

Refining 1261

Chapter 1261 – Innate Spirit

A painful cry came from the black shadow as Qin Yu broke through the rule-based force. The surrounding magma burst and splattered in all directions.

He saw it!

The shadow was very thick and large, but it was not black. Instead, it was a deep red color that was so thick, it created an illusion of black.

The thing that pulled Qin Yu into the magma and wasted his valuable time was a giant snake that he felt familiar with.

It was the same type of snake Qin Yu killed when he found the source of life in the depths of the cave.

However, this snake was enormous. Compared to the previous snake Qin Yu fought, this one was a few hundred times larger.

Qin Yu's blow had only caused a little scrape on the scales of the snake. In the next instant, the scales patched up and Qin Yu felt the menacing eyes of the snake on him. Its killing intent sent shivers down his spine.

This snake lived in a pool of magma and was a formidable creature. It had been many years since anyone had injured it.

With a deafening roar from the snake, the magma below stirred once again and destructive shockwaves shook the ground beneath.

Qin Yu raised his palm and gathered rule force in it. The air around him shifted to form a large net. In the next instant, a wave of magma struck the net of rules Qin Yu created. His expression darkened considerably.

The snake was more powerful than he imagined. The net of rules he created was quickly weakening and it would not hold much longer.

Most of the time, Qin Yu would not be bothered by a creature. However, he would take any opportunity to run away right now.

After all, he did not want to waste too much time here. He swiveled around and spotted the next wave of magma directed at him.

He could not run.

Furthermore, he could tell that it would take a lot of time to defeat this large snake even if he took out his trump card. In a pessimistic case, it was possible that Qin Yu would end up being eaten by it.

He was in a dire state and he wondered if this was the retribution he got for his earlier murders. As Qin Yu sighed, Old Turtle suddenly exclaimed, "It is an innate spirit! An innate spirit!"

Qin Yu frowned, "Do you know the origins of this snake?"

Old Turtle did not reply but he screamed madly as he shouted, "Qin Yu, kill it. No matter what, you have to kill it!"

This was the first time Qin Yu had witnessed Old Turtle in such a state, and this was enough to convince him of how extraordinary the snake was. Qin Yu inhaled and stabilized his emotions as he asked, "Tell me. What is an innate spirit?"

After a few breaths, Old Turtle calmed himself down. However, his tone was frantic, "An innate spirit is no random creature. It is a being that was born from the heavens and earth, an origin creature!"

"To be very exact, innate spirits are creatures that were born when the world was being formed. Each innate spirit harbors immeasurable strength and each of them can destroy mountains and oceans!"

Qin Yu frowned. Based on Old Turtle's tone and explanations, the large snake had more tactics beyond what it had used on him thus far.

Furthermore, Qin Yu was certain that the snake was powerful enough to kill him in a single blow. There had been no need for the snake to attempt to pull him into the magma pool.

As though he could read Qin Yu's mind, Old Turtle sighed and explained, "If the ancient creatures of Lost Garden knew that an innate spirit was hidden here, they would never have sealed the area. If the ancient creatures had found this snake and devoured its powers, they could have changed the entire destiny of their clan.

"Master, do you think that I am exaggerating? I am not. You have no idea how much power is within an innate spirit."

Old Turtle was finally calm again and he sighed with emotion. Although Qin Yu had mainly followed his directions ever since entering the Lost Garden, Qin Yu had found the first source of life based purely on his luck. It was also Qin Yu's luck to have killed the fire-breathing snake previously.

After all, if not for the scent of death from different bloodlines all over him, Qin Yu may never have been the target of the large snake and he would not be in this situation.

The young lad truly had incredible luck.

Old Turtle sighed again and suppressed his emotions as he continued, "Although innate spirits are formed together with the world, the time at which they awaken is not set. Some innate spirits mature very quickly while others would be in a slumber for a long time. I am not too sure of the reasons why, but I believe it is related to the strength of the innate spirit. Regardless, it is still a terrifying existence and there is no way for two innate spirits to exist at the same time. This is also why innate spirits take turns to awaken.

"At the end of the era of the ancient creatures, this snake was still in slumber and it must have been sealed in the Lost Garden. Although the environment here has not changed much since the ancient times, every creature here is cut off from rules and none of them can become Saints. This is the price the Lost Garden must pay for its existence."

Qin Yu's eyes sparkled and he asked, "Are you saying that this is the reason why the Spiritual Snake's powers have been capped at a limit?"

“That’s right!” Old Turtle laughed bitterly, “If not for the limit set by the Lost Garden, this Spiritual Snake would be so powerful, it would be a peak power in the world. You would not survive any attack by it and your entire soul would be destroyed with just its gaze.”

Qin Yu’s mouth twitched as his eyes shone with passion. Fortune lay in misfortune and this was what he was experiencing now.

He had originally lamented having to waste his time fighting for his life against this Spiritual Snake. The situation had now changed.

“Would it be hugely beneficial for me to kill it?”

Old Turtle nodded, “Yes, it would be immense. I don’t even dare to give you an estimation of how good that would be.”

Old Turtle swallowed, “Hmm, master, perhaps you can regard this Spiritual Snake as a massive, living source of life. Its flesh and blood contains unbelievably pure energy.

“Not just that, as an innate spirit that was formed from the origin of things, its body belongs to the heavens and earth as well. Its physical body contains an infinite amount of dao and rules. If you can cultivate that, your strength will definitely reach an unimaginable state.”

Qin Yu felt giddy just thinking about the benefits he would reap.

This was an innate spirit in front of him and he finally understood why Old Turtle had been so dramatic previously.

Qin Yu raised his head and gritted his teeth. A new look of determination crossed his eyes as he stared at the wild pool of magma below him. Where are you? Come out, you shall die today!

Just as Qin Yu’s heart surged with killing intent, Old Turtle shrieked miserably. His cry was so pitiful, it tore at the heartstrings.

Qin Yu jerked and he asked, “What’s wrong?”

He was absolutely certain that Old Turtle was the key factor that would decide whether he would be able to successfully kill the Spiritual Snake. No mistakes could be made at this point.

The pitiful cry from Old Turtle was extremely painful to bear and he stuttered, “Master...you... you are too weak...”

Qin Yu was stunned and his first reaction was to curse at Old Turtle. Why would he mock his strength now? Furthermore, Qin Yu’s cultivation speed was extraordinary. Who could compare to him?

He quickly turned his attention towards the battle and his expression darkened considerably.

The Spring Master had warned him about the vessel before. If the vessel was not large and sturdy enough, Qin Yu would end up self-destructing if he absorbed too much energy.

Boom! A loud explosion shook the air. Qin Yu’s current strength was terrifying.

Despite having its strength capped, the power of the innate spirit was still too much for Qin Yu to handle right now.

If he ate the innate spirit, he would definitely die from the surge of power.

But if Qin Yu did not consume the innate spirit at this time, he would regret it forever.

Qin Yu grinded his teeth together and asked, "Can I consume just half of it? Or a smaller amount? We can save the rest for next time."

Old Turtle laughed bitterly, "No, an innate spirit is different. It is a bit hard to explain, but you must consume it whole. There is no way to preserve it."

Qin Yu had already anticipated this answer. After all, Old Turtle's attitude gave the bleak situation away.

What should he do?

With a deep sigh, Qin Yu asked, "If you help me, what are the chances of us killing this Spiritual Snake?"

Old Turtle replied, "The Spiritual Snake's physical body is as strong as stone and we must target its soul. I am good at that and there is a possibility of us killing it." After a brief hesitation, he added, "Also, the stone pagoda can give us a hand."

Qin Yu muttered, "Does that mean that our possibility of winning is substantial?"

Old Turtle suggested, "Master, perhaps we can wait till..."

His words were interrupted as Qin Yu cut him off, "A chance encounter is rare. You might be right, but we must not wait.

"We will do it today. We will kill this Spiritual Snake and consume its flesh and blood. With my appetite, I don't believe that I won't be able to consume it whole!"

Bam! The net of rules shattered apart. Streaks of light and darkness exploded in succession in the pool of magma. The power of space converged together at lightning speed, forming a large cage that blocked the Spiritual Snake in the magma. It was lying in wait to deal a fatal blow.

Qin Yu had not been able to sense the Spiritual Snake previously. This was because it had been hidden deep within the magma pool and also because a mysterious innate spirit aura concealed it. However, Qin Yu and the Spiritual Snake were very close to each other and Old Turtle could seal it.

With the power of space restricting its movements, the Spiritual Snake could sense danger. It roared angrily and spat out more fire.

The power of space seal faltered under the onslaught of attacks from the Spiritual Snake. Slowly, cracks formed and threatened to shatter it.

Time and space rules were known as the greatest rules in this world, and comprehending them was immensely difficult. Yet, they also had unfathomable power.

Despite the power of space seal breaking apart, the Spiritual Snake soon found itself bound by it.

This small period of time was enough to change the entire tide of the battle.

Darkness engulfed the whole area where the stone pagoda was and there was only a small streak of light that shone on him. The stone pagoda shivered uncontrollably.

It knew what was happening to Qin Yu. It initially thought that it had given enough to be valued by Qin Yu. Yet, it felt like it had been slapped hard again.

An innate spirit was real. In the stone pagoda's mind, an innate spirit was something that existed only in legends! It could not believe that it would encounter it in its lifetime. Furthermore, it was an innate spirit that had not yet matured. It was like a baby form of an innate spirit.

This kind of luck deserved all admiration and the stone pagoda was in disbelief.

Perhaps the things that happened in the past would resurface and it could get the revenge it had been waiting for.

Why was it hesitating?

Boom! The stone pagoda exploded with blinding light and it turned into a sharp arrow that pierced through the darkness.

The power from the stone pagoda burst forth from within and connected to Qin Yu's physical body. He closed his eyes and concentrated. A large mirage of the stone pagoda appeared as bright light streaked out.

Instantly, the magma pool separated, revealing the Spiritual Snake hidden within. The broken power of space seal locked the Spiritual Snake as the arrow's target as it struggled violently in it. Its large body wrestled against the seal, and deafening roars escaped its mouth.

"Qin Yu, kill it. You must kill it at all costs!" The stone pagoda commanded. It was weak and this attack came at a cost to it.

There was no need for the reminder. Qin Yu was strongly determined to consume the innate spirit. By this point, he would either end up dying from self-destruction, or he would consume the innate spirit and have his powers soar.

How could he let the Spiritual Snake run away? No matter what, Qin Yu was bent on wrecking the magma pool and killing the Spiritual Snake.

He stepped forward and roared, "Turtle!"

The shadow that had been lying in wait had gathered massive strength in his body. This single command from Qin Yu almost broke his concentration. He scowled. Turtle? What turtle?

Thankfully, he was ready and he had stabilized all that strength that now accumulated in him. A blurred shadow swept out from Qin Yu rapidly and fell before the Spiritual Snake. Qin Yu lifted his hand and touched the black scale armor on the snake. He quickly retreated backward without a second thought.

This simple gesture caused agonizing pain to rip through the Spiritual Snake's body and it roared pitifully.

Its eyes swiveled backwards and small blood vessels that lined its gigantic body swelled. In the next instant, these blood vessels burst and its eyes turned blood red.

The bright arrow from the stone pagoda was enough to pierce through the Spiritual Snake's flesh and sharp pain soared through it. Yet, it suffered another attack through its soul from the touch of the Shadow of the Abyss. It was like a great icy mountain that crashed into its soul and tore it apart.

The wound on its soul grew bigger and bigger. There was also a blistering cold from the Shadow of the Abyss.

Once the Spiritual Snake had been struck, there was no way for it to escape its fate. Its struggles were in vain as its entire soul was slowly sucked away.

This was the first time in its life the Spiritual Snake was afraid. Fear swarmed it and the only thought it had was to run.

Run as far as it could!

Bam!

Its large body swayed from side to side, unleashing huge waves of magma as it turned to flee.

However, Qin Yu was prepared. There was no way he would let the Spiritual Snake escape.

This was the only chance he had, and any mistakes could allow the innate spirit to escape his grasp. There would be no way for Qin Yu to encounter it again.

"Time!"

Qin Yu shouted as his face turned ghastly pale. Because of the horrific energy cost of this move, Qin Yu felt sapped of strength. His breaths shortened into labored breathing. However, the one who paid the highest price was Old Turtle. This was the first time he had taken action and his cries sounded like those of a helpless little girl.

Just as it tried to run away, the Spiritual Snake froze in place, its movements sealed by an invisible force in the air. Panic filled its eyes and adrenaline fuelled a burst of madness and violence.

Born from the origins of the world, this Spiritual Snake was a peak existence in this world. Even creatures like the white phoenix and blue dragon who were descendants of ancient creatures could not be compared with the Spiritual Snake.

It was fearful and it wanted to run, but it still had its pride.

When there was no way for it to escape death, the Spiritual Snake was determined to kill itself together with its enemy.

At this point, Qin Yu raised his hands and gathered a strong sword intent above him.

Day and night passed by the magma pool as invisible energy dissipated from it. The red magma broke apart and revealed the barren land beneath.

Chapter 1262 – Heaven's Punishment

Qin Yu had a trump card hidden that he did not even know about. However, after killing Black Shadow Half-Saint and that single sword blow that split the Great Dao, he knew what he had was real.

Yet, he still did not know where his trump card came from and what it meant.

As the darkness and light interchanged, a small figure appeared in front of him. She waved her hand and terrifying sword intent gathered to it.

Unleash!

Bam!

As the sword intent rushed through his palms, the entire surroundings split in half. The earth shook as though a massive earthquake had torn through it.

The Spiritual Snake cried in agony. There was no Great Dao nor a domineering force in its world, but the Spiritual Snake understood the sheer power behind the sword intent.

Its soul had been continuously battered and there was no way for it to defend itself against its attack. Death seemed to be the only way out for it.

As fear of death overwhelmed it, the Spiritual Snake made an ear-piercing shriek. All of a sudden, its mind cleared and it understood its origins.

It was born from the heavens and earth and it was destined to be a peak existence in the world. However, it was trapped in the Lost Garden and it could not reach its peak potential.

Right now, it was about to be killed by a mere human. What a pitiful life it had. How could it be happy?

No matter how dissatisfied it was, this was its reality.

In the instant before the sword came down on it, the Spiritual Snake could see a clear trajectory of its path of doom through the devastating power from the sword.

It knew that there was no way to avoid the sword and a pitiful sadness washed over it.

In despair and pain, the Spiritual Snake entered a tranquil state just before its death. It locked its eyes intently on Qin Yu, causing his heart to jump in fright.

Old Turtle screamed, "Master, be careful!"

Not even Old Turtle had imagined that the Spiritual Snake would realize its true origins just before its death.

Although the Spiritual Snake's powers did not surge in that short moment, it was still an innate spirit and it had connections to the energy from the heavens and earth.

The sword intent tore open the Spiritual Snake and slashed through its body. The huge eyes of the snake turned lifeless.

Just before it fell dead, the Spiritual Snake smirked coldly. The cold smile sent shivers down Qin Yu's spine and it seemed to be saying that it would be waiting for Qin Yu on the other side.

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At that point, every living thing in the Lost Garden felt a deep and mysterious force sweep through them. It was so terrifying that everyone held their breaths at the exact same instant.

As they lifted their heads, they saw an ominous circle of black energy revolving in the sky. It was as though the sky had been painted with black ink.

This sinister feeling was so strong and overwhelming, it felt like eternal night was going to befall Lost Garden. All hearts felt unsettled and fearful and it seemed as though something was about to break out of the black circle.

Bam!

A loud explosion shook the lands, threatening to swallow the heavens and earth. Thunder clapped within the dark circle of energy and it shook violently. Suddenly, a deep, black streak of lightning appeared.

This lightning had a gloomy and disturbing aura. It was headed directly towards a single point, as though it was a large hammer that would strike its target.

Perhaps, this black lightning was the heavens' punishment!

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Deep within the earth, Qin Yu had no idea what was happening outside in the world. However, dark and light energy in the Lost Garden swirled through the air in a chaotic manner. When the sky turned black, Qin Yu raised his head and took in the scene before him.

He saw the horrific darkness that flooded the sky and he also caught sight of the black lightning.

It was obvious that the black lightning was coming for him. Life and death would be decided for him at that moment.

This was what the Spiritual Snake mobilized from the heavens and earth right before its death.

A Vast Brightness holy way being could connect to the heavens and earth when it died. All living beings in its surroundings would be buried together with it.

Furthermore, it was an innate spirit that was being killed. This black lightning harbored menacing strength.

Before it even struck him, Qin Yu could feel his entire soul screaming from the pure darkness concealed in the lightning.

He could not withstand it!

This was the conclusion that he reached easily. An image of him being obliterated to dust flashed through his mind. This was his destiny if the black lightning struck him.

This was how he would die.

“Heavens’ punishment!” In the deep darkness, the stone pagoda yelled. Qin Yu could hear amazement, fear, anger and hatred in its voice.

Without any hesitation, the stone pagoda shook violently. A sharp cracking sound split through the air from its cracked surface as it expanded.

This was the price it had to pay. Bright light illuminated again and the stone pagoda’s mirage flew out of Qin Yu’s body. The arrow of light shot out and immediately tore the sky apart.

However, this was futile against the black lightning. As the arrow struck the black lightning, it dissipated. It had not just been shattered but it had been completely annihilated by the black lightning.

This was more evidence of the sheer strength behind the black lightning.

Crack, boom!

The stone pagoda shook violently again as the cracks on its surface deepened. The darkness around it thickened again and grew wider, threatening to swallow up the space.

“He is going to die soon. What are you waiting for?”

The stone pagoda roared angrily.

Old Turtle jerked up, finally regaining his senses after being stricken by fear. As a terrifying Shadow of the Abyss, his fear of the black lightning went beyond what he could have ever imagined.

He had been bound to Qin Yu long before now and they were inseparable, sharing gains and losses together.

If Qin Yu died, he would perish too!

This was why his mind had gone blank due to his fear. He had fallen into a daze.

However, fear was also a powerful motivating force. With a pale face, Old Turtle burst forward with strength.

He did not hold anything back as his strength exploded. This was beyond what he unleashed before and it was on the level of the Scholartree Saint.

Boom!

The earth shattered and huge chunks of rock flew towards the sky. A pitch black hand rose upwards and slowly balled into a fist. It struck against the black lightning with a deafening sound.

As if the heavens and earth had collided, debris swept through the ground like a tsunami. A wild hurricane tore through the land and wiped everything out instantly.

No matter how far away one was, one could feel the force of this collision. Hearts jumped out of chests and many were in awe of this power.

What destructive strength!

The mirage of Old Turtle formed a thick fog through the air, and after a slight shiver, it crumbled apart completely.

This place belonged to darkness and light, and in the end, he was a shadow that came from the abyss. Despite his extraordinary life, he was just a shadow.

The explosion could not stop the black lightning. The hit from the bright arrow and the explosion from Old Turtle merely stopped it in its tracks for a mere moment before it continued descending.

Exhausted, fear overwhelmed Old Turtle for the first time. He no longer bothered about being cautious and he shouted hysterically, "He is going to die, what are you waiting for?"

This sentence from the stone pagoda was what shook him awake before. Right now, Old Turtle was also praying that the last power behind Qin Yu could awaken.

He was referring to the shadow with the slender figure of a woman.

While Old Turtle could not care less about women, this shadow was someone who he respected and even felt terrified of.

Since it had left its mark on Qin Yu, it would not give up on him easily. However, the problem was that the current circumstance was so dire, even that woman may not be able to run away from it.

Would she pretend to be dead and give up on Qin Yu? This was a possibility Old Turtle had considered.

If that was the case, they were all going to die!

At that moment, the black lightning was just about to hit the magma. The energy wave from it dispersed the dark and light shadows, and extremely dazzling rays of light illuminated the surroundings.

A majestic breath of energy was released and it filled one with a wondrous feeling.

As dark and light interchanged, a low sigh could be heard and the shadow opened her eyes. It was a calm, yet piercing gaze that was pure and vivid. It seemed as though those eyes had seen everything in the world and they could tolerate anything.

Her eyes landed on Qin Yu before she looked up and narrowed her gaze on the black lightning.

"Heavens' punishment..." She mumbled to herself. Her voice was lazy but also annoyed.

She lifted her arm and red-colored energy gathered in her palm quickly. Sharp cracking sounds split the air as she amassed the energy.

While this was not actual ice, the formation of icy layers was real. It absorbed all heat from the magma pool and reduced the once scorching ground to ice-cold stone.

All the energy and heat from the magma pool gathered onto the palm of the woman and morphed into a crimson red long sword.

This sword was not large, but its strength could be clearly felt. It was a mysterious power that made one uneasy.

No words seemed to be able to describe the might of the sword.

The woman frowned, seemingly dissatisfied. Her eyes swiveled around and fell upon the last bit of energy that had not completely solidified: the corpse of the Spiritual Snake. After a brief hesitation, she gave up on that thought and proceeded to suck the remaining energy from the lands.

She swept her hand out and slashed upwards.

Without the slightest warning, she released her attack. Since she could not grow the sword anymore, why would she bother waiting?

She would go for it!

Every ignorant creature in the Lost Garden witnessed a striking scene that mimicked a sun rising from the ground. It slammed into the black lightning decisively.

This time, silence engulfed the lands.

The sun-like sword battled against the forces from the black lightning. This jaw-dropping scene was silent and the only explanation was that the collision had wiped out all other forms of energy. Such a scene did not seem to belong to this world.

Disoriented space seemed to form thick and sturdy layers that slowly shrouded the world.

No one had a clear sight of what was happening, and after space slowly dissipated away, the sun and black lightning had disappeared.

There were few who knew the outcome of what happened.

In the frozen pool of magma, a woman raised her hand to touch her forehead. There was a shallow wound in between her eyebrows.

Although she was silent, there was a forceful pressure around her that stopped anyone from breathing. She was in a bad mood.

“You ruined my face. I am going to remember this...”

Old Turtle’s hearing was sensitive and he vaguely heard what the woman said. He did not respond and feigned unconsciousness. This was the best course of action for now.

Qin Yu’s body shivered slightly from his injuries. Wounds cut across his entire body and he was in a dire state.

Although the black lightning had been demolished, the powers from the heavens’ punishment tore through him like a thousand knives.

His bones peeked through his deep wounds and blood stained the long robe he wore.

His vision was dotted with blackness and his consciousness was fading. Yet, he tried to focus on the figure of the woman in front of him.

He knew he had been saved by her. She was the trump card that he did not even know existed.

Qin Yu wanted to bow to her to express his gratitude but only managed to say a sentence, “Thank you for saving me...” His efforts to say this ripped open more wounds on his body.

The woman lowered her hand and gazed at Qin Yu. Although she was enraged, she did not let this influence her actions. He was in such a pitiful state, and if she even touched him, he would be dead. How was she going to get back at him for the wound on her face?

This was not the right time for that!

Regardless, she would have her chance to retrieve her payment from him in the future. When that day came, she would squeeze everything out of him.

“You have seen me...I did not want to meet you now and it is hard to explain matters. But you must know that you will gain nothing from the knowledge of my existence. I will alter your memories.

“Don’t worry, I will make sure you remember this wound on my face. Your memories will be like those of a dream. You will need to continue working hard. When you are ready, I will come and find you. Either that or you will reach out to me by yourself.

“Alright, that’s it. Enjoy the meal you earned after almost sacrificing your life. Hang in there and don’t self-destruct. Otherwise, you will owe me a huge debt.”

She turned and left at the same time as the dark and light shadow disappeared back into the earth with a terrifying aura. There were no traces left behind and it seemed as though the woman was just a dream.

By this point, Qin Yu had no energy left to think about what happened. His eyes closed as night fell.

Old Turtle shivered slightly. It felt as though the woman was also directing her words at him, warning him to stay silent about her existence.

He would never reveal a single thing!

The heavens’ punishment was a might that one had to experience personally to know its true power.

However, the heavens’ punishment this time was stopped by a single sword force. Although the woman had suffered a tiny cut to her face, Old Turtle now viewed her to be a god-like existence that deserved his full admiration and respect.

Qin Yu was really lucky. With such a fated destiny, he was not going to die this time round.

As long as he lived, his future would be bright.

Old Turtle sighed as he suppressed his emotions and mustered the last bit of his strength to slowly pull the Spiritual Snake’s corpse towards Qin Yu.

Creak, creak –

This entire process was slow, and the longer it took, the more Old Turtle worried over whether Qin Yu would end up taking his last breath before he absorbed the Spiritual Snake. What a shame that would be!

Thankfully, this did not happen. Once Qin Yu was stuffed into the Spiritual Snake’s corpse, blood and flesh seeped through the only wound from the snake and flowed into Qin Yu’s body. Unbelievably, it expanded and then disappeared.

Old Turtle sighed. In the end, the innate spirit was fully absorbed by Qin Yu. There was nothing left for Old Turtle.

Was he about to die? Old Turtle unconsciously shed a tear. Not long ago, he was still a shadow that was attached to the Great Dao.

At this point, he could only suffer slowly. Once Qin Yu survived through this, he would be saved too!

Chapter 1263 – Destructive Will

A deadly silence fell upon the Lost Garden.

Cultivators and ancient creatures alike had not recovered from the shock of what they just witnessed.

Dark and light had suddenly interchanged and the sky was dyed an ominous black color. Then, there was that terrifying streak of black lightning.

No one had ever witnessed such a bolt of lightning and none of them had been prepared to face such powerful strength. Despair, helplessness and fear had filled their hearts and they were certain that they would be instantly annihilated if the black lightning struck them.

Then, there was that bright arrow that showed up from the sky and a dark hand of scales. Finally, the brilliant sun that rose from the ground destroyed the black lightning.

No one had any idea what had just happened, but this did not stop them from making guesses. Several of them got a few facts right.

For instance, they had guessed that the black lightning was the legendary heavens' punishment. This thought made their hearts jump in disbelief.

They could not believe that someone in the Lost Garden had done something to deserve the heavens' punishment.

After all, the heavens' punishment was a secretive art that belonged only to the Vast Brightness world and few had heard of it. Whomever caused it must have done something earth-shattering.

Cultivators below the Great Dao had no means of doing something that significant.

After witnessing everything, it was also easy to conclude that the heavens' punishment had been blocked. This shocked everyone.

Someone had gone against the heavens' punishment!

The arrow and the black scales were still within expectations, and it was understandable that they were no match for the black lightning. However, people could tell that it was the giant sun at the end that shattered the black lightning.

Unbelievably, the heavens' punishment was stopped. The amount of power that was required to stop the heavens' punishment must be immense, and no one could even imagine how much energy went into that.

The understanding that such a powerful person was in the Lost Garden had different implications for everyone. The creatures in the Lost Garden were ignorant of the facts and only felt fear. However, the visiting cultivators to the Lost Garden knew that this powerful being was someone who came to the Lost Garden with them.

Who was it?

The names of top cultivators from the Peach Garden, Nine Heads, Nether Ye Xing and Heavenly Palace flashed through their minds.

Some people were so scared they wanted to flee and others wore conflicted expressions. However, there were also those whose eyes filled with a newfound passion. These people hurried over to where the black lightning struck.

Even if that other party was a saint, he might not have escaped unscathed from the heavens' punishment. There was no Great Dao in the Lost Garden. This was a law that was followed after ancient creatures sacrificed themselves to continue their clan's bloodline.

No one had broken this rule before.

As such, the person who blocked the heavens' punishment must be a cultivator with a powerful hidden card. The light arrow, shadow arm and the massive sun were mighty attacks.

Although this person managed to stop the heavens' punishment, he had revealed all his hidden cards and must have been heavily injured. These were all guesses but the other cultivators were banking on a small possibility.

Perhaps they could get lucky out of another person's misfortune. If they were really lucky, they may even be able to pick something up to help with their own cultivation.

Nonetheless, they were aware of the risks involved.

This person was someone who unleashed the heavens' punishment. If he still had strength left, the other cultivators should be prepared to suffer a terrible defeat. This was a gamble and they were risking their lives to head to the battleground.

The first cultivator who reached the scene carefully inched forward to the barren grounds. He shivered nervously as he stepped forward.

There was still a strong pressure around the area and the cultivator felt his heart tremor in fright.

Gritting his teeth, this man took a deep breath in. A strong force hit him and he spat out a mouthful of blood. The blood that was spurted out soaked the air red. In the next moment, it transformed into a blurred figure that flew forward at the speed of light.

Mere seconds later, the bloody figure turned back and slammed into the cultivator's body, causing him to jerk from the force. His eyes flew open wide in shock and his face turned pale.

His mouth opened and he tried to make a sound, but nothing came out. Suddenly, he burst apart violently.

His flesh and blood splattered onto the ground and was quickly absorbed into it. All that was left of him was a small red stain on the earth. A few other cultivators had arrived, and as soon as they witnessed what happened to this first cultivator, they involuntarily stepped back in fear.

“It isn’t from the heavens’ punishment.” The Prince of Heavenly Palace remarked. He was dressed in a long golden robe with dragons embroidered on it. Wearing a golden phoenix crown, his sharp eyes stared intently at the scene before him. When he raised his hand, others could instantly feel his authority.

His father was known as the True Saint of Heavenly Palace and he was the individual with the deepest perception of the dao. As such, his comprehension of heaven and earth energy was good and he confidently came to a conclusion.

A few people beside him frowned.

If this strange pressure was not from the heavens’ punishment, then there was only one possibility. The mysterious cultivator who unleashed the heavens’ punishment was giving them a warning.

He was not dead! And he had even prepared such a strong barrier to deter others. Did he really still have strength left or was this an act to scare people away?

To obtain an answer, they could only try it out for themselves.

Elder apprentice brother lightly said, “The Peach Garden will not participate in this.” They would not take the risk to test the blood mist, but they would snatch any rewards available.

Of course, it was not fair for them to expect gains without taking the risk of participating. However, it was elder apprentice brother of the Peach Garden who spoke. Everyone knew that only four people from the Peach Garden came to the Lost Garden this time.

Disciples of the Peach Garden would not risk their lives, and although some people were unhappy, they did not say anything.

Nine Heads said, “It is not too late. He was the first person in and the only example. We should not be scared away.”

Spiteful laughter came from Nether Ye Xing and he suggested, “If no one is willing, we can just throw some people in forcefully. It isn’t too hard.”

The Nether Saint was someone who used dishonorable means to achieve what he wanted. Most of his disciples were also known to have murdered many others before. They took a similar path to become daoists. Throwing people forcefully into the pits as a test was something that came naturally to them.

No one spoke, but the silence also meant that people agreed with him. Elder senior apprentice brother was in agreement too.

The next day, a few people gathered before the barren land. Although their expressions were calm, they were concerned.

So far a total of nine men had entered the grounds. They had tried everything, including using an avatar and a puppet that were controlled by their minds. Nothing was successful and all of them self-destructed.

Most of the strong cultivators who came here in a gamble were dead, and the remaining people were all scared.

No one was willing to barge into the barren land again.

What should they do now?

For the mysterious man to wipe out nine cultivators one after another, there was a great possibility that he still had much strength left after blocking the heavens' punishment. Furthermore, his method of killing was violent and decisive.

If the man was trying to scare the group off and fake his remaining strength, he would have been exhausted by now. The nine murders were brutal and they revealed no weaknesses from him.

The Prince of Heavenly Palace had a miserable expression as he slowly said, "I don't think we have any chance."

Elder apprentice brother announced, "The Peach Garden will back out from this matter."

Nine Heads frowned as he took a look around him. His eyes sparkled but he did not speak.

"You guys are scared?" Nether Ye Xing mocked. His face was pale but his expression was rebellious, "Only nine victims so far. I don't believe this. Why don't we continue?"

He clapped his hands and five figures dashed out from the shadows. Each one of them held a cultivator captive in each arm.

"Young master!" The five men greeted Nether Ye Xing respectfully.

Nether Ye Xing smirked as he glanced across these men. Their cultivations had been sealed and Nether Ye Xing awakened their consciousnesses. "It seems like all of you recognize me. I will get to the point. If you can enter the grounds from here and exit through the opposite side, I will spare your lives. I am giving all of you a chance and I am warning you not to attempt an escape. You will regret trying."

He waved his hand and gave an order. The five subordinates released the ten cultivators.

Their eyes were desperate as they pleaded for help from the other cultivators at the scene. No one responded and they knew that they could not escape their fate. Gritting their teeth, they dashed into the barren land.

They could only throw their all into escaping it!

Ye Xing suddenly turned around, and his gaze fell upon elder apprentice brother. He flashed a cocky smile again, "Haven't you always paid attention to benevolence and righteousness? Why are you silent? If you had requested, I may have let two of them go."

Elder apprentice brother glanced at him and said, "You would have killed them faster if I had spoken."

Ye Xing laughed and clapped, "You are smart!"

Elder apprentice brother's expression was calm, "It is wrong to kill others to become a Saint. Even if the Nether Saint became a Saint through those methods, it is not right. You will eventually suffer retribution for what you have done."

"You don't have to worry about that. The netherworld has its own ways; the more we kill, the closer we will get to becoming Saints!" Ye Xing's eyes were icy cold.

"If you are not happy with it, we can have a battle after this is over."

Elder apprentice brother nodded, "Sure."

Ear-piercing screams interrupted their conversation. Ye Xing frowned and he wore a serious expression. The ten cultivators were all dead.

He had inserted his own mark into these ten cultivators' bodies but he had not been able to find out anything about the mysterious power.

Damn it!

He whipped around and his gaze fell upon the five netherworld cultivators. Instantly, their expressions changed and fear and desperation filled their eyes.

However, this did not change Ye Xing's mind and he barked an order, "Go in..." Before he could finish his words, red marks started to appear on the bodies of the five netherworld cultivators. Ye Xing was horrified.

Their eyes were wide open with fear and their hands flew to their neck, grasping at the invisible thing that was suffocating them. Their blood vessels were expanding so quickly that they now looked like little black snakes on the five cultivators' necks.

Boom boom –

In the next instant, their bodies exploded and turned into dust.

Ye Xing flew backwards as fast as he could, but a drop of blood landed on him. His expression dramatically changed.

Boom –

Strong force surged from within him and the blood from the five cultivators disintegrated. However, he was already infected and small red marks slowly started to appear on him.

"Father, save me!" Ye Xing cried.

Buzz –

A beam of red light shot out from his body and formed a large shadow.

The figure placed a finger between Ye Xing's brows and a deafening sound followed as one side of his body was blown apart. Ye Xing quickly regenerated himself. After a few moments, he was completely recovered but he was as pale as a sheet.

The figure that was formed from the blood red light dissipated and Ye Xing stared at the heavenly punishment ground with an indescribable fear in his eyes.

He had not expected that he would be in danger despite not heading into the area himself. If a part of his father's blood shadow was not with him, the consequences would have been deadly.

He had to personally experience it for himself to understand how terrifying the red marks were. They had a destructive will and would kill any living being that stepped foot into their territory.

After what just happened, Ye Xing was sure that the individual who triggered the heavens' punishment was not putting on an act. It was clear that he did not have any chance.

His five subordinates had to give up their lives and he ended up using his hidden card just to arrive at this conclusion. Not to mention that half his physical body was destroyed in the explosion just now.

The price to pay was too much to bear!

With this thought, Ye Xing's expression grew solemn. He gave a final glance at the Land of Heavenly Punishment before he turned and left.

Since there wasn't a chance, there was no need for him to remain there. Furthermore, he was worried that others would seek trouble with him.

He would plan for his next move.

However, right at that point, Ye Xing yelled in anger, "You!"

Boom!

A deafening explosion shook the air as his body flew backwards. He coughed out blood uncontrollably. Anger could be seen in his ghastly pale face.

Elder apprentice brother curled his fist and calmly said, "Didn't you say that we will battle it out once this matter is settled? I did my part, and I even held back some strength because you don't look too well. Take this as a lesson learnt. You don't have to thank me."

Ye Xing clenched his jaw and he said through gritted teeth, "You..."

Elder apprentice brother added, "If you aren't happy, we can continue to fight. I believe that the Nether Saint will understand it if you die through a fair battle. However, if he isn't happy, he can come to the Peach Garden. My master mentioned that he had exchanged blows with the Nether Saint before and that they had not settled their score yet."

Blood spurted out of Ye Xing's mouth again and he roared, "Peach Garden! Fine! We will wait and see!"

Ye Xing turned and left swiftly. The blow from elder apprentice brother had left him in bad shape and he had to quickly find a place to recover.

This was the Lost Garden and even he had to be careful.

Nine Heads had an unreadable expression on his face and he said, "I would have stopped you if you really attacked him."

Elder apprentice brother said, "That's why I only gave him one blow."

Nine Heads raised his eyebrows slightly. Then, he turned around and leapt into the air.

Chapter 1264A – The Beginnings of a Feast

The truth was that all these deaths had absolutely nothing to do with Qin Yu. Moreover, what Ye Xing tried has almost succeeded. It was happening because when that woman left, she left a trace. If she just killed another three to five more people, she would use up all her energy.

Cough cough. If he thought about it, it was really quite a pity. If Ye Xing was a bit stronger, perhaps what happened after would have been a different story.

But there were no ifs in this world, Old Turtle sighed internally. Although Qin Yu had suffered quite a bit, he had been fairly lucky on this journey.

However, at this moment, this 'lucky' Qin Yu felt as if he was being forged in a huge fire pit.

The Spiritual Snake had been killed. Absorbing the energy from its body would put him at the peak and surpass all the other talents...how was that possible. This entire thing was not as easy as it sounded.

Although the world was not completely fair, there was still some kind of balance. The more you want to gain, the higher the price you have to pay.

Like the corpse of this Spiritual Snake. After losing its consciousness, it was indeed a treasure. But this treasure was too big. In order to consume it completely, not only did you have to have a huge appetite, you would also have to face a challenge before that.

For example...not exploding from eating too much. The meat from the Spiritual Snake was extremely hot. If one could not even withstand this high heat, they would not be qualified to even begin eating. Or rather, even if they forced themselves to eat it, the heat would just burn through their stomach.

Strictly speaking, this was not the challenge for Qin Yu. To be more accurate, his challenge was more like a game of sitting on chairs. The table had been set, but first, you have to have the ability to sit on the chair before you can start eating.

Qin Yu was still unconscious. Although he avoided suffering physical pain, he did not know what he was going to have to face and could not prepare himself.

After he entered the Spiritual Snake, he started to automatically move within it. As he wiggled, he got pulled to the snake's heart and was now inside it.

It was mentioned before that the Spiritual Snake was huge and rough. However, to simply describe its size would not paint a very good picture.

Now, there is a better way to describe it. Because the Spiritual Snake was huge, its heart was naturally big as well. As Qin Yu lay unconscious in it, it was as if he was sleeping in a large empty room.

It was a pity that this large empty room was not that nice to be in. As the heart contracted and expanded, all the heat from the Spiritual Snake would gather in the heart and bury Qin Yu.

Thankfully, Qin Yu had just absorbed energy from two sources of life and reinforced his vessel to become larger and more sturdy.

Of course, he would not have died. Although the corpse of the Spiritual Snake had no consciousness, it had a huge will to live. What it was trying to do was to turn Qin Yu into a heart core.

Once it succeeded, Qin Yu would forget his past and become a part of the Spiritual Snake. More accurately, he would become the Spiritual Snake's conscience. Then, an innate spirit would be born.

This was an innate spirit and it would try its best to be reincarnated. It was created when the heavens and earth were first formed. Hence, it had this ability bestowed on it.

Therefore, at this moment, it was an independent world in the Spiritual Snake's corpse. No one could help Qin Yu. He can only count on himself.

Within the huge Spiritual Snake's heart, it was so hot that the color of the heart was closer to black than red. The heat surrounded Qin Yu like a coffin.

Qin Yu's body was starting to show signs of melting. His skin as well as the other layers of his body were beginning to turn into liquid.

If nothing happened, Qin Yu would slowly melt like a cake under a hot sun. He would be absorbed by the Spiritual Snake's heart and eventually become a heart core.

However, a long time ago, Qin Yu had mastered a remarkable ability. It was the Five Element Samsara. He could control the five elements of gold, water, wood, fire and earth to form a huge disk. This disk could crush, press, attack and defend.

This remarkable ability was from the Path of Rules. Therefore, this Five Element Samsara was something that Qin Yu could easily master as he has the basics.

So when he absorbed the sources of life and utilized the Rule Trial Field to comprehend the rules and increase his strength, the Five Element Samsara was always his first choice.

The five elements were inside.

A ball of scorching flame formed. It was hot enough to burn through all living things. Every detail was important; only when different rules were matched would it produce a ball of flame coming from the power of rules. Then it would have the power to kill.

Even the heat energy within the Spiritual Snake would become a part of the flame as well. With Qin Yu's current physical body standards, not just the flame, even jumping into the volcano was nothing.

Although Qin Yu was still unconscious, the instinct of his soul was still intact. Moreover, the thing about removing his consciousness and forming a new heart core would involve removing his soul, and this was the critical part.

As his soul sensed the threat, it started to react. Qin Yu could feel the Rule Blaze and started to resist.

Under normal circumstances, the awakening and control of the rules would require a long time before it could be controlled.

Although Qin Yu had already comprehended this and almost completely achieved the Rule Blaze, when it came to matching he was still slightly lacking. However, this shortcoming was rapidly being overcome under the wild forging of the Spiritual Snake's heart.

The pressure of death was the greatest force!

Hence, just as the outer surface of Qin Yu turned to liquid and it looked like he was going to be absorbed, subtle waves suddenly appeared.

But if it was just this, he would not make it in time. Because even if his Rule Blaze ability was activated, it would require some time to protect him.

Qin Yu had no time!

Bam —

A low sound erupted from within the Spiritual Snake's heart. It was an item on Qin Yu. It could not withstand the burning from the Rule Blaze.

In the next moment, the sound of wings flapping could suddenly be heard. A huge swarm of Purpleback Bluewing Ants appeared. Following that, shrieks could be heard as the high heat affected them.

In their current state, they could not withstand the burning heat from the Rule Blaze in the Spiritual Snake's body. A strange thing happened. Under the high heat, the wings of the ants started to turn red.

All the ants began to look as if they had been sculpted from pure jade. They could withstand the scorching heat from the Rule Blaze.

Although their inherent intelligence was not high, the Purpleback Bluewing Ants could sense that their owner was in danger. They started shrieking in hopes of waking their owner up. However, it was still no use.

All of a sudden, all the ants started burning within the Rule Blaze. However, this ignition did not damage their physical body; instead they started to form what seemed like Qin Yu's flesh.

Every single Purpleback Bluewing Ant started to resemble rain as they fell onto Qin Yu and merged onto his body.

Bzzz...

Bzzz...

Qin Yu's skin, which had been melting, suddenly repaired itself and numerous red lights appeared. On a closer look, these red lights appeared where the Purpleback Bluewing Ants merged and formed Qin Yu's skin.

With the lights forming the center, red lines started to appear and extend outwards, connecting all the lights.

When all the lights were finally connected, a red robe suddenly appeared over Qin Yu.

From that moment on, the heat from the Rule Blaze could no longer hurt Qin Yu.

Finally, Qin Yu started to awaken. However, even though this whole situation was extremely dangerous, it was not considered a test.

Now Qin Yu was finally at the seat of the table and had the right to begin the feast.

Truthfully, the real danger started only when he sat on the chair. This was because whether it was called a treasure or a feast, you needed to be able to swallow it.

If not, the only ending for him would be to explode into pieces!

Of all the ways to die, one of the most difficult was to eat until you exploded. It was also one of the rarest ways to die.

Chapter 1264B – The Beginnings of a Feast

Everyone else withdrew from the Land of Heavenly Punishment; it was now a restricted area. This place still looked as scary as it had been initially. The Lost Garden was filled with the spiritual energy of the world. Despite the ability of all sorts of ancient plants to grow and spread, it did not seem to have much effect.

Outside the border stood a figure with an imposing look. This person was Zhang Zhongshi. He was the one who had a grudge against White Phoenix and gathered everyone to try and kill him.

Now, although Zhang Zhongshi still looked the same as he did back then, his entire aura had completely changed.

The expression he had as he looked at the Land of Heavenly Punishment was of someone who had lived through many years of changes...

It was a kind of feeling that you could sense but was difficult to describe.

It was to the point that if Zhang Zhongshi were to change his clothes and hairstyle, you would not be able to recognize him unless you were someone familiar with him.

As he stood outside the Land of Heavenly Punishment, Zhang Zhongshi repeatedly debated whether to step in. In the end, he chose to stay.

As he took a step, the ground split open soundlessly. After Zhang Zhongshi's figure disappeared, the ground returned to its original state.

He did not dare to rush in hastily but also did not want to give up. Thus he could only wait here...until the person inside came out. So he had a target, and that was why he paid such a high price to get the chance to enter the Lost Garden.

He had needed blood from White Phoenix's clan. But after Qin Yu ruined his plans, he unexpectedly found another reward.

A cultivator who could survive heaven's punishment. He knew very clearly what this meant...he was going to wait for this person, kill him, and take everything from him!

.....

Qin Yu was awake.

Soon, he realized that he had been extremely fortunate. He had been so lucky that he wished he could stay in this state forever.

That neverending energy was continuously being absorbed into his body. Every inch of his physical body and soul was rapidly eating.

This feeling was like giving a starving man a whole banquet.

The word 'delight' would be accurate in describing his feelings now!

Before Qin Yu could thoroughly enjoy this feeling, he was interrupted by a voice that sounded weak, unsatisfied, happy, and excited all at the same time, "Master, you are awake. You are finally awake!"

I am a Shadow of the Abyss. I am a holy being but only the heavens know how much I have suffered to survive until now! What suffering. Old Turtle swore that he never wanted to go through this a second time.

Qin Yu jumped in shock. Old Turtle's current condition was a lot more miserable than before.

He was completely curled into a ball and had turned into a ball of mist that could only roll around slightly. He had entirely lost his human silhouette.

The feeling he gave was that he would be blown away by a single light breath!

"Hungry, very hungry. Master, save me, quick save me!" It would be an exaggeration to describe the energy from the Spiritual Snake as endless, but it could be described as sufficient to fill the oceans and form mountains.

Although this was the case, he did not dare to touch it!

As he thought about this, Old Turtle wanted to cry. He felt like someone who had a whole feast in front of him and if he just opened his mouth he would be able to eat it, but he was starving to death.

But if he wanted to live, he had to persevere and not take a single mouthful. There was no choice. That woman was too scary. The heavens' punishment was enough to crush someone and he could not bear that!

This was torture, absolute torture!

I am too miserable, this is too difficult. This was so difficult that he had lost the interest and hope towards staying alive and the future.

Ick...he was lying. No matter what happens, we have to maintain an optimistic outlook. So, we definitely have to continue living. No matter what we have to go through, we have to survive.

Qin Yu could not understand. Old Turtle was already in such a miserable state; why didn't he start to eat? But at this moment, if he asked any more, Old Turtle might be gone for good.

Eat first and then we can talk. After all, a lot of credit should go to Old Turtle for this meal...hmm? Actually, the one who deserved the most credit should be that woman, I owe her a huge favor. It was such a huge favor that in the future, I will do anything she asks and be her servant!

Qin Yu's expression changed as he was filled with shock. What is going on? How can I have such a scary thought!

Not only that, most importantly, I actually believe that...I should be her servant!

Damn!

What is going on!

As Qin Yu was shocked, Old Turtle was suffering. Sometimes when people are at their worst point and think that things cannot get any worse, it suddenly does not seem that difficult to persevere a bit more.

On the other hand, if you give false hopes, the disappointment that follows could be so immense that it could take away someone's will to live.

Old Turtle was facing this right now~

He thought that everything he had gone through was the worst thing that could happen in this world. He never expected that things could become even worse.

Qin Yu, how can you treat me like this? I am so loyal to you and helped you to the point where I am barely surviving!

He was fuming and his consciousness started to waver. Old Turtle became blind for a moment. He could sense very clearly that in that short moment, he had almost completely vanished for good.

Oh my goodness, that was truly death. As a shadow, if he disappeared there was no coming back.

This is so terrifying. I admit defeat!

Go away anger. I will be a loyal dog. I will wag my tail and look pitiful.

"Master, save me. Please hurry and save me. I can't hold on any longer. I am about to die!"

Who cares! As long as he could live, he would be anything!

Qin Yu pulled himself out of his self-doubt. As his intentions turned, a portion of the energy that he had absorbed appeared.

Wooooo —

Old Turtle exhaled a long breath and another longer breath. It was like he wanted to get rid of the fear and disappointment within him. His actions made one worry that he might let out too much air and eventually suffocate himself.

Qin Yu patiently waited for him to finish exhaling before speaking, "When I was unconscious, I think I saw a woman. But the image I have of her is not very clear. I only remember that I owe her a huge favor. Did something like this happen?"

Nonsense. Of course it happened. If not for that woman's help, they would be dead. However, although this was the truth, Old Turtle completely ignored it, "Master you already saw the state I was in. I was struggling to survive; how would I have the energy to care about anything else? I don't know what you are talking about."

Qin Yu's expression was like still water, "You don't know? Are you sure?"

Old Turtle's heart sped up. He had no choice, now his life was in Qin Yu's hands. If Qin Yu became angry and stopped sharing the energy, Old Turtle would return to the state where he was barely holding it together.

Telling the truth...not possible. It was impossible!

Although there was a risk in lying to Qin Yu, there was a chance they would survive this. If he really were to tell the truth about that woman, then death would be certain!

Hence, he only hesitated for a short moment before shaking his head firmly. "I don't know, I really don't know!"

Qin Yu only half believed him. He fell silent and did not say anything more. The truth was that his memory was very foggy and it felt like a dream.

But if it was a dream, why would he feel that he owed someone a huge favor? It was to the point that he would even give up his life to repay the favor. That was too much!

His instinct told him that there was something fishy going on.

Old Turtle was afraid that he would continue prodding and lightly coughed before changing the topic, "Master, now that you are awake, we had better think of a way to pass this test.

"Now that you have started eating the Spiritual Snake's feast, you cannot stop. You either finish it all and gain all the benefits or you die from eating too much."

Qin Yu's expression changed slightly. He was completely awake now. He looked to the side and saw the red energy that was continuously gathering. He then took a sense of his current state. He inhaled a deep breath before asking, "From when I was unconscious until now, how much have I eaten?"

Old Turtle laughed bitterly, "I was too weak earlier and cannot estimate. But judging by your current absorption rate, I think you only finished about ten percent."

"So little?"

"That is not little. This is already calculated according to your quickest absorption rate. There is a possibility that you have not even finished ten percent of it."

Qin Yu's eyes widened as he paled.

It was simple. This feast had just begun and he was the only diner. However, he already felt quite full. This was a very uncomfortable feeling.

More importantly, this was not just a matter of eating more or less. This concerned his survival!

To die from eating too much? No, he would never accept such an ending!

Chapter 1265 – The Rule System

If he didn't want to explode from eating too much, he had no choice but to find a way to save himself.

Qin Yu's first thought was to find someone to help him. It was not the time to sulk over the 'treasure' now. What was the point of having the 'treasure' all to yourself if you are dead?

Moreover, the only ones that could help him were the helpers around him. The stronger they were the more useful they would be in the future.

Without hesitating, Qin Yu made a decision. Old Turtle was delighted by this. After all, he was now so weak he only had one layer of skin remaining. He was delighted to be able to replenish his power.

However, his delight did not last long before it turned into helplessness. Even if he replenished his power, it was not enough to deal with the Spiritual Snake.

Now, he was eating happily. But soon it turned into pain...after all, he was just a shadow. Even if he tried his best, how much could he consume?

"Master, don't forget about Stone Pagoda, he has a huge appetite!" In another time and place, Old Turtle would never have said something like this. Why would he share this incredible power with others?

Now, Old Turtle had no hesitations as he pulled Stone Pagoda over.

There was no choice...with this feast today, even if more people came to eat, he and Qin Yu would still be bursting from how much they could consume.

Strictly speaking, Stone Pagoda was in about the same state as Old Turtle. He was being consumed by the distant shadows once more.

Hence, after receiving Qin Yu's permission, Stone Pagoda did not say a single word as he immediately started absorbing as much power as he could. Stone Pagoda's fragile body had been breaking apart, but now he was finally stable.

The shadows which had continued to assault them from all directions were finally, bit by bit, getting blocked outside.

With Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda sharing the burden, Qin Yu instantly felt a lot more relaxed. However, he did not dare to let his guard down. "How is it going?"

"...Master, you know I am just a shadow and have a limited capacity. Maybe Stone Pagoda can help you consume more. However, the both of us will only be able to help you with one-third of it. That means there is still at least half of the power that you will need to deal with yourself."

Qin Yu lifted his hand as he massaged the space between his eyebrows. His lips were pulled in a grim line. With just a tenth of it, he had completely recovered and even felt bloated. What was he going to do with the remaining half? It seemed like even after turning in circles, he was still facing death!

Could it be fate that he was going to die from eating too much? Just thinking about it seemed so pitiful.

“Ke! The red robe you are wearing is the appearance of the Rule System but it is made up of a group of flying ants. This little thing is so lucky, it actually has signs of it returning to its root and is showing the properties of primal chaos. Perhaps they can help you consume some energy.”

Qin Yu looked down at his red robe. In the moment that he awoke, he already knew what was happening on his body. The Purpleback Bluewing Ants had already disappeared and turned into the long robe he was wearing. However, they were not dead, they merely changed the state in which they were living.

As soon as he thought it, the red robe he was wearing started to emit a blood red glow. Purpleback Bluewing Ants began to slowly appear. They started screaming soundlessly as they beat their wings and started to absorb the energy that was continuously flowing into Qin Yu’s body.

But this was not enough, it was far from enough. Unfortunately, Qin Yu had no more beings to help him share the burden of energy from the Spiritual Snake corpse.

Stone Pagoda suddenly called out as he thought of something. “Master, if you want to live you can only count on yourself. If you can’t absorb, it only means that you are not strong enough and don’t have enough capacity.

“Now, the only way is to become stronger and turn into a vessel that can take in mountains and the ocean. Only then can you consume the Spiritual Snake.”

Qin Yu waved angrily, “Of course I know. But do you think making a vessel takes only one or two days? There is no time for that now.”

“That may not be the case!”

Two voices sounded at once.

Old Turtle froze. This stupid Stone Pagoda. Alas, he could not control himself. Was Stone Pagoda trying to fight for authority with him?

Stone Pagoda was thinking similar thoughts. The mysterious odor around Qin Yu was not ordinary. Defeating him and becoming the most important to Qin Yu was going to be a difficult task.

Qin Yu did not have time to think about the sly thoughts of this pagoda and shadow. He spoke in a low voice, “If you have a solution, just say it. The situation is clear; I cannot hold on any longer.”

Old Turtle said, “The Rule System!”

Stone Pagoda said, “Forging Heavens!”

They spoke at the same time once again.

Qin Yu frowned, “You. Speak first.”

He chose Old Turtle. This was normal. After all, they had worked together for so long and he would trust him more.

Stone Pagoda fell silent. He was prepared for this and was not too worried, as he believed that his solution would be the most effective at the present moment.

Old Turtle coughed lightly. The impression that he left on Qin Yu earlier was starting to be useful. He had to maintain this; he could not make a mistake. He mentally prepared himself before saying, "There is one point that is both right. The best solution now is to forge a large enough and solid vessel. What I am suggesting is the fastest and most effective way of creating a vessel."

"The Rule System is a cultivation technique that appeared in the Abyss a long time ago. To put it simply, by continuously absorbing Rules into the body, as the amount increases, the physical body will also become stronger. In the end, you can become a part of the world and have an innate spirit."

This sounded very similar to the True God Path.

Qin Yu muttered to himself, "Stone Pagoda, what is your idea?"

Stone Pagoda was silent. "..."

Everything I wanted to say has been said by this bastard. What should I say now?

Damn it, how could he also know this path. I can't admit defeat like this. The situation is very clear now: as long as Qin Yu crosses this obstacle, his future will be limitless.

He had to fight for his future with Qin Yu!

"Master, the forging heavens that I mentioned is not ignorant. The process will create a comparable Heaven Match; it is similar to what some Turtle has said."

Old Turtle snorted and looked unhappy. So he did not have anything to say and merely copied what I already said. How shameless. No matter how you say it, even if you spit out a flower, Qin Yu will know who the original idea came from.

Just with this, you want to fight with me?

Stone Pagoda did not seem to notice the mocking look from Old Turtle as he maintained a calm tone, "Absorbing rules is like training your physical body. It will create a Heaven Match...or to put it more simply, it is creating a small area. This is not in the scope of the world. So the process is not only dangerous and tough, almost no one has successfully persisted."

"I believe some Turtle is also very clear about this point. If not, why would this cultivation path disappear without a trace? After all, anyone who isn't blind will be able to see the prospects of this method. To train one's body to become a Heaven Match, it is not possible to cross to the heavens with just this."

Qin Yu frowned.

Old Turtle rushed to add, "Master, what some pagoda said is correct but there is no shortcut in this world. Even if there is, there will be a price. Although the cultivation method of the Rule System is dangerous and difficult, with my help and your strong will, we can definitely make it!"

Stone Pagoda said blandly, "It is easy to suck up, but this is a real situation and sucking up has no use." He paused for a moment before continuing, "But Master, I can help you reduce the number of routes you have to take and reduce the unnecessary pain. I can increase your chance of success."

“Many years ago, when the Forging Heavens Art appeared. I already knew about it. In this world, not many have the knowledge comparable to mine. Moreover, even since the robbery back then, even though I managed to survive, I was trapped. Luckily you saved me and I am able to see the day again. In these lonely times, the boredom makes it hard to maintain my own consciousness and it is easy for my consciousness to crumble. I carefully analyzed the Forging Heavens Art to find the flaws in it and made improvements to it.

“Although I dare not say that the Forging Heavens Art is perfect, if you follow my instructions to train I can definitely help you double your chances of success.”

Damn it!

Old Turtle never would have imagined that Stone Pagoda had this trick. He turned the tables in a flash. From Qin Yu’s expression, he was clearly moved.

Despicable, I cannot lose!

Unfortunately, before Old Turtle could rebut, Qin Yu sneered and waved his hand to cut him off.

“There is no time to waste. Let’s try your Forging Heavens Art...shadow can help from the side. If there are any issues, you both can discuss and settle it.”

The bloated feeling was becoming more intense. He felt like a leather bottle filled to the brim with water, extremely round and bloated. Although a leather bottle could still expand slightly even after being filled to the brim, it would burst sooner or later.

At this moment, Qin Yu was not in the mood to hear them argue. They were currently all grasshoppers tied to the same rope. If he exploded, these two guys would not be able to live well either.

Therefore, he was not too worried. Furthermore, it was an idea that both Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda suggested. The likelihood of success should be higher.

Stone Pagoda was calm, “Yes Master. I will try my best to help you. Later on, please cultivate according to my instructions. If something feels wrong, just tell me immediately.”

“Now, I will tell you about the Forging Heavens Art. You will need some time to understand it.”

He paused slightly, “In the entire cultivation process, I cannot be interrupted to avoid disturbing Master. So if a certain shadow has nothing going on, it is best if you just remain silent for the entire thing.”

He was furious!

Utterly furious!

Damn it. I am the one that Qin Yu trusts and thinks most capable. Stupid broken Stone Pagoda. Who do you think you are? You are just lucky. How dare you try to step all over me. Dream on!

Old Turtle was bursting with anger; he was fuming and his eyes were red. He only had one thought, to stare him down. To stare down and watch Stone Pagoda’s every move. You had better not let me find any flaws or you are dead!

Chapter 1266A – Vicious Cycle

Thirteen days had passed.

If not for the veil still present along with the frightening aura of the Land of Heavenly Punishment, Zhang Zhongshi would have believed that his junior was dead.

To be able to survive for thirteen days in the Land of Heavenly Punishment, where no light shined and no air blew through...fine. Maybe there were a few cultivators who also managed to survive till this point.

But this was the Lost Garden where there were endless opportunities. Every second was precious and no one would be able to bear losing thirteen days worth of time and opportunities. Zhang Zhongshi was the same.

More importantly, it has been one month since the Lost Garden opened. It could close anytime. As he thought of this, Zhang Zhongshi frowned. He could not help but worry. Was his junior going to stay there until the Lost Garden closed?

If that were the case, it was going to be troublesome.

Fourteen days.

Fifteen days.

Exactly half a month had passed and there was no movement from the Land of Heavenly Punishment. Just as Zhang Zhongshi was considering whether he should do something, the person in the land where no light shone suddenly opened his eyes. An essence burst open within him.

At the same moment, it was as if a hand had swept through, leaving the Land of Heavenly Punishment empty and silent. Somewhere in the middle, something broke apart and a figure crawled out.

Dressed in a blood red robe, a scarlet body bursting with hot energy appeared. It was as if the body had just come out of a boiling tub of blood.

Rough jagged breaths could be heard from under the robe. It was as if just crawling out of the hole had depleted all his energy.

Standing on the spot, he took deep breaths. The man in the blood red robe then looked around to orientate himself. After a few moments, he turned and walked away.

However, his route was not smooth. His steps were heavy as he seemed extremely weak. He stumbled and almost fell but managed to catch himself by taking a huge step to stabilize himself.

When his foot landed, a frightening boom erupted and the ground started to shake. A horrifying crack suddenly appeared. The center was where his foot landed as the cracks spread in all directions, reaching out as far as the eye could see.

Beneath the blood red robe, a bitter laugh erupted. The man continued to move.

A few moments later, Zhang Zhongshi arrived at the place where the foot had landed. He looked down at the ground and his gaze was serious as he examined the numerous web-like cracks.

What a frightening power!

If this were outside, he would not have been frightened. But this was the Lost Garden. In his current state, he did not have his full power.

Therefore, even after waiting persistently for half a month, and even though the person had appeared, he did not take action.

He did not take action because he was not completely certain. If he made a move and failed to kill him, he would be killed.

But this did not mean that Zhang Zhongshi was going to give up...he never would. Even if he were to give up this body of his, he was going to try.

However, there was still time. Since the Lost Garden had remained open for over a month, it meant that the longer opening was occurring.

If nothing were to happen, it would remain open for another half a month or even longer.

Zhang Zhongshi's gaze shifted as he headed in the direction where Qin Yu had gone.

.....

After the East Sea Banquet, Xu Shi was in low spirits for a while. He was not willing to believe the news from the Saint circle. Qin Yu, that snob, had accomplished the magnificent feat of defeating Saints. He immediately became a highly revered person amongst the second generation.

Soon after Peach Blossom Spring's public announcement about Peachy and Qin Yu, his liver almost exploded from anger. He did not dare to say anything in public as he was afraid of getting laughed at and creating trouble for himself. He locked himself up in his cultivation room and fumed for an entire day.

Why? Why? Qin Yu not only became famous and revered, he also got his junior Peachy. Xu Shi could not understand.

What made him even angrier was that he became a stepping stone on Qin Yu's road to fame. After it was confirmed that Qin Yu had killed Saints, no one cared that he once lost to Qin Yu – but the more that it is like this, the harder it makes for one to accept it!

Because Xu Shi realized that his name was not even worth mentioning alongside Qin Yu. This was such a miserable fact and it was extremely hard to accept!

The half Saint from the Xu Family noticed his son's low spirits. After figuring out the reason, he warned his son to not create any more trouble. Thereafter, he thought of a way to help him get a place to enter Lost Garden.

Although he appeared strict, he had a soft spot for his son, Xu Shi, and still thought highly of him. He hoped that his son would learn from the embarrassment and improve and get something out of the Lost Garden.

Today, Xu Shi felt that the chance to change his future was finally here – thank you dear father!

Qin Yu, you snob. Just wait. When the Lost Garden closes this time, I will appear in front of you as a completely different person!

He had found a source of life that was of extremely good quality. It was so good that faint traces of purple color could be seen in the spring water.

Sources of life were commonly green in color. The older it was, the better the quality and the darker its shade of green. The best ones could even transform and turn into a purple color.

Just comparing the power, a purple source of life was equivalent to ten green sources of life.

What was this? It was luck, extremely good luck! If not for this, Xu Shi would never have dared to dream of finding Qin Yu after leaving the Lost Garden.

What was there to hesitate about? Nothing, absolutely nothing!

Xu Shi sprung to action; he could feel that the air was extremely thick with a smell belonging to the source of life. When a soft breeze blew past him, he could feel it as his sleeves shook in the wind.

Very close, very close!

That purple color was right in front of him...then, everything stopped!

Xu Shi's eyes widened. He had been frantically moving along just like a toad whose legs were the same size as its head, but all of a sudden, he could not move.

His entire body seemed to be frozen in mid air by some unknown force. He was completely stuck!

Bam –

Bam –

The sound of footsteps could be heard; Xu Shi struggled to look back as he shouted angrily, "Bastard! This is mine. The source of life is mine! Let go, you'd better let go of me!"

Unfortunately, the person who the footsteps belonged to had no intention of speaking to him. He did not want to waste any time.

A person with blood red skin and a blood red robe appeared. As soon as the person caught sight of him, he froze.

Xu Shi immediately started to struggle even more, "Do you recognize me? You definitely recognize me! I am Xu Shi. My father is a half Saint. How dare you steal my source of life, my Xu Family will never let you go!"

He was not that stupid. He knew that saying this in this moment would most likely cause the other person to silence him. However, as a hot-blooded and rash person, this was his explosive personality. Logic was not able to control him. He was like a bull without reins.

Most importantly, this purple source of life in front of Xu Shi was the biggest fortune he had other than the reincarnation. This could change his fate and brighten his future.

But now, he was trapped in mid-air. He was so close to the source of life yet he could not budge an inch. It was like the distance between heaven and earth.

How could he not go crazy?

The person in the blood red robe turned away and continued towards the source of life. One step, two steps, three steps. He was about to enter.

Xu Shi shouted. But this time, as soon as he opened his mouth, something struck his head. Kabam – He flew sideways and was left in a dazed state.

On the other side, the man in the blood red robe muttered, “I might have put in a little too much strength. After all, we sort of know each other and I stole from him...oh well. Anyway, he didn’t die.”

Chapter 1266B – Vicious Cycle

With one big step, he stepped into the source of life and immediately sunk into it. The faint purple ice started to gather. In the next moment, something surprising happened. The layer of purple ice suddenly disappeared.

If not for a huge hole appearing in the ground, it would make people doubt what they just saw and believe that they had seen wrongly.

Still in a daze, Xu Shi did not know how much time had passed. He immediately straightened and jumped up. He started to grumble, “Bastard, don’t touch my source of life!”

He then looked up into the distance and saw the huge hole in the ground. It resembled how he felt when his head got hit. Xu Shi’s head started spinning as he fell to the ground with a ‘plop’.

He started to curse and wail. His curses filled the air like a river, constantly swirling around.

If curses could kill, Qin Yu would have been torn to pieces, but unfortunately they could not.

Even so, his current state was not good.

Although the purple source of life contained a lot of power, after his torture of eating the endless Spiritual Snake, this was just ordinary to Qin Yu.

That’s right. Qin Yu was alive. He managed to hold on to his life after the Spiritual Snake feast. As for the Rule System, he could be considered to have just barely succeeded. If not, he would not have been able to eat it all.

But since he just barely succeeded, it meant that there were some problems...Cough cough, fine, the problems were not small.

For example, the red robe that Qin Yu usually wore was now blood red because it had absorbed a lot of his blood. Qin Yu’s current state was as if he had been broken into a million pieces and then put back together like a puppet – but did not fit exactly. Or rather it was like his body was filled with explosive landmines?

All in all, it was like he was forcefully put back together but not perfectly. This was the result of forcefully absorbing all that energy.

Qin Yu's body looked like it would crumble at any moment. Under his blood red robe was a very frightening scene. His body was constantly falling apart and then healing.

However, Qin Yu felt that now his blood was really too precious. This was what he got from struggling and persisting. He could not waste any. Hence, he let the Purpleback Bluewing Ants eat his blood and his robe became more and more red.

Too long-winded. Simply put, although Qin Yu did not die from eating too much, his current situation was horrible. He had to continue to find sources of life and absorb their energy to prevent his body from exploding under the Rule System. At the same time, he had to think of a way to continue cultivating.

Qin Yu did have some impression of Xu Shi, but he could only say that Xu Shi was unlucky. In Qin Yu's current state, he was trying to survive. Let's not mention Xu Shi; even if his senior was here, he would have hit him too.

But the truth was that even the purple source of life could not cause any drastic change to Qin Yu's current state.

He had temporarily prevented his body from breaking down from the Rule System. But this was only temporary. If he wanted to completely recover, it would be a lot more difficult.

According to Old Turtle, this was the price to pay for killing an innate spirit...regardless of the difficulty in killing the Spiritual Snake, the horrifying state of the Land of Heavenly Punishment, the test after killing it, or being on the brink of life and death when trying to eat the flesh. Even after succeeding, he still had to face the possibility of dying at any moment.

The innate spirit was born when the heavens and earth was created. It contained universal properties from the world. Killing an innate spirit was like getting rid of a very small piece of the world.

Did you think there would be no price to pay?

Even killing a saint would incur a punishment from heaven, much less what Qin Yu just did today. It was a miracle that he was still alive.

When Qin Yu found out, he gritted his teeth. If not for his current condition and that he could not afford to flare up, he would have taught this bastard a lesson.

Why didn't he say this earlier, now it was useless to say it. Did you become more bold just because you think I can no longer fight? Just wait, I will remember this. When I get better, I will deal with you all!

But the truth was that Qin Yu knew very well. No matter what Old Turtle said back then, he would not have easily given up.

No, he would never have given up!

It was extremely rare to meet a young innate spirit. It was a one in a million chance, if he had chosen to retreat out of fear of the end result, then Qin Yu would have regretted it. He would have never gotten over that regret in this lifetime.

Moreover, in the path of cultivation, one was bound to meet a lot of difficulties. It was like walking on a log bridge: every step is filled with danger and could be life-threatening at any moment. If he had been overly cautious and stopped moving out of fear, he would not have reached where he was today.

Hence, Qin Yu knew that he could not blame anyone for the situation he was in. He shifted his thoughts just to divert his own attention and appease the anger and unease within him.

He who constantly threaded the thin line between life and death felt as if he was sitting by the side of a volcano that would erupt at any time. He was not feeling that great. Qin Yu felt that he was already doing well as he could keep calm and think.

I am already suffering so much, isn't the punishment over? All I did was kill an innate spirit. Moreover, it was the one that provoked me. Now that I have already killed and eaten it, I barely cultivated my body with the Rule System and became close to an innate spirit. Can't I be let off?

As he thought all sorts of nonsensical thoughts, the purple source of life was about to be depleted.

Qin Yu's mouth twitched, this rate of absorption was a lot faster than he imagined. What was scarier was the rate at which his body was breaking down. He would not be able to hold on long in his current situation.

Once the Rule System body broke down, Qin Yu would die.

He did not want to die. He had to continue to look for sources of life, and they had to be of high quality. He suppressed the absorption rate.

Following what was said earlier, the only reason why Qin Yu was in such a miserable state was because his imperfect Rule System body absorbed too much energy.

Hence, the phrase 'Drinking poison to quench one's thirst' was highly appropriate to describe Qin Yu.

He was absorbing sources of life to prevent his Rule System body from crumbling, but the absorption of so much energy was causing a lot of hidden damage to him. There was a high risk of him breaking apart.

This vicious cycle...

Qin Yu knew this very well but he had no other choice. He could only persevere with each step and hope to find a way to turn things around.

He could not delay any longer. Time was too precious.

Previously, time was also precious to him as he put in all his effort to find a source of life. Although now he was still looking for sources of life, the meaning had completely changed.

Initially, it was to become stronger. Now it was to survive!

It was obvious, the more he did the more difficult things became.

...

Previously, it was mentioned that the Zhang Family which Zhang Zhongshi came from was quite famous in the Vast Brightness World. With no natural aptitude to become Saints, they managed to enter the Saint circle. Everyone admired them for their strong performance.

On top of that, the news of the ambush on White Phoenix had spread in the Lost Garden and Zhang Zhongshi's reputation was quite good.

So he was able to smoothly find his first transaction target. The reason was that by utilizing the power of the Zhang Family's secret array formation, he could faintly feel the aura of the Source of Life. But this violated the rules of the Lost Garden. As a result, he couldn't do it alone, otherwise he would bring punishment down on himself.

As a result, Zhang Zhongshi needed someone to cooperate with him. The other party would work with him to find the Source of Life. The plan was long and explicit, so much so that the other party believed he had prepared for this for a long time already and wasn't speaking nonsense.

There wasn't much to say about the specifics. After a brief discussion, the chosen first transaction target left in excitement. As Zhang Zhongshi watched his back fade into the distance, his smile slowly disappeared until there was nothing left but an icy cold chill.

Chapter 1267 – Being Plotted Against

Xu Wei was a rogue cultivator.

To tell the truth, having reached his level of cultivation, there could come a day when he suddenly turned around and saw the boundless Sea of Bitterness. There weren't many people at this stage who could maintain their identity as a rogue cultivator. The reason he kept hesitating and delaying in finding a Holy Land to rely on was because his cultivation method was different from most orthodox ways.

Simply put, he had to constantly replenish...cough, cough. That's right, it is exactly what you are thinking right now.

Actually, Xu Wei's cultivation method was not considered evil. Ultimately, both parties benefited and this was considered legitimate dual cultivation.

But no matter what, it was easy to say but not nice to hear. Moreover, Xu Wei himself had apprehensions which caused him to go back and forth, hesitating. As a result, he wasted a lot of time.

In the end Xu Wei decided to just remain a rogue cultivator and be free and unrestrained. Moreover, another important factor in his decision was that he was quite good-looking. He had fair skin and was highly welcomed amongst female cultivators.

This meant that he would not lack partners to cultivate with. As time passed, the numbers also increased.

One good thing about Xu Wei was that he was extremely cautious. He would never approach those that were unwilling. He stuck to his principles of only partnering with those that were willing and never ever used force.

Ultimately, he was someone who was cautious and had morals. If not, he would not have been able to survive so peacefully for so long.

Someone like this would not easily trust what others told them. He had heard of Zhang Zhongshi before. After all, there were not many people who offended the Peach Garden and still lived to tell the tale.

But when he brought up the partnership, Xu Wei only trusted thirty percent of what he said. Xu Wei felt like things were not as simple as they seemed...of course, he might be thinking too much. However, there was no harm in being careful before he took any action.

With this thought in mind, Xu Wei headed in the direction he was given. Regardless, the Zhang Family's Secret Array was extremely profound and mysterious.

At least this small compass in his hand seemed very useful. It could really sense the scent from the source of life!

.....

When someone is concentrating and they get interrupted, it is natural for them to become angry. And when the matter at hand concerns their life or death, it is completely normal for their anger to be ten times more than usual.

Qin Yu was currently in this state of being ten times more agitated than normal. Perhaps it was because he stole Xu Shi's purple source of life or maybe it was because he hit him a little too hard. Now, all the misfortune was falling on him.

Since the first time it happened, when a cultivator charged at him as soon as they saw him, there had been four more cultivators who had done the same. They were throwing their lives away.

After taking them down, Qin Yu was paying the price. The Rule System body almost crumbled a few times. Moreover, his plan to find sources of life was severely disrupted.

It was fine if there were just one or two. But now, he had already claimed four heads. Qin Yu suspected that there was something fishy going on. He felt that someone was targeting him. However, this was the Lost Garden and he had constantly been on the move. He was also moving in random directions and not following a fixed path. How could anyone pinpoint his location so many times?

Qin Yu could not understand and even made Old Turtle waste some energy in trying to detect what was amiss, but there was no result.

This made him extremely irritated.

"Kek! Master, don't hit them so hard. Let's catch one of them alive and interrogate them. We will find out the answer then."

He was right and Qin Yu knew it. This was the best approach to take.

But the problem was, he could not do it!

In his current state, Qin Yu could not control how much power he put into his attacks. Strictly speaking, Xu Shi was extremely lucky to have only fainted after Qin Yu hit him once.

The four cultivators afterwards were not so lucky; even their corpses disintegrated...Sigh, fine. This was glossing over the fact. The truth was that as soon as he punched them, they exploded with a bam! It was like a horror movie!

Stone Pagoda said blandly, "Some turtle likes to talk nonsense. In Master's current state, if anyone were to attack him, they would not be able to survive."

"Shut up! When I am talking to Master, who said that you can cut in?" Old Turtle grumbled angrily.

Stone Pagoda's tone did not change, "What do you mean by that? Are you saying that you have the same standing as Master? Haha, some turtle has become very bold and even dares to harbor disrespectful thoughts towards Master."

"I do not!" The turtle was terrified as he rushed to explain, "Master, don't listen to this snob trying to tear us apart. I am absolutely loyal to you and would never harbor any other thoughts!"

Qin Yu massaged his eyebrows, "Both of you keep quiet!"

Finally, silence.

These two brats. Ever since they brought up the Rule System, they had been quarreling non-stop. Why couldn't they take a look at the situation now? He was not even sure he could survive; he did not have time to think about anything else.

But there was one point that the Old Turtle was right about. As long as he could capture someone, he would be able to find out what was going on. Even if he could not find out exactly, he could guess and get some leads.

But the problem was that whenever these people saw him, their expressions would turn into fury. Thereafter, a greedy look would overcome them and when they attacked him, they would immediately use a lot of force. In his current state, even a single strike might cause him to crumble. He did not dare to take a gamble on his life.

As soon as he made a move, his opponent would explode...most likely, he would not be able to hold back. Or at least in the short term, there was no possibility. He could only hope that the other party would be smart enough to control themselves. Or be more resistant? How could they all die after only one hit!

Old Turtle suddenly spoke, "Master, someone is coming."

He then sighed in disdain.

Stone Pagoda fell silent. He knew that when it came to sensing, his abilities were far from the Shadow of the Abyss.

If he said anything he would just be embarrassing himself, so he knew to keep silent and play to his strengths. What could he do if I choose to keep quiet?

Qin Yu's eyes lit up as he lowered his head to look at his fist that was covered under his blood red robe. He mentally told himself to use less strength this time.

Nearer, the opponent was coming nearer!

Alas, he was the target once again.

.....

Xu Wei did not find the source of life, but something appeared in front of him. A figure dressed in a blood red robe. He was in a daze for a while as the small compass in his hand started to stir. A scent drifted over and he could sense it.

It was the smell of a source of life!

At this moment, Xu Wei frowned as he cursed.

It seems like the source of life that Zhang Zhongshi found had already been taken by the person in front of him.

Damn it!

At this moment, he was full of regret. He wondered if he had not been suspicious and moved quicker, would he have been able to reach it faster and obtain the source of life?

A flash of anger bloomed within him. It was like a few meteors falling into a field of dry grass and bursting into flames.

Damn it! This person had to die!

Moreover, the person in the blood red robe looked like he was in a terrible state. His breathing seemed extremely weak.

It appeared that the person was injured!

Good, this was very good. It was an opportunity given by the heavens. He was going to kill the person while he was injured.

All he needed to do was kill the person in the blood red robe, get his body, and refine it. He would then be able to obtain the energy from the source of life and get back what he lost.

Huff —

Puff —

His breathing started to become heavy as a ruthless look overcame him. He somehow had a feeling that something was not right. However, he was too angry to think properly.

A loud sound could be heard as Xu Wei charged!

The person in the blood red robe looked impatient. Another one. Did he look like he was easy to bully?

If not, why did everyone who saw him look like they could not wait to kill him?

“Stop!”

Qin Yu growled. But it was obviously a waste of energy. He looked impatient as he lifted his hand to punch Xu Wei.

Boom —

The air seemed to gather and form a white ball that was visible to the naked eye.

Damn it, he was not able to hold back once again!

The person who rushed over was thrown back. Per his previous experience, the attacker was about to explode with a bam.

But this time, something was different. After the loud explosion, Xu Wei could be seen to crash into the ground, forming a deep hole. He was lying in it with his eyes wide open. It seemed like he had yet to react.

Crack —

A soft sound could be heard as the jade pendant he wore around his neck broke into two pieces.

For his whole life, Xu Wei had always been enjoying. It was not an exaggeration to say that women threw themselves at him. Other than his good looks, he was also very intelligent and had a high EQ.

Hence, he could get something even just floating amongst the women.

Like this time, he was just a rogue cultivator but could enter the Lost Garden. It was all because a lady had helped him.

Even the jade pendant around his neck had been given to him by some lady from a rich and powerful household.

Xu Wei knew his goods and knew that this jade pendant was extremely precious. He had put all his effort into accompanying the lady. After he got the pendant, it never left his body.

But today, this pendant, which was rumored to be able to save the life of its owner, actually cracked.

Didn't that mean that he had just died once over...if not for the jade pendant, he would most likely be the one that disintegrated.

All the murderous intent and fury Xu Wei felt dissipated in a flash. His mind went blank as his face paled.

"You are still alive? Oh you had a dummy pendant, that is a good item." The person in the blood red robe walked to the side of the hole. His voice was low and hoarse, "But I guess that you probably only had one of these on you. So if I hit you one more time, you will most likely die."

Xu Shi's forehead was covered in sweat, and the sweat was dripping down the edges of his eyes. But as someone who was smart and had high EQ, he more or less regained his wits. If the man really wanted to kill him, he would have just done it. The man in the blood red robe had no reason to talk.

In other words, since the man had talked, it meant that Xu Wei had a chance of survival.

"Dear sir, please have mercy and let me live. I will do anything you ask."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed and he looked satisfied. This person was smart. This was even better. If Qin Yu had bumped into another person as dumb as Xu Shi, it would have been a headache.

He had the urge to snap his fingers but decided against it.

In his current state, who knew if his fingers would explode after a simple snap.

"As long as you answer me truthfully, without hiding anything, I may let you live." From beneath the blood red robe, Qin Yu spoke in a low voice, "Tell me, who sent you to kill me?"

Chapter 1268 – The Radar of a True Saint

Xu Wei was stunned for a moment. He quickly shook his head, "This is a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding! I...I was looking for the source of life. It was a coincidence that I met you. I was confused just now and accidentally attacked you."

"Are you not going to tell the truth?" The one in the red robe sneered. It was like a bone-chilling wind, "It seems like you don't care for your chance to live."

As he said this, he raised his hand and looked as if he was going to bring it down.

Xu Wei was terrified, "No, no it is not like that. Everything that I just said is true!" He had already witnessed the strength of the man in the red robe. A single punch broke his dummy pendant.

If his fist fell, Xu Wei was definitely going to die!

Qin Yu frowned. It seemed like this person was telling the truth. But there must be something going on. If Qin Yu had only just met him, it may have been considered a coincidence. However, this was already the fifth one to attack him. Only a fool would believe him!

Qin Yu took a deep breath and lowered his fist, "Tell me everything that has happened from start to end. You better not tell a single lie."

Although time was precious, it was worth it to spend some time trying to figure out the root of this problem. If Qin Yu could not determine who was plotting against him, he would feel as if he had a fishbone stuck in his throat. He would continue to feel uneasy.

Xu Wei rushed to explain everything about Zhang Zhongshi. He did not hide anything and told everything in detail.

As he spoke, he suddenly recalled how he had lost control of his emotions earlier. He gritted his teeth.

Bastard!

It looked like Zhang Zhongshi had made use of him.

So it was him!

Qin Yu's heart froze. Back then when the White Phoenix was being plotted against, he did not take notice of when Zhang Zhongshi left. There were actually two people that had managed to escape. They must not be as easy to deal with as they looked.

Now, they had set their sights on him. What was the reason? And how did Zhang Zhongshi manage to know his exact location?

Qin Yu reached out, "Pass me the compass."

This thing was his only clue. But as soon as Qin Yu grabbed onto the compass, a low rumble could be heard and it exploded.

Xu Wei was dumbfounded as he immediately waved, "It is not me, it is not me!"

Of course it was not him; unless he was tired of living, he would not try something like this.

Qin Yu's face fell. A shard, about the size of his fingernail, lay silently in his palm.

When he intervened, the compass exploded and only a tiny piece remained.

Xu Wei had told him everything and had no value now.

Killing him was a very simple task for Qin Yu. Just a single hand could send him to heaven.

But no matter how simple or easy, it still required energy. In Qin Yu's current state, he should save whatever energy he could.

Just as he was about to wave and ask Xu Wei to disappear, Old Turtle suddenly said, "Master, wait. He has something on him."

Qin Yu asked, "What?"

"I am not entirely sure, but if I am not wrong, it is something related to the Lost Garden." Old Turtle paused, "According to my feeling, this thing is not ordinary."

Qin Yu's eyes flashed and a low voice could be heard from beneath the red robe, "I can spare you from dying, but you cannot go! You have something on you that is connected to the Lost Garden. Hand it over."

Xu Wei's heart shrunk rapidly as he wondered where this Divine Saint was from. How could he have sensed it? This item was one of the reasons how he managed to get a spot in the Lost Garden.

Although his heart ached at the thought of it, he did not hesitate as he took out something very similar to the broken shard of the compass. "I do not dare to hide from you; this was something I happened to get many years ago. I heard that it is connected to the Lost Garden. But even after I entered the Lost Garden, nothing changed. Please take a look, I do not dare to lie to you."

Once Old Turtle confirmed that this was the item, Qin Yu waved his sleeve and growled, "Get lost!"

Xu Wei immediately bowed and turned to run.

Qin Yu lifted his hand, showing the shining compass shard, "Both of you, try and figure out a way to find Zhang Zhongshi through this thing."

"Don't worry Master. Leave it to me!"

Stone Pagoda spoke in a low voice, "I will do my best."

Old Turtle pursed his lips as he wondered what Stone Pagoda could do. In the end, he would be the only one that could help. Exploring and sensing had always been the strong suit of the Shadow of the Abyss.

But this time, things were quite surprising. Using the compass shard as a medium, Old Turtle started to expand the range of his senses but he ended up not finding out anything.

He could not believe it and tried once more. Old Turtle's face started to pale and he felt as if he had been slapped. Just a moment ago, he was acting all confident. But now he could not find anyone. This was putting him in a very difficult situation!

Stone Pagoda said slowly, "If you can't do anything, hand the shard over to me."

Old Turtle sneered, "How can you find anything when even I am not able to?"

Stone Pagoda replied, "I am not certain but I have to try. After all, I told Master that I will try my best."

There was nothing wrong with what he said, and his words were even subtly sucking up.

Lackey!

He had no abilities and only knew how to talk. But in reality, those that talked a lot were often not truly dangerous.

Ha ha!

Let's see what you are capable of.

With a mocking smile, Old Turtle passed the shard over to Stone Pagoda's hand. Of course, we don't expect Stone Pagoda to really have the ability, just the intention was enough.

However, the outcome was slightly surprising. Old Turtle stared in shock and his first thought was that it was impossible.

This did not make sense; how could Stone Pagoda do something that even he could not do?

But the truth was right in front of him. Stone Pagoda spoke assuredly, "In the Vast Brightness World, a high level puppet technique exists. It can hide one's aura in a puppet and so even when one's aura is detected, it would be difficult to pinpoint one's location.

"Coincidentally, this puppet technique is also one of the areas that I have been researching. I have some findings that can help Master. This was a pleasant surprise."

Stone Pagoda paused for a moment before lowering his voice, "Of course, if some turtle does not believe me, I can share the method and you will know if I am telling the truth."

Old Turtle tried and it was the truth!

Damn it, how can it be so coincidental? This stupid Stone Pagoda. Why couldn't he just sleep when he was trapped in the darkness, why did he have to research all sorts of things!

Comparison was the worst thing of all. After what happened today, Stone Pagoda's position in Qin Yu's heart was bound to rise.

And this opportunity had been given by Old Turtle. Old Turtle was so angry he felt like his stomach was about to explode, but there was no one he could vent to.

But it did not stop there. It was rare for Stone Pagoda to get an opportunity like this and he wanted to perform to his best.

Hence, while Old Turtle was speechless, he prepared what he was going to say before continuing, "Master, you have to be careful. This puppet technique that I mentioned requires someone strong to use it."

Qin Yu frowned, "So you are saying that the real person controlling the puppet is very strong?"

"Yes, extremely strong." Stone Pagoda paused, "According to my estimation, from the aura of the shard, it should be a Saint."

"True Saint?"

"Yes."

Qin Yu exhaled. Fine fine. He thought that the backlash from killing an innate spirit was about to end.

It had not!

For no reason, he was on the radar of a True Saint. Did they think that he was not dying fast enough? But that wasn't right. In the Lost Garden, there shouldn't be Saints. This was a regulation that had been set a long time ago by the ancient creatures. No one had ever been able to break it.

Stone Pagoda could sense Qin Yu's confusion and spoke, "There is nothing that is certain in this world. Even if there was, it would only exist in a certain boundary. With the cultivation level of a True Saint, if they are willing to pay the price, it may not be impossible."

"But if that were the case, how do you explain when Zhang Zhongshi got everyone to kill White Phoenix? With a True Saint's strength, even if he was just a puppet, he would have been able to kill White Phoenix."

Stone Pagoda replied, "Master, when it comes to this kind of technique to split the body, there are many restrictions. For example, the amount of energy it can contain. You have seen Zhang Zhongshi before and can more or less guess his cultivation level. How would he have been able to contain the energy of a True Saint?"

Qin Yu finally understood. There were limitations to using a puppet and this was more like a one-off card. So before this, when Zhang Zhongshi gathered everyone to kill White Phoenix, it was likely that he was saving his energy to do something else.

Qin Yu could kind of guess why he was the target of this puppet user.

The heavens' punishment!

That change was too big and everyone in the Lost Garden could clearly see and feel it. With the True Saint's experience, he would have easily been able to guess that the heavens' punishment was in play and numerous strict conditions had to have been met.

No matter what, there were huge benefits awaiting.

The next steps were simple. The True Saint, who had somehow managed to enter the Lost Garden after a lot of effort, suddenly realized that he had a better option and he could not let it go.

But why did he not make a move until now? Instead, he was controlling the puppet and spending so much effort to continuously trick other cultivators into giving up their lives.

It was not the same as the situation with White Phoenix where he was trying to pull together the strength of the masses. Qin Yu only needed a single punch to kill all of the four previous cultivators.

He could not understand!

Old Turtle could not just sit and watch. If he did, the entire stage would belong to Stone Pagoda.

He would not accept it!

“Master, the reason why the True Saint is not making a move could be because he is worried about what your current state is.”

Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. He did not think of this.

Stone Pagoda said, “That’s right, I also believe so. Although the puppet holds the True Saint’s will, his strength is not complete. If he can sense your current strength then it isn’t unexpected for him to choose to temporarily take a back seat. After all, he may be worried that if you become desperate, you may choose to self-destruct and kill the puppet as well.”

Old Turtle was dissatisfied with being left behind and added, “Master, that’s why this puppet is tricking so many others into finding you. He is hoping to deplete your energy. Or maybe, he wants to make you unsettled and find an opportunity to kill you!”

Qin Yu took a deep breath. This was more complicated than he thought and he needed some time.

Zhang Zhongshi was not really Zhang Zhongshi. He has already turned into a puppet controlled by some True Saint.

The True Saint most likely set his target on Qin Yu because of the heavens’ punishment.

The only reason he was holding back was because Qin Yu’s body now held a horrifying strength.

He was waiting for a chance, and when the opportunity arose he would make a move.

“Not only that, if he does not find an opportunity he will take a risk before the Lost Garden closes.” Stone Pagoda said solemnly.

Qin Yu slowly nodded. It was not difficult to come to this conclusion; he just had to think from another angle. This meant that even if he kept getting rid of the tiny obstacles sent by the True Saint, he would not be able to avoid the confrontation.

If he really were to go up against the True Saint’s puppet, in his current condition, he would only slowly crumble. In other words, no matter what way Qin Yu thought of it, it looked like he was bound to die.

His probability of dying was ninety-nine percent. This was not something that anyone would be happy to hear.

Qin Yu paled and this was the first time that he had regretted his decision. If he knew this was going to happen, he would not have killed the Spiritual Snake.

But now that things had come to this stage, there was no point in regretting. Even if he had known that he would end up in this state, after careful consideration, Qin Yu would most likely have made the same decision and taken the risk.

There was always a risk to take when accumulating wealth, and as a cultivator, it was no different. If he could not take a little bit of risk, what future would he have?

Calm down. Let's think about it.

Although the True Saint already had his targets set on Qin Yu, as long as he did not make a mistake he would not be in any immediate danger.

But the problem now was that Qin Yu was not sure when the Lost Garden would close. Hence, he could not really plan.

Stone Pagoda spoke, "Master, are you worried about when the Lost Garden will close? On this point, I also happen to know something."

Old Turtle was speechless.

You know something? Why do you know so much? Bastard. Are you an encyclopedia?

"According to the past occurrences, as long as the Lost Garden opens for more than a month, it would be considered to be in the long term opening state. If nothing unusual happens, it will remain open for another half a month. So in the next few days, you have nothing to worry about. We still have time to change the ending."

What he said made sense and he sounded confident.

Qin Yu took a deep breath, "You are right, there is no point worrying, we will see how it goes!"

So what if it was a Saint?

He already killed two. Even if the one targeting him now was a True Saint, his current state was just a puppet and Qin Yu had a chance.

Killing two Saints had some effect on him. It was not that he became cocky, but at least he was somewhat more confident. When facing Saints, he was better than other cultivators.

Chapter 1269 – Heaven-holding Mountain

Both Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda took turns to have a look at the item they got from Xu Wei, but they did not find out anything.

It was a good thing that Xu Wei did not have much expectations for it. When time was limited earlier on, he just kept it.

After all, Qin Yu was probably wondering what kind of valuable treasure could a small and weak cultivator hold anyway.

At this moment, he still did not know what kind of transformation this little unassuming shard could bring to the outside world now that it was in the Lost Garden.

Qin Yu was perfectly capable of pretending that he did not know the True Saint was after him as he continued to look for sources of life. However, his luck was not great.

For the past ten days, he had failed to find any sources of life. Moreover, he killed a few more people and he had yet to deal with the damage from the Rule System body.

Of course, more importantly, the Lost Garden had been open for a long time and it could close at any time.

Qin Yu made sure to not make any mistakes and give the True Saint an opportunity to strike. However, he could only delay it until the Lost Garden closed.

After all, the only thing his opponent stood to lose was the puppet and he would definitely attack Qin Yu. If he didn't, he would no longer have a chance after they left the Lost Garden.

In Qin Yu's current state, if he were to exchange blows with the True Saint, his body would definitely crumble. That meant he would die very soon.

If he did not die today, he would die tomorrow. If not tomorrow, he would die the following day...ultimately, his death was nearing.

This was not a pleasant situation to be in, and just as Qin Yu's face paled as he suppressed his dark thoughts, he felt something change in the shard.

The one that first felt this was Stone Pagoda. In his words, he said that he always felt there was more to this shard and had been monitoring it. He was just afraid of disrupting his master's plans.

Old Turtle thought about it and decided that there was no way Stone Pagoda could follow them anymore! If this continued, there was a possibility that Stone Pagoda would take his place.

Qin Yu took out the shard. A large web of red veins had appeared on the surface and each vein was extremely fine. However, they were all very clear and distinct. As they interlaced with each other, they created an intricate pattern that made one feel like it was grand and mysterious.

A warmth emitted from it. Although it was not very strong, Qin Yu felt a burning pain due to the current state of his Rule System body.

Moreover, what shocked Qin Yu was that after this burning pain, his internal body, which had been chaotic ever since he swallowed the Spiritual Snake, was finally stabilizing.

Although he still had a long way to go to repair the damage from the Rule System, Qin Yu felt that his body was more stable and he was not on the brink of death all the time...it meant that if Qin Yu could deal with the True Saint, he could survive a little longer.

After his body had somewhat stabilized, he felt a clear pull.

Qin Yu lifted his head and looked ahead. There was an old tree supporting the heavens. The whole area appeared extremely wild and deserted.

He suddenly understood why this thing had no reaction even after Xu Wei brought it into the Lost Garden. It was most likely because Xu Wei was too far from this for the shard to react.

If you imagine the Lost Garden as a completely closed area, the area where they first appeared when the Lost Garden opened would be the entrance.

The deeper they went, the more likely it was for them to find sources of life. In the deeper areas of the Lost Garden, the number of alive ancient creatures decreased, and the danger was higher. Even Qin Yu did not dare to disturb them.

And at this moment, the direction in which the shard was indicating was even deeper into the Lost Garden. If he wanted to resolve his curiosity, he had to go further in and prepare for more danger.

As someone whose future did not seem very bright now, Qin Yu barely hesitated as he made his decision.

He was going in!

Maybe there would be something that could change the situation he was in now. Even if there wasn't, there would not be much difference to the situation he was in now.

Stone Pagoda said, "Master, you are making the right decision. We have nothing to fear and cannot let go of any chances. No matter what we face in the future, I will stand by you!"

Old Turtle was speechless.

How did he always make his sucking up to Qin Yu sound so justified and noble? He just could not understand!

Qin Yu took a deep breath and made his actions bigger. His chest and back split open at the same time. The color of his red robe became even more distinct.

At this point, he was already immune to this little bit of pain. He merely frowned slightly as he proceeded on.

.....

Zhang Zhongshi knew that he had been found out. He was already mentally prepared for this to happen, but he never thought that it would be so fast. Alas, his target was smart and was pretty lucky too.

But what he did not know was that Qin Yu not only found out that it was him, he also found out that he was a puppet and what the true intentions of the person controlling him were.

So, 'Zhang Zhongshi' did not see through Qin Yu's act and patiently continued what he was doing. He continued to convince people to send themselves to die. He was very patient. As long as the Lost Garden did not close, he would continue to do this.

It was because his senses were telling him that the person in the red robe had not made any mistakes. However, as time passed, his condition would worsen and this would increase 'Zhang Zhongshi's' likelihood of success.

However, as Qin Yu went deeper and deeper into the Lost Garden, the environmental conditions worsened. It became more and more difficult to trick people into finding Qin Yu.

Hmm?

'Zhang Zhongshi' suddenly frowned. From what he could sense, there was a change in Qin Yu's movements. Qin Yu no longer made detours or paused. Instead, he was moving in a straight line right into the depths of the Lost Garden.

What happened? Did he find something out? The direction he was heading into...could it be that place? That's impossible, he definitely does not know!

All of a sudden, numerous thoughts flashed through his head. It was the first time that 'Zhang Zhongshi' felt things were beyond what he had expected. This made him frown. But soon, he was calm again.

He could not waste any more time. He had found someone to check it out. He had to quickly follow them to prevent any incidents.

.....

Actually, there was something else 'Zhang Zhongshi' did not know. Not only did Qin Yu find out about the secret of the puppet, he had also managed to successfully track his location. Hence, when 'Zhang Zhongshi' started to chase after him, Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda gave him a warning.

'Zhang Zhongshi' was actually personally chasing him.

This surprised Qin Yu but the good news was that the True Saint did not want to take action yet. Otherwise, he would not have maintained a distance. It seemed like it was more of a precaution in case something happened.

Qin Yu could more or less guess the situation. But since he was not taking action, Qin Yu decided to ignore him for the time being. He took a deep breath and continued on his way. He went even faster than before. With Old Turtle sensing the path and directing him, he managed to move without any trouble.

Two days later, Qin Yu caught sight of a majestic Heaven-holding Mountain.

Big. It was very big. It was massive!

It was so big that when Qin Yu finally caught sight of it, it occupied his entire vision. It made the people looking at it feel as if this was the center of the earth. It had a sense of overbearingness and seemed as if nothing could surpass it. It appeared to cut through the numerous clouds and disappear from sight.

It was extremely shocking!

At the same time, a profound sense of danger appeared in the hearts of all those who saw it...it was as if a huge beast, that had the ability to swallow the entire world, lay hidden in the mountain.

“Master, wait!”

“Master, be careful!”

Two voices simultaneously shouted. This was enough proof for Qin Yu that what he felt was true. He took a deep breath and spoke in a gruff voice, “The target is this mountain.”

For Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda, who had been subtly crossing swords recently, to both remain silent meant that there was something extremely wrong.

After a moment of silence, Stone Pagoda was calm as he appeared to speak wisely, “Master, if it is possible, don’t go into the mountain.”

“What is in the mountain?”

“I don’t know.”

“Is it very dangerous?”

“Yes.”

Their conversation was very short but there was a deep sense of seriousness and fear in it. Because just a few days ago, Stone Pagoda had said that there was nothing for them to fear. Yet now he was asking Qin Yu to retreat.

Old Turtle coughed lightly, “Regarding this, I have the same opinion as Stone Pagoda.”

Qin Yu frowned as he turned back to look. He said warmly, “The both of you are asking me to retreat. This means that this mountain is extremely dangerous. But we don’t know if it is scary enough to make the True Saint retreat as well.”

His intentions were clear. If they went into the mountain, it meant that the puppet following them would have to do the same.

He was indifferent. After all, both paths would lead to a possibility of death. So why not take a risk? Even if he died, it would be better to die trying than to wait for death.

Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda had lived for so many years and were essentially two of the most knowledgeable beings.

Even if they were not smart to begin with, after going through so many years and experiencing many changes, they were extremely perceptive and could understand what Qin Yu meant.

They understood clearly that since he was trapped between two choices that seemed to lead to death, why not just try and see if an opportunity would arise.

But as they stood here and faced the massive aura of the mountain, they were fearful. It was as if there was some natural force suppressing them, making them respectful and fearful of its existence.

The feeling was so terrifying that without any hesitation, they had called for Qin Yu to stop and tried to convince him not to enter.

There was no reason, just fear...but this in itself, was the biggest reason.

But this was not enough to convince Qin Yu. Both Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda could tell how determined he was from his tone.

Knowing there was a high chance he would die, yet choosing to continue. This had happened in the past, like when getting rid of the Spiritual Snake and taking its energy...Qin Yu used his actions to show his intentions.

Qin Yu laughed. He laughed to his heart's content and his laugh caused many cracks to appear all over his body. Yet, he did not stop laughing. "I know that both of you are actually dissatisfied with me as a master. But have you ever wondered why I am the master and not either of you? It is simple, it is because the both of you are not brave enough. And in this world, only crazy people have a future!

"I am not crazy, but I have always been brave and my luck has always been good. I have been so lucky that I think I won't die if I enter this mountain today. On the other hand, if the puppet dies after following me, the True Saint will be furious. Hence, in the future, if he still wants to kill me, he will know that it is not an easy task!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he did not give Old Turtle or Stone Pagoda a chance to say anything as he started running towards the Heaven-holding Mountain.

.....

It was really here!

'Zhang Zhongshi' looked extremely sour. Things had developed in the direction that he dreaded the most. The only good thing was his decision to stop finding people to kill the man in the red robe and deciding to follow after him.

So now, he still had a chance to take action. If the man in the red robe entered the mountain, he would be left outside.

It was not because 'Zhang Zhongshi' had developed a soft spot for the man in the red robe. He just could not let him die inside!

That was right. Regardless of who the man in the red robe was, he held a power that made 'Zhang Zhongshi' fearful. But now that the man had entered the mountain, he should forget about making it out alive.

'Zhang Zhongshi' was extremely confident of this.

So even if he did not have the best chance now, he had to take action.

Boom —

'Zhang Zhongshi' no longer bothered hiding his aura. A majestic energy filled the surroundings, causing the air in front of him to appear distorted.

A powerful confinement force suddenly fell upon him. This was the restriction from the Lost Garden. It did not allow the power of a Saint in this place.

However, in the second that this confinement force came into contact with 'Zhang Zhongshi' a scale appeared in his plans. It cracked with a bam sound.

When the scale cracked, an aura surrounded him. The confinement force from the Lost Garden stopped. 'Zhang Zhongshi' did not hold back as he disappeared like lightning.

.....

Qin Yu's face changed. He never expected the True Saint who had held back the entire time to suddenly make a move.

His first thought was that the Saint knew about the mountain. Perhaps he knew even more about it than Qin Yu, and hence he would rather make his move now and prevent Qin Yu from entering.

His second thought was that this mountain was truly dangerous. Even the True Saint did not want to enter.

His third was...I already made up my mind to try my best to survive. Am I going to die without even getting a chance to try?

It looked like this was the case. Behind him, the puppet that contained the True Saint was approaching at a horrifying speed. He was fast enough to stop Qin Yu from entering the mountain. If he moved forward, he might die. If he stayed where he was, he would also die...Qin Yu chose to proceed onward!

Because as he moved closer towards the mountain, the shard in his hand was becoming hotter and hotter. Slowly, it felt like he was holding a piece of iron that had been heated up in a furnace and was burning red.

This thing had led him to the mountain and that was what had forced the True Saint to take action.

Hence, Qin Yu felt like this thing had to take responsibility. It could not just do nothing...so if you really have a way, hurry up and awaken. I am about to die!

As he moved quickly, the red robe flew in the air behind him and a red string extended back. Behind him, the air was fuzzy due to the distortion. Within it, 'Zhang Zhongshi' had his eyes locked on Qin Yu's figure.

He reached his hand out to pull!

Chapter 1270 – The Picturesque Scene

My name is Zhang Zhongshi and I am the direct descendant of the Vast Brightness Forbidden Array Family. I was outstanding as a child and I was viewed as the future for the family.

My life was supposed to be bright and optimistic, but accidents happened. That crazy demon killed my beloved wife and child. My life was ruined because of that.

The only goal I have now is to kill the Peach Garden's White Phoenix. I will have my revenge for the tragic death of my wife and child.

But White Phoenix is too strong and the power behind him, the Peach Garden, is also immovable. While my family understood my pain, they did not support me in my desire for revenge. The family did not have a Saint and although we had strong cultivators, we could not stand against the Peach Garden.

I could not give up on vengeance for my wife and child just because of my family's decision.

I tried but failed many times. Although the Peach Garden has not killed me, I grew more and more helpless as White Phoenix grew stronger. The more time passes, the more my hopes become diminished.

As I wallowed in pain and helplessness, someone gave me another chance. He was probably strong enough to kill White Phoenix by himself but he would have to pay a high price for it.

Like I mentioned previously, my only reason for living now is to kill White Phoenix. Hence, I did not hesitate before agreeing. Thereafter, I signed a terrifying contract and went to the Peach Garden.

But I failed again and I grew more disappointed. However, I no longer have any more chances. The price I had to pay because of the contract is slowly eating away at me and I am losing my consciousness. Soon, I will become a puppet. I will continue to be alive in this world but I will no longer be me.

.....

One had to cross the Sea of Bitterness to reach the other shore. When one's Great Dao condensed, they would become a True Saint. If a Ruler closed himself in seclusion, he would be the most powerful in the Vast Brightness World. His thoughts could change the heavens and earth and a flip of his hand could cause the skies to shift.

A True Saint need not fear Half-Saints or cultivators who were of a peak rank. There were very few who would trouble a True Saint in battle. As such, 'Zhang Zhongshi' never imagined that this would be his end.

He paid a high price to infiltrate the Lost Garden but his puppet body was destroyed just like that. Things had happened too suddenly; his eyes were locked onto his target. His target wore a red robe and was running away. Zhang Zhongshi's hand reached forward.

He used the strength of a True Saint in this blow. With the puppet body's strength, it could only withstand at most three blows even with his alterations to it.

Every blow was precious and Zhang Zhongshi did not hold back. However, just before his fist could land, a black figure flashed across his eyes. He could not react in time and was sucked into the attack.

Boom!

The puppet's body split open. The small amount of consciousness hidden in it dissipated after a moment of shock. Zhang Zhongshi knew the puppet's body would be destroyed, but he never imagined that his consciousness would go as well.

As expected of a Saint, when his consciousness was destroyed, his perception was enlarged and he immediately saw his target's face. It was the person who engaged in the deal with him.

It is him!

His first thought was one of incredulity. His heart throbbed strongly against his chest and a murderous intent formed deep within him.

This was the first time he had felt such an unsettling feeling. The other person was a young man who looked ordinary. As Zhang Zhongshi thought about it, it seemed like he had constantly been taken advantage of by this person.

It was a small portion of his consciousness that was destroyed this time, but what about the next time? Would his life be taken then?

To save his own life, 'Zhang Zhongshi' came to a conclusion. He had to kill that man. He could not let that man leave the Lost Garden with his life.

The dispersed consciousness of a True Saint exploded with its last bit of strength, morphing into a terrifying stream of divine sense that spread out in all directions.

It did not have a killing intent but it grew and expanded as much as it could. In the end, it covered almost the entire Lost Garden.

Every cultivator and living creature with any form of intelligence in the Lost Garden received the same image in their minds at the same time. It was a shadow of an enormous mountain and an imprint of a divine sense.

Swoosh –

Swoosh –

Many eyes turned in the direction of the depths of Lost Garden. Shock, fear and amazement filled their gazes. Although it was just a shadow, they could sense that it was unordinary.

Everyone had a strong intuition that a great even was about to happen in the Lost Garden.

“Come on!”

“Let’s go!”

“There has not been such a strong signal from the Lost Garden ever since it was found. This is amazing!”

“We must not miss this!”

Cultivators gathered in groups. The stronger cultivators were, the more ambitious and daring they were. If they were cowards, they would have never made it to where they were now.

Those who entered the Lost Garden were strong. After the rush of divine sense into their minds, these cultivators were briefly silent. Then, they started to make their moves.

Nine Heads was among them as well. However, he wore a serious expression and his eyebrows were knitted together. He had his concerns.

What happened? How did Master’s divine sense get destroyed? He could not believe that this happened because of Qin Yu from the Peach Garden. Qin Yu was famous and he was admired by many other cultivators. However, Nine Heads had never spared him a thought.

He could not understand this!

After a deep breath in, Nine Heads placed his thoughts aside. He knew what his master's instructions were. He had to kill Qin Yu.

No matter what, he had to be killed!

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Lei Xiaoyu wore a calm expression but her tone was impatient, "I told you it was useless. Elder apprentice brother, don't waste your energy anymore."

A mass of black-colored source of life circled in front of her. Although it was still there, it had been polluted with another force. If a single drop of it entered the ground, all life within ten thousand kilometers would be killed.

Elder apprentice brother frowned and lowered his head to look at the source of life. When he looked up again, he wore a sad smile, "Don't worry. We failed this time because the source of life is not strong enough. We still have a chance."

Lei Xiaoyu pouted and she held back her words. She wanted to scold him and remind him of reality. However, looking at his expression, she sighed, "I just feel that it is a waste of time to focus on the source of life."

Elder apprentice brother was just about to speak when his expression suddenly changed. The divine sense that swept through his mind hammered his head.

Could this be the legendary mountain? It actually existed! After a slight hesitation, elder apprentice brother turned around and said, "Junior-apprentice sister, let's go and join the fun."

Lei Xiaoyu's lips twitched. Everyone knew that elder apprentice brother avoided prying into things. He loved to sequester himself in seclusion to cultivate.

At the same time as his cultivation improved, elder apprentice brother enjoyed peace and quietness.

Was he going to join the fun because of her? Aside from Master, everyone in the Peach Garden was a little weird. They always stuck to their habits and never changed.

Thank goodness the master was strong and shameless. Otherwise, the Peach Garden would have been bullied by others a long time ago.

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The shard in Qin Yu's hand looked like it aged numerous years in an instant. It turned into fine dust that seeped through his fingers.

He turned around to look back at where 'Zhang Zhongshi' perished. After a deep breath in, he still felt like he was dreaming.

A puppet that had the strength of a True Saint was supposed to make his hair stand from fear. How was it destroyed so easily?

Also, what was that black shadow? It had sped by so quickly, he could not see it even with his current cultivation rank.

Furthermore, what was this? Qin Yu looked down at his palm. The wind had blown most of the dust away and Qin Yu was puzzled. He subconsciously licked the corners of his mouth.

He had been fleeing for his life just a second ago when the shard in his palm suddenly grew hotter and hotter. Just when a vigorous force wave was about to strike him from behind, a voice suddenly appeared in his head asking him if he needed protection.

In between life and death, Qin Yu did not think twice before making his choice.

Of course he needed protection.

A moment later, the Divine Saint's puppet was killed in an instant and his divine sense washed out in all directions.

However, as expected of a True Saint, he still had some power left even after being destroyed. Qin Yu was the first to hear the voice in the divine sense. There was no way the True Saint was so kind as to call some aid to help him enter the mountain.

The greatest possibility was that the True Saint knew a chaotic situation would be disadvantageous for Qin Yu.

But who said he was going into the mountain?

The reason why Qin Yu had been determined to enter the mountain was because he had no other choice. He had to head forward when he was being chased.

Now that the puppet had been killed, the greatest threat to Qin Yu's life was gone. He could easily turn around and leave.

Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda both mentioned that the mountain was dangerous. Qin Yu was well aware of the dangers but had still wanted to go. This was a bold move and it made his heart race with adrenaline. However, he should at least be aware of the situation.

With Qin Yu's current situation, his body was so unstable that he could explode at any moment. Yet, he still wanted to seek a thrill.

That's right, he was determined to go into the mountain. He would head in to find the source of life.

With these thoughts, Qin Yu turned and left. At the same time, he felt a little bit of contempt for the True Saint. This was not because he felt proud that a True Saint had been killed so suddenly. Instead, it was because Qin Yu did not think too highly of the True Saint's wisdom.

The True Saint had died but he spent so much energy to broadcast his wave. What was the point? Qin Yu was backing out halfway. He did not care about anything else that would happen.

Qin Yu very quickly formed his impression of the True Saint. A small smile also crept onto his face.

The large mountain ahead was like a very large and valuable mine that sucked him into it. There was no way he was going to run away.

He did not have any form of reaction previously. However, the moment Qin Yu was about to turn and leave, he had second thoughts. In the next moment, Qin Yu whipped around and flew into the mountain.

Qin Yu landed on the mountain with a thud. He was amazed by how strong the mountain rock was – it had remained intact despite his forceful landing. Instead, his landing created force waves that oscillated up and down through the mountain.

Crack!

Crack!

Sharp sounds of bones breaking could be heard. The red robe that Qin Yu wore instantly became bright red.

He barely managed to defend himself against the recoil of the shock waves. Qin Yu sighed deeply.

His Rule System body had almost been destroyed.

Previously, his Rule System body had broken apart many times after he lost control over it. However he never imagined that the recoil of his landing would almost cause it to break.

What a strange way to die!

Thank goodness he was still alive. To his surprise, it was very quiet on the mountain. It was so quiet and calm that Qin Yu did not feel threatened by it at all.

This was very unexpected considering how Old Turtle and Stone Pagoda had warned him about the dangers of this mountain.

Anyone who was not deaf would have heard the loud thud he made when he landed just now.

Was it because he was lucky? Or was every living creature on the mountain deaf? Qin Yu pushed aside these ridiculous thoughts. Even if he did not know why, he was glad that he was safe.

He looked up at the sky and saw huge ancient trees towering over him. The leaves from the canopy of the trees spread out to form a big umbrella that covered the sky. However, there were still some gaps within the canopy of leaves that light could peek through.

Let's go in!

Even if he did not sense danger now, he did not feel at ease being here.

Qin Yu stomped down and flew into the sky. However, just as he was about to reach the peak of the trees, his expression suddenly darkened and he cursed.

A powerful suction force surrounded him. His body felt like a rock as he went into freefall and struck the ground again.

That's right, it was another recoil that made his heart tremor. He barely managed to withstand the force of the recoil again. As he looked up at the sky once more, he smiled bitterly. This was bad. It seemed like

it would not be easy to escape. If the recoil struck him again, he was not confident he could withstand it a third time.

Since this mountain wanted to keep him here, he would investigate it. Qin Yu took a few deep breaths and stabilized himself. With a calm mind, he started to move.

He moved very slowly. The apparent peace and quiet gave him a strange sense of uneasiness. At first, this feeling was minimal. However, as time passed, the uneasiness grew and he felt unsettled.

Snap, snap. The sound of dried leaves shifting under his boot crackled through his ears.

Qin Yu frowned deeply and his expression grew solemn. This place was simply too quiet!

It was so quiet that aside from the sound of him stepping on the dried leaves and twigs, he could not hear anything else.

The leaves that lined the numerous trees here did not move. It was as if the world had stopped around him. Besides him, everything appeared to be a picturesque scene!