have the corpses been dealt with?” Feng Yiyou stood underneath a large umbrella.

“They won’t be a problem. Nine people have died at the perimeter in the past month. We are also unable to actually enter,” someone answered.

“You don’t say! If that place could be entered so easily, I would’ve gone in a long time ago. Why else would I painstakingly search for sacrifices?” Feng Yiyou snorted.

The Celestial Artifact Sect clothes that Feng Yiyou wore were obviously a bit different than those that the others wore. His clothes had been made from some unknown material that constantly released a gentle spirit energy.

This spirit energy was absorbed into the pores all over his his body, like a person inhaling clean air.

He was the only person here who did not need to use spirit stones to gradually recover his spirit energy.

Feng Yiyou wasn't tall. His appearance could be considered handsome, and the precious spatial rings that he wore on all ten of his fingers showed the immense wealth he possessed.

As the young sect master of Celestial Artifact Sect, Feng Yiyou was an artificer. Not only was he well versed in the construction of all sorts of spirit diagrams, he was also good at forging spirit artifacts.

Many spirit artifacts of different grades were stored inside of his spatial rings. He had personally forged some of these spirit artifacts, and others came from famous master artificers of Celestial Artifact Sect.

That wasn't all. The spirit artifacts in the spatial rings of the people around him were also of higher grade and rarity than the ones that most martial practitioners would have.

“Why hasn’t Zhang Sheng returned yet?” Someone frowned.

“He probably hasn’t found anyone else. We’ve been traveling everywhere and inviting every group we encounter to enter the strange land. All of them end up as sacrifices,” another person answered. “There probably aren’t any other people in the area.”

The six people chatted amongst each other, frowning and staring at the area filled with chaotic thunder and lightning several thousand meters away.

A long while later.

A token at Feng Yiyou’s waist suddenly flared with energy, and after he touched it, his eyes lit up and he smiled. “Zhang Sheng had found fresh sacrifices! There are actually four of them this time!”

“Wonderful!” Everyone else chuckled strangely.

Two hours later.

Following Zhang Sheng, Qin Lie’s group arrived in a swampy area filled with water. They immediately saw Feng Yiyou’s group of six.

“Our Young Sect Master had been looking forward to meeting you for some time now.” Zhang Sheng’s back promptly

straightened.

Along the way, Zhang Sheng had carefully played the role of a meek person, afraid that he would evoke the ire of Qin Lie and his people and would be killed before reaching Feng Yiyou.

In the Graveyard of Gods, martial practitioners of different forces needed to keep their guard up for every moment they spent together.

From the beginning, many of the people who entered the Graveyard of Gods had used all sorts of underhanded tactics to plot against others..

Zhang Sheng was afraid that he would easily be killed.

“Young Sect Master!” Zhang Sheng cried out before he quickening his space, leaving Qin Lie’s group in a hurry.

The moment Zhang Sheng saw Feng Yiyou and the other people from Celestial Artifact Sect, he became relaxed. He no longer needed to worry that Qin Lie and the others would suddenly make a move and kill him.

“Du Xiangyang! I know you!” From a distance, Feng Yiyou glanced in their direction and immediately broke into a cheerful smile. “Out of all the Heavenly Sword Mountain Trial participants, your strength is only second to Luo Chen. Even compared to He Wei, you’re slightly better. Hehe, very good. With you as an ally,

things will definitely go much smoother!”

“Thank you for the praise.” Du Xiangyang smiled harmlessly, then loudly asked, “Brother Feng, I heard that you’re looking for allies?”

“Come, let’s talk.” Feng Yiyou beckoned.

Du Xiangyang glanced at Qin Lie.

“Are they martial practitioners of Heavenly Sword Mountain as well?” Feng Yiyou was surprised. “Brother Du, can you introduce them to us?”

“They are Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan. The three of them came in with the support of Heavenly Sword Mountain, but they are not Heavenly Sword Mountain martial practitioners, so you might not be familiar with them.” Du Xiangyang chose not to purposefully hide this fact.

“I heard about this. I heard that, for this Trial, Heavenly Sword Mountain recruited five participants from their vassal forces. They are three of those five right?” Feng Yiyou’s eyes shone with obvious contempt.

The moment they heard that Qin Lie’s group were from vassal forces of Heavenly Sword Mountain, the rest of the Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners were stunned, harboring disdain in their hearts.

In their eyes, martial practitioners of Copper rank forces couldn't possibly be powerful even if they reached the Netherpassage Realm.

"That's correct. They are three of those five participants." Du Xiangyang did not object.

"Come talk, talk!" Feng Yiyou continued gesturing for them to come closer.

"Qin Lie, including Feng Yiyou, there are seven of them in total." Song Tingyu sized up both sides and gradually became anxious. "The second a fight breaks out, we... might not have the advantage."

Xie Jingxuan stayed where she was and did not move.

She hadn't expected the opposing group to have six people aside from Feng Yiyou. This made her feel that the situation was a bit too dangerous.

From the very beginning, Zhang Sheng hadn't given her a good impression. She kept feeling that he was harboring evil tricks in his stomach, seemingly trying to trick them into do something.

Earlier, when she had suggested that they kill Zhang Sheng, it was to avoid that danger.

Yet when Zhang Sheng revealed Celestial Artifact Sect's discovery, Qin Lie changed his mind and even let Zhang Sheng led them to this place.

The second they arrived, they encountered Feng Yiyou and his group of six Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners. Furthermore, a large majority of these people were at the late stage of the Netherpassage Realm!

Xie Jingxuan realized that they might not be able to gain the upper hand against them, so she began feeling uncertain about whether or not they should step foot into these muddy waters.

It was at this moment that Qin Lie took the first step and calmly walked toward the other party.

As soon as he did, both Song Tingyu and Du Xiangyang cast their hesitation away and immediately followed him.

Xie Jingxuan had no choice but to follow.

When Zhang Sheng arrived, his treacherous eyes gleamed with an evil light as he bowed his head and said in a low voice, "Young Sect Master, there are four of them in total, but two of them are beauties of exceptional quality!"

The eyes of the other five Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners lit up, their minds wandering like a cantering horse. Feng Yiyou was the only one whose expression did not change.

“Shut up!”

Feng Yiyou snorted softly, his expression frigid.

The evil light in the eyes of Zhang Sheng and the others instantly disappeared. They regained their cool and put up a dignified facade.

Once they walked over to Feng Yiyou, Du Xiangyang raised his voice and tentatively asked, .“Brother Feng, I heard that you of Celestial Artifact Sect have found an interesting place?”

Feng Yiyou pointed at a place several hundred meters behind him that was filled with violent, chaotic lightning, saying, “The thunder spirit of the Forbidden Land of Thunder should be in there! I’ve detected more than one biomagnetic field within, so there should be other creatures as well!”

Thunder spirit?

Qin Lie’s group of three exchanged glances. The wheels in their minds involuntarily turned, and they quickly guessed that Feng Yiyou knew about the secrets behind the Graveyard of Gods, just like Chu Li, Xue Moyan, and Ye Yihao.

“What thunder spirit? I don’t understand what you’re talking about.” Qin Lie, who had kept quiet all this time, spoke up on his own accord, displaying curiosity on his face.

“How much do you know about the Graveyard of Gods?” Feng Yiyou felt disdain in his heart.

“Nothing,” Song Tingyu answered honestly.

“Before we decide to cooperate, can you dispel our doubt? Can you tell us what’s inside the Graveyard of Gods?” Du Xiangyang’s expression became straightforward.

“Sure, why not?” Feng Yiyou nodded.

In his mind, he had already sentenced these four people to death, so he didn’t mind wasting a bit of breath to get them to obediently join him.

“The Graveyard of Gods is the place where the remains of elites are buried. The Land of Buried Gods contains the bodies of elites of all sorts of races and the remains of ferocious beasts from ancient times. These elites and beasts were once existences of immeasurable power, so even after their souls were extinguished, their bodies preserved their tremendous energy. Their remains are the most precious materials in artifact forging!” Feng Yiyou explained some of the secrets.

“If these dead elites were buried in the outside world, they would have been discovered by other intelligent races. Their remains would have been dismembered and used to temper powerful spirit artifacts. Their souls also wouldn’t have been able to rest.

“To prevent this from happening and ensure that these once powerful existences would leave behind an intact corpse, the Graveyard of Gods was born.

“The Graveyard of Gods is a secret realm independent from Spirit Realm. It’s a small world, the purpose of which is to bury the ancient, reputable elites who have perished, and prevent their bodies from being disturbed.”

Chapter 478: The Seven Spirits!

Feng Yiyou, Celestial Artifact Sect's young sect master, explained some the Graveyard of Gods to the group. He also told them about the divine nature of the land.

"So the Graveyard of Gods is just a resting place where all of the elites from bygone eras were buried?" Du Xiangyang gradually understood. "Is it open to the public?"

"It can be considered as such. In ancient times, when certain experts perished, their relatives and friends would bury them here to prevent their corpses from being disturbed.

"There are instances in which a person's lover perished and they didn't have the time to look after the grave. As a result, the body was buried here so it would remain undisturbed.

"Furthermore, even the most powerful of forces would encounter times of growth and decline. In light of that, some families would bury their ancestors in this resting place instead of their own burial grounds. In the event that their families was taken over, or if the strength of their families ever weakened, this would prevent the possibility of enemies breaking into the graves of their ancestors and defiling their corpses!"

"……"

Feng Yiyou wore a dignified expression as he continued. "The Graveyard of Gods is an independent secret realm. It is extremely

well concealed, and a series of formations seals it from the inside and outside. It is normally impossible for living people to enter. Upon entering this place of rest, dead practitioners no longer have to worry about people pillaging their corpses or the possibility of being found by evil practitioners and having their bones forged into spirit artifacts."

"Who created the Graveyard of Gods?" Du Xiangyang asked. "I presume that a price must have been paid to create a place where the remains of elites could be laid to rest."

A glimmer of light flashed through Feng Yiyou's eyes as he nodded and replied, "I don't know who created the Graveyard of Gods. Whoever did definitely had to pay a price. After all, ways in and out are sealed. Furthermore, it's an independent secret realm specifically made to be used as a resting place. Whoever created it definitely made it with profit in mind."

This entire time, Qin Lie had been silently watching Feng Yiyou's eyes.

He saw the expression in Feng Yiyou's eyes change at that very moment. Qin Lie surmised that Feng Yiyou was hiding some secrets and that he knew who had created the Graveyard of Gods.

It seemed like Feng Yiyou was determined to keep any matters regarding that person's identity hidden.

"What are the seven spirits?" Du Xiangyang asked.

“The seals of the Graveyard of Gods are divided into two categories: inside and outside. Outside, the eight god corpses suppress the aura of the seals. This makes it nearly impossible for outsiders to find the entrance to the Graveyard of Gods and go inside.” Feng Yiyou laughed gently. “Furthermore, all of you might not believe it, but this secret realm is constantly changing. Because of that, the entrance… is always moving.”

“A constantly changing secret realm?” A strange glow emerged in Qin Lie’s eyes.

“Correct. Before the eight god corpses were bound, the entrance of the Graveyard of Gods was always moving. This was caused by the fact that the eight god corpses were in the depths of the sea. Since these god corpses were constantly releasing energy fluctuations from their positions, the Graveyard of Gods was always moving in the area between them. In addition to that, the entrance was also always changing,” Feng Yiyou explained.

“No wonder this Graveyard of Gods hadn’t been discovered after all these years. It was constantly moving, and its entrance is always changing. Since it never stays still, it would indeed be hard to search for,” Song Tingyu exclaimed in a small voice.

“Of course. It is only because we bound the god corpses together one by one that we were able to anchor its position, find the entrance, and get inside. The Graveyard of Gods was so difficult to find because the eight god corpses act as its outer seal!”

Feng Yiyou snorted, then continued. “With the eight god corpses as the outer seal, the seven spirits would be the inner seal of the

Graveyard of Gods. Each spirit represents one of the great forbidden lands, Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, Earth, Ice, and Thunder. Their locations in the Graveyard of Gods form the shape of the Big Dipper."

As Feng Yiyou spoke, he crouched down and used his fingers to accurately draw the the Big Dipper in the dirt.

Qin Lie and his group carefully watched him do so.

"The Northern Dipper is composed of seven stars: Celestial Pivot, Celestial Jade, Celestial Pearl, Celestial Balance, Jade Tube, Sun Opener, and Twinkling Brilliance. Of these, the Celestial Balance Star is located in the central position." Feng Yiyou extended a hand as he spoke, pointing at where the Celestial Balance Star would be in the dirt constellation. "The true Land of Buried Gods is here."

Shocked expressions appeared on everyone's faces.

"Here, in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, we are at the position of the Jade Tube Star, which is very close to the Land of Buried Gods." Feng Yiyou began to laugh.

Since Qin Lie had spent a period of time at Armament Sect, he had a clear understanding of constellations so, he was able to understand after a brief moment of observation.

The locations of the seven great forbidden lands formed the Northern Dipper. Of them, Twinkling Brilliance, Sun Opener, Jade

Tube, and Celestial Balance formed a straight line. Twinkling Brilliance was the Forbidden Land of Fire, Sun Opener was the Forbidden Land of Wood, and Jade Tube was the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Once they passed through Jade Tube, they would reach the position of Celestial Balance, which was where the Land of Buried Gods was located.

“The Celestial Balance Star is the Forbidden Land of Ice. The Land of Buried Gods is in that exact area.” Feng Yiyou chuckled faintly, then continued. “To be honest, the seven forbidden lands are actually an ancient formation where each section is guarded by a spirit. These spirits could each be a cluster of souls, a fierce beast, or perhaps even a special creature. However, they all have one unique quality: they have the same characteristics as their respective forbidden land!

“The seven spirits preside within their corresponding forbidden lands and are responsible for maintaining the environment of those lands, just like the formation eye of strange formations. The seven great forbidden lands conceal the Land of Buried Gods by preventing outsiders from entering its depths, seemingly maintaining it.

“The seven spirits may have originally been very weak, but because they were born with inherent potential related to a specific attribute that matches their forbidden lands, they are able to control said lands. Furthermore, they are intelligent.

“Essentially, after such a long period of time, these originally

weak spirits have definitely experienced a gradual change. Some spirits may have died for some reason, while others may have continued growing, gradually becoming powerful. After growing to a certain point, these spirits may have even decided that they no longer wanted to be bound to the Graveyard of Gods, harboring disloyalty and wanting to leave...

"These changes and betrayals of the seven spirits destroyed the balance of the Graveyard of Gods and the flow of the forbidden lands."

Feng Yiyou's explanation continued.

"The changes that have occurred to the seven spirits, their struggles and resistance, are the real reason why the eight god corpses emerged from the depths of the sea in the first place, finally revealing the Graveyard of Gods."

"What about the people who created the Graveyard of Gods? Don't they care?" Du Xiangyang asked, stunned.

"Them? It's been far too long. In fact, all of them may have already died. The Graveyard of Gods is a land of secrets and mysteries. Even if some of their descendents survived, they might not even know that the Graveyard of Gods exists, let alone where it's located." Feng Yiyou shook his head. "However, it seems like the people who created the Graveyard of Gods always knew that, over time, the seven spirits would eventually progress to a point where the forbidden lands would no longer be able to restrain them.

“Therefore, they prepared a backup plan. Inside of the eight god corpses that form the outer seal, there seems to be something capable of sealing the seven spirits. Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and my Celestial Artifact Sect both searched for said thing, but we have yet to find it,” Feng Yiyou said regretfully.

Du Xiangyang and the other three inconspicuously glanced at Qin Lie.

It was obvious that the thing Feng Yiyou was talking about was the Demon Sealing Tombstone in Qin Lie’s possession.

“Regarding your request for help, what do you mean by cooperation?” Du Xiangyang asked, warmly laughing.

“This is the Forbidden Land of Thunder. The thunder spirit should be presiding in the violent lightning and thunder field behind us.” Feng Yiyou smiled slightly, then narrowed his eyes as he said, “The thunder energy there is extremely powerful, and there’s an extremely strong thunder barrier in place. We’ve tried to break through it, but failed repeatedly. I believe that if you join us and lend us your strength, we might be able to break through the barrier.”

“What’s behind the barrier? Just the thunder spirit?” Du Xiangyang furrowed his brow and waved a hand apathetically. “I don’t cultivate any thunder spirit arts, so this thunder spirit doesn’t interest me.”

“The thunder spirit isn’t the only thing behind the barrier, there are other fluctuations of life as well. Other than the thunder spirit, there may also be spirit artifacts. Other than the Land of Buried Gods, this place could be considered the second-most divine land within the Graveyard of Gods!” Feng Yiyou said confidently.

“Why do you say that?” Song Tingyu asked, curiosity piqued.

“I apologize for being dramatic.” Feng Yiyou chuckled softly. “I’m only telling you four after all. The Forbidden Land of Thunder is different from other forbidden lands. This place isn’t just a forbidden land—it’s also a smelting pool! The land behind us, the one in which the thunder spirit resides, is also a smelting land!”

“What does that mean?” Du Xiangyang asked, his brow creased.

“Haha, don’t be so anxious. As we cooperate and delve into its depths, all of you will gradually come to understand.” Feng Yiyou narrowed his eyes. “What I have told you is already more than enough.”

“How do you wish to cooperate?” Qin Lie interrupted.

Feng Yiyou glanced at Qin Lie, then quickly withdrew his gaze and turned to Du Xiangyang once again, saying, “We just need to work together to break through the thunder barrier.”

It was clear that Feng Yiyou held no regard for Qin Lie.

“How are we going to break through it?” Du Xiangyang asked as he inwardly laughed.

“This requires everyone to think up their own ways.” Feng Yiyou furrowed his brow. “Everyone should be well aware of the terrifying, destructive effect of thunder energy on souls. The thunder barrier is covered in thunder and lightning. As soon as any of it enters your consciousness, your soul will be promptly extinguished.”

“Your Celestial Artifact Sect has been here for quite some time. Have you found any weak points yet? Has there been any progress at all?” Song Tingyu asked.

“We have yet to find a way to crack it. Why don’t you go and study it? Perhaps you can find a good way,” Feng Yiyou said, his expression full of helplessness.

“I will go and take a look at it,” Qin Lie said out of the blue.

Without even glancing at him, Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan immediately nodded in agreement.

“By yourself?” Feng Yiyou asked, stunned.

“Mn. I’ll just go over there and observe the situation.” Qin Lie smiled casually, his solitary figure starting its trek toward the area behind them where thunder and lightning flared.

“This…” Zhang Sheng’s expression went cold.

“It would be best if all of you went with him. Just him by himself… may be a little too dangerous,” Feng Yiyou benevolently suggested.

“No need. If he wants to go by himself, let him do so.” Du Xiangyang laughed as he shook his head.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan also wore calm expressions.

“Ah, I think kind of understand now.” Zhang Sheng began to laugh coldly. “It seems like the rest of you stopped seeing eye to eye with this person at some point and can’t wait for him to die, right?”

“What do you mean? Do you believe that, in entering the thunder barrier, he’s sentencing himself to death? ” Song Tingyu’s pretty face suddenly turned icy. “Are you trying to get us to go in together because you want all of us to go in and die? Do you want us to just kill ourselves?”

Du Xiangyang and Xie Jingxuan coldly glared at Zhang Sheng.

Zhang Sheng realized that he had said something he shouldn’t have.

“Shut your mouth!” Feng Yiyou shouted, his expression incomparably cold.

“I was only messing around, don’t mind me.” Zhang Sheng apologized, lowered his head, and stopped speaking, yet his eyes still harbored treachery.

Chapter 479: Thunder Lagoon

All by himself, Qin Lie moved directly toward the area of raging thunder and lightning.

Behind him, Song Tingyu and Zhang Sheng had already stopped quarrelling, and Feng Yiyou and the rest had gone silent. Everyone's eyes were glued to his back.

Cold light emerged in the eyes of the Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners as all of them secretly sneered in their minds.

It was as if they considered Qin Lie a goner.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang all wore indifferent expressions on their faces and weren't very worried about Qin Lie. They knew that Qin Lie was skilled in the power of thunder and lightning, and that he had just tempered his soul with it.

Of all the people in the Graveyard of Gods, Qin Lie would be the one person who would be safe and sound within a storm of raging thunder and lightning.

Song Tingyu and the others were well aware of the fact that Qin Lie had no equal when it came to enduring the attacks of thunder and lightning on one's soul. Even the martial practitioners of Terminator Sect, who were proficient in the power of thunder, couldn't compare.

In light of this, all of them were quite relaxed.

“Zzt zzzt zzt! Boom boom boom!”

Bolts of lightning violently flashed in every direction as thunder furiously rumbled. The lightning bolts mingled together to form countless connections between the sky and the ground, increasing in ferocity and intensity.

A specific area with an incredible amount of of thunder and lightning gradually came into Qin Lie’s field of view and slowly grew clearer.

An enormous, bowl-shaped hole with a vast quantity of thunder of lightning intertwined at its lip became visible. Blindingly bright bolts of lightning as thick as water buckets crisscrossed like giant vines, rising directly from the earth of the Forbidden Land of Thunder and reaching into the heavens.

At a glance, it was as if a waterfall of lightning were descending from deep within the clouds and collecting in that abyssal hole, forming a lagoon.

It also looked as if a tornado of thunder and lightning were continuously twisting and clashing, rotating as it went straight into the clouds.

This thunder lagoon covered an area of about sixty five square

meters and was connected to the heavens by lightning. The surrounding lightning coiled around it, forming a ferocious thunder barrier.

As Qin Lie stood beside the thunder lagoon and carefully looked around, he could feel his skin constantly spark with electricity. He knew that the power of thunder gathered at the top of this thunder barrier was enough to shatter and extinguish the soul of a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner.

Qin Lie turned around and looked behind him.

Feng Yiyou and the rest of the people from Celestial Artifact Sect wore cold expressions, traces of excitement flickering through their eyes.

It seemed as though they were secretly expecting something to happen.

Puzzled, Qin Lie calmed himself as he tried to release his soul consciousness.

A strand of soul intent flew out from his Soul Lake and silently touched the thunder barrier.

“Zzzt!”

Sparks of electricity splashed from the top of the thunder barrier as his soul intent attempted to merge with it.

Then, out of nowhere, Qin Lie's eyes lit up and he immediately sensed something he wasn't familiar with. Only then did he realize just how marvelous the Third Stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication was.

If a martial practitioner of Terminator Sect that was proficient in thunder spirit arts wanted to use their soul consciousness to feel out the thunder lagoon by touching the violent thunder barrier, their soul intent would have instantly been annihilated.

Their soul intent definitely wouldn't have been able to survive the violent fluctuations of thunder and lightning.

And this would have only been the case for martial practitioners proficient in thunder spirit arts.

If a member of Celestial Artifact Sect, Du Xiangyang, or one of the others had sent strands of their soul consciousness out to touch this thunder barrier, theirs would have been annihilated even faster.

Only Qin Lie's soul consciousness was capable of surviving something like that. His soul consciousness had endured thunder and lightning assaults, gaining a thunder imprint through that baptism. In addition to that, his True Soul had been electrostatically tempered, and his soul origin contained the power of thunder and lightning.

Furthermore, since his soul consciousness and soul origin had the

same type of energy and source, his soul consciousness was able to touch the thunder barrier without harm. It entered the barrier like a river meeting the sea.

In all of Terminator Sect, only one person was capable of and would dare to temper their soul with thunder and lightning in a similar way—Forefather Terminator. He was probably the only other person who could use his soul consciousness to observe this place.

“The Forbidden Land of Thunder is definitely a blessed land for me! I can control it even better than Ye Yihao could control the Forbidden Land of Wood!”

The corners of Qin Lie’s mouth rose, a happy smile appearing on his face. He released a few more strands of soul consciousness that probed the thunder barrier like invisible tentacles, attempting to further investigate the mysterious nature of the thunder lagoon within.

“Eh?” Qin Lie’s head turned all of a sudden.

Inside of the barrier formed from ferocious thunder and lightning, Qin Lie’s strands of soul consciousness could feel something other than the terrifying power of thunder that acted as a thick curtain sealing the thunder lagoon.

Closing his eyes, he sat down beside the thunder barrier and began to carefully examine it.

The thunder barrier resembled a tornado made up of violently twisting lightning. This made the magnetic field inside of the barrier extremely chaotic, releasing extremely distorted waves of energy.

There shouldn't have been any physical things or other fluctuations inside the field that the barrier surrounded.

However, the strands of Qin Lie's soul consciousness that had flown inside of the barrier encountered several urns filled with bone ash. There were a total of fourteen urns, each of which had the unique mark of Celestial Artifact Sect on it—the word "furnace."

The fourteen bone ash urns were semi-translucent, and released a dark, icy glow reminiscent of moonlight. The material they were made of was unknown as they were neither gold nor jade.

Of these fourteen, nine of them each had a soul cluster sealed inside.

They were the True Souls of nine Netherpassage Realm martial practitioners!

The fourteen urns which constantly glowed, ignoring the twisting, turning lightning and thunder that whirled around inside of the thunder barrier.

However, a faint wave would occasionally move back and forth

between them. It was clear that they were connected in a mysterious way.

The waves released by the nine bone ash urns that contained True Souls were especially intense, as if the True Souls were constantly being prodded. It seemed like the purpose of the urns was to make the True Souls go insane until they ultimately exploded.

“Th-this is…” Qin Lie’s expression went cold.

Since he was also an artificer, one that could personally forge Terminator Profound Bombs, he was knowledgeable about many terrifyingly powerful spirit artifacts.

The fourteen bone ash urns which casually flew around the interior of the thunder barrier were most likely artifacts similar to the Terminator Profound Bomb, an explosion type spirit artifact. The difference, however, was that these urns didn’t use the explosive power of thunder and lightning, and they weren’t crafted from spirit materials of those kinds.

Instead, the main component of these spirit artifacts were souls!

Souls would be sealed into the bone ash urns and then constantly be tortured by vicious fluctuations of energy so that they would enter a crazed state.

The souls within each urn would ultimately self destruct,

increasing the explosive strength of the urn.

Each urn would store the power of a soul's explosion, and the sudden and complete release of that power was an extremely terrifying prospect.

Perhaps this power would be enough to tear the thunder barrier apart!

Qin Lie understood Celestial Artifact Sect's plan. The bone ash urns had definitely been put here by Feng Yiyou, and the nine souls imprisoned with them were probably the "allies" who had been recruited by Celestial Artifact Sect just like they had recruited Qin Lie's group. These so-called "allies" were merely sacrifices.

Yet Feng Yiyou had no idea about Qin Lie's proficiency in the power of lightning and thunder. He also didn't know that Qin Lie's True Soul had been tempered with thunder and lighting, and that his soul consciousness could penetrate the thunder barrier and search for information.

As a result, Feng Yiyou had not been the slightest bit concerned about someone discovering the secret within. Feng Yiyou was probably gloating silently, waiting for Qin Lie to die to the thunder barrier and have his True Soul sealed within a bone ash urn as another sacrifice.

"So that's how it is." Qin Lie understood the entirety of Feng Yiyou and Celestial Artifact Sect's plans.

Now he knew why they weren't in a hurry to recover their soul consciousness and check the traps that Feng Yiyou had placed. Qin Lie concentrated his soul and consolidated his dispersed wisps of soul consciousness.

Having put all the pieces together, Qin Lie slowly used his soul consciousness to pass through the thunder barrier and fly deeper into its depths.

When he did, he suddenly sensed several faint soul fluctuations, making him extremely excited.

The numerous souls that the fluctuations came from were extraordinarily ancient, devoid of memories, consciousness, or residual thoughts. They were just a cluster of pure, flawless souls that, like a pool of crystal clear water, contained no impurities.

Qin Lie knew exactly what this meant—these soul crystals might be of the highest grade possible!

When he had been hunting spirit beasts with Xie Jingxuan in the past, Liang Zhong taught Qin Lie about soul crystals.

Soul crystals and spirit stones were similar in function. While spirit stones contained spirit energy, soul crystals contained soul energy.

Higher realm martial practitioners were more attracted to the possibility of obtaining soul crystals that could nourish their soul

since they could be of enormous benefit to their cultivation.

From the Netherpassage Realm onward, martial practitioners also had to cultivate their True Souls. Every realm after it represented a qualitative growth of the soul.

Improving the quality of a soul was many times harder than increasing spirit energy and also much slower. There were many ways to increase spirit energy, but very few ways to improve the quality of a soul.

Soul crystals were one of the few ways in which one could improve the soul. These crystals originated from the souls of powerful beasts and living beings which, after being refined, could be condensed into a crystal that contained their soul energy.

If a soul crystal wasn't pure, their insides would be muddled with impurities or residual memories. Even soul consciousness could linger. Therefore, impure soul crystals were a lot of effort and trouble to use and also required the user to cleanse themselves twice after each use. It would waste a lot of time and energy.

Soul crystals devoid of memories, consciousness, and residual thoughts, however, were truly precious.

Like drinking water, a True Soul could directly use this kind of soul crystal. Energy extracted from such a soul crystal would be absolutely pure.

If a Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner were to use such a pure soul crystal to nourish their True Soul with soul energy, breaking through to the next realm definitely wouldn't be a dream.

"I'm afraid that, in this world, only thunder and lightning this violent could possibly refine soul crystals this pure!"

Qin Lie examined the pure soul fluctuations coming from the thunder lagoon and was certain that there were soul crystals inside of it. This realization immediately made him jump for joy.

At this time, the soul consciousness he had released already began to show signs of fatigue.

Qin Lie gradually retracted his soul consciousness without venturing deeper into the thunder lagoon. After all, he was in no hurry to fight the thunder spirit.

Qin Lie stood up, opened his eyes, and turned around to look at Celestial Artifact's Feng Yiyou and those beside him.

"This place is too dangerous. I'm afraid I can't think of any way to enter. I'm sorry, but I don't think we'll be able to cooperate." Qin Lie's expression was solemn as he shook his head and sighed. "Let's give up here, Du Xiangyang."

"Okay. If it's too dangerous, let's forget about it," Du Xiangyang agreed, nodding his head.

He knew that Qin Lie had definitely discovered something.

“Let us take our leave. We will withdraw and entrust this area to our friends from Celestial Artifact Sect for exploration.” Qin Lie began to walk away.

“Young Sect Master!” Zhang Sheng raised his head, his eyes cold and dark.

The other martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect all looked at Feng Yiyou, killing intent clearly cascading from their bodies.

“My friends, don’t be in such a hurry to leave!” Feng Yiyou shouted.

Chapter 480: Breaking The Facade

“Don’t be in such a hurry to leave, we can continue negotiating. You mustn’t give up halfway.”

Feng Yiyou frowned, his expression deteriorating severely. He looked at Qin Lie, confusion surfacing in his eyes.

Qin Lie was actually unscathed?

Feng Yiyou had been paying attention to that area the entire time. He saw Qin Lie take a seat next to the thunder barrier and had even witnessed Qin Lie release his soul consciousness.

To his knowledge, if anyone touched the the thunder barrier with their soul consciousness, it would instantly be reduced to ash. There was no way of escaping it.

In addition to that, the thunder barrier could even adjust to the owner of the soul consciousness and assault them with terrifying thunder and lightning.

In other words, Qin Lie should have already been blasted to death by the violent energy that pouring from the thunder barrier.

His soul should have also been instantly absorbed by those bone ash urns, converted into a sacrifice.

Feng Yiyou sensed that something was definitely amiss.

He wanted to know what had happened to Qin Lie why he was safe and sound.

“Let’s head over there. I wish to discuss how profound this place is with you.” Feng Yiyou walked over to Qin Lie.

Qin Lie had initially prepared to turn away, having told them the he wanted to leave with Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan, yet he couldn’t help but stop his feet when he saw Feng Yiyou approaching.

He had stopped right next to the thunder barrier.

Du Xiangyang and the two others suddenly looked at Qin Lie, their eyes questioning whether or not they should head over as well.

Qin Lie shrugged, signaling that it didn’t matter.

Only then did Du Xiangyang and the others move closer.

In just a few moments, the seven martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and Qin Lie’s group arrived next to the thunder barrier.

“Your name is Qin…?”

“Qin Lie.”

“Oh, Qin Lie.” Feng Yiyou nodded, barely taking note of his name just then. “I saw you sense the barrier with your soul consciousness earlier. Did you find anything? Everyone here can have an open conversation, and we might be able to find a way to pass through the barrier that way. What do you say?”

“I didn’t find anything. My wisp of soul consciousness was exterminated by thunder and lightning the instant it entered.” Seeing that Du Xiangyang and the others had arrived, Qin Lie hurriedly informed them. “The three of you must not attempt to do this. The thunder and lightning here... they’re deadly. If you don’t want to die, it would be best if you didn’t carelessly release your soul consciousness.”

Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan were all frightened.

When they came over, they had released their soul consciousness out of habit and prepared to investigate the profoundness of the thunder barrier.

The moment they heard Qin Lie say that it could be deadly, they no longer dared to be careless.

“You released a wisp of soul consciousness and had it enter the barrier?” Zhang Sheng’s face was one of confusion.

The martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect all wore expressions of suspicion, finding his testimony to be strange.

They had spent a very long time studying the thunder barrier. Of the people that came before Qin Lie's group, every single one that released so much as a strand of their soul consciousness had been instantly annihilated.

Every person who attempted to explore the thunder barrier would immediately be killed by the violent thunder energy within.

There was no exception to this!

Yet, after Qin Lie released his soul consciousness, he was still standing here alive and well. This clearly made no sense.

"I tried earlier and realized that there's really no way to breach this barrier. I'm sorry, but I don't think we can be any help." Qin Lie wore a look of regret. He sighed, then helplessly declared, "I believe it's time for us to leave."

"Can't we have a calm, peaceful negotiation?" Feng Yiyou's expression became grim.

"We really can't be of any help to you," Qin Lie said with a shake of his head, announcing their intention to leave.

“Young Sect Master!” Zhang Sheng shouted.

Feng Yiyou pondered for a moment, then suddenly said, “I’ve explained just how profound the Graveyard of Gods is to you, told you so many secrets, yet you suddenly want to leave? Isn’t that a little too inappropriate?”

“Too inappropriate?” Du Xiangyang smiled. “What’s inappropriate?”

“I refuse to have told you people so many things for nothing in return.” Feng Yiyou became even less polite than before. “Since you’ve have learned about all of that, you must participate. You suddenly want to leave? That’s no longer possible!”

Qin Lie chuckled. “Now you’re forcing others into becoming your allies?”

“Young Sect Master, since the easy way didn’t work, why don’t use the hard way? Stop wasting your breath on them already!” Zhang Sheng smiled coldly.

The other five martial practitioners from Celestial Artifact Sect had looked rather humble earlier. Upon seeing that they were about to break the friendly facade they had put up, the eyes they were looking at Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan with promptly filled with lust.

Zhang Sheng included, the eyes of the six people revealed an

immoral light. Their gazes were like the venom released by a snake, rushing toward the bewitching bodies of the two women.

“Heh... it needs to be said; although they hail from Copper rank forces, these beauties sure are excellent. Even in the Land of Chaos, women with such top tier beauty and body figures are extremely rare finds.” One of them took the initiative to tease them.

“It would definitely be a waste if they died too quickly. Right, Young Sect Master?” Zhang Sheng laughed dryly. He subconsciously licked his lips, intense lust flowing out of his eyes.

Feng Yiyou frowned, but did not speak up.

It looked like he was about to let the vulgarity of his subordinates loose.

The moment they saw Feng Yiyou’s attitude, Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang instantly understood. They knew that this short period of peace had already disappeared.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan’s faces both turned ice-cold. A sharp, cold glow radiated from their charming eyes. The two understood that a bloody battle was about to unfold.

“Qin Lie, I shall ask you one last time. What did you discover inside?” Feng Yiyou snorted coldly.

“I discovered fourteen bone ash urns and nine sealed souls. Those

nine souls were chaotic could explode at any moment," Qin Lie said with a grin. He couldn't be bothered to waste his breath on Feng Yiyou either. "Are we supposed to become four new souls to be sealed in those urns?"

"How did you find out?" Feng Yiyou face twisted into a grave expression.

The other martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect looked at Qin Lie in shock, their expressions turning grim as well.

"You think I'd tell you?" Qin Lie wore an indifferent expression.

"I know what that is! It's the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation!" Du Xiangyang shouted harshly. "By using fourteen artifacts to seal fourteen souls, the artifacts force the souls into a frenzied state. Once the souls are pushed to the utmost limit, they'd explode at the same time, instantly erupting with terrifyingly destructive power! You've been attempting to breach the barrier this entire time, but you just don't have enough sacrifices! We're the sacrifices you're looking for, aren't we?"

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan's expressions changed.

Nine people before them had apparently fallen for Feng Yiyou's scheme already, and after their bodies were disintegrated, their souls were absorbed by the artifacts.

These bastards from Celestial Artifact Sect had essentially been

searching for nearby martial practitioners non-stop, and with the pretense of becoming allies, would lure people in by revealing the profoundness of the thunder lagoon. Those people would then be murdered, turning them into sacrifices for their artifacts.

"Feng Yiyou! You're undeniably evil!" Flames of fury burned within Du Xiangyang.

"You have truly exceeded my expectations." At this moment, Feng Yiyou wasn't sending so much as another glance in Du Xiangyang's direction, but was instead sizing Qin Lie up. "I'm very interested in the mysteries dwelling within your body. I'm not going to let you die too quickly."

After a moment of consideration, Feng Yiyou indifferently issued orders. "Kill Du Xiangyang first, then you can capture the two girls alive. I'll give you six hours with them once they've been captured. After six hours, clean them up as best as you can and have their souls thrown into the thunder barrier. As for this Qin Lie... I want you to imprison him and store his memories with a Memory Fragment Crystal. I want to know what he's gone through!"

"Please be at ease, Young Sect Master. We'll definitely deal with everything properly!" Flames of lust burned in Zhang Sheng's eyes. He licked the corners of his lips again, pointed at Song Tingyu, then said, "I like this girl, she suits my tastes!"

"You have six people, while they only have four. There shouldn't be any problems," Feng Yiyou impatiently said with a wave of his hand. "Deal with them quickly. With the addition of the four of them, we're still lacking a soul. There are still matters for us to

attend to.”

“Yes!”

A fierce light shone in the eyes of Zhang Sheng and the other five Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners. Surging with killing intent, they retrieved their spirit artifacts from their spatial rings. The place was suddenly filled with the dazzling light of treasure as exquisite, eye-catching spirit artifacts appeared one after another.

The types of spirit artifacts that were present included machetes, swords, long spears, silver tridents, shields, and bone pikes. All of them had been forged by master artificers of Celestial Artifact Sect, and every single one of them seemed to be around Earth Grade One and Two. All of them had exquisite, refined spirit patterns that carried dense spirit energy fluctuations.

As expected of Celestial Artifact Sect, they were indeed the richest and most lavish force in the Land of Chaos.

Zhang Sheng alone was wearing dark azure spirit armor. This spirit armor was engraved with a turtlesnake pattern and flashed with a dim, azure glow.

He held a spirit artifact in each hand, a shield and a pike. The spirit energy that poured from his body had a fascinating resonance with the shield and pike, as though the spirit artifacts perfectly complemented the spirit art that he cultivated.

The other five people wore unique spirit artifacts as well, with each of them wielding one or two spirit artifacts each. Intense spirit energy fluctuations continuously emanated from their bodies.

“What the hell! Using their spirit artifacts to suppress people, they’re bastards of Celestial Artifact Sect alright!” Du Xiangyang cursed in a low voice.

“The thunder and lightning fluctuations here are extremely turbulent!” A loud roar suddenly resounded from a distance.

“Such dense thunder fluctuations. The thunder spirit of the Forbidden Land of Thunder is definitely here!” Yu Men’s voice rang out.

The expressions of Feng Yiyou and his men instantly changed.

Qin Lie was also stunned.

“There’re people here. Investigate them with the token!” Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain commanded.

“Zzng zzng zzng! Whoo whoo whoo!”

Strange whistling sounds rang out from a few of the tokens at Qin Lie’s and Song Tingyu’s waists. The same thing occurred in a few of the at Feng Yiyou’s waist.

“Heh! Things have gotten interesting.” Niu Shaojun laughed dryly.

Yu Men and the crowd accompanying him had also slaughtered several martial practitioners. They had many tokens on them—

—just like Qin Lie and Feng Yiyou over on this side.

In using their tokens to investigate, it caused a chain reaction of whistles to erupt from the tokens with Qin Lie, Feng Yiyou, and the rest. They immediately understood that subtle implications of the situation.

With the appearance of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s Yu Men and his group, the two groups of people that were originally going to start trading blows abruptly stopped.

After a few minutes, Yu Men, along with Niu Shaojun and the rest of the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners, rushed over, leaving a cloud of dust in their wake.

“Feng Yiyou!” The moment Yu Men arrived, he grinned strangely, and an intense desire to do battle flowed from his eyes.

Both Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Celestial Artifact Sect resided in the Heavenly Fissure Continent. As the most talented members of the two forces’ younger generation, Yu Men and Feng Yiyou had fought many times, both out in the open and in secret.

Whenever, it often meant a new battle would take place. There hadn't been a single exception to this in many years.

"Du Xiangyang! Qin Lie!" When Niu Shaojun came over, he was momentarily stunned. Then a strange, sinister smile spread across his face as well.

"Eh? You people know each other too?" Zhang Sheng clearly surprised.

"Indeed! Of course we know each other!" Niu Shaojun smiled coldly as he retrieved a Ten Thousand Beast Mountain token from his waist. Using his mind consciousness to contact another person, he said, "Situ Tong, you can come over here now."

"Situ Tong!" Feng Yiyou's expression went ice-cold.

Chapter 481: I, Qin Lie, Am The True Master Of This Place!

Qin Lie felt that the situation had become more interesting all of a sudden.

Feng Yiyou of Celestial Artifact Sect evidently did not have a good relationship with Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, because the moment the two of them met, one pulled out his sword while the other drew his bow. Like roosters, they could start fighting at any moment.

However, these two having an antagonistic relationship was unsurprising to Qin Lie. The two of them belonged to different forces after all, both of which even resided in the Heavenly Fissure Continent.

The relationship that Qin Lie was actually curious about was the one between Feng Yiyou and Situ Tong.

Situ Tong also belonged to Celestial Artifact Sect, and like Feng Yiyou, he had entered the Graveyard of Gods as a trial participant. However, Situ Tong had previously journeyed with Niu Shaojun. He was actually quite close to Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

Yet Ten Thousand Beast Mountain was Feng Yiyou’s enemy, the thorn in his side.

Qin Lie realized that Zhang Sheng had been telling the truth

about one thing—Situ Tong really wasn't on their side.

As expected.

Along with three other Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners, Situ Tong actually rushed over in just fifteen minutes.

They were clearly still in cahoots with Ten Thousand Beast Mountain!

"Situ Tong! You actually dare to conspire with the people of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain!" Feng Yiyou's expression turned intensely cold, killing intent overflowing from his eyes. "I always knew that allowing you to enter the Trial was only asking for trouble!"

"Hello, Young Sect Master." When Situ Tong arrived, his expression was similarly ice-cold as well. "Before we entered the Trial, the injury you gave me during the inner sect competition was carved into my heart. I think about it all the time!"

"Heh!" Du Xiangyang secretly laughed.

He could see that the relationship between Situ Tong and Feng Yiyou was probably even worse than the relationship between him and Luo Chen.

Just like Heavenly Sword Mountain, Celestial Artifact Sect had

held an internal competition to determine the selection of Trial participants.

Situ Tong had apparently lost.

Feng Yiyou didn't have a good relationship with Yu Men, and he also bore hatred for Situ Tong. This led to Situ Tong conspiring with Yu Men upon entering the Graveyard of Gods.

"It seems like we'll be able to stay out of this matter." Du Xiangyang laughed.

Qin Lie's demeanor was relaxed as well. He sized up the martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, touchng his temple as he pondered. Then he suddenly smiled and said, "Young Sect Master Feng, we don't wish to intrude upon this matter or continue investigating the thunder barrier. We just want to leave now, what do you say?"

Before Ten Thousand Beast Mountain arrived, Qin Lie and Feng Yiyou's groups were about to engage in a bloody, slaughter-filled battle.

Feng Yiyou had just ordered Zhang Sheng and the other five Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners to capture Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan, kill Du Xiangyang, and seize Qin Lie's memories.

But now, when Qin Lie said that they wanted to leave, a carefree look surfaced on Feng Yiyou's face. He even smiled and said,

“Earlier was just a misunderstanding. We only had good intentions in mind, hoping that we could investigate the mysteries of the thunder barrier together. However, all of you seem to not be interested. We won’t keep you here any longer. Please, go ahead.”

Feng Yiyou took the initiative to back off.

Zhang Sheng and his men were well aware that Ten Thousand Beast Mountain was currently their true enemy. The moment they saw Feng Yiyou let them go, each of them dryly laughed one after another.

“Earlier was just a misunderstanding, that’s all it was. Please be magnanimous and forgiving…” Zhang Sheng cupped his hands and bowed, nodding toward Qin Lie and the others.

“We truly had good intentions in the beginning,” another person hurriedly said as well.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan were all smiles.

“What do you guys say?” Qin Lie looked at Niu Shaojun and his gang.

“Just leave! We’re not going to send you off!” Niu Shaojun snorted coldly.

“You better run far!” Yu Men growled, staring at Feng Yiyou intensely.

“You had best be more polite with your words!” Xie Jingxuan’s face was ice-cold.

“Just forget it. Let’s go.” Qin Lie smiled softly as he waved his hand to stop Xie Jingxuan, saying, “We can’t afford to offend either side, so let us be off. We’ll give this place to them to roll around in.”

Xie Jingxuan looked at him strangely.

She had always known that, although Qin Lie looked gentle, deep in his bones, he was incomparably violent. Like a volcano, just a tiny little spark could burst into a surging ball of flames.

Yu Men wanted them to flee far into the distance, and his tone wasn’t the least bit courteous. With Qin Lie’s personality, he would definitely want to start a wild brawl. However, this time he took the initiative to retreat, which was something that Xie Jingxuan found baffling.

“Time to go, time to go!” Qin Lie took the lead and moved to leave, a slight smile on his face.

As he said he was leaving, he actually walked toward the middle of the two opposing sides, aiming to walk between them.

Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan suddenly tensed up.

At this moment, tensions between Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were especially high, and the situation could explode into a bloody war at any moment. .

If Qin Lie actually wanted to retreat, there were many other routes he could have taken. Instead, however, he chose to walk the path in the middle of Feng Yiyou and Yu Men.

This decision made the hearts of Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang hang in suspense.

The three of them, having initially moved to follow Qin Lie, stopped short. Their hearts were tense and uneasy. They sensed that something was amiss.

The people of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain sank into silence.

They also hadn’t expected Qin Lie, the one who wanted to leave this place, to actually choose the narrow path between them.

What was the meaning of this?

This was clearly a provocation!

Xie Jingxuan, Song Tingyu, and Du Xiangyang didn’t dare to move rashly or go deeper between Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten

Thousand Beast Mountain, fearing a pincer attack from both sides.

They stood at their original positions, their fingers instinctively pressing down on their spatial rings, prepared to retrieve their spirit artifacts and battle at any moment.

They looked at Qin Lie with grim expressions.

Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, Zhang Sheng, and the rest also wore dark expressions. They stopped facing each other and looked at Qin Lie as well.

Under numerous frigid gazes, Qin Lie looked as though he were confidently strolling through his own yard, leisurely walking to the middle of the crowd made up of Feng Yiyou's group and Yu Men's group.

Under the predatory gazes of the Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioners, not only did Qin Lie pass through both sides comfortably, he even came to a sudden stop in the middle of them—

—right between Yu Men and Feng Yiyou.

Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and Xie Jingxuan's hearts constricted and their expressions took a grave turn. They secretly began to gather spirit energy in preparation for any abrupt change in the situation.

Although they didn't understand Qin Lie's motives, they knew that the tolerance of Feng Yiyou and Yu Men was limited.

"Earlier, you said wanted to us to run far away?" Qin Lie twisted his head, glancing at Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. With a frown, he asked, "Care to repeat that?"

Upon hearing these words, every person on Celestial Artifact Sect's side began to gloat, eyes shining with glee.

In the meantime, the worsening situation made Qin Lie's group sigh.

"Damn it!" Xie Jingxuan cursed in a low voice. "And here I thought that he had changed for the better. I didn't think he'd be as crazy as ever!"

"This bastard!" Even Song Tingyu stomped her feet as well.

The three of them didn't expect Qin Lie to take the initiative and provoke Yu Men.

He clearly could have retreated from this incident, and then, after Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain waged a blood-soaked war, decided whether or not to stab them in the back.

They would've definitely been able to profit as fishermen if they chose to do that!

Why did he have to offend Yu Men and provoke both sides?

Song Tingyu and the others had no idea.

“Fine!” Yu Men grinned and let out a ferocious laugh. “If you don’t run as far as you can, I’ll just kill you along with them! Heh, you think you’re Luo Chen or Chu Li? Or maybe even Ye Yihao? How about Xue Moyan? Even if you help Feng Yiyou fight me, how much use will just the four of you be?”

Yu Men basically didn’t hold Qin Lie in any regard at all.

He had made the necessary preparations to deal with Qin Lie’s group at the same time. Aside from the people of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Yu Men still had Situ Tong.

He believed that his group’s strength was enough take on both Qin Lie’s group and Celestial Artifact Sect.

“You seemed to be interested in the two women with me earlier, right?” Unexpectedly enough, Qin Lie didn’t respond to Yu Men, but instead turned around to look at Feng Yiyou and Zhang Sheng. A broad toothy smile on his face, he said. “One of the women that you, Zhang Sheng, are so interested in is my…”

These words utterly baffled the people of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang inwardly lamented their despair.

Not only did this bastard provoke Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, he even offended Celestial Artifact Sect. Just what in the world was he planning?

“You motherfucker, what are your intentions?” Zhang Sheng roared furiously.

“What in the world are you trying to do?” Feng Yiyou became impatient as well.

“This place is the Forbidden Land of Thunder. In this place, you…” He pointed at Feng Yiyou, and then he pointed at Yu Men. “And you. Neither of you have the qualifications to control it. I, Qin Lie, am the true master of this place!”

Immediately after declaring this, Qin Lie raised his head, looked toward the sky, and roared, “Thunder!”

When his voice rang out, explosive thunder resonated from deep in the clouds, sounding as if it were capable of destroying the world.

Writhing from the thunder barrier off to the side, streaks of lightning as thick as pails mixed with the violent, thunderous rumbling and rushed out like ferocious dragons.

The twisted, chaotic thunder fluctuations instantly became several times more savage. The violent lightning from the sky and the thunder lagoon drew closer as if being guided, approaching as if the apocalypse were nigh.

Their target was Qin Lie!

At this moment, Qin Lie stood at the center of the crowd of martial practitioners belonging to Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

He was guiding lightning down from the heavens with Heavenly Thunder Eradication.

Chapter 482: Lightning Controller!

Without any overly obvious foreshadowing, Qin Lie became hostile the moment he said he was going to in a decisive and determined manner.

As if he were embracing the world, Qin Lie raised his hands up high and bellowed. Streams of lightning, long and thick, poured from his body, and every part of him rumbled with the sound of thunder.

Vast swathes of lightning resembling enormous dragons emerged from the depths of the clouds and, as though they'd escaped from a divine river, plunged straight downward amidst the explosive sound of heavenly thunder.

Beside all of the martial practitioners present in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, the lightning hidden by the thunder barrier erupted outward like a myriad of wild horses breaking free from their reins.

The thunderous changes triggered by Qin Lie instantly led to a ferocious frenzy of lightning in the area, gripping hearts and souls in a catastrophic way.

The lightning that filled the sky headed straight for Qin Lie!

Amidst the crowd of martial practitioners, Qin Lie stood in an area between Feng Yiyou and Yu Men.

At this moment, Qin Lie's dark, ruthless, ulterior motives were obvious to everyone.

Qin Lie had moved to the path between Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and stopped right between Feng Yiyou and Yu Men in order to guide thunder toward himself, using the thunder and lightning of the Forbidden Land of Thunder to destroy all of his enemies!

From the very beginning, Qin Lie never thought of staying out of this. The thought of leaving had never actually crossed his mind!

He was clearly preparing to take care of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain at the same time!

"This bastard!" Song Tingyu's beautiful eyes shone.

"He actually fooled us as well!" Xie Jingxuan gnashed her teeth.

"Craack craack! Boom boom boom!"

The violent thunder and chaotic lightning resembled a flood from the lightning pool of the Ninth Heaven, bolts of heavenly lightning gushing downward like waterfalls.

The faces of Yu Men and Feng Yiyou turned incomparably ashen, as both of them barked at the same time, "Everyone, dodge!"

Amidst the descending streams of blinding lightning dragons and their resulting explosions, the martial practitioners of both forces screamed, roared, and howled as they fled in every direction.

In but an instant, Qin Lie's immediate area was turned into a forbidden zone, a playground filled with vicious thunder and lightning.

One of the Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners who had agreed with Zhang Sheng's proposal to capture Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan for a bit of fun was struck by two intertwined flashes of lightning, instantly soaking his body with a concentrated flow of electricity.

At the same time, another, more explosive lightning bolt directly struck his shoulders.

Like a meatball exploding, his body was blasted apart. The violent flashes of lightning spread to his organs, charring them black.

The light of hatred in that person's eyes was snuffed out like the flame of a candle.

Then, attracted by the bone ash urns inside of the thunder barrier, a gloomy soul instantly flew away.

On the other side of the electric rampage, the head of a person

behind Niu Shaojun of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain was struck by the heavenly lightning, the color in his eyes quickly dispersing.

“Cousin!” Niu Shaojun howled sharply.

Unfortunately, that person could no longer hear him. As if attracted by a magnet, a gray colored ghost flew towards the Thunder Barrier as well.

“Qin Lie! I, Niu Shaojun, swear that I’ll tear your corpse into a thousand pieces!”

“Qin Lie! I, Zhang Sheng, will definitely peel your skin off and break your bones apart! I will ruthlessly toy with your women right before your eyes as well!”

“Take Qin Lie down first!”

“Kill him!”

Amidst the blasts of lightning that filled the sky, the martial practitioners of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Celestial Artifact Sect suddenly came to a tacit agreement.

“I already told you. In this Forbidden Land of Thunder, I’m in charge.” Qin Lie’s tone was calm, and he wore a laid-back expression.

His line of sight swept over one Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner after another, then landed on Zhang Sheng. Stretching out his hand, he pointed and said, “You’re next.”

Lightning bolts shot downward, and the violent storm followed after.

Within the crisscrossing of lightning and rain, Qin Lie’s body was enveloped by thunder and lightning. An electric glow sparked from his eyes as he confidently walked toward Zhang Sheng.

The thunder barrier beside him was extremely terrifying as it constantly threw down lightning bolt after lightning bolt, each impact creating deep, enormous craters in the earth one after another.

It was as if Terminator Profound Bombs were constantly exploding.

Three people from Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain charged forward. The moment they drew near, however, they were engulfed in lightning and thunder before they could utter a single word.

The three people released piercing screams. The spirit energy barriers on their bodies promptly shattered to pieces like egg shells struck by a gigantic hammer.

At the same time, Qin Lie pulled out the Astral Thunder

Hammer, a huge grin on his face. The hammer resembled a gigantic mountain that gods resided on as it hurtled toward Zhang Sheng.

The lightning that coiled around the Astral Thunder Hammer attracted lightning dragons and rumbling thunder to it. Thunder and lightning filled the sky and earth, mysteriously pouring toward the hammer as it swung through the air.

A closer look would reveal that even the violent lightning in the depths of the clouds seemed to have found a target of their own—Zhang Sheng!

The moment Zhang Sheng, who had just uttered such ruthless words, discovered that he had become Qin Lie's target, the depths of his heart turned cold. In a shrill voice, he hastily shrieked, "Kill him! Everyone, let's combine our strength and kill him!"

Unfortunately, the three people who had charged Qin Lie the moment they got the chance had already been submerged in dozens of lightning bolts.

As though they were ancient trees that had been struck by lightning, their bodies had already been charred black.

Three gray souls floated out of the bodies of those martial practitioners as well, seeping into the thunder barrier against their will.

Since he was nearby, Niu Shaojun was just about to attack Qin Lie. Yet, the moment he saw three people die trying to do so, their souls leaving their bodies, he came to a sudden halt.

The martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain who were a little further away wore cold expressions. Immense fear flowed out of their eyes.

They had also stopped moving.

Even Yu Men and Feng Yiyou, both of whom had been constantly shouting out, realized that the electrical activity in Qin Lie's location was more than a dozen times stronger than the surrounding area!

Even these two geniuses were deeply frightened of the savage lightning that could annihilate all living things.

They didn't dare to act rashly.

This led to Zhang Sheng shouting even more loudly, only to realize that nobody dared to approach Qin Lie at the center of the shocking tempest. Furthermore, Zhang Sheng even noticed that Niu Shaojun actually started to gradually retreat.

He was consciously moving away from Qin Lie!

The fear of a lone soldier being captured by a ferocious prehistoric beast and gradually swallowed suddenly sprouted

within Zhang Sheng.

At this moment, all of the people that could help him were quickly distancing themselves.

“Among the many people here, you’re the one with the nastiest mouth, Zhang Sheng. In fact, the moment you brought us here... you were already dead.” Qin Lie smiled softly.

The Astral Thunder Hammer descended.

Lightning and thunder that threatened to shroud the sky and the earth accompanied the Astral Thunder Hammer, instantly enveloping the area where Zhang Sheng was standing.

“Prak prak prak!”

Dozens of lightning bolts as thick as pails shone dazzlingly bright, making everyone in the vicinity temporarily blind.

Amidst the dazzling lightning sheen, Zhang Sheng was screaming harshly. Streaks of lightning surged into his body, wracking his flesh with unbearably intense pain.

Lightning pierced his eyes to the point where he was no longer able to see his surroundings.

Yet he could still hear Qin Lie’s approaching voice.

“Thank you for bringing me here,” Qin Lie said with a smile.

When this voice rang out, the dense lightning that enveloped Chang Sheng dispersed.

The violent, booming thunder mysteriously stopped as well.

This allowed everyone to clearly see the situation in that area.

The crowd instinctively focused their sight only to see Qin Lie standing amidst the streams of twisting lightning, placing his hand on Zhang Sheng’s head.

Zhang Sheng, on the other hand, was crouching on the ground. His arms wildly flailed around as if he were struggling to straighten his own body.

“You’re worthless now,” Qin Lie said softly.

“Craack!”

The sound of bone breaking echoed from Zhang Sheng’s head. At the same time, a dull thunderous roar resonated from it.

Zhang Sheng’s seven orifices emitted lightning as he went limp and fell onto the ground like a pile of mud.

However, a gray gloomy soul didn't emerge.

Anyone could tell what that meant in just one look.

—Qin Lie had even obliterated Zhang Sheng's soul.

In this world, only practitioners who cultivated thunder spirit arts could obliterate the souls of their enemies, not even leaving behind a single spark of hope for them.

The flames of Zhang Sheng's soul were extinguished just like that.

"Let's go!" Feng Yiyou's expression went cold, and with a heavy voice he said, "This isn't a good location for a fight!"

The pattern of a large, golden-winged roc emerged from the spirit armor on his body, and golden feathers began to appear on it, instantly causing it to shine with a golden light.

Amidst the dazzling light, Feng Yiyou spread his wings and flew high into the air. As if he were riding a golden roc, he took the lead in charging away.

"Hmph! Retreat!" Yu Men roared like a beast.

His bones cracked explosively, his figure grew bulky, and he even

seemed to have grown taller to a certain extent.

Thin, fine fur even appeared on his neck as though he were transforming into a beast.

Amidst the lightning and thunder, Yu Men occasionally roared like a ferocious animal. With every step he took, loudly charging away like a steel chariot, a deep footprint was left on the ground.

“We can’t stay here too long!” Situ Tong and Niu Shaojun also shouted.

In an instant, the two sides that had been facing each other, ready to slaughter, scattered one after another.

“You want to leave?” In the middle of the electric storm, Qin Lie released a stream of strange, raucous laughter. “Leave a few more lives behind first.”

As if moving the lightning in the sky with his own body, Qin Lie laughed loudly as he chased after the fleeing martial practitioners.

In doing this, he left the dazed Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan behind.

“This…” Du Xiangyang was dumbfounded.

He was completely stupefied by this chain of events.

A ray of bright light bloomed in Xie Jingxuan's clear, cold eyes. Nodding her head, she remained considerably calm as she said, "Back when Qin Lie had a lowly status, I invited him to hunt down a Soul Devouring Beast. Similar to what just happened, he used a method where he moved the lightning in the sky with his own body to help me annihilate it."

This place was the Forbidden Land of Thunder. After these past few years of growth and transformation, Qin Lie had cultivated his thunder spirit arts to a deep, profound level.

"He said that he was the master of the Forbidden Land of Thunder. From my perspective... that might not be just a boast," Song Tingyu said with a smile.

Her beautiful eyes shone with brilliance, and her heart was filled with joy. Deep down, she was secretly happy.

She believed that Qin Lie's crazy behavior was caused by Zhang Sheng's cheap mouth, and because he had looked at her with eyes full of lust.

Once again Qin Lie caused such a violent, tyrannical scene because of her. With the aid of the Forbidden Land of Thunder, he killed people from both Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain with his power alone, and even obliterated Zhang Sheng's soul for her...

Song Tingyu's heart was filled with happiness, a feeling more

enjoyable than drinking ambrosia itself. Sweet smiles of joy filled her charming face.

“Is there anything we can do?” Du Xiangyang shrugged, a strange expression on his face.

“It seems we won’t be necessary.” Xie Jingxuan pouted.

“Isn’t this fine?” Song Tingyu smiled as she comforted the two of them. “Look, aren’t there a few dead people over there? We can inspect them and gather a few trophies. What do you guys think?”

Du Xiangyang’s and Xie Jingxuan’s eyes instantly glistened.

Chapter 483: One Against Many!

In the outskirts of the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Amidst a vast body of swamplands, a group of five people holding shields of light that varied in color walked under the dark gray sky where a violent thunderstorm brewed.

“I wonder how Qin Lie is doing?” Chu Li looked at the sky and sighed. “I wonder if he’s found a way to enter the Forbidden Land of Thunder yet. This place will be very suitable for his cultivation. If he manages to come here, he’ll be very comfortable, and his strength will soar.”

“Chu Li! Why do you keep bringing him up?!” He Wei exclaimed with a frown. She let out a hmph and sneered, “What’s so interesting about a person like him?”

“Senior Brother, that Qin Lie really is a terrible person. He actually asked all of us to pass on the Spring of Life just because he wanted to curry favor with a woman.” Ren Peng laughed coldly. “Hmph! I refuse to believe that he can be so relaxed and carefree in the Graveyard of Gods without us by his side!”

“Senior brother, it was only thanks to you that he was able to obtain the blood of the voodoo insect! You worked with Luo Chen to throw and ignite all of the Terminator Profound Bombs, helping him deal with Ye Yihao.” Hu Ping smirked and laughed coldly. “Qin Lie wouldn’t have been able to take the voodoo insect blood on his own!”

“They’ll discover that they can barely take a single step throughout the Graveyard of Gods without our help!” Wei Liang added.

When it came to this group of Hu Ping, Wei Liang, and the other two from Terminator Sect, all of them cultivated a thunder spirit art.

From the moment they arrived in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, they found that this land was beneficial to their cultivation of thunder spirit arts. They also discovered that the thunder and lightning in the sky above had very minimal effect on them.

The reason they summoned their shields of light wasn’t to protect themselves from the lightning, but to block the erosion of the heavy rain.

The rain in this place was incredibly corrosive, and when raindrops splattered against the skin, there was a painful, burning sensation. This was exactly why they had summoned shields of light.

In the Forbidden Land of Thunder, both Hu Ping and Wei Liang felt a boost of confidence. They felt that they could unleash greater strength than usual, so they spoke with prideful words.

“Do you really think that Qin Lie joined us for our support, and that he relied us to safely avoid the dangers of the Graveyard of

Gods?” Chu Li was surprised.

He didn’t expect Ren Peng’s group of three to have actually thought this way.

“Of course that’s the case.” Ren Peng nodded first. “If it weren’t for us, how could Qin Lie have possibly escaped with a woman infected by the voodoo toxin while under the assault of Luo Chen and his men?

“There was also that time with Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s Yu Men. Yu Men only had to give up because we were there.” Hu Ping also interrupted and laughed coldly. “If Qin Lie hadn’t tagged along with us, he would’ve already been killed twice! Our Terminator Sect doesn’t actually owe him anything! He is the one who owes us!”

“That ungrateful bastard!” Wei Liang snorted coldly. “How dare he try to dip his fingers into our Spring of Life to curry favor with a woman of Illusory Demon Sect. I think his carefree days are about to end!”

“Without us, Qin Lie definitely won’t be able to survive for long in the Graveyard of Gods! Yu Men, Feng Yiyou, and even Luo Chen are devils and monsters! He would get killed the moment he ran into any one of them!” Ren Peng said disdainfully.

Chu Li frowned deeply.

He had fought alongside Qin Lie before, and he knew Qin Lie better than Ren Peng or anyone else did. He knew very well how terrifying Qin Lie was.

During the two battles against Ye Yihao, Qin Lie had played a critical role and been more important than anyone else in the fray. Chu Li wasn't stupid. Nothing had escaped his eyes.

In the first battle, Qin Lie had used the Fire Qilin flames to terminate Ye Yihao's control over the infected people, thus foiling his trap.

In the second battle, Qin Lie had cured Xie Jingxuan's voodoo toxin and sealed the wood spirit away with the Demon Sealing Tombstone, enabling the others to turn the situation around.

Perhaps Qin Lie was a little weaker than Luo Chen and Xue Moyan when it came to fighting, but the impact he had on the end result of the battle was obviously larger than that of the other two.

"He Wei, what do you think? Do you also believe that Qin Lie won't be able to survive in the Graveyard of Gods now that he has left us?" Ultimately, Chu Li looked at He Wei.

"Be it by luck or coincidence, Qin Lie did play a role at critical moments. I don't deny that."

He Wei frowned and continued, "However, what Ren Peng and the others said also makes sense. We did help him out twice.

There's no doubt that we were the reason why neither Luo Chen nor Yu Men acted against him at those times. Qin Lie himself was at the early stage of the Netherpassage Realm, but his soul had been shattered and his power had fallen to the Manifestation Realm. His true strength was actually quite limited, and now that he's left us, he will naturally face many obstacles in the Graveyard of Gods."

"I can't believe that you think so as well." Chu Li was at a loss for words.

"Do you really think that Qin Lie is stronger than Luo Chen, Yu Men, or Feng Yiyou? Do you really think that he can cause havoc in the Graveyard of Gods while in the early stage Netherpassage Realm?" He Wei smirked.

"Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan are just martial practitioners of Heavenly Sword Mountain's vassal forces. In reality, they just can't be compared to Du Xiangyang. They just got lucky, that's all." Hu Ping's expression was full of disdain.

"Even if some guy from a vassal force got lucky, there's no way he would be complacent for long." Wei Liang agreed.

In reality, these people looked down on any martial practitioner of a vassal force with all their hearts. They just couldn't help but feel that those people were beneath them.

Qin Lie, Xie Jingxuan, and Song Tingyu hailed from the Scarlet Tide Continent, while Profound Heaven Alliance was a vassal force

of Heavenly Sword Mountain.

Based on this alone, they felt that they were above them, subconsciously looking down on Qin Lie and the others.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

Suddenly, the sound of clothes flapping wildly in the wind resounded from afar.

“Check the tokens!” Chu Li ordered.

Ren Peng and the others hurriedly took their tokens from their waists and inspected them with their minds.

Two tokens immediately burst forth with intense activity.

“They’re from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Celestial Artifact Sect!” Hu Ping scowled.

“Everyone be careful!” He Wei’s expression changed as she exclaimed, “They may be Feng Yiyou and Yu Men. Those two are extremely hard to deal with, so we may not necessarily be able to gain the upper hand. We must handle this with caution!”

“Mn!” Ren Peng and the others nodded repeatedly, taking out their spirit artifacts.

They wore serious expressions on their faces as they awaited the enemy.

Back in the Land of Chaos, both Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Feng Yiyou of Celestial Artifact Sect had been difficult characters to fight. They were renowned, young leaders.

They were well aware of how scary those two were, so they didn't dare to relax in the least and immediately prepared to fight.

A dozen or so minutes later.

The two groups of men led by Feng Yiyou and Yu Men were running through the heavy rain like two streams of water.

The two groups consciously kept close to each other, and they seemed intent on joining forces were they unable to escape their enemy.

These two groups of people numbered only about a dozen people in total.

This force was not the least bit inferior to Ye Yihao's alliance with the three great families, but at this moment, it was as if they were fleeing from some fearsome beast, running like headless chickens.

"Wh-what's going on? What are they fleeing from?" Ren Peng wore a look of incredulity.

“Something’s wrong!” Wei Liang wore a grave expression. “These two forces combined definitely don’t need to fear any other force in the Graveyard of Gods! Even if Ye Yihao’s group came by, they would still be evenly matched! What on earth are they running away from?”

“This makes no sense!” Hu Ping was also puzzled.

“I don’t think they’re escaping from someone, but rather from something!” He Wei thought that she understood the crux of the matter. “It must be the thunder spirit of the Forbidden Land of Thunder! It must be!”

Ren Peng’s expression shook. He also believed that Feng Yiyou and Yu Men’s groups had been utterly defeated and were now being pursued by the thunder spirit.

That sentiment lasted until they saw a familiar character…

“Q-Qin Lie!” Chu Li suddenly let out a strange cry.

Qin Lie followed right behind Yu Men and Feng Yiyou’s groups, summoning thunder clouds and crisscrossing lightning above his head.

Lightning bolts the size of enormous dragons would occasionally strike down from the thunder clouds, blasting huge, deep pits into the ground upon impact.

It rivaled the explosive might of a Terminator Profound Bomb!

Qin Lie was wrapped in thunder and lightning as he laughed madly, chasing the people before him. With a wave of his arms, he seemed to be in control of many terrifying electrical dragons that struck at Feng Yiyou and Yu Men as if the gods of the Forbidden Land of Thunder had been enraged.

A Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner who lagged behind the group was struck in midair by an explosive lightning strike, convulsing intensely.

Three massive lightning bolts directly bit onto that person like electric dragons that had charged out of the abyss.

The person struggled mournfully, but it was all in vain as he was flooded by lightning and was scorched black in an instant. He plummeted from the air.

This made the people in the rear of Feng Yiyou and Yu Men's groups look as if they'd seen a ghost, and they became even more terrified as they rushed to escape.

At the same time, Qin Lie continued to laugh strangely, chasing down and attacking the two groups.

"You guys just said that, without our help, Qin Lie wouldn't be able to take a single step in the Graveyard of Gods? That he'd be

killed if he ran into either Feng Yiyou or Yu Men?” Chu Li turned around to look at He Wei and Ren Peng’s group of four.

The faces of those four went pale.

……

Chapter 484: Let Bygones Be Bygones

The eyes of He Wei's group of four were blank. They stood frozen in silence, obviously caught off-guard by the unforeseen event before them.

Just a moment ago, the group of four had been ridiculing Qin Lie's actions, thinking that it was their presence that had prevented Luo Chen and Yu Men from butting heads with Qin Lie.

The quartet had thought that Qin Lie would suffer a calamity the minute he ran into either Feng Yiyou or Yu Men.

Deep in their hearts, they had not actually acknowledged Qin Lie's strength. Instead, they assumed that Qin Lie had been able to play a role at some critical moments completely due to good luck.

However, Qin Lie was now brazenly charging forward, seeming to be the master of all thunder and lightning while looking bold and powerful.

In contrast, Feng Yiyou and Yu Men, who they had thought were arrogant sons of heaven, were now leading their subordinates away in a desperate retreat, fully terrified of Qin Lie catching up to them.

This scene was like a merciless slap in the face to He Wei, Ren Peng, and the others.

Under Chu Li's gaze, the quartet felt their faces burning so hot that it was quite uncomfortable.

They had really made a fool out of themselves back then.

"Qin Lie may be weaker in terms of cultivation compared to Feng Yiyou and Yu Men, but surviving in the Graveyard of Gods is definitely not as hard on him as you imagined." Chu Li did not continue to ridicule them and instead narrowed his eyes while saying in a serious manner, "People like him who can treat themselves with extreme cruelty will have a life force that's far more tenacious than you all can possibly imagine!"

The quartet was no longer able to disagree.

The truth was right in front of them, after all.

Right now, Qin Lie was like a violent dragon that wielded thunder and lightning. Wherever he went, thunder roared, and lightning weaved. He was laughing at the sky while wantonly displaying his domineering and vicious side.

Meanwhile, Feng Yiyou and Yu Men were fleeing.

What could be more convincing than reality itself?

"Qin Lie!"

It was at this moment that Chu Li grinned and exclaimed, “Brother Chu!”.

Qin Lie, who was closely chasing after the martial practitioners of Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, paused and looked joyously to where the voice had come from.

He hadn’t thought that he would run into Chu Li’s group of five at the Forbidden Land of Thunder so soon.

In reality, he felt a bit guilty when it came to Chu Li and He Wei. The Spring of Life did not belong to Xue Moyan in the first place, and it was only because of his request and Chu Li’s mediation that He Wei and the others had forfeited their chance to obtain it.

He Wei and the others had all been poisoned by the voodoo toxin before and needed the Spring of Life to replenish the life force that had been consumed by the wood spirit.
In the end, the others from the group left in anger, causing Chu Li to have no choice but to part ways with them.

“What are you doing, kid? Harassing Feng Yiyou and Yu Men?” Chu Li laughed strangely.
“Heh!” Qin Lie let out a dry laugh and watched as Feng Yiyou and Yu Men escaped further and further away. It was not like he had to relentlessly pursue them, so he promptly stopped doing so.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men were both at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm. Their true strength was comparable to a Fulfillment Realm elite, so if they were driven to the brink of

despair, they would probably erupt with terrifying resistance.

If the two put down their prejudices and joined hands to fight against Qin Lie, it was unlikely that he would be able to maintain such an advantageous position.

Therefore, he rationally decided against chasing them any further.

“Feng Yiyou found the location of the thunder spirit. Acting as an ally, he has repeatedly lured people over as sacrifices to break down the thunder barrier…” Qin Lie smiled and explained.

He continued, “If I hadn’t realized Feng Yiyou’s dirty scheme, I might have suffered by his hand as well. At first, we were going to clash against Feng Yiyou, but Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s Yu Men suddenly showed up. These two forces had extremely deep grudges with each other, and they actually disregarded us and were going to fight right then and there. Hah, I pretended to retreat before charging right into the middle of them and summoning a whole sky of thunder and lightning to fall down, blasting them until they fled ignominiously.” Qin Lie erupted into laughter.

“You summoned the thunder and lightning of the Forbidden Land of Thunder?” Wei Liang was caught by surprise as he wore a look of astonishment. “How did you do it?”

Hu Ping was also shocked.

Both of them were well-versed in thunder spirit arts and had been taught by the forefather of Terminator Sect himself. They thought themselves to have a much better understanding of thunder and lightning than most thunder spirit art cultivators.

However, only after breaking through to the middle stage of the Netherpassage Realm could they borrow thunder to cultivate. And even then, they could only passively receive lightning strikes.

It was practically a pipe dream to use their own thunder and lightning power to actively call lightning down from the sky with their body.

He Wei was also extremely shocked.

She had grown up in Terminator Sect as a child, and her father was also an elite in Terminator Sect who cultivated the thunder spirit arts.

He Wei also had deep knowledge of thunder and lightning spirit arts. Just the same, she did not think that Qin Lie could use the thunder spirit art he cultivated to attract lightning strikes from the clouds directly while he was just at the Netherpassage Realm.

This was obviously illogical.

“The forefather is the only one who could temper his soul with thunder to the point where his soul and even his consciousness became imprinted with the power of thunder. Only then was he

able to trigger the thunderous energy in the clouds." Hu Ping's eyes were extremely odd as she thought inwardly, "Could it be that he, Qin Lie, could eventually match the forefather's level?"

"Is it really that hard to attract thunder and lightning?" Qin Lie smiled softly.

A long time ago, when he was still at the second stage of Heavenly Thunder Eradication, Thunder of the Ninth Heaven, he had connected heaven and earth with his body and summoned thunder and lightning to fall with thunderous rumbles to enter his pores and temper his body.

Now, he was at the third stage, Thunder Lightning Soul Refinement, his perception of thunder and lightning grew more and more acute. His connection with them was growing closer as well.

It was getting easier for him to trigger a lightning strike. In fact, it wasn't difficult in the least.

This was the Forbidden Land of Thunder. It was because of this place that he was able to have thunder and lightning to strike wherever he wanted. That was why he had such absolute confidence.

That was why he dared to attack both Heavenly Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain at the same time!

“Hehe, it might not be difficult for you, but for some other people... it is as hard as climbing the heavens!” Chu Li smiled and continued, “After the trial of the Graveyard of Gods has completed, why don’t you and I take a trip to the Heavenly Silence Continent and have a walk around our Terminator Sect?”

Qin Lie smiled calmly. “No problem.”

“I told you that I want to recommend you to the forefather. I believe he will be very interested in you,” Chu Li said seriously.

Hu Ping, Wei Liang, and the others were taken by surprise. Their expressions were full of shock. They were unable to comprehend why Chu Li regarded Qin Lie so highly.

“Du Xiangyang is still at the thunder lagoon. I can’t go too far, so I’ll be going over first.” Qin Lie’s expression moved, and he suddenly said, “There are probably many people who have entered the Forbidden Land of Thunder. If I’m not around and Ye Yihao comes over as well, it will be very troublesome.” He was in a hurry to leave.

“Alright, you go over first.” Chu Li smiled.

He Wei, Ren Peng, and the others immediately felt incredibly awkward.

From Chu Li, they already learned that the thunder lagoon was rather miraculous. It was a mysterious and wonderful place that

was only second to the Land of Buried Gods in the Graveyard of Gods. They knew that that there might be precious treasures inside it.
The reason they entered the Forbidden Land of Thunder was because Hu Ping and Wei Liang were well versed in thunder spirit arts. They wanted to look around the thunder lagoon and see if they could stumble upon some good fortune.

They had been looking around for a while now, but they had yet to acquire any clues. They were not even able to pinpoint an accurate direction.

On the other hand, Qin Lie had come from the thunder lagoon...

They strongly desired to find the thunder lagoon's location through Qin Lie. They were even thinking of borrowing Qin Lie's power to probe the secrets of the thunder lagoon and grabbing a portion of the reward.

However, it was as if Qin Lie could not see through their intentions at all.

Qin Lie bid Chu Li farewell and immediately left like a lightning rainbow after letting out a soft laugh. He did not go out of his way to invite them.

He Wei stomped her foot and said angrily, "That damnable bastard!"

“Could he not see through our intentions?” Ren Peng’s face darkened.

“It’s not that he didn’t know our thoughts. He obviously did not want us to know the location of the thunder lagoon. He did not want us to join in on the rewards!” Wei Liang laughed coldly.

“It’s not like the thunder lagoon is his!” Hu Ping had also gotten angry.

A bunch of accusations later, the quartet focused their sights on Chu Li one after another with He Wei taking the lead and asking, “Hey you, Chu! Whose side are you on?”

Chu Li spread out his arms with a look of helplessness and grievance, “Back then, it was you guys who complained about splitting ways with Qin Lie. Naturally, I listened to you all and parted ways with Qin Lie. Qin Lie probably assumed that we are on different paths now, and knew that you guys still held a grudge in your hearts. That was why he was embarrassed to offer an invitation. Well… this is the result. Even if he was willing, he had no choice but to leave quietly.”

“In my opinion, he did this on purpose!” Ren Peng snorted.

“You shut up!” He Wei glared at him fiercely once and scolded, “It was because of you from the beginning! If you hadn’t instigated things, how would I have parted ways with Qin Lie? In reality, I thought that Qin Lie was still okay! It was all because of you!”

Ren Peng's mind went blank, and he let out an expression that was even uglier than a cry, saying drily, "I-I..."

"Ren Peng, you are at fault here," Hu Ping interrupted.

"You shut up too!" He Wei glared at him before pointing at Hu Ping and Wei Liang. "You two are bad apples as well! It's perfectly normal for a woman to be petty, but you two big men are just as petty as I am! How can you call yourselves men?"

All kinds of colors appeared on Hu Ping and Wei Liang's faces. They were both flabbergasted as well.

Chu Li was amused. He laughed non-stop, feeling that the scene was incredibly hilarious.

"You are a bad apple as well!" He Wei rolled her eyes again and pointed her barb at Chu Li, "Chu Li! If you can't settle things with Qin Lie, I'm going to show you a bad time!"

"Tell me then, what do you want to do?" Chu Li said offhandedly.

"I-I..." Despite putting on an impressive show just now, He Wei's face ultimately wasn't that thick. Red, she said embarrassedly, "Actually, I didn't think that we may necessarily be at a loss if we follow Qin Lie. I think, I think we should stay together as a group..."

Nearing the end of her words, He Wei snorted coldly again and exclaimed, “Anyway, settle things with him, okay!?”

“Alright, how would I dare to object to your instructions, Weiwei,” Chu Li bowed his head and promised honestly.

While He Wei was dazed by his reaction, Chu Li extended his spirit armor that was full of stars and broke through the sky.

He charged straight in Qin Lie’s direction.

A few minutes later, at a field of ponds, Qin Lie raised his head to look at the suddenly appearing Chu Li and smiled calmly.

“He Wei told me to come look for you no matter what. She insisted that she wants to join your group,” said Chu Li helplessly after he flew down and shrugged.

“Hehe, just use the Heavenly Sword Mountain or Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s tokens.” Qin Lie laughed loudly. “The thunder lagoon is within a fifty kilometers.”

“Qin Lie.” Chu Li was dumbfounded for a moment, and then said somewhat embarrassedly, “Thanks.”

“Women are women, and we are we. Heh heh, you and I do not need to thank each other,” Qin Lie said coolly.

Chu Li nodded heavily in response.

Chapter 485: Pure Soul Spring

“How was it?”

When Chu Li returned, He Wei hurriedly asked, expectantly waiting for his answer.

Ren Peng and the others also grew anxious.

“They are just within fifty kilometers. It will be very easy to find them if we use the Heavenly Sword Mountain and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain tokens.” Chu Li smiled. “Qin Lie is not as petty as you guys think. He agreed, and he welcomes us to seek out the secrets of the thunder lagoon together.”

“He really didn’t turn us down?” He Wei was surprised.

“Why would he turn us down?” Chu Li countered.

“He kept chasing down Feng Yiyou and Yu Men everywhere here in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. This means that Qin Lie did not need any help at all.” He Wei sighed quietly. “Which means he didn’t need our help in the slightest. We... have no value to him whatsoever.”

“That’s definitely true.” Reng Peng also sighed.

“People don’t always build relationships purely on gains and

profits," said Chu Li with a frown.

"Ah, it was our fault last time. Even I feel a bit embarrassed to face them." He Wei's eyes were filled with bitterness.

At this point, she finally admitted that they had been too petty back in the Forbidden Land of Wood.

"Relax, Qin Lie doesn't fuss over small matters. What's over is over, don't worry about it anymore. Just act as you normally would," Chu Li advised.

"I hope so." He Wei said with a look of helplessness.

……

At the thunder lagoon.

Song Tingyu occasionally looked into the distance, concern clear on her face. She muttered to herself, "Bastard, charging out all by himself. He's being too reckless! Even if his strength has greatly increased in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, he couldn't kill both forces on his own, could he? It's been some time now. Did something happen to him?"

"Relax, even if he can't kill Yu Men and Feng Yiyou, he'll still be able to retreat safely." Du Xiangyang smiled and continued calmly. "It's not like you didn't see how Qin Lie commanded the thunder and lightning in the sky, did you? Hehe, in my opinion, there

probably isn't a single person who can threaten him in the Forbidden Land of Thunder!"

"I think so too," Xie Jingxuan interrupted softly. "Here, it is much more likely that he will be the one hunting down others, and others will find it very difficult to harm him. Even Ye Yihao and the others are probably at their wit's end already."

Xie Jingxuan had previously fought alongside Qin Lie in the stone forest outside Icestone City.

In that battle, the finer points of Qin Lie's thunder spirit arts left a deep impression on her.

She had never seen a miraculous martial practitioner like Qin Lie who could call thunder and lightning down from the sky with his own thunder and lightning power.

This place, where the power of thunder raged, was called the Forbidden Land of Thunder. As a lightning controller, it was highly unlikely for Qin Lie to be at a disadvantage unless he ran into the so-called thunder spirit.

"See? Hasn't he returned?" Du Xiangyang smiled.

As Du Xiangyang said this, Qin Lie could already be seen returning in the distance like a thunderous rainbow.

Song Tingyu's eyes lit up, and a smile appeared at the corner of

her lips once more. She immediately relaxed.

Soon enough, Qin Lie landed in front of the trio and bluntly said, “I killed some of them, but Feng Yiyou and Yu Men managed to escape with their people. I happened to run into some familiar faces, so I didn’t continue my pursuit.”

“It isn’t wise to chase after a cornered enemy. You were right to stop.” Du Xiangyang smiled slightly and changed the subject. “Who did you run into?”

“Chu Li and his group.”

“Chu Li?” Du Xaingyang froze, then chuckled. He didn’t say anything further.

“Are He Wei and that Ren Peng still with Chu Li?” Song Tingyu’s eyebrows tightened.

“Of course,” Qin Lie answered.

“What did you tell them?” Xie Jingxuan asked.

“I didn’t say much.” Qin Lie shrugged and explained the whole thing. Then he said, “I think... they’ll probably make their way here using the tokens.”

“I am thoroughly disgusted with He Wei and Ren Peng’s group

right now!” Song Tingyu snorted.

“Why did you call them over?” Xie Jingxuan also objected. “With you around, we don’t need to fear anyone in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. You’re also capable of examining and investigating this thunder lagoon by yourself. Their help isn’t the least bit necessary. Do we seriously have to share any rewards we discover once they arrive?”

“This…”

Qin Lie was dumbstruck.

“Brother Qin.” Du Xiangyang patted his shoulder and lowered his voice, speaking as if he were someone with experience. “Women and men are different. Sometimes women will fuss over things that seem minor and inconsequential to men like us.”

“It’s not like I want to fuss over little things. He Wei was the one who abandoned us and left.” Song Tingyu continued indignantly. “Also, the things they said prior to leaving were quite unpleasant to the ear. They made it sound like we’d end up dying the moment they left us! Now that they realized that you can wield such power however you want and that you’ve discovered the thunder lagoon, they’ve shamelessly decided to cling to us instead. How disgusting.”

“They are too pretentious.” Xie Jingxuan also expressed her opinion.

“Chu Li treated us well,” said Qin Lie with a frown.

“We welcome Chu Li, but no one else,” Song Tingyu exclaimed softly. Then she thought about it for another moment, sighed, and gave in on her own accord. “Never mind. I know you wouldn’t want to lose face. If they want to come, let them. I just hope they won’t be too greedy if we find something inside of the thunder lagoon.”

Qin Lie then turned to Xie Jingxuan.

“If we truly find something in the thunder lagoon, it’ll be because of you alone. If you don’t mind, then I naturally won’t.” At least Xie Jingxuan was still calm.

Qin Lie nodded slightly.

An hour later.

With He Wei and Ren Peng’s group in tow, Chu Li finally made his way to Qin Lie using the tokens.

“Tingyu, Jingxuan, are you guys okay?” The moment He Wei arrived, she immediately put a smile on her face and greeted them intimately. “Last time… I let you girls down because I let my temper get the better of me. I offer you my apologies. Please don’t take it to heart. Let bygones be bygones, okay?”

“You’re too polite, Sister Wei. Qin Lie did go a little overboard

last time. We understand.”

Song Tingyu, who had been scolding He Wei’s behavior without any trace of politeness just a moment ago, was now wearing a charming, convincing smile on her beautiful face. Her eyes seemed to be filled with smiles, and she looked like she was perfectly accepting of the matter as she graciously spoke with He Wei. It was as if they were good sisters without the slightest grudge between them.

“Let bygones be bygones.” Xie Jingxuan also expressed her opinion with her usual calm attitude.

It was as if she no longer remembered what had happened in the past.

Yet again, Qin Lie was dumbstruck.

He subconsciously looked at Du Xiangyang and noticed that Du Xiangyang was shrugging. He wore an impossibly strange expression that seemed to say, “You will never understand the world of women.”

Standing opposite to them, Chu Li was just as dumbfounded. He also didn’t quite understand how the three women could stand and talk amongst each other so cheerfully without displaying any ill will.

“This is the place.” Qin Lie shook his head. He no longer wanted

to think about the mystery between the three women and instead pointed at the thunder barrier behind him. “This is the thunder lagoon!”

“Qin Lie, I should’ve explained everything about the Graveyard of Gods and the seven spirits earlier.” Chu Li pondered for a moment before growing serious and saying, “I have a bit more information regarding this place. I also know the secrets of the Demon Sealing Tombstone in your possession and how it works.”

“We heard a little from Feng Yiyou,” Du Xiangyang interrupted.

“Oh?” Chu Li’s expression was solemn. “What did he say?”

Du Xiangyang recounted what Feng Yiyou said about the seven spirits, the eight god corpses, and reason why the Graveyard of Gods existed.

“Does this match with what you know?” Du Xiangyang finally asked.

“Well, Feng Yiyou didn’t lie to you guys. The Graveyard of Gods is used as a burial ground for the deceased elites of ancient times. The seven spirits and the eight god corpses are the inner and outer seals of this place.” Chu Li nodded. “Furthermore, the Demon Sealing Tombstone is a spirit treasure specifically forged to seal the seven spirits and prevent them from rebelling. All of this is correct.”

“What about everything else?” Qin Lie interrupted.

“Feng Yiyou did not say much about the thunder lagoon, but I do know something about it=.” Chu Li’s expression straightened.

Seeing that they had begun to talk about important matters, Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan also paid attention to their discussion and became serious.

“Aside from working in tandem with the six remaining forbidden lands to form the inner seal of the Graveyard of Gods, the thunder lagoon is also used to refine an elite’s soul! In ancient times, the powerful existence that created the Graveyard of Gods harnessed thunder lagoons to refine souls. It was the thunder’s purifying power that allowed that existence to exterminate the soul of an elite!

Along with being used to refine souls, it has also been said that the thunder lagoon was used to seal and imprison the souls of elites. The master of the Graveyard of Gods helped specific people seal the souls of elites and trap them inside the thunder lagoon, preventing them from escaping for all eternity.

“Feng Yiyou referring to the thunder lagoon as only one level lower than the Land of the Buried Gods wasn’t an exaggeration. The thunder lagoon and the Land of the Buried Gods might not operate in the same way, but they both have the same function. They are both places where one would bury the bodies of elites or seal their souls!”

Chu Li divulged these secrets to the group.

“Soul crystals of the highest purity can be found in the thunder lagoon. I felt their pure and flawless auras inside of it!” Qin Lie exclaimed.

The eyes of everyone in the group lit up all at once.

Qin Lie hadn’t managed to inform Song Tingyu’s and the others about the soul crystals earlier. Therefore, they were also very excited by the news.

“The higher and more profound a martial practitioner’s realm is, the more beneficial a soul crystal will be to them. A soul crystal can increase one’s soul energy. Regardless of the continent, a soul crystal is a rare and extraordinary treasure!” He Wei’s eyes were also shining. “We’re currently in the Netherpassage Realm. We will grow stronger and break through to the next realm through the cultivation and enhancement of our True Souls. A soul crystal is a true treasure to us. It can increase the rate of our breakthroughs!”

Everyone’s breathing quickened.

“Soul crystals of the highest purity? Can you explain what you felt, Qin Lie?” Chu Li questioned further carefully.

“The soul energy I sensed had no trace of impurities, residual memories, fragmented thoughts, or emotions. In all likelihood, it

was repeatedly tempered and purified by thunder and lightning." Qin Lie pondered while describing it in a serious manner, "Such soul energy resembled that of the purest crystals—clean, translucent, and without a single blemish."

Chu Li's heart beat wildly.

"I think that soul energy might not belong to soul crystals... but a Pure Soul Spring!"

Chapter 486: Three Miraculous Uses!

“Pure Soul Spring?!”

Du Xiangyang and He Wei cried out at the same time, joy and disbelief appearing on their faces. Their eyes glistened with a hint of madness.

At the same time, Ren Peng and the other three Terminator Sect martial practitioners each began trembling. Their eyes glowed with a similarly fervent intensity.

Only Qin Lie’s group that hailed from Scarlet Tide Continent maintained their composure. Surprised and confused, they stared at how He Wei and the others entered a state of rash excitement. Seeing everyone else go mad with joy, they clearly didn’t know just how miraculous a Pure Soul Spring was.

Chu Li sucked in a deep breath to calm his muddled mind, but his voice still trembled a little as he said, “The soul energy isn’t coming from soul crystals. The source of the energy has to be a Pure Soul Spring! My god, there’s actually a Pure Soul Spring in there. I almost don’t dare to believe it!”

“Compared to soul crystals, only god knows how much more valuable a Pure Soul Spring is!” He Wei’s bright eyes shone with extraordinary splendor. Her body trembled slightly. “This is p-practically…”

She couldn’t actually think of a proper adjective for some time.

“Unbelievable. This is literally unbelievable!” Ren Peng muttered to himself.

“Qin Lie! This is probably a Pure Soul Spring!” Du Xiangyang had lost his cool.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan looked each other in the eye before furrowing their brows. They didn’t know about the origins or secrets of a Pure Soul Spring, but judging from everyone’s reactions, they could guess that its effects were extraordinary.

The two women were already regretting their decision to treat He Wei in an intimate manner earlier. They began to inwardly grumble about the arrival of He Wei and the others even more.

“Qin Lie, if you can get the Pure Soul Spring out of the thunder lagoon in there, I guarantee that the doors of Heavenly Sword Mountain and Terminator Sect will immediately open up for you!” He Wei said excitedly.

“It won’t be just Heavenly Sword Mountain and Terminator Sect. If you possess a Pure Soul Spring, you will be able to join any one of the nine Silver rank forces of the Land of Chaos!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed.

“Big Brother Chu?” Qin Lie smiled calmly. “Tingyu, Jingxuan, and I hail from the Scarlet Tide Continent. We know about soul crystals, but... we have never heard of Pure Soul Springs. Please dispel our confusion first.”

“Alright!” Chu Li nodded deeply before immediately saying, “You know about the difference between soul crystals and spirit stones, right?”

“Spirit stones contain spirit energy, whereas soul crystals contain soul energy, correct?”

“That’s right. The spirit energy inside of a spirit stone can replenish the spirit energy of a dantian’s spirit sea inside the body and replenish the body’s strength. The soul energy of a soul crystal, on the other hand, can replenish one’s soul energy.”

“Big Brother Chu, these are basics,” Qin Lie said.

“A Pure Soul Spring is not a soul crystal. It cannot replenish the soul’s energy, nor is it the crystallization of soul energy. It’s a soul of its own!”

Qin Lie’s expression grew agitated.

Chu Li then excitedly said, “A Pure Soul Spring is the product of refining an elite’s soul hundreds of thousands of times. This process of countless rounds of purification, washing away all residual memories and soul fragments, makes the elite’s soul incomparably clean and pure.

“Not just any soul can be refined into a Pure Soul Spring. Only the most resilient souls can be transformed into Pure Soul Springs

after countless rounds of purification!" Du Xiangyang interrupted at an appropriate moment. "For example, we—no, that's not right—even the souls of elites in the Fulfillment, Fragmentation, and Nirvana Realms may not necessarily be able to withstand being constantly refined by the lightning strikes of the thunder lagoon! Even the soul of a Nirvana Realm elite would completely dissipate under an endless barrage of lightning bolts. It wouldn't be able to endure at all!"

"The Imperishable Realm! They had to be in the Imperishable Realm at the very least!" Chu Li's expression was dead serious. "Only a soul of an Imperishable Realm elite could endure ages of lightning fueled refinement, become cleansed of its residual memories, thought fragments, and emotions, and leave behind the purest soul origin!"

"A Pure Soul Spring is the most immaculate soul origin. It has no residual memories or emotions, and no thought fragments. It is just like a newborn baby." Du Xiangyang's eyes shone with an odd light.

At this point, Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan had also grown excited. Their beautiful eyes shone with a light of astonishment.

"A Pure Soul Spring has three miraculous uses!" Chu Li continued.

"First, a Pure Soul Spring can be refined into an artifact soul. If a spirit artifact has a powerful artifact soul inside of it, its quality will rise by leaps and bounds! According to what I've learned, most high rank Heaven Grade spirit artifacts contain artifact souls,

whereas Divine Grade spirit artifacts are certain to have one!

"An artifact soul formed using a Pure Soul Spring is the most stable of all artifact souls. There is absolutely no possibility of it rebelling against the master of the spirit artifact. Furthermore, an artifact soul formed using a Pure Soul Spring can grow infinitely. An artifact soul with such growth allows the quality of the spirit artifact to improve over time! It can be said that a Pure Soul Spring can be used to make a top-tier artifact soul!

"Second, a Pure Soul Spring can allow a practitioner with a severely damaged soul to quickly recover. If the soul of a high realm martial practitioner were grievously wounded, they wouldn't necessarily be able to recover even if several hundred years passed. With a Pure Soul Spring, however, the practitioner would be able to transfer his soul, his life experiences, his emotions, and everything else to it.

"This method is similar to hosting an elite's soul in a new body after the original body has been destroyed. A Pure Soul Spring can be used as a soul lotus seat. Everything about a martial practitioners, their memories, emotions, and even experiences, serve as a record of their life. The transfer of these things can be considered the transfer of a True Soul."

A lightbulb flickered to life in Qin Lie's mind as his eyes suddenly lit up.

The second miraculous use of a Pure Soul Spring was perfect for Xue Li. Half of Xue Li's soul had been refined by Jiang Zhuzhe, and his soul was severely damaged because of it. It would be impossible

for him to recover in a short period of time.

A Pure Soul Spring was the equivalent of an untouched soul. One by one, Xue Li could gather his memories, experiences, and emotions in a Pure Soul Spring.

It was a process similar to that of a soul seizing a new physical body.

By transferring his memories, experiences, and emotions, Xue Li would seize and occupy the pure, clean soul, turning it into his own.

“If someone uses this way to recover their soul, would their soul be weaker than before?” Qin Lie asked as he pondered.

“That depends on the strength of the person’s severely wounded soul, and the strength of the Pure Soul Spring itself. Let’s put it this way: existences that can be refined into a Pure Soul Spring would at least be in the Imperishable Realm!” Chu Li solemnly said. “If a martial practitioner with a realm lower than the Imperishable Realm suffered a grievous wound to their soul and recovered by seizing a Pure Soul Spring and forming a new soul… barring any unforeseen incidents, their soul would be even stronger than before!”

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan’s beautiful eyes lit up.

They both knew about Xue Li and how he was originally in the

Nirvana Realm. If Xue Li, whose soul had been grievously injured, could transfer his memories, experiences, and soul imprints into a Pure Soul Spring and form a new soul...

...then his new soul would be even stronger than his previous one.

Both Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan had noticed what Qin Lie was thinking.

Qin Lie pondered for a moment as a plan formed in his mind.

“And the third use?” he asked.

“A Pure Soul Spring can be refined into a subsoul!” Chu Li exclaimed.

“Subsoul?” Qin Lie was surprised again.

“A Pure Soul Spring with no memories, thought fragments, or impurities to speak of can gradually be refined by an elite and imprinted with their own experiences and processes. They can transform it into a subsoul that is connected to the main soul!” Chu Li said firmly. “A subsoul has many uses. When an elite is breaking through to a new realm and faces a tribulation, the subsoul can help in enduring said tribulation. A subsoul can even be sacrificed to prevent the main soul from being extinguished!

“In reality, this is a cheat method when facing a tribulation! The

subsoul can absorb whatever is assaulting the main soul so that the main soul can remain safe and sound!" Du Xiangyang added.

"Starting at the Fragmentation Realm, every time a martial practitioner ascends and breaks through to a new realm, they face a tribulation. As their main soul fragments, a subsoul can shoulder some of the burden if they have one. It may even nullify some attacks so that the main soul can smoothly break through to a new realm," Chu Li explained.

"This is somewhat similar to the Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotus, isn't it?" Song Tingyu interrupted.

"No, it's different. It's even more miraculous than the Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotus." Du Xiangyang shook his head with a smile.

"The Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotus only helps martial practitioners at the peak of the Fragmentation Realm who are aiming to ascend to the Nirvana Realm. Swallowing a Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotus during ascension would allow the souls of such martial practitioners to be protected by a lotus formed by Profound Yin energy. Furthermore, nine illusory souls would also appear around the lotus to confuse fate itself and endure some of the Nirvana Fire on behalf of the martial practitioner, acting as a buffer for their True Soul."

Du Xiangyang continued, "However, the martial practitioner ultimately has to face the majority of the Nirvana Fire. The illusory souls formed by Profound Yin Nine Leaf Lotuses enable their True Soul some time to gauge the strength of the Nirvana Fire as it burns the illusory souls. As a result, the martial

practitioner would be able to estimate of the Nirvana Fire's power and have some time to prepare. However, once the illusory souls are extinguished, the True Soul would still have to face the Nirvana Fire.

"In contrast, a subsoul formed by a Pure Soul Spring can completely absorb the Nirvana Fire in place of the True Soul! The subsoul can prevent such a tribulation and subsequent consequences the True Soul would face!"

"In addition to that, a subsoul can also be detonated during critical, dangerous situations . Terrifying power can be unleashed to aid the main soul in escaping from an enemy's deadly entrapment!" He Wei could not help but interrupt.

"A subsoul also has another miraculous use in that it can be hosted in a new body and be refined as a doppelgänger," Ren Peng also chimed in.

"To the most powerful elites in the Land of Chaos, a Pure Soul Spring is the most precious of treasures that can only be encountered through good fortune! I heard that Forefather Terminator has been attempting to find a Pure Soul Spring for the longest time and is willing to trade two Copper rank vassal continents for one!" Du Xiangyang said softly.

"Two Copper rank continents?!" Qin Lie was shocked beyond words.

The Scarlet Tide Continent was a Copper rank continent of its

own. A Pure Soul Spring could be exchanged for two Scarlet Tide Continents?

This was incredibly hard to believe.

“Our forefather isn’t the only one. Who among the elites that have reached the Nirvana or Imperishable Realms wouldn’t want to refine a subsoul that can protect their lives?” Chu Li countered. Then, in a solemn voice, he said, “In certain situations, having a subsoul is the same as having an additional life! How precious do you think that is?”

Chapter 487: New Cracks

When Chu Li finished his explanation, Qin Lie and the others who hailed from the Scarlet Tide Continent were thoroughly shocked.

A single Pure Soul Spring could be exchanged for two Scarlet Tide Continents. This meant gaining authority over the entirety of each continent—the right to control all sorts of mineral resources, spirit materials, and more. What kind of concept was that?

The Scarlet Tide Continent was just a Copper rank continent, and Profound Heaven Alliance was just one of the two strongest forces on it.

A Pure Soul Spring was worth two such continents. It was clearly valuable.

“Is it really that rare and precious?” Qin Lie was completely astonished.

He looked at Chu Li.

“Du Xiangyang isn’t talking nonsense. Our forefather did say that he was willing to trade control over two Copper rank continents for a single Pure Soul Spring.” Chu Li smiled bitterly. “Our forefather is in the Imperishable Realm. If he wishes to step into the Void Realm, he must face a great tribulation, but... he isn’t confident that he can survive one.

“The great tribulation between the Imperishable Realm and the Void Realm is a heavenly divide for martial practitioners who wish to surmount it. Out of ten martial practitioners, at least eight perish trying to do so. The chances of success are only twenty percent.” He Wei sighed deeply. “If a Pure Soul Spring is obtained and used to refine a subsoul, then it would be possible to use the subsoul to weather the tribulation while its martial practitioner breaks through to the next realm. There would be an extremely high chance that their breakthrough is successful.”

“A Pure Soul Spring is an ultimate treasure that every elite dreams of!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed softly.

Qin Lie nodded slightly.

It was only now that he clearly understood the value of the Pure Soul Spring in the thunder lagoon.

He remembered sensing six separate auras of extremely pure soul energy. This meant that there were probably six Pure Soul Springs in it.

Six Pure Soul Springs could be exchanged for twelve continents comparable to the Scarlet Tide Continent. Just thinking about it sent shivers through one’s spine.

“Zzzt!”

A dazzling electrical light suddenly shot from the thunder barrier behind all of them.

Behind He Wei, Hu Ping's expression suddenly changed as his bright eyes went dim.

"How strange. Even a wisp of my soul consciousness was destroyed by that thunder barrier." Seeing that the group was looking at him, Hu Ping frowned and exclaimed in surprise, "I cultivate a thunder spirit art though, so why is this happening?"

When he found out that the thunder lagoon contained Pure Soul Springs, Hu Ping, who cultivated a thunder spirit art, had an idea.

He considered himself well-versed in thunder spirit arts, so he attempted to inspect the thunder barrier with his soul consciousness and see if he could penetrate it, get to the bottom of the thunder lagoon, and confirm how many Pure Soul Springs there were.

Unfortunately, his soul consciousness was immediately destroyed by thunder as soon as it went into the thunder barrier. He didn't manage to get any farther.

That was why his eyes had gone dim.

So he just gave everyone a nonchalant explanation when they turned to look at him. He thought that was the end of the matter.

“This is bad!” Qin Lie’s expression changed.

Hu Ping frowned and asked, “What’s wrong? I was just inspecting the barrier with my soul consciousness. Is there a problem?”

“We can’t even sense the area even a little bit?” Wei Liang also complained.

He Wei frowned slightly, but didn’t say anything. She was also looking at Qin Lie, suspicion on her face, obviously thinking that Qin Lie had overstepped his bounds.

Qin Lie was going to explain, but when he saw the attitudes of Hu Ping, Wei Liang, and He Wei, his expression went cold and he kept silent.

“Qin Lie, what’s wrong? Is there a problem?” Chu Li was the only one who felt that the situation wasn’t right, and he hurriedly expressed his concern and wariness.

“Prak!”

It was at this moment that thunder and lightning rumbled and flashed from the thunder barrier’s interior. Lightning bolts accompanied by thunderous rumbling shot from the barrier as if they were giant dragons charging out of an abyss.

All of them were as thick as pails and several dozens of meters

long!

The dazzling lightning bolts all shot toward Hu Ping as if they had minds of their own. They looked terrifying.

“Dammit, what’s going on? I just probed it with my soul consciousness!” Hu Ping screamed.

“Every person who has used their soul consciousness to probe the thunder barrier suffered lightning strikes and was killed. Their souls were sucked into the bone ash urns that Feng Yiyou put inside of the barrier. I told you about this shortly after you arrived, did I not? Yeah, I believe I did,” Qin Lie said indifferently.

“But I cultivate a thunder spirit art!” Hu Ping let out a strange yelp.

Dozens of giant dragons made of lightning enveloped him. He released blood-curdling screams as he was instantly engulfed.

Everyone’s scalps felt numb just listening to Hu Ping’s screams constantly ringing out amidst the lightning strikes.

“Save him! Hurry up and save him!” He Wei cried.

Chu Li was also incredibly anxious, but he had no idea how to deal with current situation. He was worried that, if he acted recklessly, he would provoke the thunder barrier to retaliate with an even greater lightning attack.

Wei Liang also cultivated a thunder spirit art, but his level of ability was slightly weaker than Hu Ping's. Even his realm was a rank lower than Hu Ping's.

If even Hu Ping couldn't protect himself, what could Wei Liang possibly do? Would he attract a second attack from the thunder barrier if he interfered?

Therefore, Wei Liang also refrained from taking any action.

He Wei knew nothing about thunder spirit arts, which was why she was very wary of this location's violent thunder and lightning. Although her cries for help were loud, she also didn't dare to move carelessly.

Since even they didn't move to help Hu Ping, it was only natural that Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan wouldn't interfere. They stood by and watched indifferently as the matter developed.

Previously, when Qin Lie said that the situation was bad, Hu Ping, Wei Liang, and He Wei's attitudes were unpleasant. In light of this, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang only took pleasure in Hu Ping's suffering. Even if they had a way to save him, they wouldn't.

The only person in the group who could do something was Qin Lie.

However, Qin Lie kept his silence, a helpless, sympathetic look on his face.

As a result, Hu Ping took the entire onslaught of lightning bolts surging from the thunder barrier. The thunder and lightning energy that bombarded the small area held him firmly in place.

The group could only watch from afar.

No one dared to foolishly interfere.

Hu Ping's blood-curdling screams lasted for fifteen whole minutes before the lightning bolts disappeared and vanished into the ground.

Hu Ping lay limply on the floor, miserable and burned. His face resembled black charcoal, and his eyes had lost all their spirit. He had obviously suffered horrible wounds, and it was unlikely that he would be combat-ready for some time.

"You're lucky that you cultivate a thunder spirit art and that your body has been tempered by the thunder spirit energy inside of it. This is the only reason why you barely endured those lightning strikes," Qin Lie said. "Otherwise, your physical body would've been destroyed, and your soul would've been sucked into the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation inside the thunder barrier just like everyone else that was tricked by Feng Yiyou."

Qin Lie had known from the very beginning that a thunder and lightning attack of this level wouldn't endanger Hu Ping's life.

Even though Hu Ping's cultivation method was gentler than Qin Lie's Heavenly Thunder Eradication, it was still a thunder spirit art.

Qin Lie could tell that the thunder spirit art Hu Ping cultivated focused on the gradual conversion of spirit energy into thunder and lightning energy. It emphasized the formation of thunder Natal Palaces before using the thunder energy inside of them to temper his body over and over.

Qin Lie's cultivation method was completely different from Hu Ping's.

From the very beginning, the strange formation inside of Herb Mountain attracted, broke down, and weakened the thunder from the Ninth Heaven before directly tempering Qin Lie's body with thunder and lightning, resulting in the formation of thunder energy.

Qin Lie's cultivation was fraught with unimaginable pain and torture.

If he hadn't been able to borrow the Soul Suppressing Orb's power and enter the state of Thoughtless Tranquility, he might not have necessarily been able to endure the pain caused by thunder from the Ninth Heaven entering his body.

The thunder energy formed by Hu Ping's cultivation method was obviously incomparable to the thunder energy formed by tempering one's body with a method as extreme as Qin Lie's.

"Wei Liang! Don't be reckless!" Chu Li hastily warned.

Wei Liang shook his head repeatedly, his face pale. With a dry voice he said, "I won't! I definitely won't! Don't worry!"

It was only then that He Wei moved closer to Hu Ping, crouched low, and asked, "Hu Ping, are you okay?"

"I won't die!" Hu Ping grunted through gritted teeth.

When he finished speaking, he shot Qin Lie a fierce glare, seemingly aware that Qin Lie had purposely let him suffer for his actions.

"Are you glaring at me?" Qin Lie narrowed his eyes and smiled calmly. In a blunt manner, he said, "I warned you. You were the one who thought you were so good that you'd be able to get inside the thunder barrier just because you cultivate a thunder spirit art. Did I have anything to do with you being struck by lightning just now?"

"I..." Hu Ping's face was grim, and he could not find the words to argue with Qin Lie even though he wanted to.

"Nine people perished before you were attacked. You should be

grateful that you're still alive instead of trying to push the blame onto someone else." Qin Lie snorted.

Everyone could see the frost on Qin Lie's face.

"You can control the thunder and lightning in this place, so you should've had the ability to help him, yet you just stood by and watched without lifting a finger!" Wei Liang could not help but interject.

"Didn't you do the same thing? You cultivate a thunder spirit art too, but what did you do?" Qin Lie's face was full of impatience, and his tone grew increasingly rude as well. "I think I saw you secretly backing away from him just now. Am I right?"

"I-I couldn't help him. I don't have any way to free him from those thunder and lightning dragons!" Wei Liang argued, red in the face.

"Shut up!" Chu Li exploded.

Wei Liang immediately closed his mouth, but his eyes betrayed that he was still unconvinced.

"This is Hu Ping's fault. Let bygones be bygones and stop arguing, okay?" He Wei said in an attempt to smooth things over. "Back in the Forbidden Land of Wood, we got along quite happily, didn't we? It's true that you, Qin Lie, are a lot more capable than we are in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, but won't you need us

once we leave? We still have to enter the Land of Buried Gods and continue surviving in the Graveyard of Gods. There'll probably be a lot of things we'll need each other for in the future. There's no need to spoil things right this moment, is there?"

After a pause, He Wei continued, "Also, back when Luo Chen and his group came to attack you and Tingyu, it was our presence that dissuaded him, right? When Yu Men showed up later on, we were the ones that dissuaded him. What do you think?"

"You shut up too, He Wei!" Chu Li couldn't stop himself from yelling.

"I'm just stating the facts. I don't mean anything by it," He Wei explained.

Qin Lie frowned and kept quiet.

"Allow me to say something about fairness," Du Xiangyang suddenly interrupted. "I wasn't around when Luo Chen went after Qin Lie and Song Tingyu, so you guys might've been the reason why Qin Lie avoided danger that time.

"However, when Yu Men appeared, I seem to recall that the person he was pursuing wasn't Qin Lie, was it? He immediately wanted to fight Luo Chen, but the battle ended prematurely because Ye Yihao was about to arrive. Me, Luo Chen, and Illusory Demon Sect's Xue Moyan were at Qin Lie's side at the time, so Yu Men didn't show up specifically to kill Qin Lie. Am I remembering everything correctly?"

“That’s how I remember it!” Song Tingyu snorted coldly.

“Then you, He Wei, have remembered wrongly.” Du Xiangyang smiled calmly.

A look of embarrassment suddenly surfaced on He Wei’s face.

“I also remember that Qin Lie gave you three drops of voodoo insect blood without asking for anything in return. Strictly speaking, he saved your lives…” Du Xiangyang said.

“W-we conceded our portions of the Spring of Life in return!” Ren Peng could not help but interrupt.

“Speaking of the Spring of Life… heh.” Du Xiangyang’s smile was odd as he shook his head and said, “It was Qin Lie who cured Xie Jingxuan’s voodoo toxin, and it was Xie Jingxuan who used the wooden sculptures to tear down the wood spirit’s wall, breaking the soul connection between Ye Yihao and the wood spirit. After that, Qin Lie used the Demon Sealing Tombstone to seal the wood spirit, finally forcing Ye Yihao to retreat.

“If—and I am just saying if…” Du Xiangyang continued. “ If Qin Lie hadn’t cured Xie Jingxuan’s voodoo toxin with the voodoo insect blood or sealed the wood spirit with the Demon Sealing Tombstone, and if Xie Jingxuan hadn’t torn through the wood spirit’s wall, do you seriously think that Ye Yihao would have retreated and allowed everyone else to safely withdraw?”

With the exception of Chu Li, who wore a pensive expression on his face, Du Xiangyang's words made the faces of everyone from Terminator Sect become grim.

"Let me put it this way: if we were to honestly and fairly distribute the Spring of Life, only two people would be qualified to accept the rewards." Du Xiangyang smiled and pointed at Qin Lie and Xie Jingxuan beside him, saying, "I'm very sorry, but those two are on our side. They wanted to give all of the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan, and I personally don't think of that as a problem. As a result, we don't owe you for that."

At the end of his statement, Du Xiangyang started to use "we" when speaking of himself and Qin Lie's group. It was obvious that he considered himself on the same side as Qin Lie.

"If we really want to get to the root of this, we don't actually owe you anything. On the other hand, it seems that you guys still owe us something... what do you think?" By this point, the gentle smile on Du Xiangyang's face had already faded away.

The faces of He Wei's group grew increasingly tense.

Meanwhile, Chu Li was incredibly embarrassed by the situation. After listening to He Wei and the rest bicker about the issue over and over, his carefree attitude made him subconsciously think that it was Qin Lie who owed them.

Now that Du Xiangyang had solemnly laid everything out step by

step, he finally understood that it was He Wei, Ren Peng, and the others who were completely biased and only saw things from their own point of view.

In reality, Qin Lie owed them nothing.

On the contrary, it was his group that was taken advantage of.

Chapter 488: To Each Their Own!

Qin Lie had been keeping quiet all this time.

He could see from the attitudes of Ren Peng, Hu Ping, Wei Liang, and He Wei that all four resented him. Chu Li was the only one that didn't.

Qin Lie stood by and watched Hu Ping get struck by lightning because he believed that it was the proper punishment for Hu Ping not listening to advice.

He knew that the barrage of lightning strikes wouldn't be enough to kill him, and instead would teach him a lesson.

However, he hadn't expected that Hu Ping would hate him so much.

Later on, he quietly listened to both He Wei's argument and Song Tingyu and Du Xiangyang's counterargument.

With the help of Du Xiangyang's explanation, Qin Lie finally noticed that he didn't owe anything to He Wei or the others.

As of that moment, Chu Li was the only one who truly considered Qin Lie a friend. He Wei's group of four... was not worth his friendship.

After Du Xiangyang laid out the details one by one and explained each of them, he calmly smiled and stopped speaking overbearingly. He gave He Wei, Hu Ping, Wei Liang, and Ren Peng a chance to refute his words.

They tried very hard to think of something to say in response, but unfortunately they couldn't.

No matter how much they racked their brains, they couldn't come up with a rebuttal.

The faces of He Wei and the others began to darken.

The group of people who had been talking with each other cheerfully only an hour ago suddenly went silent all at once. It was as if they had all become mute.

The scene had turned ugly in an instant.

At this moment, He Wei and the three remaining Terminator Sect martial practitioners were looking at Chu Li, whereas Du Xiangyang, Xie Jingxuan, and Song Tingyu were looking at Qin Lie.

"Qin Lie..." A bitter smile spread across Chu Li's face.

"I guess it isn't very likely for our two groups to work together even if we wanted to." Qin Lie smiled calmly, no longer trying to be secretive. "Your three junior brothers deeply resent me, and I

don’t want people with ulterior motives nearby only to betray me at a critical moment. Therefore, Big Brother Chu, I suppose we should just split up and act as we did before.”

Qin Lie stated the facts in a candid manner.

Chu Li seemed embarrassed as he spread his arms wide and said, “I didn’t think things would turn out like this.”

“I didn’t think so either. I originally invited all of you here purely out of goodwill.” Qin Lie sighed. “Unfortunately, that was just wishful thinking. Grudges between us aren’t so easily buried.”

“Qin Lie, you wouldn’t mind if we explore this thunder lagoon, would you?” He Wei suddenly interrupted.

Chu Li frowned slightly, a look of displeasure on his face.

Qin Lie flashed a calm smile, then confidently said, “Of course not.”

With that, he headed toward the other side of the thunder lagoon without another word.

The thunder lagoon took up an enormous area in the Land of Forbidden Thunder, and their two groups of people could definitely split up and explore its mysteries. If they were lucky, both groups wouldn’t even come across each other.

Qin Lie's group had arrived in this location first. This was an excellent place to start exploring.

Yet he had stepped away of his own accord.

"As for the Pure Soul Springs, heh... to each their own, okay?" Du Xiangyang also left with a smile.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan didn't say a word to Chu Li and the others before turning around and walking away, frowns plastered on their faces.

Soon enough, Qin Lie's group departed and went to the other side of the thunder lagoon. Coincidentally, the thunder lagoon separated the two groups.

"Honestly? They pointed out the ways in which our groups conflicted and parted ways with us on purpose because they realized the value of Pure Soul Springs!" Ren Peng laughed coldly.

"Qin Lie obviously could've saved Hu Ping, but he paid him no heed. He was clearly trying to weaken us." He Wei sighed softly. "The Pure Soul Springs are incomparably precious. How could he possibly want to share them with us? That Du Xiangyang treated us kindly all this time, but he suddenly became just as thorny. Aren't the Pure Soul Springs the reason why all of that happened??"

“They think we won’t be able to acquire the Pure Soul Springs without them? Well I certainly don’t!” Hu Ping declared through gritted teeth. “Who does that Qin Lie think he is? He’s just a puny martial practitioner who came from a low rank continent. Does he seriously think he can overturn the skies in the Graveyard of Gods?”

Chu Li’s eyebrows were furrowed in deep concentration. He coldly stared at these people, choosing not to interrupt them.

Their attitudes helped him to gradually understand the situation. He knew that, be it He Wei herself or Ren Peng’s group, they harbored resentment for Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan down to their very bones.

If Qin Lie’s group hadn’t performed so well, both parties could’ve remained amicable.

Unfortunately, Qin Lie stood out too much.

Back at the village in the Forbidden Land of Wood, Qin Lie essentially forced everyone to give every bit of the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan. This incident had been a fish bone in the throats of Ren Peng and the others, causing them discomfort all this time.

Just now, Hu Ping’s greed blossomed and he ignored Qin Lie’s warning against inspecting the thunder lagoon. He had caused trouble for himself and blamed Qin Lie for not saving him.

Adding up all of these cracks, it would be naive for Chu Li to try and keep both parties together as if nothing had happened.

Chu Li already realized that the problem was on his side, but Hu Ping, Ren Peng and Wei Liang were his junior brothers who loved and respected him. Furthermore, He Wei was his beautiful childhood sweetheart. Even though Chu Li knew that the problem was on his side, he couldn't just abandon them.

All he could do was stick with them.

At the other side of the thunder barrier, Song Tingyu was also muttering criticism.

"Once a crack forms, it'll be very hard to mend it. Besides, it wasn't our fault in the first place, so why should we have to put up with them?"

"If they wanted to save face, they wouldn't have come," Xie Jingxuan said coldly.

"You women..." Du Xiangyang let out an involuntary laugh, shook his head, and said, "You wouldn't understand friendship between men. If it weren't for his friendship with Chu Li, do you think Qin Lie would've let those people join us? His honor wouldn't have let him..."

"Qin Lie, we didn't mean to be at odds with them, but that He Wei kept distorting the truth. Everything she said was unpleasant

to the ear. She kept making it sound like we owed them all along!” Song Tingyu’s beautiful eyes were full of helplessness as she pulled at Qin Lie’s arm and gently said, “We didn’t put you at a tough spot, did we?”

“It’s fine. I don’t like them either,” Qin Lie said calmly.

“That’s great then.” Du Xiangyang smiled.

After a momentary pause, his smile faded and his face became incredibly solemn. “Before we explore the thunder lagoon, I think we need to come to a consensus!”

“A consensus?” Song Tingyu repeated in confusion.

“About those people from the Terminator Sect on the other side of the thunder barrier...” Du Xiangyang pointed a finger in the direction of Chu Li’s group and sucked in a deep breath. Then he exclaimed, “From now on, our paths are separate. We won’t cooperate with them in the future! At the same time, the Pure Soul Springs within the thunder lagoon are miraculous treasures that would make anyone go green with jealousy. It is extremely likely that conflict will break out between both groups as we explore and search for the Pure Soul Springs. I want to know what your attitudes will be should conflict truly occur!”

Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan’s faces experienced an abrupt change in color.

Du Xiangyang had brought up a very complicated problem.

The second Qin Lie's agreement with Terminator Sect was broken, both groups could suddenly become enemies.

The possibility of conflict erupting between both parties as they explored the thunder lagoon and sought the Pure Soul Springs was definitely high. If they truly were to meet on the battlefield, what would they do?

An very grim predicament lay before them!

"Qin Lie!" Xie Jingxuan exclaimed softly.

Song Tingyu frowned deeply. Then, in a soft voice, she asked, "What do you think we should do?"

"The second conflict breaks out, any mercy may result in casualties of our own!" Du Xiangyang's expression was serious. "Furthermore, I believe that, except for Chu Li, none of those bastards would be merciful!"

He looked deeply at Qin Lie and said, "If everything were the same as when I first met you, I believe that you definitely wouldn't have mercy on them. Now, however..."

After Qin Lie had his soul tempered by the thunder and lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Du Xiangyang noticed that he seemed to have become surprisingly gentle. His eyes no longer

shone with the mad gleam of ambition. A seed of evil used to be buried deep within Qin Lie's heart. He had been the kind of savage that would think of a way to offend others even if they hadn't offended him.

Now, however, the current Qin Lie seemed both gentle and harmless.

Yet, when he clashed with Feng Yiyou and Yu Men, he looked as violent and extreme as usual.

Because of these conflicting images, Du Xiangyang wasn't able to get a clear understanding of Qin Lie.

Du Xiangyang couldn't figure out what Qin Lie was thinking, so he was worried that Qin Lie would let his relationship with Chu Li affect him—

—he was worried that Qin Lie would be merciful in a life and death situation, giving the other party the opportunity to harm them significantly.

"From this point onward, they are enemies," Qin Lie said calmly.

After a momentary pause, Du Xiangyang chuckled and nodded. "Then I'm at ease."

Xie Jingxuan let out a sigh of relief.

Song Tingyu giggled and hugged Qin Lie's arm tightly. Her ample breasts pressed against his arm, covering half of it.

"Guard me. I'm going to inspect the thunder lagoon one more time to see if the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation that Feng Yiyou left behind will be a threat to us," Qin Lie said indifferently, adjusting his mindset as he sat down cross-legged. He gathered a wisp of soul consciousness and slipped it into the thunder lagoon.

Du Xiangyang, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan stayed by his side, watching over him.

Chapter 489: Detecting The Thunder Spirit

Qin Lie renewed his efforts to explore the thunder lagoon.

A wisp of soul consciousness quietly snuck into the thunder barrier like a shapeless ribbon capable of passing through anything.

In the field of crisscrossing electrical power, multiple bone ash urns were scattered throughout the thunder barrier, spinning chaotically.

Every urn contained a True Soul. The malice of these True Souls had been activated by some sort of evil power, riling them into a brutal frenzy. They looked like they would explode and disappear at any moment.

The Consecutive Soul Splittings Formation originally still lacked five sacrificial souls, but after Zhang Sheng and the others perished one after another, new True Soul sacrifices flew into the urns. This led to the formation gradually filling with soul energy.

With his wisp of soul consciousness, Qin Lie roamed around the edges of the thunder barrier. He grew shocked as he watched the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation grow increasingly unstable.

He wasn’t sure when the formation would explode and didn’t dare to stay any longer than necessary, so he directed his soul consciousness into the depths of the thunder lagoon.

The moment Qin Lie's soul consciousness moved farther inward, he immediately sensed six pure, unblemished soul auras.

It was the six Pure Soul Springs!

This time Qin Lie examined the area seriously and discovered that the six Pure Soul Springs continuously radiated clean and unblemished soul auras. They resembled pristine fountains of energy that flowed from the depths of the thunder lagoon.

These soul auras were powerful and vast, yet were as pure as newborn babies that had never experienced anything worldly. As a result, they contained no impurities.

Qin Lie's wisp of soul consciousness hovered around the Pure Soul Springs before attempting to delve deeper.

All of a sudden, crystals filled with soul energy flooded his senses.

"Soul crystals! These are definitely soul crystals! The depths of the thunder lagoon are actually covered in them!" Qin Lie thought.

However, in the next moment, a violent, thunderous soul energy abruptly spread from underneath the thunder lagoon.

"Aooo!"

This ferocious, terrifying howl seemed to embody the rage of a thunder god. It resounded throughout all of the thunder lagoon.

Everyone in the area heard this deafening howl.

“Crack! Crack!”

Soul crystals could be heard rolling around the depths of the thunder lagoon. Then, as if the soul crystals had been pressed together into a single entity, they transformed into a strange, crystalline beast.

The thunderous energy in the entirety of the thunder lagoon immediately increased several times over. The lightning that struck from the depths of the clouds intensified to a shocking degree, looking like an overflowing heavenly river.

Startled by this, Qin Lie had his wisp of soul consciousness beat a hasty retreat.

In the next moment, right next to the thunder lagoon’s exterior, Qin Lie opened his eyes. They shone radiantly, and in a deep tone, he exclaimed, “The thunder spirit is in the depths of the thunder lagoon!”

“You woke it up?” Wariness showed on Du Xiangyang’s face as if he were facing a great enemy.

“Aside from the six Pure Soul Springs floating inside of the

thunder lagoon, the bottom of the lagoon was also covered in soul crystals. That thunder spirit was a strange, crystalline beast. Not only was its soul incredibly powerful, its body was also filled with thunderous energy," Qin Lie explained.

"There are soul crystals too? A large amount of them?" Song Tingyu grew excited.

"That's right, a large amount of soul crystals!" Qin Lie said with certainty. After sucking in a deep breath, he continued, "First we need to deal with the thunder spirit. Once the thunder spirit is sealed, the barrier of the thunder lagoon should become inactive. Even the Forbidden Land of Thunder's electricity-filled sky should vanish as well. The thunder spirit is the eye of this land's formation. If it's sealed, the formation here should cease to function as well."

Having experienced the sealing process twice, once in the Forbidden Land of Fire and once in the Forbidden Land of Wood, Qin Lie was gradually figuring out how they worked and steadily getting more of an understanding of the seven spirits.

Back in the Forbidden Land of Fire, meteors used to fall and flames used to scorch the sky. The temperature used to be frighteningly high, and there used to be lava ponds as far as the eye could see.

However, after the Fire Qilin was sealed, meteors no longer fell like rain in the Forbidden Land of Fire. The volcanoes there seemed to have gone dormant, and the originally blistering temperatures seemed to have gone down significantly as well.

Similar changes occurred in the Forbidden Land of Wood.

After the wood spirit was sealed, every ancient, towering tree seemed to have become lifeless, unable to attack in an organized manner with the disappearance of the wood spirit. It was as if they had all lost their souls at the same time.

Qin Lie believed that the Forbidden Land of Thunder would be no exception.

“You’re the only one who can seal the thunder spirit because you have the Demon Sealing Tombstone!” Song Tingyu said abruptly, her beautiful eyes alight. “Once the thunder spirit is sealed, the barriers around the thunder lagoon should disappear. Even the Forbidden Land of Thunder would lose the lightning and thunder that fills it sky. When that happens, you’ll lose the advantage that the Forbidden Land of Thunder gives you…”

“I don’t think Feng Yiyou and Yu Men would give up on the searching the Forbidden Land of Thunder.” Du Xiangyang’s expression was grim.

“The moment the Forbidden Land of Thunder is no longer covered in thunder and lightning, we might not be able to face Feng Yiyou and Yu Men as easily as we did before,” Xie Jingxuan interjected.

“There’s also Luo Chen to consider. He was the most knowledgeable about the Forbidden Land of Thunder’s location, so

he should be here somewhere. Then there's also the people under Ye Yihao. After losing the wood spirit in the Forbidden Land of Wood, they should have come here. In addition to that..." Song Tingyu looked ahead of them at the people from Terminator Sect, saying, "They're here as well."

Qin Lie's eyebrows were tightly furrowed.

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Du Xiangyang's worries were justified. If Qin Lie did seal the thunder spirit, then the Forbidden Land of Thunder would lose the wide coverage of its violent thunder and lightning. He would no longer be able to control the area.

Once that happened, everyone they had previously beaten back would rush them and tear them apart like beasts.

"We shouldn't seal the thunder spirit. At the very least, it shouldn't be sealed right now!" Song Tingyu's eyes shone intelligently. "The thunder spirit will be a threat to everyone, but it is also a solid stronghold on your side! The Forbidden Land of Thunder will only continue to unleash its thunder and lightning for as long as the thunder spirit remains the eye of its formation. This is the only way we can remain the strongest force in this land!"

"If the thunder spirit isn't sealed, it'll probably be incredibly difficult to enter the thunder lagoon and acquire the Pure Soul Springs and soul crystals," Qin Lie argued.

“If even you aren’t able to explore the thunder lagoon and acquire the Pure Soul Springs or soul crystals, everyone else will be even worse off.” Song Tingyu smiled calmly. “Let’s wait. We will let others explore the thunder lagoon and see who is more patient. I believe that, as long as we bide our time, everyone will gather here eventually. When that happens, the situation will become incredibly chaotic!”

A crafty smile stretched across Song Tingyu’s face.

“That’s a good idea!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed in praise. “Miss Song is correct. The more chaotic the current situation becomes, the better it will be for us! Only when everyone has gathered together and started fighting—preferably losing some men, and by extension, their strength—it will be easier for us to acquire the Pure Soul Springs!”

“As long as the thunder spirit isn’t sealed away and the thunder and lightning continue to run rampant the Forbidden Land of Thunder, with you around, we’ll become the strongest force here!” Song Tingyu started to relax. “Since we’ll be at our strongest, why don’t we try our best to kill more of our enemies? If we preserve our combat power while everyone else gets weaker, then seal the thunder spirit and obtain the Pure Soul Springs, couldn’t we just retreat even when the Forbidden Land of Thunder ultimately loses its thunder and lightning?”

“Gather everyone here?” Qin Lie rubbed his chin in contemplation.

“Mn. We’ll release the news of the Pure Soul Springs and soul

crystals. Using the tokens of the various forces in our possession, we'll transmit the information and tell them the location of the thunder lagoon so that all of them will gather here," Song Tingyu said excitedly.

"What do you guys think?" Qin Lie asked.

"In terms of planning and strategizing, I was never as good as Sister Tingyu. Naturally, I'll follow her plan." Xie Jingxuan wore a calm expression.

"Miss Song and I happen to be of the same opinion. I also believe that this is our best plan. We should try and decrease the strength of all forces in the Forbidden Land of Thunder while you are at your strongest. It would be best for us to make everyone grow green with jealousy over the Pure Soul Springs and engage each other in a free for all!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed.

"Alright! Let's do it this way then!" Qin Lie nodded.

"Give me all the tokens at your waists. I will wander around the surrounding area and release a signal for Luo Chen and Ye Yihao to draw them here!" Du Xiangyang volunteered himself for the assignment.

"Be careful." Qin Lie gave the tokens of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great famiies to Du Xiangyang.

Soon enough, tokens of every force except Illusory Demon Sect

were tied to Du Xiangyang's waist.

"Relax, I'm just provoking the enemy, not battling them to the death. I'll be fine." Du Xiangyang smiled and left.

……

"Du Xiangyang left!"

On the other side of the thunder barrier, Ren Peng, who had been constantly paying attention to Qin Lie's group, softly cried out.

He Wei, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang's gazes immediately focused on Qin Lie's group off in the distance. Since they were separated by the thunder barrier, they couldn't see Qin Lie. However, since Du Xiangyang had taken the long way around the barrier when he left, they noticed him leaving.

"What are they doing? Why haven't they broken through the thunder barrier and explored its interior?" Hu Ping grew anxious.

"None of our soul consciousnesses can operate inside the thunder barrier, so there's no way for us to venture deep into the thunder lagoon." Wei Liang wore a worried frown. "The Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation is still inside the thunder barrier. That thing can explode at any moment, and we can't act recklessly before getting a full understanding of the situation."

"I wonder what they're thinking." He Wei was also secretly

frowning.

Although they greatly desired the Pure Soul Springs, they had no way of entering the thunder lagoon.

They could only place their hopes on Qin Lie.

He Wei, Hu Ping, Ren Peng, and Wei Liang had already made up their minds to wait until Qin Lie broke through the thunder barrier and entered the thunder lagoon. Once they confirmed that there weren't any issues, they would tail him.

They all knew that Qin Lie had the Demon Sealing Tombstone and that the thunder spirit had to be in the depths of the thunder lagoon. They were hoping that Qin Lie would use the tombstone to seal the thunder spirit, forcing the Forbidden Land of Thunder to lose its violent thunder and lightning.

From their perspective, when that happened, the Forbidden Land of Thunder would no longer be under Qin Lie's control!

Once the thunder and lightning disappeared, the Pure Soul Springs would be up for grabs based on individual ability alone. They had already made up their minds to not go easy on Qin Lie.

They were plotting their own schemes.

Unfortunately, the plan that Song Tingyu came up with took all sorts of factors into consideration, including what He Wei and the

others were scheming. That was why she had made the decision for them to bide their time.

“Ooooo! Whoosh whoosh whoosh! Aooo!”

Suddenly, the tokens at the waists of He Wei and the others began emitting shrill howls at the same time.

Fishing out a token and examining it with her mind, He Wei looked at Du Xiangyang, who was still within their line of sight, and screamed, “Du Xiangyang! What the hell are you doing!?”

“Du Xiangyang is voluntarily transmitting signals using the tokens and beckoning nearby martial practitioners of other forces to come here! Dammit! He’s going to make everyone else show up!” Ren Peng flew into a blind rage.

Chapter 490: Summoning The Strong

Ren Peng was furious.

He Wei, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang's complexions immediately darkened, their eyes full of anger.

There were Pure Soul Springs and other rare treasures at the depths of the thunder lagoon. Only Qin Lie's group and Chu Li's group were here at the moment. Wouldn't it be best for them to explore it and collect the Pure Soul Springs as soon as possible?

Why had Du Xiangyang sent messages to every other force and basically invited their martial practitioners to the Forbidden Land of Thunder? What on earth was he trying to do?

The moment that Ye Yihao, the three great families were gathered, Luo Chen, and Illusory Demon Sect arrived, Terminator Sect would have more powerful opponents to contend with if they wished to acquire the Pure Soul Springs.

They might not necessarily even be able to get a single Pure Soul Spring in the end!

Why did Du Xiangyang do this?

They just couldn't understand why. In their eyes, Du Xiangyang was clearly inviting greedy, shameless leopards, wolves, and crocodiles like Ye Yihao to come over.

“When powerful opponents arrive, no one will profit. We’ll also encounter enormous obstacles.” He Wei’s face was riddled with dark clouds.

“We were invited by Qin Lie as well. If he hadn’t told us the location of this place, how long would it have taken us to find the thunder lagoon?” Chu Li suddenly interrupted. “Perhaps Qin Lie discovered that it would be extremely difficult to get through the thunder barrier because of the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation, which is why he spread the news on his own accord, summoning all the different forces here to think of a way to get in.”

“Regardless of why, when Ye Yihao and everyone else arrive, it’ll be troublesome to get even a single Pure Soul Spring!” He Wei said resentfully.

Chu Li calmly replied, “This is the Forbidden Land of Thunder. You saw how Qin Lie chased after Feng Yiyou and Yu Men’s forces just now. No matter what he plans to do or how dissatisfied you are, what can you do?”

What could they do?

He Wei, Hu Ping, Ren Peng, and Wei Liang froze.

It was true that they couldn’t do anything.

If even the combined forces of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain didn't dare to face Qin Lie head on, what could they possibly do?

"The thunder and lightning in the Forbidden Land of Thunder will eventually disappear after the thunder spirit is sealed. When that happens, Qin Lie will return to his true form!" Hu Ping said hatefully, gritting his teeth. "When that happens, I'd like to see if he can still be so smug!"

Chu Li's eyes turned cold, and he simply snorted in response.

……

Somewhere in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Treading through the swamplands alone, Luo Chen resembled a blade that radiated a cold, sharp aura.

He wasn't heading anywhere in particular. All he wanted was to leave the Forbidden Land of Thunder as soon as possible and find the Land of Buried Gods.

He didn't even know where he was.

"Zzzzzzz!"

Suddenly, the Heavenly Sword Mountain token at his waist

released a shrill whistle.

Luo Chen's expression changed as he hastily grabbed the token and inspected it for the message that was transmitted to it.

"I am Du Xiangyang. We have found the thunder lagoon. There are six Pure Soul Springs inside of it! Come quickly!"

The eyes of the wandering Luo Chen suddenly burst with astonishing godly light. "Pure Soul Springs! Six Pure Soul Springs!"

He let out a long howl and shot in Du Xiangyang's direction like a sword beam.

……

In another area of the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

The two groups of people belonging to Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were adjusting their breathing and gathering their strength at two sides of a short hill.

"When the thunder spirit of the Forbidden Land of Thunder is sealed, the violent thunder will quickly disappear. When that happens, Qin Lie will definitely die!" someone yelled angrily.

"I'm going to kill him!"

“He’s dead for sure!”

The two forces were gritting their teeth.

Before long, however, the tokens they carried with them began to emit harsh whistling sounds.

Everyone hurried to grab the tokens and inspect them.

Several seconds later, crazy cheers of joy broke out from both groups. “Pure Soul Springs! There are actually six Pure Soul Springs!”

“I thought they were soul crystals! I didn’t imagine that there would be Pure Soul Springs!” Feng Yiyou was utterly shocked as he screamed, “Turn back! We’re going to get those Pure Soul Springs even if we have to fight Qin Lie to the death!”

“It doesn’t matter who spread this information. We must go back for the Pure Soul Springs!” Yu Men expressed the same sentiments on the other side of the hill.

Soon enough, the two groups of people began to go back the way they came from. Even the threat of death wasn’t enough to deter them from seeking the Pure Soul Springs.

……

“It’s been around a dozen days, and we still haven’t found the thunder lagoon. How annoying.”

Xiahou Yuan’s bald, shiny head was currently inspecting the tokens of various forces to search for signs of other martial practitioners. Impatience was plastered across his face.

Ye Yihao and the people of Black Voodoo Cult were huddled together with Huang Zhuli, softly discussing amongst each other.

“In the Graveyard of Gods, the thunder lagoon is second only to the Land of Buried Gods. According to the information we’ve obtained, a large number of soul crystals should be in inside of it,” Ye Yihao declared from a seated position, his legs crossed. His expression was grim. “There’s no doubting the existence of the soul crystals. There are probably other miraculous soul treasures as well. The thunder lagoon is a place where the souls of elites are constantly being refined. We might even be able to find the fragmented inheritances of those elites, so we have to find its location as soon as possible.”

“Have the three great families spread their men out and search the area, keeping a distance of twenty five kilometers between one another to facilitate communication.” Huang Zhuli’s eyes were dark, and her tone was cold.

“Right away.” Ye Yihao nodded.

Huang Zhuli was Ye Yihao’s senior sister. She held an exalted

status within Black Voodoo Cult as well as the sect master's trust.

Her strength, strategic ability, and ruthlessness all struck fear and respect in people's hearts.

Ye Yihao had worked with Huang Zhuli before. In the past, Black Voodoo Cult had forced both of them into dire situations as a form of practice. He was well aware of how frightening Huang Zhuli could be, which is why he accepted her commands so easily.

Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families had just decided on their plan to search for the thunder lagoon when the Heavenly Sword Mountain token in Xiahou Yuan's hands suddenly received a message.

When Xiahou Yuan took a brief moment to examine it, he immediately cried out, his voice trembling.

"Someone reported the location of the thunder lagoon and said there are six Pure Soul Springs in it!"

"Six Pure Soul Springs!"

"Are there actually Pure Soul Springs in there!?"

"Oh my god! The elite of the elite consider Pure Soul Springs an ultimate treasure. Even the sect master has been using all sorts of methods to search for one. To think that there would be Pure Soul Springs in the thunder lagoon!"

In that moment, everyone worked themselves into a frenzy, immediately heading to the thunder lagoon like a howling typhoon.

……

“Sister Xue, will your lifespan continue shrinking without the Spring of Life?” Pan Qianqian timidly asked as she held a translucent, icy shield of light against the heavy rain.

“I’ll be fine,” Xue Moyan said, traces of grief and helplessness on her cold face. A sphere made from glassy haloes surrounded her body. “I need the Spring of Life because of my mother. She… won’t be able to hold on much longer.”

“Curse that Huang Zhuli! I’m going to kill her sooner or later!” Pan Qianqian yelled, clenching her fists.

“You aren’t a match for her.” Xue Moyan shook her head and sighed softly. “Even I’m not confident enough to fight her alone. I’ve gauged her strength and she might be even scarier than Ye Yihao. If my guess is correct, she should be the true leader of Black Voodoo Cult’s Trial participants.””

“Then what should we do?” Pan Qianqian asked in a gloomy voice. “Without the Spring of Life, you and your mother… both of you will…”

“Don’t think about it too much. We can only adapt as the situation changes. As long as we’re alive, there’s hope,” Xue Moyan comforted her.

Pan Qianqian sighed deeply.

After a brief pause, she suddenly spoke up again. “If we could find Qin Lie and the others, we might be able to get the Spring of Life back from Huang Zhuli. That guy... he supports you unconditionally. Although his realm isn’t very high and his true strength can’t be determined, I feel like he’s actually quite capable.”

“Him?” Xue Moyan shook her head slightly. “He’s only in the early stage of the Netherpassage Realm. He has even shattered his True Soul and weakened his realm to cure himself of the voodoo toxin. He’s definitely capable and his heart is as firm as steel... but he won’t necessarily be able to help us.”

Huang Zhuli was at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm, and her strength couldn’t be fathomed. Furthermore, she probably had great treasures of Black Voodoo Cult in her possession.

Not only had Xue Moyan not managed to seize the initiative during her brief clash with Huang Zhuli, she had even let that traitor escape untouched. She knew, then and there, that Huang Zhuli was the true terror of Black Voodoo Cult.

Qin Lie was an incredibly mysterious person in Xue Moyan’s eyes. He had helped her whenever he could and asked for nothing

in return. This puzzled her greatly.

However, she didn't think that Qin Lie could do whatever he wanted in the Graveyard of Gods. In Xue Moyan's opinion, it wasn't realistic to think that he could reclaim the Spring of Life from Huang Zhuli.

"Ooooo!" The Black Voodoo Cult token at Pan Qianqian's waist whistled.

Pan Qianqian picked it up and examined the information inside of it. Then, all of a sudden, she cried out in surprise. "Someone has revealed the thunder lagoon's location through the token! They even revealed that the thunder lagoon is covered in soul crystals and houses six Pure Soul Springs!"

"Pure Soul Springs? Are there really Pure Soul Springs in the thunder lagoon?" Xue Moyan's expression was covered in shock.

"That's what the message says!" Pan Qianqian nodded deeply.

"Pure Soul Springs are exceedingly rare. If we can get our hands on even a single one, I would be able to ask my master to help me exchange it for spring water from the Spring of Life once we exit the Trial!" The prospect came as a pleasant surprise to Xue Moyan. "Master knows someone who has some spring water in their possession, but... that person would only trade it for a Pure Soul Spring. They're willing to exchange all of the spring water from the Spring of Life in their possession, as well as a lot of other precious spirit materials, for just one Pure Soul Spring! The

amount of spring water that person has is far beyond the amount that Huang Zhuli has. It would be enough save both me and my mother!”

……

At the thunder lagoon.

Qin Lie was sitting with his legs crossed as he stared at the crisscrossing lightning in the sky. The unpredictable bolts bathed his face in numerous flashes of light.

“Du Xiangyang has been gone for several days.” Song Tingyu frowned.

“He’ll be fine. That guy might seem harmless, but in reality, he’s as crafty as a fox,” Xie Jingxuan said calmly.

Qin Lie laughed softly and nodded, saying, “Du Xiangyang isn’t a simple person. I’ve had this feeling that he’s been hiding his true strength all this time. It’s possible that he didn’t even reveal his actual trump card when competing against Luo Chen for the right to lead Heavenly Sword Mountain’s Trial participants.

“Are you saying that he might be even stronger than Luo Chen?” Song Tingyu asked in disbelief.

“It’s possible.” A strange light shone from Xie Jinguan’s bright eyes. “Ever since I was given the Wood Race’s inheritance, I’ve

been able to sense biomagnetic fields more keenly. Du Xiangyang's biomagnetic field feels much stronger those of Feng Yiyou, Chu Li, and Luo Chen.""

"Biomagnetic fields are formed from the combined power of the body's physical strength and the refined energy of the flesh and blood. You've seen everyone in the Graveyard of Gods." Qin Lie smiled and nonchalantly asked, "According to your senses, who do you think has the strongest biomagnetic field?""

"You do!"

Chapter 491: Luo Chen's Choice!

"Me?"

Qin Lie was startled for a moment before he let out a pondering look on his face.

"The term biomagnetic field refers to the energy contained inside of a person's body, the combat potential of a body," Xie Jingxuan said with a serious expression. "In my opinion, none of the Trial participants in the Graveyard of Gods can compare to you. Even the biomagnetic fields of Yu Men, Ye Yihao, and Xue Moyan were a lot weaker than yours."

Song Tingyu's beautiful eyes lit up as she cheerfully said, "Now that I think about it carefully, that does seem to be the case."

"Is Du Xiangyang's biomagnetic field strong?" Qin Lie smiled calmly.

"It's a lot stronger than those of other so-called 'children of heaven,'" Xie Jingxuan said in confirmation.

"It appears as though this guy is even stronger than we imagined." Song Tingyu thought to herself for a moment before speaking again. "The feeling he gives off... is reassuring, I guess. He certainly stood by us at critical moments."

"Mn. Let's continue waiting. We should trust him." Qin Lie's

eyes were narrowed.

A couple of hours later.

As expected, Du Xiangyang returned safely. He sat next to Qin Lie with a smile on his face and said, “I don’t think it’ll take long for the thunder lagoon to become a boiling cauldron of noise. All sorts of familiar faces will be coming.”

“How many people have you notified?” Song Tingyu asked in surprise.

“Probably all of them!” Du Xiangyang laughed loudly.

“Now this is going to get interesting!” Qin Lie exclaimed softly.

“When I left, and also as I returned just now, the people on the other side of the thunder lagoon were watching me closely.” Du Xiangyang suddenly frowned. “They didn’t look too friendly. It seems like they’re extremely resentful toward us…”

“Who cares about them?” Song Tingyu curled her lips and laughed coldly, saying, “Those people probably haven’t moved because they’re waiting for us to clear the way for them. They want us to break through the thunder barrier and confirm that everything’s safe before following immediately after.”

“They sure know how to count their chickens before they hatch.” Xie Jingxuan snorted softly.

“Hah, Miss Song is right. They aren’t moving because they’re probably waiting for us to go in first.” Du Xiangyang nodded. “They must have been caught unprepared when they saw us biding our time and even inviting many martial practitioners of other forces in the area. They probably hate our guts by now. Hehe, if this many people fight over six Pure Soul Springs, they might not be able to obtain anything at all. No wonder they’re so displeased.”

“If it weren’t for Qin Lie, they wouldn’t have been able to come here in the first place. He’s the one who brought them here! Besides, if we were truly cold-hearted, we’d have Qin Lie ambush and kill them. They’d immediately suffer terrible losses and be driven off!” Song Tingyu exclaimed coldly.

“Humans are naturally greedy and selfish.” Du Xiangyang sighed softly.

The four of them talked amongst themselves other as they waited, ready to deal with any sudden incidents.

Eventually, a silver figure appeared before them, tearing through the gray sky like a sharp blade.

“Luo Chen!” Qin Lie wore an expression of surprise.

On the other side, He Wei also cried out. “It’s Luo Chen!”

The group of Terminator Sect martial practitioners immediately

grew excited.

“Back in the Forbidden Land of Wood, Qin Lie forced Luo Chen to give his portion of the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan. He must hate Qin Lie down to his very core!” Ren Peng’s mind went to work as he lowered his voice and said, “Luo Chen is powerful alone. We can try to get him on our side!”

“I think that he’ll seek us out on his own.” He Wei wore a smug smile on her face. “Our group and Qin Lie’s group are the only forces here. If he wants to understand the situation, he needs to ask one of us.”

“He’ll definitely come to us for information,” Hu Ping said bluntly.

“We’re stronger than Qin Lie’s group, and we haven’t clashed with Luo Chen before. He’s also been talking about killing Qin Lie since the the Trial began. Of course he’ll join our group.” He Wei was full of confidence.

Chu Li’s group looked at Luo Chen expectantly.

Luo Chen frowned and stopped by another side of the thunder barrier. His position formed a triangle when connected to the positions of Qin Lie’s group and Chu Li’s group. He could see both of the other groups.

Luo Chen looked at the two forces, surprise showing in his eyes

as he made comparisons in his mind.

The fact that Qin Lie's group and Chu Li's group were separate clearly meant that they had parted ways. If Luo Chen wished to understand what was going on in the thunder barrier, he needed to seek out either of the two parties. In addition to that, since he was alone, he also needed an ally.

Luo Chen frowned deeply as his face grew dark with a storm of emotions. He inwardly weighed the pros and the cons.

Chu Li was on one side, and Qin Lie was on the other. One side had five people, and the other had four. Children of the heavens were off to one side, while the other had Qin Lie, a person he had once scorned...

"He'll join us, of course!" Ren Peng raised his head proudly.

"Not necessarily." Chu Li sighed quietly.

The moment Chu Li said this, Luo Chen actually turned his back to them and headed in Qin Lie's direction.

He Wei, Hu Ping, Ren Peng, and Wei Liang were stupefied by this outcome.

Luo Chen actually chose to join Qin Lie. H-how was this possible?

This was inconceivable! It didn't make any sense! Confusion riddled the faces of He Wei and the three Terminator Sect martial practitioners, A deep sense of defeat filled their hearts.

"W-why did this happen? Has he gone stupid or something?" He Wei pulled at her hair in irritation, her face turning grim.

Chu Li let out a long sigh but didn't explain anything.

"Du Xiangyang, were you the one who contacted me?" Luo Chen stopped beside Qin Lie, his face stiff and cold.

Du Xiangyang didn't answer immediately. Instead, he smiled and asked, "Did you not see Chu Li?"

"I saw," Luo Chen said icily.

"Then why'd you come here instead of going to Chu Li? You should be aware that Chu Li knows just as much about this place as we do. You're alone and you need Chu Li as an ally, don't you?" Du Xiangyang asked out of curiosity.

"I don't like He Wei," Luo Chen hissed.

"You don't like He Wei?" A thoughtful expression flashed across Du Xiangyang's face before he let out a soft laugh and rubbed his chin. "Luo Chen. In your opinion, is she more detestable than even Qin Lie?"

Qin Lie involuntarily broke out into laughter.

Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan wore surprised expressions on their faces.

Luo Chen subconsciously glanced at Qin Lie before letting out a snort. In a cold, harsh tone, he said, “At the least Qin Lie will be… a tiny bit more useful than He Wei.”

“Isn’t Chu Li more powerful though?” Song Tingyu was puzzled and couldn’t understand what Luo Chen was thinking, so she couldn’t help but interrupt.

“Chu Li and the rest of those Terminator Sect martial practitioners exhausted their Terminator Profound Bombs breaking through the seal of the ancient trees back in the Forbidden Land of Wood. Without Terminator Profound Bombs, their strength will have weakened considerably. Furthermore, aside from Chu Li, everyone on their side has been infected with voodoo toxin before. They have yet to fully recover.”

Luo Chen paused, then looked at Qin Lie’s group and impatiently explained, “Out of you four, Qin Lie and Du Xiangyang haven’t been infected with the voodoo toxin. Qin Lie also has the Demon Sealing Tombstone in his possession. As for you…”

He pointed at Xie Jingxuan. “The combat power you displayed when fighting against the wood spirit was extraordinary. The four of you are obviously stronger than Chu Li’s group overall. The

roles you play are also more important.”

“Your judgment is sound.” Du Xiangyang nodded slowly.

“Unfortunately, the people opposite from us couldn’t figure any of that out.” Song Tingyu snorted lightly.

“Unfortunately, we do not lack allies, so we will no longer be joining hands with anyone else,” Qin Lie said in an indifferent, calm manner. “I can, however, tell you about the secrets within the thunder lagoon. There are six Pure Soul Springs inside of the lagoon, and its bottom is covered in soul crystals. The thunder spirit, a being with a crystalline body, moves among them. In addition to that, Celestial Artifact Sect’s Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation is mixed in the thunder barrier…”

Once Qin Lie told Luo Chen everything he had discovered, he then said, “If you want to obtain a Pure Soul Spring, you’ll need to think of a way on your own. You can join any group but ours.”

Qin Lie refused to ally with another person.

Even with the thunder spirit running rampant, Qin Lie was enough to deal with any disadvantageous situations in the Forbidden Land of Thunder. He didn’t need any reinforcements whatsoever.

He also didn’t have a favorable impression of Luo Chen.

Luo Chen obviously couldn't tolerate him him. Qin Lie had known this since Sea Moon Island.

Allowing Luo Chen to join them was the same as holding a bomb that could explode any time. How could Qin Lie possibly relax with him around?

"Then I'm afraid we can't help you." Du Xiangyang shrugged while raising his arms. A look of helplessness on his face, he said, "Perhaps you can go over to Terminator Sect? Oh, right, Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain will be showing up pretty soon. Maybe you'll be able to find a new ally in one of them, Luo Chen."

"Weren't you the one who released the information?" Luo Chen's eyebrows twitched.

"That's right," Du Xiangyang confirmed with a smile.

"Why?" Luo Chen asked.

This time, Du Xiangyang shook his head and said, "I can't tell you that."

Luo Chen suddenly fell silent. His eyes blinked repeatedly as if he were considering multiple things at once.

Qin Lie watched him in cold silence.

Seconds later, Luo Chen stared straight at Qin Lie with eyes as sharp as swords.

“Back at the village in the Forbidden Land of Wood, you told me to give up on the Spring of Life and allow Xue Moyan to have all of it. You told me that, if I did that for you as a favor, you would owe me one in return. Will you honor that favor?”

After a moment of surprise, Qin Lie nodded and said, “I may have said such a thing.”

“I’m asking if you will you honor that favor!” Luo Chen yelled.

“Y-yeah, I will.” Qin Qin Lie raised his hands helplessly.

“Good! Then you’ll be returning the favor by allowing me to join you!” Luo Chen snorted.

This sudden turn of events left everyone dumbfounded.

They couldn’t have imagined that Luo Chen would be so insistent about joining them. Did Luo Chen know about Qin Lie’s prowess in the Forbidden Land of Thunder?

No, that couldn’t be the case. Luo Chen had never seen Qin Lie in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

But… why was he so persistent?

He clearly could've chosen Terminator Sect, Celestial Artifact Sect, or Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. He could have even picked Illusory Demon Sect, right?

Du Xiangyang and the others couldn't make any sense of this.

"This…" Qin Lie had been placed in an awkward position.

Luo Chen simply looked at him coldly.

A while later, Du Xiangyang interrupted and smiled bitterly, saying, "Qin Lie, words are like spilled water. You can't take them back unless… well, unless you don't mean them."

"Fine. If you insist on joining us then go ahead. However, you need to use your own abilities to obtain a Pure Soul Spring. We won't help you with that… but we will assist you when others attack you." Qin Lie had no choice but to promise Luo Chen.

"That's fine!" Luo Chen exclaimed coldly.

"B-but… why do you insist on joining us? You have plenty of other options," Song Tingyu asked without thinking.

Qin Lie was surprised and puzzled as well.

Other than Black Voodoo Cult, which he had fallen out with, Luo Chen could have joined any other force through the virtue of his strength alone. Terminator Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Celestial Artifact Sect definitely would've welcomed a powerful ally like him.

Why did he insist on joining Qin Lie's group?

"I don't trust any of them," Luo Chen said impatiently.

"Does that mean you trust us?" Du Xiangyang asked in amusement. "Before entering the Graveyard of Gods, you were the one yelling about killing Qin Lie. Now you're saying you trust him? Ha! Did I hear you correctly?"

"Cut the crap!" Luo Chen snorted coldly Without another word, he surprisingly shut up and sat down.

Chapter 492: Relationship

Luo Chen's stubbornness and his cashing in on the favor Qin Lie owed him made it impossible for Qin Lie to refuse. In the end, he could only force himself to let Luo Chen join them.

Luo Chen was a straightforward guy. After forcing his way into Qin Lie's group, he sat down and ignored Du Xiangyang's barrage of questions.

On the other side of the thunder lagoon, Chu Li's group had reached peak melancholy.

They were well aware of how strong Luo Chen was, and they had been hoping that Luo Chen would seek them out, join them, and add to their strength, giving them a better chance at obtaining Pure Soul Springs.

They never imagined that Luo Chen would actually choose to join Qin Lie.

This dealt a considerable blow to their confidence.

As time continued to pass, new meddlers appeared one after another.

Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Celestial Artifact Sect's groups almost arrived at the same time, once again showing themselves at the thunder lagoon.

They were on the side of the thunder lagoon that Luo Chen had previously arrived at and departed from. They could see the both Chu Li's group and Qin Lie's group.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men's faces were grim. They had been on full alert the moment they arrived, worried that Qin Lie would attack them.

"Du Xiangyang, you sent the message? You told us that there are Pure Soul Springs inside of the thunder lagoon?" Feng Yiyou exclaimed, raising his voice.

Du Xiangyang nodded with a gentle smile and answered, "That's correct. I am indeed the one who sent the message."

Feng Yiyou stared at Qin Lie, his cold eyes filled with hate. "You killed my men and forced us to leave the thunder lagoon. Why did you send a message practically inviting us back?"

"A while ago, you left a Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation behind in the thunder lagoon. Although such a formation is useful for breaking the thunder barrier apart, I... can't control it." Qin Lie was calm and composed, as if he weren't the one who killed the men of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. "My soul consciousness is capable of exploring the thunder lagoon, has sensed six Pure Soul Spring floating within it, and has also detected soul crystals covering the bottom of it. In spite of that, I do not dare to enter the lagoon before the thunder barrier has been broken."

Feng Yiyou erupted in cold, sinister laughter. “You’re afraid that the formation I left behind will explode without warning, aren’t you?”

“The possibility was on my mind.” Qin Lie smiled.

“Hmph! I guess you got lucky, you bastard. Otherwise, you definitely would’ve died if you tried charging through the thunder barrier!” Feng Yiyou cursed.

He thought that he’d figured out why Qin Lie’s group had tempted them to come back.

From the moment he arrived, Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain had not spoken. His savage, bloodthirsty eyes were locked on to Qin Lie standing in the distance.

In Yu Men’s perspective, the threat that Qin Lie represented exceeded that of everyone else, making him the most dangerous person.

“I formed the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation inside the thunder barrier with my own hands. I am the only one who can trigger it,” Feng Yiyou said in a calm voice, raising his head with pride. “I also might be the only one capable of breaking through this thunder barrier! Did you invite us back here so you can beg us to do that?”

Feng Yiyou was trying to think of a way to use this situation to his advantage and get something from Qin Lie.

Unfortunately, Qin Lie next words promptly poured a bucket of cold water over Feng Yiyou's head.

"You weren't the only ones we sent messages to. I also had Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families informed as well. As for Illusory Demon Sect... they should arrive soon enough." Qin Lie shook his head and laughed softly. "Before long, every martial practitioner of the nine great Silver rank forces participating in the Trial, including each force's children of heaven, will be gathered here at the thunder lagoon. With so many people in one place, I have a feeling that there'll be a way to break through the thunder barrier.. We might not necessarily need your assistance."

Feng Yiyou's face darkened. "You've informed even Black Voodoo Cult?"

"Dammit! Are you crazy!?" Yu Men swore.

"Has he gone insane?" He Wei screamed.

Even Luo Chen, seated on the ground, looked at Qin Lie in astonishment.

Everyone present knew exactly how powerful the combined force of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families was. Ye Yihao's strength and the supporting martial practitioners from the three

great families gave their allied forces full reign to do whatever they wanted in the Graveyard of Gods.

None of the other forces could oppose Black Voodoo Cult unless they worked together.

Since Qin Lie had informed Black Voodoo Cult and currently awaited their arrival, they would become the biggest variable in the thunder lagoon.

Neither Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, nor He Wei were confident that they would be able to seize the advantage against Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families.

“Ye Yihao isn’t Black Voodoo Cult’s strongest martial practitioner.” A calm voice resounded quietly. “Their ace in the hole… is Huang Zhuli.”

The eyes of everyone present inadvertently turned in the direction that the voice came from.

Approaching from the swamplands, Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian walked side by side. Grim expressions filled their faces.

“Huang Zhuli hid herself under my very nose. She killed numerous sisters of our Illusory Demon Sect. The Spring of Life…” She glanced at Qin Lie before sighing softly. “She stole it. I tried to stop her, and during the fighting that ensued, I noticed the voodoo insect she was nurturing with her flesh and blood. I identified it as

the Black Crystal Heavenly Scorpion, a voodoo insect that is in no way inferior to Ye Yihao's Eight-winged Scorpion Queen. Huang Zhuli's strength could possibly be more terrifying than Ye Yihao's!"

The moment she said this, everyone's faces changed color.

Ye Yihao and the three great families were already extremely terrifying. Their combined force made every other force tread lightly.

If the even stronger Huang Zhuli were to arrive, wouldn't Black Voodoo Cult dominate the entire Graveyard of Gods?

If Black Voodoo Cult were to arrive, which force would be able to oppose and stop them?

Everyone's faces turned grim as they glared at Qin Lie hatefully. All of them despised him for recklessly sending out messages and provoking the big, bloody crocodile that was Black Voodoo Cult to head their way.

The strength of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families, the incredible power of Ye Yihao, and the unforeseen danger that was Huang Zhuli coalesced to form a gigantic mountain that weighed down on the hearts of everyone in the Graveyard of Gods.

As a result, everyone felt as if they couldn't catch their breath.

“Qin Lie, if Illusory Demon Sect were to join us, we’d be able to stand against Black Voodoo Cult in the Forbidden Land of Thunder!” Song Tingyu said in a low voice.

Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen both looked at her in surprise.

From their perspective, Qin Lie was obviously interested in Xue Moyan. That had to be the reason why he constantly helped Illusory Demon Sect regardless of the cost. He had even begged everyone to give up their portions of the Spring of Life back in the Forbidden Land of Wood.

At the same time... Song Tingyu was obviously Qin Lie’s girlfriend and an extremely intelligent, astute person. Could she really not see the relationship between Qin Lie and Xue Moyan?

Why had she told Qin Lie to ally with Illusory Demon Sect of her own accord? Was she not afraid that Qin Lie and Xue Moyan would have a certain... relationship... to each other?

The more they thought about it, the more confused Du Xiangyang and Luo Chen became.

However, they also understood that Song Tingyu’s suggestion was completely rational. They were familiar with Xue Moyan’s strength, and if they could pull Xue Moyan to their side, they truly wouldn’t have to fear any other force!

Even if they were to go up against Black Voodoo Cult and the

three great families, they definitely wouldn't be at a disadvantage!

"Qin Lie..." Xie Jingxuan exclaimed in a low tone.

She also agreed that Xue Moyan should join them.

Everyone subconsciously looked at Qin Lie.

Qin Lie smiled calmly and said, "She'll join us."

Everyone was momentarily startled.

In the next moment, they came to a realization and nodded at nearly the same time.

Did Xue Moyan have a better option?

Terminator Sect, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were present. These three forces did not have even a shred of a relationship with Xue Moyan.

On the contrary, He Wei and Ren Peng were extremely against Qin Lie giving the Spring of Life to Xue Moyan. They were so against it that Chu Li's group even parted ways with Qin Lie's group later on.

How could Xue Moyan possibly choose Terminator Sect?

On the other hand, from beginning to end, Qin Lie had unconditionally helped Xue Moyan. He had stood by her side the entire time, completely oblivious to gains or losses.

The decision they would make was obvious at first glance.

As expected, Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian walked straight toward Qin Lie without a trace of hesitation, crossing the distance under everyone's gazes.

Xue Moyan stared at Qin Lie as they closed the distance, her eyes clear and bright. With an apologetic look on her face, she softly said, "I've taken your good will for granted. I trusted Huang Zhuli too much and lost every bit of the Spring of Life."

"As long as you're fine, it doesn't matter." Qin Lie smiled.

Qin Lie's words moved Xue Moyan. She bit at her lips, then walked to his side with Pan Qianqian and sat down.

"C-can we..." Pan Qianqian timidly asked, "Can we join you?"

Xue Moyan and Pan Qianqian were the only two surviving martial practitioners of Illusory Demon Sect. Just like Luo Chen, their losses were the worst out of the nine great Silver rank forces.

They lacked manpower and needed to find a firm ally if they

were to have any chance at acquiring a Pure Soul Spring from inside of the thunder lagoon.

This side of the thunder lagoon had Luo Chen, Du Xiangyang, and Xie Jingxuan, who had exhibited great power in the Forbidden Land of Wood. In addition to that, there was Song Tingyu at the peak of the Netherpassage Realm and the even more outstanding and capable Qin Lie.

This was clearly an impressive force.

However, Pure Soul Springs were extremely precious and completely surpassed the Spring of Life in terms of rarity. An individual Pure Soul Spring's worth was literally immeasurable. Taking in another ally meant that they would have to give up another portion of the profits.

Would Qin Lie be willing to do so?

When Pan Qianqian asked this question, Xue Moyan's beautiful eyes were blinking with uncertainty. She was worried, anxious, and she didn't dare say that Qin Lie would nod and agree.

Pure Soul Springs were incomparably precious after all. They were unparalleled treasures that every top elite of the Land of Chaos had on their minds. Every individual that controlled the nine great Silver forces hungered for Pure Soul Springs.

Who would possibly be willing to give away such a treasure?

Qin Lie frowned and kept silent.

Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, and the others wore looks of surprise. They didn't understand why Qin Lie had fallen silent. The sight of this brought confusion to their eyes.

"I'm sorry, m-maybe we're being too rude..."

Xue Moyan pursed her lips and suddenly stood up. Dazed, she tried to leave.

Pan Qianqian also stood up timidly, biting at her lips. She resembled a panicked little bunny.

"You've misunderstood." Qin Lie raised his head and pondered for a moment, then said, "My silence doesn't mean I'm rejecting you. I was just thinking that... it's about time to discuss the relationship between us."

Xue Moyan's mind went blank.

At that moment, Qin Lie suddenly channeled the Blood Spirit Art. Intense blood energy gushed out of his body, and his eyes became a frightening scarlet.

"The Blood Spirit Art!" Xue Moyan covered her mouth, attempting to stifle her cry. Her eyes shone with astonishing,

divine light, shock flooding her face. Her shoulders trembled softly as she exclaimed, “This is the purest form of the Blood Spirit Art! Y-you’re the person I sensed before, aren’t you?”

Chapter 493: So What?

“Yes, that was me.”

Qin Lie openly admitted it. Black Voodoo Cult’s Huang Zhuli had disguised herself as Xue Moyan with Illusory Demon Sect’s illusory arts and discovered that he cultivated the Blood Spirit Art.

This meant that, in all likelihood, Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families were already aware of that very same fact.

Qin Lie couldn’t hide it even if he wanted to. Since that was the case, there was no point in hiding it any longer.

When Huang Zhuli arrived, she would definitely reveal the fact that he and Xue Moyan cultivated the Blood Spirit Art. She would use it to create an opportunity to attack them.

There was no harm in revealing this beforehand.

“H-how do you know the Blood Spirit Art?” Xue Moyan asked, pleasantly surprised.

Xue Moyan was the daughter of Xue Li and Mo Lingye and the successor of Blood Fiend Sect’s pure bloodline. She had always been cultivating the Blood Spirit Art in secret.

She felt close to anyone who cultivated the standard Blood Spirit

Art, subconsciously thinking of them as one of her own.

"Your father taught me!" Qin Lie exclaimed.

As soon as he said this, the light of Xue Moyan's eyes suddenly froze. It was almost like she had been struck by lightning.

The revelation had her frozen for twelve full seconds. Then, she burst to life, excitedly grabbing Qin Lie by the shoulders. "My father taught you? H-he's still alive?"

"Barring any unforeseen circumstances, he should have arrived at the Heavenly Slaughter Continent and found your mother." Qin Lie sighed softly, then explained, "Senior Xue Li isn't in good condition. Jiang Zhuzhe sealed him into the spirit pattern pillars of Celestial Artifact Sect where he was imprisoned for more than a thousand years. After being freed, he was ambushed by Jiang Zhuzhe once more, resulting in his body and soul being refined. He managed to survive with half his soul, but..."

Tears welled in Xue Moyan's eyes.

Her soul was withering, and her mother's life force was nearing its end. She didn't think that her father's condition would be just as miserable.

This realization flooded her heart with sadness.

Pan Qianqian spoke to her in a soft voice, attempting to comfort

her. “Sister Xue, your father is still alive. As long as that doesn’t change, there’s still hope.”

“You cultivate the Blood Spirit Art?” Du Xiangyang asked in surprise.

Luo Chen was frowning slightly.

“So what?” Qin Lie asked with a composed expression. “Do you have a problem with that because the people who cultivate the Blood Spirit Art in the Land of Chaos are treated as public enemies and attacked en masse?”

“It isn’t actually that serious.” Du Xiangyang shrugged. “The only ones who relentlessly hunt Blood Fiend Sect martial practitioners, refusing to let up, are people of the three great families. Black Voodoo Cult controls them from behind the scenes, rewarding their zealous behavior. We of Heavenly Sword Mountain, as well as people from Celestial Artifact Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Terminator Sect, and Illusory Demon Sect aren’t really prejudiced against martial practitioners who cultivate the Blood Spirit Art. Those who consume human blood to cultivate are a different story, of course.”

“The Land of Chaos entered a state of emergency back then because too many people cultivated by sucking the blood of others,” Luo Chen interrupted in an icy voice. “Black Voodoo Cult called upon the other forces to surround and eliminate Blood Fiend Sect. After everything was said and done, they worked with the three great families and continued to hunt Blood Fiend Sect down. The other forces did not pursue the matter any further.”

“You don’t need to worry too much.” In spite of Luo Chen’s input, Du Xiangyang still looked relaxed. “Celestial Artifact Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, Terminator Sect, Illusory Demon Sect, and Heavenly Sword Mountain don’t actually harbor much animosity toward Blood Fiend Sect. They only cooperated with Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families to save face and eliminate those who went too far and sucked human blood to cultivate. If Blood Fiend Sect can properly purge such individuals, maybe they’ll one day be able to clear their name and no longer be forced to hide. They might be able to stand out in the open and face everyone proudly like they did a thousand years ago.”

Xue Moyan’s eyes suddenly lit up.

Du Xiangyang happened to describe what every Blood Fiend Sect martial practitioner of the Heavenly Slaughter Continent dreamed of, as well as Xue Moyan’s goal in life—clearing Blood Fiend Sect’s name!

“As long as we reach the Land of Buried Gods, find the remains of the Blood Progenitor, and bring them out of the Graveyard of Gods for Senior Xue Li to possess, Senior Xue Li will become even stronger than before!” Qin Lie grinned coldly. Whether the change occurs to his realm or his strength, he will definitely be way more powerful than he is now! Once that happens, reviving Blood Fiend Sect in the Land of Chaos will no longer be a dream!”

Emotions threatened to overwhelm Xue Moyan as she quietly clenched her fists, softly exclaiming, “The Blood Progenitor’s remains are in the Graveyard of Gods too?!”

Qin Lie nodded. “One of my main reasons for coming to the Graveyard of Gods is to find the Blood Progenitor’s remains for Senior Xue Li.”

“I-I truly don’t know how to thank you.” It suddenly occurred to Xue Moyan that Qin Lie was incredibly pleasing to the eye.

“Senior Xue Li helped me quite a bit. He taught me the Blood Spirit Art I cultivate. Helping him is simply my responsibility,” Qin Lie said hastily.

“I still have to thank you no matter what,” Xue Moyan declared.

“I see. The two have a relationship that goes way back.” Du Xiangyang smiled. “Hah! And here I was, thinking that Qin Lie entertained certain thoughts and lusted after Miss Xue’s beauty.”

“I also thought he fancied Sister Xue…” Pan Qianqian added.

Qin Lie coughed in embarrassment.

Du Xiangyang and Pan Qianqian’s words caught Xue Moyan off guard, making her blush. She wasn’t sure what to say.

It was at this moment that Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families, the final group of people, arrived.

Huang Zhuli walked in front of Ye Yihao, leading the way. Upon her abrupt arrival, she let out a soft stream of laughter. “Long time no see, Sister Xue.”

Ye Yihao and the other Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners were behind her. Even further back were the elites of the three great families.

Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families seemed to have reconsolidated their forces. With more than twenty people, they were larger than any other force.

They had arrived in a grandiose manner, arrogance plastered across every single one of their faces. When they looked at the thunder lagoon, they were completely confident that they would be victorious.

The instant that Xue Moyan saw Huang Zhuli, her face became incomparably icy. She gritted her pearly-white teeth and coldly exclaimed, “Your demise won’t be pleasant!”

“In the Graveyard of Gods, we’ll be the ones having the last laugh. No one can change that.” Huang Zhuli wore a grim, frosty expression as she calmly walked to the side of the thunder barrier nearer to Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

The moment the people of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain saw Black Voodoo Cult arrive, they looked as though they were facing a terrifying enemy.

Similarly, the people of Chu Li's group were frowning, their expressions grim.

Black Voodoo Cult was like a thick black cloud floating above their heads. They forced everyone to secretly be wary of them.

"Qin Lie and Illusory Demon Sect's Xue Moyan are evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect. Both of them cultivate the Blood Spirit Art!"

After a momentary pause, Huang Zhuli maneuvered as expected and immediately revealed their ties to Blood Fiend Sect. Using that detail as a foothold, she pointed their spearhead directly at Qin Lie.

"They're evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect?" Feng Yiyou exclaimed in surprise.

"Both of them cultivate the Blood Spirit Art?" Yu Men frowned.

"N-no wonder Qin Lie asked us to give Xue Moyan the Spring of Life. They were working together in the first place!" Ren Peng yelled.

Chu Li was just as surprised as everyone else.

For a time, Huang Zhuli's words focused everyone's gazes onto Qin Lie and Xue Moyan.

“What evidence do you have?” Xue Moyan asked calmly.

“Evidence?” Huang Zhuli smiled softly. “Sister Xue, I’ve been by your side for a long time. Did you really think I wouldn’t notice the few times you secretly cultivated the Blood Spirit Art?”

After a pause, she turned to Qin Lie and sweetly said, “You’re even worse! I only took on Xue Moyan’s appearance once, and you obediently told me everything. You two are evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect. In the Graveyard of Gods, both of you are hidden dangers that should be exterminated as soon as possible!”

“Everyone from Blood Fiend Sect should be exterminated as soon as possible!” Xiahou Yuan yelled.

Su Yan, Lin Dongxing, and the people of the three great families were full of murderous intent. It was as if Qin Lie and Xue Moyan were their mortal enemies.

All of them were well aware of how the three great families used to be vassal forces of Blood Fiend Sect. They knew that the three great families had only grown to its current state because they had stomped all over Blood Fiend Sect’s remains and sucked them dry of their blood, completely dominating the Heavenly Calamity Continent.

If Blood Fiend Sect were to rise again, everything the three great families currently had would be seized from them.

Blood Fiend Sect wouldn't forgive the three great families for betraying them. Both sides would be at odds until one of them was dead!

All of a sudden, Qin Lie stood up. "There's no need to hide it. Yeah, I cultivate the Blood Spirit Art. So what?"

Xue Moyan felt her blood run cold as she looked at Qin Lie in shock and confusion. His abrupt action worried her.

She had spent so many years carefully concealing her identity, worried about being exposed and bringing a calamity down upon herself, her mother, and her uncles at Illusory Demon Sect.

In reality, her life was incredibly exhausting. She had to hide and find a quiet place just to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art.

Xue Moyan was Mo Lingye's daughter, and her grandfather was the previous sect master of the famed Blood Fiend Sect of a thousand years ago. Her father was Xue Li, the newly-appointed sect master of Blood Fiend Sect, and the blood of the orthodox side of Blood Fiend Sect flowed inside of her body.

However, she had no choice but to live behind a mask. She did not dare to openly cultivate the Blood Spirit Art, nor did she dare to reveal her identity as a member of Blood Fiend Sect.

This had always upset her.

She had silently been enduring this life, hoping to bring Blood Fiend Sect back to its former glory in the eyes of the world and finally be able to openly talk about her identity.

At this moment, she didn't dare to do so.

—but Qin Lie did!

Chapter 494: Arrogance!

Qin Lie got to his feet and looked at Huang Zhuli standing in the distance. After a moment of thought, he actually chose to stroll in her direction.

“I cultivate the Blood Spirit Art. What are you going to do about that?”

The thick stench of blood emanated from every pore in Qin Lie’s body as he spoke.

The stench soon took a more solid shape as it transformed into a thin veil of blood mist and enveloped Qin Lie.

At the same time, Qin Lie’s eyes became as red as blood, the very image of murder.

Huang Zhuli was suddenly at a loss for words.

The martial practitioners of the Black Voodoo Cult and three great families were also dumbfounded. Not only did Qin Lie not deny the accusation, he even decided to prove it on his own. This turn of events was completely beyond their expectations.

What exceeded their expectations even more was the fact that Qin Lie actually dared to proudly walk toward them by himself.

“An evil remnant of Blood Fiend Sect…”

“He actually cultivates the Blood Spirit Art!”

“He dares to admit it?”

The martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were overcome with surprise as they watched him with odd expressions.

“Blood Fiend Sect? They’re both from Blood Fiend Sect?” He Wei’s expression became ice-cold as she disdainfully said, “No wonder the two of them fooled around with each other. They’re evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect!”

“Aren’t the people of Blood Fiend Sect public enemies in the Land of Chaos?” Ren Peng laughed cruelly.

“We have a show to watch,” Hu Ping said with a grin, eyebrows raised. “The three great families have never stopped hunting down evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect. They practically stomped all over Blood Fiend Sect’s corpse in order to stand tall in the Heavenly Calamity Continent. Heh! How would they possibly let a member of Blood Fiend Sect roam free?”

He Wei, Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang took joy in Qin Lie’s misfortune.

As matters were, they no longer treated Qin Lie as a close ally. In

fact, they couldn't wait for Qin Lie and Black Voodoo Cult to fight each other to a bloody end and completely kill each other off.

Ten Thousand Beast Mountain's Yu Men and Celestial Artifact Sect's Feng Yiyou fell silent.

It seemed like both of them were going to sit back and watch the farce happening before them play out.

"Qin Lie!" Xue Moyan walked forward without any warning.

Upon seeing that Qin Lie was about to enter Black Voodoo Cult's domain by himself, even Luo Chen's face changed in color, and he subconsciously got to his feet.

He believed that fighting would erupt at any moment and that he was obligated to take part in it since he had joined their group.

"Stay here, Xue Moyan. Don't move."

"Sit back down, Luo Chen!"

Surprisingly, Song Tingyu and Du Xiangyang spoke up to dissuade Xue Moyan and Luo Chen. They warned them not to follow Qin Lie, instead telling them to stay where they were.

Xue Moyan and Luo Chen looked at Du Xiangyang in confusion.

“Qin Lie is just one person. If he goes against Black Voodoo Cult alone, he’ll be harmed immediately!” Xue Moyan said urgently.

“How can you people relax right now?” Pan Qianqian exclaimed in a soft voice, steadily growing anxious. “Isn’t Qin Lie your friend? Are you going to just watch him throw his life away?”

Then she shot Song Tingyu a look of self-righteous anger. “Especially you! How can you be like this!?”

Song Tingyu pursed her lips into a smile and shook her head, refusing to give them an explanation.

“Qin Lie will be fine!” Du Xiangyang lowered his voice, a stern expression on his face. “No one can hurt Qin Lie in the Forbidden Land of Thunder! Just relax!”

Xue Moyan and Luo Chen were both incredibly startled when Du Xiangyang said this.

Neither of them could understand what he meant, their eyes full of confusion.

“Individuals that are evil remnants of Blood Fiend Sect are the public enemies of every force in the Land of Chaos! The fact that you two dare to cultivate the Blood Spirit Art means that you deserve to suffer everyone’s attacks. This is undisputed truth whether you are in the Land of Chaos or the Graveyard of Gods!” Su Yan shrieked.

“Let’s kill the remnant evils of Blood Fiend Sect first!” Lin Dongxing expressed his thoughts in a simple fashion.

“Kill them all!” Xiaohou Yuan exploded into a yell.

“Do you see this?” Huang Zhuli’s beautiful face held a sinister shade, and her deep eyes hid unfathomable ripples of evil. “Blood Fiend Sect is, without a doubt, a public enemy. Since you are remnant evils of Blood Fiend Sect, you probably understand what kind of treatment you’ll face, right? You two no longer have a place in the Graveyard of Gods or the Land of Chaos!”

“Is that so?” Qin Lie continued to approach them.

Not a single trace of anger could be seen on his face, and his eyes held an unnatural calm that gave people an eerie feeling. His aloof demeanor made even the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families feel anxious on the inside.

“Blood Fiend Sect was the most ancient force in the Land of Chaos, just like Black Voodoo Cult. They fought each other for thousands of years, both in the open and behind the scenes,” Qin Lie said indifferently.

“I naturally learned about the relationship and grudges between both sides. I know that Black Voodoo Cult spent a lot of effort in order to take down Blood Fiend Sect. A thousand years ago, when Blood Fiend Sect’s Jiang Zhuzhe began consuming human blood to fast track his cultivation, it gave you the perfect excuse and

opportunity to eliminate Blood Fiend Sect. Of course, you of Black Voodoo Cult would never let go of a chance that only came once in a blue moon.

"The three great families, on the other hand, have always harbored rebellious intentions under Blood Fiend Sect's rule." Qin Lie looked at Su Yan and the others. "However, since Blood Fiend Sect was strong, they didn't dare to act recklessly. Black Voodoo Cult's discovery gave the three great families hope, and both sides immediately got along well. Black Voodoo Cult summoned all the forces of the Land of Chaos together to invade the Heavenly Calamity Continent and denounce Blood Fiend Sect. At the same time, the three great families cooperated with them from the inside and served as a guide. In the end, both sides got what they wanted, causing Blood Fiend Sect's downfall.

"You knew that, out of all Blood Fiend Sect's martial practitioners, only those under Jiang Zhuzhe cultivated the evil Blood Spirit Art. Yet you pretended not to and instead treated all Blood Fiend Sect martial practitioners as if they were evil blood-suckers. Do you really think that no one knew what you were thinking?"

After slowly revealing secrets from a thousand years ago, Qin Lie smiled and candidly said, "Unfortunately, you failed to eliminate every Blood Fiend Sect martial practitioner. Not only is Jiang Zhuzhe still alive..."

He paused at that moment and abruptly looked at Celestial Artifact Sect's Feng Yiyou.

A strange expression covered Feng Yiyou's face.

"The core members of Blood Fiend Sect are in hiding, alive and well. Even Blood Fiend Sect's Sect Master Xue Li continues to exist in this world!"

Qin Lie stopped walking. He currently stood in front of Huang Zhuli and was only a dozen or so meters away from the rest of the Black Voodoo Cult martial practitioners.

"Blood Fiend Sect was never truly destroyed! I can guarantee you that Blood Fiend Sect will soon awaken in the Land of Chaos once more!" Qin Lie pointed at Su Yan's group and smiled coldly. "Blood Fiend Sect will step on the corpses of the three great families and rise again!"

"Kill him! Kill him now!" Xiahou Yuan roared angrily.

"Senior Sister!" Ye Yihao's narrowed eyes were gleaming with an icy light. He had truly been angered.

Qin Lie was being excessively arrogant!

He had walked in front of Black Voodoo Cult's people and even insulted them, finger pointed at their faces. He had taunted them, threatening to eliminate the three great families. Never had they seen such an arrogant person before.

How could they possibly endure such a farce?

“What do you say? Do you want to join us in eliminating remnant evils of Blood Fiend Sect?”

Huang Zhuli turned her head and swept her gaze across the martial practitioners of Celestial Artifact Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Terminator Sect. She also looked at Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang.

Luo Chen and Du Xiangyang kept themselves busy by talking to Song Tingyu and Xue Moyan. They didn’t even spare so much as a glance for Huang Zhuli. They clearly didn’t give a damn about her.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men looked at each other, silent.

They also chose to ignore Huang Zhuli.

Both of them couldn’t believe how much of a joke this was. Just a few days ago, Qin Lie had charged into the middle of Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain’s martial practitioners. He had drawn thunder and lightning from the sky, raining them down on them and chasing them as they fled. That pitiful, terrifying memory was still fresh in their heads like it had happened yesterday, so why on earth would they take part in a battle against Qin Lie?

Furthermore, Qin Lie already stood right in front of Huang Zhuli. He was probably planning to attract thunder and lightning to fall from the sky, heavily damaging Black Voodoo Cult just like he had damaged their forces.

Yu Men and Feng Yiyou couldn't wait for Black Voodoo Cult to suffer the same pain and suffering that they had, so there was no way they would interfere at such a crucial moment.

As a result, both Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain had fallen silent.

"The remnant evils of Blood Fiend Sect do deserve to be eliminated." Surprisingly, He Wei was the first to speak up, actually agreeing with Huang Zhuli.

Huang Zhuli's eyes lit up.

Every martial practitioner of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families had looks of astonishment on their faces.

Terminator Sect actually agreed with them!

Back in the Forbidden Land of Wood, Terminator Sect had obviously been close to Qin Lie, having formed the most solid of alliances in the Graveyard of Gods. No one could've imagined that Terminator Sect would actually end up hating Qin Lie in just half a month's time in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Life was truly fickle.

"Shut up!" For the very first time, Chu Li loudly scolded He Wei

in front of everyone. “Don’t you have a damn brain? If you plan on making all the decisions, get out of my team!”

“You’re telling me to leave?” He Wei couldn’t help but scream in response. “Ask Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang who they trust more—you or me?”

“Whose orders will you three follow?!” Chu Li shouted irritably.

Everyone froze.

No one could have foreseen that Terminator Sect would experience internal strife at such a pivotal moment.

Even Chu Li, who had been treating He Wei favorably all this time, had suddenly exploded and lost control for some reason.

Every martial practitioner of every force subconsciously looked at the members of Terminator Sect, specifically Chu Li and He Wei. All of them were shocked.

Since Qin Lie had moved in front of Huang Zhuli, he could also see the conflict between He Wei and Chu Li.

“We follow your orders, senior brother. There’s no doubt about that! However... regarding Qin Lie... we believe that Sister He’s words make sense.” Ren Peng had to force himself to get the words out.

“What about you two?” Chu Li sucked in a deep breath, his expression gloomy like swampy water.

“We are of the same opinion,” Hu Ping and Wei Liang said in unison, their heads bowed.

“Now do you see, Chu!?” He Wei smiled coldly. “Blood Fiend Sect was always a public enemy in the first place! Or am I wrong for some reason? This is all your fault! He never thought of you as a brother. If he did, why would he force you to compete with him for the Pure Soul Springs? Why would he summon everyone here to prevent us from even getting any leftovers?”

He Wei was upset because Qin Lie had turned them away, then summoned Black Voodoo Cult, Celestial Artifact Sect, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Illusory Demon Sect without asking for their opinion.

If Qin Lie had just broke through the thunder barrier and entered the thunder lagoon, they could have at least shared the Pure Soul Springs equally.

Qin Lie’s actions had shattered all of their sweet dreams. His actions prevented He Wei from seeing even the tiniest bit of hope and led to hatred blossoming in her heart.

“Good! Very good! How very good you are!” Chu Li laughed in grief, and nodding continuously. “You’re all so awesome, aren’t you? Fine then. Do what you want. From now on, in the Graveyard

of Gods—and even when we've returned to the Land of Chaos—we walk separate paths!"

With this declaration, Chu Li turned and walked away under everyone's gazes.

He had actually given up on the struggle for the Pure Soul Springs.

Chapter 495: He Wei's Regret

Chu Li turned and left.

This turn of events stunned everyone.

He Wei hadn't expected Chu Li, the person she had always relied on and who catered to her every whim, to burst out in fury at this moment. He had even been resolute in his departure, drawing a clear line between them.

He Wei felt a bit of anxiety in her heart.

She was well aware of Chu Li's abilities. She knew that, even without Terminator Profound Bombs in his hands, Chu Li's personal combat power still ranked amongst that of the top geniuses.

The moment they lost Chu Li, they would no longer have any hope of fighting for the Pure Soul Springs.

Chu Li's departure was the same thing as them giving up on the Pure Soul Springs.

This was something that He Wei desperately did not want to happen.

"Chu Li!" He Wei shouted anxiously.

“Senior Brother!” Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang were also anxious.

Ye Yihao, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men, on the other hand, were momentarily stunned. Then, immediately afterward, they looked as though a heavy weight had been lifted from their shoulders.

To them, Chu Li was definitely a strong, sturdy opponent. If he were to leave, there would be one less powerful enemy. This was a situation that they were happy to see.

“Big Brother Chu!” Qin Lie suddenly shouted. “You should be aware that you weren’t the reason I refused to let your group join us! Since you and He Wei have now gone separate ways, I officially invite you to join us in fighting for the Pure Soul Springs! I, Qin Lie, swear that, as long as there’s a harvest to be reaped from the thunder lagoon, we definitely won’t forget about Big Brother Chu’s portion!”

Chu Li’s figure stopped retreating into the distance, pausing where it was.

The people watching him felt that something was strange. Every single one of them grew anxious.

Even the expressions of the people from Black Voodoo Cult suddenly turned grim. They clearly found the current situation somewhat troublesome.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men's sunken expressions continued to grow more and more depressed.

Xue Moyan and Luo Chen were already on Qin Lie's side. If Chu Li joined him as well, their force would be enough to contend with Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families!

It would result in the formation of an almighty power with a terrifying ability to dominate!

No one was willing to see such a situation take shape. No one was hoping for Chu Li to actually stay and join Qin Lie's group.

Chu Li turned around, not even batting an eye at He Wei. He surveyed everyone else, and when he looked at Qin Lie, he sighed helplessly.

"Brother Lie, I have received your good will," he said, shaking his head. "From the very beginning, I knew that you have never owed us anything. You also never took advantage of us. I... I simply do not wish to think too much. If I stay here, I'll be at odds with... them... in the fight for the Pure Soul Springs. So, let's just forget it. My departure would be best."

The people he spoke of as "them" were naturally He Wei and the three other Terminator Sect martial practitioners. The moment he moved to Qin Lie's side, he would be opposing He Wei.

Even if Chu Li were in a state of crazed fury, he remained unwilling to truly consider He Wei, Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang enemies.

He couldn't do it, and he was worried that his inability to do so would influence the choices of Qin Lie's group if he joined them. That's why he decided to just give up.

"Is that so?" Qin Lie stroked his chin. After humming for a few seconds, he said, "If you're not here, they have to either give up and leave immediately... or face certain death! If you join us, however, our group will at least refrain from being too ruthless..."

Chu Li's expression changed upon hearing this.

And he began to hesitate again.

Of He Wei and her group of four, Hu Ping was injured and probably didn't have enough strength remaining to fight.

Only Ren Peng, Wei Liang, and He Wei remained. Compared to the crowd of people here in the thunder lagoon, their combined power simply wasn't worth mentioning.

Without Chu Li, He Wei's group of four did not have even the slightest chance of victory against any force in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

A key thing to keep in mind was that Chu Li had an intimate

understanding of He Wei's personality. He was certain that He Wei wouldn't give up so easily.

He Wei would definitely stay behind to try and snatch the Pure Soul Springs!

Indecision surfaced on Chu Li's face as he plunged deep into thought. Having to choose between staying or going seemed to be a painful struggle for him.

It was at that instant that Qin Lie continued to provoke Black Voodoo Cult. Although his feet had come to a stop earlier, they once again stepped forward.

Qin Lie approached Huang Zhuli one step at a time. The distance between the two quickly shortened, and it looked as if he were about to charge right into Huang Zhuli's face!

Every martial practitioner of Black Voodoo Cult surged with killing intent!

This sudden development successfully drew the attention of Feng Yiyou, Yu Men, and their combined force as all of their people turned to look at Qin Lie one after another.

"He said he wanted to step on the corpses of the three great families and allow Blood Fiend Sect to rise once more. His arrogance is too astounding." Huang Zhuli took two steps back and then asked, "All of you know what to do, right?"

Huang Zhuli couldn't stand Qin Lie's arrogant, tyrannical demeanor.

So she commanded Su Yan and the rest of the three great families to attack.

"Do it!" Su Yan shouted coldly.

Six people instantly charged out from amongst the martial practitioners of the three great families. Six cold, sharp swords that glowed with frosty light stabbed toward Qin Lie's chest.

"Great timing!" Qin Lie exclaimed, letting out a bizarre laugh.

"Crack, crack!"

Streaks of lightning the width of a thumb discharged from every orifice in his body. It looked as though hundreds of electrical ropes wreathed him.

A violent cacophony of thunderous noise exploded outward from Qin Lie's mind, True Soul, consciousness, and organs.

"Boom!"

In the depths of the clouds, the ferocious thunder and lightning that was connected to the thunder lagoon once again soared

through the sky like enormous dragons.

Several hundred lightning bolts as thick as trees descended one after another. Booming thunder accompanied each and every one.

This scene embodied the god of thunder's wrath!

"Booooom! Booooom!"

The entire area surrounding Qin Lie was flooded with an onslaught of flashing, crackling lightning. It was as if Terminator Profound Bombs were endlessly exploding one after another in the vicinity of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families.

Even the interior of the thunder lagoon was swept up in a hurricane of lightning. Like a giant python that had emerged from an abyss, lightning bolts hurtled toward the people of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families.

"Papapa! Papapa!"

Dozens of lightning bolts shot toward the six martial practitioners, the ones who had taken the initiative to charge at Qin Lie, intent on slashing him to death. The bolts descended upon them like waterfalls of potent energy, striking them squarely in their heads.

Those six martial practitioners were submerged in lightning. Their sharp, inhuman screams resounded from within its

terrifying, electrical glow, making everyone's hair stand on end.

The people of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families could only watch as electricity enveloped their six doomed comrades. They had no way to save them.

They couldn't save them because, at the very same moment, the lightning and thunder energy shot out from deep within the clouds and from the thunder lagoon. This explosive energy flooded forth, quickly approaching the crowd.

The location of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families suddenly became the forbidden area of a thunder god—a violent meat grinder.

"Sister Xue! Sister Xue!" Pan Qianqian perked up in an instant, inadvertently dancing with joy. "Q-Qin Lie is actually so powerful! Incredible, simply incredible! He actually attacked Black Voodoo Cult and the great families all by himself!"

Her entire body trembled with excitement.

Pan Qianqian had fallen into despair multiple times. When her sisters were killed one by one... when she saw Huang Zhuli hurl a deadly blow at Xue Moyan after acquiring the Spring of Life... when she found out about Huang Zhuli's strength and understood the reality of their situation...

She had lost hope many times.

She eventually started thinking that, even after using up all their strength, she and Xue Moyan would have no way of avenging their sisters in the Graveyard of Gods.

Pan Qianqian had even become pessimistic enough to think that she and Xue Moyan would die at Huang Zhuli's hand as well.

She thought that Qin Lie might've been able to help them, but she couldn't have imagined that Qin Lie could control the rain and the clouds with a flip of his hand. She never would've foreseen Qin Lie being able to turn this extremely disadvantageous situation around.

She never would've dreamed that Qin Lie would dare to single-handedly charge at Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families. She also never would've envisioned Qin Lie not being immediately slaughtered... instead, he resembled the son of a thunder god. He walked confidently, commanding lightning bolts that filled the sky to descend and slaughter Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families!

Pan Qianqian could hear the shrieks and howls of the people being slaughtered. She could hear the curses that these people hurled in the face of panic and loss. She could see the numerous charred corpses of people who had died miserable deaths.

It took her a single glance to understand what all of this meant.

—Qin Lie was in control of the situation!

Pan Qianqian's eyes involuntarily grew misty all of a sudden as she muttered to herself in a low voice. "Little Wan... Little Die... Your deaths won't have been in vain"

Qin Lie's figure shone clearly in Xue Moyan's eyes. Her shoulders trembled slightly, and surprise appeared on her small face.

A surreal feeling, as if she'd fallen into a dream, sprouted inside of her.

At this very moment in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Qin Lie had charged into the lion's den. He clearly didn't possess a high realm, but he twisted and contorted the energy of lightning and thunder,, carrying out a slaughter in every direction like a lightning controller.

These events were simply too incredible!

Luo Chen was similarly dumbstruck as well.

It was only at this moment that he finally understood why Qin Lie had wanted to keep Luo Chen from joining them.

Qin Lie didn't require any assistance at all!

He, alone, was the strongest power within this Forbidden Land of Thunder!

He Wei was just as stunned as Luo Chen.

She, Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang wore deathly gray expressions at this moment. They finally saw the reality of the situation and understood just how ridiculous they were.

The four of them were actually arrogant enough to harbor thoughts of snatching the Pure Soul Springs from Qin Lie?

They were basically courting death!

In the same vein, they finally understood why Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, both of which clearly bore intense hatred for Qin Lie, remained silent after Huang Zhuli's constant persuasion.

They had been silent because they were afraid!

Everything that had occurred amazed Chu Li.

Chu Li knew that, in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Qin Lie would be capable of displaying just how profound his thunder spirit art was as much as he wanted. However, he never expected Qin Lie to have actually reached such a level. Qin Lie was capable of going against Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families with just his strength alone!

“He Wei… just give up on this fight for the Pure Soul Springs,” Chu Li said, sighing softly. “Go. Leave right now. You four don’t even have the strength to influence this battle in any way.”

“Senior Brother, w-with you by our side, we’d still have the power to fight!” Ren Peng pleaded bitterly.

“I already told you earlier. It doesn’t matter if we’re in the Graveyard of Gods or even the Land of Chaos. From now on, we walk separate paths!” Chu Li said, emphasizing every single word.

In saying this, he had blotted out their final ray of hope.

“…go. Let’s go.” He Wei’s face was pale. She had been completely struck down.

She hadn’t been struck down by Chu Li, but by Qin Lie’s unparalleled might!

She was acutely aware of the fact that her actions and words up to this point had completely offended Qin Lie already.

She hadn’t been afraid at first. She thought that, with the forces of Black Voodoo Cult, Ten Thousand Beast Mountain, and Celestial Artifact Sect present, Qin Lie would still end up restrained in the end no matter how strong he was.

However, she now realized that she had been wrong.

Furthermore, she had been outrageously wrong!

Within the Forbidden Land of Thunder, Qin Lie was the true master. Not a single force here had any way to oppose Qin Lie!

So how would He Wei's group of four possibly do so?

Apparently Qin Lie could pinch them to death whenever he wanted!

Even if Chu Li were to join them, nothing would change because Luo Chen and Xue Moyan were still by Qin Lie's side...

Drained of their willpower, He Wei, Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang hung their heads in dejection. Disheartened, they stiffly retreated, resembling walking corpses.

Only at this moment did they finally begin to regret their actions. They should not have become Qin Lie's enemies. They should not have sabotaged their relationship with him to this degree.

They regretted it now, but it was far too late for that.

Chapter 496: Soul Break!

Qin Lie directed lightning down from the heavens as he charged into the center of Black Voodoo Cult's martial practitioners. While he attacked, slaughtering them to his heart's content, He Wei silently led her pale-faced group away.

They finally realized that trying to snatch the Pure Soul Springs with just their strength alone would be the same as courting death.

—Especially since Chu Li had abandoned them.

Once He Wei and the other three Terminator Sect martial practitioners had left, the various forces around the thunder lagoon immediately set their sights on Qin Lie.

Qin Lie was essentially a brutal electrical field!

Wherever he went, the ground would be assaulted with a barrage of thunder and lightning. The lightning hidden deep within the clouds descended without end, adding to the surging electrical currents of the thunder lagoon and the explosive, thunderous rumbling resounding through the sky.

Lightning as intense as that of a heavenly tribulation swamped the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families.

Shrill screams filled the area. Ear-splitting roars echoed one after

another, occasionally accompanied by feeble curses.

The formation of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families had virtually collapsed.

The people of Celestial Artifact Sect and the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain currently wore incredibly grim expressions.

“This person can utilize the lightning that fills the sky of the Forbidden Land of Thunder, attacking in every direction with thunder and lightning energy.” Feng Yiyou had a headache just thinking about it. “He has occupied an unsurmountable position in this place from the very beginning. If we want to snatch the Pure Soul Springs from him, I’m afraid that…”

“If we can’t find a way to restrain him, none of us will be able to acquire a Pure Soul Spring.” Yu Men’s eyes shone with a savage light.

Everyone could see just how much of an advantage Qin Lie had in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Here, Qin Lie was like a colossal beast tyrannically occupying this piece of land. Anyone who wanted to seize a Pure Soul Spring would inevitably have to face the otherworldly chasm known as Qin Lie.

How could they cross it?

Every Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain martial practitioner had deeply furrowed brows. They couldn't feel the slightest bit of happiness even though they were watching Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families suffer bombardment after bombardment of lightning.

Only by suppressing Qin Lie's ferocity, preventing him from acting so brazenly, did they think that everyone would be able to truly focus on the Pure Soul Springs.

Qin Lie had suddenly become a scourge in the hearts of these people, one that they wanted nothing more than to remove as soon as possible.

"Awoooo!"

A furious, earthshaking howl suddenly exploded from the depths of the thunder lagoon.

As if attracted by some new, unknown force, the lightning that crashed down from the heavens and the electrical dragons that soared from inside of the thunder barrier began to rush toward the thunder lagoon.

Qin Lie had been deprived of his control over the thunder and lightning!

The thunder spirit hiding within the thunder lagoon angrily asserted its authority, as if it had finally realized that another

entity was challenging its rule.

—As if to say that it was the true master of the Forbidden Land of Thunder!

Deafening, high pitched shrieks echoed from deep within the thunder lagoon as the thunder spirit howled continuously. It seemed as though the Forbidden Land of Thunder were shaking.

Thunder and lightning energy had gathered by Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families. After the thunder spirit's furious howls, however, they flooded back into the thunder lagoon like rivers flowing to the ocean.

It was then that Qin Lie discovered he had lost his command over the thunder and lightning!

He also realized that the thunder spirit, as the eye of the formation in the Forbidden Land of Thunder, was the true master of this land.

Qin Lie had clearly enraged the thunder spirit with his astonishing display of ability. His actions using Heavenly Thunder Eradication made this highly intelligent creature notice him and interfere with the surges of thunder and lightning.

"The thunder and lightning have disappeared!"

"The thunder spirit is directing all of it back into the lagoon!"

“Qin Lie will have a tough time displaying his strength after this!”

The moment the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain witnessed all of the thunder and lightning flow back into the thunder lagoon, all of them went mad with joy.

All of these people felt extremely relieved, as if a gargantuan boulder that had been pressing on their heads were suddenly removed.

“Without thunder or lightning to control, you’re nothing more than a normal Netherpassage Realm martial practitioner, Qin Lie!” Ye Yihao smiled coldly, a sinister, icy light flashing in his eyes. “Everyone nearby is currently able to slaughter you! Let’s see how you’ll survive now!”

“Kill him!” Su Yan’s fury surged skyhigh.

The martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families were on the verge of going crazy.

Right at that moment, Qin Lie unleashed a piercing howl, and a wave of blood energy as thick as actual blood poured from his body.

On the other side of the thunder lagoon, Song Tingyu, Du

Xiangyang, Xue Moyan, Pan Qianqian, Xie Jingxuan, and Luo Chen leaped into action and charged toward Qin Lie's position.

Chu Li no longer hesitated and flew over as well, fiercely roaring, "Even if thunder and lightning aren't present, the Forbidden Land of Thunder still isn't a place for Black Voodoo Cult to try and lord over!"

Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, Pan Qianqian, and Chu Li quickly arrived behind Qin Lie, assembling into a formidable force.

Strong waves of blood energy radiated from Qin Lie's body. He grinned as he leisurely glanced at the thunder lagoon behind him. A hint of sharp light flashed in his eyes.

The thunder spirit intervening at a critical point left Qin Lie extremely unhappy. Once Qin Lie broke through the thunder barrier and entered the depths of the thunder lagoon with the Demon Sealing Tombstone, sealing the thunder spirit wouldn't be a problem.

He already had a plan in mind.

"Crack crack crack!"

Thick tendrils of twisting lightning coiled around the thunder barrier like colossal, winding serpents.

Strange cries abruptly echoed from inside of the thunder barrier, and the clatter of containers being forcefully opened could be heard.

Feng Yiyou's expression abruptly changed.

Fear appeared in the eyes of every Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioner as they subconsciously distanced themselves from the thunder lagoon.

"This isn't good! The Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation is about to explode!" Du Xiangyang cried out.

"Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation? There's a Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation in the thunder lagoon?" Ye Yihao's expression quickly changed as well.

The martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families immediately focused their gazes on the thunder lagoon. Urns could occasionally be seen flashing amidst the writhing lightning.

"It really is the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation!" Su Yan cried out involuntarily.

The martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families who were all prepared to engage Qin Lie and his group instantly began to retreat one after another.

“Get away from it!”

“We should take shelter as well!”

Du Xiangyang and Chu Li declared at the same time.

Upon seeing the other forces retreating from the thunder lagoon, Qin Lie and the others did not dare to be careless. They followed Chu Li and Du Xiangyang’s advice and also distanced themselves from the thunder lagoon.

In a matter of moments, all of the forces in the Forbidden Land of Thunder withdrew from every side of the thunder lagoon, taking up different areas several kilometers away.

At this point, only four forces remained. Black Voodoo Cult and the three great families were considered as one force, another was Qin Lie’s group, and the remaining two were Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain.

Each force positioned themselves in a different corner of the region with only a distance of three to four kilometers separating them from the others. All of them were observing the thunder barrier in expectation or anxiety.

“Guard me!”

Feng Yiyou sat cross-legged and closed his eyes, using his soul consciousness to sense the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation.

In order for the formation to detonate at peak condition, he got ready to forcibly manipulate it.

Everyone could tell that Feng Yiyou was using a unique method to prepare the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation and was about to unleash its full potential.

Nobody would dare interrupt Feng Yiyou, because they wanted nothing more than for him to blast the thunder barrier apart with the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation. Him doing so would allow everyone to enter the depths of the thunder lagoon.

This was why the martial practitioners of the other three forces were secretly observing Feng Yiyou. They were gathering their strength, getting ready to charge into the depths of the thunder lagoon as soon as possible, seize the Pure Soul Springs, and flee.

“A special artifact is needed to contain a Pure Soul Spring. This sheep-fat white jade bottle is similar to a spatial ring and possesses a uniquely cold dimensional space that is capable of housing Pure Soul Springs.” Chu Li pondered for a moment as he retrieved nine white jade bottles from his spatial ring, then placed every single one of them in front of him and said, “I only have this many of them.”

Qin Lie, Song Tingyu, and Xie Jingxuan’s eyes shone.

Everyone else shook their heads slightly, indicating that they didn’t need them.

“All of you have artifacts used for carrying materials like Pure Soul Springs?” Qin Lie was stunned.

Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, and Xue Moyan nodded.

Even Pan Qianqian responded softly, saying, “I have two of those jade bottles as well.”

This surprised Qin Lie.

“I’ll give you guys six of them then.” Chu Li smiled as he pushed six jade bottles toward Qin Lie.

Qin Lie did not bother to stand on ceremony. He flashed a slight smile, then pulled the six jade bottles over to him, giving four of them to Song Tingyu and Xie Jingxuan. Once they both had two each, he then picked up the remaining two and put them away.

“It seems like you guys have several jade bottles too. Too bad there are only six Pure Soul Springs. Heheh, too many monks but only a few bowls of porridge, huh.” Song Tingyu laughed gently.

“Aside from us, three other forces are still in this fight over the Pure Soul Springs. The instant the thunder barrier is broken, a chaotic battle will erupt,” Du Xiangyang said calmly.

“Qin Lie, are you truly unable to control the power of thunder and lightning?” Xie Jingxuan frowned.

“Who knows?” Qin Lie said with a shrug. “Regardless of whether or not I’m able to borrow the power of thunder and lightning, as we are now, we have no reason to be afraid of any force.”

Everyone nodded silently at these words, excitement on their faces.

Suddenly, several rays of dazzling light shot from Feng Yiyou’s eyes. Resembling bright chains, they struck the thunder barrier, separated, and entered different bone ash urns.

“Soul Break!” Feng Yiyou shouted.

The instant he did, the souls in every bone ash urn flared to life. The violent, crazy waves of each soul resembled dormant volcanoes that were finally about to erupt.

Everyone watched the thunder barrier with bated breath.

They could clearly see clusters of gray soul clouds mingling with the lightning of the thunder barrier. Dark, illusory flames raged around these soul clouds as they became as black as ink at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Then, the potential energy of fourteen souls was unleashed. Like demons and vile ghosts baring their teeth and swiping their claws, the souls twisted madly, releasing even more violent soul waves.

This was the form of chaotic, distorted soul energy!

“Boom!”

All fourteen True Souls in the thunder barrier shattered and exploded at the same time!

A terrifying shockwave that seemed capable of obliterating land and fracturing space burst outward from the explosions.

Most of the people observing this instantly lost their sense of hearing and could only see the lightning in the thunder barrier warp and bend. It was almost as if someone were tearing them apart. A moment later, every single arc of lightning was reduced to threads of energy.

Like a giant worm that had been cut to pieces, one small section after another, the threads of lightning scattered throughout the thunder barrier’s interior.

Explosive thunder energy burst from the thunder barrier, making it appear as though bombs had been triggered by the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation.

Like a door had been thrown open, the gigantic, bowl-like thunder barrier shattered and disintegrated.

“It broke apart!”

“The thunder barrier has disintegrated!”

“We can enter the thunder lagoon now!”

Excited cheers rang out from the various forces while several impatient figures had already taken the lead and charged out.

They headed straight for the thunder lagoon.

Chapter 497: If You Can Do It Yourself, Then Do It!

The spirit energy waves from Song Tingyu and the others surged. They prepared to charge toward the thunder lagoon, pulling out sharp swords or gripping an Illusory Demon Orb.

“Stop!” Qin Lie shouted just as they were about to fly out.

Everyone immediately reined themselves in at the command.

Song Tingyu, Du Xiangyang, Xie Jingxuan, Chu Li, Luo Chen, Xue Moyan, and Pan Qianqian looked at him in confusion.

Martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain made up the group of people currently charging toward the thunder lagoon, auras flaring up.

Only Feng Yiyou’s Celestial Artifact Sect had yet to move.

Their position made it seem as if they were focused on guarding Feng Yiyou. They definitely weren’t in a hurry to enter the thunder lagoon.

“Feng Yiyou hasn’t moved,” Qin Lie said gravely.

“He linked his mind consciousness to the Consecutive Soul

Splitting Formation and ignited the bone ash urns, so there may have been some damage to his mind. The people watching over him should be waiting for him to recover, so they aren't immediately able to make their move," Du Xiangyang suggested hesitantly.

Qin Lie shook his head. Eyes narrowed, he calmly said, "The Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation in the thunder barrier has yet to completely detonate. I can sense other profound intricacies built into it that have yet to be revealed..."

Realization dawned on everyone's faces when they heard this.

"Your soul consciousnesses might not be able to sense your surroundings within the Forbidden Land of Thunder, but mine can." Qin Lie took in a deep breath. "Feng Yiyou harbors bad intentions. He's probably scheming against those who enter the thunder lagoon first. Let's wait and see."

Qin Lie's words helped everyone to calm down as well.

"Nobody from Qin Lie's side moved!" Ye Yihao exclaimed.

Huang Zhuli's brows furrowed deeply as she glanced at Qin Lie off in the distance. After a few seconds of thought, she yelled, "Have everyone return immediately!"

This seemingly random command stunned Ye Yihao. "Is something amiss?"

“Qin Lie is capable of controlling the thunder and lightning energy in this place, so his soul consciousness probably isn’t inhibited like ours. Not only did he stay where he was, he even prevented his people from moving. He must have discovered something!” Huang Zhuli shouted.

“Celestial Artifact Sect hasn’t moved either!” someone cried out.

Huang Zhuli turned her head to look at Feng Yiyou.

Feng Yiyou wore a grim expression as he watched the martial practitioners charging toward the thunder lagoon from afar. A cold, heartless sheen flashed through his eyes.

Only then did Huang Zhuli realize what was going on. “Feng Yiyou is...!”

At that exact moment, another new round of explosions resounded from within the thunder barrier. The bone ash urns that the souls had exploded in appeared, exuding terrifying, dissonant waves of energy.

The moment immediately after that, the fourteen urns released brilliant silver light that took the shape of silver crescent-shaped fragments of energy.

“Swish swish swish swish!”

The fragments of energy became more distinct, resembling multiple crescent-shaped blades. Like sharp, spinning swords, the silver crescents illuminated the thunder lagoon, forming a wall of light that replaced the thunder barrier.

The spinning crescents pierced five martial practitioners, three from the three great families and two from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. They immediately died miserable deaths, several fresh, bloody holes in their bodies.

Formed by the silver crescents of light, a new barrier settled over the thunder lagoon, sealing it once more.

“Feng Yiyou!”

“Celestial Artifact Sect!”

“Kill them!”

Sharp howls rang out from numerous people from Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain. No longer concerned with the thunder lagoon, they surged with killing intent, bent on annihilating Celestial Artifact above all else.

Feng Yiyou stood up with an icy smile as if he had expected this.

“Let’s go!” he roared.

The group of Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners rose into the air using wings of light that extended from their backs and descended toward the thunder lagoon.

The silver-crescent barrier covering the thunder lagoon parted, creating an narrow opening that left just enough space for them to enter.

The martial practitioners who were charging at Feng Yiyou suddenly found themselves under attack by silver crescent blades the moment they approached the thunder lagoon. They released strange howls while hastily evading the attacking blades.

Everyone else just watched as Feng Yiyou and his group descended toward the thunder lagoon.

“I spent more than half a month investigating the thunder lagoon. I know more about it than any of you, yet you’re still delusional enough to think of seizing the Pure Soul Springs from me. Hmph! What a foolish dream!”

The moment the Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners descended into the thunder lagoon, the hole in the light barrier formed by the silver crescent blades closed, firmly blocking the way once more

Feng Yiyou’s sinister laughter echoed from behind the silver crescent blades.

“This is the Moon Blade Barricade, an Earth Grade spirit artifact listed as third out of the eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Celestial Artifact Sect!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed in surprise.

“The Moon Blade Barricade is a large-scale defense-based spirit artifact. It’s Earth Grade Six!” Luo Chen said with a gloomy expression.

“Damn it! Feng Yiyou actually brought this spirit artifact into the Graveyard of Gods! Breaking the Moon Blade Barricade definitely isn’t a simple task. Although it’s possible, it would still take a considerable amount of time.” Chu Li spirits were low as well. “The moment we break through the Moon Blade Barricade, Feng Yiyou will have long since gathered the Pure Soul Springs. He and the others from Celestial Artifact Sect might even flee underwater!”

“W-what should we do?” Pan Qianqian asked anxiously.

On the other side of the Moon Blade Barricade.

“The Moon Blade Barricade? This really is the Moon Blade Barricade! As expected, Feng Yiyou is sinister and cunning. He planned everything long in advance! Damn it!” Ye Yihao gnashed his teeth.

“Breaking through the Moon Blade Barricade will be extremely difficult. It’s highly likely that Feng Yiyou will have already acquired everything by the time we crack it!” Su Yan wore a pitiful expression, as if she had already admitted defeat.

Like everyone else stuck outside of the thunder lagoon, Yu Men of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain was furious. Anger ruled his face as he cursed loudly.

It was clear that Feng Yiyou had planned everything brilliantly. When he established the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation using the bone ash urns, he quietly set up the Moon Blade Barricade inside of them.

As soon as he destroyed the thunder barrier using the Consecutive Soul Splitting Formation, the Moon Blade Barricade hidden within the bone ash urns would be released.

It would then form a new barrier around the thunder lagoon, denying entry to anyone other than him!

This would give Feng Yiyou enough time to explore the thunder lagoon. He'd then be able to take whatever he wanted, regardless of whether that included the Pure Soul Springs of the soul crystals at the bottom of the lagoon, and still be able to flee underwater.

Afterward, he'd still be able to retrieve the Moon Blade Barricade from afar. The plan was simply flawless.

After cursing for a considerable amount of time, Yu Men glared at Black Voodoo Cult's martial practitioners and shouted, "Which one of you is capable of destroying this Moon Blade Barricade as quickly as possible?"

Ye Yihao and Huang Zhuli wore grim expressions. Both were deep in thought, obviously trying to think of a plan.

Then Yu Men turned and stabbed his spear in Qin Lie's direction. "Aren't you supposed to be arrogant? If you're really as capable as you'd have us think, regain control over the thunder and lightning and smash that Moon Blade Barricade apart!"

"How about you? If you can do it yourself, then do it," Qin Lie responded in exasperation.

"If I could, do you think I'd still be wasting my breath on you? F*ck!" Yu Men gnashed his teeth, walking around in circles like an anxious beast in a cage.

"Qin Lie! The Sealing Obelisks! Aren't your Sealing Obelisks one of the eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Celestial Artifact Sect?" Du Xiangyang suddenly cried out, frantically flailing his arms.

"The Sealing Obelisks! That's right, you have the Sealing Obelisks!" Chu Li came to the same realization.

Startled and confused, Qin Lie said, "I do have the Sealing Obelisks, and they are indeed one of the eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Celestial Artifact Sect, but... what does that have to do with the Moon Blade Barricade?"

“The eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Celestial Artifact Sect were all forged by the same person. All of them have a profound connection with one another!” Du Xiangyang laughed. “The outstanding artificer who made them reportedly added a profound formation to each of them with the intent of preventing internal conflict.”

“What kind of formation?” Qin Lie grew excited.

“I’m not an artificer, so I wouldn’t know what kind of formation it is.” Du Xiangyang took in a deep breath, then sternly said, “I only know that, should any these eighteen Earth Grade spirit artifacts encounter each other and clash with their spirit energy, they will immediately neutralize each other!”

“What?!” Qin Lie exclaimed in astonishment.

“In other words, if you use the Sealing Obelisks to attack the Moon Blade Barricade, both should stop functioning and only return to normal after separating!” Du Xiangyang shouted.

“The formation that causes this was added to these spirit artifacts specifically to prevent fighting and massacres in Celestial Artifact Sect,” Chu Li explained sternly. “Their creator did this with the hope that sect elites possessing the eighteen great Earth Grade spirit artifacts wouldn’t be able to use them to kill each other, even when it came to conflict of interests or a sect member actually becoming an enemy. This was also done to prevent the spirit artifacts from being destroyed together.”

“Is this really true?” This information stunned Qin Lie.

“Without a doubt!” Du Xiangyang said.

“This is indeed the case!” Chu Li spoke up as well.

The three of them made sure to speak quietly during their conversation so that Black Voodoo Cult and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain wouldn’t be able to hear what they were saying.

Qin Lie thought to himself for a moment, then released his soul consciousness again to take stock of the situation in the thunder lagoon. His expression changed slightly as he sensed movement.

“What is it?” Du Xiangyang asked anxiously.

“At the bottom of the lagoon… Feng Yiyou and his men might not be able to gather the Pure Soul Springs. I sense violent outbursts from the thunder spirit.” Qin Lie frowned. After weighing his thoughts, he suddenly said, “If the Sealing Obelisks actually neutralize the Moon Blade Barricade, we have to act like we’re going to charge in immediately and lure the other two groups to enter before us.”

“You’re saying…?” Du Xiangyang had an inkling of what Qin Lie was planning.

“We’re going to let everyone else enter the lagoon, then move the Sealing Obelisks away from the Moon Blade Barricade so it can

continue functioning." An unspeakably cold, ghastly smile appeared on Qin Lie's face. "Then we'll just let them fight each other at the bottom of the lagoon. I can use my soul consciousness to keep track of the activity below, and I'll be able to use the Sealing Obelisks to neutralize the Moon Blade Barricade whenever necessary. We can charge down there when the time is right."

The eyes of everyone near Qin Lie shone with anticipation.

"Alright!" Du Xiangyang and the others said softly.

Once everyone came to an understanding, Qin Lie's group approached the thunder lagoon without saying a word, slightly sneaky expressions on their faces.

As soon as the martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain saw Qin Lie's group move, all of their gazes focused on them.

All of a sudden, one Sealing Obelisk flew into the sky after another, glowing mysteriously. Then they slowly descended onto the Moon Blade Barricade.

"I've seen those before! Those are the Sealing Obelisks, one of the Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Celestial Artifact Sect!" a martial practitioner from the three great families cried out.

"The Sealing Obelisks of Celestial Artifact Sect!" Niu Shaojun shouted.

“Qin Lie and his group are about to enter!”

Everyone from Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Black Voodoo Cult knew about the profound formation inside of the Earth Grade spirit artifacts of Celestial Artifact Sect. Their eyes flashed as they believed that they’d seen through Qin Lie’s scheme.

At this moment, several Sealing Obelisks descended toward the Moon Blade Barricade. The gathering of silver crescent blades no longer flew around or crisscrossed like before.

All of the floating blades of light came to an abrupt halt.

Everyone with Qin Lie roared, flying into the air one after another as if they were going to enter the thunder lagoon.

“Quickly, get inside!”

“Hurry!”

The martial practitioners from Black Voodoo Cult and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain had been paying attention to the movements of Qin Lie and his group the entire time. The moment they saw this scene occurring, all of them charged over as fast as possible—.

—including Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, and Yu Men.

Like fledgling swallows returning to their nest, one figure slipped through the gaps between the crescent blades after another and entered the thunder lagoon.

Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, and the rest, however, stopped right before entering as if they had been yanked from behind.

Chapter 498: Staying Out

Every force other than Qin Lie's group dove into the thunder lagoon one after another and disappeared.

When Du Xiangyang, Luo Chen, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, Chu Li, Pan Qianqian, and Xue Moyan were about to slip through the gaps of the Moon Blade Barricade and enter the thunder lagoon, they suddenly... stopped.

"Return!"

A bright light burst from Qin Lie's eyes as he linked to the Sealing Obelisks with his mind consciousness and guided them using the spirit energy in his body.

The six Sky Obelisks were initially situated above the Moon Blade Barricade, neutralizing it and keeping all of the silver crescent blades from moving.

At this moment, however, the Sky Obelisks ascended into the sky one after another. When they did, the millions of motionless crescent blades instantly began moving again, flying around at extremely high speeds.

The Moon Blade Barricade covered the thunder lagoon once more. Every living being with a physical body would immediately be diced into pieces by the multitude of crescent blades the moment they approached them.

The Moon Blade Barricade essentially functioned as a barrier, separating Qin Lie's group and the three forces that had just entered the thunder lagoon, preventing them seeing through the profoundness inside.

At the same time, the martial practitioners who had managed to bypass the barrier and enter didn't have any immediate means of escape. They were trapped inside, facing confinement conditions similar to Qin Lie's group on the outside.

"Qin Lie, will they be able to... seize the Pure Soul Springs quickly?" Du Xiangyang asked worriedly, feeling anxious.

This question voiced the doubt in everyone else's hearts.

Chu Li, Xue Moyan, Luo Chen, and the others wore stern expressions as they looked at the thunder lagoon enveloped by the Moon Blade Barricade. They were worried that the six Pure Soul Springs below would be neatly divided between the three forces that had entered, leaving them with nothing in the end.

"Don't worry. Even if Celestial Artifact Sect were the only force inside, quickly seizing the Pure Soul Springs would be impossible," Qin Lie reassured them. "The thunder spirit is capable of controlling thunder and lightning from the depths of the lagoon, and right now, it's in there with them. It definitely won't just let them have the Pure Soul Springs. Once Ten Thousand Beast Mountain and Black Voodoo Cult head deeper inside, they'll definitely start slaughtering their way to the Pure Soul Springs.

However, neither side will be able to annihilate one another right away. We just have to wait patiently."

Qin Lie could clearly sense everything that was happening in the thunder lagoon.

At this very moment, he could sense an indescribable irritation through his soul consciousness. It came from the thunder spirit releasing horrifying amounts of thunder and lightning in the depths of the lagoon.

At the bottom of the thunder lagoon, thunder boomed, and lightning waves that even Qin Lie found terrifying were rampaging in every direction across every single martial practitioner that had entered.

Qin Lie believed that, if he and his group were also present for this, they would've suffered from the thunder spirit's assault in similar fashion.

"Chu Li, those junior brothers and that girlfriend of yours... they don't seem to have given up," Du Xiangyang said softly, rubbing at one of the tokens owned by Celestial Artifact Sect as he raised his head to look into the distance.

Chu Li's eyebrows twitched.

He took out a Terminator Sect token. With a weary expression on his face, he took a moment to examine it with his mind

consciousness. A moment later, he sighed and said, “He Wei isn’t someone who gives up easily.”

Du Xiangyang wore an expression of indifference. “Unfortunately, she overestimates herself.”

“We didn’t do all of this to oppress He Wei, but to respond to He Wei and the other three resenting us. I still have yet to figure out where their resentment comes from.” The fact that He Wei still insisted on opposing them shocked Qin Lie. It didn’t make sense to him.

“I don’t understand it either.” Chu Li shook his head.

“It started when we unilaterally distributed the Spring of Life in the Forbidden Land of Wood,” Xie Jingxuan interrupted coldly.

Everyone looked at her with stunned expressions.

Xie Jingxuan looked unconcerned and her tone was icy. “All four of them have been infected with the voodoo toxin, and a considerable amount of their life energies had been lost. They all wanted to use the Spring of Life to recover their lost energy as quickly as possible. This is one of the reasons why they resent us.”

She paused for a moment, before continuing. “Ever since we first met, He Wei, Hu Ping, Ren Peng, and Wei Liang never took me, Qin Lie, or Sister Tingyu seriously. Since we came from the Scarlet Tide Continent, they subconsciously treated us like people of low

status, like we weren't qualified to negotiate with them as equals."

Once she finished voicing her opinion, Xie Jingxuan abruptly went silent.

Without warning, Song Tingyu let out a cold laugh.

Since he was carefully observing the situation, Qin Lie saw that the expressions on Luo Chen and Chu Li's faces seemed a bit uncomfortable.

"Miss Xie is right. Even I... I initially didn't take you seriously because I considered myself superior in status," Chu Li said apologetically, revealing a shameful smile. "Brother Lie, when I first saw you and Miss Song, I... indeed did not hold the two of you in high regard."

"You were never the problem." Qin Lie gave him a carefree smile.

Then he subconsciously looked at Luo Chen.

Luo Chen had his head lowered as if he were resting with his eyes closed. He didn't say a word.

Xie Jingxuan's words had clearly affected him like they had affected Chu Li.

Ever since he first encountered Qin Lie on Sea Moon Island, the

arrogant, prideful Luo Chen had never taken Qin Lie seriously. He had always harbored contempt in his heart and wholeheartedly desired to suppress Qin Lie. He wanted to make things difficult for Qin Lie to prove that Li Mu's choice was a mistake.

This was a knot in Luo Chen's heart that had yet to be untied.

"Everyone could initially work together in harmony because Qin Lie and I prioritized your desires over ours the entire time and never dared to request anything," Song Tingyu spoke up. "In the eyes of He Wei and her group, Qin Lie and I are of low status. They felt that it was natural for us to be humble. If we had continued to stay humble, everyone might've been able to continue getting along.

"However, Qin Lie didn't yield when it came to Xue Moyan and basically forced them to hand over the Spring of Life. This act crossed into forbidden territory in the hearts of He Wei and her group. They couldn't tolerate 'lowly' people like us taking something from them. This is where the problem originated!" Song Tingyu's analysis hit the mark dead on.

"The reason why we can't get along is because, in the end, He Wei and the others still look down on Qin Lie's group from the bottom of their hearts. They stubbornly persist in believing that Qin Lie does not qualify to stand with them on equal footing!" Du Xiangyang exclaimed sharply, pointing out the most important factor.

Xie Jingxuan and Song Tingyu nodded slightly, while Chu Li, Luo Chen, and even Xue Moyan went silent. They wore thoughtful

expressions.

“Awooo!”

The thunder spirit’s furious roar reverberated from the depths of the thunder lagoon. It was like an enormous lightning bolt had descended.

Qin Lie’s group, who were in the midst of conversing with each other, all shut their mouths at the same time. Their gazes gathered on the lagoon behind the Moon Blade Barricade.

Qin Lie focused his mind so he could make sense of the situation inside.

Behind the Moon Blade Barricade.

The moment they entered the thunder lagoon, the people of Black Voodoo Sect, the three great families, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were immediately shocked by the scene before them.

The sealed area they were in wasn’t influenced by gravity.

They were able to float through the air here, and could even see six clear streams of light flowing through empty space.

These six streams of light were emitting clean, untainted soul

auras. They were clearly authentic Pure Soul Springs!

This indisputable proof utterly shocked the crowd of martial practitioners.

However, there were clusters of arcing lightning and electric flame hovering beside the six Pure Soul Springs. They surrounded the Pure Soul Springs, sealing them like barriers of light.

Beneath them, crystalline lights filled the floor of the lagoon, shining brilliantly. If one were to look at them carefully, they would realize that all of the lights were bright soul crystals.

Every single soul crystal was translucent, dazzling to the eye, and radiated soul energy waves capable of stirring one's heart.

Unfortunately, if one looked at them a little longer, they would see streaks of lightning crisscrossing above the soul crystals. Those terrifying streaks of lightning seemed as though they could easily annihilate a martial practitioner.

At the same time, a strange crystalline beast sitting on the soul crystals opened its eyes wide, glaring at them coldly.

This strange beast had the form of a lion, but its body seemed to have been constructed with mystical lightning crystals. Terrifying waves of lightning energy were present within those crystals.

It was the thunder spirit!

The thunder spirit sat on the soul crystals, and the thunder energy surrounding it erupted violently, releasing waves of it that seemed capable of shaking the world.

Electric flames could faintly be seen inside of its crystal eyes. As it breathed, terrifying surges of electrical light constantly flowed to and fro.

“Crack crack crack!”

The moment Huang Zhuli and the others arrived at the bottom, they spotted Feng Yiyou and his people from Celestial Artifact Sect gathered by a Pure Soul Spring.

They were presently trying to think of a way to destroy the clusters of electric flames and arcing lightning surrounding the Pure Soul Spring and preparing to seize the first of the Pure Soul Springs.

The strange crystalline beast was crouching at the bottom of the thunder lagoon. Traces of ridicule and disdain surfaced in its crystal eyes.

Feng Yiyou and the rest of his group pulled out their spirit artifacts and used various spirit arts, attempting to destroy the clusters of electric flames. However, the moment their spirit artifacts and spirit energies collided with the flames, violent explosions would immediately erupt, dispersing all of the spirit energies. The shockwaves from the explosion blew the spirit

artifacts away as well.

Celestial Artifact Sect was ahead of everyone else by nearly seven minutes, but they had yet to acquire even a single Pure Soul Spring. Even the strange crystalline beast below had only roared occasionally. It hadn't intervened or attacked them thus far.

"The Moon Blade Barricade has been resealed! Qin Lie and his group didn't come down!" Xiahou Yuan roared furiously.

Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao immediately reacted to this information, both realizing that they had fallen for Qin Lie's scheme. They then looked at the current expressions of the people from Celestial Artifact Sect and immediately understood that seizing the Pure Soul Springs wouldn't be as easy as they had thought.

At that moment, the thunder spirit roared again. Clusters of electric flames floated around in its eyes, and its breath of surging electricity resembled dragons.

The electric flames and intense lightning that filled this space suddenly became violent, crazily flooding toward Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, Yu Men, and the rest of their people.

In an instant, all of the people who had entered the thunder lagoon no longer had the leisure to seize the Pure Soul Springs. Instead, they used all of their power and desperately focused on dealing with the thunder and lightning inside of the thunder lagoon.

On the surface, Qin Lie opened his eyes and grinned, saying, “Everyone, rest easy. We can just wait in peace.”

“How is the situation inside?” Du Xiangyang said, overflowing with excitement.

“The thunder spirit is controlling the thunder and lightning and using them to slaughter Huang Zhuli and everyone else who entered. Barriers made from clusters of lightning surround the Pure Soul Springs. Celestial Artifact Sect has yet to break a single one even after having been down there for so long,” Qin Lie said with a smile.

Hearing his words, everyone in their group relaxed, and their faces were filled with joy.

“That’s great! Heh, once the thunder spirit has massacred every single one of them, we’ll dive straight in. Once the thunder spirit has been sealed by Demon Sealing Tombstone, it’ll be easy for us to obtain all of the Pure Soul Springs, right?” Du Xiangyang laughed loudly.

“The soul crystals too!” Pan Qianqian clenched her fists. “And we’ll be able to deal with that slut, Huang Zhuli!”

“Qin Lie, you brat! Did you lie to me back then? You and Miss Xue aren’t engaged, right?” Chu Li asked in a carefree tone.

Qin Lie and Xue Moyan both cultivated the Blood Spirit Art, so they clearly had a close relationship. When Chu Li asked Du Xiangyang about it earlier, he found out that Qin Lie's relationship with Xue Moyan stemmed from her father, Xue Li. This was why he felt that Qin Lie and Xue Moyan couldn't actually be engaged.

"Engaged?" Pan Qianqian cried out as if she had discovered a new world. "Qin Lie and Miss Xue are engaged? So that's why..."

Xue Moyan was dumbfounded. She looked at Qin Lie in surprise, confusion clouding her vision.

"C-could we truly be engaged? Did father... plan for me to marry him?"

Turmoil overtook Xue Moyan's heart.

Chapter 499: Unknown Enemy!

Since Xue Moyan was suspicious, Qin Lie clarified the situation with an indifferent smile.

“No, we do not have a messy relationship like that. Your father simply… asked me to help you in the Graveyard of Gods. I told Chu Li we were engaged because I was worried that your identity as a member of Blood Fiend Sect would be exposed. Don’t think too much of it.”

After Qin Lie explained everything, Xue Moyan heaved a sigh of relief. Although this made her rejoice, she simultaneously felt a hint of disappointment.

“Ah, it seems I was overthinking things.” Pan Qianqian stuck out her tongue.

“Swish swish swish!”

Suddenly, the speed at which the sharp blades of the Moon Blade Barricade spun started to slow down.

Those silver crescent blades that resembled tranquil moonlight gradually stopped rotating.

Qin Lie’s group focused their attention on the Moon Blade Barricade and realized that it had turned back into brilliant silver light shaped like several crescent moons. Without warning, they

began descending into the depths of the thunder lagoon.

Feng Yiyou's face instantly appeared in Qin Lie's mind.

Qin Lie looked up into the sky only to see a bright silver spatial ring floating in the air, gathering up the crescent moon fragments of the Moon Blade Barricade.

Feng Yiyou was actually putting the Moon Blade Barricade away!

In addition to that, Feng Yiyou hastily flew out of the space that it originally enclosed, immediately landing at the edge of the thunder lagoon with two other Celestial Artifact Sect martial practitioners by his side.

Du Xiangyang and the others were finally able to see how the thunder lagoon actually looked.

Six Pure Soul Springs in the form of clear streams of light were constantly flying about like meteors. Clusters of electric flames and arced lightning enveloped each spring, moving as they did.

The martial practitioners of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain were positioned behind three of the Pure Soul Springs, using various methods to try and seize them.

However, no matter what spirit arts they used or what powerful spirit artifacts they had, the moment anything touched those

violent lightning flames, it would immediately be blasted to smithereens.

At the bottom of the thunder lagoon, the crystalline thunder spirit waited patiently. It simply crouched there, its intelligent eyes overflowing with disdain.

The black, charred remains of eight corpses that had exploded lay at the bottom of the lagoon. Every single corpse belonged to a martial practitioner of the three forces that had gone down there.

“This…”

Du Xiangyang stroked his chin, shaking his head in regret as he said, “It seems like the people from Celestial Artifact Sect aren’t that stupid and actually thought to remove the Moon Blade Barricade in time. Now they’ll still be able to leisurely take their leave upon realizing that things aren’t working out.”

Qin Lie looked regretful as well.

He had hoped that the three forces would engage in a bloody battle within the thunder lagoon while the thunder spirit assaulted them with thunder and lightning energy.

After all of them had died, Qin Lie would then use the Demon Sealing Tombstone to seal the thunder spirit. From that point onward, acquiring the Pure Soul Springs would be child’s play, wrapping this whole matter up perfectly.

Unfortunately, Feng Yiyou wasn't a fool.

The moment he realized that they were stuck in an unfavorable situation and the Pure Soul Springs couldn't be acquired easily, he instantly decided to remove the Moon Blade Barricade and immediately left the thunder lagoon.

As soon as Feng Yiyou left the lagoon, Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, Yu Men, and their respective groups came to the same realization, then they curbed their greed for the Pure Soul Springs, also retreating from the thunder lagoon.

All of them ended up returning to the edge of the thunder lagoon.

In just fifteen short minutes, eight people from the three forces had died.

Yet not a single force had acquired a Pure Soul Spring.

Qin Lie's group, on the other hand, hadn't taken any casualties.

"The anomalies in the thunder lagoon, the electric flames and arced lightning around the Pure Soul Springs... the thunder spirit is the source of it all!" Ye Yihao exclaimed with a grim expression. "As long as the thunder spirit exists, no one can even think of seizing a single one of the Pure Soul Springs or soul crystals!"

The gazes of every martial practitioner present gathered on Qin Lie.

“Qin Lie! You have the Demon Sealing Tombstone, so why haven’t you sealed the thunder spirit yet!?” Huang Zhuli gnashed her teeth in contempt.

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone? He has the Demon Sealing Tombstone?” Feng Yiyou cried.

“The Demon Sealing Tombstone is in his possession!?” Yu Men yelled, flying into a rage.

Feng Yiyou and Yu Men hadn’t participated in the struggle in the Forbidden Land of Wood, so they didn’t know that Qin Lie sealed the wood spirit with the Demon Sealing Tombstone. They even thought that the Demon Sealing Tombstone didn’t exist.

When they heard Huang Zhuli bring it up, both of them instantly figured out what Qin Lie had planned.

Qin Lie had purposefully left the thunder spirit unsealed, summoned everyone to the thunder lagoon, and tricked the three forces into entering the thunder lagoon at the same time and fighting over the Pure Soul Springs. He clearly planned to clean them all out in one fell swoop.

Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao had figured this out long ago, but they were absolutely confident in their own forces.

They believed that, even if Qin Lie had a despicable plan in place, he wouldn't be able to carry it out.

This was especially the case when the thunder spirit intervened and seized control of the thunder and lightning in the area, preventing Qin Lie from wielding their power. This made Huang Zhuli and Ye Yihao grow even more confident that they would be victorious in the Forbidden Land of Thunder.

Unfortunately, the two of them had underestimated the tenacity of the thunder spirit.

Despite using many different methods, they still weren't able to break through the electric flames and arced lightning protecting the Pure Soul Springs. Four of their people had even been killed by the thunder and lightning in the lagoon

Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain only understood the reality of the situation after paying a similarly painful price—As long as the thunder spirit was in the lagoon, no one could even think of seizing the Pure Soul Springs!

"He wants everyone to die!"

"He can obviously wield the Demon Sealing Tombstone and is even capable of using the Sealing Obelisks to get through the Moon Blade Barricade, yet he refuses to enter the thunder lagoon! How ruthlessly cunning!"

“He’s despicable! Shameless!”

“What a treacherous, lowly being!”

Martial practitioners from all three forces criticized Qin Lie, throwing curses one after another.

No one dared to enter the thunder lagoon again and continue to try seizing the Pure Soul Springs. Instead, they all focused on Qin Lie.

They made a firm decision in their hearts that, unless Qin Lie used the Demon Sealing Tombstone to seal the thunder spirit, they wouldn’t enter the thunder lagoon again.

“Seize the Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

“We need to get the Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

“Qin Lie! Hand over the Demon Sealing Tombstone!”

That very instant, the opinions of the three forces were astonishingly unanimous, and everybody started moving closer and closer to Qin Lie.

The eyes of everyone that wasn’t in Qin Lie’s group, including Huang Zhuli, Yu Men, Feng Yiyou, Ye Yihao, Su Yan, Xiahou Yuan,

and Lin Dongxing, were filled with killing intent as they bore into Qin Lie.

“Don’t be rash… allow me to try sealing the thunder spirit then.” Qin Lie smiled wryly, a helpless look on his face. He seemed to have no choice in the matter.

Every single person who was about to slaughter their way to Qin Lie suddenly stopped moving.

“Qin Lie, what are you…?” Du Xiangyang asked, stunned.

“There’s nothing else we can do. If we don’t seal the thunder spirit with the Demon Sealing Tombstone, we’ll just be attacked from all sides.” Qin Lie shrugged, a worried frown on his face. It seemed as if he were actually going to pull the Demon Sealing Tombstone out and seal the thunder spirit in the depths of the lagoon.

“Eh?”

“Mn?”

Du Xiangyang, Yu Men, and everyone else who possessed Terminator Sect tokens, all looked at their waists.

The Terminator Sect tokens emitted ear-piercing howls. It was as if someone were recklessly transmitting messages.

The howls stunned everyone into action, and every single person who possessed one such token gripped them and tried to sense the message within.

“It’s not a message! It’s just a distress signal,” Ye Yihao declared with a shake of his head, a cold expression on his face as he held a token. “Probably a ploy of insects that can’t stand on the main stage!”

“It’s He Wei and her group!” Du Xiangyang’s expression went cold as he couldn’t help but snort. “I wonder what kind of trick they’re trying to pull. Their strength alone doesn’t qualify them to even try seizing the Pure Soul Springs. What’s the point of these little tricks?”

Everyone believed that He Wei seeking aid was a part of her scheme to disrupt everyone’s plans and lure some of them away from the thunder lagoon, and by extension, the Pure Soul Springs.

“No, that’s wrong! He Wei is quickly approaching us!” Chu Li exclaimed, becoming anxious.

“Zzzz! Whoosh! Oooo!”

Tied to the waists of numerous people, tokens from every force began to emit strange howls and buzz wildly.

“Did He Wei’s group have tokens from so many different forces?”

Song Tingyu asked in surprise.

“No! They definitely don’t have this many! Something’s wrong!” Chu Li constantly shook his head.

“This is definitely strange.” Du Xiangyang frowned.

“Qin Lie! Can you still use your soul consciousness to sense the area around us?” Chu Li asked nervously.

Qin Lie nodded, saying, “I can, but my range is limited. I can sense several kilometers around us at the most., Any farther than that is impossible.”

“Help me sense them!” Chu Li burned with worry.

Qin Lie thought for a moment before saying, “Fine!”

He sat in a lotus position, held his breath, and concentrated as he used his soul consciousness to sense their surroundings.

An instant later, he stood right up. His expression became extremely grim as he roared, “More than two hundred life signatures are currently approaching us! They’re extremely fast, too!”

A huge number of life signatures flared up in his soul perception like blazing fireballs. They were one and a half kilometers away

from them, coming from the direction that He Wei's group had gone.

"What?!"

"There are that many life signatures?"

"More than two hundred of them? How is that possible!?"

Everyone was shocked.

"What are they, Qin Lie? Could they be foreign races?" Even Du Xiangyang eyes held fear within them.

The instant he said that, chills ran down the bodies of Huang Zhuli, Ye Yihao, Feng Yiyou, and Yu Men.

Years ago, during another Trial in the Land of Chaos, martial practitioners from the nine great Silver rank forces inadvertently entered Asura World, the territory of the Asura Race which had been nourishing their strength for many years.

Out of every Trial that had ever taken place, that one was the most tragic...

All of the martial practitioners who participated in that Trial, were completely massacred by the people of the Asura Race. Several powerful martial practitioners were killed, and the Asura

Race made use of the void passage to charge into the Land of Chaos, starting a grisly war that continued for ages.

As a result of this, blood flowed through the Land of Chaos like rivers, countless experts were annihilated, and many weaker forces disappeared.

That disaster had been carved into everyone's hearts.

Could it be that, just when they were on the verge of seizing good fortune, they were about to encounter another foreign race that had been hidden in the Graveyard of Gods?

"It's not a foreign race! They're humans! They're just like us!" Qin Lie roared.

"H-how is that possible? Among the nine great Silver rank forces of the Land of Chaos, the Trial participants of each force amounted to no more than twenty people. Even if none of us had died, it'd be impossible for there to be more than two hundred of us!" Pan Qianqian inadvertently cried out.

After how long all of them had engaged in bloody conflict, the martial practitioners of the nine great Silver rank forces had suffered terrible losses. Most of the lucky survivors were all present, so how could more than two hundred people suddenly appear?

"Could it be that the people outside let a new batch of

participants in?” Du Xiangyang speculated.

“Impossible! Celestial Artifact Sect and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain sealed the passageway after we entered. It definitely wouldn’t be opened again!” Feng Yiyou roared out.

“Then who could those two hundred people be?” Qin Lie asked.

“Maybe you sensed wrongly!” Feng Yiyou snorted.

“Qin Lie! I’m taking my leave first!” Chu Li completely trusted Qin Lie. Not daring to hesitate any further, he immediately charged in the direction that He Wei’s group had gone.

“Prepare for battle!” Qin Lie barked in a hollow voice.

While Ye Yihao, Yu Men, and everyone else were still hesitating, Du Xiangyang, Xue Moyan, Luo Chen, Song Tingyu, Xie Jingxuan, and Pan Qianqian pulled their spirit artifacts out one after another as if they were about to face a formidable foe.

They were preparing to face an unknown enemy.

Chapter 500: Eastern Barbarians

“Help! Chu Li, save me!”

He Wei’s shouting could be heard coming from a region outside of the thunder lagoon, growing louder and more urgent.

At that point, Chu Li had only just begun to move.

“We’re here!” Qin Lie exclaimed in a deep voice.

They could see He Wei several kilometers in the distance, rushing toward them hysterically.

Even considering the distance, they could see that her eyes were grim and and listless, her clothes were torn to shreds, and blood was soaking through what remained of her sleeves and collar.

The sight enraged Chu Li as he worriedly called out, “He Wei!”

Light appeared in Chu Li’s eyes as He Wei flew toward him the moment she saw him, mad with joy.

“Swoosh!”

At the very same moment, a spirit-energy-propelled arrow blinked into existence behind her. The amount of force behind it made it resemble a meteor.

Electrical rays of spirit energy coursed through that arrow, manifesting the exquisite, malevolent appearance of a mythical dragon.

Said dragon even moved in lifelike ways, tearing, biting, and roaring as it flew.

“Puk!”

The arrow struck He Wei, piercing the center of her back and protruded from her chest.

Her frantic figure came to an abrupt halt.

The light in her eyes gradually faded as she looked at the frenzied expression on Chu Li’s face, despair creeping onto her own.

“Bang!”

The arrow exploded with a dull rumble, creating a fist-sized hole of gore in He Wei’s chest. In that instant, the feeble light in her eyes went out.

He Wei died right in front of Chu Li!

“No!”

Chu Li unleashed a beastial roar, tears in his terrifying eyes as he desperately rushed to her side.

The sight froze Qin Lie's group in place.

Everyone who had questioned Qin Lie earlier immediately took out their spirit artifacts, their expressions taking a drastic turn for the worse.

All of them took up defensive positions and formations as if they were about to face a terrible enemy.

"Zzzzz! Oooo! Aooo!"

The tokens at every martial practitioner's waist emitted shrill noises, indicating that a large number of people were heading in their direction.

Qin Lie's expression was icy as he quietly looked into the distance far behind He Wei's still figure.

"Whoosh!"

A tan, formidable man nearly two meters tall was the first to appear. Sinister tattoos covered his body, and his long hair was braided into long ropes. He brandished a huge, curved bow, chuckling menacingly.

The man was barefoot and wore armor made from beasts, giving him a rugged appearance. An immense thirst for blood and battle flooded from his eyes.

Strung from his waist were multiple tokens of different kinds. There seemed to be at least one token from each of the nine Silver ranked forces of the Land of Chaos.

This signified that he had killed numerous Land of Chaos martial practitioners scattered throughout the Graveyard of Gods.

Soon enough, men garbed similarly to the first came into view with ominous spirit birds and beasts by their sides.

All of these men held curved bows comparable in size to the first man's, radiating a torrent of bloodlust. Each also had tokens strung to their waists.

One person stood out among the rest. They were more than two meters tall, had skin was the color of granite, and looked as tough as stone.

That person carried an enormous basket on their back that was filled to the brim with human heads.

Blood occasionally dripped from the basket, soaking the vines it was made from.

At the top of the basket were the faces of Ren Peng, Hu Ping, and Wei Liang, the three Terminator Sect martial practitioners that had been with He Wei. Blood dripped from their disembodied heads.

“Feng Qiang! That’s Feng Qiang’s head!”

“I see Liu Yan’s! They killed Liu Yan!”

“They also killed A’Hai and Meng Zi!”

“……”

Many people screamed in shock as time went on, killing intent gushing from their eyes. Among their number were Ye Yihao, Yu Men, and Feng Yiyou. Even Luo Chen and Xue Moyan were screaming.

Many martial practitioners belonging to the nine great Silver rank forces of the Land of Chaos had entered the Graveyard of Gods. Every single one of them who hadn’t been at the thunder lagoon were killed by this unexpected enemy, heads severed and carried around as trophies of war.

“Eastern barbarians!” Du Xiangyang exclaimed, eyes red with fury.

“Accursed eastern barbarians that deserve to die a thousand deaths!” Pan Qianqian exclaimed softly, gritting her teeth.

“Chu Li!” Xue Moyan barked in a low, gruff tone.

Hearing her call his name, Chu Li forcefully suppressed his desire to kill, took He Wei’s corpse into his arms, and turned away. His glittering, starlit spirit armor materialized and he flew back to Qin Lie’s side. Upon arrival, he sank to the floor in despair.

“Who are they?” Qin Lie asked with a frown.

“They’re savages that inhabit the tens of thousands of islands east of the Land of Chaos. We call them eastern barbarians! The Land of Chaos has always clashed with them because they occasionally invade us, pillaging and razing our territories. Most of the time, however, we of the nine great Silver rank forces meet them in battle to wipe them out.”

Du Xiangyang wore a facade of calm as he explained things to Qin Lie. “A strange mist shrouds the islands of the eastern barbarians, all tens of thousands of them. Much of their domain contains forbidden lands that only they know how to navigate in. These barbarians are unified and are familiar with their territory. As a result, our forces have not been able to keep the upper hand against them on their home turf. They hate us just as much as we hate them. We don’t know how many battles we’ve fought over the years, big or small, and there will always be more.”

“How did they enter the Graveyard of Gods?” Qin Lie asked in astonishment.

“God knows!” Du Xiangyang shook his head.

As they were speaking, the people of Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain wore grim expressions as they sized up the eastern barbarian forces, communicating in secret.

Opposite them, the formidable man who was clearly the leader of the eastern barbarians just chuckled to himself in a low, sinister tone. He didn’t seem to be in a hurry to take action as he surveyed the Land of Chaos martial practitioners.

He was waiting for more of his forces to arrive.

“The eastern barbarians are divided up into three tribes: the Black Barbarian Tribe, the Scarlet Barbarian Tribe, and the White Barbarian Tribe. That man is Sen Ye, the leader of the Black Barbarian Tribe’s young generation. The Black Barbarian Tribe is currently the strongest force of the eastern barbarians and rules over them. That eastern barbarian, Sen Ye, is incredibly famous among those savages. His strength is terrifying,” Xue Moyan said in a low voice.

Her explanation made Qin Lie stare at her in shock.

“The eastern barbarians inhabit the eastern side of the Land of Chaos, while the Heavenly Slaughter Continent that Illusory Demon Sect and Black Voodoo Cult reside just happen to be in the east as well,” Du Xiangyang continued. “Whenever those savages invade the Land of Chaos, they first need to go through the regions

controlled by Illusory Demon Sect and Black Voodoo Cult. That's why Xue Moyan is familiar with them."

"Black Voodoo Cult may openly cause conflict and maneuver in the shadows, but they're able to coexist with Illusory Demon Sect in the Heavenly Slaughter Continent," Luo Chen interjected. "They never wage truly irreconcilable, bloody wars against Illusory Demon Sect because of the threat that the eastern barbarians represent."

As this discussion took place, Chu Li simply sat there hugging He Wei's corpse, head lowered in silence. The spirit energy around his body grew increasingly unstable.

Nobody in Qin Lie's group felt anything for He Wei, Ren Peng, Hu Ping, or Wei Liang. After initially consoling Chu Li, they went straight to talking about the eastern barbarians.

"There are more than two hundred of them?" Du Xiangyang asked with a grim expression on his face.

"That's right." Qin Lie frowned deeply.

"What are their realms?" Luo Chen asked.

"All of them are in the Netherpassage Realm, same as us. It seems that the restricting force of the Graveyard of Gods affects them as well, which is probably why they don't have any higher realm martial practitioners with them," Qin Lie answered.

“The entrance that we used to get into the Graveyard of Gods… probably isn’t the only one.” Song Tingyu sighed.

Everyone in their group immediately understood what she was saying.

If there were another entrance that led to the Graveyard of Gods, and said entrance just happened to be in domain of the eastern barbarians, all of this would make sense.

“Tap tap! Tap tap tap!”

As they spoke, more and more eastern barbarians emerged from behind Sen Ye.

Sen Ye, the leader of the Black Barbarian Tribe’s young generation, dictated orders to someone behind him, and the eastern barbarians approaching the front suddenly began to spread out.

These barbarians spread to the left and to the right, slowly forming a ring shape that would surround the surrounding area.

They were planning to besiege the thunder lagoon!

Qin Lie’s group, Black Voodoo Cult, the three great families, Celestial Artifact Sect, and Ten Thousand Beast Mountain

consisted of Land of Chaos martial practitioners, all of which just happened to be gathered at the edge of the thunder lightning pond.

If the thunder lagoon were surrounded, all of them would be trapped in the middle of over two hundred eastern barbarians!

The color drained from everyone's faces as they realized what the eastern barbarians were doing. Their faces twisted into ugly expressions, and a sinking feeling filled their chests.

"It'll be infinitely more difficult for us to escape if they surround us. They have over two hundred men in the Netherpassage Realm, and that Sen Ye... as the young leader of the Black Barbarian Tribe, he definitely won't be an easy opponent." Du Xiangyang's face twitched, his expression one of pain. "However, if we leave, they'll probably acquire the Pure Soul Springs and the soul crystals."

This was a tough decision for Du Xiangyang to make.

Everyone else found it equally hard to make a decision..