

A Demoness 201

Chapter 201: Master, Are You Not Strong Enough?

In the Heavenly South Prefecture in the southern region, a young woman in a yellow dress threw a magical ball into the rushing river.

Boom!

The explosion made the water surge and rise.

After a while, the woman calmed down and looked at the river.

“It escaped again! What other means does this dragon have? Its power has already declined, yet it can still escape from my grasp. I wonder where it will flee this time!”

The woman was angry, thinking that it might take another few years for her to get her things back. She was furious and threw the magical ball into the river again. Then she walked toward the riverbank.

“Did you fail again?” asked a middle-aged man with a soft smile.

He wore a Daoist robe. His hair was graying, but his face had no wrinkles. His eyes shone with a determined light.

“Help me find out where the dragon has run off to,” said the woman in the yellow dress as she tossed a bottle to him.

The man took the jade bottle. A compass appeared in his hand. The surrounding light dimmed, and stars appeared in the void.

The woman in the yellow dress took a step back.

“I always feel that there’s something wrong with those stars.” She couldn’t help but be wary.

After a moment, the phenomenon around the middle-aged man began to disappear, and the compass also faded from his hand.

“Where is it?” the woman asked.

“Hidden Cloud Prefecture,” said the middle-aged man calmly. “It will head to a certain place in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture, but... I don’t know the exact location. It will take some more time to find out. Do you want to continue?”

“Hidden Cloud Prefecture?” asked the woman. Then she shook her head. “That’s all I need right now. I’ll find you when I need more information.”

“Until next time,” said the middle-aged man and turned away.

The woman in the yellow dress flew away. After a while, she landed in front of a huge city and walked straight into a small courtyard.

After setting up an array, she sat at the table and took out the stone tablet.

‘Hidden Cloud Prefecture. Jing also said he was in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. This is a good opportunity to test him! Let’s see if he is willing to cooperate with us...

The woman in the yellow dress smiled and projected her consciousness onto the stone tablet. Her codename was Gui.

Jiang Hao looked at the peach tree. Just moments ago, someone beautiful stood under it. Now, she was gone.

He let out a sigh and sat down to drink tea.

He decided that he would watch the peach tree every day. Then, when it bore fruits, he would pluck the ripe ones and only leave the unripe ones on the tree for Hong Yuye.

What Jiang Hao was worried about was the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. As long as it was sealed, no one would notice the pearl. It was best to keep it sealed and unused.

Just as he finished drinking a cup of tea, he heard wails and howls from outside.

“My face! Why does everything hurt?!”

The spirit beast rushed into the courtyard. It looked at Jiang Hao.

“Master, why is it that whenever you’re here, someone beats me up until I am unconscious?”

“Maybe because you got too close to the flower,” said Jiang Hao gently.

If Hong Yuye had seen it licking a leaf on the flower, it would have lost its tongue or even its life.

“Master, you have to work hard,” said the spirit beast. “You have to get stronger so that nobody can look down on you or me.”

Jiang Hao was speechless. Hong Yuye did indeed look down on him constantly. The gap in their strength was like heaven and earth.

Who knew how many years it would take for him to match up to her?

Jiang Hao continued sipping his tea.

He had used the same tea leaves to brew the tea once again. The first batch he made was rich and aromatic. Hong Yuye had finished that quickly. He could only brew the used leaves to try some of it. However, it still tasted good.

He poured a cup of tea for the spirit beast.

“Master, this tea is very good!” it exclaimed.

“Did anyone visit my place in the past few months?” asked Jiang Hao.

“Yes... There was a woman. I didn’t recognize her. She was looking at the Black Lotus.”

“Black Lotus?” Jiang Hao looked at the place where it was planted.

The Black Lotus helped Jiang Hao bypass Bai Ye’s Spirit Sealing technique. Perhaps he realized that Jiang Hao’s cultivation hadn’t regressed but had advanced. So, He might have sent someone to investigate.

There hadn’t been any news from Bai Ye. Jiang Hao had thought that Bai Ye had let him off the hook.

If Bai Ye was planning something, Jiang Hao needed to prepare himself. However, he still didn’t know how strong Bai Ye was.

Even if their cultivation happened to be the same, Jiang Hao couldn’t underestimate him.

The moment the sealing technique affected him, Jiang Hao suspected that he had already been poisoned.

“I have to find out if he will temporarily leave the sect. Otherwise, it will be impossible to kill him.”

The Law Enforcement Hall’s investigation had been fruitless the last time.

However, if Jiang Hao were to kill a True Disciple this time, he worried that the Law Enforcement Hall would probably use the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror.

Once he was discovered, it would be all over.

Before he took any action, he needed to find out where Bai Ye lived and what his cultivation realm was. He had to be fully prepared.

“Anyone else?” Jiang Hao asked.

“There was someone else. She called for you a couple of times, but when I told her you weren’t here, she left.” “Did she say why she was here?”

“No.” The spirit beast shook its head.

“Master, when will you find a mistress? Or are those all your mistresses?”

Jiang Hao shook his head. “No.”

“Strong male spirit beasts always find strong female spirit beasts. Master, are you not strong enough?”

Jiang Hao paused for a moment while sipping the tea, then carried the teapot and walked inside the house without saying a word.

After a few days, Jiang Hao headed back to the Spirit Herb Garden. He saw some ordinary non-cultivators at work and a few outer sect disciples.

The next day, he joined them and began taking care of the spirit herbs and waited for the bubbles.

Seven days later, Xiao Li arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden, looking all excited.

She had just advanced to the third stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

Cheng Chou was shocked. Xiao Li was truly extraordinary. He felt that she was even more talented than the exceptionally talented disciples, who were hyped for their capabilities.

She always managed to advance in just a few days if she had some motivation.

She had reached the third stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm in just ten days! It was simply unimaginable.

“I won’t give you any more instructions. I think you are capable on your own. Be careful and take care of yourself,” said Jiang Hao.

He then took out some pills, ten spirit stones, and a few talismans. He gave a little more than he usually would to Cheng Chou. Cheng Chou helped him out with many matters, after all.

Cheng Chou thanked him. “Don’t worry, Senior Brother Jiang. I will take her to her home and bring her back safe and sound.”

“This time, I’ll ask my mother to make you some delicious food, Senior Brother Jiang,” said Xiao Li.

Jiang Hao looked at her. “Are you taking anything back?”

Xiao Li nodded and took out some snacks from her pocket.

“Put them in your storage treasure,” said Jiang Hao.

Last time, the pastry she had brought back had been mildly poisoned because they had to fend off a beast. If her old mother ate something like that, it would be fatal.

Xiao Li couldn't understand why she needed to do it, but she still obeyed without question.

Jiang Hao watched them leave. It would take them two months to return, which meant he had to postpone tying up the spirit beast until then.

He needed the spirit beast to check on Chu Chuan. That way, Jiang Hao could pay some attention to Lin Zhi in the next two months.

"Master, there's a woman looking for you outside," the spirit beast said.

Jiang Hao was puzzled.

When he went out, he discovered it was Senior Sister Zhou Chan. She had visited him to give him his reward. This was not the first time..

Chapter 202: Too Bitter

Zhou Chan had visited him once before to pass on a reward on behalf of Elder Baizhi.

Perhaps Zhou Chan felt puzzled about these rewards, but Jiang Hao knew what it was for. It was a form of payment for planting the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

He had received two pieces from the set of Nine Heavenly Battle Armor. He was sure that it would be another piece from the set this time too. With it, his armor defense would be even stronger in the Primordial Spirit Realm. Each piece of the set was a surprise.

Without the third piece, the Nine Heavenly Battle Armor wouldn't be as effective as it should be.

The armor was only at the Golden Core Realm, and the wrist guards could barely record two attacks from the Primordial Spirit Realm. He needed the third piece to improve the efficacy of the armor.

Zhou Chan, dressed in white, stood outside the Spirit Herb Garden. She was the only person, perhaps in the whole sect, who didn't conspire or scheme against others. She was familiar and friendly with everyone.

"Junior Brother Jiang," Zhou Chan greeted him with a smile.

"Senior Sister Zhou, nice to see you," said Jiang Hao.

"Elder Baizhi asked me to pass this to you," said Zhou Chan as he took out a box and handed it to him.

It was a ring. Jiang Hao frowned as he looked in the box. 'What kind of treasure is this?'

"Junior Brother Jiang, I don't know what it is either," said Zhou Chan, seeing him frown in confusion.

"Also... I have to ask. Did you bring anyone called Lin Zhi to the sect?"

Jiang Hao was surprised. "You know about him, Senior Sister Zhou?"

Then he realized that Zhao Qingxue, one of Lin Zhi's friends, had joined the White Moon Lake.

Zhou Chan was in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. She was considered weak by others.

Although Zhao Qingxue was an outer sect disciple, there wasn't much difference between the way outer and inner sect disciples were treated in the White Moon Lake.

Among the three that the sect had brought back, Zhao Qingxue's status was the highest.

Lin Zhi had entered the Law Enforcement Hall. If he could make it to the Law Enforcement Hall, his future would be bright.

Only Lin Zhi was left behind. He was of average talent and was often harassed by the strong. The difference was stark between him and his friends.

"I don't really know him that well. It's Junior Sister Zhao who is concerned about him. I wanted to ask... Is he doing okay here?"

Jiang Hao was puzzled. "Couldn't Junior Sister Zhao ask him that herself? They are friends, after all."

"My junior sister said she asked him, and he said he was fine," said Zhou Chan. "But she heard that he was getting beaten up by others, so she requested that I find out more."

Jiang Hao shook his head. "Unfortunately, I can't help you with that. I rarely go to the outskirts of the sect. I rarely meet Lin Zhi. But if he says he is fine, then he must be."

"Can I go see him?" Zhou Chan asked.

"Of course," Jiang Hao said.

He told her where he lived, and Zhou Chan was on her way.

Jiang Hao took out the ring from the box and then put it on his index finger. He sensed the ring aligning with the other two pieces of the armor set. The process of integration would take a few days.

Only after that would he be able to see its complete effect.

The next day, Jiang Hao arrived early at Lin Zhi's house with the spirit beast. He stood at a distance and observed the boy to see any changes in him.

As dawn broke, Lin Zhi got up and headed to the woods. As an outer sect disciple, he had some errands to take care of.

Unlike Xiao Li, who had nothing to do and didn't attend classes out of sheer stubbornness, others actually followed the rules.

Jiang Hao didn't notice anything strange, so he went back to the Spirit Herb Garden.

In the evening, Jiang Hao took a detour and walked past Lin Zhi's house. Lin Zhi's clothes were torn and disheveled as he limped back to his house.

Jiang Hao turned and left.

After that, he passed by Lin Zhi's house every day and observed him.

Sometimes he saw Lin Zhi, but other times, the house would be empty.

Sometimes, Jiang Hao saw him cultivating. Other times, he would be limping back after getting beaten up.

He silently endured it all, without resistance or complaints. He cultivated diligently.

Seven days later, when Jiang Hao went to Lin Zhi's house to observe him, he appraised the ring he had gotten.

The ring had integrated with the set and was now active. He realized that it was a storage ring.

[Ring from the set of Nine Heavenly Battle Armor: One of the pieces from the set of Nine Heavenly Battle Armor. Enhances the abilities of the three other pieces from the set to reach the Primordial Spirit Realm. By communicating with it, the pieces could be upgraded to the Primordial Spirit Realm at will. The ring can store various spiritual items and other things. It can nourish the spirit.]

'This is extraordinary!' thought Jiang Hao. The armor could become a Primordial Spirit Armor. 'The Nine Heavenly Battle Armor is quite remarkable.'

Afterward, he used his Primordial Spirit to communicate with the ring. Sure enough, the ring disappeared from his hand. Jiang Hao smiled. He didn't need to rely on the spirit beast to hide things anymore.

However, Elder Baizhi knew about the purpose of the ring. It would be troublesome if she investigated him and found some questionable things. 'It would be safer to make the beast hide my things.'

He then transferred all sorts of things into the ring. The stone tablet, the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, the magical dice, etc. He even transferred the books on techniques he had on him, like the nameless manual, the Seven Forms of Heavenly Blade, and the Light and Dust technique.

He only kept spirit stones and some ordinary, everyday things in his storage treasure.

After thinking for a moment, he also transferred the things the Bright Moon Sect had given him. He transferred ten thousand spirit stones into it and only kept a few hundred in his storage treasure.

'This much would be common for a late-stage Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator to have...'

He headed to Lin Zhi's house once again. Jiang Hao saw him cultivating. His bruises were worse than before.

"He is being beaten so often. Master, did you put someone up to it?" asked the spirit beast.

"No. Why would I do that? It's probably because of his friend."

Zhou Chan's visit had probably worsened the situation. Although Zhao Qingxue meant well, she was making everything worse.

As for offending her, she probably wouldn't even remember something like this in the future. She would be too strong to bother with petty things.

"I feel so sorry for him. I've never seen anyone more miserable than him. Always bullied and beaten... A friend told me he was hiding and crying all alone." The spirit beast shook its head. "I don't even have the heart to eat his flesh. It must taste too miserable and bitter."

"Let's go," Jiang Hao said.

Even someone as strong as Han Ming had to obediently call others "Senior Brother" or "Senior Sister" until he defeated them. Zhao Qingxue was nowhere near as strong as Han Ming. Her constant involvement in Lin Zhi's life was only making things worse for him.

In the following days, Jiang Hao collected bubbles in the Spirit Herb Garden. Most evenings, he spent his time making talismans.

During this period, he attempted to make the Thousand Miles Teleportation talisman again but abandoned it halfway because he didn't want to damage his divine ability like last time. He could only wait to figure out a better way. Without his divine ability, he couldn't create such a difficult talisman..

Chapter 203: What Did I Do Wrong?

Jiang Hao continued making Healing Talismans and Ten Thousand Swords Talismans in the following months. He needed to earn enough spiritual stones for another incarnation of the Immortal Peach Tree.

However, looking at the meager quantity in his storage treasure, he felt that the path ahead was long and arduous. If only there were purple bubbles, he wouldn't be so anxious and worried. He hadn't found many bubbles lately.

Having one more divine ability would greatly increase his strength. For the next month, Jiang Hao was left at peace. Nothing big happened, and no one came looking for him. The peaceful and quiet life brought him joy.

During that month, he earned over a thousand spirit stones, especially from selling the Healing Talismans. It seemed that the influence of the Devil's Den and the heavenly Saint Sect had played a great role in increasing the prices and demand for talismans. Usually, it was difficult for him to make a significant amount of money by selling talismans.

Now, he had over twelve thousand spiritual stones in total. The beast required 8100, leaving him with only four thousand. He still needed over five thousand for another incarnation of the Immortal Peach Tree.

Time was running out, so he would have to sell something to earn fast.

Fortunately, there were some items in the storage treasure that he could sell.

He continued to live a quiet life. The news came from the Hundred Bones Forest that they wanted to continue their cooperation, and their spirit herbs would be delivered again in a month.

Jiang Hao knew that Bai Ye would take action against him once more. He wondered what method he would use this time. He could only wait and see after a month.

The next morning, Jiang Hao once again arrived near Lin Zhi's house. At this time, Lin Zhi's body was not as weak, but his cultivation remained as weak as ever.

Jiang Hao often saw him beaten and bloody. He silently endured everything. Occasionally, he would cry when he returned home, but he cried less and less as time passed.

He didn't interact with others and only focused on what he needed to do. If someone greeted him, he would lower his head and leave.

He didn't save his spirit stones when he received them. Instead, he used them to buy low-grade and inexpensive spiritual herbs to help strengthen his body. Although the spirit herbs were cheap, they helped him feel less pain when beaten.

“He hasn’t collapsed yet and continues to cultivate day after day. And yet, his cultivation hasn’t improved.” The spirit beast shook its head and sighed. “He’s mocked when given a task, despised, and beaten by those around him. I think he isn’t doing well psychologically. He still endures the beatings...”

Jiang Hao witnessed it all, and he was surprised by Lin Zhi’s incredible resilience. He did cry occasionally, but he never broke down. It was as though something strengthened him from the inside.

Jiang Hao looked toward the back of the house, where Lin Zhi had buried the protective talisman his mother had given him. Perhaps that was giving him strength.

In the evening, three outer disciples arrived and searched Lin Zhi’s house. One of them was tall, while the other two were somewhat short and frail.

“I don’t know what’s wrong with Lin Zhi lately. He doesn’t fight back or say anything when he’s beaten. He acts like nothing happened the day before. It’s infuriating,” one of them said.

“I feel the same way. He used to argue. Now, even when I pull his hair and step on his face to humiliate him, he endures it. We need to find his weakness,” another one said.

“He has a protective talisman, right? I don’t know where he keeps it. Find it,” said the third person.

The three of them began searching. They searched inside and out but found nothing valuable. Lin Zhi wasn’t the only one living here, but no matter how much they searched, they didn’t find anything of value.

“Go outside and take a look,” the tall one said.

They began using techniques to inspect the place. These were the most basic techniques that allowed them to easily examine things. If their spiritual power was strong enough, using spiritual probing would be more effective than the techniques. They surrounded the house and inspected it. They finally found something at the back of the house.

“There it is!” exclaimed the thin individual.

They dug behind the house and found a box. When they opened it, they found the protective talisman inside.

“Hahaha... Let’s see him beg this time!”

Before they could rejoice, they heard a cold voice behind them.

“Who dares to steal from the disciples of the Cliff of Broken Hearts?”

Startled, the three turned around to see an inner sect disciple standing behind them. Jiang Hao looked at them icily. They were the same people who had beaten Lin Zhi and stolen his spirit stones.

“S-Senior Brother!”

Jiang Hao didn’t trouble them last time, so they thought he wouldn’t do anything to them this time either. A powerful aura sent them flying backward.

Bang!

“Normally, I wouldn’t lay hands on outer sect disciples, but did you think I can disregard the fact that you are stealing something from the Cliff of Broken Hearts?” asked Jiang Hao.

“It was a mistake. Please spare us, Senior Brother!” They pleaded.

Inner sect disciples rarely mixed with outer sect disciples. They wondered why this inner sect disciple was interfering.

“Put that thing back and bury it,” Jiang Hao said.

The three hastily put the box back and quickly covered it with dirt.

“You will receive punishment in the outer sect area. Your cultivation resources will be deducted for one year. I heard the mines have opened. You will go to the mines and work there for three years.” Jiang Hao stared at them coldly. “Any objections?”

“None!”

After that, Jiang Hao let them leave.

As for the punishment, he wasn't concerned. If they didn't have someone backing them, their supervisors would find them after a couple of days anyway. Without anyone powerful behind them, the outer sect would abide by his

words.

Of course, dealing with these three individuals wouldn't make any difference. The bullies never improved with just a few scoldings.

In the night, Lin Zhi arrived at his house in a disheveled state. Upon realizing that someone had come for his protective talisman, he rushed to the back of the house.

When he saw that the soil had been dug up, he knelt to the ground. His eyes welled up, and tears kept falling. He didn't know what he had ever done to deserve this. No matter what he did, someone was always targeting him. He didn't bother anyone, didn't make friends, and went sound doing his errands and nothing else. Still, he was beaten and bruised. He didn't know how long he could take this.

Someone had even stolen his mother's protective talisman!

He dug into the soil while tears streamed down his face. Soon, he discovered the box and opened it. The talisman was still inside! He was stunned. It made him cry even more.

“You’re so useless,” said a voice from behind.

Startled, he turned around and quickly wiped his tears. He saw a strange creature in the moonlight. It stood upright like a human, with long ears and a big head. Its furs seemed to emit a faint light. Lin Zhi instinctively gripped the box tightly.

“Who are you?” he asked.

“Call me Lord Beast,” said the Spirit Beast. “I have three hobbies: saving people from trouble, making friends, and eating humans who taste nice..”

Chapter 204: Guidance

Lin Zhi was at a loss for words. He was especially afraid of the last thing the beast said. ‘Eating people who taste nice...’

“Do you... What do you want from me?” he asked.

“Don’t worry. I haven’t eaten humans in so long. Now, I prefer sweets and tender meat. Besides, I think your flesh will be too bitter to eat,” said the spirit beast. “So... do you want Lord Beast’s favor?”

“What do you mean?” Lin Zhi wiped away his tears.

The rabbit pointed to the box. “If it weren’t for me, they would have taken that.

So, do you want me to do you a favor? You can give that to me for safekeeping. I’ll give it back to you when you have become stronger.”

Lin Zhi looked bewildered, then he lowered his head to look at the box in his hands. He gripped the box tightly and then loosened it after a while. Tears welled up in his eyes.

“My mother walked thirty miles to get this for me. She exchanged our food supply for this. She said it will protect me in her absence.” Lin Zhi’s lips trembled. “My mother is sick. She said she will wait for me till I become strong and successful. She said she will cook a delicious meal for me when I go back. But her illness... the doctor said that... I think she won’t last long. I thought that

I could cure her if I became a strong disciple but... I don’t think I can.”

As he spoke, tears fell from his eyes. Lin Zhi wiped the dirt from the box as he cried. He then handed it over to the spirit beast.

“You are the most miserable person I’ve ever seen,” said the spirit beast as he took the box. “Even if you were the last human on this earth, I wouldn’t eat you. I don’t think you’ll taste good. Also, trust me, you will be grateful for the decision you made today. Perhaps right now it will feel like you did the worst thing by giving this away, but you’ll understand in the future. You will be grateful you trusted a great demon to ever exist on this earth.”

Lin Zhi was puzzled but didn’t think much of it. “How can I find you when I become stronger?” he asked.

“I will come and find you. Now, go back and do whatever you have to do.” The spirit beast looked downward at the boy as it floated in the air.

After Lin Zhi left, the beast hopped behind a large tree. It handed over the box to Jiang Hao.

“Master, did I do it perfectly?” asked the spirit beast eagerly.

Jiang Hao ignored the beast and reached out to receive the box. He opened it slowly. An ordinary talisman lay inside the box. Lin Zhi’s mother might have known her end was near if she walked thirty miles and exchanged her entire food supply to get this for her son.

Jiang Hao touched the talisman with his hand. A surge of power enveloped the talisman to protect it.

“Perhaps it is truly spiritual,” he whispered. He closed the box and put it away.

“Let’s go.”

“Master, did you just take it because you thought it had some great power?” asked the beast.

“Of course not,” said Jiang Hao. “Do you know why he gave it to you?”

“Because I am the greatest demon to ever exist?”

“He knows you aren’t an ordinary beast, and he can’t fight you if you wanted to take it away,” said Jiang Hao. “This is dear to him. To get it back, he would have no choice but to become stronger.”

“Will you protect him in the future, Master?” asked the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao shook his head. “He has to walk his own path. In the cultivation world, you can’t succeed by relying on others. At most, I can guide him.”

Two days later, an alchemist in the Foundation Establishment Realm from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion came looking for Jiang Hao.

“Greetings, Senior Brother.” Xin Fei greeted him politely.

Jiang Hao was puzzled. “Sorry, Junior Sister. Do I know you?”

Xin Fei appeared very young. She must have been in her early twenties. She was wearing an alchemist robe, as though to declare her status and identity. She was at the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

“Just call me Xin Fei,” she said. “I am here regarding the incident from two days ago.”

“The three juniors who acted recklessly and ransacked another disciple’s house have gone to the mines to live out their punishment. I’m here to apologize for their behavior,” she said.

She took out thirty spirit stones. “I am here to make a request too. The three disciples have made some contributions to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion, and some of the seniors look out for them. But they were very angry at their behavior. They still have errands to run. So, I wanted to ask you if their punishment could be reduced from three years to three months. This is for the damage done.”

Xin Fei handed the spirit stones to Jiang Hao.

“Their resources will be deducted for a year following the punishment, of course. Otherwise, they won’t learn a lesson.”

Jiang Hao accepted the spirit stones. He sighed inwardly. Thirty spirit stones was a great amount to spend on outer sect disciples. Xin Fei also mentioned that some seniors were backing them up. Jiang Hao didn’t want to cause trouble, so he agreed.

“Alright. I hope they won’t steal from the Cliff of Broken Hearts again when they are done with their punishment,” said Jiang Hao.

“Of course,” said Xin Fei in relief.

After she left, Jiang Hao headed to the cafeteria and handed the thirty spirit stones to Feng Yang as Xiao Li’s food expenses for the month. It had been over a month since Cheng Chou and Xiao Li left. They would be back soon.

For the next month, Jiang Hao still passed by Lin Zhi’s house every day. His situation had improved somewhat.

Zhao Qingxue and Lin MO came to find him. Jiang Hao watched from afar.

The three of them, Lin MO with his head held high, and Zhao Qingxue standing gracefully and elegantly, walked through the forest. Lin Zhi followed behind, looking out of place.

Although he tried his best to get along, he lowered his head and had no confidence to stand equally with them. He looked embarrassed. “Master, why do you think he looks so bitter?” asked the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao smiled sadly but didn’t say anything.

“We have observed him enough. Let’s go back,” said Jiang Hao.

At night, Jiang Hao left the courtyard and walked along the riverbank. He left the beast behind at the house.

Under the moonlight, he read the book in his hand while walking slowly. The book he was holding was the one the Bright Moon Sect had given him on Star-Moon Lifeblood Refinement Art.

He occasionally read the book to understand more about the technique.

Although it only helped until one reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, it had some pretty interesting things in it.

He was at the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, so it wasn’t difficult for him to comprehend this new technique. He also had the Pure and Clear Heart ability to help him understand the process.

A moment later, he heard the sound of fists thudding against something.

It was Lin Zhi.

“You’ve become much stronger than before,” said Jiang Hao.

Startled, Lin Zhi snapped back to look. When he realized it was just Jiang Hao, he heaved a sigh of relief.

“Greetings, Senior Brother Jiang,” he said and bowed.

“Have you made any progress with the Hundred Revolutions of the Heavenly Note Technique?” asked Jiang Hao.

Lin Zhi lowered his head. “Not much.”

Jiang Hao wasn’t surprised. “Well... maybe it’s time you changed to another technique if that isn’t working for you.”

Lin Zhi raised his head and looked at Jiang Hao in astonishment. “Change the technique?”

Jiang Hao tossed the book to Lin Zhi.

The title read: The Star-Moon Lifeblood Refinement Art..

Chapter 205: Some Have No Homes To Return To

“Focus on cultivating this technique, preferably during the night,” Jiang Hao said.

“The Star-Moon Lifeblood Refinement technique is different from the Hundred Revolutions of Heavenly Note technique. Its subsequent stages don’t require you to advance to a specific realm. As long as you can proficiently manipulate the power of the sun, moon, and stars, you can expand your scope and improve your absorption speed. However, it mostly involves dynamic exercises. Each move and technique can bring you considerable improvement.”

“But it seems like this technique isn’t from our sect,” Lin Zhi said, somewhat confused.

“It doesn’t matter,” Jiang Hao said with assurance. “The sect had no rules against using different techniques. You don’t need to explain it to anyone. Just focus on cultivating it.”

Lin Zhi felt relieved after hearing that.

Jiang Hao explained the introductory methods to him. With his temperament and physique, it was much easier to practice the Star-Moon Lifeblood Refinement Technique.

Late at night, Lin Zhi felt the power of the stars in the forest. Although the moves and techniques were unfamiliar, he felt a familiarity with them. It was as though it fit him perfectly.

He no longer felt a barrier in his cultivation. His heart was filled with joy. Then he completely immersed himself in cultivation.

When he finished cultivating, he realized that it was already dawn, and Jiang Hao was nowhere to be seen.

He looked at his hands. Although he didn't see any physical change in himself, he knew that he had gotten stronger. He could sense it.

Although he was delighted, he knew that his talent was still average and he needed to work hard

In the morning, Jiang Hao sat under the Immortal Peach Tree. It had bloomed.

For now, he had done what he could for Lin Zhi. He had taught him the introductory methods, but he didn't plan to guide him further personally. It was enough to let the beast serve as a guide. Helping him was just an act of kindness, and he didn't intend to get too involved. Otherwise, it would be too troublesome, like with Xiao Li and the spirit beast.

Although the two hadn't caused him any major distress yet, he had a feeling that they would attract more trouble as they grew.

He needed to send them away before something like that happened.

There was also Chu Chuan. Unfortunately, he was someone who needed guidance. On the path of cultivation, conflicts were unavoidable. After achieving certain accomplishments, he would go out on his own.

As for Lin Zhi, Jiang Hao realized that he would face numerous troubles in the future.

Jiang Hao wanted to interact less with Lin Zhi. If he needed something, he could ask the beast for help. If the beast had been able to explain the basic methods of the new techniques, Jiang Hao wouldn't have gone out to meet Lin Zhi at all.

Lin Zhi's path was long but difficult. If he could progress smoothly, Jiang Hao would protect and guide him for a while. If Lin Zhi proved strong enough to reclaim his talisman of protection, he would be able to take care of himself.

Jiang Hao sighed and headed to the Spirit Herb Garden. The people from the Hundred Bones Forest were coming soon, and he needed to see if Bai Ye would appear with them.

Seven days later, Jiang Hao didn't wait for the people from the Hundred Bones Forest, but he did meet Cheng Chou and Xiao Li.

"Senior Brother Jiang, this is for you." Xiao Li handed him some pastries. She looked a little disheveled.

Cheng Chou was injured again.

"What happened this time?" Jiang Hao took the pastries and helped Cheng Chou treat his wounds.

"We encountered disciples from Azure Mountain," Cheng Chou said with a bitter smile.

Every time they went out, they faced some danger. Luckily, they managed to escape.

Cheng Chou had also grown stronger through actual combat. However, he had witnessed Xiao Li's formidable power. Not even those in the Foundation Establishment Realm could match her in a fight.

Jiang Hao treated Cheng Chou's wounds. "Was your family happy that you returned?" asked Jiang Hao as he looked at Xiao Li.

Xiao Li nodded. "Mother was so happy that she made chicken every day. Father had bought a lot of preserved meat for me even before I returned home. They liked the things I took back for them. Next time, I should take more. Mother's eyes aren't good, so I had to kill the chicken myself and start the fire. She praised me!" Xiao Li grinned in delight.

Xiao Li talked about many things, while Jiang Hao listened quietly. Hearing about her family members gave him peace too. Sometimes, he felt envious.

After he finished treating Cheng Chou's wounds, he examined the pastries that Xiao Li had given him. This time, they were not poisoned.

He ate one. It tasted slightly better than the ones Xiao Li had brought back last time.

When Cheng Chou had recovered, Jiang Hao let Xiao Li and the beast go away to play together on their own.

"How are things?" Jiang Hao asked.

He was referring to Xiao Li's elderly foster parents.

"Not very good." Cheng Chou sighed. "Their health isn't great. They are hardworking and refuse to rest. They were very reluctant to let Xiao Li go this time. They seemed afraid that they might not see her again. I secretly set up a formation to improve their environment and prepared some supplies for them. I also gathered some medicinal herbs to help with illness and such."

Jiang Hao nodded.

"Senior Brother Jiang, are you worried that Junior Sister Xiao Li can't bear it if something happens to her parents?" Cheng Chou asked.

Jiang Hao remained calm. "Well... things happen in life. Some get to go back home, and others don't. If something happens, Xiao Li will no longer have a home to go back to."

Jiang Hao seemed to be reminded of his own situation. "I can't even go back to my homeland."

Cheng Chou lowered his head. He didn't have a family, so he didn't understand why Xiao Li wanted to go back home and why Jiang Hao helped her. But now he understood.

"By the way, there's something I need you to take care of," Jiang Hao said.

After listening to Jiang Hao's instructions, Cheng Chou left the sect. It would take about a week for him to return.

Jiang Hao gave him some talismans before he left.

"You haven't reached the Foundation Establishment Realm yet, so this journey will take quite a bit of time," Jiang Hao said as he planned to give Cheng Chou another push with his cultivation.

Now that Xiao Li had returned, Jiang Hao could continue with his plans for the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao currently had thirteen thousand spirit stones. He planned to sell some more items in the next few days to see how much he could accumulate.

By then, it would be time for another incarnation of the Immortal Peach Tree. Jiang Hao would once again be penniless after taking care of the tree and the beast at the same time.

In the evening, Jiang Hao felt distressed when he saw the peach tree beginning to bear fruit. He decided to keep an eye on the tree to prevent the ripe fruits from remaining on the tree.

He took a rope and tied it to a pole in his courtyard. "Beast, come here."

“Master, I’m here.” The spirit jumped up to Jiang Hao’s side. It didn’t panic when it saw the rope. It was accustomed to it by now. It was around this time last year that he was tied up. “Get up here,” Jiang Hao said.

The spirit beast obeyed and waited patiently to be tied up.

“Master, how much will I be eating this time? I won’t agree if it’s too little,” said the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao was speechless.

“You’ll start eating the spirit stones from tomorrow.”

” Master, can I have some sugar to dip it in?”

“No, you can’t..”

Chapter 206: More Tragic Than Expected

The spirit beast needed to be tied up for eighty-one days this time. Each day, it would have to consume a hundred spirit stones. That meant a total of 8,100 spirit stones.

Jiang Hao checked his storage treasure and confirmed that he had enough spirit stones before heading to the Spirit Herb Garden.

“Remember... don’t move around,” he said.

“Master, you can trust me with this,” said the beast with a mouthful of spirit stones.

Jiang Hao certainly didn't trust the beast. He had already prepared to prevent such accidents. If the beast didn't follow the procedure, he would lose a lot of spirit stones this time.

With his current financial situation, he couldn't afford such losses.

After six days, Jiang Hao saw Cheng Chou in the Spirit Herb Garden. He had returned!

"Did you find anything?" he asked.

"Unfortunately, I don't have any good news," said Cheng Chou.

Jiang Hao sighed. Although he had expected it, he still felt a little sad. He had sent Cheng Chou to find out about Lin Zhi's mother.

According to Lin Zhi, his mother was seriously ill and couldn't afford treatment. After Lin Zhi entered the Heavenly Note Sect, he intended to save money to help his mother.

Although the chance of her being alive was slim, there was still hope.

"Tell me everything," Jiang Hao said.

"Junior Brother Lin's family is very ordinary. They rely on his mother to do odd jobs to make ends meet. His mother made great efforts to send him to a private school and taught him a few words. But his mother fell ill, so he dropped out of school and helped out at home. He has been working hard to earn money for the family, hoping to cure his mother's illness. But no matter how many treatments they tried, there was no improvement. Later, when the sect started recruiting disciples, the village sent several children in a group. Lin Zhi was among them."

"After sending Lin Zhi away, his mother started taking care of the housework. Some people said they saw her in good spirits and thought her condition had improved a lot. Occasionally, they would greet her and praise her. If Lin Zhi managed to become a senior disciple, their lives would finally get better. His mother always smiled at that. She cared for Lin Zhi and wanted him to have a quiet and peaceful life. She did some small chores, exchanging them for some grains and saving up some food. No one paid

much attention to her until a month later, when the group that had gone to the Heavenly Note Sect recruitment drive returned. It was then that everyone realized that Lin Zhi had gotten into the sect.”

“Someone informed Lin’s mother. She smiled as she handed them some food, saying she could finally be at peace. The person who delivered the message didn’t pay much attention to it. The next day, many people came to visit. Those who knew about her illness brought along famous doctors from the city to check on her. However...”

Cheng Chou fell silent for a moment. “They realized that Lin Zhi’s mother had passed away. According to the examination by the doctor at the scene, she had long been terminally ill and beyond help. She had persisted solely by sheer willpower and waited for her child to become a disciple before letting go.” Jiang Hao was silent. He felt a little sentimental. “What about his father?”

“Not long after Lin Zhi was born, his father went hunting in the woods and never came back. Lin Zhi was raised by his mother alone. It must have been difficult,” said Cheng Chou sadly. He hesitated. “Should we inform Junior Brother Lin about his mother?”

Jiang Hao shook his head. “No need. He will find out when he returns. We don’t need to intervene.”

It had been over a year and informing him now would be of no use. It might only make him sad and affect his cultivation.

Jiang Hao gave Cheng Chou some Lifeblood Refining Pills.

“Refine your cultivation well. Soon, you can advance to the Foundation Establishment Realm.”

Upon hearing this, Cheng Chou was overjoyed.

“I’ve already prepared Foundation Establishment Pills. I’ll give them to you when you’re ready,” Jiang Hao said.

A Foundation Establishment Pill would ensure the success of advancing toward the Foundation Establishment Realm. Luckily, Jiang Hao had one. It had a mark on it so he didn’t risk selling it.

However, he could give it to Cheng Chou.

Jiang Hao then waited for Bai Ye's arrival.

Three days later, the people from the Hundred Bones Forest arrived. This time, the one in charge of the handover of the spirit herbs was Lian Qin.

"I heard that the requirements have changed. If there is anything wrong, you can tell us. If you find something later, you can tell me about it then. We'll wholeheartedly cooperate. Also, you don't need to worry about spirit stones. We aren't like a certain branch that likes to dupe people, after all," said Lian Qin with a smile.

After the incident with the Candlelight Pill Pavilion, everyone liked to bring it up and mock them. However, there was an advantage to it. No one dared to pull something like that ever again.

"What are you talking about, Senior Sister Lian? How could our branch ever do something like that again? It was just a mistake last time," said Lian Daozhi, who had come to handle some matters. He looked dissatisfied.

Lian Qin smiled sweetly. "I never brought up the Candlelight Pill Pavilion's name."

Lian Daozhi snorted and looked at Jiang Hao. "Junior Brother Jiang, are you free? We have a batch of spirit herbs that we need to plant in the Cliff of Broken Heart's Spirit Herb Garden."

"It was I who came first," said Lian Qin.

Jiang Hao apologized and then roughly explained the arrangements and requirements to Lian Qin. He was wary of Bai Ye so he kept everything short and simple. He didn't want to challenge them.

After designating an area to plant the Hundred Bones Forest's spirit herbs, Jiang Hao turned to Lian Daozhi. "Senior Brother Lian, I'm very sorry to have made you wait this long."

Lian Daozhi was in the Golden Core Realm. He had given Jiang Hao Black Lotuses to plant last time. Jiang Hao didn't know what he wanted to grow this time.

"I have a batch of spirit herbs that I want to plant here for three months," said Lian Daozhi. "But the difficulty of planting and taking care of these herbs is quite high. So, I wanted to ask you first before assigning it to you. Can you handle it, Junior Brother Jiang?"

"What kind of spirit herb is it?" Jiang Hao was quite curious.

If it was something expensive and valuable, he could even get blue bubbles from it.

He had planted some spirit herbs in his own courtyard for some bubbles, especially the Snow Lotus Flower. It was cracked so he had gotten it for cheap. However, it only spawned bubbles for a while and then stopped.

He couldn't sell the flower because no one wanted to buy a damaged lotus. It was believed that it would bring bad luck. He had bought it for fifty spirit stones.

"It's called Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower. It needs to be cultivated in a good spirit field and watered with spirit liquid every day. It requires a Foundation

Establishment Realm cultivator to handle the golden leaf worms on top," Lian Daozhi said. "Our Spirit Herb Garden has encountered some small problems. It is difficult to plant them there. So, we had to find another Spirit Herb Garden that would be willing. Some other gardens have accepted some of them, but there are simply too many. The gardens couldn't plant all of them."

"I haven't planted it before. You can give me a few at first," said Jiang Hao. He didn't refuse, but he also didn't accept it. He wanted to see how valuable the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower was..

Chapter 207: Warning From The Demoness

Lian Daozhi agreed to Jiang Hao's proposal.

"The transplantation will take three to five days. Junior Brother Jiang, take care of it for a week and then see if you can do it." Lian Daozhi smiled.

After finalizing the matter, Jiang Hao bid farewell to them and went to observe the spirit herbs that had been dropped off by the Hundred Bones Forest.

He had been thinking about how to inquire about Bai Ye's whereabouts without raising suspicion. It would seem suspicious to ask directly, but it was difficult to find out anything at all without asking about him.

'Do I have to wait and secretly investigate the Hundred Bones Forest later?' he wondered.

However, it was risky. The Hundred Bones Forest was not an ordinary place where one could freely roam about.

In most places within the twelve branches, disciples of the sect were allowed to visit freely, but some branches were dangerous to do so. They didn't allow disciples from other branches to trespass.

Jiang Hao still hadn't found a suitable opportunity to inquire about Bai Ye.

"Do you have any questions, Junior Brother Jiang?" asked Lian Qin as she prepared to leave.

To his surprise, Jiang Hao found them friendlier than before. He just shook his head at her question.

The people of the Hundred Bones Forest bade him farewell and left.

Jiang Hao sighed softly. He had missed his chance. Now, he could only wait for Bai Ye to make a move and reveal himself.

Jiang Hao didn't feel anything strange during these five days. Lian Daozhi also sent the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower to him.

It was a tall autumn spirit herb that was half the height of an average person. He could see some gold flashes on it.

Jiang Hao appraised it and found out that it was a top-grade spirit herb that could be used to temper the body. It would fetch a high price on the market.

"Are all top-grade spirit herbs very expensive?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Of course. Since you don't have many top-grade spirit herbs here, it's understandable that you are curious. The price usually depends on their effects. Most of them are quite expensive," Lian Daozhi said.

Jiang Hao nodded. He told Lian Daozhi that he would try to plant them in the next few days.

For seven days, he took care of the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower alone. During this time, he found two green bubbles. The flowers gave off bubbles at irregular intervals.

However, he could always plant more to see if they would give him more blue bubbles. Most of the spirit herbs no longer spawned blue bubbles.

Jiang Hao accepted more of the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower to plant in the Spirit Herb Garden.

The spirit beast remained tied up for half a month. During this time, Jiang Hao sold some items he had and earned a few spirit stones. He now had a total of fifteen thousand spirit stones. He needed to earn a bit more for the incarnation of the Immortal Peach Tree.

The Immortal Peach Tree would take two more months to mature, so there was still time.

Half a month later, Jiang Hao still didn't sense any sign of Bai Ye's or his new schemes. It left him puzzled.

The peaches were about to ripen on the tree. Jiang Hao plucked the ripe ones. Not one ripe peach was left on the tree.

The ones he had plucked were not fully ripe, so they were still a bit sour. He took them to the Spirit Herb Garden to give them to Xiao Li.

“Not sweet,” said Xiao Li after she bit into one.

That was exactly what Jiang Hao wanted. For the next month, Jiang Hao plucked the peaches that were almost ripe and gave them to Xiao Li.

After a whole month of receiving these peaches, Xiao Li was curious. “Senior Brother Jiang, why are the peaches so sour this time?”

“If they were sweet, I wouldn’t be giving them to you,” said Jiang Hao. “Perhaps they grow sweet one year and sour the next?”

Xiao Li believed him. “Then let’s hurry and finish eating them. We’ll continue tomorrow.”

“Good girl,” Jiang Hao said.

However, the days passed, and the peaches on the tree were almost all picked. Still, Hong Yuye didn’t visit.

‘How long has it been since Hong Yuye visited last?’ wondered Jiang Hao. It had been over four months.

Jiang Hao glanced at the tree. He appraised the tree.

This time, the incarnation needed 9,999 spirit stones.

After checking his storage treasure, Jiang Hao found that he still had 11,700 spirit stones in total. He was still short by a few hundred.

Fortunately, he could sell some talismans to make up for it. Half a month later, Jiang Hao went about his own errands.

There were only five days left until the awakening of the spirit beast's bloodline. All the fruits were picked, except for the last one.

On this day, Jiang Hao saw a beautiful figure standing in his courtyard. His heart skipped a beat.

Jiang Hao walked to her. Hong Yuye turned to glance at him. She looked amused.

"It seems like you've been waiting for me," she said.

Jiang Hao's face darkened. He realized that she had deliberately chosen to appear today.

"It is always a delight to see you here, Senior." Jiang Hao bowed.

"Do you remember what you said last year?" Hong Yuye smiled at Jiang Hao. "You said this year's peaches would be sour. Now, tell me... do you still think they are sour?"

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly. "It's possible that they might be sweet."

"You were so confident with your answer last time. What changed?"

If it weren't for the purple bubble, Jiang Hao would have picked the last fruit too. When he looked up at the branches of the tree, he realized that the last peach had ripened.

He lowered his head and remained silent.

He saw Hong Yuye approach with her majestic aura unleashed. “Do you remember what I said back then? If the peaches aren’t sour, then it means you were deceiving me...”

Jiang Hao felt an immensely powerful force that would have crushed him. When he came back to his senses, he had flown into a wall. His back was sore.

When he stood up, Hong Yuye stared at the spirit beast, which was tied up. “I didn’t know you had... such hobbies.”

Jiang Hao hurriedly explained, “I’m trying to awaken its dormant bloodline.”

“You’re quite good to your beast. What about my tree?” Hong Yuye turned and looked at Jiang Hao.

“It can undergo an incarnation today,” Jiang Hao said.

Jiang Hao was just about to go through with it. He had thought that after the incarnation, the taste of peaches wouldn’t matter. Who knew Hong Yuye would choose this time to visit?

Hong Yuye nodded. “It seems you have taken good care of my flower and my tree. How long has it been since you last slept?”

The question puzzled Jiang Hao. He thought for a moment. “It has been... a while. ”

Hong Yuye stared at Jiang Hao. Her gaze made him feel uneasy. He lowered his head silently. He didn’t know why she was staring at him so intently.

Hong Yuye walked to the wooden table and placed a box on it. “I won’t let you work for me for nothing. This is a gift for you. Also, try to get some sleep tonight. You might be poisoned without knowing about it. ” After saying that, Hong Yuye disappeared on the spot.

Jiang Hao was confused. ‘Am I poisoned?’

He closed his eyes and paid attention to his body. He didn't feel any discomfort. However, Hong Yuye had no reason to lie to him.

"Then how did I..." He suddenly realized something.. "Bai Ye!"

Chapter 208: Another Golden Legend!

In the courtyard, the leaves of the Immortal Peach Tree rustled. The wind gently swayed Jiang Hao's robe and hair.

He slowly walked to the table and sat down on a wooden chair. 'How did Bai Ye do it?'

Jiang Hao thought about it for a long time but couldn't find any clues. He had appraised and examined every spirit herb sent from the Hundred Bones Forest but hadn't found anything.

Jiang Hao had also made sure to check up on his physical condition every week. There were no problems at all.

Nothing could be found. There were no problems with the spirit herbs or with his body. He couldn't understand what Bai Ye had used to poison him.

Jiang Hao thought that perhaps he needed to give it more time for the symptoms to manifest. Hong Yuye's words had shocked him.

'A potent poison...' Jiang Hao once again checked himself inside and out. He couldn't find anything. 'Could it be that the effects of the poison only appeared today?'

He used the Daily Appraisal on himself. The results were the same as before. Nothing had changed. The only poison he could see was the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison.

'Looks like I need something else to trigger it,' thought Jiang Hao. 'Hong Yuye told me to sleep. Should I go to sleep now?'

Jiang Hao glanced at the spirit beast. There were only five days left until its bloodline was awakened further.

He hesitated and then opened the box Hong Yuye had left for him. It had a pill inside.

The pill had red and white patterns on it. There was a strange, refreshing fragrance wafting off of it. Every inch of his skin tingled when he smelled the Dill's fragrance.

'Is it a healing pill to detoxify my body?' thought Jiang Hao.

He decided to use it right away. He needed to confirm his situation first.

He decided to wait for five more days to see how the poison would affect him.

Having an antidote would make it much safer. Even if it only treated the symptoms, it would provide him with enough time.

The next day, Jiang Hao once again used the Daily Appraisal on the spirit herbs from the Hundred Bones Forest. There were a lot of them, so it would take a while to do it one by one.

He still didn't find a problem with them.

In another four days, he had used Daily Appraisal on four different spirit herbs. None of them were poisoned. The spirit herbs were fine.

'Where is the problem?'

On the fifth day, he looked at the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower. Could Bai Ye have done something to them?

Jiang Hao used the Daily Appraisal on the flower and waited for the result.

The feedback didn't give him any new information. It was as Lian Daozhi had said. The Spirit Herb Garden at the Candlelight Pill Pavilion had suffered a mishap, so they were sent here to be planted.

In the evening, Jiang Hao sat in his courtyard. He raised his head to look at the Immortal Peach Tree. He realized that he had forgotten all about initiating the incarnation of the tree.

Jiang Hao then set up a Spirit Gathering Array with the spirit stones. Then he initiated the process of incarnation.

Tomorrow was the last day for the awakening of the bloodline of the spirit beast. After that, he would get a golden bubble, and he could sleep peacefully.

He needed to save his Daily Appraisal tomorrow to see what new abilities he would get.

The next morning, the spirit beast exclaimed as it looked at the Immortal

Peach Tree.

"Master, look! The Immortal Peach Tree changed again!" "Hmm." Jiang Hao watched quietly.

At this moment, a golden bubble appeared beside the rabbit.

Jiang Hao was happy and relieved. His wait was over.

[Golden Legend +1]

Jiang Hao stood up and untied the spirit beast. "You are free now."

"You can keep me tied for a few more days if you want, Master."

Jiang Hao looked at the beast. "No."

The spirit beast got up and ran to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

Although Jiang Hao wanted to use the Daily Appraisal on the spirit east to ascertain its situation, he needed to save it to learn about the new ability that he might gain.

After storing the Immortal Peach Tree Seed, Jiang Hao collected two blue bubbles.

[Cultivation +1]

[Lifeblood +1]

The seed needed to be appraised before planting so he could understand and maintain the perfect conditions for its growth.

He opened his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 23]

[Cultivation: Early Stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm]

[Cultivation Method: Heavenly Sound Hundred Revolutions, Hong Meng Heart

Sutra]

[Divine Ability: Nine Revolutions Death Substitution (unique), Daily Appraisal,

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit, Divine Might]

[Lifeblood: 37/100 (Can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 37/100 (Can be cultivated)]

[Divine Abilities: 1/3 (Cannot be obtained)]

[Golden Legend: 2/2 (Can be obtained)]

Jiang Hao chose the option to obtain the Golden Legend. In a hazy state, he saw himself standing on endless land.

The sky above had nine golden rings. The rings floated toward him. As each ring landed in his hand, the surrounding environment changed accordingly.

Mountains, seas, jungles, and clouds flashed by. The ninth ring finally descended on his hand, and Jiang Hao found himself back in his house.

He had a golden ring in his hand. There were eight other layers of rings inside.

'It feels extraordinary, but I don't have time to examine it.'

Jiang Hao put away the ring and walked up to the second floor. He needed sleep.

He sat cross-legged on the bed and took out the pill. The fragrance of the pill relieved the burden he felt. He closed his eyes and rested.

Jiang Hao didn't dare lie down in bed. He didn't want to be caught off guard.

Jiang Hao felt his consciousness becoming heavier. There was a spiritual energy and some sort of fragrance in the surroundings. It made it difficult to fall asleep.

The more disturbed he was, the more he wanted to sleep. Perhaps that would reveal some information about the poison.

After a long time, he fell into a deep sleep. Vaguely, he felt things around him invading his primordial spirit.

In an instant, he woke up again.

What surprised him was that he was not in his own room. He was at a vast lake, and a woman with long hair was washing her shoulder. Her back was exposed.

Jiang Hao thought of Hong Yuye. He thought that woman must be her.

The woman in the lake slowly stood up, and her long hair was swept back. She was just about to turn around.

If she turned around, she would see him. He would see her naked. Panic gripped his heart.

As he tried to step aside, he noticed that the land around the lake wasn't filled with grass and trees. There were endless bones scattered everywhere, and the water was now rivulets of blood.

This sudden change shocked Jiang Hao, but he managed to remain calm. There was a divine ability faintly in his brow. The ring on his finger was also helping him.

'My Primordial Spirit? Is that the poison?'

Without hesitation, he used the Daily Appraisal on himself. He was in the Primordial Spirit Realm, so the feedback might be different.

Soon, he got the feedback.

'Well... seems like it's possible..'

Chapter 209: Nine Rings Of Heaven And Earth

[Status: Afflicted with the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison and Bai Ye's Heart Demon Technique. The Heart Demon Technique, created by Bai Ye, combines the minute toxins from the Golden Leaf Worm on the Tomorrow White Autumn Flower, the Bliss Poison of the Emotion Severing Grass, the humidity of the stream, the fragrance of the plants, and the fragrance of the Snow Lotus and Black Lotus Flower. There is a chance that it can be mixed into the Heart Demon Poison by the Blue Lotus Flower. When encountered by a sleeping person, it will erupt and form a Heart Demon. It can be countered by using the fragrance of Red Lotus Flower to neutralize the Golden Leaf Worm's poison.]

Jiang Hao was stunned. The threat posed by Bai Ye far exceeded his expectations.

It turned out that the true influence wasn't the Hundred Bones Forest's spirit herbs or the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower, but the Golden Leaf Worm on the Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower. For the past few days, Jiang Hao's job had been to clear away the worms from that particular flower.

'I was on guard against the wrong thing! Bai Ye used my own house and the spirit herbs to poison me so easily! I need to find out more about his situation.'

He had to inquire with Liu Xingchen if he wanted to find out more, but he needed a good excuse to ask the questions.

“Are you spying on me?” a voice asked from behind him.

Jiang Hao then remembered the woman he had seen in the lake.

He turned to look. She was submerged in the water up to her neck. She looked nervous.

Jiang Hao heaved a sigh of relief. It wasn't Hong Yuye. It was Yun Ruo. He didn't know why she was here.

“Are you the Heart Demon?” Jiang Hao asked.

“I'm not. I'm just...”

Before she could finish speaking, a flash of light slashed across the water.

Fresh blood splattered everywhere as Yun Ruo fell into the lake.

“Why would a Heart Demon accept that it was the Heart Demon?”

“You're so cruel!” Yun Ruo's body put itself together, but her face was all twisted. Her body was covered in blood.

She stared at Jiang Hao and stirred up the surrounding bones. The bones formed into skeletons and stared at Jiang Hao. The corners of their mouths twitched as they said, “You're so cruel! Why did you kill me?”

“Just insignificant demons...”

Jiang Hao looked at Yun Ruo and activated Divine Might. Golden light radiated everywhere.

Clang!

A sword cry rang out as he gripped the Primordial Heavenly Sword. Purple aura spread out. The powerful aura suppressed everything, and the Heart Demons felt fear.

Some of them fled. Jiang Hao watched them calmly and then swung his sword.

“In the next life, don’t try to be the Heart Demons in my path.”

Boom!

One slash shattered the heavens and earth. The bones disintegrated and turned to dust. The sea of blood evaporated and disappeared. Finally, a ray of light pierced through the heavy darkness.

Jiang Hao opened his eyes. This time, he was in his room. He could still smell the fragrance of the medicinal pill.

He felt more at ease. Even his Primordial Spirit felt refreshed.

‘This pill is extraordinary.’

He closed the lid on the box. He didn’t need the pill to fight the Heart Demons, so he could use it next time.

Jiang Hao checked up on his body and spirit. Except for some consumption of spiritual energy, there was no major problem.

‘It’s fine to sleep now. If I encounter another Heart Demon, especially while advancing to the next stage, I don’t know how dangerous that would be...’

Jiang Hao still felt lingering fear. If he failed while advancing to the next stage, he would have wasted his lifeblood and cultivation. However, he would also suffer physical and psychic injuries.

“I need to buy some Red Lotus Flower seeds or the flower itself. I wonder how many spirit stones it will cost.”

He had only five hundred spirit stones left. By selling the talismans he had, he could get around seven hundred spirit stones.

Jiang Hao arrived at the Snow Lotus Pavilion.

“Red Lotus Flower?” The guide took out some seeds. “Red Lotus is very rare. You are lucky that there is one seed left. The price for this is five hundred spirit stones.”

Jiang Hao felt that every time he came here to buy something, he was cheated. Five hundred spirit stones for a Red Lotus Seed made sense, but it was still quite expensive.

He bought the seed. After that, he went to the market to sell some talismans and bought some spirit liquid. The guide at the Snow Lotus Pavilion told him that watering the seed with spirit liquid for seven days would be enough to make it sprout. Jiang Hao listened to her instructions.

The next day, he took out the golden ring he had obtained from the Golden Legend. It looked more like a bracelet than a ring worn on a finger. After refining it, he could control its size and shape.

He used Daily Appraisal on the ring.

[Nine Rings of Heaven and Earth: Spatial Treasure that can borrow the positions of heaven and earth. The main ring and the sub-rings can reach each other even if separated by heaven and earth. The sub-rings can only be used once a day.]

Jiang Hao was quite surprised. So, if there was a sub-ring hidden somewhere, could he go anywhere?

While refining it, he realized that it was a spatial treasure, but he didn't expect that it could be used like this. It was unbelievable.

He wore the main ring on his wrist. He opened his hand, and the eight other rings floated in his palm.

Upon closer inspection, he found that the eight rings could be used for offense, defense, and other things. They could be used for more than their intended function.

He slammed one of the rings on the floor. The ring enlarged and imprinted a formation on the ground. Then he went outside to the courtyard and placed the second ring in the air to activate it.

After doing that, he communicated with the main ring and connected it to the sub-ring in his room.

He disappeared from the courtyard and reappeared in his room.

'It's instant teleportation!' Jiang Hao marveled. He disappeared from his room again and appeared in the courtyard.

'This is quite useful.'

With a ring in his room, he could return home in an instant, no matter where he was.

However, he didn't know if it could withstand spatial blockades. Also, it took three breaths for the teleportation to happen. In urgent situations, it would probably be difficult to use.

But this was enough. If he had the time, he could use this ability and appear at his home.

After placing a golden ring in the room, Jiang Hao put the ring away in the courtyard.

'What about the seven remaining rings?'

He didn't know what to do with them. However, he could always store them in his storage treasure or in his ring.

Next, he had to appraise the beast, the pill, and the seed. He had been delayed by Bai Ye, so there were many things to catch up on.

The next day, Jiang Hao appraised the Immortal Peach Tree Seed. There wasn't any difference in the feedback, except that the seed would take one less day to sprout.

After planting the seed, Jiang Hao patiently waited for seven days to harvest a purple bubble.

The following day, he appraised the spirit beast. The result was surprising. The beast could still be tied up to further awaken its bloodline. It would take 490 spirit stones and forty-nine days.

Jiang Hao still remembered that when he first caught it, it didn't even have any intelligence. It used to be just an ordinary spirit beast.

Jiang Hao headed to the Spirit Herb Garden to find Xiao Li waiting for him.

"Senior Brother Jiang, you said you would give me this." She pointed at the spirit beast's collar.

"Why do you want that? It's not useful to you."

"The beast says it's powerful when it has that," Xiao Li said truthfully.

Jiang Hao sighed. How could she trust the spirit beast? It was always lying through its teeth.

At that moment, he suddenly felt a faint vibration from the stone tablet in his pocket. The second gathering was about to begin..

Chapter 210: Divine Pill

The stone tablet trembled slightly. It indicated that the senior was summoning the members for a gathering.

He had occasionally checked the stone tablet but had always found only three people chatting among themselves.

The others hadn't shown up yet. According to Gui, they were either in seclusion or busy doing something.

Jiang Hao doesn't know much about these people. He didn't even know their real identities.

For example, all he knew about Gui was that she was trying to find a dragon.

Jiang Hao didn't rush to check the stone tablet. He looked at Xiao Li.

He wouldn't give her a collar. He couldn't agree to it!

Jiang Hao didn't know why Xiao Li wanted something like that. However, it was better to find something and give it to her to keep her quiet.

After hesitating for a moment, he reached out and took out the second sub-ring. He tossed it to her. "Refine it and keep it. It can be used as an offensive or defensive treasure."

Xiao Li looked delighted. After refining it for half a day, she came running to show Jiang Hao. She was wearing it around her neck.

"Take it off. Wear it on your wrist instead," said Jiang Hao.

Xiao Li reluctantly took it off and wore it on her wrist.

The spirit beast looked at the bracelet and turned to Jiang Hao. "Master, give me one too."

"Next time," Jiang Hao said.

There were only eight sub-rings in total, and one needed to be kept in the courtyard, just in case. Xiao Li probably wouldn't use the one he gave her.

Now there were only six left, and giving one to the beast would mean he would only have five rings left.

The sub-rings needed to activate the door to let him pass. He hadn't told Xiao Li about that.

If he told her that it could be used for teleportation, he might not be entirely free of her in the future.

After taking care of Tomorrow Night Autumn Flower once again, Jiang Hao returned to his house.

These flowers often produced green bubbles. They weren't even as good as white bubbles! The green bubbles usually gave out spirit swords, which were of no use and only took up space.

He could only sell them after accumulating them.

In the courtyard, Jiang Hao looked at the area where he had planted the Immortal Peach Tree Seed. Everything was settled for now. He had to wait for the Red Lotus to bloom.

Now, there were only two things that needed to be done quickly. That was to appraise the medicinal pill that Hong Yuye had given him and ask Liu Xingchen about Bai Ye.

He went into his house and checked the stone tablet. There was a message informing everyone that the meeting would be held in seven days at midnight. 'It's been a while since the last meeting... This is good. I can find out more!'

'It's been a while since the last meeting... This is good. I can find out more!'

'But what should I do this time? I don't participate in chats, and I am rarely active in the gathering. This way, I will just be forgotten..

He hesitated a while. Perhaps he could reveal some information about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

He needed to get the group's approval somehow. Otherwise, he won't be able to continue undercover.

The next day, Jiang Hao took out the medicinal pill and used Daily Appraisal on it.

[Red Feather Divine Pill: Sacred medicine for healing injuries, nourishing the soul, dispelling evil, breaking curses, and annihilating inner demons. It has the potential to save anyone with a breath or a trace of a soul. This medicine is almost ineffective against the dragon's bloodline.]

"What kind of pill is this?" Jiang Hao felt shocked. Hong Yuye always gave him extraordinary items.

The things she had given him so far were so priceless that they couldn't be bought with spirit stones alone.

Whether it's the Seven Forms of Heavenly Blade, the Light and Dust technique, or the nameless manual, they were all invaluable. He couldn't find such things on the market.

The Snow God Pill and this Red Feather Divine Pill are even more extraordinary.

'Who exactly is she?'

Jiang Hao looked at the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower and the Immortal Peach Tree. She had claimed those too. Did she get all the good things by stealing them from others?

Jiang Hao felt that his chance to escape the demoness' grasp was becoming more and more elusive.

'I still need to become stronger. Whether I can escape or not is one thing, but I must have control over my own life at least!'

He thought of going to the mines. He could be sent there as punishment. He didn't want to go voluntarily. It was very difficult to escape the mines if one volunteered to work there.

Also, if Hong Yuye found out that he had gone to the mines of his own volition, he would be in trouble.

Putting away the Red Feather Divine Pill, he decided to go to the library to find out more about the pill.

If he was desperate for spirit stones, he could sell it in the future. For that, he needed to know just how valuable this pill was.

However, one thing was surprising. The pill supposedly had no influence or effect on those from the dragon bloodline.

'I wonder why...'

Three days later, the Red Lotus sprouted. Jiang Hao didn't feel anything different. However, when he took a nap, he realized that the Heart Demon's Poison was gone! It seemed that the flower was very effective against the poison.

Two more days passed, and the Immortal Peach Tree sprouted. He found a purple bubble beside it.

[Divine Fragment +1]

He now had two divine fragments. If everything went well, he would have another divine fragment next year.

If he could achieve all nine incarnations, he could get three divine fragments!

Another day had passed. Jiang Hao stood on his balcony at midnight and looked at the courtyard below. The spirit beast was lying on the ground and staring at the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

Every night, it guarded the flower. It also wanted to eat it.

'I wonder if it will really eat it someday.'

Jiang Hao shook his head. If it takes a bite, the flower will be fine, but the beast won't survive.

Back in his room, Jiang Hao took out the stone tablet. It was time to enter it to

find out what the gathering was about.

Jiang Hao entered the public area of the stone tablet. It was still the same place, with the same five people as before.

In the front sat Dan Yuan and beside him were three individuals: Gui, Liu, and

Xing.

"Greetings, Senior," they said and bowed.

"It's been a while." Dan Yuan looked at the four of them and smiled. "It's only four of you once again. Do you have any questions about cultivation?"

"Senior, I have a question. Is the spiritual technique of the Heavenly Saint Sect suitable for cultivation?" asked Gui.

“Heavenly Saint Spiritual Technique?” Dan Yuan asked. “It depends on your purpose. The Heavenly Saint Spiritual Technique doesn’t have any other use than to temper the spirit. It doesn’t have a spiritual clone like the Great Thousand Spiritual Technique, nor does it have the phenomenon of the Sun and Moon Spiritual Technique. If you want to temper your mind, it can be useful. The Heavenly Saint Spiritual Technique isn’t considered top-notch, but it’s acceptable in the southern region. In particular, the Heavenly Saint Spiritual spells are the most compatible with other spiritual spells. There are no obstacles to switching to other spiritual spells, and you can cultivate it alongside other spiritual techniques.”

Gui thanked him. Liu and Xing also had some questions.

Jiang Hao hesitated a moment and then shook his head. He didn’t have any questions today.

He didn’t cultivate any spiritual techniques, and his cultivation technique was the Hong Meng Heart Sutra, which he had no problems with. He had asked about a certain pill last time. This time, he had nothing he needed to know.

The others didn’t say anything about it either. Not everyone encountered problems with cultivation.

“Now, let’s talk about the matter that we discussed last time.” Dan Yuan looked at everyone.

“Do any of you have relevant information about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao

Flower?”

Liu provided some information, but it was mostly rumors about the flower’s origin.

Xing remained silent.

Gui glanced at Jiang Hao once and then turned to Dan Yuan. “Although I don’t know much about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, I do know where to find it.”

Jiang Hao was suspicious. He wondered why she had glanced at him before she spoke..

