

## Martial 1211

### Chapter 1211, Is This Your Last Resort?

In the canyon, Yang Kai and the middle-aged man stared at each other, the former with cold eyes and the latter with despair.

“Haha...” The middle-aged man stopped by Yang Kai smiled softly, but the smile was full of bitterness and unwillingness. He knew that this time he likely wouldn’t be able to escape and regretted it quite deeply.

The Flowing Flame Sand Field was so big, why did he and his three fellow Sect Brothers just have to walk through this canyon? Moreover, they just had to go and provoke this walking calamity. If they had just avoided doing either of these things, the four of them would still be alive. If they could leave this place safely, with the harvest they had gained, they would definitely receive huge benefits from the Sect.

But now, it was too late to say anything. Of their group of four, three had died, the middle-aged man had lost both his arms, and it seemed he would soon follow the path his fellow brothers had walked. His heart was full of annoyance. Now thinking back on what had happened when they first encountered this young man, the middle-aged man realized just how ridiculous his and his Sect Brother’s performance was.

If the other party didn’t have something to rely on, how could he have just stood there indifferently in front of them? If he wasn’t trying to draw them in, how could he have been stupid enough to publicize his treasures one by one?

Looking back now, the expressions and actions of this young man at that time should have created all kinds of doubts, but in the face of great benefits, even a shrewd man like him had let down his vigilance.

“Friend...” The middle-aged man gulped and suddenly said, “Can you tell me, what kind of strength you used just now? If you can tell, I can die without regrets.”

Yang Kai looked at him indifferently and shook his head, “Dead men don’t need to know anything.”

“Fair enough!” The middle-aged man smiled mirthlessly before straightening his back and lifted his head, “Go ahead, I know I’m definitely not your opponent, and I don’t plan on putting up a futile struggle, I only ask Friend to make it quick and painless.”

With these words, Yang Kai’s flicked his wrist and an imposing black sword wave shot out.

The moment the black sword wave appeared though, the eyes of the middle-aged man, who appeared to be waiting for death, flashed brilliantly and he spat out a puff of blood mist. The blood mist was extremely thick and the smell of iron coming from it was quite potent. Clearly, it was his Blood Essence. Amidst this blood mist was a small awl-shaped artefact. This awl shone with a deep yellow glow and rotated rapidly, gathering the surrounding energy from the atmosphere as it pierced towards Yang Kai.

The awl-shaped artefact seemed to be drilling a hole in space, visibly distorting the air as it flew forward and even smashing Yang Kai's black sword wave.

At the same time, the middle-aged man's face went pale and he staggered back several steps, staring at Yang Kai through the blood mist with his sharp eyes.

How could he simply wait to die? His face clearly wore the expression of someone extreme desperate to live, but at this moment, he was even more uncertain, wondering if his carefully prepared sneak attack would work.

This sneak attack was what the middle-aged man was placing all his hopes on. In order to promote this attack's chances of working, he had attempted lower Yang Kai's guard by putting on an act of non-resistance just now, hoping the former would appreciate such a lofty display and reveal an opening. If his opponent showed some kind of flaw, the middle-aged man would be able to seize the initiative, but he hadn't expected that this youth would be so decisive and ruthless, remaining completely indifferent and immediately attacking.

With his opponent not exposing any flaws, the middle-aged man could only hope his artefact wouldn't let him down.

Under his nervous gaze, across the blood mist, the awl-shaped artefact broke apart the black sword wave and immediately flew towards Yang Kai. On top of that, Yang Kai didn't seem to be able to react and was still standing in place.

The middle-aged man was overjoyed, but the smile that appeared on his face went stiff in the next instant.

Because he saw Yang Kai casually wave his hand and send out a jet black crack like the ones he had seen twice before. This jet black crack cut towards his awl-shaped artefact and soon swallowed the World Energy that was swirling around it, causing it to disappear as if it was being swallowed by a fierce beast. Not only that, after the crack passed through awl-shaped artefact, part of the artefact itself strangely disappeared as well, the remaining part losing all spirituality and falling directly to the ground.

The middle-aged man's eyes bulged as he stared at Yang Kai with a horrified expression, his voice trembling as he called out in alarm, "It really was a Void Crack?"

When he saw it before, he had only been sceptical, but seeing it again, this middle-aged man immediately affirmed that the method of attack this youth was using really was to send out a thin Void Crack. How else could his awl artefact have silently disappeared?

Obviously, it had been sent to The Void by that crack!

"Was that seriously your last resort?" Yang Kai looked at him with ridicule.

This middle-aged man was a cautious person, Yang Kai had already learned this, so anything he had said just now was treated as hot air by Yang Kai. Since he had decided to kill him, naturally Yang Kai wouldn't be deceived by such petty tricks. On top of that, Yang Kai didn't have a habit of underestimating his enemies.

“No, your strength is so low, how could you be so proficient in the Dao of Space? Even Elder Mo can’t use a Void Crack like that!” The middle-aged man growled hysterically, as if he had just witnessed something completely impossible.

“Elder Mo? Does he understand the Dao of Space?” Yang Kai frowned.

So far, besides himself, Yang Kai had never encountered any other cultivators who had comprehended the Dao of Space. Even a shocking master like Gui Zu who had an Origin King cultivation wasn’t proficient in using Space Force, but from the words this middle-aged man just spoke, it seemed this Elder Mo knew something about the Dao of Space.

This surprised Yang Kai.

“Elder Mo is Chief Elder of the Elder Hall and a master who reached the Third-Order Origin Returning Realm a thousand years ago! His strength is among the highest on Shadowed Star. I am his...” The middle-aged person mistakenly thought that Yang Kai was intimidated and quickly began reporting his relationship with Elder Mo, hoping to make Yang Kai hesitate to kill him.

“When I find an opportunity, I’ll go to Heaven Battling Union to compare notes with him about the Dao of Space then, but you won’t be around for that,” Yang Kai didn’t wait for him to finish his words before sending out another Space Blade.

This Space Blade sliced through the air and under the horrified gaze of a middle-aged man sliced him apart like he was a piece of tofu. The defensive Artefact Armour and Saint Qi he used to protect himself didn’t play any role at all and his cut through cleanly.

The middle-aged man only felt that his body became slightly shorter as his upper body dropped a finger width or so. When he lowered his head to look, all he could see was blood gushing out from a straight line across his chest. Just as he let out a pitiful scream, a shroud of Demonic Flame engulfed him and drowned out his voice. Three breaths later, all that remained was a pile of black ash.

Staring at the spot where this middle-aged man disappeared, Yang Kai frowned slightly, his expression a mix of happiness and concern.

On the upside, after more than a month of tempering, his Space Blade had finally reached a point where it could be used against enemies in combat and its effect was quite good, its lethality extremely high and its use very difficult to detect as there were no Saint Qi’s fluctuations associated with it.

On the downside, it was too easy to avoid and was difficult to aim. Even with Yang Kai focusing all his attention, he couldn’t precisely control the path his Space Blade traced.

The moment the middle-aged man took out his communication artefact, Yang Kai knew he wanted to send out a call for help, so he planned to kill him with a single blow, but instead, he had only managed to chop off one of his arms. Fortunately, the arm Yang Kai hit was the one holding the communication artefact, otherwise, this middle-aged man might have successfully sent out a message.

It was the same for his second attempt, it was only an accident that Yang Kai had cut off the middle-aged man’s other arm.

None of this was intentionally done by Yang Kai, it was all just a coincidence. Killing was the objective, so a single attack was best, Yang Kai didn't want to waste time and energy.

The third time was better, but the Space Blade still didn't land exactly where Yang Kai wanted it to.

However, despite all this, the incredibly lethality of his Space Blade more than made up for its flaws. It was capable of sending everything it encountered along its path into The Void, and as long as it was stable enough, theoretically, even an Origin King Realm master's body wouldn't be able to withstand an attack from it.

Verifying the power of his Space Blade through a real battle made Yang Kai quite satisfied. As for its accuracy and stability, Yang Kai believed that with the growth of his strength, he could slowly improve these factors. This move would become one of his greatest trump cards.

Bending over, Yang Kai picked up the middle-aged man's Space Ring before returning to his original position and cleaning the battlefield. He burned the corpses of the others before staring at the strange solidified space for a moment. After letting out a sigh, Yang Kai walked through this strange space and headed straight towards the other side of the canyon.

There was no need to remain here any longer. In Yang Kai's original plan, he would leave here in two or three days, but after being disturbed by these four from Heaven Battling Union he decided to depart early.

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Half a day later, Yang Kai stopped under a huge rock.

This rock had been baked in the heat of the Flowing Flame Sand Field for countless years and was now a fiery red colour with all of its internal impurities completely removed. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that it was a good Artefact Refining material. If one could take it to an Artefact Refiner, at the very least, they could use it to refine some Saint Grade artefacts.

Yang Kai wasn't interested in this thing though and simply wanted to borrow it to shelter himself from the surrounding heat for a while.

There was a recessed pit under the rock that only one person could fit inside. Yang Kai sat down in this pit and began checking through the Space Rings of the four Heaven Battling Union cultivators. After all, this was his spoils of victory.

After inspecting these rings, Yang Kai was secretly shocked.

It wasn't that these four had some kind of amazing treasure on them, but rather that they had so many spirit grasses, spirit medicines, Fire Crystal Stones, and various ores from the Flowing Flame Sand Field.

It was a huge amount! Almost every one of these rings had the equivalent of seven or eight people's worth of harvest.

These four couldn't possibly have had such good luck, they must have killed a great many people to obtain all of this, but now all of it had landed in Yang Kai's hands.

Each of these things was just a common treasure from the Flowing Flame Sand Field, nothing near as valuable as the huge Fire Crystal Stone or Brilliant Fire Crystal Essence that Yang Kai obtained, but with such a large quantity, it still made Yang Kai quite pleased.

### **Chapter 1212, Ugly Woman**

After transferring everything to his Space Ring, Yang Kai sat cross-legged under the boulder to adjust his breathing.

Yang Kai had been cultivating in the canyon for more than a month and had just experienced a battle, so although he had not consumed much of his strength, he still wanted to maintain his peak condition in case he encountered any unexpected problems.

After half an hour, Yang Kai opened his eyes.

Just as he was about to leave the pit under the boulder though, Yang Kai saw a gray figure in front of him. This figure was small, flexible, and extremely fast. Although not as ridiculous as the Flowing Flame Flying Fire, its speed was still substantial.

The moment Yang Kai found this figure, he swept it with his Divine Sense and after confirming what it was, he couldn't help showing a look of surprise.

It was actually a kind of Monster Beast and looked a bit like a fox. Its eyes were sharp and gave it a sly appearance. Its whole body was surrounded by a Wind Attribute aura, allowing it to move at great speed.

What Yang Kai cared about most though was the fruit which this Monster Beast was carrying in its mouth. This fruit was bright red and gave off a potent hot aura.

Golden Sun Fruit? Yang Kai raised a brow and immediately stood up to quickly chase after this fox-like beast.

The Golden Sun Fruit was an Origin Grade High-Rank Spirit Fruit and the primary ingredient in a number of Origin Grade pills. Since Yang Kai was planning on refining some pills to assist Wu Yi and the others with their cultivation, now that he had suddenly encounter such a spirit fruit, he wasn't about to let it go.

On top of that, this Monster Beast's strength didn't seem very high, only reaching the Sixth-Order, so regardless of how quick it was, Yang Kai was confident he could easily catch up with it.

Robbing a single spirit fruit from a Monster Beast's mouth was a bit ridiculous, but what Yang Kai cared more about was that since one Golden Sun Fruit had appeared here, there must be a Golden Sun Fruit Tree growing nearby. After catching this Monster Beast, perhaps Yang Kai could get it to lead him back to the fruit tree.

If Yang Kai could transplant this tree back to Dragon Cave Mountain, it would be best. Yang Kai believed that with the vitality contained in his Golden Blood, it wouldn't be a problem to transplant this Golden Sun Fruit Tree.

This was the third layer Flame Area of the Flowing Flame Sand Field, so all of the spirit grasses and spirit medicines were extremely old, their value far higher than anything present in the outside market.

Yang Kai wasn't slow and had begun his pursuit the moment he noticed the little beast passing by, but he had apparently underestimated this little beast's ability. By the time he chased after it, it was nearly three kilometers away.

Frowning slightly, Yang Kai summoned his Wind and Thunder Wings and slowly but surely closed in on the little beast.

After half an hour, just as Yang Kai was about to catch up to the little beast, from up ahead, he suddenly heard the sounds of battle, and from the powerful energy fluctuations he felt it appeared to be quite an intense one at that.

Yang Kai wasn't looking for trouble and wanted to avoid this fight, but the little beast he was chasing was heading straight towards the source of the sound.

Having pursued it for so long, Yang Kai naturally didn't want to give up halfway, so he simply continued onwards.

However, a moment later, Yang Kai showed a stunned look, because he saw with his own eyes the beast he had chased all this way dart over to the place where two figures were fighting and leap into a young woman's chest.

Was this little beast someone else's pet? Yang Kai's expression became ugly.

If he had known this before, how could he have engaged in such a fruitless pursuit? Since this was a Monster Beast raised by someone else, its owner must have released it to search for spirit grasses and spirit medicines. Yang Kai had only spotted it by coincidence on its way back and chased it all the way here.

This could easily lead to a misunderstanding with others.

However, the little beast really had some impressive skills, able to find a Golden Sun Fruit for its owner. Judging from how smooth its movements were, it also didn't seem this was the first time it had done this.

The one fighting the owner of this little beast was a man dressed in shining golden robes, and when Yang Kai saw this, he couldn't help showing a look of disgust.

Heaven Battling Union truly had many cultivators enter the Flowing Flame Sand Field; Yang Kai had encountered them no matter where he went. Back when he collected the Emerald Silk Grasses, two had died, then Yang Kai had killed four back in the long canyon, yet now, only a short time later, he had met another, it was truly some bad luck.

The scene where the little animal burrowing into the woman's robes with a spirit fruit in its mouth was naturally seen by the Heaven Battling Union disciple and he exclaimed, "Golden Sun Fruit?"

As he spoke, greed flashed across his eyes and his attacks became even more ruthless.

After the arrival of Yang Kai, the woman seemed to become far more vigilant, diverting a part of her focus to monitor this newcomer's movements. Doing this caused her to fall into a disadvantage immediately as her opponent's battle-axe began raining down blows upon her, putting her in a perilous position.

As for the Heaven Battling Union disciple, he didn't put Yang Kai in his eyes at all, shouting out loudly in order to rile up his opponent, "You ugly woman, what did you come out here for? To show other's your ugly face? Hahaha, since you're so ugly, why not just stay in your room obediently and never expose yourself? It's your own fault for running out and disgusting people! What? Don't like what I'm saying? Bite me then! Or, I'll say whatever I want!"

Sure enough, facing this man's poisonous tongue, the woman's tender body trembled and a cold murderous glint flashed across her eyes. Although she was constantly pushing her Saint Qi to resist and she desperately wanted to rip the foul mouth off of this man, with anger clouding her judgement the strength she was able to display was less than eighty percent of her peak, causing her already bad situation to become even more precarious.

Yang Kai then noticed this woman's face, and at a glance, felt deeply sorrowful.

Although the words of the cultivator from Heaven Battling Union were truly vile, it was also undeniable that this woman was truly unattractive.

Describing her as simply unattractive was actually a kind evaluation of her. She possessed an exquisite and rich figure, one that would tickle any man's fantasies, but her face was filled with pock-marks and scars along with a number of yellow pustules that gave off an unpleasant smell. Not only that, her face's skin tone was extremely sallow and appeared malnourished.

This formed an extraordinarily stark contrast with her fair arms and pink neck.

People with poor mental strength would be frightened if they saw her face.

Without these shortcomings though, her appearance would have been excellent; after all, her underlying facial features were delicate and neat.

Yang Kai frowned slightly, wondering whether this woman was born like this or if there was some other reason, but regardless of the reason, her appearance was obviously her Achilles' Heel. The cultivator from Heaven Battling Union kept attacking her looks and was successful in stimulating her anger.

If not for this, she could probably have killed this Heaven Battling Union cultivator with her ability.

She used a white silk-like artefact that was incredibly sharp and stealthy. As she danced upon the battlefield, white flashes of light silently appeared in a several dozen meter radiuses around her and sharp cutting noises constantly rang out, but even so, she was barely able to remain undefeated.

Whatever reason these two were fighting for, Yang Kai didn't plan on getting involved. Although he didn't like the cultivators from Heaven Battling Union, as long as the other party didn't provoke him, he wouldn't take the initiative to provoke them. All those who provoked him though, would die.

On top of that, since this little beast that could find spirit fruits was this woman's pet, Yang Kai didn't plan on capturing it anymore.

But contrary to his wishes, the cultivator from Heaven Battling Union for some reason or another, in the middle of his battle with this woman, called out to Yang Kai, "Boy, what do you think of this woman's appearance? Isn't she beyond ugly? Say a few good words and your Uncle here will reward you."

He apparently wanted to use Yang Kai to stimulate his opponent even further.

After hearing what he said though, Yang Kai just frowned, abandoning his plan to simply walk away as he stared towards the cultivator from Heaven Battling Union with a funny look.

The woman also intentionally or unintentionally glanced over towards Yang Kai, and it was apparent that there was some worry in their depths, her red lips becoming a bit pale and colourless as she bit them tightly.

Did she really care so much about her appearance? Obviously. So, she was worried that Yang Kai would echo the words said by this Heaven Battling Union disciple.

Yang Kai didn't know what this woman was thinking, but to himself, he thought that even if she was ugly... extremely ugly, there was no reason to care so much about it, right?

However, seeing Yang Kai not say anything allowed the woman to breathe a sigh of relief. The white artefact in her hand danced more and more fiercely and she actually wrapped up the other party's battle-axe. The cultivator from Heaven Battling Union was shocked and hastily tried to take back his artefact but was unable to free it from the bindings of the white silk immediately. Seeing his artefact on the verge of being taken away, he pushed his Saint Qi violently and finally managed to stabilize his situation.

The two sides instantly reached a tenuous stalemate, with the man and woman stopping in place, both desperately pouring their Saint Qi into their respective artefacts as they continued to struggle against one another.

"Boy, are you mute or something? Uncle here asked you a question, why don't you answer?" Then cultivator from Heaven Battling Union seemed to become angry out of shame as he was being matched evenly by this woman, so he shouted once more to Yang Kai.

Yang Kai maintained his strange smile, paused for a moment, then began walking towards the deadlocked pair.

The woman and the cultivator from Heaven Battling Union both showed stunned expressions as they stared blankly at the approaching Yang Kai, wondering what this small First-Order Saint King wanted to do.

But soon, the cultivator from Heaven Battling Union came up with an idea and shouted to Yang Kai once more, "Kid, I don't care whether you're mute or not, hurry up and kill this woman for me, kill her and I will give you some benefits."

As soon as these words came out, the woman's look changed drastically. She was currently in a stalemate with her opponent, but once an outsider intervened, this deadlock would instantly be broken.



Although she wasn't afraid of an attack from Yang Kai as he was just a First-Order Saint King, if he were really to attack her, the man from Heaven Battling Union would take that opportunity to free his battle-axe from her white silk artefact, destroying her hard-won advantage.

As such, she was quite nervous.

Fortunately, Yang Kai didn't seem to have any intention to attack and simply shook his head, allowing her to calm down. She even flashed a look of gratitude towards him briefly.

### **Chapter 1213, I Just Found Him Unpleasant To The Eye**

Seeing Yang Kai actually refuse him, the cultivator from Heaven Battling Union wore a cold look and cursed, "Good good good, a mute and an ugly woman, you two are a perfect match. Do you want this Sir to act as a matchmaker so you can 'comfort' one another?"

The woman's sallow face blushed red then went pale, her finally calm mood becoming angry again. It was as if her entire mood would change greatly when she heard the words 'ugly woman'.

"There's no need for that, I have a wife already, there's no need for you to worry about my business," Yang Kai suddenly sneered.

The cultivator from Heaven Battling Union was stunned momentarily but soon let out a laugh, "Turns out you're not a mute. Well whatever, just pretend I hadn't said anything. Boy, scram, there's nothing here for you."

He also saw that Yang Kai looked like he was harbouring ill intent and although he wasn't afraid of Yang Kai, he still decided to warn him off.

How could he have known that the always indifferent looking Yang Kai would suddenly push his Saint Qi and condense a long sword out of jet black flames? Seeing this, the Heaven Battling Union cultivator couldn't help wearing a grim look and barking, "What? You want to start something with me? You best think twice, if you dare to act, you're dead!"

"I certainly don't want to die, but I'm afraid you are going to. Friend's mouth is so foul I can smell its stink from ten kilometres away, I really can't stand it, so I'll have to take your life to put an end to the stench!" Yang Kai said while slashing his Demonic Flame sword forward.

The Profound Heavenly Sword condensed from Demonic Flame gave off an earth-shaking power as Yang Kai unleashed a dozen slashes, sealing off all avenues of retreats for the Heaven Battling Union cultivator.

The instant Yang Kai attacked, the Heaven Battling Union cultivator's face changed greatly. How could he not feel that the power behind Yang Kai's attack was incomparable to what an ordinary First-Order Saint King could produce? No longer having the leisure to entangle with the ugly woman anymore, he took the initiative to withdraw his Saint Qi from his battle-axe and instead condense a shield in front of his body.

\*Hong Hong Hong...\*

After just two hits, the wave of sword slashes Yang Kai sent out smashed this Saint Qi shield, allowing the remaining attacks to chop down directly towards the Heaven Battling Union cultivator.

The man from Heaven Battling Union called out in alarm and tried to dodge, but the woman nearby used her white silk artefact to bind him in place at that exact moment. The white silk had an outrageous sharpness and after binding this man up, the woman pushed her Saint Qi and the white silk suddenly tightened.

A flash of light erupted from the man as he pushed his Artefact Armour's protection to its maximum, but that still wasn't enough to stop the white silk from cutting into him. After a light snapping sound, the Heaven Battling Union cultivator's body suddenly had dozens of bloody lines appear all over his body.

"No..." The man let out half a scream before his body was cut into a dozen pieces by the white silk.

Before his corpse fell, Yang Kai's jet black sword swept forward and burned his body to ashes.

A Third-Order Saint King Heaven Battling Union elite disciple had been slaughtered by Yang Kai and the woman in less than a breath. Yang Kai wasn't surprised by this result though, because even if he was alone, he was confident he could have killed this man, much less working together with this woman.

However, the power of the woman's white silk artefact had surpassed his expectations; if he had known it was so strong, he wouldn't have sent out so many slashes.

The woman was also quite surprised by the means Yang Kai displayed, and after easily killing the Heaven Battling Union disciples, she shouldn't help glancing over at him in shock.

Yang Kai noticed now that not only did this woman have an enchanting figure, her eyes also had a brilliant light to them. If she covered her face and only exposed her eyes, she would certainly be able to make many men crazy for her.

But with her face's appearance... It was truly unfortunate. Yang Kai thought so, but didn't show anything on his face.

"Many thanks!" After killing her opponent, the woman exhaled heavily, causing her plump chest to bounce exaggeratedly, tracing a thrilling and beautiful arc, bowing her head gently to Yang Kai as she managed to squeeze out a smile. Although this smile was full of sincerity, matched with her visage, it was a difficult sight to behold.

Her voice on the other hand was extremely gentle and sweet, incredibly pleasant to the ear.

"It's nothing, I just found him unpleasant to the eye," Yang Kai said lightly.

"You may rest assured, I won't tell anyone about this, and the one who killed him was me, so it has nothing to do with you. If the people from Heaven Battling Union really want to track down the culprit, you won't be found responsible," The woman said, taking all responsibility onto herself. This gave Yang Kai a favourable impression of her and made him feel like that taking action just now had not been in vain.

As they spoke, the woman took the ring that had fallen to the ground after the Heaven Battling Union died and without even glancing at its content tossed it over to Yang Kai, "I'll give you this."

Yang Kai didn't try to act polite and accepted it, tucking it into his sleeve.

The woman thought for a moment, blushed somewhat red again before reaching into her chest and taking out a red fruit and also tossing it over, "You pursued it for this, right?"

Yang Kai caught it and smiled embarrassedly, "I didn't know it was raised by you."

The fruit in his hand was warm to the touch, but whether that was because of the fruit's nature or where the woman had been keeping it, Yang Kai didn't know. There was however a faint fragrance lingering about it which made one feel refreshed.

"I know," The woman nodded lightly, "Although my Spirit Fox cannot be used to fight, it has a natural ability to find spirit grasses and spirit medicines, you pursuing it after you encountered it is only normal."

Saying so though, the woman frowned as she suddenly remembered that her Spirit Fox was extremely fast. Outside, cultivators might be able to catch up to it, but in this place, where no one could fly, it should be able to easily shake off anyone who tried to pursue it. How did Yang Kai catch it then?

Despite her suspicions, she chose not to ask anything. Since this young man was able to chase down her Spirit Fox, he certainly must have his own methods, and asking about it would only make things awkward. Although her appearance was bad, she was born a beautiful and intelligent woman and knew some things were best left unsaid.

"Spirit Fox?" Yang Kai frowned. It was the first time he had heard of this kind of Monster Beast; however, he did know about some Monster Beasts that specialized in seeking out spirit grasses and spirit medicines. This Spirit Fox was probably one of them. These kinds of Monster Beasts were incredibly precious and were usually raised by Sects specifically to find treasures.

"En, it grew up with me from a young age." When the woman talked about the Spirit Fox, she wore a smile on her face. It was a much more natural one than the forced one she had shown before. Reaching out, she lightly touched a small head which had popped out from her robes and was now vigilantly looking towards Yang Kai. Suddenly being reminded of something, she asked, "Would you like to go and find the Golden Sun Fruit Tree with me? Since my Spirit Fox found this Golden Sun Fruit, it means that there was a fruit tree and many more fruits. We can split them half and half if you'd like."

She seemed very reluctant to accept favours from others. Yang Kai had just helped her a moment ago and she had already given him both the Heaven Battling Union cultivator's Space ring and the Golden Sun Fruit, but it seemed she didn't feel it was enough so she made this suggestion.

This was exactly Yang Kai's original intention. He had wanted to find the Golden Sun Fruit Tree but had no clue where to look, so now that this woman had made him such an offer, he quickly nodded, "Yes."

Yang Kai could also tell that this woman wasn't bad or he wouldn't have agreed so easily. If this wasn't the case, how could she, a Third-Order Saint King, have proposed to split the fruits evenly with him?

Having reached an agreement, the woman released her Spirit Fox, whispered something into its ear, and then she and Yang Kai followed after it as it ran forward.

Yang Kai had been chasing the Spirit Fox for about half an hour before, but it took the Spirit Fox over an hour to lead them to the place where the Golden Sun Fruit Tree grew because the woman's speed wasn't that fast.

There was indeed a Golden Sun Fruit tree growing nearby the place Yang Kai had stopped to take a rest, and it was in a very well hidden location. In a small mountain valley surrounded by steep cliffs, behind a large rocky outcropping stood the ten-metre tall Golden Sun Fruit Tree which seemed to bask in the intense heat surrounding it.

Only this Spirit Fox, a Monster Beast that was extremely good at seeking out spirit grasses and spirit medicines, could have found this Golden Sun Fruit Tree. Even if a cultivator has passed by this place, if they hadn't stopped and done a thorough investigation, they would have missed it.

Yang Kai and the woman walked into the mountain valley peacefully. Neither asked the other's name or origin because they both knew that they would part ways after this brief cooperation, so naturally there no need to get to know one another.

A moment later, the two stood beneath the Golden Sun Fruit Tree staring up at the large fruits hanging from its bows with shocked faces.

There seemed to be at least thirty fruits on this tree, each one of them a brilliant and eye-catching red while on the ground there were also a dozen or so fully mature fruits which had fallen from the branches.

It was hard to tell how many years this Golden Sun Fruit Tree had been here or how many fruits had gone to waste during that time.

After staring at it for a while, the woman turned to Yang Kai and said, "I'll have my Spirit Fox pick all the fruits first before we distribute them."

"Sure!" Yang Kai naturally had no objections.

On the woman's order, the little fox-like beast quickly climbed up the Golden Sun Fruit tree and as if leapt from branch to branch, the Golden Sun Fruits fell down one by one.

The woman's face turned bright as she caught the falling fruits.

When there were no more fruits on the tree, she proceeded to pick up the mature fruits which had fallen to the ground before dividing the whole batch up into two and handing one half to Yang Kai, "There are forty-four in total, so we each get twenty-two."

Yang Kai gently nodded before tossing his half into his Space Ring.

After the fruits were divided, the woman said, "For this time, I offer you my thanks once more. If there's a chance in the future, I will definitely repay you."

"No need, these Golden Sun Fruits are enough," Yang Kai smiled and shook his head. He had only taken action at will, but the other party had actually treated him so generously that Yang Kai was becoming somewhat embarrassed.

The woman thought for a while but did not insist, instead just nodding, "Since that's the case, I will take my leave first."

"Okay, I'll collect this fruit tree first then also leave!" Yang Kai didn't conceal his plans. This fruit tree was incredibly old so as long as he could transplant it back to Dragon Cave Mountain, perhaps it could once

again bloom and bear fruit. There were no spirit grasses or spirit medicines of note on Dragon Cave Mountain, so this fruit tree would be just right to decorate it.

### **Chapter 1214, Wei Gu Chang's Call For Help**

Moreover, the Divine Tree was sleeping in his Black Book Space, so there was a chance its aura would be able to nourish and support this Golden Sun Fruit Tree.

Of course, even if this transplant effort wasn't successful, there would be no loss.

"What do you want this fruit tree for?" The woman who was just about to leave stopped in place and stared at Yang Kai strangely. "This kind of spirit tree has very strict requirements for its growth environment. If you take it away from here, perhaps it will die. What's more, a Space Ring isn't suitable to store it."

After speaking these few words though, she suddenly realized that she was inadvertently poking into Yang Kai's business and smiled awkwardly, asking "Would you like me to help?"

"No thanks, your intentions are more than enough, I can handle this myself." Yang Kai smiled slightly before stretching out a finger and condensing a long, sharp blade of Saint Qi. Stabbing this blade into the ground, Yang Kai traces a wide circle around the Golden Sun Fruit Tree.

The land around the fruit tree wasn't anything special so Yang Kai was naturally able to cut through it with ease. In order to not damage any of this Golden Sun Fruit Tree's roots, Yang Kai carefully used his Divine Sense and Saint Qi.

After completing a circle around the Golden Sun Fruit Tree, Yang Kai released his Divine Sense and turned it into a big net that completely covered it.

The next moment, a light flashed, and the ten-metre-tall Golden Sun Fruit Tree disappeared from sight. It had been taken into the Black Book Space by Yang Kai and placed beside the Divine Tree, leaving only a huge pit in its place.

The woman's eyes flashed an unusual light. Although with her cultivation she could also easily bring such a big spirit tree into her Space Ring, a First-Order Saint like Yang Kai accomplishing such a feat without even breaking a sweat was a bit surprising.

After all, collecting such a huge living thing would put a heavy load onto one's Divine Sense.

Finished collecting the Golden Sun Fruit Tree, Yang Kai smiled slightly to the woman and was about to bid farewell to her when his brow suddenly furrowed. Wiping the Space ring on his finger, Yang Kai took out his communication artefact.

Just now, when his Divine Sense accidentally swept his Space Ring, he suddenly noticed that a message had been sent to him, something that caught his attention.

This communication artefact was given to him by Wei Gu Chang. Not long after entering the third layer of the Flowing Flame Sand Field, Yang Kai had found the bodies of two Shadow Moon Hall disciples. At that time, he had tried to contact Wei Gu Chang but had never heard back from him. Yang Kai didn't know how he or Dong Xuan'er was doing. Now though, after more than a month had passed, Yang Kai had suddenly received a message, which made him very surprised.

Before Yang Kai could even check the content of this message though, the woman standing nearby called out in surprise before asking Yang Kai in a stunned voice, "Are you a disciple of Shadow Moon Hall?"

Yang Kai turned a confused look of his own towards her and asked back, "Why would you think that?"

Although he had some small friendship a few people from Shadow Moon Hall, Yang Kai himself was not from Shadow Moon Hall. Why would this woman suddenly ask him such a question after he took out this communication artefact?

The woman simply smiled lightly and pointed to the communication artefact in Yang Kai's hand, "The artefact in your hand was made by Shadow Moon Hall's Grandmaster Ge Lin. It has his unique mark on it. I also have an artefact refined by Grandmaster Ge Lin so I'm quite clear about this. Since you have such a communication artefact, how could you not be related to Shadow Moon Hall? On top of that, only core disciples from Shadow Moon Hall should have this kind of communication artefact."

For some unknown reason, after suspecting that Yang Kai was a Shadow Moon Hall disciple, the woman's attitude towards him seemed to improve. Before, she had spoken in a more reserved tone but now her words seemed more natural and relaxed.

Yang Kai gawked for a moment before looking at the spot she was point and noticing a small triangular sign atop the communication artefact.

Grandmaster Ge Lin was a name Yang Kai was familiar with. It was said that he was the only Origin Grade Low-Rank Artefact Refiner in Shadow Moon Hall, one of the few such Grandmasters on all of Shadowed Star. It seemed this small triangle mark was Grandmaster Ge Lin's personal signature.

This kind of practice was quite normal. Generally, famous Artefact Refiners would possess their own unique mark. After refining an artefact, this mark would be added and not only would it increase the value of an artefact, it would grant the owner of the artefact a lot of face.

This was something Alchemists couldn't do, because no Alchemist was so idle and bored that he would add a distinctive mark to the pills he refined. Once someone swallowed a pill, it would be gone forever, would anyone show it off before eating it?

This woman was extremely observant; Yang Kai hadn't even realized this mark existed until she had pointed it out.

Understanding this, Yang Kai nodded and said, "This should have been refined by Grandmaster Ge Lin, but I'm not a disciple of Shadow Moon Hall, this thing was given to me by Wei Gu Chang."

"Senior Brother Wei gave it to you?" The woman covered her mouth with a look of surprise. She was well aware of Wei Gu Chang's demeanor; even most of the Core Disciples from Shadow Moon Hall weren't put in his eyes. Besides Dong Xuan'er, no one else was even able to enter his discernment, yet Wei Gu Chang had actually given Yang Kai this communication artefact. What did that imply?

"Do you know Brother Wei?" Yang Kai was surprised this time. He hadn't expected a random woman he met to have some kind of friendship with Wei Gu Chang.

“En, I’m know him because I’m familiar with Xuan’er...” The woman smiled sweetly and said, but suddenly realizing something, her expression sank as she hurriedly said, “Did Senior Brother Wei send you a message? Take a look quickly!”

The ones capable of reaching this place were the Core Disciples of Shadow Moon Hall, so it was very likely that Wei Gu Chang was the one who had sent a message. The most likely reason he had sent out a message though would be because he encountered some kind of danger.

Wei Gu Chang and Dong Xuan’er had always been inseparable, so if Wei Gu Chang was in danger, Dong Xuan’er must be as well. Realizing this point, the woman became anxious and quickly urged Yang Kai.

This woman’s sudden anxiety surprised Yang Kai. He didn’t know what kind of background this woman had but it was clear from her sudden reaction just now that she was very close with Dong Xuan’er.

Not wasting any more time, Yang Kai poured his Divine Sense into the communication artefact to investigate as the woman stared towards him nervously.

A moment later, Yang Kai frowned, looked up, and said, “Brother Wei indeed sent out a message, and it seems he’s ran into some trouble.”

“What happened?” The woman asked hurriedly.

“They seem to have fallen into some kind of ancient Spirit Array and can’t escape. They were only able to send out a message calling for help. I sent a message back, but they haven’t replied,” Yang Kai slowly shook his head.

“An ancient Spirit Array?” The woman turned pale, “Is Little Sister Xuan’er alright?”

“I don’t know,” Yang Kai shook his head, “Only Brother Wei sent out a message, I haven’t heard anything from or about anyone else.”

Upon hearing this, the woman’s complexion improved slightly, and she began muttering to herself under her breath, “Little Sister Xuan’er should be together with Senior Brother Wei, so only Senior Brother Wei sent out a message. Do you know where they are?”

Yang Kai shook his head again, “I didn’t hear anything from Brother Wei, but I should soon. If he really is calling for help, he’ll definitely report his position, and since I can receive a message from him, he shouldn’t be too far from here.”

If they were too far away, Yang Kai wouldn’t have been able to receive a message from him.

“Alright!” The woman gently nodded. Although she understood what Yang Kai said, her two small hands still clenched into fists as she stared at the communication artefact in Yang Kai’s hand with some anxiety.

Yang Kai was now absolutely sure that this woman’s relationship with Dong Xuan’er wasn’t light, otherwise she wouldn’t be acting so tense. Just when Yang Kai looked over at her, the woman’s pair of beautiful eyes also happened to meet his, and seemingly realizing she was acting a bit improper, she couldn’t help smiling awkwardly.

“It’s here!” Yang Kai suddenly exclaimed, and as he expected, Wei Gu Chang had reported his position. After carefully noting the details of this message, Yang Kai looked up towards the woman and asked, “Brother Wei said they were about a hundred kilometres west of a giant piece of Silver Star Ore... Have you seen such a landmark?”

“Silver Star Ore?” The woman smiled, “I know where that is, I came across it once before.”

“Lead the way!” Yang Kai was a decisive person and immediately put away his communication artefact as he motioned to the woman.

The woman nodded and quickly used her movement skill to rush off, following closely by Yang Kai.

Nothing was said along the way, and they also didn’t encounter any danger or other cultivators. About half a day later, a massive piece of ore at least three hundred metres tall appeared in front of the two. Standing erect amidst the fiery red landscape, this piece of ore seemed as if it had been untouched since ancient times, giving it a desolate aura.

When he saw this huge ore, Yang Kai couldn’t help but frown.

He had heard about Silver Star Ore before and could help wanting to take it away. Silver Star Ore was an excellent Artefact Refining material. When refining an artefact, if some Silver Star Ore could be added, it would improve the resilience of an artefact, meaning that it was less likely to be destroyed in combat, as such, it was quite valuable. A fist-sized piece of Silver Star Ore could easily sell for tens of thousands of Saint Crystals; it was a treasure which was difficult to acquire even if one had money.

Now, seeing such a huge piece of Silver Star Ore in front of him, Yang Kai couldn’t help freezing in place.

Something like this couldn’t be put into his Black Book Space as is.

If it were another type of ore, Yang Kai would have broken it down into pieces, but Silver Star Ore was incredibly firm so he would have to first melt it down with his Saint Qi to collect it. Such a task would take more than a day or two.

It would have been perfect if the Stone Puppet was here, but unfortunately, the Stone Puppet had been confiscated by Yang Yan before he departed, so such thoughts were useless. Yang Kai glanced at this huge piece of Silver Star Ore with a look of reluctance before turning his eyes away indifferently.

“This is it,” The woman, who was leading the way, called out.

Yang Kai nodded, “A hundred kilometres to the west!”

Saying so, he took out his Yuan Magnetic Compass, determined his bearings, then rushed off again.

Chapter 1215, In Imminent Danger

Fearing for Dong Xuan’er’s safety in her heart, the woman almost used all her strength to raise her speed. At first, she was worried that Yang Kai wouldn’t be able to keep up with her and deliberately slowed down, but when she saw him running beside her with ease, she gradually increased her pace.



Now, Yang Kai was actually leading the way.

This startled her greatly but remembering that he was able to chase down her Spirit Fox in this Flowing Flame Sand Field, she realized Yang Kai had probably not yet reached his limit. He was now the one holding back for her.

Hesitating for a moment, the woman suddenly said, "Junior Brother..."

"Hm?" Yang Kai turned his head and looked at her curiously, not knowing why she was calling out to him. As for being called Junior Brother, seeing how this woman's cultivation was two Minor Realms higher than his own, Yang Kai didn't see anything wrong with it.

"If you can move faster, you don't need to concern yourself with me, just go all out, I can keep up."

Yang Kai's eyes flashed a strange light as he realized that this woman had also not used her full strength yet. It seemed that any cultivator who could reach the Third-Order Saint King Realm would have some hidden means.

Not saying anything, Yang Kai simply nodded before directly increasing his speed to its maximum, his figure turning blurry as he darted forward.

Yang Kai didn't use his Wind and Thunder Wings though because he was certain that once he did, even if this woman had some secret technique, he would instantly throw her off.

A burst of Saint Qi fluctuations suddenly appeared behind Yang Kai as the woman used some unknown method. In any case, Yang Kai could feel that this woman's strength had also increased greatly, and she was following close behind him.

However, after increasing her speed like this, her breathing ceased, as if she had inhaled deeply then held all the air inside her chest.

A hundred kilometres from the massive Silver Star Ore, there was a huge lake of lava. This lava was extremely hot and seemed capable of melting down anything it touched. The lava was dark and thick, and there were constantly huge bubbles rising to its surface, bursting apart with gurgling sounds, releasing a black mist which contained an incredibly corrosive fire poison.

The lava lake gave off an apocalyptic aura that made anyone who laid eyes upon it shudder.

At the center of the lava lake was a tortoise shell floating on its surface. This tortoise shell was ten metres in diameter and seemed to originally be a yellowish-brown colour. However, after baking in this lava lake, it had become dark red and was exuding a hot aura., it even had spider web of cracks running across its surface.

Through these cracks, the scorching aura of the lava lake seeped upwards, tormenting a group of young men and women who were struggling atop the tortoise shell.

This group of people were the Core Disciples of Shadow Moon Hall let by Wei Gu Chang and Dong Xuan'er. In addition to the two of them, there are two other men and one woman for a total of five people.

The area of the tortoiseshell wasn't very big, just wide enough for five people to stand comfortably together on.

At this moment, all five of them had pale faces and their Saint Qi's fluctuations were quite faint.

Wei Gu Chang was in the best condition of the five, but he had long lost his heroic bearing, his face filled with bitterness and annoyance. Only when he glanced over at Dong Xuan'er would a flash of tenderness and calm fill in expression. Seeing his beloved woman standing beside him in this harrowing situation, Wei Gu Chang would feel strength return to his body. If not for this emotional support, he would not have been able to endure this torment for so long, and once he fell, the other Shadow Moon Hall disciples would surely be wiped out.

Dong Xuan'er still wore the same gentle and quiet look. Since falling into this formation, she had not uttered a word of complaint, only occasionally cheering up her fellow Sect Brothers and Sisters, encouraging them to hold on, but how could this white-robed, always sweetly smiling woman who seemed as if she would be happy even if the sky were to collapse as long as Wei Gu Chang was beside her, not be a dry oil lamp?

Her calm exterior was just an act she was keeping up through force of will. She had the same mindset as Wei Gu Chang; that was, she couldn't let her Junior Brothers and Junior Sister see her weakness and discouragement.

Once either of the two of them lost hope, the situation would only get worse.

The situation of the three others Shadow Moon Hall Core Disciples on the other hand was extremely bad. The faces of the two male disciples were filled with gloom, as if covered by dark clouds that blocked out all light of hope. They were constantly muttering to themselves under their breath, the threat of death seemingly having thrown their minds into chaos.

Another tall woman in a red dress was also completely overwhelmed, streaks of tears clearly visible running down her cheeks. She was almost mechanically pouring her Saint Qi into the tortoise shell now to help activate its defensive properties.

But whether it was Wei Gu Chang, Dong Xuan'er, or the other three Shadow Moon Hall disciples, all of them knew that if no one came to rescue them within a day or two, they would definitely die.

They had been trapped here for too long now and had all but completely consumed their Saint Qi reserves. On top of that, in this damned place, they could not use their Secret Arts and could only rely on Saint Crystals and pills to restore themselves.

Their situation had been tolerable when they still had pills, but they have run out a few days ago, no matter how they tried to draw energy from the Saint Crystals they had on hand, they couldn't keep up with their consumption.

The Artefact Armour each of them wore was now completely dim as they couldn't spare any Saint Qi to activate them.

If they were merely stranded in the middle of this lava lake atop this tortoiseshell, it wouldn't be difficult for these five Shadow Moon Hall Core Disciples to escape.

What made them helpless though, was that no matter how they urged the tortoiseshell under their feet, it remained motionless, as if there was some mysterious power coming from the lava lake which firmly held them in place.

To make matters worse, there was some kind of Spirit Array inside this lava lake that would from time to time cause pillars of lava to shoot up towards them from all directions, causing them incredible danger. Fortunately, Wei Gu Chang had so far been able to use his superior strength to avert these crises, allowing the five of them to survive until now.

However, in exchange, his body was now covered with dark red burns and scars that had turned black from the invading fire poison. Wei Gu Chang had no extra strength to expel this fire poison and could only do his best to ignore it as it gradually ate away at his strength and vitality.

Gradually, traces of this black aura began appearing on Wei Gu Chang's pale face, making him look terribly morbid.

"Senior Brother..." Dong Xuan'er saw this and couldn't help trembling, almost bursting out into tears as she cried out, "I'm sorry!"

Wei Gu Chang grinned and declared in the most spirited voice he could manage, "Among the two of us, there's nothing you need to apologize for, so don't speak such distant words in the future."

"But if it weren't for me wanting to explore this place, we wouldn't have fallen into this trap!" Dong Xuan'er's beautiful eyes dimmed.

It was precisely because she had noticed that there was something odd about this place that she had begun investigating it. But as soon as the five of them had stepped into this area, the ground had cracked open and sank into the burning hot lava lake, trapping them in place.

Unable to fly here, the five of them could depend upon this tortoise shell to barely maintain their lives, but it was impossible for them to leave this place.

This tortoise shell was left behind after some unknown Tenth-Order Monster Beast that was abnormally strong, so even after it had been baked in this lava lake for more than a month, it still hadn't broken, but it did have many thin cracks.

After all this time, the tortoise shell wasn't looking very good and seemed as if it was on the verge of breaking.

"Don't say that, any place that has benefits also has dangers, and the five of us all agreed to explore here, it has nothing to do with you," Wei Gu Chang said calmly, "If that weren't the case, we wouldn't have found that treasure. After leaving here, we'll divide that thing up evenly and everyone's strength will surely increase a lot."

"Will we be able to leave here?" The tall woman in the red dress looked over at Wei Gu Chang, tears suddenly leaking from her big eyes again, "Senior Brother Gu and Junior Sister Liu died just after we entered the third layer... Are their resentful souls now retaliating against us for failing to save them?"

Hearing this woman's words, the other two male disciples' faces changed greatly. Seemingly recalling the situation from more than a month ago, their already pale complexions went even whiter.

Wei Gu Chang shot her a sharp glare and coldly declared, "Junior Brother Gu and Junior Sister Liu were killed by Fire Spirit Beasts, it wasn't that we didn't try to save them, it's that we were too weak to do so. The will of the Heaven's is inescapable, but our current predicament has nothing to do with them, don't think about such pointless things."

The death of their Junior Brother and Junior Sister had left a great psychological shadow on the others, because before entering the Flowing Flame Sand Field, each of them had been extremely self-confident. They were all Core Disciples with superior aptitude and strength, each of them not thinking much of the Flowing Flame Sand Field, only imagining that with their skills, they would obtain enough benefits here and amaze their peers and Elders after leaving.

The first and second layers had indeed not posed a challenge to them and could even be described as free of danger, but just after they entered the third layer, two of their group had died!

Two companions who they had lived and cultivated together with for many years, who they were laughing and joking together with just moments ago, died tragically right before their eyes; weighing heavily in their hearts.

Although Wei Gu Chang was quite put off by such negative thoughts, he could understand what his Juniors were feeling so he did not reprimand them too harshly.

If Wei Gu Chang had not constantly been running around outside and had instead taken the same path as the others here, remaining inside the Sect all the time to cultivate, his mental endurance would not be so strong. Sure enough, flowers raised in a greenhouse that had not experienced great wind and rain were unable to grow up to be truly strong.

These so-called elite Core Disciples all performed magnificently inside the Sect, each of them earning praises as favoured Sons and Daughters of Heaven and the worship of countless Junior Brothers and Junior Sisters. When they compared notes and sparred with one another, each of them acted swift and fierce, but the moment they came out into the real world, all kinds of problems immediately became apparent. If they managed to survive and return home, Wei Gu Chang secretly made up his mind to talk to his Master and Elder Qian about this issue. If all of Shadow Moon Hall's disciples continued to act like this in the future, the Sect would surely be destroyed in short order.

Chapter 1216, At The Critical Moment

"Senior Brother, you sent a message to Junior Brother Yang didn't you? Has he responded?" Dong Xuan'er suddenly looked at Wei Gu Chang and asked.

"No..." Wei Gu Chang smiled bitterly.

"Could Junior Brother Yang have..." Dong Xuan'er said restlessly, a look of worry appearing on her face.

"Do you think he would fall here?" Wei Gu Chang chuckled then shook his head, "He shouldn't have, with his strength and ability, as long as his luck isn't as bad as ours and fell into a formation, he would certainly not have fallen."

"Then why haven't we heard back from him?" Dong Xuan'er's beautiful eyes flashed a hint of sadness as she subconsciously thought that Yang Kai had also encountered some kind of misfortune which was why he wasn't replying to them.

Wei Gu Chang didn't know how to answer immediately but after hesitating for a moment he sighed and said, "Perhaps Brother Yang hasn't checked his communication artefact for messages. Before we came in, I felt like he wanted to act alone, so although I sent him a message, if he isn't checking for messages, how could he know that we're stuck here and can't escape? Unfortunately... besides him, there's no one else we can ask for help from. With his skill, he is certainly in the third layer, so all we can do now is hope our luck hasn't completely run out."

"Senior Brother Wei, the lava is about to erupt again!" One of the two male disciples suddenly exclaimed nervously.

Hearing this, the other four all paled and looked out to discover that the lava lake, which had been fairly calm just now, suddenly seemed to be boiling up, with many more bubbles rising to the surface, releasing black plumes of fire poison, the burning, corrosive heat quickly spreading towards their group of five.

Wei Gu Chang coldly snorted and waved his arm in a wide arc, releasing a burst of scarlet light that blocked the fire poison and corrosive heat from reaching them.

However, by just slightly moving, Wei Gu Chang's body began to shudder slightly. Under normal circumstances, he wouldn't fear this fire poison and corrosive heat, but now he was an arrow at the end of its flight so any means he used would put a huge load on him.

"It's here!" The same male disciple trembled and shouted as he saw the dark red lava surge up from the lake in great pillars before crashing towards them from all directions.

Such a scene had occurred countless times this past month and each time it did, their group of five would work together to keep off these eruptions, but this time things seemed a little different.

"Why are there so many?" The tall woman saw the number of pillars erupting and her beautiful face changed color, almost freezing up completely.

The number of attacks the lava lake was putting out this time seemed far greater than before. Up until now, they had been able to reluctantly cope with these periodic eruptions, but with Wei Gu Chang having suffered multiple injuries and everyone else far from their peak condition, how were they supposed to resist this wave of attacks?

[It is the end!] The tall female disciple and the other two male disciple faces went ashen as they stared blankly at the lava columns shooting towards them, all of them giving up resisting as they stared out helplessly.

"Don't panic!" Wei Gu Chang roared as he and Dong Xuan'er poured all their remaining strength into the tortoiseshell to activate its protective effects.

From the crimson baked tortoiseshell, the layer of blue light suddenly appeared. This light curtain contained a potent Water Attribute aura which enveloped the group of five.

\*Chi chi chi...\*

The lava columns flew over and all impacted on the light curtain. The blue halo of light trembled greatly and after the first wave of attacks was already teetering on the edge of destruction.

When the second wave of attacks struck the barrier, it shattered completely.

Wei Gu Chang's blood ran cold, knowing that this time, they were truly doomed. If his three Junior Brothers and Junior Sister hadn't resigned themselves to death and were supporting them, they would have been able to hold out for a few more breaths, but with just him and Xuan'er, they were unable to maintain the protective halo of this tortoise shell.

So be it! Dying inside this strange ancient Spirit Array was not something to be ashamed of, it was just...

Wei Gu Chang turned his head to look at Dong Xuan'er, their four eyes meeting suddenly, both of them smiling lightly, with no need for any words.

\*Shua shua shua...\*

A series of strange sounds sudden echoed, as if from a great distance away, bursts of energy were being shot out. Immediately after, around the tortoise shell, many shields condensed from black flames appeared side by side, covering the group of five completely.

The lava pillars continued crashing towards them but all of them were blocked by these shields. Many shields ruptured by this assault but would be replaced as quickly as they were destroyed, forming a firm protective layer around the tortoise shell.

Immediately after, from the direction the original sound came from, a giant black sword cleaved through the air, sweeping across the many lava columns and cutting them in half.

Having survived certain death, all five people on the tortoise shell couldn't help calling out in surprise and turning their heads towards the location where the black sword had appeared.

"Brother Yang!" Wei Gu Chang saw the person who had rescued them at the critical moment was actually Yang Kai and burst into laughter. At this moment, Yang Kai was standing on the shore of the lava lake, holding a jet black sword as if he was some ancient demon god, constantly slashing and chopping the lava columns in front of him.

"Catch!" While reducing the pressure for Wei Gu Chang and the others, Yang Kai took out his purple shield and tossed it over to them with all his strength.

This shield was his artefact, and only he could display its full power, but even by itself, it was extremely solid as it was refined from the carapace of a Ninth-Order Monster Beast renowned for its defense ability. Wei Gu Chang could use it temporarily to protect himself and the others around him.

The purple shield turned into a purple stream of light and flew towards Wei Gu Chang.

Catching the shield, Wei Gu Chang immediately held it towards the densest grouping of lava columns while yelling out to Yang Kai, "Brother Yang, simple thanks are not enough for this kindness, I will find a way to express my gratitude after passing this tribulation."

"Good, take this as well!" Yang Kai nodded before tossing over a jade bottle.

This time, Dong Xuan'er was the one to catch it. Opening the bottle and looking inside, she called out happily, "Snow and Ice Pills!"

Her Junior Brothers and Junior Sister from Shadow Moon Hall were also overjoyed and quickly said, "Senior Sister Dong, quickly give us one too!"

Their group's pills had already been consumed clean a while ago, so the arrival of these Snow and Ice Pills could only be described as sending charcoal in the snowy weather. Taking one of these pills would greatly reduce the pressure they felt.

Dong Xuan'er nodded strongly while pouring out the Snow and Ice Pills giving them one by one to her three Juniors, stuffing one into Wei Gu Chang's mouth, then finally taking one for herself.

As the Snow and Ice Pills entered their stomachs, a cold chill suddenly burst out inside their bodies, dissipating the unbearable heat and fire poison while simultaneously lifting their weary spirits. Having seen hope once more, the three forlorn Shadow Moon Hall disciples were no longer willing to give up on life, each of them displaying their own means to block the lava pillars which were still battering the Grand Heavenly Shields.

On the shore of lava lake, Yang Kai used his Profound Heavenly Sword to help reduce the pressure Wei Gu Chang's group had to face while also using his Saint Qi to condense new Grand Heavenly Shields to protect them.

The ugly woman who had been following him also arrived at the shore of the lava lake and began gasping for breath.

Yang Kai didn't know what kind of profound technique she had used, but the entire way here, she had not been breathing and didn't begin again until they arrived at their destination.

Seeing that the situation was critical, she silently threw out a cloth-like artefact that instantly transformed into a pink coloured cloud and began flying around Wei Gu Chang and the others. Any lava pillar that was covered by this pink cloud was quickly scattered.

"En, isn't this?" Dong Xuan'er recognized this artefact at a glance and thoughtfully glanced over to the shore. After seeing the figure of the ugly woman, she was pleasantly surprised, "How did Elder Sister Dai Yuan end up together with Senior Brother Yang."

As far as Dong Xuan'er knew, Dai Yuan always wandered about alone because of her appearance, even unwilling to travel together with those from her Sect. Yang Kai also seemed to be a person who preferred acting independently, so it was weird the two of them had come here together.

"Perhaps they met each other on the road," Wei Gu Chang laughed and said in high spirits, "No matter the reason, we shouldn't have a problem overcoming this disaster now; Brother Yang will be able to find a way to get us out of here."

"En, Elder Sister Dai Yuan's Snow Silk should be able to resist the lava here," Dong Xuan'er's mood was also quite good, and when the three other Shadow Moon Hall disciples heard their Senior Sister and Senior Brother speak so, they too smiled happily, sweeping away their previous gloom and despair.

The lethality of the lava lake's eruptions wasn't actually that great, but the force keeping them trapped in its centre was rendering Wei Gu Chang and the others helpless. However, with the help of Yang Kai and the woman named Dai Yuan, Wei Gu Chang and his group of five didn't need to worry about this anymore and could simply focus on protecting themselves.

After the lava lake calmed down once more, everyone secretly exhaled. The feeling of escaping from death was not something one could experience often.

Wei Gu Chang and the others sat down on the tortoiseshell for a moment to stabilize their breathing. A short time later, Wei Gu Chang stood up and yelled over to Yang Kai, "Brother Yang, don't rush into this lava lake, even my Origin Grade artefact wasn't able to resist it and was quickly melted down."

"How do we get you out then?" Yang Kai had already examined this lava lake while Wei Gu Chang's group was restoring themselves and realized how extraordinary it was. Even with his strength, he didn't dare to easily enter it. It was as he was wondering what to do that Wei Gu Chang called out to him.

"Just ask Junior Sister Dai Yuan to help," Wei Gu Chang smiled at the woman beside Yang Kai.

[So her name is Dai Yuan!] Yang Kai actually didn't know this woman's name until now.

Hearing this, Dai Yuan bit her red lip lightly before saying to Wei Gu Chang, "I don't know if my Snow Silk can resist this lava. If it gets destroyed, I'll have to think up another solution."

"I know, if your Snow Silk is ruined, I promise I will compensate Junior Sister Dai Yuan," Wei Gu Chang nodded.

"Who cares about your compensation? I just want to rescue Sister Xuan'er," Dai Yuan snorted, making no effort to hide her dislike of Wei Gu Chang, causing the other side to smile awkwardly.

That being said, she still quickly took out the white silk thread that Yang Kai had previously seen.

Before, when Yang Kai had seen Dai Yuan fighting that Heaven Battling Union disciple, she was using this thing. At that time, Yang Kai hadn't been able to figure out what it was but now he understood that it was actually the Snow Silk!

#### Chapter 1217, Snow Silk

Snow silkworms were extremely rare and could only survive in extremely cold environments. Snow silkworm larvae did not spin silk, only after they matured for two to three hundred years would they begin producing silk, and even then, they would only produce a tiny amount once every ten years. To refine an artefact from such a material would take at least several hundred years of accumulation.

This woman named Dai Yuan having an artefact made from Snow Silk was quite surprising for Yang Kai.

Her being acquainted with Wei Gu Chang and Dong Xuan'er, and possessing such a treasure meant that her status wasn't low.

While Yang Kai was pondering her origins, Dai Yuan arrived at the lava lake's shore, her brow furrowing somewhat as she probed it with her Divine Sense. Only after quite some time did she summon her Snow Silk artefact, a solemn look upon her face as she did.

With a flick of her wrist, a tiny, almost invisible snow-white silk line shot out from her fingertips and flew out a couple of dozen metres.

However, such a length wasn't nearly long enough as the tortoiseshell that Wei Gu Chang and the others were standing on was at least a hundred metres from the shore. The Snow Silk only shot out halfway



before it fell down. Once it entered the lava lake, the icy cold power contained within it and the scorching heat of the lava clashed fiercely, white water vapour bursting out, shrouding almost the entire area in a thick mist.

Dai Yuan's face expression became more and more dignified as she poured more and more of her Saint Qi into the Snow Silk in order to resist the burning heat of the lava. At the same time, she was doing her best to extend her Snow Silk to Wei Gu Chang and the others.

Everyone was nervously watching her movements, with the five atop the tortoiseshell particularly worried.

Although Dai Yuan's Snow Silk was a potent Ice Attribute artefact, whether it could resist the scorching heat of the lava lake was unknown. After all, the artefacts of Wei Gu Chang and the others had been damaged severely here, with one or two of them nearly destroyed. Among these artefacts, there were many at Origin Grade.

If even a specialized artefact like the Snow Silk couldn't overcome the lava lake, then their group could only wait to die.

As water vapour surged, Dai Yuan bit her red lip hard, gripping her hand tightly as she changed the method she was using somehow, causing the cold from the Snow Silk to suddenly surge and instantly suppress the scorching of lava.

A crisp cracking sound soon spread.

A frozen trail suddenly began spreading over the lava lake at a speed visible to the naked eye. This trail was only one finger wide, but it was spreading towards Wei Gu Chang and his group at a very fast speed.

Everyone was overjoyed as they could clearly see that this frozen trail across the lava was being created by the cold energy from the Snow Silk.

In the blink of an eye, the frozen trail stretched about thirty metres forward, but once it reached that point, its speed of extension began to reduce.

Yang Kai, who had been observing Dai Yuan's movements, also noticed that her face had taken on an abnormal flush, obviously indicating that was reaching her limits.

Sure enough, the frozen trail's speed of advance continued to slow and eventually came to a halt two-thirds of the way to the tortoiseshell. Not only was it unable to advance any further, but there were also signs of the frozen trail beginning to melt.

When they saw this scene, the faces of the five people who were standing on the tortoiseshell waiting for rescue darkened. Wei Gu Chang and Dong Xuan'er were more resilient and their looks soon return to normal, but the other three Shadow Moon Hall disciples' expressions had once again become distraught.

They thought they could be rescued easily and had full confidence in Dai Yuan, but now it seems that Dai Yuan's abilities weren't quite enough, so their moods immediately plummeted.

Across the hundred-metre distance, Dai Yuan and Dong Xuan'er stared at each other. Dong Xuan'er's eyes were full of worry, not about herself though. She was worried that Dai Yuan would do something reckless and greatly harm herself in order to try to save them.

Sure enough, Dai Yuan grit her teeth and a look of determination flashed across her face. Biting the tip of her tongue, she spat out a mouthful of blood mist onto her Snow Silk, turning it from pure white to bright red. The cold aura coming from the Snow Silk soared and the frozen path that had originally shown signs of melting froze over again with the Snow Silk also advancing forward once more, lengthening the frozen track further.

Yang Kai frowned. He had been paying close attention to Dai Yuan's actions, and after she spat out her own Blood Essence, he too began to move.

He could see that even if Dai Yuan sacrificed her Blood Essence to drive her Snow Silk, she might not be able to extend it all the way to Wei Gu Chang and the others. Even if she did manage to reach them, in their current state, Wei Gu Chang and the others had no way to use this Snow Silk to save themselves.

This silk thread was extremely cold and sharp, not something Wei Gu Chang and the others could resist.

Therefore, he had to go himself. Fortunately, with the frozen track already spanning most of the distance, Yang Kai was confident he could make it to them.

As the frozen trail continued to spread towards the tortoiseshell, Yang Kai shot out like a thunderbolt, racing across the frozen track towards the centre of the lava lake.

Seeing this scene, Wei Gu Chang's eyes couldn't help being moved. How could he not see what Yang Kai wanted to do? Not saying any nonsense, he quickly warned, "Brother Yang, don't underestimate this Snow Silk artefact, even if Junior Sister Dai Yuan isn't aiming it at you, its coldness and sharpness cannot be easily resisted."

"I know!" Yang Kai responded lightly as he reached the end of the frozen trail. At this moment, Yang Kai was only fifteen metres or so from the tortoiseshell. Although it was still spreading forward, its speed had once again begun to drop.

Yang Kai didn't wait for Dai Yuan to drive her artefact forward and instead condensed a thick layer of Demonic Flame on his hand and grabbed towards the end of the frozen track.

With a crack, a small chunk of the frozen trail was broken off by Yang Kai, and when he lifted his hand back up, it was clearly gripping the red Snow Silk.

Everyone was stunned, and even Dai Yuan was surprised by Yang Kai's boldness, her eyes filling with shock and astonishment.

For an ordinary cultivator, let alone holding her Snow Silk, even approaching it was enough to cause them to go stiff from the cold aura, but Yang Kai was actually able to hold it in his hand. On top of that, forget about being frozen, his palm was barely even cut, with only a drop of golden blood dripping from the gaps between his five fingers.

However, Dai Yuan was also not an ordinary woman. After a moment of shock, she immediately composed herself and began fully cooperating with Yang Kai to keep extending her Snow Silk.

Just now, when it was in the lava, it had been very difficult for her to extend her Snow Silk. This was only natural because of the scorching heat it gave off, but now that the Snow Silk was being held by Yang Kai, she could much more easily manipulate it.

The Snow Silk immediately began stretching and as Yang Kai held one end it in his hand, he condensed a Grand Heavenly Shield in front of himself atop the lava, leapt off the frozen track, and continued forward.

The moment Yang Kai stepped out, he condensed a second Grand Heavenly Shield further ahead and leapt to it. As Yang Kai jumped, the first Grand Heavenly Shield behind him burst apart as it struck the lava. The situation was extremely nerve-wracking to watch, and all five Shadow Moon Hall disciples were staring in trepidation, praying Yang Kai would not misstep and land in the lava lake.

With just fifteen metres to the tortoiseshell, Yang Kai only needed a dozen steps to arrive. Wei Gu Chang and the others had already opened up a place for him to land.

After arriving on the tortoiseshell, Yang Kai simply nodded to Wei Gu Chang before tying the Snow Silk in his hand to it. After confirming that they were firmly attached, Yang Kai looked to Wei Gu Chang and said, "I should be able to take two back with me at a time, who's first?"

Wei Gu Chang didn't even hesitate to point to tall woman and the younger-looking male disciple, "Take them."

Dong Xuan'er also nodded, agreeing with Wei Gu Chang.

Yang Kai nodded, grabbed the two in question before shooting a glance over towards Dai Yuan on the shore. Seeing this, Dai Yuan's face became solemn as she poured her Saint Qi into the Snow Silk, causing it to go taut. Yang Kai then leapt off the tortoiseshell onto the Snow Silk and began running back.

Condensing Grand Heavenly Shields and using them as footholds was only a stopgap measure. The temperature of the lava was too high, so even Yang Kai's Grand Heavenly Shields could only appear for a moment. Any kind of accident would result in him falling into the lava lake. Yang Kai rushing over just now was extremely risky, so now that he was returning, he would rather suffer injuries from stepping on the Snow Silk than using such an unstable method.

The male disciple was sandwiched by Yang Kai under his armpit and had turned pale as his eyes went wide staring straight down at the lava lake below without moving.

The tall female disciple, on the other hand, was doing the exact opposite, grabbing onto Yang Kai tightly, pressing two extremely elastic peaks up against his chest as she closed her beautiful eyes tightly. It was as if she would rather die than face the terrible lava.

Men and women seemed to have very different reactions when facing danger.

Soon though, Yang Kai returned to the shore and put down the two Shadow Moon Hall disciples, allowing them to finally gasp for breath. The female disciple even held her hands over her well-rounded chest as a look of happiness spread across her face having survived this disaster.

After Yang Kai returned, Dai Yuan tried to drag the tortoiseshell back but found that it was completely stuck in the lava lake and would not move. No matter how she pushed her Saint Qi, she couldn't budge it.

In desperation, she could only turn to Yang Kai, glancing at his blood-stained feet for a moment before wearing a look of entreaty her face.

Among the people present, she needed to control her Snow Silk to form the simple frozen passage while Wei Gu Chang and the other Shadow Moon Hall disciples were all arrows at the end of their flight. It was impossible to make them come ashore themselves, so the only one who could save them now was Yang Kai.

However, Yang Kai had suffered some injuries just now, and Dai Yuan didn't know if he would be able to make another trip without cutting off his own feet.

Dai Yuan had clearly underestimated Yang Kai's ability though. Although the Snow Silk's sharpness had surprised Yang Kai and had even caused some injuries to him, it was quite impossible for it to seriously wound him.

Whether it was the cuts on his palm or his feet, they had all been completely restored at this moment. The Golden Blood's restorative powers had displayed their power once more, even expelling the Snow Silk's cold energy which had seeped into his body.

Chapter 1218, Unlucky

What made Dai Yuan feel relieved was that before she could even ask, Yang Kai took the initiative to return, allowing her to secretly breathe a sigh of relief. She thought that this person's friendship with Wei Gu Chang must be quite close, otherwise, how could he be willing to take such a great risk to save their lives?

Not long after, the remaining three people were brought ashore.

Strangely enough, after everyone had left the lava lake, the originally roiling lava that had been bubbling and erupting just a moment ago actually began sinking into the ground. Ten breathes later, the lava lake which had trapped Wei Gu Chang and the others for over a month completely disappeared.

All that remained was cracked earth and the roasted red tortoiseshell. The lava had been replaced by the same generic red ground that could be found everywhere, as if everything they had experienced and all the suffering they had gone through had all been an illusion.

This ancient Spirit Array stunned even Yang Kai and he understood now why Wei Gu Chang and the others would have fallen into this inescapable trap. If it had been him, he would certainly have fallen into it as well.

However, Yang Kai was also certain he wouldn't have been trapped here for long. In terms of Saint Qi density and purity, Wei Gu Chang and the other Shadow Moon Hall disciples here couldn't match him, and he could have used his Grand Heavenly Shields as supports to escape from the lava lake.

The Saint Qi of Wei Gu Chang and the others weren't capable of replicating this.

After the lava lake disappeared, the force which had been holding the tortoiseshell in place disappeared and Dai Yuan easily dragged it over to them.

This tortoiseshell was of great interest to Yang Kai. He was profoundly aware of how lethal the lava had been yet this tortoiseshell, which seemed plain and ordinary, was actually able to float atop that same lava for so long. It definitely wasn't ordinary.

While Wei Gu Chang and the others were adjusting their breathing, Yang Kai studied the tortoiseshell.

The tortoiseshell was full of crisscrossing marks and at first glance, it was obviously something very old. This turtle was definitely a long-lived Monster Beast and should have had a life at least thousands of years old. This tortoiseshell was filled with marks of age.

"This is the tortoiseshell of the Tenth-Order Monster Beast, the Black Water Turtle," While Yang Kai was studying it, a pleasant voice suddenly called out from beside him. Without needing to turn back, he knew it was Dai Yuan.

"You know about it?" Yang Kai glanced over at her curiously.

"En, I saw records of it in some ancient books," Dai Yuan squatted down and reached out her jade hand to stroke the patterns on the tortoise shell's surface, a hint of sadness flashing across her face, "I don't know why it was killed, but its tortoiseshell had some simple refining done to it. If not for that, Little Sister Xuan'er and them wouldn't have been able to use their own strength to activate its protective water barrier. I really can't believe that even a Tenth-Order Monster Beast would appear in this place. It seems we'll need to be extra cautious in the future."

A Tenth-Order Monster Beast was equivalent to an Origin King Realm master! Forget about Tenth-Order, even Ninth-Order Monster Beasts were rare existences on Shadowed Star. If a Tenth-Order Monster Beast existed outside, it would definitely be an invincible existence in this world and would bring great calamity to the entire Shadowed Star.

"There probably aren't any Tenth-Order Monster Beasts here, or rather they were here long ago but are now long gone," Yang Kai spoke thoughtfully.

"How can you be so sure?" Dai Yuan looked at him strangely.

"Just a hunch," Yang Kai chuckled without explaining.

He had obtained some Soul Cleansing Divine Water in the Flowing Flame Sand Field, so he knew that an Origin King had died here at some point. Since an Origin King Realm master had died here, it wasn't that unusual for a Tenth-Order Monster Beast to have died here as well.

After experiencing so many things here, Yang Kai faintly felt that there was more to this Flowing Flame Sand Field than met the eye. At the very least, it was no ordinary Forbidden Zone. It must be hiding some great secrets. This time, the danger of the third layer had been greatly weakened, allowing many elites to enter, but it was a mystery as to what had precipitated this change.

Seeing Yang Kai's unwillingness to say any more, Dai Yuan didn't continue to ask, instead just smiling and saying to Yang Kai, "Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Dai Yuan, a disciple of Coloured Glass Sect!"

"Coloured Glass Sect?" Yang Kai was taken aback, "Who is Yin Su Die to you?"

Listening to Yang Kai mention Yin Su Die, Dai Yuan's eyes flashed a faint light of dislike but soon returned to normal as she replied lightly, "She's my Junior Sister."

Why her tone had suddenly become desolate was probably because Yang Kai's first reaction to hearing the name Coloured Glass Sect was to ask about Yin Su Die.

This couldn't be blamed on Yang Kai though, as the only thing he knew about Coloured Glass Sect was that Yin Su Die came from it. He hadn't been on Shadowed Star for a long time and wasn't a native of this place, so how was he supposed to know anything else about Coloured Glass Sect?

"That woman is actually your Junior Sister?" Yang Kai seemed to want to re-examine Dai Yuan, sweeping his eyes up and down her quickly, a strange look upon his face.

Towards Yin Su Die, Yang Kai didn't have any favourable impression, but he also didn't have any particularly negative opinion either. All Yang Kai felt was that she was a woman who was innately charming and seemed to be on par with Fang Tian Zhong, Qu Chang Feng, and Wei Gu Chang.

Yang Kai didn't know what her true strength was like, but her beauty definitely added a lot to her fame.

Now, when he heard Dai Yuan say Yin Su Die was actually her Junior Sister, Yang Kai couldn't help feeling surprised.

Dai Yuan seemed like a genuinely good person and behaved very low-key, quite different from Yin Su Die who seemed to want to be the centre of attention wherever she went. Their appearances were also worlds apart. Two such women being Senior and Junior Sisters naturally felt strange.

After a moment of surprise, Yang Kai quickly realized his gaff and smiled lightly, "No wonder you are so fierce, you're actually from Coloured Glass Sect."

"You are also quite good," Dai Yuan's beautiful eyes stared at Yang Kai, as if she was trying to look into the depths of his soul. This young First-Order Saint King's performance during their brief time together had constantly surprised her.

"What's wrong, did Brother Yang not know Junior Sister Dai Yuan was from Coloured Glass Sect?" Wei Gu Chang came over hand in hand with Dong Xuan'er, the two of them seemingly having recovered quite a bit. This was also thanks to the pills Yang Kai had given them. Those restorative pills were refined by Yang Kai himself and had far better effects than what could be bought in this world.

"I naturally didn't know, the two of us just met by chance and happened to receive your message then rushed over together," Yang Kai stood up and smiled at Wei Gu Chang.

"This Wei cannot thank Junior Brother and Junior Sister enough for coming to our rescue!" Wei Gu Chang and Dong Xuan'er both approached and bowed deeply and sincerely.

Yang Kai quickly lifted them up but before he could say anything, Wei Gu Chang said straightly, "Brother Yang, if not for you and Junior Sister Dai Yuan arriving so promptly, even if you were a quarter of an hour late, Xuan'er and I would have already set off to the next life together. Regardless of what happens from now on, if you ever have a need for this Wei's assistance in the future, just say the word and no matter what great danger or difficulties it may involve, this Wei will not hesitate to help."

It seemed like now, Wei Gu Chang truly wanted to befriend Yang Kai. In the past, the main reasons he had been associating with Yang Kai was because of Qian Tong's instructions and because he appreciated Yang Kai's demeanour.

However, after experiencing this life-saving grace, Wei Gu Chang willingly lowered his head in gratitude. If it was only related to his life, it wouldn't have been enough for him to humble himself, but Yang Kai had also rescued Dong Xuan'er, and she was someone Wei Gu Chang considered more important than his life!

This favour was extremely heavy.

Staring at him for a moment, Yang Kai nodded slightly.

Wei Gu Chang then turned to Dai Yuan again and said, "As for Junior Sister Dai Yuan... Haha, I'll come together with Xuan'er to visit Coloured Glass Sect in the near future to thank you, I hope at that time Junior Sister Dai Yuan won't shut me out."

Dai Yuan scoffed lightly but didn't make a reply either way, simply taking Dong Xuan'er's hand and pulling her over to the side to chat.

Wei Gu Chang shook his head with a bitter smile before glancing back at his Junior Brothers and Junior Sister. Seeing them still restoring themselves, he didn't go to disturb them and instead started a conversation with Yang Kai.

Through his narration, Yang Kai learned about the ordeal the Shadow Moon Hall disciples had endured.

To sum everything up, they were just unlucky!

A total of more than seventy disciples had come from Shadow Moon Hall this time, of which nearly fifty had remained in the first layer Flame Area while the remaining twenty entered the second layer Treasure Area. All of them had split up into smaller squads and begun searching for spirit grasses and spirit medicines, contacting each other via their communication artefacts at regular intervals to ensure they remained safe.

When news of the third layer's heat and danger weakened came out, Wei Gu Chang immediately gathered together the seven most elite disciples and rushed into the third layer Flame Area. However, not long after they entered the third layer, the group of seven were surrounded by a horde of Fire Spirit Beasts, and after a protracted battle, two of them had fallen. After that, with Wei Gu Chang bringing up the rear, the rest of them managed to escape.

Before they could even recover from the blow of losing their companions though, the remaining five had stepped into the ancient lava lake Spirit Array.

They had been trapped there for more than a month and it wasn't until just now that they had escaped.

As Wei Gu Chang explained about all this, his face filled with annoyance. Although there was an element of bad luck to it, the unfavourable situation was also a result of insufficient strength. Even if it was an Origin Returning Realm master who had been here, it was likely they would have been unable to detect this ancient Spirit Array and would have fallen into its trap.

However, losing to that horde of Fire Spirit Beasts was due to their lack of strength, resulting in two of their companions dying.

Compared to their encounters, Yang Kai could only describe his luck as astonishing.

The massive Fire Crystal Stone, Brilliant Fire Crystal Essence, ancient map fragment, Soul Cleansing Divine Water, Nine Branch Jade Crystal Tree, possible dragon bone and dragon bead, Saint Crystal lode, various spirit grasses, spirit fruits, and spirit medicines, the strange solidified space...

Along the path Yang Kai walked, the gains he made were unimaginable.

If he were to explain his story to Wei Gu Chang, Yang Kai expected the former would be so upset he would cough up blood.

In short, since entering the third layer, Wei Gu Chang and his group had gained nothing but a few Fire Crystal Stones after wasting an entire month.

Fortunately, they hadn't suffered any further losses either. If the five of them had been buried here, it would have been a disaster. If Shadow Moon Hall lost so many elite disciples at once, it would create a huge crack in their younger generation. In the short term, it wouldn't be too much of a problem, but as time passed and Shadowed Star's current Saint Kings began to mature, Shadow Moon Hall's comprehensive strength would undoubtedly weaken, threatening its status as a great Sect.

This was a result no Sect was willing to bear.

Silavin: Honestly, it doesn't make sense for the Sect to send only their youngest over to these kinds of dangerous places at the start. However, if you take into consideration competition, then I guess it can be justified.

Chapter 1219, Sun Rising in the East

"Brother Yang, are you interested in this tortoiseshell?" Wei Gu Chang spoke for a while before suddenly asking this question, "If you are interested in it, feel free to take it. Although I can see that it isn't ordinary, with so many cracks in it already, I don't know if it can still play any significant role."

Wei Gu Chang knew there was a powerful Artefact Refiner behind Yang Kai, and the material of a Tenth-Order Monster Beast like this would be greatly appreciated by such a master.

Even if he took this tortoiseshell back to Shadow Moon Hall, Wei Gu Chang couldn't think of a suitable person to refine an artefact from it. Grandmaster Ge Lin was nearing the end of his life and hadn't refined any artefacts for quite a while. Elder Qian had been thinking of ways these past few years to extend the life of Grandmaster Ge Lin but unfortunately hadn't been very successful.



Moreover, Grandmaster Ge Lin's skill at Artefact Refining may not be enough to use this tortoiseshell. As such, Wei Gu Chang figured he might as well give this shell to Yang Kai as it could probably play the greatest role in his hands.

Yang Kai hesitated for a moment but didn't refuse, nodding slightly before storing away the Tenth-Order Monster Beast tortoiseshell.

While the two of them were talking, Dong Xuan'er and Dai Yuan were also whispering amongst themselves a short distance away.

At this moment, Dai Yuan was holding a jade bottle in her hand and a pill was resting on her palm. This pill was perfectly round, with a pale green hue and was exuding bursts of delicate medicinal fragrance that relaxed one's body and mind when they sniffed it.

As Dai Yuan's beautiful eyes stared at this pill, a nearly imperceptible hint of excitement and expectation flashed across their depths as her expression filled with admiration.

Dong Xuan'er didn't say a word, as she knew that when her close friend showed this kind of look it was best to simply remain silent.

This pill wasn't something rare, it was just an ordinary Saint Qi supplementing pill, but its grade wasn't low. It was one of the Saint King Grade High-Rank pills Yang Kai had given Dong Xuan'er.

Dong Xuan'er had intentionally saved it in order to ask Dai Yuan to take a closer look at it.

After a long time, Dai Yuan put the pill back into the jade bottle and handed it back to Dong Xuan'er before breathing out gently.

"How is it?" Dong Xuan'er asked.

"Superb. The Alchemy technique used to refine it is better than anything I can do; it has been brought to the extreme in terms of quality and I suspect it is only a step away from forming Pill Veins. The surface of the pill already has some faint traces of Pill Veins. It's a pity that it fell short in the end," Dai Yuan said regretfully before noting with shock, "Not only that one, but every pill in that bottle. This Alchemist who refined them has already taken their skills to an astonishing level."

"Is it really so amazing?" Dong Xuan'er was startled, her delicate mouth opening slightly, "Being able to refine so many Saint King Grade pills which nearly formed Pill Veins; could this master be an Origin Grade Alchemist?"

"En, there's no doubt they are an Origin Grade Alchemist." When Dai Yuan said this, she glanced over at Yang Kai, the look of expectation in her eyes growing stronger.

Seeing this look, how could Dong Xuan'er not know what she was thinking and quickly said, "Big Sister Dai Yuan, don't be anxious, you'll find a solution in time."

Dai Yuan lifted her hand and brushed her hair back behind her ear as she said lightly, "I know, I'm not in a hurry, it's been so many years already anyway. By the way, Sister Xuan'er, that Yang Kai, what were his origins again?"

Suddenly, Dai Yuan seemed to become quite interested in Yang Kai and began asking Dong Xuan'er about him.

Dong Xuan'er didn't conceal anything, explaining everything she knew about Yang Kai. When she heard that Yang Kai came to Shadowed Star from the outside world, Dai Yuan's eyes brightened greatly and her tender body couldn't help trembling, the light of expectation in her eyes became even more obvious.

Since others could come to Shadowed Star from the outside world, what was the say that they couldn't leave Shadowed Star and go to the outside world?

Like Wu Yi, Dai Yuan dreamed of leaving Shadowed Star, but the starting point of the two was quite different. Wu Yi was simply enchanted by the idea of the outside world's wonders while Dai Yuan had other reasons.

Although Dai Yuan wanted to ask Yang Kai immediately about which Alchemy Grandmaster had refined this bottle of recovery pills, she forced herself to be patient.

She wasn't familiar with Yang Kai; in fact, they had essentially just met, so if she now started asking such intrusive questions, it would only cause annoyance in the other party. How could Dai Yuan make such a rash move?

However, she was already considering how she could better her relationship with Yang Kai, and when the time was right, she would naturally ask.

Time flowed by. Dai Yuan and Dong Xuan'er hadn't seen each other for a long time so naturally, they were not short of words they wanted to exchange. Yang Kai and Wei Gu Chang were also engaged in a lively discussion, and from Wei Gu Chang's mouth, Yang Kai learned many interesting stories and secrets about Shadowed Star.

Yang Kai didn't intend to stay and act together with them, but now that they had just escaped from a life or death crisis, simply leaving would seem too cold, so he planned to wait until all of them had at least restored themselves.

Once they were back on their feet, Yang Kai would bid them farewell and continue deeper into the third layer in hopes of finding a suitable place to refine the Profound Yin Sunflower Water.

A day later, the remaining three Shadow Moon Hall disciples finally finished restoring themselves and thanked Yang Kai and Dai Yuan profusely.

This time, the three of them no longer dared to belittle Yang Kai.

When the Flowing Flame Sand Field had just opened, these three had lined up behind Wei Gu Chang, and at that time, when Wei Gu Chang asked Yang Kai to act together with them, the three of them were quite reluctant as they thought bringing Yang Kai with them would only be a burden. On top of that, if they found any benefits, they would be forced to apportion him something regardless of whether he helped them or not.

None of them had imagined that this young man, whom they considered to be a burden, would be the one to save their lives in the third layer Flame Area.

Recalling their thoughts from that time, all three of them felt extremely ashamed and wanted to find holes to crawl into and hide.

“The three of you should follow the path we walked back to the second layer. Fortunately, we’re not too deep into the third layer. If you backtrack carefully, with your strength and means, you shouldn’t have any trouble protecting yourselves. Don’t think of remaining and taking risks in this third layer, this isn’t a place you should linger,” Wei Gu Chang waited for the three of them to finish expressing their gratitude to Yang Kai before ordering them directly.

The three Shadow Moon Hall disciples were stunned for a moment but soon understood why Wei Gu Chang had come to this decision.

Just before, on the lava lake, how the three of them had conducted themselves was not befitting their status as elite disciples. Now that Wei Gu Chang was making them return to the second layer, they dared not disobey, all of them nodding in shame before urging their Senior Brother Wei and Senior Sister Dong to be careful.

Wei Gu Chang gently nodded. Although he was a little disappointed with the performance of his two Junior Brothers and Junior Sister, they were still from the same Sect and he was not about to condemn them for their actions, even giving them all the pills he and Dong Xuan’er felt they didn’t need before seeing them off.

The trio said goodbye with tears in their eyes, but before they could depart, the sky of the entire Flowing Flame Sand Field suddenly became much brighter.

Everyone was aware of this anomaly and all of them looked around suspiciously but couldn’t find anything wrong. Just as they were in the depths of confusion, the tall female disciple suddenly pointed in a certain direction and called out in shock, “The sun!”

Looking in the direction she was pointing and witnessing the phenomenon that was occurring, all of them couldn’t help feeling stunned.

In the distance, a round red sun seemed to be rising above the horizon, its crimson rays dyeing the entire sky a beautiful blood red. It was precisely because of this red sun that everyone felt their surroundings suddenly become brighter.

Of course, no one thought this was really the sun!

It had been a few months since they entered the Flowing Flame Sand Field, and in this strange space, there was no sun, no moon, no stars, or sky. When they raised their heads up, all there was to see was the dark red space while down below was dark red earth, making for an extremely gloomy landscape.

So how could the sun suddenly appear in this Forbidden Zone?

Yang Kai’s first thought was that someone was fighting and had used some kind of astonishing artefact!

However, after thinking about it carefully, he realized that this was impossible. The round red sun was clearly at a very distant location, at least a few hundred kilometres from where they currently were. Across such a vast distance only an Origin King Grade artefact would be able to produce a visible effect.

But which great force would allow their disciples to bring an Origin King Grade artefact into the Flowing Flame Sand Field?

There were many crises here, and no one could guarantee their own survival. Even Wei Gu Chang had almost fallen here, so unless all the Elders of some Sect had lost their minds, they wouldn't allow their disciples to bring an Origin King Grade artefact into this place.

Each Origin King Grade artefact in existence on Shadowed Star would be carefully locked up in the headquarters of the Sect that owned them as a strategic weapon and would not be easily be used.

What's more, even if for some reason such an outrageous situation was allowed to happen, no Saint King Realm cultivator here would be able to even use an Origin King Grade artefact, and forcibly trying to would only result in severe backlash.

[Then what was this?] Yang Kai brow wrinkled as he stared at the rising sun with suspicion. He had seen all kinds of incredible things inside the Flowing Flame Sand Field but he couldn't immediately determine what it was he was currently looking at.

Faintly though, he felt that the scene in front of him was somewhat... familiar, as if he had seen it somewhere before, but he was also certain he had never witnessed such a strange phenomenon before, making him frown secretly.

"How can there be a sun here? Did the barrier around the Flowing Flame Sand Field collapse?" A male disciple from Shadow Moon Hall cried in surprise.

His guess was reasonable; after all, if the barrier around the Flowing Flame Sand Field collapsed, they would naturally be able to see the outside scenery, and if it happened to be sunrise at this time, it would explain this scene.

However, Wei Gu Chang shook his head, "It's not the sun."

His thoughts were the same as Yang Kai.

"What is it then? Senior Brother, have you seen something similar before?" Dong Xuan'er leaned her tender body slightly closer to Wei Gu Chang, a touch of uneasiness and tension apparent in her voice.

"No, I've never seen anything like it," Wei Gu Chang stated before turning his head to Yang Kai, wanting to hear his opinions. But at this moment, Yang Kai was actually wearing a thoughtful expression that said not to disturb him.

As a last resort, Wei Gu Chang turned his sights to Dai Yuan. Although he didn't think that Dai Yuan's knowledge was wider than his own, she might know something he didn't.

To Wei Gu Chang's surprise, Dai Yuan showed the same expression as Yang Kai.

[What did these two know?] Wei Gu Chang wondered secretly to himself.

## **Chapter 1220, Red Candle Fruit**

The rise of a red sun shocked all the cultivators who were present in the third layer of the Flowing Flame Sand Field.

On a certain hill, six Saint Kings wearing golden robes stood behind Qu Chang Feng, staring in shock towards the place where the sun had risen from. All of these shocked Saint Kings were muttering to each other, discussing what they thought it might be, but Qu Chang Feng's face remained extremely bad. During this expedition into the Flowing Flame Sand Field, he had seen many good things, but he was actually unable to acquire any substantial benefits. This was especially true when it came to the Soul Cleansing Divine Water, an incident that was still causing him grief. Naturally, this strange phenomenon appearing all of a sudden had immediately caught his attention.

After hesitating for a moment, he waved his hand and shouted, "Let's go take a look!"

Saying so, he brought his group and rushed towards the rising position of the red sun.

On a certain plain, four cultivators with incredibly pure Saint Qi were using Martial Skills and artefacts to send out bolts of brilliant lightning, blasting their surroundings away with extraordinary ferocity.

When the red sun rose, this group just happened to be surrounded by a group of Fire Spirit Beasts. After dispatching this group of beasts, one of them collected the scattered Fire Crystal Stones on the ground before returning to the side of his companions who were all assembled around a plain-looking, crudely dressed youth.

"Senior Brother Fang, what is that?" Someone asked.

The crudely dressed young man slowly shook his head and said lightly, "We'll know once we go check it out. It's very likely that some kind of extremely precious treasure has appeared for such a scene to appear in the Flowing Flame Sand Field."

Saying so, he began walking straight towards the direction of the rising sun, his pace seemingly slow but with thunder suddenly appearing around his feet, his body seemed to glide forward and in the blink of an eye, he had already crossed a hundred metres.

Atop a towering rock, a cold-looking man was meditating and adjusting his breathing. At this moment, he also saw the red sun rise, and after a slight hesitation, he got up and set out.

At the deepest part of the third layer Flame Area, a man who appeared to be in his thirties seemed to be struggling to resist ambient heat and fire poison. Seeing his appearance, it seemed he wanted to venture further inside, but when the red sun rose, he couldn't help glancing back and immediately showed a look of shock and ecstasy, muttering to himself, "Even something like this has matured... Hahaha!"

After saying so, he immediately turned around and ran back in the direction of the rising red sun, as if he was afraid that the benefits would be taken away if he was too late.

Many similar situations were occurring in various places around the third layer and soon, the elite disciples who had entered this layer were all rushing towards the red sun. All of them were guessing what kind of phenomenal treasure was born to cause such a Heavenly Vision to manifest.

However, before they could rush to the site from which the red sun appeared, a fiery red wind suddenly swept out, carrying with it a terrifying heat that caused all the approaching cultivators' faces to pale and forced them to push their Saint Qi to protect themselves.

To everyone's surprise though, after this seemingly fierce gale struck, not only did it not cause them any damage, instead, a strange fragrance wafted throughout the entire third layer of the Flowing Flame Sand Field.

This strange fragrance which filled was like the fresh scent of fruit, but many, many times more potent. On top of that, it seemed to contain a mysterious power that made one wish to close their eyes and immerse themselves in it, as if it carried with it some kind of enlightenment.

Of course, no one really stopped to meditate. Just this scent had such an effect, so if they could snatch this unknown treasure, how shocking would its effects be?

When this fruity aroma spread, everyone's expression became even more determined and they pushed themselves to run faster.

By the disappeared lava lake, Yang Kai and the others were also hit by this fiery red wind, and after this magical fruit scent reached the tip of his nose, Yang Kai's whole body shook as he shouted, "A spirit fruit has matured!"

It was only at that moment that he realized what was happening. The scene of the rising sun was not caused by an artefact, nor the birth of some rare treasure, but rather because a certain spirit fruit had matured.

The omnipresent fruit aroma in the air was the best proof.

In their minds, the name of a certain supposedly extinct spirit fruit came to mind and almost simultaneously, Yang Kai and Dai Yuan exclaimed, "Red Candle Fruit?"

Yang Kai glanced over at Dai Yuan in surprise, not having anticipated that this disciple from Coloured Glass Sect would actually recognize this extraordinary Red Candle Fruit. According to his knowledge, this spirit fruit had vanished thousands of years ago and even in the outside world had not appeared for aeons. It was the same as the Soul Warming Lotus and Nine Branch Jade Crystal Tree, something that existed only in ancient records and rumours, with no one living having actually seen it before.

However, Dai Yuan was actually able to call out its name, something that truly surprised Yang Kai.

"Red Candle Fruit?" Dong Xuan'er and Dai Yuan had an extremely close relationship, so she didn't hesitate to ask, "What is that?"

"An Origin King Grade High-Rank spirit fruit!" Dai Yuan clenched her fists and slowly announced.

Besides Yang Kai, who was aware of this already, everyone wore a shocked expression.

Shadowed Star had some spirit grasses and spirit medicines that reached the Origin King Grade, but they were extremely rare, only one or two appearing every few decades. Ninety-nine percent of these Origin King Grade herbs which appeared though were Low-Rank, with Mid-Rank being almost unheard of.

But now, in the third layer of the Flowing Flame Sand Field, an authentic Origin King Grade High-Rank spirit fruit had appeared.

"What use does it have?" Although Dong Xuan'er's had strong self-control, she couldn't stop her voice from slightly trembling.

The words Origin King Grade High-Rank had struck her heart like a heavy sledgehammer.

“It has many uses. While it is in the final stages of maturing, all cultivators who inhale its scent are able to integrate the mysterious laws it contains to promote their own cultivation. Of course, this is not the main thing... It’s said that any cultivator who consumes it will have a chance to break through to the Origin King Realm!”

“What!?” Wei Gu Chang couldn’t remain calm upon hearing this.

An Origin King Realm master had never appeared on Shadowed Star. If at this time, one of the great forces was able to obtain this Red Candle Fruit and allow an Origin King to rise from their Sect, wouldn’t they be able to rule the entire star?

As the first Core Disciple of his sect, how could Wei Gu Chang not understand what this implied?

If it was something else, after all the losses Shadow Moon Hall had suffered this time, Wei Gu Chang would try to avoid wading into the muddy waters. He originally planned to have his two Junior Brothers and Junior Sister return to the second layer while he and Dong Xuan’er walked around the third layer to see if they could find any opportunities, but if the Red Candle Fruit really had such profound effects, even if he might die, he had to take action!

Moreover, he had to win!

Once such a treasure fell into the hands of others, especially an enemy, it would be a disaster for Shadow Moon Hall. Wei Gu Chang couldn’t just sit back and watch this happen.

“Senior Brother...” Dong Xuan’er bit her red lips, her beautiful eyes staring at Wei Gu Chang with anxiety.

The latter’s expression was cloudy and uncertain, but soon became firm. Turning to his Junior Brothers and Junior Sister he declared, “You three return to the second layer, don’t involve yourselves in this Red Candle Fruit affair. This will definitely be incredibly chaotic!”

“What about you, Senior Brother Wei?” The tall woman asked.

“I’ll take a look together with Xuan’er.” Wei Gu Chang then glanced over at Dai Yuan, the latter chuckling in response, “This is a rare event, naturally I want to take a look. Besides, there are still a few days before it reaches full maturity, it will be an opportunity to fuse some of the profound insights present in its fragrance with our cultivation.”

Wei Gu Chang seemed to have known that she would say so and simply nodded his head before finally turning to Yang Kai and asking, “What are Brother Yang’s plans?”

“I’ll check it out too.” Yang Kai said lightly.

“Good, let’s go!” Wei Gu Chang no longer hesitated. After spending a day restoring himself, he had almost completely recovered. If he continued to restore himself along the way, by the time they reached their destination, he should be able to return to his peak state, then he wouldn’t have to fear fighting others.

Together, the group of four hurried towards the sight of the Red Candle Fruit.

On the way, Yang Kai gave Dai Yuan a thoughtful look, and said with a smile, "Is Ms. Dai Yuan familiar with spirit herbs?"

If she wasn't perennially immersed in the study of herbs and Alchemy, it would be impossible for her to recognize the Red Candle Fruit so quickly. Moreover, from what Yang Kai could observe about Dai Yuan, it was clear she had studied all kinds of rare and precious herbs.

After hearing Yang Kai's question, Wei Gu Chang laughed happily, "I'm afraid Brother Yang doesn't know, along with outstanding strength, Junior Sister Dai Yuan is also a Saint King Grade Alchemist."

"Oh?" Yang Kai was genuinely surprised this time. He hadn't realized that Dai Yuan, who he had just randomly met and travelled together with, was actually an Alchemist as well. Of course, he was an Origin Grade Alchemist with the other party was just a Saint King Grade Alchemist, so the difference between them was still quite big.

Dai Yuan said humbly, "I'm just a Saint King Grade Low-Rank Alchemist, nothing too impressive. My aptitude in Alchemy is also not very high. Junior Brother Yang, are there many Origin Grade Alchemists and even Origin King Grade Alchemist in the outside world?"

Yang Kai chuckled, knowing that she should have asked Dong Xuan'er about his details. Not caring about such minor matters, he slowly shook his head, "There are indeed a lot of Origin Grade Alchemists, but Origin King Grade Alchemists... they're quite rare. I haven't seen one at least."

"So Origin King Grade Alchemists are a rare existence outside as well," Dai Yuan said with surprise.

"Naturally, there aren't many Origin King Grade masters outside either."

Hearing this, Dai Yuan opened her mouth, as if she wanted to ask something, but she suddenly hesitated, causing Yang Kai to frown. However, since the other party didn't ask, he wasn't going to meddle. It wouldn't be worth it to get tangled up in some tedious matter by being nosy.

A few hundred kilometres was a distance these four could normally cross in short order, but inside the Flowing Flame Sand Field, such a distance actually took some time to traverse.

But the further forward they went, the richer the fruit fragrance became. On top of that, the red sun had also risen quite a lot, and now seemed to have climbed to a several hundred-metre height.

"We should pick up our pace. When the Red Candle Fruit matures, there will be a Three Suns Grand Risings Phenomenon. After the appearance of Three Suns Grand Risings, it will reach full maturity. The time before this happens is extremely precious, the sooner we arrive, the more benefits we can obtain," Dai Yuan urged softly.