

Refining 1251

Chapter 1251 - Bad Luck Star

...

So there was something even more terrifying hiding within the black storm. No wonder those bees had run away, not even caring about the prey right near their mouths.

This was the first time Qin Yu saw the mantis-like beast, and the thought that popped into his mind, or more precisely a clear intuition, was that those two saber-like limbs he saw would be extremely, extremely difficult to deal with!

Reality proved Qin Yu's judgment was correct. With a soft tearing sound, his black robes were torn open and a neat wound appeared on his body. A bit of blood seeped out, accompanied by a slightly numb feeling.

It was poisonous!

Qin Yu frowned. Even with how formidable his body was, he still wasn't able to fully resist it. It proved just how overbearing and ferocious this poison was.

Fortunately, poison was something he hadn't feared since many years ago. The numb paralytic feeling began to gradually dissipate.

But on the surface, Qin Yu's complexion became even uglier. His face darkened and a trace of panic appeared in his eyes.

Across from him, the mantis beast's eyes surged with blood and the fierce light shined even stronger. As he thought, this thing had intelligence. In other words, Qin Yu's performance just now wasn't for nothing.

Having spiritual wisdom and such fierce strength combined into one made this creature much more difficult to deal with. But sometimes, the smarter someone was, the faster they died.

Because while it had enough confidence, it never realized that the prey it targeted at the start had decided to kill it from the very beginning and was already beginning to do so.

The black storm was its home and it had no influence on the mantis-like beast. It flapped its wings, riding along the wind.

Its pitch black forelegs seemed to fuse into the black storm, obtaining a burst of speed. They came and vanished without a trace, leaving one's heart racing in panic.

Qin Yu did his best to dodge, but more and more wounds appeared on his body. Gradually, a hazy color covered his face. It became difficult to breathe and the blood that soaked his robes started to turn black and emit a rancid smell.

The mantis beast's blood red eyes started to reveal a dignified look. This seemingly common-looking human possessed a surprising degree of strength.

But within the black storm, even if this human had the power to fight a dragon he still wouldn't be able to use it. He could only be worn down until he died.

It was almost time. The poison should have invaded this human's blood and marrow and he should have reached his limits by now. It was time to give him the fatal strike.

Two sharp forelimbs rubbed against each other, causing a splash of sparks. This was a subconscious action done by those from the praying mantis race when they were excited.

It had a premonition that this prey must be delicious. Eating him might even help it break through its limits and allow its strength to rise to a whole new level.

At this moment, Qin Yu was also deep in thought. The play was about to come to an end. If this praying mantis beast attacked again, he really would be poisoned.

After all, detoxifying was always slower than poisoning. If enough poison accumulated in his body from the wounds, it would definitely have an impact over time.

Hum –

Its wings shook like taut bowstrings. Then, they suddenly released and emitted high-pitched buzzing sounds. The praying mantis beast rushed over, its speed faster and its saber-like limbs even faster.

Qin Yu secretly praised the beast. It turns out you were also hiding your strength. As a creature from ancient times, should you be this sinister? But what a pity, when it comes to being 'sinister', that is something my human race has never been afraid of!

With a thought, the power of space concentrated into a point and burst out. After losing the protection of space, the slightly rotten wounds on Qin Yu's body all burst open at once. Flesh and blood spurted out and his face paled.

But what was exchanged for paying this price was that the mantis beast who shot towards him like an arrow suddenly paused.

It seemed to sense some intense crisis. The mantis beast screamed out loud and the vibration speed of its two wings accelerated. Small cracking sounds came from around its body – this was the spatial imprisonment rapidly breaking apart!

After continuing this act for so long, the opportunity he waited for had finally arrived. Qin Yu certainly wouldn't give it a chance to run away.

But sometimes, no matter how great a plan was, it couldn't keep up with the changes of time. Just when Qin Yu raised his hand and a silver moon appeared behind him and he was ready to cut down, a figure suddenly rushed out of the black storm and ran straight at him.

Qin Yu almost slashed out with this strike. But at the last moment he forcibly took it back. He grunted and stuffily coughed.

The first sound came from his silver moon sword intent being interrupted, and the second was from being struck by this woman. Did she not look ahead? She knew she was going to run into him and didn't slow down at all!

Qin Yu was annoyed. He looked down to see Cang Zhu. Her face was pale and panicked. All of her previous haughtiness was gone and she looked like a frightened cat.

Bang –

The spatial imprisonment broke apart. Qin Yu raised his head and saw two mantis beasts gathering in front of him. He couldn't help but sigh.

Things were troublesome now.

Killing one was difficult enough, let alone two. And since one had already suffered losses, it would obviously be much more difficult to trick them.

He should turn and run. As soon as this thought appeared he pressed it down...he simply couldn't run away. Within the black storm, the praying mantis beasts could move with ease and comfort. Even if he vomited blood he wouldn't be able to escape.

If he couldn't run then he could only go all-out. Looking at the two mantis beasts, he saw an ominous light exploding from their eyes. He thought that the possibility of them ignoring their grievances and peacefully parting ways was slim to none.

"You brought this trouble, is there anything you can do?" Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows.

Cang Zhu shook her head, flustered. If she had something she could do, would she have run around in a panic?

Qin Yu sneered, "Then I'm sorry, but I can only run away. I hope that these two beasts will be too busy eating to chase after me."

Cang Zhu's face paled. In her eyes, the deceitful Qin Yu who kept his depths hidden would undoubtedly be able to do this. She subconsciously hugged Qin Yu tightly, desperately shaking her head as tears came out.

Mm...there seemed to be a deviation from his previous judgment. Although they weren't particularly large, they were larger than average.

Peh! What time was it to have such thoughts? His mind must be confused by the storm!

Qin Yu restrained his thoughts. He sighed inwardly. Since she was scared to the point of crying, there really was nothing he could do about it. Honestly speaking, this was different from what he expected. Before, he had clearly felt that she and Tan Hai weren't easy people to deal with.

Sure enough, to be a man was suffering. At the critical moment, he still had to rely on his own efforts to survive. Although it was nice to have the fragrance of jade fill his senses, Qin Yu wasn't in the mood to enjoy these things.

He reached out a hand and grabbed Cang Zhu. As her eyes filled with horror and panic, he fiercely flung her into the distance, muttering, "Stupid woman, if you don't run now, are you waiting to die?"

After he finished speaking he rushed out. Since he couldn't trick them, he could only brace himself and continue. If he took the initiative, he should be able to gain some advantage.

Buzz –

Buzz –

It was the sound of vibrating wings. The two mantis beasts rushed over. As he thought, the target of these two bastards was her.

Qin Yu had already guessed this, even if it was only verified now. Otherwise he wouldn't have flung Cang Zhu far away.

It wasn't that he was being merciful towards the beautiful. If she really did qualify as being a buffet dinner for these two, he would have turned and run away.

Bang –

A heaven-shaking sound erupted from the black storm. The shockwaves created by this sent Cang Zhu flying back again before she could steady herself.

She continued rolling around for some time before coming to a stop. With a pale face, she bit her lips and looked into the distance where the terrifying shockwaves of battle were erupting. That man was fighting against two of those praying mantis beasts.

He was indeed strong, much stronger than she imagined. But the environment of the black storm was too poor. Would he be able to survive?

Cang Zhu had no idea. But she felt as if she had misread him. He didn't seem as deceitful or loathsome as she first thought.

She drew a deep breath and left. She had to find Tan Hai as soon as possible. Since over half of her strength was still sealed away, she didn't have the ability to protect herself.

Of course, there was still another thought hidden in her heart. If she could find Tan Hai, perhaps there would be enough time to save Qin Yu's life.

Whoosh –

Cang Zhu's form vanished within the black storm.

Chapter 1252 – Source of Life

...

The black storm in the Lost Garden raged throughout the land. After sweeping through and engulfing endless prey, it finally disappeared.

The earth was sundered, mountain peaks were shattered, and rivers were severed...a large heaven-reaching tree was almost pulled out, most of its roots exposed to the outside. Countless branches were broken. The trees with poorer luck only had giant dirt pits left in their place.

And now, Qin Yu was lying in one of these incomparably large pits. His face was paper white as he bitterly smiled.

Although he knew the Lost Garden was dangerous, prior to entering he never would have imagined that he would be beaten up by a hammer before he managed to gain a firm foothold.

That Cang Zhu woman, she was a star of ill luck. If it weren't for her, he would have taken his kill and run away already. He wouldn't have ended up like this, lying in a mud pit and gasping for breath.

Moreover, although I pushed you away, you shouldn't have just turned tail and run away without a trace...hoho, women!

Qin Yu suppressed his anger. She had better pray to never encounter him again, otherwise he would ask her how she planned on repaying that life-saving graciousness! Repay with your body? They are too small and I'm not interested!

He fumed inwardly, all sorts of random thoughts crisscrossing around. At the very least this was able to relieve the restlessness in his heart and help him pass this boring time.

Qin Yu had lain down like this for almost two hours. His injuries were extremely severe. To put it simply, he was like a pottery figure that had been glued back together after being broken.

Moreover, he wasn't stuck together carefully. As long as someone shook him with a bit of force, he would scatter across the ground.

Of course, as far as the two mantis beasts were concerned, even though they were tricky to deal with, they still shouldn't have put him in such a dire condition. The problem was that they were brazen to the point of cheating and called on helpers to join the battle. Fortunately, Qin Yu was good at taking a beating and he barely managed to preserve his life and flee.

The black storm passed and the Lost Garden returned to a rare period of peace after being ravaged. This gave Qin Yu a chance to catch his breath.

A moment later, he let out a long breath. He finally recovered enough to be able to move.

He blinked his eyes and tried to stand up. His palms pressed against the ground as he slowly summoned strength.

Kacha –

His first thought was that this was bad. His arm had broken!

Only then did he discover that what broke wasn't his arm, but rather where his palm pressed down, someone like a dead branch had been buried and crushed.

Mm? What was this scent?

Qin Yu breathed a sigh of relief and looked down to where his palm pressed down. A trace of crystal clear, light green liquid gushed out.

He was left stunned for a moment. What was this? He struck the ground and sweet jujube juice came out? Was he always such a person without character?

Just give it to me...yes, I am that kind of person. In this kind of situation, why keep pretending? If I don't go in now, am I supposed to wait here to die!?

....

Source of life!

The moment he smelled this fragrance and saw the light green liquid, he instantly came to this judgment. To say that he was overjoyed wasn't an exaggeration at all. In his current state, even if he managed to recover a little, his chances of surviving in the dangerous Lost Garden weren't too high.

The smell spread throughout the air. Even an idiot could tell that it would soon attract surrounding creatures. Whether it was other cultivators or creatures native to the Lost Garden, this absolutely wasn't a result that he wanted to see.

Don't be stunned. Use your hands, use your feet, and if you need to then use your mouth. Pull open the ground and dig your way in!

The Lost Garden's source of life had an automatic sealing ability. As long as any creature entered, it would seal itself off.

To Qin Yu, this was a life-saving miracle!

Kacha –

This time, his bones really did break. There was nothing he could do about it. He had barely grown them back so there wasn't time for them to solidify.

Kacha –

It broke again!

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows but his movements didn't stop. Like this, as cracking sounds filled the air, an entrance opened up before him.

From what he could see, it was a green liquid. According to the records in the jade slip, the rank of this source of life wasn't considered too great.

But at this time, he certainly couldn't be picky. As long as he could use it then that was all that mattered.

Flipping himself over, Qin Yu fell inside.

The light green liquid erupted with light. As if activated, the surface rapidly froze with a layer of 'ice' and the smell in the air quickly faded away.

A moment later, as the 'ice layer' formed, loud rumbling sounds approached from afar. It arrived in the blink of an eye. It was a giant monkey covered in sharp horns and holding a stone stick.

It stared at the 'ice layer' and roared in anger and rage. It raised the stone stick in its hand and smashed with tremendous strength.

With a heaven-shaking ring, the stone stick was flung away and the giant monkey's palm tore apart from the shock of the force. Blood dripped down its hand. As for the 'ice layer', it didn't move at all. Not even a blemish was left on it.

After a pained roar, the giant monkey breathed heavily for some time. Then, it turned around, retrieved its stone stick, and sat down outside the pit. It would wait until whatever fellow went in came back out and then it would swallow them whole!

After entering the source of life, Qin Yu had no idea that a giant monkey carrying a stone stick was squatting outside and waiting for him to come out.

Right now, he felt good. Really good.

Although he had gained an approximate understanding and psychological expectation of the source of life through the jade slip, after entering it, he realized a description was always limited in comparison to actually experiencing it. Even if he did his best, he could never truly reproduce the feeling in words alone.

Within the source of life, his breathing was completely unrestricted. And with every breath he took, warm and gentle power continuously flowed into his pores and integrated into his body.

The severe injuries of his mortal body started to heal up at an astonishing speed. He could almost hear the sounds of broken bones and flesh rapidly knitting together.

At the same time, his soul seemed to soak in a hot spring. He was languid and lazy, not wanting to move. Even so, he could clearly perceive his exhaustion rapidly fading away and his strength increasing.

The source of life was really...the best tonic soup!

Qin Yu now believed that this analogy was too vivid and too correct.

And this was just a relatively low rank source of life. If he could find a deep green, or even the legendary purple, what would that feel like? It wouldn't fuse with the strength inside his body and blow him up, right?

Tsk tsk. But thinking about it as a cultivator, if he died by having too much strength within his body, that wasn't too bad of a way to go.

Ah...he had just survived so he shouldn't be thinking about dying. From the look of things, he had managed to turn misfortunate into a blessing.

Cang Zhu was a star of ill luck? Qin Yu hesitated. After all, if it weren't for her, he definitely wouldn't have been able to find this source of life.

Whatever. He would consider it as receiving some interest for saving her life. A bad luck star was still a bad luck star, and she was a relatively small one at that!

In this state of laziness, Qin Yu thought about all sorts of random things. Old Turtle's voice suddenly sounded out, "Master, while I think that a man who is covered with scars from battle and danger is entitled to a period of peace and relaxation, I think that using up such a good period of cultivation time on thinking such random thoughts would be a waste."

Mm?

Waste?

Qin Yu wavered for a moment. Should he pretend that he didn't hear anything? After all, the first half of Old Turtle's words sounded reasonable.

The source of life's ability to disintegrate the will of others was indeed strong. I must resist it. I cannot allow myself to degenerate like that here!

He clenched his teeth and unhurriedly said, "What cultivation opportunity are you talking about? Tell me."

Old Turtle lightly coughed, "Master, you still have some other secrets hidden within your body. Where does your God Mark come from? Just look for that...when it comes to perceiving the rules of the heavens and earth, I don't believe there is any time faster than right now. Moreover, I can also help you. I have been eating a lot lately and need to digest a little."

His last words were filled with emotion and sadness.

First, it was because he never thought there would be a time when he ate too much and almost exploded. The second reason was because as someone who feared death to the peak, he actually needed to actively consume the power that maintained his life. It was simply unimaginable.

Qin Yu was struggling to resist his laziness, so how could he have the time to think about what Old Turtle was feeling right now? It was just a little surprising to find out that Old Turtle had discovered the stone pagoda's existence.

But in this state, he was disinclined to think about it. His thoughts stirred and he began to summon the consciousness of the stone pagoda.

There was no response.

A second time, no response.

A third time, no response.

Qin Yu's first thought was – did that fellow blow apart?

"...You're going to blow apart!" The stone pagoda shouted with annoyance.

As the one who helped you condense the River of Stars God Mark, I was then neglected, ignored, and even slandered for no reason. Can I not lose my temper now and then!?

You call out to me and I have to instantly respond? That's impossible!

Now, you should be able to tell from my tone and response that I am extremely angry.

Very good. Now go and figure out a way to comfort me and obtain my forgiveness.

Hum hum, I'll tell you the truth. I am an arrogant and attitude-filled pagoda that is difficult to coax. Are you ready to cry for me yet?

Qin Yu wasn't ready to cry, nor did he feel that he made a mistake anywhere. In his lazy state, even his thoughts were slower. After a brief pause, he returned to his senses. His first thought was that this

fellow's courage had grown out of control. Did this fellow forget who was the frightened and cautious one at the start?

Moreover, just look at Old Turtle? His status and background are higher than the heavens and yet he's still honest and amiable.

In contrast, the stone pagoda was insolent to the extreme.

Qin Yu eerily said, "I think you really do want to blow up."

In the darkness, the pagoda that had suffered loneliness for countless years almost cried out loud.

Oh great heavens and earth, what did I do wrong to have such a heartless and cruel master?

Qin Yu didn't give it much time to whimper and lament over the injustice of fate. "Tell me how to cultivate now, otherwise you can stay silent forever."

The stone pagoda was stunned!

There was nothing it could do. Qin Yu was currently its master and it was the vassal.

If it really provoked Qin Yu, then while the stone pagoda wouldn't blow apart, being hidden away would be easy.

It had spent so much time and effort to see the sun again, even having a chance of recovering, so how could it be willing to return to those dark and lightless days?

It couldn't do that.

The stone pagoda didn't know that Old Turtle had similar thoughts not too long ago, otherwise it would have taken him as a close friend.

"Master, I have sensed your current condition. After entering the rules trial field, the effect will be good...cough cough, but maintaining the operation of the rules trial field will require a great deal of power. I haven't fully recovered, so I will need master to provide the energy."

Qin Yu said, "Get to the point and make it simple!"

The stone pagoda vowed that if it could become the master one day, it would certainly teach Qin Yu what it meant to live with kindness.

He had already said the important point, so what else was there to say?

"If I can share in some of the strength that master is absorbing right now, I can open the rules trial field."

Qin Yu didn't even think about it before refusing, "No!" He didn't even have enough of this tonic soup for himself, so of course he was reluctant to give it away.

The stone pagoda cried out loud. This was typical bully behavior of wanting the bull to work the fields but not allowing it to graze!

Even if the stone pagoda was forced, it simply didn't have the strength. In its current state, it wasn't able to maintain the rules trial field.

Fortunately, this deadlock didn't last for long before it was interrupted by Old Turtle. Old Turtle expressed that he could solve this matter.

Old Turtle's solution was simple. What was this place? This was the Lost Garden that almost maintained its state from ancient times.

Even if it lacked everything else, what it didn't lack was energy from the heavens and earth. All he had to do was to build a tiny pipeline and borrow a bit of it.

Of course, saying this 10,000 times was easier than doing it once. In short, Old Turtle succeeded.

The losses in maintaining the rules trial field were considerable, but in the scope of the entire Lost Garden, it was like a drop of water in a sea.

Hum –

Chapter 1253 – Rules Trial Field

...

His surroundings darkened. When his consciousness awakened, Qin Yu found that he had returned to Stranded God Canyon. Everything was the same as before, except for the fact that no one was here besides him.

Mm...Snowside.

Things had gotten a bit muddled with her. He had placed her in the East Zhou Family and left without saying a word. But thinking about it, with East Zhou Duly there, she shouldn't be wronged.

And now Qin Yu's name had spread throughout the world. With the East Zhou Family's strength, it wouldn't be difficult for them to verify this, and it would be even more impossible for them to make things hard for her.

Even so, once he had finished his trip to the Lost Garden, he should go looking for her and see if she was willing to live at the Peach Garden.

As Qin Yu was in thought, the stone pagoda sounded out, "Master, if you really need it, women can also be created. With just a bit more strength, you can condense and create an exact copy. Really, it's the exact same! There won't be any problem at all!"

The words overflowed with confidence.

Qin Yu was dumbfounded. But then his face darkened and he clenched his teeth. Was this the impression that he gave off?

I haven't shown any problems, so what do you think of me?

If it weren't for the fact that I still need you alive and jumping to maintain the revolution of the rules trial field, I would immediately teach you the fate of those who speak too much!

"Can you sense my thoughts?"

The stone pagoda cautiously said, "A little."

“That’s not allowed at all!”

“...Yes.”

...

Qin Yu finally realized why Old Turtle said that this was an excellent cultivation opportunity. The ability to obtain a massive and free amount of power to maintain the revolution of the rules trial field was naturally part of the reason.

But an even more important reason was that Qin Yu discovered that in his current state, due to the existence of the source of life, the speed at which he comprehended the rules was frighteningly fast.

This was confirmed by Old Turtle. The source of life was a lucky chance bred by the Lost Garden. Placed within, one could obtain support from the Lost Garden’s will.

Or to be more precise, it was the remnant will of those formidable ancient life forms who constructed this place in the past.

According to Old Turtle’s viewpoint, this was a lingering obsession. But anyone that received the Lost Garden’s approval would receive assistance in their cultivation and an accelerated ability to perceive the rules of the heavens and earth was just one of these bonuses. It just happened to be the most suitable for Qin Yu.

He had already stepped onto the True God’s Path and there was no possibility of going back and restarting, so what use was there in hesitating? Continue cultivating!

...

Besides the start where Cang Zhu was separated from Tan Hai, her luck was relatively good. It wasn’t long before she found him.

However, Tan Hai hadn’t been in a good situation. Later, for some unknown reason, the mantis beasts that were chasing after them retreated on their own initiative, and only then could they be considered as having turned danger into safety.

Looking at Tan Hai’s exhausted face and the smile he barely managed to force out, Cang Zhu wasn’t able to say the words she wanted to.

When the black storm swept into the distance, she pulled Tan Hai back to look. But in the end she didn’t find anything.

Tan Hai asked what she was looking for, but Cang Zhu shook her head and didn’t say anything.

If that fellow hadn’t died, she would repay him if they met in the future. If he had already died, then it didn’t matter if she said anything.

“Cang Zhu, we should go.” Tan Hai softly said as he closed the jade plate in his hands. Looking at her profile and her furrowed eyebrows, he worried a little.

After the great incident from before, she still hadn’t had such an expression. Tan Hai wanted to know just what exactly happened in the black storm while they were separated.

But even though his cousin Cang Zhu didn't seem to show anything on the surface, she was actually an extremely thoughtful and determined person, otherwise he wouldn't be forced to accompany her on her crazy adventures.

If she didn't want to talk about it, asking her was useless.

Cang Zhu's eyelids trembled. She closed her eyes and opened them. With one final glance behind her, she stood up and said, "Let's go."

The two walked towards a certain place in the Lost Garden. If one watched from high up in the sky, they would find that even though there were some twists and turns in their path, it was more or less a straight line. It seemed they knew exactly where they were going.

...

Elder senior-apprentice brother stood in front of the corpse of a giant beast and gently stroked it. The surface of its body was clear and smooth and the scales seemed to be carved from crystal. He sighed with admiration and a bit of regret.

How lucky was he to seemingly cross the endless river of time and meet this sort of life form that only existed in ancient times? But what a pity, today's situation was different and he couldn't take this life form out of the Lost Garden. He could only kill it.

After thinking for a bit, elder senior-apprentice brother took out a small knife and started to peel off the scales.

The small knife was ordinary, but in the hands of elder senior-apprentice brother it seemed sharp and dexterous. He plunged it into a slit of the scales, and took them off with a flick of his wrist.

Lei Xiaoyu walked over with a smile. "Elder senior-apprentice brother, what are you doing?"

Without turning his head, elder senior-apprentice brother said, "Little junior-apprentice brother cultivates the True God's Path, and perceiving the rules of the heavens and earth is the foundation of that. The textures of these scales are the embodiment of the rules, so bringing them back might be helpful to him."

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes flashed but she didn't say anything. She only looked at a giant green crystal on the ground. Its color was deep, almost the deepest shade of green, like a massive glowing green jade.

"Elder senior-apprentice brother, Azure Dragon hasn't fully grown up, so would the strength of the source of life here be too strong? If it cannot eat it all up, it might be in danger."

Elder senior-apprentice brother paused and smiled, "I understand junior-apprentice sister's meaning, but master said that Azure Dragon's talent is extraordinary. The Lost Garden might be a lucky chance for you and me, but for it, this is a good fortune that defies the heavens and will allow it to change its fate. So let's be patient for a while. Does junior-apprentice sister understand my meaning?"

Lei Xiaoyu nodded. "I understand. Since this is master's intent, please pretend that I didn't say anything. Senior-apprentice brother, continue what you are doing. I'm too lazy to move so I won't help you peel the scales."

She turned and left.

Elder senior-apprentice brother revealed a helpless expression. He knew that his junior-apprentice sister was dissatisfied, but he also knew her personality and was aware that she wouldn't become angry just from this.

It was just that saying he was peeling the scales wasn't too pleasant to hear. The warmth and loving concern he showed for his little junior-apprentice brother's cultivation was completely ruined.

With a smile, elder senior-apprentice brother turned back around and got to work.

...

"Have you found them yet?"

"Trash!"

"Figure out a way to find them as soon as possible. That woman absolutely cannot be allowed to undo her seal!"

"If you cannot handle this matter, then all of you should prepare yourselves to stay here forever!"

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

With the sound of breaking air, over a dozen figures howled into the distance.

A black-robed man frowned, his hands held behind his back. Small cracking sounds came from his fists, like rattling bones as well as colliding iron and stone.

"Cang Zhu, you cannot escape. This is your life. From the day you were born, you were doomed!"

...

The giant monkey was impatient. It had already waited to the point that it tormented itself, but it still forced itself to wait here.

Just a step, it had just been a step away, and the source of life would have been its...not to mention that it was its thing to begin with!

Many years ago, the giant monkey had discovered the secret hidden beneath the roots of the great tree. But at that time the source of life had just formed, so its effect was extremely limited.

The giant monkey hesitated over and over before deciding to wait.

This period of waiting lasted for many, many years. There were numerous times when it almost couldn't endure it, but it kept thinking that if the source of life could absorb more strength, then its quality would be higher.

Finally, not too long ago, the giant monkey deliberately provoked a dispute and forcibly drove away several competitors as it prepared to enjoy this long-awaited feast.

But just as the battle finished, it didn't have enough time to return before the black storm arrived. The giant monkey desperately fought in order to not be swept away.

With great difficulty, the giant monkey lasted until the black storm passed through. It didn't dare to delay as it raced back, but by then something had gone wrong.

It smelled the scent of the source of life in the air, and it almost went insane. So even though it knew that the barrier from the source of life couldn't be broken, it still struck out in anger until its hand was left shaken and bloody.

Wait!

No longer how much time passed, it would wait. It had to grab that bastard and swallow him up!

That is my source of life! Mine! Since you stole it, I will eat you!

Of course, the reason the giant monkey made this decision was because it hadn't sensed any auras of formidable life forms in the surrounding area.

The environment that creatures from ancient times had to survive in was far more dangerous than it was today. After living for so many years, it had more or less managed to become the overlord of this area and defend this source of life. And the giant monkey's keen sensory abilities were an important reason for why it succeeded.

This was where its confidence came from.

Kacha –

A light sound entered the giant monkey's ears. Its ears pricked up and it stood up, its stone stick in hand. During this entire process, it didn't make a single sound.

Its ice cold and brutal eyes were filled with excitement. He was finally coming out! He was finally coming out! This monkey brother's stone stick had been thirstily waiting for far too long already!

The 'ice layer' began to crack. Then, more and more sounds came out, spreading like a spider web.

Bang –

It shattered!

The giant monkey roared out loud and its stone stick came crashing down like a bolt of lightning. The shocking momentum caused the air to release a series of explosive sounds.

But before the stone stick struck the pit, it froze in place, along with the giant monkey. The transition from extreme speed to no movement at all was jarring.

"Maybe my destiny really doesn't suit the Lost Garden, otherwise why do I have to face an attack before I can even catch my breath?" Qin Yu sighed with emotion as he stepped out. He looked at the frozen giant monkey. There was some helplessness on his face as well as some joy.

As expected, the True God's Path really was worthy of being regarded as being capable of fighting anything as long as he had enough rules. The speed at which his strength improved was dazzling.

Ah...to be more precise, having the luxury of using the rules trial field to carry out his cultivation wasn't much different from cheating.

Hum hum, cheating was cheating. But if the increase in power was real, all else was useless. Besides, it wasn't like anyone else could use this sort of cheat method. If someone else was envious, they could try and do it themselves!

Mm, that's right, it was more or less like this.

Finally feeling relaxed and at ease, Qin Yu snapped his fingers. The frozen giant monkey was instantly torn apart.

The scent of blood filled the senses!

Chapter 1254 – Causing Trouble

...

Mm?

At this moment, Qin Yu's eyes flashed. A swarm of ants appeared in front of him with a thought. They were the purpleback bluewing ants that had retreated behind the scenes for a long time already.

They were just too easily defeated. The main reason was that Qin Yu's strength had improved too quickly. If he brought them out and the opponent was too strong, it would be the same as sending the ant swarm to die.

For instance, just by appearing in the Lost Garden, these purpleback bluewing ants that were once extremely fierce and killed countless enemies all flapped their wings in chaos, shakily meandering around.

It had to be known that this place almost completely preserved the environment of ancient times. Countless formidable life forms lived here and the wild aura they naturally released covered every inch of the land. It wasn't something they could withstand.

Qin Yu flicked his sleeves and space twisted, isolating out the aura of the wilderness. Only then did the purpleback bluewing ants manage to steady themselves.

Without needing to be urged, the ant swarm threw themselves onto the ground, covering the torn corpse of the giant monkey.

What followed were frightening sounds of tearing and chewing.

Their speed was fast. When the ant swarm flew back, all that remained on the ground was a pale skeleton. There wasn't even a drop of blood left over.

As for the purpleback bluewing ants, their bellies were round and full. They shakily flew around, clearly about to enter a food coma.

Fortunately, their auras were stable. After sensing them and discovering nothing wrong, Qin Yu put them away.

These purpleback bluewing ants had followed Qin Yu since he was small and weak, so it wasn't an exaggeration to say he had some feelings towards them. If he could help strengthen them during this trip into the Lost Garden, then of course that was for the best.

But the specifics depended on their speed of digestion. If one giant monkey was enough for them to eat their fill, it was useless to think more about it.

His eyes flashed and he looked around. He sped off into the distance.

As he absorbed the strength from the source of life he had been cultivating within the rules trial field. Old Turtle hadn't been idling around either.

Thus, Qin Yu now had a goal.

...

After being separated in the black storm, Qin Yu never thought that he would be able to meet Flatrock and Dragon Peak again. But fate was this marvelous. In the massive Lost Garden, they reunited once again.

Qin Yu was surprised when their eyes met. But looking at the expressions of Flatrock and Dragon Peak, they clearly never imagined that Qin Yu would be able to survive the black storm.

Yet soon, the two composed their expressions. Flatrock coughed lightly but the one who spoke first was Dragon Peak, "Junior-apprentice brother Qin, have you seen Tan Hai and Cang Zhu?"

With a few words, Qin Yu understood that this young man was still longing for that bad luck star with the small chest. Forgetting all else, this eyesight of his would kill him sooner or later.

At this time, Qin Yu hesitated. He already had a goal so he shouldn't be wasting his time. Should he eliminate these two people? After all, the Dragon Mountain Holy Land was hostile to the Peach Garden, so he wouldn't have any psychological burden in doing this.

There was certainly an advantage. Once these two people died, then besides Tan Hai and Cang Zhu, no one else would know about his existence. This would make him even more covert and safe.

His thoughts turned even as he subconsciously responded, "I haven't seen them..." As he spoke, there was a flawless transformation of surprise and joy on his face.

Even Qin Yu was stunned. He didn't plan on doing it but he had done it without thinking...sure enough, acting was addicting!

No, this isn't good. My goal is to find even more source of life, not to be a successful actor. If my road has swerved off the right path, I need to decisively bring it back. Let's start with killing these two people, using their blood as a sacrifice!

Flatrock and Dragon Peak were disappointed. They never imagined that Qin Yu was already considering which one of them to kill first.

After obtaining a response, Dragon Peak's interest in Qin Yu was greatly diminished. He put on an indifferent and aloof expression and turned his head to say, "That person from the Peach Garden is almost here. Senior-apprentice brother, let's head over."

Qin Yu clenched his hands together, revealing a doubtful look.

Flatrock lightly coughed, "Junior-apprentice brother Qin came at just the right time. There is a matter that we happen to need your help with."

He had suddenly thought of an even better idea. Not only could he kill without leaving a trace, but he could remove all suspicion from himself. After all, this was the Peach Garden. Although there were no Saints in the Lost Garden, no matter how concealed something was, as long as it happened it could be found out.

That was a True Saint that reached the other shore. It was best to be cautious against the mysteries of that realm.

As Flatrock spoke, he eyed Dragon Peak. Although Dragon Peak didn't understand much, he smartly kept his mouth shut and didn't say anything.

"It's not a big deal. Let's talk as we walk, junior-apprentice brother Qin!" Flatrock warmly smiled as he grabbed Qin Yu's hand.

On the road, he spoke in vague riddles. But, Qin Yu was able to make out some points.

It seemed that some people in the Lost Garden had discovered traces of a certain disciple from the Peach Garden and were preparing to join forces to cause some trouble. Just like the Dragon Mountain Holy Land, they all stood on the opposite side of the Peach Garden.

But this reason clearly wasn't enough. When it came to seeking revenge, there would be plenty of opportunities in the future. Why waste the time they had in the Lost Garden?

So the most likely reason was that this Peach Garden disciple had something on him that they desperately wanted, enough that they were willing to collaborate in this plot.

Who could it be?

Elder senior-apprentice brother was immediately eliminated. It wasn't that he looked down on Flatrock and Dragon Peak, but it was often said that birds of a feather flocked together. Even if a bunch of people similar to Flatrock and Dragon Peak joined forces, what could they possibly do? For elder senior-apprentice brother, it would be no different from delivering vegetables to him. They would be chopped up in an instant.

Okay, he did look down on them!

As for third senior-apprentice brother, he had been handling the various affairs and businesses of the Peach Garden, so his reputation wasn't that small within the Saint circles. In addition, he had a tyrannical bloodline, so the chances of people plotting against him were small.

Out of the three Peach Garden disciples, two were basically eliminated. Only Lei Xiaoyu was left. Although Qin Yu had made some speculations that the Spring Master was planning on doing something, speculations were just speculations. He had no actual evidence.

If Lei Xiaoyu really was Lei Xiaoyu and she just happened to be the target, then that girl was in danger.

These thoughts rapidly flashed through Qin Yu's mind. He came to a decision. He would first spare the lives of these two for now and go and take a look.

After all, no matter who their target was, they were people from the Peach Garden. Now that he was made aware, there was no reason to stand back.

There wasn't much to say about the journey. The only thing that surprised Qin Yu was that the one in charge of leading the way was Dragon Peak. And as if by coincidence, they happened to avoid several areas that had been deemed high-risk by Old Turtle.

Once or twice could be considered a coincidence, but this was five, six, seven, eight times already. Qin Yu didn't believe they were so lucky.

Qin Yu couldn't help but quietly glance at this seemingly mediocre and brainless 'second-generation' cultivator.

Was he pretending to be a pig to eat a tiger? Or was there another reason?

As if sensing Qin Yu's gaze, Flatrock smiled and said, "Junior-apprentice brother Dragon Peak has a unique talent and was born with sharp senses. Following him is definitely not wrong."

Dragon Peak lightly coughed and held his hands behind his back. He looked up at the skies at a 45 degree angle, as if he was a wise sage.

Qin Yu immediately cast a look of envy, surprise, and admiration. This could be called a fully satisfying expression.

My acting skills...seemed to have improved again...could it be that in my bones...I am a veteran actor...

As Qin Yu's thoughts were wandering, he suddenly frowned inwardly. Old Turtle had informed him that a good number of cultivators were gathered up ahead.

It seemed they had arrived.

After Flatrock gave a signal, over a dozen cultivators appeared in front of him.

Qin Yu had basically no impression of them. Before the Lost Garden opened, he was paying attention to the fierce characters around elder senior-apprentice brother. He tried his best to remember them, to prepare himself in advance in case he encountered them here.

"Flatrock, Dragon Peak, who is this?" A cultivator asked, his eyebrows furrowed together.

The other people also had unsightly expressions.

Everyone knew what the plan was today. Yet you dare to bring a new face. If news of this spreads, how will we survive in the future?

Flatrock smiled and cupped his hands together, “Everyone, this junior-apprentice brother is the descendant of the Dragon Mountain Saint’s old friend. He is absolutely trustworthy.”

When he finished speaking he put on an apologetic look and said, “Junior-apprentice brother Qin, please wait at the side. I must explain things to these people so that there aren’t any problems.”

Qin Yu put on a fearful expression and nodded as he moved to the side.

Flatrock flicked his sleeve, laying down a barrier. As he looked at everyone, a sharp light exploded in his eyes. “In the end, that person is a disciple of the Peach Garden, so we should do our best not to get involved as much as we can, and to stay as far away as possible. None of us can guarantee the limits of the Spring Master’s supernatural powers, nor are we sure that we won’t be discovered. This person is insurance that I found for us. He will be the one making the move and all the karma and causal effect will be concentrated on his body. Then, that person will die in the Lost Garden. Even if the Spring Master has transcendent abilities, we won’t be exposed.”

With these words, everyone’s eyes began to shine.

After a while, Flatrock called Qin Yu over. The scene could be called warm and comforting. When the crowd looked at Qin Yu, it was like they were looking at their own brother.

Qin Yu revealed surprise towards this. It wasn’t too obvious, but it was just enough for Flatrock to notice.

He smiled and lowered his voice to say, “Junior-apprentice brother, these fellow daoists don’t know you, so to avoid you being excluded I took the liberty to make a decision for you. I promised them that when the time comes, you will be responsible for a key step. Of course, you have no need to worry about your safety. Since we have decided to do this, we have completed all preparations. Once you do your job, you will obtain their trust and also your share of the benefits.”

Qin Yu hesitated a little.

Flatrock said, “Junior-apprentice brother Qin, you already know too much. If you refuse, things will be difficult for me.”

A stick in one hand and a carrot in the other!

Qin Yu sneered inwardly. But on the outside, he put on an indecisive appearance. After some time, he clenched his teeth and agreed.

Chapter 1255A – Array Spirit Duplication

...

Flatrock immediately laughed. “Great. From here on out, junior-apprentice brother is one of us.” This was a sign that Qin Yu had agreed. Sounds of hearty laughter immediately rang out from all around.

First off, they didn’t need to personally do anything. This was definitely a good thing.

Secondly, a new ruthless man named Qin Yu had arrived at the Peach Garden. Today, they would use another man surnamed Qin to kill a disciple of the Peach Garden. Just thinking about it was interesting.

Mm, Qin...hehe...not bad!

As peals of laughter rang around him, Qin Yu also laughed, a bit forced.

But in his heart, he wasn't laughing at all. With Old Turtle here, he knew exactly what these bastards spoke about.

The crucial step they wanted him to handle was in order to avoid contaminating themselves with the karma of this plot. This was a good plan and it also saved him a good deal of effort.

Laugh, keep on laughing. Laugh your fill now, because you'll be crying in the future.

After all, in Qin Yu's eyes, it was inhumane to make people feel fear and grief and yet leave them unable to cry.

So, he could still be considered a good person with a relatively soft heart.

After determining that Qin Yu would do it, the crowd had a brief discussion before everyone dispersed.

It seemed that in order to avoid any mistakes that might happen at the last moment, Flatrock and Dragon Peak didn't participate. Instead, they stayed with Qin Yu and gave him words of comfort, promising him a share of the rewards large enough that it would leave anyone drooling. But, the truth was that they were just keeping an eye on him.

Qin Yu put on an appearance that he was being tempted and choked with emotions, comparing his acting skills with these two people along the way. But his eyes didn't idle around. He glanced around and approximately deduced what they were planning.

Cough cough, saying this was a bit boastful. In truth, it was what Old Turtle told him after looking around.

These bastards were setting up an array formation, and it was an extremely cruel, evil, and terrifying battle array formation. They were borrowing the power of the Lost Garden. If he didn't know and fell into this array formation, even he would be in danger.

It was no wonder they dared to have ideas of messing with a disciple from the Peach Garden. It was because they had this card in hand. But now that he had seen through it and they wanted Qin Yu to do it...hehe, these bastards were cautious and probably made arrangements to deal with him if he suddenly decided to not be cooperative.

But after listening to Old Turtle say a few words, Qin Yu's heart calmed down. He looked at Flatrock in front of him, who was gently smiling. If this man knew that his card was destined to be useless, what sort of expression would he have? It would certainly be interesting.

Qin Yu wasn't in a hurry. When the time came, he would be able to fully appreciate it.

The great array formation was finally completed. Everyone began to leave the stage and display their own methods to conceal their auras.

At this point, Qin Yu saw the background of those that followed Saints. Even if he didn't really like or care about these people much.

Cough cough...that's right, he was a bit full of himself right now.

After being named a Dual Saint Slayer and being acknowledged by the Spring Master as a part of the four-and-a-half squad whose goal would be the Ruler boundary, it was impossible to say that his mindset hadn't changed at all.

However, what he saw gave him a warning, because these bastards had surprisingly exquisite methods to hide themselves.

If it weren't for Old Turtle, he simply wouldn't have been able to discover them. Although they borrowed some of the power of the array formation, this in itself was sufficiently startling.

Because if he were to look at things from another aspect, if he was the one being plotted against today and he didn't have Old Turtle's help, there was a 99% chance he would have fallen for it.

He certainly couldn't underestimate a group of people who had the skills to have him fall into a trap...Qin Yu's inflated ego quietly deflated.

Flatrock took out a jade slip and probed it with his divine sense. Then, he took a deep breath, a sharp light exploding in his eyes. He looked at Qin Yu and said, "He's here!"

Such a great and magnificent scene with so many people participating, just who could the target be? Qin Yu looked up into the distance.

Several breaths of time later, there was the sound of breaking air. Then, a few vague words entered his ears. Just hearing this was enough for Qin Yu to come to the conclusion that he had been mistaken before. The target was actually that man.

Shua –

Shua –

Two figures entered his field of vision. One of them wore white clothing that appeared as pure as snow, without a single speck of dust touching it. His expression was faint and indifferent. It was the Peach Garden's third senior-apprentice brother – White Phoenix!

At this moment, he furrowed his eyebrows and looked at the man to his side. "You said it was here?"

Standing next to him was another cultivator. He had ordinary features but his eyes were bright and wide, making him seem much livelier. The man nodded and said, "Third Mister, please don't worry. If I wasn't sure, I wouldn't have told you."

Then, fluctuations spread out from up ahead. The man lit up with joy. "Third Mister, there it is!"

As the man spoke he rushed forward.

A mass of straw mushrooms on the ground suddenly shattered with a pop. Smoke flashed as it transformed into a white rabbit.

The rabbit's speed was astonishing. It was like a bolt of white lightning, even faster than the man rushing at it.

“Third Mister, please hurry! It’s about to escape!”

White Phoenix frowned. He felt something strange about this place. But the Lost Garden was always like this. Treasures and dangers existed hand in hand.

This thing would certainly be helpful for junior-apprentice sister Peachy’s injury.

With this thought in mind, he no longer hesitated. He stepped forward and pressed his hands down.

Bang –

The void rumbled and a giant hand appeared. Like gods and demons taking action from the heavens, it instantly locked onto the aura of the white rabbit fleeing on the ground. The white rabbit suddenly raised its head, a frightened expression on its face. But, its red eyes were calm and steady.

White Phoenix’s heart throbbed and he slammed his feet into the ground. His response was extremely fast. But just as he started to retreat, he came to another abrupt stop.

Because the battle array formation had begun to move!

If an array formation could be called ‘extremely fierce’ by Old Turtle, then it naturally wasn’t something common. White Phoenix had a noble bloodline and a keen intuition. As he instantly determined his own situation, his face darkened to the point of dripping water.

He had fallen into a trap!

At the East Sea it had been junior-apprentice sister Peachy, and now in the Lost Garden, it was him. It seemed that for these past years, the Peach Garden had been too quiet, so quiet that many people forgot what the Peach Garden used to be like in the past.

This was also good. Today, he would use the blood of these people to awaken their forgotten memories.

Recently, he had been feeling sad and depressed but had no place to vent his emotions, thus he could only withstand them by himself. As a result, he was in a very bad mood.

So after determining that he had fallen into a trap, while he was furious he was also excited. He finally had a chance to vent his anger!

As the descendant of a peak ancient bloodline, no matter how gentle and refined his behavior was, he couldn’t completely abandon the cruelty and brutality etched into his bones.

But soon, White Phoenix, whose eyes were beginning to flash with the color of blood, discovered to his own helplessness that his opponent was the array formation itself.

He wanted to kill people but couldn’t even find their shadow. This was undoubtedly a sad thing.

Moreover, what left White Phoenix even more restless was that he discovered that as time passed, the array formation grew increasingly strong.

This clearly wasn’t normal!

When he made a move before, he had caused damage to the array formation. There was no way he mistook that. If the array formation didn't weaken but grew stronger instead, there had to be something strange happening with it.

He couldn't stay here.

White Phoenix lifted a hand and pressed forward. The temperature in the air drastically fell as a white pall covered the surrounding space.

Kacha –

Kacha –

Cracking sounds filled the air as the frozen space started to shatter.

White Phoenix took a step out.

But the moment he entered, a dull ringing came from the shattered space. White Phoenix was sent flying backwards. His face was pale with shock and anger. There was a fist mark on his chest. The mark was pitch black, contrasting sharply with his white clothes. Just looking at the mark left a chill in one's heart.

A moment later, a figure stepped out from the shattered space. It was another White Phoenix!

Their auras and appearance were completely the same. The only difference was that this other White Phoenix wore clothes as black as the night and his eyes were flooded with killing intent.

"Array spirit!" White Phoenix sucked in a deep breath, his eyes becoming increasingly dignified. He understood how difficult it was to condense an array spirit. In particular, this was an array spirit that completely duplicated him...today's killing plot wasn't simple at all!

It seemed that before the Lost Garden opened, some people had made up their mind to kill a Peach Garden disciple.

At this moment, White Phoenix felt a bit of regret. If he hadn't been stubborn and insisted on travelling separately from elder senior-apprentice brother and Lei Xiaoyu, then perhaps this would never have happened.

After all, there was probably no one in the Lost Garden who had the courage to plot against elder senior-apprentice brother!

But this thought was fleeting. With things having come this far, regret was useless.

It seemed he had to go all-out today!

With his thoughts decided, White Phoenix's eyes erupted with light. A loud cry filled the air as a giant phoenix suddenly appeared above his head. The phoenix launched its wings outwards. Each feather was white and glistened like fresh snow, without a single impurity.

As the phoenix appeared, the temperature in the air began to fall even further. Pieces of white ice formed and started to slowly fall to the ground.

Kacha –

Kacha –

Each piece of ice that touched the ground released a terrifyingly low temperature, causing the earth to freeze solid into a layer of ice.

The phoenix's gaze was like lightning. It glared at the black-clothed White Phoenix. As if sensing something, its eyes flooded with anger.

As a peak ancient life form that once ruled this world, although it had fallen, it still did not allow its dignity to be provoked.

The array spirit had duplicated White Phoenix. It had the same aura and strength, and this offended what the ancient life forms valued the most – the nobility and purity of their bloodline.

There was another keening cry. The ice that fell between the heavens and earth came to a pause. Then, it all roared out. The speed was so fast that before one could catch their trajectory, they had already struck the black-clothed White Phoenix.

But when the ice shards approached the black-clothed White Phoenix, they unexpectedly wavered and came to a trembling stop.

The phoenix screamed in rage!

Chapter 1255B – Array Spirit Duplication

...

Above the head of the black-clothed White Phoenix, a second phoenix appeared. This phoenix had black feathers and released an infinite cold. Its eyes were cold, filled with the same callousness and killing intent that the first phoenix had!

Even the bloodline of the Ice Phoenix Clan could be copied?

White Phoenix's heart sank. He discovered that he had looked down on the preparations of this other party. The difficulty of accomplishing this must have been astonishing, and an equally great price would have had to be paid.

It seemed that they were really determined to ensure he never left.

The phoenix could feel the thoughts coming from its bloodline descendant and it flew out in anger. The black phoenix unfurled its wings and followed in kind. Soon, there was a clash like two bolts of black and white lightning slamming into each other at an incredible speed.

Rumble rumble –

Terrifying explosions filled the air, accompanied with broken feathers constantly falling to the ground. With the black and white phoenixes at the center, a terrifyingly low temperature began to spread out.

The world was frozen solid!

The black-clothed White Phoenix took a step forward. He lifted a hand and pressed down. It was the same method that White Phoenix used before to try and escape this place.

Kacha –

Kacha –

Light sounds constantly came from all around him. This was space being frozen solid by the power of extreme cold.

“Humph!” With a sneer, White Phoenix grasped forward. The power of ice gathered within his fingers.

He clenched his fist together. The invisible power of ice and cold manifested, forming a transparent ice bead. The phantom of a black phoenix appeared inside it.

Strength continuously poured into the ice bead. Its size not only didn’t increase, but started to shrink at a speed visible to the naked eye.

More and more white frost appeared over the black-clothed White Phoenix. It began to gradually spread, reaching his eyebrows and then the ends of his hair. White Phoenix had taken advantage of his opponent’s strength to condense the phantom of the black phoenix and launch a counterattack. This was an ingenious method of combat that showed just how profound White Phoenix’s attainments were in the power of cold and ice.

But the reason a duplicate was called a duplicate was because their strength was the exact same, without any difference at all.

The black-clothed White Phoenix lifted a hand and tapped the point between its eyebrows. The white layer of ice that covered it instantly shattered. It looked at White Phoenix and calmly said, “You are me, and I am you, how can these methods kill me?”

White Phoenix shook his head, “I am indeed me, but you are only a spirit condensed by the array formation, something artificially created by others. How can you be placed on even grounds with the Ice Phoenix Clan?”

The black-clothed White Phoenix was silent for a time. Then it said, “You are right, that is why I am unwilling.” It took a step forward, its eyes growing even colder. “You and I are the same. Then, if I kill you, maybe I can seize your body and become a true member of the Ice Phoenix Clan, forever living in the world.”

White Phoenix’s complexion changed. “Someone promised you that?”

The black-clothed White Phoenix nodded.

With the situation having reached this stage, there was no need to hide anything. If this array spirit succeeded, it would replace him and become the real White Phoenix.

The loser...would forever dissipate, as if they never existed in this world.

So their original plan was more than just killing him. They also desired to seize his body, having the array spirit substitute for him and continue existing in that way.

Strictly speaking, the array spirit had the exact same aura as White Phoenix and should be impossible to distinguish. In other words, if this happened, a malignant tumor would find its way into the Peach Garden, one that could explode at any moment.

White Phoenix paused for a moment. Then his lips curled up in a smile. "Although I have no idea who is behind you, they have underestimated the Spring Master. Even if you succeed today, you will never be able to sneak your way into the Peach Garden."

Looking at the black-clothed White Phoenix, he continued to say, "If you are a useless chess piece that can be exposed at any time, what methods do you think those people behind you will use in order to ensure that they remain hidden? I believe that killing you and making it seem as if nothing ever happened is the safest and most correct choice. What do you think?"

The black-clothed White Phoenix had a calm expression. "You are right. So if I really can substitute for you, I will try to run away."

"Run away? In front of a Saint, there are few secrets in this world. Where can you run off to?"

"Then I'll die. But at least, before I die, I'll be able to live for some time. I'll take a good look at this world...with the status of a living being!"

White Phoenix frowned. He wanted to attack the mindset and will of his opponent, but it seemed his efforts had been in vain.

He sneered and said, "Then I'll have to see whether or not you have this ability!"

Pa –

The shrunken ice bead between his fingers cracked and broke into countless blocks. Cracks appeared on the surface of the black-clothed White Phoenix.

But that was it.

The cracks on the black-clothed White Phoenix rapidly healed over and disappeared.

"I said that these methods cannot kill you, so they naturally cannot kill me. However, I am not a person. So the one that will eventually die in the end is you."

White Phoenix's heart sank.

It was true that the array spirit in front of him was a duplicate of himself. And even now, he didn't see the people who set up this array formation.

But it was clear that they were hiding somewhere, greedily eyeing him. Perhaps they were waiting for the right time to rush out and give him a fatal wound.

...

Qin Yu shook his head. If White Phoenix had erupted with his strength the moment the array formation was activated, then he might have had a chance of forcibly breaking out.

But now, the array formation had been quickened and was drawing in the strength of the Lost Garden. The array spirit's power was nearly endless.

Although White Phoenix had taken the initiative and had a temporary advantage, he still experienced losses. He would eventually be the one that was weakened.

Moreover, there were still the hostile cultivators that set up the array formation. This wasn't the limit of their preparations.

If he wasn't here today, he feared White Phoenix would likely have fallen.

This caused Qin Yu to be even more vigilant and fearful. Sure enough, he couldn't be relaxed or careless. Not in the least. Was senior-apprentice brother White Phoenix strong or weak? Of course he was extremely, extremely strong.

For instance, the phoenix he summoned just now. In truth, Qin Yu had experienced such cold temperatures in the past, and that was in the abyss' Cold Sea.

Let alone a God boundary, even if it were an Origin God, if they were a little weaker or their defenses against the power of ice and cold weren't that strong, then they would have been frozen to death.

Yet, such a person had only been listed as a half in the four-and-a-half squad by the Spring Master. It wasn't because his strength or potential was lacking, but because he had a problem with his background.

The original ancient life forms had been eliminated from the vast brightness world. Their descendants might possess incredible strength just by virtue of being born, but none of them had ever managed to become Rulers.

This was a congenital deficiency. It was the choice of the world's will.

Such a strong third senior-apprentice brother might have been finished after a single misstep. Qin Yu had to take this lesson to heart.

As he was deep in thought and admonishing himself, Flatrock and the others glanced at each other. Flatrock lightly coughed, "Junior-apprentice brother, it's time for you to step up. You remember what to do, so don't be nervous."

Qin Yu looked up, a bit of fear and hesitation on his face. Flatrock had a warm smile as he nodded at him.

This was an expression that said he and the others are all optimistic about you, so don't worry at all. There won't be any problems.

As for what these bastards were really thinking, Qin Yu naturally knew.

You people can pretend to be so friendly even when you're sending someone to their death. You really are a bunch of bastards.

But it was good that they were bastards. He wouldn't have any psychological burden when he killed them later.

Qin Yu took a deep breath and clenched his teeth. He cupped his hands at everyone and said, "Fellow senior-apprentice brothers and sisters, please remember the promise you made to me. This little brother will be going!"

He turned and walked out, his back filled with decisiveness and sorrow.

Space slightly distorted before calming back down. The kid had entered the array formation. They could see him, but he couldn't turn around and see them.

The smiles on their faces immediately vanished, replaced with cold indifference. What promise? Had they made one?

Flatrock looked at the crowd and a hesitating figure there. He said, "Brother Zhang, you're sure there won't be any problems, right?"

This question was what the gathered people cared about the most. Their eyes gathered on the man.

The cultivator surnamed Zhang had a flat expression. "If this matter is exposed, I and my entire family will die a death far more miserable than the rest of you. So since I have made a move, I will do everything to ensure it works." After a pause, as if to comfort everyone, he said, "Once this person enters the array formation, he won't be able to cause any trouble. Even if he changes his mind in the end, I have methods that will bury him and White Phoenix together."

Everyone felt at ease. They all spoke up, saying that they believed in fellow daoist Zhang's strength.

This was just polite talk. Zhang Zhongshi lowered his head, not giving a response. Everyone was accustomed to his habits already so they didn't care much.

As for why they chose to believe him, that was because White Phoenix's Ice Phoenix Clan bloodline was incredibly useful in the Lost Garden, and they all desired it.

Moreover, this surname Zhang had an irreconcilable hatred with White Phoenix. This wasn't considered a secret within the Saint circles.

It could be summed up by saying that before White Phoenix entered the Peach Garden, during a certain breakthrough he had gone mad and was controlled by his bloodline, causing boundless murder and destruction as a result.

The Zhang Family had been swept up in this catastrophe. It was said that Zhang Zhongshi's wife and children had all been killed. Their deaths were tragic and horrible.

After all, a crazy Ice Phoenix descendant wasn't rational and couldn't be reasoned with.

The Saint circles were just a general term. Saints and their followers could all be regarded as members of these circles. But that didn't mean that someone couldn't be a member of a circle without the support of a Saint.

The Zhang Family was one such exception.

They had no Saint, nor were they a vassal of any Holy Land. Yet they were recognized as absolutely having the qualifications to occupy a part of the Saint circles.

Because when it came to array formations, looking at the entire vast brightness world, if the Zhang Family dared to say they were second, almost no one would come out and say they were first.

After the slaughter incident, the Zhang Family used their influence to launch an encirclement and suppression campaign, forcing White Phoenix into a corner. It was only when the Spring Master interfered that this situation came to an end.

The Zhang Family obtained compensation from the Spring Master and smartly decided to bring the curtains down on this matter. But this didn't represent Zhang Zhongshi's own stance. In fact, there had been several incidents since then, and the Peach Garden hadn't investigated them in depth.

But his hatred toward White Phoenix was something that was known by almost everyone within the Saint circle.

Chapter 1256A – Sin

...

This Zhang Zhongshi was naturally worthy of trust. If it weren't for this, who would have dared to come out and take the lead in killing a Peach Garden disciple?

The Spring Master rarely came out in these past years, so he slowly developed a reputation for being withdrawn. But as members of the Saint circles, they naturally knew just how many people the Spring Master had slaughtered when the Peach Garden was first being established in order to obtain his current reputation.

Because there was fear, there was trust.

Anyone who participated in today's matter was equally responsible. No matter who it was, they wouldn't dare to take the initiative to reveal anything about what happened here. Otherwise, not only would that person be ruined, but their family and all their relatives would meet extinction.

The people of the Peach Garden had never been kind or merciful!

This was also the basis for why so many cultivators dared to join together. They knew that they would rather die than leak their secrets.

Before, Qin Yu had only heard from Old Turtle how terrifying this battle array formation was. So even though he felt some dread, it was only something he heard about. But now that he entered the array formation himself, he was able to sense just how frightening it actually was.

When he was in the abyss world, he had grasped the method of viewing the heavens and earth. No matter how exquisite the battle array formation in front of him was, it couldn't be compared to the heavens and earth. And since he was in it, he could clearly see it.

But just because he could clearly see it didn't mean he could undo it.

Luckily, he had Old Turtle with him. Recently Qin Yu's impression of this fellow was that he was nearly omnipotent.

Old Turtle vaguely sensed Qin Yu's thoughts and suddenly felt a surge of pride. He thought that at least this kid finally opened his eyes and realized who the True God here was.

Cough cough...but in this way, if he just purely broke through the array formation, although that could still achieve the intended goal, it was still far from perfection.

In particular, since Qin Yu had just 'recognized' who was the True God now, he had to strike while the iron was hot and reinforce this impression in his heart.

To do this, he had to find a way to increase the difficulty. Even if there was no difficulty, he had to come up with some!

As these thoughts turned three times in his head, Old Turtle coughed and said with the demeanor of a great expert, "Master, breaking this array formation is only a matter of turning my hand, but it would be too wasteful to do so. Please listen to what I have to say first."

Afterwards, explaining in a lofty tone, the general summary was like this: If the array spirit could be subdued, it would be beneficial to master's cultivation!

Ever since Qin Yu learned about Peachy's condition from the Spring Master and became a part of the Peach Garden's four-and-a-half member squad, even though he had appeared calm on the surface, he actually had an extreme feeling of urgency.

After all, that was the Ruler boundary!

It was a boundary known to stand above the heavens and smile down at the myriad world. It was the known limit of cultivation in the vast brightness world, an existence that surpassed True Saints who had reached the other shore.

He walked down the True God's Path, and thus God boundary, Origin God boundary, Saint, and other such divisions were meaningless to him. Even so, their relative strengths and weaknesses were related.

Don't look at the fact that Qin Yu had accomplished the magnificent feat of becoming a Dual Saint Slayer. His true strength could at most be ranked at the peak of the Origin God boundary. He could hold out for a few moments in front of a Saint, but not for long.

Of course, this was Qin Yu's condition before he entered the Lost Garden. Here, he had absorbed the source of life and borrowed its abilities to cultivate at the rules trial field. Even if it wasn't for long, the speed at which he comprehended the rules was terrifying, and his strength had significantly improved.

But even so, he was far, far away from his goal. So far that it left one feeling desperate. Even if his willpower was formidable enough that he didn't feel depressed about it, he subconsciously became eager to improve his strength.

Since this could help his cultivation, he certainly had to try. Listening to Old Turtle's careful explanation, there was some difficulty. But as long as Qin Yu did it himself, there wasn't no chance of success.

There was nothing to hesitate about. Let's try it!

Old Turtle smugly smiled. As expected, this fellow Qin Yu was rubbing his hands, eager to cultivate. He had noticed this when Qin Yu used the source of life to cultivate.

Hehe, it had to be known that restraining his own inertia and laziness while absorbing the source of life and being able to focus on cultivating wasn't easy at all.

Once he succeeded this time, his image as the unfathomable and omnipotent 'Shadow of the Abyss' would become much more stable. It probably wouldn't be long before Qin Yu lowered his head and ears, listening to him with even more regard.

Cough cough, why was he so full of confidence? Yes, the difficulty of this matter was indeed a bit exaggerated.

Even as a shadow, he still needed to coordinate acting with strategy!

Under the premise where no one was harmed, what was wrong with using suitable means to obtain an even greater advantage?

Qin Yu paused. He took a deep breath and slowly pushed his hands forward.

Outside the array formation, Zhang Zhongshi looked up, staring at Qin Yu's back. His eyes flashed with surprise. This position was different from what he had been told before.

But it wasn't a big problem. As long as he entered the approximate range, he could gather the power of the array formation and stimulate the array spirit to go crazy and drag White Phoenix into the underworld with it.

Encircling and killing the Peach Garden's White Phoenix could be ranked as one of the greatest major life events of everyone participating, so of course they were cautious.

Zhang Zhongshi's expression changed. He wasn't able to conceal the truth from others, so their complexions began to change too.

"Fellow daoist Zhang, what is it?" One of them asked.

Zhang Zhongshi was silent for a time. He shook his head, "It's fine."

It really was fine, at least on the surface. Besides a slight difference in position and some hesitation during the action, everything else was more or less correct.

And the battle array formation's strength had started to gather, fusing into the array spirit and stimulating it until it became crazy.

To a peak array master, ruining an array spirit was incredibly hard to accept.

But in Zhang Zhongshi's eyes, it was all worth it. Ever since his wife and children were killed and his family was forced to make peace with the enemy afterwards, he had died. All that remained alive these past years was his body.

Killing White Phoenix and taking revenge for his wife and children was the only thought that sustained him and allowed him to survive until now. As long as he could kill White Phoenix, then let alone an array spirit, he could even compensate with his life.

...

White Phoenix felt pressure.

The strength erupting from the array spirit grew increasingly strong. He was gradually falling into a disadvantage.

Moreover, as time passed, White Phoenix could clearly feel that the array spirit was growing increasingly wild, even giving off a sense that it would lose control soon.

Taking a deep breath, White Phoenix's heart sank. Faintly, he could guess that idea of the person who set up this array formation. They wanted to use the array spirit as a sacrifice to drag him down to hell!

If White Phoenix could sense something wrong, then the array spirit was naturally able to realize it long ago. But just like White Phoenix said, it was only an array spirit, one condensed by the array formation. Even if it had its own consciousness, it couldn't interfere with the revolution of the array formation.

This was completely different from what it had agreed to originally.

Its master had deceived it!

The array spirit was enraged, and this rage accelerated the rate at which its mind was falling into madness. The black-clothed White Phoenix's eyes grew increasingly red.

But at this time, Old Turtle's voice resounded in the array spirit's ears. "Are you angry? Do you find this situation hard to accept? Now, I can give you a chance to continue living on, to leave the shackles of this array formation and see the world with your own eyes.

"Do you accept this?"

The array spirit's thoughts fluctuated, "I do!"

Old Turtle: ...

This was a quick and direct answer. Was there no need for consideration?

Ah...perhaps this was easier than he imagined.

No, it was at least ten times easier!

This was troublesome. Just now, in order to raise his own contributions and strengthen his merits, Old Turtle had said a lot, such as 'this matter is extremely difficult', 'I'm not too sure I can succeed', 'master, please think about this carefully', and other such things.

But what now? With just one question the plan had almost succeeded. This was simply a slap in his face!

"Cough!" Old Turtle hesitated, "In truth, you can consider it again."

The array spirit said, "There is no need."

"You need to."

Array spirit: ...

If it wasn't facing a life and death situation and also combined with the fact that the master of this voice was its only hope of surviving, the array spirit would have blown up in anger long ago.

You are just playing with me!

You were the one who took the initiative to strike up a conversation and I agreed, but now you are refusing me? What is the meaning of this!?

Old Turtle continued to say, "In short, you just need to think about it. Don't ask why, just stick with it for a while and try to be realistic. If you do, I can help you exist for even longer."

He suddenly spoke in a serious and proper tone, "You should understand the flaws in your existence the most. Two months is the most I can give you."

The array spirit readily agreed.

If the master of this voice could understand its problems and communicate with it so easily, that meant it absolutely had the qualifications to fulfill the promise it had made before. And all it had to do was delay for a while and make things more difficult? This was actually easy to understand and also simple to do.

It just happened that the array spirit didn't find White Phoenix pleasing to the eyes. What do you mean 'I am me, and you are just an array spirit'...I understand this much more than you do, so do I need the likes of you to remind me?

Because of these unkind words, I'll beat you up for a bit!

As a result, the array spirit became increasingly wild and White Phoenix was beaten up.

Although he wasn't put in a miserable position, he looked distressed on the surface. The array spirit that was condensed from the strength of the array formation and was near the verge of explosion was erupting with its complete strength in a short period of time. Of course it was terrifyingly strong.

Outside the array formation, for some unknown reason Zhang Zhongshi began to feel restless. As everyone was excited, he suddenly stepped forward and pressed down a hand.

Without waiting, Zhang Zhongshi had activated his backup plan, sacrificing Qin Yu and causing the array spirit to go crazy so that White Phoenix died here.

Hum –

Shocks erupted from where his hand fell and spread out like a wave.

Then...nothing happened.

The array formation was still there. Although the array spirit had gone crazy, it hadn't yet lost its mind.

There was a problem!

Chapter 1256B – Sin

...

Zhang Zhongshi paled.

The cultivators beside him weren't idiots. When they saw this their hearts shrank and they almost cursed out loud.

You surname Zhang bastard, we trusted you so much, but now that things have come this far you've actually failed!?

You scumbag, it's true that mud really can't stick to walls! It's no wonder that even though you've been beaten by the Peach Garden several times throughout the years, you've never managed to avenge your wife and children!

But anger was just anger. Right now, they were all grasshoppers on the same rope. Forget everything else, they had to hurry and figure out a way to fix this.

However, before the others could suppress their anger and do anything, Qin Yu suddenly turned his head from within the array formation and smiled at them.

This smile was pale and faint, but when it fell into their eyes, it caused their breath to catch in their throats. This was because the raging anger in their hearts suddenly came to a halting screech.

Their first thought was...this boy could see them.

Then...this was bad. The problem must be originating from them!

Shua –

All eyes locked onto Flatrock and Dragon Peak. This boy was from a declining family and was the best choice to be their scapegoat?

Shit! What did you sell us!?

You two bastards, since when did you become blind?

After sending White Phoenix flying back with a punch, the array spirit's wild and crazy momentum suddenly vanished. That's right, like a shadow, or perhaps a bubble, it vanished without warning, disappearing from everyone's sight.

Then, the array formation broke.

An array spirit was condensed from an array formation and was the fountainhead of its power. Currently, the array spirit had gathered almost all of the strength of the array formation. As the array spirit vanished, the array formation burnt out and disappeared.

White Phoenix was stunned. He watched as the space in front of him twisted and Qin Yu stepped out. Qin Yu cupped his hands together and said, "Fellow daoist White Phoenix, I am old acquaintances with the Peach Garden, so I came here to save you."

The Spring Master's camouflage skills were indeed formidable, but at such a close distance, it was impossible to conceal the truth from a fellow Peach Garden disciple. White Phoenix's eyes widened as he saw Qin Yu blink at him a few times.

White Phoenix swallowed back down the words he was about to say. He looked at Qin Yu, his feelings complex.

To be honest, when he first heard that junior-apprentice sister Peachy was going to be together with him, he really wanted to tear Qin Yu to shreds.

In order to not lose face, or maybe to prevent himself from being impulsive and doing things that he would regret later, White Phoenix chose to go into seclusion as a form of self-imprisonment.

After leaving seclusion, he followed his elder senior-apprentice brother and junior-apprentice sister to come to the Lost Garden. Yet he never thought that he would be saved by Qin Yu here.

Although the array spirit had vanished abruptly and the reason wasn't clear, it was surely related to the sudden appearance of Qin Yu.

He hadn't yet figured out how he should face Qin Yu in the future, but now he owed him a life-saving grace.

This was his sin to bear!

This caused White Phoenix's thoughts to roll around in his mind until he eventually fell silent.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He lightly coughed and said, "I have deep origins with the Peach Garden, so it is my duty to provide help when possible. Mister White Phoenix need not mind it."

In short, it is my duty to save you, so senior-apprentice brother, please don't feel pressured.

But then again, saying such things at such a time...cough cough, no matter who listened to this, there was a feeling of it being an intentional reminder.

Of course, Qin Yu would never acknowledge this!

This was the third seat White Phoenix! In the Peach Garden he was his senior-apprentice brother and his strength was also tyrannical. If he bore a grudge due to Peachy, then Qin Yu was bound to experience trouble in the future.

And most importantly, there was no real and tangible relationship between him and Peachy at all. He absolutely could not eat this loss!

So, when Qin Yu said all these words, he didn't feel any burden in his heart. It was because you didn't understand the truth and misunderstood everything, so you have to bear the consequences yourself.

Sure enough, after hearing this White Phoenix took a deep breath, cupped his hands together, and bowed. "Disciples of the Peach Garden are clear about our gratitude and grudges. I, White Phoenix, will remember the graciousness of today!"

Qin Yu waved his hand as if he didn't care, but he felt relieved inside. With these words, he wouldn't need to worry in the future.

White Phoenix was a proud person. He would never do something shameful that would slap himself on the face.

He didn't need to guess to know that this third senior-apprentice brother wasn't feeling good right now. Since he got what he wanted, he should help him hurry to vent this anger.

Qin Yu turned and pointed a finger, "Mister White Phoenix, those are the people that tried to kill you!" Without saying anything, White Phoenix clenched his teeth and ran over.

One had to admit that cultivators within the Saint circles had numerous methods. In particular, after they determined that if they couldn't kill White Phoenix today, no one would have a good end.

They couldn't flee. Even if they managed to escape, would the Peach Garden let them go? That was far too naive! Rather than living in fear and horror in the future, even taking the initiative to apologize to the Peach Garden and being punished, it was better to fight. Maybe they would get lucky and kill White Phoenix!

No matter how strong you are, you are just one person. Even if we are weaker, we have numbers!

The slaughter entered a superheated phase from the start!

White Phoenix revealed his true form, transforming into a giant ice phoenix that looked down at everyone with disdain. With one breath he froze a person to death, and with another breath he blasted someone else to pieces. Qin Yu praised his actions.

This little trick was really good. Maybe in the future, he would be frozen into ice cubes with one breath.

As Qin Yu was appreciating White Phoenix's all-out slaughter, some people turned and glared at him with hate in their eyes.

It was obvious that the reason their perfect plan failed in the end and they all ended up in such dire straits was because of this bastard.

Whether they killed White Phoenix or not, Qin Yu had to die!

"Kill him!"

"Tear him to shreds!"

"Turn his bones to ashes!"

Their voices were filled with hatred.

Facing these people, Qin Yu became more and more certain that besides some trump cards, there was still a massive gap in strength between him and senior-apprentice brother White Phoenix.

But protecting himself wasn't particularly difficult at least. Even if he didn't use the power of his Light and Dark Body, or the power of space and time, the increased strength of his True God's Path was enough for him to deal with these cultivators that glared at him.

Of course, as he dealt with them, he put on a show that he was in 'continuous danger' where he could die at any time. After all, if it wasn't for this act, how could he have caught these people to begin with?

Today, whether it was White Phoenix or Qin Yu, neither of them planned to let these people leave this place alive.

...

When it came to fishing, as long as the fish were smart enough they would detect that something was wrong sooner or later. Not to mention that these cultivators were all from the Saint circles. Even if they were temporarily blinded by anger or hatred, they were still able to react quickly.

Their eyes were fierce and resentful but also showed a hint of fear and dread. After glaring at Qin Yu, the people who surrounded him turned and fled.

They couldn't kill Qin Yu and couldn't slay White Phoenix. Right now, over a third of the original group had died and the ones still alive were gasping for breath. Everyone knew that as their numbers fell, the rest would die faster and faster.

These people were from the Saint circles and also had the qualifications to enter the Lost Garden. Even if they couldn't compare with peak Holy Lands, for better or worse they were highly regarded young talents. Although they understood the truth of their situation, none of them were willing to directly face death.

If so, they had to run!

If they survived today, they might have another chance to eliminate these people. As long as White Phoenix died and they weren't seen by anyone...well, the chances of this weren't too high. But even if they were hunted down by the Peach Garden, they could still struggle and wouldn't necessarily die.

Alright, the chances of surviving weren't too high, but at least they wouldn't die today...if they were alive, anything was possible. But if they died, everything was for nothing.

Whether it was because they were hoping to be lucky or having a negative mentality, they decided to run away.

But when these people turned to escape, they discovered that the space around them had quietly turned into a net, and they were all fish inside it.

As their hearts filled with rage and anger, they glared at Qin Yu. Qin Yu looked up with his completely unfamiliar face and brightly smiled, "When you deliver Buddha, you bring them all the way to the west. When you do things, you do them to the end. Mister White Phoenix's anger still hasn't fully abated, so please stay here and take it."

Just what sort of nonsensical and impudent remark was this!?

It was clear that they had been fooled. This brat was actually an acting king!

"Kill him!"

They turned and flushed back with a roar. In truth, these people had already guessed that Qin Yu wasn't easy to deal with. They had been able to deduce this from the moment the net had quietly formed around them.

But if they wanted to leave, they had no other choice. They had to kill him first.

Fierce combat erupted once again...this time, it really was fierce combat. Qin Yu had no choice but to be cautious.

The net of rules that covered the surrounding space violently shook.

If he used the Light and Dark Body and combined that with the power of space and time, it would be much easier to deal with them. But after seeing the top cultivators that had gathered at the Lost Garden, he absolutely did not want to expose himself.

Then he could only forcibly endure it.

Puff –

He spat out a mouthful of blood. Then, he turned and looked at senior-apprentice brother White Phoenix who was engaged in mass slaughter against all those around him. He sighed with emotion, praising himself for having the foresight of avoiding what could have been a massive future problem.

The stone pagoda was excited. Although its main body was in the far-off dark regions, that didn't stop it from sensing Qin Yu's current situation.

It thought this was good. Surname Qin, you still have such a day! This was what happens to those who burn the bridge after crossing it and rampantly oppress and slander me! The thieving heavens must have finally grown afraid of me these past years after pushing things too far, and decided to give me some compensation.

If it's like this, then please have this compensation come even more violently! In any case, it was impossible for these people to kill Qin Yu.

During this time, the stone pagoda never knew that its current reactions were all being monitored by some insidious fellow.

Chapter 1257 – Old Turtle's Caution and Discretion

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The stone pagoda never imagined that its current reaction was being monitored by some sinister fellow.

Ever since Old Turtle established himself as having a 'tall and great' image within Qin Yu's mind, he resolved himself to be servile towards Qin Yu and be in awe of him every day.

This not only required strength and effort, but also that he possessed the guaranteed top spot in Qin Yu's heart.

After experiencing the rules trial field, Old Turtle felt that this stone pagoda fellow had a tiny chance of possibly attacking his status.

Of course, this chance was small to the point of being negligible. Even so, he couldn't allow it. This was what people meant when they guarded against all possibilities by nipping them in the bud.

To be careful and discreet were the greatest virtues of Old Turtle. The reason he was able to survive until today could be attributed to these two characteristics. Otherwise, did everyone really think that when he was back in the abyss, the abyss' will hadn't made other attempts to erase him?

Haha, that was just being naive!

But even the careful and discreet him had been seen through, and now he had come to the vast brightness world. Although he had been separated from the abyss' will, these virtues of his never vanished.

So Old Turtle thought that he could start a small broadcast.

As a result, Qin Yu soon sensed the cheering of the stone pagoda, transmitted to him from far, far away.

His lips twitched and a cold sneer flashed in his lights. Okay, you stone pagoda, I'll remember this!

And there was also that bastard Old Turtle. At such a time, he looked at his master beaten to the point of spitting blood but he was still in the mood to think such thoughts? It was just preposterous!

I'll also remember this!

But now was not the time to settle these accounts. He first had to put this fellow to work.

Qin Yu lightly coughed and said in his mind, "As a shadow of the abyss, you shouldn't be watching with indifference as your master is beaten to the point of vomiting blood, right? And that's also a great loss of face!"

Old Turtle earnestly contemplated for a moment and thought that these words were reasonable. No matter how he put it, this Qin Yu fellow was his master.

It was said that when beating someone's master, you should look at their shadow. These bastards were far too disrespectful. After all, he was the shadow of the abyss.

Hum hum, they were lucky this was the vast brightness. If they were back in the abyss, he could simply raise a hand and pinch a finger to turn these scoundrels into goo.

Still, it wasn't difficult to deal with these people.

"Master, if it's a critical moment then I will still help, but the loss in strength would be considerable and you would need to find a way to restore it." Old Turtle spoke like pale clouds and light wind, his tone calm and showing the demeanor of a great expert.

It was just that there was still some emptiness in his tone and some uneasiness in his heart. Compared to before, the meaning of his words had taken another step forward.

If Qin Yu...

"There's no problem. I'll definitely make up for it." Qin Yu readily agreed.

Old Turtle relaxed. He felt that in his contest with Qin Yu, he had taken the upper hand.

Sure enough, striking while the iron was hot was the best decision. He really was too intelligent, too witty, too capable!

If things continued like this, how could he not subdue Qin Yu? At that time, he would have a master in name only.

Hehe, he himself would be the true master of the house!

“Cough...how about this, I will work with master and deal with these people first.”

Qin Yu smiled and nodded, but his heart was like the deep cold winter, diving into the deepest part of his bones.

Give you face...mm? Perhaps I can change things around.

Faintly, Qin Yu had some grasp of Old Turtle’s mentality.

If it was like this, he might as well use this method to make him work even harder in the future.

Qin Yu listened to him on the surface, praising Old Turtle and putting him on a high pedestal. When he became impatient later and pounded him into the mud, the taste of that was sure to be wonderful.

After thinking about this a few times, Qin Yu’s smile brightened.

Across from him, the crowd of Saint circle cultivators watched as the bloodied and distressed Qin Yu crazily laughed to himself. They felt a cold wind shoot up their backs and out of their heads.

They feared this fellow was a lunatic. At the very least he was a pervert. From the look of things, he was completely bipolar!

Damn it. This type of person was the most difficult to deal with. If they kept pushing him to the edge, who knew if he would try and drag them all into the grave with him?

Thinking like this, the people that encircled Qin Yu paused and began to quietly step back.

After all, at least on the surface, it seemed that Qin Yu had reached his limit.

They never imagined that just after Qin Yu’s last cackling laugh, a shadow that came from the abyss and reflected on of the most terrifying things in the world had decided to take action to consolidate his status in Qin Yu’s heart once again.

Stone pagoda? Hum hum, that fellow had fallen into a trap and didn’t even know it. What qualifications did that thing have to compete with him? From now on, Qin Yu would listen to him alone!

If the people who set up the array formation today were ranked in order of who hated Qin Yu the most, then Flatrock and Dragon Peak would definitely be at the top of the list.

The logic was simple. The two of them were the ones that brought Qin Yu here and they were also the ones that nominated him to become their scapegoat.

And this was the result.

If they didn’t kill him, then let alone retaliation from the Peach Garden, everyone who participated in this incident today would never let them off.

In addition...White Phoenix was too strong. Breath after breath of endless cold air came from his mouth, making them all want to pee their pants.

So from the very start, the two of them chose to target Qin Yu.

It couldn't help but be said that these two apprentice brothers had similar mentalities. For instance, they both chose to retreat when the situation looked bad.

Everyone had retreated, but not as completely as these two did. The two of them ran to the outermost edge in a single bound.

What caused them to make such a decision was firstly Qin Yu's strange and bizarre laugh. And secondly...this surname Qin fellow, there was absolutely a problem with his identity!

It had to be known that he had walked the path of the Dragon Mountain Holy Land to come here to the Lost Garden. And yet today he had saved the Peach Garden's White Phoenix. Wasn't the discrepancy obvious?

This was a person of unknown origin who could fool even Half-Saint Dragon Mountain. Every piece of evidence pointed to him having some unfathomable plot here. What could they do aside from running?

In fact, these two people were extremely smart. At least, everything they thought was more or less right. But no matter how far back they went, they couldn't stop Qin Yu. And Qin Yu had made up his mind to kill the two of them first.

The reason was also simple. They knew too much about him and they had the highest chance of guessing some things correctly.

For instance, he was surnamed Qin. For instance, he saved White Phoenix. For instance, he followed the Dragon Mountain Holy Land to come here to the Lost Garden...although the chances of them guessing the truth weren't that high, he was actually cautious and discreet just like Old Turtle.

Behind the crowd, Flatrock's eyes suddenly flew open and his heart shrank. He felt some sort of terrifying aura movement, one so deep and vast that it was almost tangible.

A moment later, without him doing anything, he froze in place.

Puff –

A bloody hole appeared on his forehead with a hollow sound. It passed through his skull on both ends, bringing a splatter of red and white in its wake.

He muttered twice as thick red blood gushed out from his mouth. Then, his corpse plopped down, his aura completely gone.

Qin Yu withdrew his hand, a calm expression on his face. He sighed inwardly. He had finally been forced to reveal a bit more. Although the path of space wasn't as rare as the Light and Dark Body, there weren't many juniors within the Saint circles who had truly comprehended it.

Don't think the path of space is cabbage just because the big brother and second brother of the Peach Garden had learned it. The two of them had been recognized as valiant existences by the Spring Master who had a chance of rushing to the Ruler boundary.

Looking at the entire vast brightness world, they belonged to the peak-most existences amongst the juniors.

Discreet. He had to remain discreet. He couldn't reveal any more.

After all, if his status was exposed, the Western Mountain's Nine Heads would never give up on him. Facing someone who could stand toe to toe with his elder senior-apprentice brother, he had no confidence in winning at all.

At that time, he might be forced to use all his hidden cards...at that time, he really would be in for suffering.

Light and Dark Body!

The paths of space and time!

Forgetting all else, just these things were enough to make anyone go crazy.

At that time, the ultimate goal of the Lost Garden might be switched from seeking the source of life to hunting down Qin Yu.

After all, the things on his body were a fatal enticement even to Saints!

Even if Qin Yu had good luck and managed to survive and flee the Lost Garden, all that awaited him was endless coveting from all directions. Not even his reputation as the Peach Garden's son-in-law would be able to save him.

Just thinking about the consequences left him in a cold sweat!

Slow down. He had to slow down.

Exposing the Space Laws was his bottom line. The Time Laws, the Light and Dark Body...unless it was a life or death moment, he absolutely could not reveal anything else.

"Ahhh!"

A sharp scream broke the silence. Dragon Peak turned his head and ran, his face twisted. His shouts woke everyone up, and the eyes of the people were full of fear as they looked at Qin Yu.

Just now, with a single flick of a finger, space and twisted and Flatrock had died.

The Space Laws were easy to accept. After all, while no one here controlled them, they had heard about them so much that their ears were full of it.

But why was Qin Yu able to kill Flatrock with a flick of the finger? The Space Laws were fierce, but not fierce to such a degree!

There had to be something else there, something they didn't know about. And this was what had truly led to Flatrock's untimely death.

Chapter 1258 – A Little Happiness

Who was this man? Why did he have such a trump card and why did he only decide to take it out after having been beaten so miserably?

Was it sadistic tendencies? Or would he receive a severe backlash from using this trump card?

As everyone puzzled over it, Qin Yu's expression changed slightly. He noticed that Dragon Peak had escaped. The net that he laid down was not enough to restrain him in the slightest.

Qin Yu recalled how Dragon Peak had continuously avoided dangerous situations when he was leading the group. As expected, there was more to the seemingly dim-witted son of the Half-Saint Dragon.

If he informed White Phoenix now, there was a chance of stopping Dragon Peak. However, after a brief hesitation, Qin Yu did not deliver the news. He had a feeling that Dragon Peak would not be an easy person to deal with, and hence it was better to leave him be for now.

The situation in the Lost Garden was more complicated than he had initially imagined. Not only were there powerful cultivators consisting of elder senior-apprentice brother and the men with Nine Heads, there were also cultivators like Dragon Peak who hid their strength.

Yet, there was no point pondering over this for long. Qin Yu cast his thoughts aside.

He folded his finger and immediately pointed towards another cultivator. The man's expression instantly changed and he tried to flee. After Flatrock's death, everyone was on guard and their reaction speeds were way faster than before.

However, there was no use!

His body stiffened and the life in his eyes disappeared as a sudden pop sounded. Blood pooled in his mind when his head exploded.

The second one!

Qin Yu pointed his finger at the third person without wasting a second. Everyone witnessed in horror as Qin Yu murdered his third victim. The bodies fell to the ground lifelessly and the smell of blood flooded the air.

There was no stopping him! It seemed as though Qin Yu had mercilessly killed three men without much hesitation.

"Run!"

"He is terrifying!"

The rest of the cultivators tried to flee as fast as they could. A few people had witnessed Dragon Peak running away. However, it was a pity that none of them could fight against the net of rules seal.

"Come on! Let's break this forcefully!" Someone shouted.

In the next instant, that person froze. A muffled sound of an explosion followed as his body dropped to the ground. He was the fourth victim.

Could the net of rules be broken? Of course it could! But Qin Yu was not willing to give them a chance to break it.

He would kill the loudest person first.

The men from the Saint circles had made a mistake in joining forces to kill the disciples of the Peach Garden. However, Qin Yu allied with White Phoenix to fight back and slaughter the rest of the practitioners. Although this was justified, they would still be in deep trouble.

Their enemies were willing to take any chances to send the two of them to hell.

As such, Qin Yu and White Phoenix were going to kill everyone. There was no law in the Lost Garden. As long as they cleaned up after themselves, they would not find themselves in too much trouble.

White Phoenix was at a loss.

Although he was conducting a massacre and venting his anger, he still paid attention to Qin Yu's situation. He had just been saved by Qin Yu and he could not watch him be killed.

But if Qin Yu was beaten up, he would feel oddly satisfied. The brat had stolen Peachy, and White Phoenix still held a grudge over this.

White Phoenix would wait for Qin Yu to suffer more at the hands of the others first before saving him. The debt he owed Qin Yu for saving his life was immeasurable and could not be repaid by just saving Qin Yu once.

At the very least, he could feel more at ease if he met Qin Yu again in the future. White Phoenix watched Qin Yu out of the corner of his eye and he witnessed the destruction Qin Yu caused.

He sucked in a breath of cold air and killed a cultivator with ease. While this movement seemed to be a piece of cake, White Phoenix knew his own strength. White Phoenix tried to showcase his might and power as he killed cultivators. However, he ended up releasing a trump card because of Qin Yu.

After this trip to the Lost Garden, he would need to rest for a few years to completely recover. On the other hand, Qin Yu appeared to be completely at ease. A single flick of his finger was all he needed to kill a person.

Furthermore, Qin Yu merely raised his finger and managed to explode his enemies' brains and cause a mass of bodies to gather on the floor below them. His movements seemed much more powerful than White Phoenix's method of killing people through his cold breaths.

Thinking about it carefully, if he had not chosen to go into seclusion back then but went to confront Qin Yu instead, it was likely that he would be the one who would have lost a sparring match between them.

In the entire Peach Garden, who would have known that the youngest disciple would have such terrifying murderous intent?

If White Phoenix had really confronted Qin Yu back then, he might have been crushed by Qin Yu's finger before he could make any movement. Even if his mind was strong enough to withstand a direct murder, he would be utterly humiliated.

Unexpectedly, White Phoenix felt lucky at this moment.

He had not imagined that things would turn out this way. Wasn't he supposed to be the one who controlled the entire situation, avoiding mistakes and burdens?

As these thoughts gathered in his mind, White Phoenix became more ruthless in his methods. This bunch of idiots dared to plot against him. He could not tolerate this!

After half an hour, the battle was over. At almost the same instant, everyone in front of Qin Yu and White Phoenix fell to the ground dead.

The scent of blood in the air morphed into a thick fog. The frightening low temperatures caused blood to condense and form layers of deep red clouds.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together and praised, "Third senior-apprentice brother is so strong. I am in awe!"

When there were others around, he had to put on an act. With no one left, he could praise White Phoenix and also remind him of what he said previously.

White Phoenix's face stiffened and he hesitantly said, "Junior-apprentice brother is too kind, I did not expect you to be so strong either."

White Phoenix guessed that Qin Yu had purposely held back and killed his last opponent at the same time as him. Yes, that was definitely the case!

He was White Phoenix, the third seat of Peach Gardens. He had always viewed elder senior-apprentice brother and second apprentice brother as his goal but he could not believe that he would have to give up his seat to someone else now.

This made White Phoenix uneasy. After careful consideration, it made sense. Master was a proud man who doted on Peachy a lot. He would only betroth his daughter to someone outstanding.

Qin Yu had demonstrated through his actions that he was unordinary. Furthermore, master had incredible foresight and was never wrong.

White Phoenix's intentions towards Peachy were no secret in the Peach Garden. Master definitely noticed it, but he paid no attention to it.

Perhaps it was only natural that he lost to Qin Yu. He could only blame himself for not being good enough.

Qin Yu had not expected that his words would cause third senior-apprentice brother to fall into a depressed state.

Seeing White Phoenix's silence, Qin Yu pondered for a while before saying, "Third senior-apprentice brother, we should not stay here for long. Let's leave."

White Phoenix nodded as he smiled bitterly to himself. He was not good enough and he even had to be reminded by Qin Yu for such a simple thing. Master was right in disapproving of his relationship with Peachy.

He felt even more dejected.

"Third senior-apprentice brother."

Sighing deeply, White Phoenix turned and left. Qin Yu hesitated for a while before stomping hard on the ground.

Boom. The earth shook below as a shockwave swept through the ground in all directions, destroying everything in its way.

White Phoenix shivered slightly.

Qin Yu had so easily cleaned the entire mess of the battlefield. White Phoenix fell deeper into his depressed state.

A few moments later, the two of them stood opposite each other. Qin Yu reached his hand forward, "Third senior-apprentice brother, I entered the Lost Garden secretly on master's orders; I did not mean to hide it from you."

White Phoenix nodded, "Junior-apprentice brother, you do not need to explain. Since it is master's orders, I can understand it." After a pause, he sighed and said, "When your engagement with Peachy was announced previously, I was in seclusion and failed to give you my congratulations. I hope you can forgive me for that."

Although his tone was bitter, he was sincere and truly apologetic to Qin Yu.

This...

Qin Yu was shocked, he never expected that White Phoenix would raise this matter and also approach him with this attitude. It felt as though White Phoenix was admitting his defeat.

Really? Was this real or was this an act?

White Phoenix could not blame Qin Yu for overthinking. In this short period of time, White Phoenix's attitude had changed drastically. He had been in seclusion all this while; why was he giving his congratulations now?

No one could have imagined the thoughts that passed through White Phoenix's mind during that short period of time. No matter how much he tried to deny it, there was a nagging feeling in his mind that Peachy and Qin Yu were meant for each other.

This was the human heart, something that was difficult to grasp and guess.

White Phoenix felt the slight change in expression on Qin Yu's face, he coughed slightly, "I misjudged my standing previously. This was the choice made by master and senior-apprentice sister Peachy. After all, Peachy and I did not have anything between us previously. Junior-apprentice brother, you have already proven to me today that you are more suitable than me to be Peachy's suitor."

Qin Yu was very tempted to ask if third senior-apprentice had gotten something wrong. He had still been sighing over the difference in their strengths during their earlier conversation. Qin Yu had also been worried that White Phoenix would settle their scores in the future. Why did his attitude change so suddenly?

But he held back his question.

Some things were best kept to himself. Regardless of the reason, wasn't it fine as long as the result was satisfactory?

Qin Yu bowed and said, "I always knew that senior-apprentice brother was an open-minded person. You will not hold something against me."

White Phoenix nodded, "Of course. We are both disciples of the Peach Garden; we share the same origin and there is no reason for us to be divided."

Qin Yu could rest assured. He could tell that White Phoenix was sincere with his words. Suddenly, a great sense of satisfaction swept over him and his heart danced with joy.

Perhaps because of what he said, White Phoenix felt relieved and he could finally be himself again. He thought for a while and said solemnly, "Junior-apprentice brother, do you know the people who wanted to kill me in the array?"

Qin Yu knew what White Phoenix was saying and he replied, "Two people escaped. One was a cultivator with the surname Zhang. The battle was probably too much for him."

White Phoenix lightly added, "I had already guessed that. The incident back then injured his wife and children. He had been tolerating it for all these years... never mind, when the Lost Garden is closed, this matter will also come to a close."

"How about the second person?"

Qin Yu answered, "Dragon Peak, he is the son of the dragon Half-Saint."

White Phoenix frowned as he fell into deep thought, "Dragon Half-Saint...I heard that he only had one son who was playful and rebellious. His cultivation is also average." As he said this, he glanced at Qin Yu and noted, "You seem to be worried about this man."

With a deep voice, Qin Yu said, "I have not interacted much with Dragon Peak and I am not sure of his real strength. But if you meet him in the future, you have to be careful. He is no average man."

White Phoenix perceived Qin Yu to be much stronger than he was and he took Qin Yu's advice with a heavy heart. He would not dare to take this warning lightly.

"Thank you for your reminder, I will remember it." White Phoenix nodded.

Qin Yu continued, "Third senior-apprentice brother, do we have to..."

He gestured his hand across his neck.

After a moment of thinking, White Phoenix said, "No we don't have to take deliberate action. If there is the chance, we can do it. Even if they can live, they would not dare to say anything. Otherwise it wouldn't just be me and you – someone else would take their lives. So many people allied together and only those two survived. There is no way they can wipe their hands clean from this."

Qin Yu cupped his hand and praised, "Third senior-apprentice brother is wise."

White Phoenix smiled bitterly, "Alright, I have already let go of the past. You don't have to be bothered about it."

He took in a deep breath.

“Since master arranged for you to enter the Lost Garden secretly by yourself, he must have had other plans in mind. I will not question you about it. Junior-apprentice brother, are you going to continue by yourself?”

Qin Yu nodded in confirmation, “Yes, I will continue on alone. It might be safer.”

White Phoenix reminded, “The Lost Garden is very dangerous. Part of the danger comes from the cultivators here and the other part comes from the terrain. This place has numerous beasts that are stronger than the average man. Junior-apprentice brother, you must be careful.”

He flipped his hand and revealed a white feather. “This feather contains a tiny bit of ice phoenix blood and it can sense danger. It can also be activated at a critical moment to summon an ice phoenix mirage that can help you. Don’t refuse this and just take it as my apology to you for being rude while in seclusion previously.”

Qin Yu thought about it for a while before he politely extended his hands forward and said, “Thank you third senior-apprentice brother.”

White Phoenix laughed, “Alright. This is the attitude disciples of the Peach Garden should have. I will take my leave first, and I hope that you will surprise me with your strength when we meet again.”

He turned and left swiftly, disappearing into the distance.

Qin Yu stood up and fell silent as he smiled to himself. Disciples of the Peach Garden were different. Third senior-apprentice brother was an interesting man.

Letting go of one’s desires may seem easy, but who would be willing to do it?

However, what caused the sudden change in White Phoenix’s attitude? Qin Yu rubbed his chin as he pondered this. He could not find a reason.

If he could not figure it out, he would just let it go.

Qin Yu looked around to identify his coordinates. After confirming with Old Turtle, he took off.

His plans had been delayed because of what happened to White Phoenix and he did not know if someone else had discovered his original aim.

Chapter 1259 – A Misunderstanding

Thankfully, Qin Yu’s target was still there. After killing a big red fire-breathing snake, Qin Yu continued to dig deeper into the cave. He finally made a discovery.

There was a green stretch of land in front of him. Although it was not a thick area, Qin Yu felt very satisfied with what he found.

The Lost Garden was like a world of its own. With the wills of many ancient creatures powering it, Saints could not enter it.

This was because Saints were very strong and could threaten the bloodline of the Lost Garden.

And most importantly, Saints had incredible sensory abilities and they could break through the aura field around the Lost Garden that hid sources of life.

Because of this, ancient creatures had paid a high price to become the last protection layer around the continuation of their bloodline.

As such, Saints could not enter the Lost Garden.

People had to count on their luck to find a source of life.

This had been the case for many years. While some had tried other methods, they ended in failure.

That was till today!

Qin Yu breathed in deeply. However, he still could not calm down completely and control his excitement.

Old Turtle was right. Qin Yu could definitely sense an aura from the source of life.

Qin Yu was very clear on what the implications of this were as he had already absorbed a source of life before.

This understanding made him excited.

“A big haul...I am really going to strike gold this time...” If the Lost Garden was a foggy maze that had many hidden treasures, it could be said that Qin Yu had found a device to clear the fog.

Qin Yu did not know how to navigate this maze fully and he also could not assess the grade of the source of life based on its aura.

Nonetheless, this was more than enough. While this ability may have seemed trivial, sources of life were very precious.

Even the lowest grade of source of life was enough to cause a cat fight among Saint circle cultivators. Everyone wanted to get their hands on them.

With Old Turtle’s help, Qin Yu felt that he would definitely be able to get a big haul from this trip in the Lost Garden.

“Cough! Master, this is nothing much for my Shadow of the Abyss. But the toll it has on my power is significant...”

“Got it!” Qin Yu waved his hand dismissively and assured Old Turtle, “Relax, I will get you everything you need in the future.”

Old Turtle deserved to be fed as many resources as he wanted. His arrogance, overbearing attitude, and sometimes offensive words were all fine as long as he could help Qin Yu’s development.

Qin Yu felt as though his tolerance level for Old Turtle had increased drastically.

Old Turtle was very satisfied with Qin Yu’s response. He felt as though his place in Qin Yu’s heart was secured at a high position.

Stone pagoda?

That was an idiot who did not realize that it was being tricked. The stone pagoda had no place in competing with him.

His Shadow of the Abyss had a high and sturdy position.

Qin Yu would always listen to his words. Although he called Qin Yu master, Qin Yu was driven by his guidance.

This was the power of his Shadow of the Abyss; it had the privilege it deserved because of its power. Old Turtle had endured humiliation before and bore the burden of planning step by step to finally achieve his goal!

He had to remain calm and not be overly excited. He had to control his emotions.

“Mm, in that case, I will have to trouble master. I am a little tired and I will take a rest now. Master, you can start your cultivation.”

Look, Qin Yu would do whatever he said.

He would do it without even giving an opinion.

As he expected, Qin Yu nodded and acknowledged, “Ok.”

Without hesitation, Qin Yu leapt forward and stepped into the source of life.

In the next instant, an icy seal appeared, indicating that there was an owner of the source of life.

Far away in the darkness and emptiness, the stone pagoda was awoken. After confirming what Qin Yu wanted, it opened the Rule Trial Field.

In the past there were only a few who had the qualifications to use the Rule Trial Field. Furthermore, even if they had the qualifications to use the Rule Trial Field, the probability of success was low.

After all, the energy consumption of the field was immense. It would also take a toll on a cultivator’s physical body. Invisible rules had to be comprehended, controlled and absorbed into a cultivator before it would slowly transform with time.

This placed high requirements on a cultivator’s soul and physical body. If these conditions were not fulfilled, the more one comprehended rules, the more harm there would be to him.

It had not been long since the last time Qin Yu opened the Rule Trial Field. Did he not want to live? Was he not afraid that he would explode from the pressure?

Hehe. While cultivating and advancing was a satisfying feeling, a cultivator would suffer when his physical body could no longer endure the stresses on it. As it thought about Qin Yu’s attitude towards him, the stone pagoda decided to maintain its silence.

This time, he wanted to have a good laugh at Qin Yu.

Did he want to open the Rule Trial Field? Sure, it could do that. As long as Qin Yu provided enough energy, it could open an enormous-sized field.

It would wait for Qin Yu to come begging for help!

The stone pagoda came to its senses. The Rule Trail Field opened and Qin Yu allowed his mind to enter it.

The stone pagoda scoffed.

It waited.

And waited.

And continued waiting.

After a long time, nothing went wrong!

The entire process for Qin Yu was smooth and the speed at which he comprehended rules was faster than before.

How could this be?

The stone pagoda was in disbelief. After a pause, it decided to use its ability to sense Qin Yu's current state.

It was stunned.

Source of life... it was another source of life...No wonder Qin Yu could comprehend rules so quickly. No wonder he could easily withstand it...

However, since when were there so many sources of life?

A source of life would maintain its state no matter how much time passed. There was only one explanation for this and the stone pagoda was in awe.

Luck!

Unless Qin Yu had some godforsaken luck, the stone pagoda could not imagine how he would be able to obtain two sources of life in such a short period of time.

It had accumulated a lot of wisdom after living for so long. Even if it did not want to admit it, a lucky bastard like Qin Yu would become really successful as long as he did not meet his demise.

This also meant that the stone pagoda may never be able to escape Qin Yu's hands.

As it thought about this, the stone pagoda felt pitiful. It seemed like its future was destined to be bleak.

Nonetheless, Qin Yu was now its master. As he grew stronger, someone would eventually find out about this darkness.

If Qin Yu did not admit it, would anyone believe it? The stone pagoda thought otherwise.

This meant that the stone pagoda was bound to Qin Yu and it had to carry the burden on Qin Yu's shoulders too.

As it had this thought, the stone pagoda suddenly felt a refreshing feeling sweep over it.

While it did not want to admit it, after so many years, people and things would eventually come to an end.

In the past, the stone pagoda did not know the extent of things it could do nor what to do. However, it seemed like it had made the right choice.

The stone pagoda could hide in the dark and have Qin Yu take the front seat. Qin Yu had to grow stronger, otherwise he would be overwhelmed by the obstacles that came his way.

That's right!

The stone pagoda was gleeful. It considered itself to be smart. Qin Yu, that brat had always been disrespectful to it.

This did not bother the stone pagoda much. From that moment onwards, the stone pagoda decided it would help Qin Yu voluntarily.

Heh, the stone pagoda was overjoyed with its scheme against the ignorant Qin Yu.

The Rule Trial Field had different grades of power. Opening it was just the beginning.

There were other blessings it could bestow on the cultivator. It could clear the cultivator's mind and increase his speed of comprehending rules.

This obviously came with a cost as well.

At first, the stone pagoda would never have even considered giving these additional blessings in the Rule Trial Field. Now it was beaming in anticipation.

To reap rewards, one had to be fearless and be willing to sacrifice.

The stone pagoda decided to aid Qin Yu this time to enhance his cultivation speed. Would Qin Yu blame it if he found out about the stone pagoda's real motives in the future?

The stone pagoda was doing this for Qin Yu's benefit and Qin Yu had no means of turning it down. Once again, the stone pagoda patted itself on the back for its cleverness.

Like the previous time when he was trapped in Stranded God Canyon, Qin Yu stood before the stone wall of rules. All of a sudden, he felt his mind clear and he could understand the rules much easier than before.

He squinted and held his breath as he continued reading the rules. The strange feeling was still there. He had not lost his mind over staring at the uncountable rules on the stone wall. His comprehension ability had definitely improved.

He concentrated and focused on the strange feeling. This sudden change was beneficial to him.

If that was the case, why was he hesitating? Perhaps this phenomenon was due to the increased grade of the source of life.

Time was precious and he had to treasure all the cultivation time he had.

Qin Yu threw his suspicions aside and continued to stare at the wall. His eyes sparkled brilliantly as he comprehended the rules.

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Old Turtle's expression stiffened as he felt the wave of energy from the stone pagoda. He had underestimated it.

The stone pagoda was able to directly influence a person's soul and enhance Qin Yu's cultivation speed. With Qin Yu's thirst for cultivation, he would definitely look highly upon the stone pagoda when he discovered its powers.

Old Turtle had initially ignored the stone pagoda, but it seemed that he was wrong.

No, no way!

He had unleashed the Shadow of the Abyss and he was determined to control Qin Yu. How could he tolerate someone else interfering?

However, if the stone pagoda had such powers, why did it wait till now to showcase them?

As he pondered this puzzling detail, Old Turtle's expression grew solemn. He gritted his teeth and cursed under his breath.

That damn stone pagoda. It must have decided to step in after seeing Qin Yu's potential.

Old Turtle was sure of his conclusion. It must have been because Qin Yu had found two sources of life in quick succession and his cultivation was rapidly improving.

Damn stone pagoda. All this was because of his own hard work!

If Old Turtle had not used the Shadow of the Abyss, how would Qin Yu have become the man he was today? However, the stone pagoda was now competing with him to influence Qin Yu. Old Turtle cursed at the stone pagoda.

If they were in the abyss, Old Turtle would have smashed the stone pagoda to pieces without a second thought.

Yet, this was his own wishful thinking. Old Turtle also felt that there was more to the stone pagoda than he knew.

Fighting against it now could result in more trouble. He could not afford to be reckless at present.

Since he could not defeat his enemy on physical grounds, he had to compete against the stone pagoda through a fair competition.

With the Shadow of the Abyss and a lifetime of wisdom, Old Turtle was sure that he held a solid position in Qin Yu's heart. Why should he be afraid of the stone pagoda?

He had to strategize against his enemy and go all out with his tactics.

Old Turtle started to ponder carefully. He was wondering why the stone pagoda chose to remain silent after helping Qin Yu.

This silence seemed to be the stone pagoda's plan to conceal his intentions. But why was this the case? Would that bastard be some magnanimous being who did not expect anything in return for help? Old Turtle was in disbelief.

There was no way this could be true.

The stone pagoda's silence could only mean that it was waiting for Qin Yu to discover things by himself. The benevolent actions that the stone pagoda did would make it seem generous.

Qin Yu would be moved by the stone pagoda's actions and he may even feel guilty with his previous attitude towards the stone pagoda. At this point, Old Turtle reflected on his earlier actions.

Compared to the stone pagoda, Old Turtle would seem way stingier.

Old Turtle partly rejoiced at his discovery. His careful and cautious nature had paid off again. He was lucky that he discovered the stone pagoda's schemes early and he was prepared to prevent the stone pagoda from getting his way.

He could change his plans.

Old Turtle decided to be nicer to Qin Yu. At the very least, he had to pay careful attention to his attitude until he crushed the stone pagoda.

It was unimaginable that the stone pagoda could help Qin Yu in his cultivation. Although Old Turtle could do it too, he had to maintain his demeanor and gain respect from Qin Yu.

Thankfully, they were in the Lost Garden currently.

Qin Yu's primary goal here was to obtain sources of life. This was the most important ingredient for raising his cultivation.

Hehe!

The Shadow of the Abyss was the primary key to discovering sources of life.

Just this ability alone placed Old Turtle above the stone pagoda.

He had to continue searching.

Not only did he have to find more sources of life, he had to ensure that the sources of life he discovered were of a high grade. He believed that he would be able to gain Qin Yu's respect with the Shadow of the Abyss.

However, increasing his sensory skills to identify the grade of sources of life came at a great expense to his energy.

Old Turtle was someone who feared death and he was hesitant when it came to using energy. After all, energy was what drove his existence.

He soon suppressed his doubts.

Great things required a sacrifice. He was going to do it!

Old Turtle did not know that these same thoughts were echoed by the stone pagoda not long before.

Aside from the common sacrifice they made, their thought processes were completely different.

The stone pagoda had not pondered over the matter much and its intention of remaining silent was not to let Qin Yu know that he was the one who provided a helping hand.

A misunderstanding was hence formed.

Chapter 1260 – Thick, Large and Black

As White Phoenix pointed out, the Lost Garden was a very dangerous place. This was an objective fact.

Under such circumstances, being here with one's cultivation sealed and having to protect others with no means of self-protection swelled the risks involved.

If just surviving in the Lost Garden was hard, then solving the real problem itself was at least three times harder.

After all, having to protect a group of people was undeniably harder than just surviving by himself.

Tan Hai was now in this predicament. He had to protect a girl, Cang Zhu. She was someone who often bullied him when he was younger. However, he had no other choice and he viewed her almost like his sweet little cousin.

They were very close but he had no other thoughts of her. Tan Hai once questioned himself on why he was bullied by her, but he could not find an answer. In the end, he concluded that he must have owed her from a previous life.

Hence after his initial outburst and anger, he ended up giving in to her crazy idea and they headed into the Lost Garden.

Ptui!

Tan Hai raised his hand to wipe the corners of his lips after spitting out a mouthful of blood. He tilted his head and faced Cang Zhu, whom he was giving a piggyback. He bragged, "I have always resisted beatings since I was a child. You know this very well, so don't worry."

Cang Zhu pursed her lips. Her face was very pale as she forced out an unconvincing smile, "Yes, I know that. Brother, I am sorry for troubling you this time."

His footsteps came to a stop and he sighed, "It has been so long since you last called me brother. I finally got to hear it again."

A look of embarrassment crossed Cang Zhu's face and she subconsciously reached out and pinched his waist ever so slightly.

Tan Hai smiled and heaved her up his back again as he said, "Don't you know who is reliable? Don't worry, I swear to you that I will get you there."

He raised his head and looked into the distance. Mountain peaks peeked out through the clouds. Cang Zhu fell silent. After a while, she tugged on his shirt and sighed, "Brother, let's go back."

The corners of Tan Hai's lips curled upwards slightly but his smile was not prideful as he teased, "What? Did you lose your faith in me? Cang Zhu, you should know that I have always disliked being underestimated. I will definitely get us over this mountain!"

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The black-robed man's mouth twitched after he made an incredulous discovery. He was neither sneering nor mocking, but he could not control his expressions.

He found traces of Cang Zhu, but this came at the price of two subordinates' lives. However, his emotions right now were not attributed to the loss of lives. He could not care less whether two or twenty people had to give up their lives for this.

The important thing now was Cang Zhu's intended destination. She was headed there...No, he had to stop her!

"Let's go!"

He bit his lip as he commanded. His black robe swept through the air as he leapt while the group of subordinates behind him shivered.

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Elder apprentice brother lowered his head and stared at the little dragon in his palm. It had shrunk to the size of a small snake. His eyes were full of admiration and happiness.

As expected, as the most powerful bloodline of the dragons, the little blue dragon had amazing potential even though it had not yet matured.

At this point, it had almost completely absorbed all energy from the source of life. Once it awoke from its deep slumber, it could really be a mighty being at the top of the food chain.

Master had the best foresight, he was never wrong!

Elder apprentice brother flipped over his palm and put the blue dragon away. His eyes sparkled. The blue dragon was evidence of master's foresight. How about master picking junior-apprentice brother Qin Yu?

As the eldest disciple, he knew how much his master doted upon Peachy. At the same time, there were also a few things he had never heard his master mention before.

For his master to leave Peachy in Qin Yu's hands showed how much master trusted him.

As he thought about this, elder apprentice brother smiled slightly. He wondered what his junior-apprentice brother was doing right now. However, since master did not give more orders, there was no need for him to intervene.

It was time for him to settle another matter.

He had to help the blue dragon through its initial transformation and solidify the foundation that it had. This was the primary goal for his trip to Lost Garden. As for his second objective...elder apprentice brother's eyes fell onto Lei Xiaoyu.

Lei Xiaoyu's eyes were currently closed but her breathing suddenly paused as she felt his gaze on her. Her eyes flung open and she asked, "Elder apprentice brother, what are you looking at me for?"

Her tone was a little sharp.

Elder apprentice brother smiled, "Junior-apprentice sister, we should go."

"I don't want to..."

"It is master's orders."

Peach Blossom Spring allowed different voices and opinions and even allowed its disciples to keep secrets.

However, the Spring Master's orders were supreme and no one could question nor go against him.

Lei Xiaoyu glared at him and snapped, "Whatever, there is no hope for my condition anyway."

Elder apprentice brother shook his head, "If you don't try, how would you know?"

.....

The frozen ice broke and Qin Yu stepped out. This time, there wasn't a big monkey with a stone spear anymore. Everything was peaceful.

He glanced around his surroundings before taking in a deep breath and exhaling. He stretched his neck and twisted his waist strongly.

Crack!

Instantly, his bones cracked loudly. It was a wondrous feeling to have the tension in his body released.

Qin Yu looked down at his palms. His hands were clean and smooth but they concealed a mysterious and terrifying power beneath.

When he killed the fire-breathing snake, Qin Yu broke a few bones in his arms and legs. However, he could easily kill it with a single hand now.

The increase of his cultivation strength was measured by the comprehension of rules. Under the influence of the Rule Trial Field and the stone pagoda's help, Qin Yu's cultivation speed was lightning fast.

When the Spring Master instructed Qin Yu to conceal his identity and head into Lost Garden, he wanted Qin Yu to take the opportunity to train and forge himself into a strong and sturdy cultivator.

In hindsight, no saint would have ever imagined that his disciple would improve so much. The speed at which Qin Yu grew was unfathomable.

When he first entered the Lost Garden, Qin Yu had felt pressured by his seniors and the people with Nine Heads. Not long ago, he had also felt uneasy when he witnessed White Phoenix spew icy cold breath to kill the other cultivators.

As such, he had played a small trick to let his senior-apprentice brother give up on finding trouble with him in the future.

Now, Qin Yu no longer held White Phoenix's strength in high regard.

While he had never seen elder apprentice brother and Nine Heads fight in person before, these men had to have terrifying strength to be ranked at the top of the young generation of cultivators.

Qin Yu was still weaker than these men at this point. However, he also knew that these men had to have other hidden cards in their hands to be standing where they were now.

It would be easy for them to kill him.

Nonetheless, Qin Yu was calm. Even though his strength did not match up to them now, it would be able to in the future. Qin Yu was confident that he would be able to do a trial fight against strong cultivators like elder apprentice brother and Nine Heads soon.

Cough!

While he was ambitious, he had to maintain a calm mind. He could not afford to be prideful and he had to remain low-key to develop his strength. He did not need many sources of life, but a few more would be sufficient.

Regardless of their grade, anyone who heard that he desired roughly ten or so sources of life would think that Qin Yu was mad.

Qin Yu merely required some time to get more sources of life.

"Cough! Master, while you were in seclusion, I found another source of life. The aura from it is quite thick and I think you would not be disappointed by its grade!"

Not long after Qin Yu came out of seclusion, Old Turtle did not hesitate to give him his next directions. With such harping and guidance, it was guaranteed that Qin Yu would continue to improve.

However, why did Old Turtle's attitude suddenly turn respectful? Where did his indifferent and virtuous demeanor from before go? Was he sick of acting?

Qin Yu could not be bothered to ponder over this. Time was too precious.

The Lost Garden was open, but it would not remain in this state for long and no one knew when it would close again. According to the records on the jade slip master gave him, the quickest recorded closing of Lost Garden was after less than a month.

In this worst case scenario, Qin Yu had already used half the time he had here. If his luck was bad, he would soon be able to sense the closing of the Lost Garden.

Qin Yu's heart was filled with nervousness as he thought about this. There was no time to waste.

He swiftly leapt into the air and took off. With Old Turtle guiding him, he could easily navigate around.

However, not everything in the world would go as one wished.

Qin Yu trusted Old Turtle's directions because of the accumulated trust built up over time.

Yet unluckiness did not discern right from wrong.

He was in trouble!

It was right when Qin Yu flew by what Old Turtle determined to be the safest plot of land. All of a sudden, a mass of bright hot flames shot up, swallowing the entire sky and pulling Qin Yu down into the mountain range.

The large area of lush green ancient trees, together with the flora and fauna on the grounds of the forest were instantly reduced to ashes. The ground cracked open from the blistering heat of the flames.

But this scene was quickly replaced by an even more astonishing one. The dried and cracked ground suddenly sucked in all the water vapour in the air and seedlings broke through the earth to absorb all the nutrients available and grow into trees.

This entire process lasted a mere few minutes. The burnt ground was restored to its original state of dense forests and it even appeared more lush than it was before.

If Qin Yu had not experienced it for himself, no one would have believed what happened to this mountain range a few minutes ago.

Qin Yu had witnessed all this and he was now shrouded in a ball of flame that rapidly pulled him to the ground. With a muffled bang, he smashed down heavily and red magma quickly pooled around him.

The menacing flames enveloped his body, and despite Qin Yu's current strength, he was helplessly burnt by the fire.

His skin split open painfully from the heat but he instantly recovered. His goal of forging a strong base had been successful, and at the same time as his physical body strength grew, his recovery speed had also been raised dramatically.

Despite the healing, it was still a painful process. Furthermore, this recovery process came at the expense of his strength. Stomping hard onto the ground, the magma beneath Qin Yu's feet parted and he shot into the sky like an arrow.

He had to leave this place first.

This was definitely the right decision, but the force that pulled him to the ground refused to let him go. Its prey could not escape so easily.

The force had not only sensed the bloody aura of death around its prey – it also sensed an attractive scent around Qin Yu.

It was the taste of source of life!

Boom!

The pool of magma surged and boiled beneath Qin Yu uncontrollably.

He forcefully threw a punch out towards the magma, causing a large area of it to part. He used the recoil to fly into the sky but was pulled back again.

Woosh –

In the corner of his eye, a black figure zipped past. Qin Yu did not have time to think; he retreated back as fast as he could. In the next instant, the area he was originally in burst into flames. The force from the explosion threw magma in all directions.

He spotted the black shadow again!

It was thick, large and very dark.

What was that?

Qin Yu's expression stiffened. The black shadow unsettled him and it seemed tough. Most importantly, time was precious and he could not waste a single second.

His sole objective was to find sources of life continuously and absorb them to further his cultivation.

However, he was sucked into magma out of the blue and had to fight against the mysterious black shadow.

Qin Yu could not lament at Old Turtle's misjudgment now and he could not be bothered to question Old Turtle about it.

At that instant, Qin Yu only had a single thought. He had to use all his strength to get rid of his enemy as soon as he could. He exhaled sharply and his figure burst through the air as he headed in the direction of the black shadow.

He reached out and grabbed it.

Buzz –

Streaks of invisible force waves vibrated and combined into a strong tearing force that blasted at the ground.