

## A Demoness 231

### Chapter 231: To Create A Clone

Jiang Hao was also curious. However, he remained calm and quiet.

At noon, he returned to the Spirit Herb Garden after selling the talismans.

Han Ming was waiting for him. He was still in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. He wasn't very far from advancing to the late stage. It was quite impressive.

"Junior Brother Han, your cultivation has become more refined." Jiang Hao said with a smile.

Han Ming felt proud. "I am different from you, Senior Brother Jiang. I travel around to gain experience and improve myself. You stay in the Spirit Herb Garden all day. Sooner or later, I'll surpass you."

"Your talent is astonishing. I'm sure you'll surpass me very soon."

Han Ming intended to accept the compliments after defeating Jiang Hao and then teaching him a lesson for not cultivating properly. "Master sent me here to call you. He wants to meet you, Senior Brother Jiang." "Master wants to see me?" Jiang Hao was surprised.

"I don't know the reason either, but don't delay." Han Ming turned and left.

'Is this about Xiao Li?' Jiang Hao had been planning her trips back home with Cheng Chou. He couldn't think about anything else other than that.

A short while later, he arrived in the courtyard of Ku Wu Chang's house.

“Master, you wanted to see me?” Jiang Hao asked as he entered the courtyard.

Ku Wu Chang looked solemn. He always looked like that. “The Corpse Realm Flower has bloomed everywhere, and the highest credit goes to you.”

Jiang Hao looked bewildered.

“This book is the main reward. Take it back and study it for seven days.” Ku Wu Chang handed a book to Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao accepted the book. The title read, “Nine Extreme Corpse Dissolution Techniques.”

‘The technique of the Divine Corpse Sect?’ Jiang Hao hesitated.

“Master, why am I being credited for it?”

“Don’t you know?” Ku Wu Chang’s ever- somber face revealed a hint of surprise.

Jiang Hao shook his head.

“Elder Baizhi said that you interrogated the prisoner, and that’s how the prisoner gave away this information.”

Jiang Hao was stunned. ‘Did Zhuang Yuzhen confess?’

He hadn’t received any news about it. He hadn’t visited the Lawless Tower in a month.

Getting credited wasn’t favorable for him right now, especially since he was trying not to draw attention to himself. It would invite only trouble.

“Is there anything else you need?” asked Ku Wu Chang.

Jiang Hao found it difficult to speak up. Ku Wu Chang gave him five thousand spirit stones as a reward.

Jiang Hao then left his master’s courtyard. He now had a total of eight thousand spirit stones.

After tending to the spirit herbs in the Spirit Herb Garden, he returned to his house and started reading the book.

“Master.” The spirit beast hopped in front of Jiang Hao. “Chu Chuan has reached the fourth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm! Do we need to give him something?”

“He has reached the fourth stage already?” Jiang Hao was surprised.

He then gave some things to the spirit beast to pass on to Chu Chuan. “What about Lin Zhi? Has he made any progress?”

“He is still at the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm,” the spirit beast said. “If he continues like this, he will be expelled from the sect.”

Jiang Hao was aware of that. If a disciple remained in the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm for five years without making progress, they would get expelled from the sect.

The Heavenly Note Sect had no use for disciples who couldn’t make progress.

The sect didn’t tolerate waste.

“How is his condition now?” Jiang Hao asked.

“It’s still the same. He is mocked and occasionally beaten by others. The new outer sect disciples kick and punch him as they please,” the spirit beast said with a sigh. “He is miserable.”

Jiang Hao just nodded and didn't ask anything further.

He flipped open the "Nine Extremes Corpse Dissolution Technique" and continued reading it. He also activated his Clear and Pure Heart ability to comprehend the technique perfectly. From nightfall until dawn, Jiang Hao read the book.

The spirit beast practiced some fighting techniques. As the sun rose, Jiang Hao closed the book.

'So... that's how it is.'

He now roughly understood the situation with Zhuang Yuzhen and Qu Zhong.

The cultivation method of the "Nine Extremes Corpse Dissolution Technique" was related to Corpse Separation.

Starting from the Foundation Establishment Realm, a disciple could possess someone and turn them into a clone. The clone was called a Divine Corpse. It required the disciple to take over someone else's body.

It could be a living or a dead person. It could even be a spirit beast.

The Divine Corpse could cultivate, but that would take up the main cultivator's time and energy.

If the cultivator's original body is not strong enough to advance to the Golden Core Realm, they could perform a Corpse Fusion and devour the Divine Corpse to increase their cultivation.

After reaching the Golden Core Realm, a disciple could possess two Divine Corpses. The Corpse Fusion created a Corpse Heart, which contains the essence of the clone.

A disciple in the Primordial Spirit realm could possess three clones or Divine Corpses...

The difference between the original body and the clones was that the clones did not possess a heart. However, others wouldn't know about it because the power that lingers around the heart would keep it beating.

'The book doesn't mention that the Corpse Heart can bring about rebirth or how to release the Corpse Heart. But it seems Qu Zhong has three clones since he is in the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm... Zhuang Yuzhen has already performed the Corpse Fusion and is about to advance! The attempt to seize the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower is perhaps related to his advancement. He cannot be allowed to succeed. If he does, he will break through to the next stage or realm!'

Jiang Hao let out a sigh.

'This is a very powerful cultivation technique. It even allows the main cultivator to be reborn in other clones if the main body dies... If I had a clone, I would hide my main body and let the clones handle things. I wonder if the clones can absorb the bubbles. It would be perfect if that was possible! Unfortunately, the Hong Meng Heart Sutra is not compatible with making clones.'

The Hong Meng Heart Sutra only worked on the main body and not on clones. If Jiang Hao switched cultivation techniques now, all his progress could be undermined.

Although it was useful to have clones, it was inferior to the protection and strength that the Hong Meng Heart Sutra provided him.

Seven days later, Jiang Hao returned the book to the Cliff Master, Ku Wu Chang.

His master informed him that according to the sect's rules, he could choose to cultivate the technique but couldn't use other fellow disciples in the sect as clones.

If he were discovered doing so, it would be considered a betrayal of the sect.

He couldn't use the technique even on a dead disciple of the sect. Anyone who does it must be reported.

“For now, only you know about this technique. Without my permission, you cannot disclose it to others,” Ku Wu Chang solemnly said.

“Understood,” Jiang Hao said politely.

Ku Wu Chang asked if he wanted to cultivate it, but Jiang Hao shook his head. The technique was not suitable for him.

After that, Jiang Hao returned to the Spirit Herb Garden.

In these seven days, news spread that he was credited with achievement of figuring out the way to make the seed germinate.

As he had guessed, the Hall of Merit only announced the outcome and didn't explain how he had done it.

People from other branches didn't say anything. Not many people knew him, after all.

They were curious about how he had managed to make the seed sprout, but that was classified information. Nobody knew the exact answer.

While people from other branches didn't think much about it, the ones from the Cliff of Broken Hearts were bewildered.

Some people heard about Jiang Hao for the first time. Others speculated that Jiang Hao must have used some illegal or questionable means to find a way. However, such things were normal in the demonic sect.

So, apart from a few disparaging remarks and disdain for his talent and cultivation, there was nothing more to be said.

Since the Hall of Merit had announced it, the credit went to Jiang Hao. It was a fact that everyone had to accept.

Jiang Hao could only remain silent when faced with curious stares from others. It would be better if he ventured out less.

At that moment, he sensed something from the sub-rings in his pocket. Xiao Li had reached her home..

Chapter 232: The Law Enforcement Hall is Different from the Rest

Translator: EndlessFantasy Translation???? Editor: EndlessFantasy Translation

It was either the spirit beast or Xiao Li. Every ring had its own core, so Jiang Hao could determine who it was. The spirit beast didn't understand how to connect to the main ring and open that door.

'It seems like I need to decide whether to go or not.'

First, he needed to use Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman to see if it worked. Having made that decision, Jiang Hao glanced at his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 24]

[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]

[Lifeflood: 96/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 96/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Divine Abilities: 2/3 (cannot be obtained)]

‘If everything goes smoothly, a few days will be enough for me to advance...’

He could buy a few seeds, which cost up to a thousand spirit stones. It could give him some bubbles that might be enough to advance. However, earning spirit stones was difficult, so he didn’t want to spend them.

Although he could earn spirit stones later, it would take a long time. Also, he had to wait for the right time to transplant the spirit herb. It was too much of a hassle.

As for the bubbles, the herbs would either give white or green bubbles. It was difficult to get blue bubbles. Only top-tier herbs produced blue bubbles.

There was a chance that his spirit herb might be stolen as well. He didn’t have any anti-theft arrays here.

Elder Baizhi wasn’t worried about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower because she needed to lure in the traitors. Hong Yuye wasn’t worried because she genuinely didn’t care. Jiang Hao never had to set up powerful arrays because of that.

It was also very expensive to put up powerful arrays. He was still poor.

If he really wanted to collect bubbles, it was better to plant the spirit herbs in the Spirit Herb Garden. However, if he planted it in the Spirit Herb Garden, everyone would find out about it.

If anyone thought he was that wealthy despite being only at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, it would attract trouble. Two weeks later, Jiang Hao glanced at his interface again.



[Lifeblood: 99/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 99/100 (can be cultivated)]

He only had one point lacking. If the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower gave him two bubbles, then he could begin his advancement.

Du Yong had visited a few times, but they only exchanged a few words. It seemed that he wasn't in a hurry. Jiang Hao was patient enough to wait, as he didn't really have any intention of rushing things.

However, he did check his surroundings to see if the Corpse Heart had been buried. Occasionally, he used the Daily Appraisal on Du Yong to find out more information on the Corpse Heart. So far, everything was the same.

In the next few days, Gui sent him a message saying that she had the location of the dragon and wanted to talk to him about it.

Jiang Hao pretended not to see it, fearing that she would ask about his whereabouts. He could only wait. If she asked, he would tell her he was a little busy. Being an undercover agent was not easy.

As for Xiao Li, her sub-ring had temporarily malfunctioned. She must have probably taken it away to play with. Fortunately, the next day, it returned to normal.

At night, Jiang Hao took out a Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman and activated it with a wisp of spiritual energy. The power of the talisman enveloped him.

He wasn't sure if it had worked or malfunctioned. After hesitating for a moment, he began pacing back and forth at the entrance of the courtyard.

It wasn't until midnight that he realized someone was watching him. He could see four pairs of eyes.

'It seems that it works! Also, some people are keeping an eye on my place...' Since it was effective, he had to go to the Law Enforcement Hall to meet Liu Xingchen to see if he could leave the sect for a while.

The next day, at the foot of the Law Enforcement Hall, he met Liu Xingchen.

"Junior Brother Jiang, you came to find me?" Liu Xingchen was surprised.

Jiang Hao sensed that Liu Xingchen was closer to advancing to the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. He was progressing so fast!

So far, he hadn't seen anyone surpass Liu Xingchen. The True Disciples of the Heavenly Note Sect were truly something else.

Although Bai Ye was strong, in Jiang Hao's eyes, he wasn't as good as Liu Xingchen. That was because Bai Ye hid in the shadows, while Liu Xingchen walked undaunted. He was unaffected by any threats directed at him..

Chapter 233: Last Glimmer of Light

At night, Jiang Hao checked his surroundings and began cultivating.

After more than a year of accumulation, he was finally able to advance.

If everything went smoothly, he would be able to reach the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. He would temporarily surpass Liu Xingchen.

However, he needed to be wary of Bai Ye.

In the past two days, he had assessed his own situation and tested all kinds of powers. There were no issues at all.

Unfortunately, Hong Yuye hadn't visited for seven months. Otherwise, Jiang Hao could have had some security.

He emptied his mind of all thoughts and began to advance. His spiritual energy surged within his body.

The Hong Meng Heart Sutra circulated and nourished his body. It allowed his spiritual energy to flow through his meridians and ultimately feed his Primordial Spirit Realm.

There was some tingling sensation during the breakthrough, but it was a

normal phenomenon.

After enduring for a moment, Jiang Hao felt as if a great door had blasted open, and a new power began to condense.

'I've reached the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm!'

It had happened sooner than he expected. His Primordial Spirit Realm capabilities had helped him advance easily.

Frequently collecting bubbles and possessing Primordial Spirit divine abilities made his situation far superior to others of the same level.

Liu Xingchen's advancement was also fast. Perhaps it was because he devoured the souls of those who possessed him. He might also possess divine abilities.

Jiang Hao didn't know much about his abilities, so it was difficult to speculate.

He closed his eyes again and planned to use the remaining points to refine his cultivation.

The next morning, Jiang Hao activated the Reappearance of the Hidden Spirit ability.

Once his cultivation recovered, he stored the stacks on his wrist guards.

He also took out the Half-Moon Blade to refine it.

He didn't go to the Spirit Herb Garden the entire day. He only got up and headed there near dusk to collect some bubbles and check on the spirit herbs.

After returning to his courtyard, he used the Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman. It concealed his aura.

As expected, there were people spying on him in secret.

Judging from their aura, their cultivation shouldn't be that powerful.

However, he didn't probe because he didn't want them to sense him. It seemed that they all had treasures to conceal their presence.

After a long time, the spies disappeared.

After informing the spirit beast that he would go to the Spirit Herb Garden tomorrow, he went into the house.

He sensed the aura of Xiao Li's sub-ring and then sat cross-legged on the floor.

At this moment, he was still nurturing the Half-Moon Blade.

Late at night, he disappeared from the spot.

Huangsha River.

Yuxia Village.

The moon shone brightly in the sky, and a silver veil descended from above, enveloping the small, peaceful village.

Occasionally, a dog's bark could be heard from a distance. Mostly, there were sounds of crickets chirping at night.

In a corner of the village, a small courtyard was still illuminated.

"Mother, I'm going to sleep. Tomorrow, I'll go to the river to catch fish with Father for you," said a girl's voice.

"Alright, go to sleep. You won't be able to wake up tomorrow if you sleep late." "Tell me the story about the Sea God," said the girl's voice after a while.

"Okay."

After a while, the story ended. The girl didn't respond. She must have fallen asleep.

At this moment, a figure appeared in the courtyard. His appearance didn't alarm anyone.

'Is this the place?' Jiang Hao glanced at the courtyard and turned away.

He had no intention of disturbing the people living there. He walked out of the courtyard and saw Cheng Chou. He was digging underneath a tree.

Jiang Hao didn't disturb him.

After some time, Jiang Hao walked to the farthest part of the mountain and sat cross-legged under a tree. He attracted danger, so he wanted to see if the Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman really worked to hide him from other people's eyes.

If he failed, someone would probably notice him. There was a chance he could escape their attacks if he moved fast enough.

He was fully prepared. He would kill anyone who attacked him. If the enemy was stronger than him, he would stall for time and teleport to his house in the sect.

This way, he wouldn't have to involve Xiao Li and the others.

Until dawn, Jiang Hao didn't sense any danger. He was safe for now.

When he was heading toward the village, he saw an elderly man with a bamboo basket coming out of Xiao Li's house.

The old man had a slightly bent back, dark skin, and a face full of wrinkles.

Jiang Hao frowned. After a second of thought, he walked toward him.

His footsteps attracted the old man's attention.

"Young man, are you looking for directions? Are you lost?" asked the old man with concern.

Jiang Hao shook his head. "Just passing by. I wanted to take a stroll through this area. What are you here for?"

"I'm going to dig for some bamboo shoots," the old man said.

"Please let me accompany you," said Jiang Hao.

The old man nodded. The young man looked formidable and was polite. If he were here to attack him, then he wouldn't be able to escape anyway.

"Alright."

Then the two of them walked toward the mountains.

"Are you feeling alright?" asked Jiang Hao. "Why do you want to go so far for bamboo shoots? What about your family?"

The old man chuckled. "I've been bedridden for half a month. My daughter keeps saying that the bamboo shoots I pick taste good. Today, I feel much better. I thought I would search for some bamboo shoots in the mountains." "It seems you really love your daughter."

"She's mischievous, but she's really well-behaved," said the old man proudly.

"What about your other children?" Jiang Hao asked.

The old man shook his head helplessly. "Who knows? Maybe they don't want to take care of us anymore, or maybe they are already dead."

The old man stopped in front of a bamboo grove and was about to start digging.

"I'll do it. I've never done this before, but I've always wanted to try," Jiang Hao said. He smiled and took the hoe from the old man's hands.

"But it's inconvenient for you, young man," said the old man.

"That's alright. I don't mind. Do you have any regrets in your life?" asked Jiang Hao as he dug the soil.

“Of course.” The old man laughed. “Who lives without regrets? I feel like I’ve spent most of my life either regretting or feeling remorse.”

“Life has been tough, hasn’t it?” Jiang Hao glanced at the calluses on the old man’s hands.

The old man leaned against the bamboo and chuckled. “Can’t be helped... Everyone lives a life full of struggles. I’m curious about the lives of rich people in the city. I wonder what kind of hoe they use for farming...”

“Golden ones?” Jiang Hao said

The old man laughed heartily. “The rich folks don’t farm. They make others do it for them.”

Jiang Hao smiled and then dug out a bamboo shoot.

“Please dig out one more. I’m going to save it for my daughter.”

Jiang Hao took the bamboo basket. “Of course. I have plenty of time.”

As he watched the old man’s vitality seemingly burning its last flame, Jiang Hao couldn’t help but sigh..

Chapter 234: True Dragon

“Are these enough?” Jiang Hao asked as he dug out the third bamboo shoot. “That’s more than enough. Thank you, young man.”

With that, Jiang Hao put away his tools, slung the bamboo basket on his back, and walked forward.

After walking for a while, the old man was panting.



"Let's rest for a while," Jiang Hao said as he stopped by the rocks near a stream.

"I'm old now... Can't walk as much." The old man sat down on one of the rocks.

Jiang Hao also sat down beside him. The air was rife with the sound of a gurgling stream and birds chirping.

"Young man, it seems you rarely venture to the mountains. Am I right?" said the old man.

"That's correct. I didn't have time to experience something like this before." The two of them got up and started walking toward the village.

"Have you ever thought of finding out about your children?" Jiang Hao asked.

"No." The old man smiled sadly. "I don't think they want us around. That's fine with me. I still have a daughter. It's enough."

Jiang Hao nodded. He heard someone rushing toward them.

It was Cheng Chou. He was running in their direction. Presumably, he was looking for the old man.

Cheng Chou reached them and heaved a sigh of relief when he saw the old man. The old man seemed somewhat embarrassed. "I've troubled you."

Cheng Chou shook his head and let him know that it was alright. Then he noticed Jiang Hao beside the old man. "Senior Brother Jiang!"

The old man looked shocked. He extended his trembling hand to take the bamboo basket off of Jiang Hao's shoulders. "I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have made you dig the shoots and carry them!"

Jiang Hao grabbed the old man's hand gently. "It's alright. I don't mind."

He then turned to Cheng Chou. "Junior Brother Cheng, you can go back. We'll catch up."

Cheng Chou nodded and went back.

"I... I didn't know it was you, Elder," the old man said and lowered his head.

Jiang Hao smiled. "That's alright. And you can continue calling me "young man." I prefer that."

"You are different." said the old man as he glanced at Tiane Hao. "The rich folks in the city act high and mighty. But you don't put on such an attitude, young man. "

Jiang Hao laughed. "I'll take that as a compliment."

Jiang Hao knew better than anyone how cultivators treated ordinary non-cultivators. He didn't feel that way. He understood that regardless of whether you were a cultivator or a non-cultivator, everyone was equal. Besides, he always felt calm around anyone he met.

After a long while, Jiang Hao and the old man arrived at Xiao Li's home again.

At this time, an old woman leaning on a cane stood at the gate of the courtyard.

When Jiang Hao approached, she was about to kneel to pay respects. But before she could do that, a gust of wind lifted her up.

"What are you doing?" Jiang Hao asked.

The old woman was hunched over, her eyes squinting from habit because she couldn't see clearly. Her hands had several liver spots.

“Paying my respects to you,” she said.

“There is no need for that,” said Jiang Hao.

The old woman was astonished.

Upon entering, Jiang Hao searched the ground in the courtyard and retrieved the ring.

He entered Xiao Li’s house and sat down on a chair. Xiao Li’s old parents were at a loss.

Just as Jiang Hao was about to speak, the old woman suddenly remembered something and hurried to the kitchen.

She brought out some pastries and tea.

“You should sit down, too,” Jiang Hao said.

Only then did the two of them sit down, but they seemed uneasy.

“Xiao Li went to catch fish. She won’t be gone for long. She has no trouble catching fish, but she likes to play in the water and take her time,” said the old woman.

Jiang Hao asked about their names. The old man’s name was Miao Shi, and the old woman’s name was Miao Xiang.

They had lived their entire lives in the village and never traveled far from here. The farthest they had ever been was the nearby town.

Their son left home for the city at the age of nineteen, and their daughter got married at the age of sixteen and moved to the city as well. They used to visit once every three or five years. But it had been several years since they had visited.

“We... found Xiao Li many years ago. She has brought us unimaginable comfort,” said Miao Xiang. “We wanted to watch her grow up, but it seems that would be... impossible.”

Jiang Hao saw the wall where marks had been drawn to measure Xiao Li’s height.

“She will grow up.” Jiang Hao looked at the two elderly people in front of him.

“She is just a bit slow, but she is strong.”

The two elders glanced at each other. They looked hesitant.

At that moment, Jiang Hao suddenly felt a fluctuation of spiritual energy. It was coming from upstream. Although faint, it was somewhat strange.

“Where does Xiao Li go to catch fish?” he suddenly asked.

“She often goes upstream. She says the fish there are larger and more delicious,” Miao Shi said.

“I’ll go take a look.” Jiang Hao disappeared.

He vanished like dust in the wind.

The old couple looked at each other. They were stunned.

Upstream at the Huangsha River, there was a loud boom.

Xiao Li emerged from the water with a big fish in her hands.

Behind her, the river surged, and a huge creature emerged from the water.

It was a black dragon. It looked at Xiao Li with eyes filled with fear and excitement.

“Why did you steal my fish?” Xiao Li glared at the dragon.

In front of the dragon, she was nothing but a tiny ant, but she showed no fear at all.

“A True Dragon?” said the dragon as it looked at Xiao Li in bewilderment. “What kind of True Dragon are you? Why does your blood carry such pure energy? I have been observing you in fear for seven days. You are still weak. Once I devour you, I will be the True Dragon!”

“I caught this fish for my parents. If you try to steal it again, I won’t let you off so easily,” said Xiao Li.

The dragon laughed and looked up at the sky. “You are truly stupid. Even the heavens are helping me!”

The dragon’s body surged, and it pounced at Xiao Li. “This place will be where I transform into a True Dragon!”

It appeared in front of Xiao Li, ready to devour her.

Xiao Li showed no signs of fear, but she was suppressed by the overwhelming power and couldn’t move at all.

Just as the dragon was about to devour Xiao Li, a golden ring appeared in front of her.

Clang!

A golden light flashed. The dragon crashed onto the ground and was forced to retreat.

“Who is it?” asked the dragon as it looked around.

Before it could speak further, a silver light flashed, and a blade pierced its neck.

The dragon roared in pain. It rolled over, and Jiang Hao withdrew his saber.

At this moment, he stood in midair, raising the Half-Moon Blade. Purple energy surrounded the place.

He used the first form of the Heavenly Blade: Moon-Slaying..

Chapter 235: Appearing Mysterious In The Next Gathering

The sudden attack startled and enraged the dragon.

With a furious roar, it was about to attack the humans nearby.

It couldn't believe that a mere Primordial Spirit Realm cultivator dared to be so audacious! His cultivation wasn't enough to even destroy its scales.

In an instant, its power surged. The dragon roared. It began its counterattack.

However, it felt the force of a mountain suppressing its spirit.

Jiang Hao had used his Divine Might ability.

The dragon snorted coldly. How dare such a weak human show off his might to a dragon?

The dragon's soul trembled and broke free from everything. Moonlight flashed, and a blade slashed down.

Boom!

The saber collided with the dragon's scales.

Crack!

To the dragon's astonishment, its scales shattered, and the blade pierced its body. But the blade didn't stop there. With a formidable downward slash, it aimed to cleave the dragon in two.

A purple aura surged and destroyed everything. The dragon tasted death. It didn't hesitate. It separated its dragon soul from its body.

Jiang Hao raised his blade again, and the Mountain Suppression technique appeared on his wrist, ready to use.

He intended to kill the dragon. However, before the blade could descend, something escaped from the dragon's body.

It was the dragon's soul!

Jiang Hao changed his direction and slashed at the dragon's soul instead.

Clang!

A light curtain protected the dragon's soul. Something tried to strike Jiang Hao from behind. It was the dragon trying to restrain his Mountain Suppression technique.

Jiang Hao ignored the attack from behind, gripped his blade tightly, and struck down.

Boom!

The light curtain shattered, and the Mountain Suppression fell on the dragon's soul. It was severely injured.

The attack from behind reached Jiang Hao, but his Nine Heavenly Battle Armor protected him.

With a bang, a powerful force penetrated the armor and struck his back. Fortunately, the impact wasn't that great.

Jiang Hao reached out a hand toward the escaping dragon's soul and activated his Universe in a Palm technique.

A purple aura surged and trapped the escaping dragon's soul.

Jiang Hao floated midair, and the purple sphere floated on his palm. Inside was the remnant of the dragon's soul.

Meanwhile, its body fell heavily on the water's surface.

Jiang Hao used the same technique to seal the dragon's body too.

"Human, what kind of magical technique is that?" The remnant of the dragon's soul was a little afraid.

Jiang Hao put away his blade. He held the remnant of the dragon's soul in his left hand and the sealed dragon's body in his right.

He then activated Daily Appraisal on the remnant of the dragon's soul.



[Remnant of the Dragon's Soul: The soul of a dragon that just escaped from its body. It was chased by a powerful enemy, cursed, and its strength reduced to one-tenth. Now, you've attacked it. It's a dying candle in the wind. It sensed the presence of another dragon here and was hiding in the Huangsha River to strike at the right time. Its location will be known to others at any time.]

"Hmm?" The appraisal results surprised Jiang Hao. He had a feeling that he had heard about this dragon before.

He remembered that Gui had been complaining about a dragon. She kept saying the dragon had repeatedly escaped her.

Its strength was reduced to one-tenth. If it was at its full strength, it would have far surpassed Jiang Hao. It was no wonder it kept running away from Gui.

The people in the stone tablet were not ordinary.

'It seems Xiao Li's presence attracted the dragon...'

He looked at the remnant of the dragon's soul. "Who is chasing after you?"

"What are you talking about?" The remnant of the dragon's soul pretended to be confused.

"Cursed and hunted by an enemy... You've had to use your talent to hide many times, right? Do you now understand what I'm talking about?"

The dragon's soul looked shocked. It couldn't understand how Jiang Hao knew all this.

"I... I don't know who she is. I just accidentally provoked her. She started chasing me. At that time, she was in a secret realm. She must have thought I saw something important, so she pursued me," the dragon's soul said angrily.

“If it weren’t for her, I would have transformed into a True Dragon.”

“Is that so?” Jiang Hao sighed as he looked at the dragon’s soul. “Is there anything else you want to say?”

“I can take you to that place and pledge my allegiance to you. I have the potential to transform into a True Dragon. I can do many things for you,” the dragon’s soul said hurriedly.

“Very well,” Jiang Hao said.

As the dragon’s soul rejoiced, the Half-Moon Blade appeared in Jiang Hao’s hand. He swung it towards the dragon’s soul.

Jiang Hao squeezed the energy sphere, turning everything to dust. “I’m sorry. You are far too powerful. I don’t think I will be able to control you, so I had to destroy you.”

With the dragon’s soul gone, only the dragon’s body remained.

According to Gui, the dragon had swallowed something valuable. There must be a precious treasure inside the dragon’s body!

This was also the reason why Jiang Hao decided to kill the dragon. What it said didn’t match what Gui had told him.

He decided to believe Gui, not because he trusted her, but because she didn’t pose him any danger for now.

After hesitating for a moment, Jiang Hao strengthened the seal and threw the dragon’s body into the river. It sank straight into the riverbed.

“That should do it.”

He didn't dare touch anything inside because he didn't know if it would attract unwanted attention. It was better to just give up.

Jiang Hao returned to the shore. Xiao Li was still clutching the big fish in her hands.

When she saw Jiang Hao approach, she exclaimed, "Senior Brother Jiang!"

Xiao Li was surprised to see that Jiang Hao didn't care about the dragon at all. "Let's go," she said.

"Alright." Jiang Hao nodded.

"I just caught a fish. You can eat it later." Xiao Li smiled. "My mother and father have been asking about you a lot lately. They seemed hopeful that you would come for a visit. Senior Brother Cheng said you were on your way. I didn't believe him... but it seems it was true!"

Jiang Hao nodded.

"What about the beast? Why didn't the beast come with you?" Xiao Li looked around.

"It's guarding the house," Jiang Hao said.

"Oh..." She happily led the way ahead with spring in her steps.

On the way, Jiang Hao took out the stone tablet and observed it. He realized that Gui was still looking for him. It seemed that the location of the dragon was about to be discovered.

Jiang Hao smiled faintly and put away the stone tablet. He didn't plan to inform her of the situation just yet. He wasn't in a hurry. He would casually mention it during their next meeting.

That way, he could still maintain his mysterious facade and wouldn't have to reveal anything. In this way, he could firmly establish his position at the gathering.

The undercover mission could then proceed smoothly.

“Mother, Father, I’m back! Look who I brought with me!” As soon as they entered the courtyard, Xiao Li shouted toward the house in excitement.

She was extremely happy. Jiang Hao sighed as he watched her jump for joy.

Xiao Li seemed unaware that something was wrong. She was completely clueless that her frequent visits might soon come to an end. Her parents didn’t have much time left..

Chapter 236: A Thin Line Between Life And Death

At noon, Jiang Hao and Cheng Chou helped start the fire. Miao Xiang began cooking.

The fish that Xiao Li had caught was the main dish being cooked.

Xiao Li talked a lot. Miao Xiang was busy cooking, and she occasionally responded to Xiao Li’s constant chatter.

Xiao Li didn’t mind. She helped with cutting the fish. Once she was finished, she picked up the bowl and went to show it to her mother.

Her mother praised her, which made Xiao Li laugh in happiness.

The quiet courtyard was lively in Xiao Li’s presence. It seemed she was the source of life and vitality in this desolate place.

Without Xiao Li, the two old people’s lives would have been lonely. Perhaps it would have been too quiet for them to look forward to their deaths.

With Xiao Li, it was different. They were still moving toward the end of their lives, but they were at least happy.

Jiang Hao saw Miao Shi sitting upright in a chair, watching Xiao Li bustling around. He looked pale and sickly.

After a while, the table was filled with various kinds of dishes. Miao Xiang had cooked everything with Cheng Chou and Xiao Li's help.

Jiang Hao was offered a chair, and he gratefully accepted it.

The others sat down, too and began to serve the meal. There were fish dishes, cooked bamboo shoots, and chicken.

Jiang Hao picked up his chopsticks and took a bite of the fish. He then tasted the chicken and the bamboo shoots.

"This is delicious." He smiled.

Miao Xiang laughed.

Miao Shi also smiled and put some dishes in his bowl.

Xiao Li picked up the tender meat, steamed vegetables and placed them in her parents' bowls.

"Eat this."

The two elders nodded and smiled.

Cheng Chou felt a bit awkward at first. However, when he saw everyone enjoying the meal, he dug in too.

Jiang Hao glanced at them occasionally while eating his food.

After finishing a bowl of rice, he asked for another one. Xiao Li excitedly ran to get it for him. Xiao Li was happy, and so were the two old people.

After the meal, Jiang Hao watched as Xiao Li split firewood for her parents and fed the chickens and ducks.

Jiang Hao felt a bit sentimental.

In the evening, they had dinner. There were fish and bamboo shoots. Miao Xiang had made pastries too.

At night, Miao Shi sat beside Jiang Hao while Miao Xiang put Xiao Li to sleep. "Tell me the story of the Sea God," said Xiao Li from inside the room.

"Again? Okay."

"Then tomorrow... tell me the story of the Little Seashell." Jiang Hao lowered his head.

Miao Shi sat straight beside him. "I'm sorry for troubling you."

"That's alright," said Jiang Hao. "You should go and stay with Xiao Li as long as you can."

Miao Shi nodded and walked inside.

Jiang Hao sat in the courtyard and closed his eyes to rest.

He sat there until the first ray of sunlight hit his face. He got up and entered the inner room.

Xiao Li was sitting next to the two old people. She looked very worried. "Are you feeling unwell?"

She helped them up. "I will go find a doctor. I can help brew some medicine too."

"It's okay. I'm in perfect health," said Miao Xiang.

Miao Shi looked at Xiao Li in concern. His eyes were closing.

He hadn't slept a wink all night. He was afraid that if he closed his eyes, he might not open them again.

"You don't need to be scared even if you're sick," Xiao Li said. "I'll stay here and take care of you until you get better. I can catch fish, cook, and brew medicine. I can take good care of you. Leave it all to me from now on."

"You have grown up," said Miao Xiang with a smile.

She whispered to Xiao Li, "There should be eggs today. Go and see how many there are."

"Okay." Xiao Li got up excitedly and ran out. "If there are eggs, I'll cook them for you."

Jiang Hao sat beside them. Cheng Chou also walked in from outside.

He lowered his head sadly when he saw the two old and sickly people.

He had accompanied Xiao Li here many times before. He felt sad for the two people.

"Can I entrust Xiao Li to you in the future?" Miao Xiang asked Jiang Hao.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao nodded.

Miao Xiang had a little time, but Miao Shi was breathing his last breath.

“We have a secret,” Miao Shi said weakly. “We thought we would take it to our graves, but... it seems only right to tell you. We found Xiao Li in the river.”

“I know,” Jiang Hao said softly. “I also know that Xiao Li is a True Dragon. It’s one of the reasons she grows so slowly. It’s normal for her. I promise she will grow up to be an adult.”

“Thank you.” The two elders smiled.

Finally, they looked at Cheng Chou as if thanking him for taking care of them all this time.

When they closed their eyes, Xiao Li came running with eggs in her hands. A middle-aged man and a woman appeared behind her.

When the two old people closed their eyes, they thought they heard someone calling out for them.  
“Mother... Father...”

Soon, they heard Xiao Li’s voice in their ears. “What’s wrong? I found the eggs. Are you not feeling well? I can go and find a doctor.”

Xiao Li’s voice was choked with tears. The eggs in her hands fell to the ground and splattered everywhere.

“Please... Mother... I’m so clumsy. I dropped the eggs again. They are all smashed! Please, wake up! Scold me. You promised you would tell me a story! Please don’t leave me behind... I promise I won’t ask for meat. I’ll always listen and obey. Please don’t leave me...”

Xiao Li was sobbing now. “Please... I even grew taller than before. Please, wake up.”



Jiang Hao stood by the side and watched as the two old people breathed their last. He then reached out and held Xiao Li..

Chapter 237: Asking The Demoness For A Favor

After Xiao Li stopped crying, Jiang Hao left the courtyard.

The funeral would be held soon. He couldn't attend it, but he asked Cheng Chou to help out.

Jiang Hao left because of Gui. She would soon find this place because of the dragon. She might send someone to investigate secretly. After leaving the courtyard, Jiang Hao made his way to the riverside.

When the two old people were dying, Jiang Hao showed them the illusion of their children running to their bedsides. He didn't want them to die with regrets, so he showed them what they wanted to see.

Jiang Hao couldn't help but worry about Xiao Li. It was quite a blow to her. It reminded him of his stepmother. Although she had been harsh on him, she had still raised him when he was a child. When he saw the two old people breathing their last, he couldn't help but be reminded of his stepmother. Unfortunately, he hadn't been able to find her or his father.

Jiang Hao stood for a long time by the riverside. The wind blew gently and swayed his robes. It carried a familiar, faint fragrance in the air.

Jiang Hao suddenly turned. Sure enough, she was there again. She wore a red and white dress. Her long hair swayed in the wind. A belt cinched her slender waist. At this moment, she was looking at the river, so Jiang Hao could only see the side of her face.

'Hong Yuye... How did she appear here suddenly?'

"Senior..."

"I saw that the village is holding a funeral. Am I right to assume it's somehow connected with you?" She turned to look at Jiang Hao.

"It's related to a junior that I'm looking out for," said Jiang Hao. "She had only those two people, and they just passed away."

"You can't stand to be there?" Hong Yuye faced Jiang Hao. Then she walked upstream.

"It's nothing like that... It just makes me feel sad that life can be too short," he said.

"How so?" asked Hong Yuye as she glanced at him.

"I knew that Junior Sister Xiao Li would have to face this day... She joined the heavenly Note Sect, so her old parents' lives were just improving. They should have lived a long, comfortable life, but... now, they are dead only after a few years since Xiao Li joined the sect. The time was too short for them to be with each other."

"Do you remember why you picked up a saber?" Hong Yuye asked.

"Yes," said Jiang Hao. "The Immortal Sects usually use the blade."

"Do you think you look like someone from the demonic sect?" asked Hong Yuye.

Jiang Hao lowered his head and remained silent.

Hong Yuye stopped speaking and walked quietly along the riverside. Jiang Hao followed her aimlessly.

"Is my tree going to bear fruit?" she asked.

“Almost.” Jiang Hao nodded.

“Will it be sour or sweet this year?” Hong Yuye looked at the setting sun.

“Sweet.”

“Sweet?” Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao with a teasing smile. “But I want to eat something sour.”

“There should be some sour ones as well,” Jiang Hao said.

The unripe ones would be sour. Jiang Hao wondered if Hong Yuye would find fault with that too.

He hesitated. “Senior, can I ask a favor from you?”

“A favor?” Hong Yuye asked. “Sure. You’ll have to give something back as repayment, though. We can just put it on your tab for now, and I can retrieve it next time.”

“Can you please bring the spirit beast here?” asked Jiang Hao.

Hong Yuye reached out and grabbed the air. The unconscious spirit beast appeared in her hands, bloodied and bruised.

“This?” Hong Yuye threw the beast to Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao was puzzled. He couldn’t understand how Hong Yuye did it.

“Thank you, Senior.”

“No need to thank me. You can pay me back next time.” Hong Yuye stared at Jiang Hao. “Tell me about your progress. It’s been over half a year. How’s your undercover mission going?”

“I did make some progress, but I still need to sort out some details,” said Jiang Hao reluctantly.

Hong Yuye gazed at Jiang Hao calmly. Then a surge of power erupted.

Bang!

Jiang Hao was sent flying and crashed heavily into a boulder.

“I hope next time you can be just as confident,” Hong Yuye said. The pain made Jiang Hao’s eyes water. When he looked up, Hong Yuye was gone.

With that, Jiang Hao finally heaved a sigh of relief. The problem was that it was difficult to investigate the person who was behind the stone tablet. It was almost impossible to find their location.

If he wanted to find them, he needed to provoke the people in the group so they revealed their location willingly.

However, uncovering the true culprit behind the stone tablets was almost impossible. Even Dan Yuan might not know who might be behind all that.

Jiang Hao looked at the spirit beast in his hand. Cheng Chou wasn’t a comforting person. Xiao Li would need all the support she could get. The spirit beast might be of comfort to her during this time.

As he threw the beast on the ground, it woke up and wailed.

With that, Jiang Hao communicated with the formation in his courtyard, where he had hidden the ring. He disappeared from the spot.

He had learned one thing from all this: the Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman didn’t work on Hong Yuye. Perhaps it would only be possible to conceal himself from her after he somehow lost the Heaven

Extinction Gu Poison. Since there was no way of that happening any time soon, he needed to focus on his cultivation.

At the Heavenly Note Sect, Du Yong glanced at Jiang Hao's courtyard. He then turned and left.

"We can't proceed with the original plan. It's too dangerous," he said.

Initially, he had planned to befriend Jiang Hao and lure him out of the sect. After that, he would make his true body possess him and turn him into a Divine Corpse.

However, he found out that Jiang Hao couldn't leave the sect easily.

"This sect has so many rules. So many things are forbidden here. But they don't care what happens outside the sect."

What truly made him change his mind was the Corpse Realm Flower.

Under normal circumstances, the Corpse Realm Flower couldn't bloom at all.

Even he didn't know how to cultivate it, so it was almost impossible for the Heavenly Note Sect to figure that out. The only possibility was that something must have happened to his master.

What kind of problem would make his master reveal the secret of the Corpse Realm Flower?

There was only one reason: it had something to do with the Corpse Heart. Only that could make his master compromise.

"The Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower is in Jiang Hao's hands, and the credit for the blooming of the Corpse Realm Flower also goes to Jiang Hao..."

"Either he has someone supporting him from behind, or he possesses certain abilities..."

“According to my previous speculation, with his age and possession of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, it is possible that he might be an illegitimate child of a high-ranking member of the Heavenly Note Sect. But now... it seems maybe that’s not all. Maybe Jiang Hao is the illegitimate child of the Sect Master!”

“Now that the Corpse Realm Flower has bloomed, it means that my master’s Corpse Heart might be discovered too. Also, I might be targeted...’

“My only advantage is that my strength far surpasses the Foundation Establishment Realm. My true self must not appear, but we still need to place the Corpse Heart closer to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.”

“What is the safest way to do it?” Du Yong furrowed his brow. “I can’t possess Jiang Hao... Why not let my master possess him? If the Corpse Heart blooms, my master can directly possess him.”

“As long as I deceive him and lure him out, I can get close to him with my clone. By substituting the Corpse Heart for his heart, he will naturally nourish the Corpse Heart because he is around the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower all the time. When the Corpse Heart is released, I can seize control of it, and then the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower will also be in my hands.”

If everything went smoothly, this plan was the most efficient way of getting the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

But he needed to think it through. In any case, he needed to prioritize the safety of his true self..

Chapter 238: A New Gathering

In the southern region, somewhere in the Heavenly South Prefecture, a woman in a yellow dress descended from the air.

At the edge of the mountain peak, a middle-aged man with white hair looked at the woman and smiled. "Lady Bi Zhu, you arrived quite early."

"How is it?" Bi Zhu asked as she landed on the ground.

The middle-aged man handed her a scroll. "I marked the area here. It is a remote place in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture."

Taking the scroll, Lady Bi Zhu carefully examined it and found that there were three rivers and countless mountains marked within the enclosed area. There were quite a few towns as well.

"The area is huge," she said.

"It is indeed quite big," the middle-aged man said. "It will take about a month to accurately pinpoint the location. Since you don't plan on going there personally, I assume you are going to put someone else up to the task. The person might not find the exact location on time."

Lady Bi Zhu nodded.

"Then let's settle the payment next time. This time, it's not me who is going to take action, so it won't be on its guard," she said and left on her flying sword.

"A month from now, I will have the crane deliver the location to you. Don't forget to pay the price then," the middle-aged man said.

"Of course," Lady Bi Zhu said.

Soon, she returned to her temporary residence.

After activating the formations around her, she took out the stone tablet. She frowned as she watched the texts on it.

'Jing hasn't entered the chat in a long time... He only appears in gatherings. Is he busy, or is he deliberately avoiding us?'

Lady Bi Zhu's eyebrows were knitted tightly. Without any contact, it was difficult to gauge Jing's intent. Those people who deliberately avoided contact were either busy or trying to hide something.

'It's okay. It's been almost six months. The next gathering might be soon. I can ask Jing to help out and find out how capable he is.'

After that, Lady Bi Zhu entered the stone tablet. Her code name was still "Gui."

In the Hidden Cloud Prefecture, at the Cliff of Broken Hearts, Jiang Hao appeared in the living room of his house.

He then walked out to the courtyard and stopped in front of the Immortal Peach Tree. The cool breeze ruffled his hair.

He brewed some tea for himself and sat down on a wooden chair. He poured himself a cup.

Jiang Hao had expected Xiao Li's old parents to entrust her care to him. He knew they were at the end of their lives. However, he wouldn't take up her care indefinitely. After she became strong enough to look after herself, he would let her venture on her own path. He planned the same for the spirit beast.

If they didn't come back, that would be great. But if they did, it would mean trouble for him.

With their talents, they would surpass even his cultivation realm. If they caused trouble, others would come after him because he was their master. His dream of a peaceful life would be disrupted.

In short, the more people he got close to, the more troublesome it would be for him.

His courtyard was too small to accommodate great demons and True Dragons.



Jiang Hao lifted the teacup to his lips and took a sip. After that, he wanted to cultivate. He was so close to reaching the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Once he reached the late stage, his cultivation would be on par with Bai Ye's. Even if he couldn't kill him, Jiang Hao needed to find a way to severely injure him.

He couldn't let Bai Ye initiate a challenge using the title of one of the top disciples of the sect. That would complicate matters. He had to do everything in his power to prevent Bai Ye from becoming one of the top ten disciples.

If Bai Ye continued to become stronger, it was hard to say what kind of techniques he would develop.

Once they became too difficult to bypass, it would be too bothersome for Jiang Hao. The only way was to suppress him.

In his room, Jiang Hao assessed his situation and began to cultivate.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 24]

[Cultivation: Middle 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: 3/100 (Cannot be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 2/100 (Cannot be cultivated)]

[Divine Abilities: 2/3 (Cannot be obtained)]

Jiang Hao felt miserable looking at the points. They were very low.

After reaching the Primordial Spirit Realm, it had proven increasingly difficult to obtain blue bubbles.

If he had known that the credit for the Corpse Realm Flowers would fall on his head, he would have cultivated the flowers himself. At least that way, he would have gotten some bubbles.

What was more frustrating was that the twelve Corpse Realm Flowers resonated with each other and absorbed the spiritual energy in their vicinity as nourishment. They didn't require tending to.

Jiang Hao sighed. It was like the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. When he was away, the spirit beast took care of the flower, and he couldn't obtain bubbles at all.

If it weren't for the bubbles, why would Jiang Hao ever choose to work in the Spirit Herb Garden?

It reminded him of the days when he was still an outer sect disciple. It had taken him years to accumulate points to advance in his cultivation.

After becoming an inner sect disciple, his progress had been much faster.

After planting the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, his progress was even quicker.

The best way to get bubbles was through mining. That had helped Jiang Hao a lot as well.

All these factors were how he had been able to advance from the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm to the Primordial Spirit Realm.

However, he was at a stalemate again. It might take hundreds of years to resolve things with the people who hated him. The most pressing matter right now was to steadily improve his cultivation.

He hoped he could get one more purple bubble so that he could obtain another divine ability.

After returning home, Jiang Hao didn't think about Xiao Li's family anymore. The matter had come to this, and he accepted it. It was time to move on.

It wasn't easy for Xiao Li. Jiang Hao hoped the spirit beast could make her feel better.

Jiang Hao was powerless in that respect. He had never had bonds like that with anyone, but Xiao Li was different. She had a family who loved her. It was a place where she could feel safe and comfortable. Her two old parents had looked forward to her return every single time.

There was delicious food for her at home, someone to tell her stories at night, and someone to dig bamboo shoots just for her..

But now, it was all gone.

Xiao Li wouldn't have a home to return to anymore. She would have no one to share her stories with.

Jiang Hao closed his eyes and calmed his mind. Purple energy surrounded him, and he began to refine his cultivation.

After seven days, Jiang Hao returned to his previous way of life.

The Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman had also expired, and the effect was gone. Jiang Hao wasn't in a hurry to take on tasks from the Law Enforcement Hall any time soon. He would pay them back later.

There were still three months left. The Immortal Peach Tree might not last that long.

The peach tree had already bloomed. In less than three months, it would bear fruits. By then, Jiang Hao would be able to figure out how many spirit stones he needed for another incarnation.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao sensed the stone tablet vibrating in his pocket. He took it out to see what was happening. Dan Yuan was calling everyone for a gathering.

Chapter 239: Finally, Gui Asks The Most Anticipated Question

Jiang Hao entered the public area. The people gathered there were the same ones as before.

The four of them respectfully greeted each other. Dan Yuan smiled at them all.

“We meet again after six months!” he said.

The four of them sat cross-legged on the ground.

“Do you have any questions about cultivation?” asked Dan Yuan.

“I met a fellow cultivator overseas who encountered a bottleneck in their cultivation and couldn’t break through,” said Liu. “I feel like I might go through the same thing in the future. I might have taken the wrong path. If I create a clone and cultivate on the right path, will I be able to reverse that?”

“It’s unlikely.” Dan Yuan was deep in thought. “Reversing it would put a far greater burden on the body than anticipated. If there are pills that can nourish the body’s meridians, it could be worth a try. If not, I don’t recommend doing it. The best method is to cultivate an external body that lacks any spiritual intelligence and can only be controlled by the main body’s consciousness. After finding the correct cultivation method, you can transfer the cultivation to the main body. Then the main body can start cultivation anew. This way, you will have both security and the ability to go further.”

Liu nodded. The others didn't have any questions.

"Then let's talk about the previous mission." Dan Yuan looked at everyone. "Is there any news about the person?"

Gui shook her head. Liu and Xing didn't have any information regarding that either. They were too far away to investigate.

Gui had inquired but found out that there hadn't been any major battles in the Heavenly Note Sect in the recent past.

After that, she was busy hunting the dragon.

Dan Yuan looked at Jiang Hao. "Friend Jing, you were also in that area. Did you find anything?"

Jiang Hao had already prepared the answer in his mind. "I did learn something," he said.

"What is it?" asked Dan Yuan.

"Senior, have you heard of the Corpse Realm Flower?" asked Jiang Hao.

"I've heard of it." Dan Yuan nodded and smiled.

"I heard it had appeared near the Heavenly Note Sect," said Jiang Hao.

The others were surprised.

Dan Yuan was silent for a while. "I see. Anything else?"

"I heard that the flower has bloomed in the Heavenly Note Sect," Jiang Hao said.

He was taking a gamble. Only a very few people actually knew about it. He might be discovered. He chose his next words more carefully.

Gui listened attentively.

Dan Yuan smiled. "Friend Jing, you have completed the mission. You can ask for anything you want."

'Completed?' Gui and the others were puzzled.

"Jing, you can explain to them," said Dan Yuan with a smile.

Jiang Hao felt somewhat helpless. He had to be careful. "Recently, I heard that the heavenly Note Sect has been collecting books and records on how to plant and raise the Corpse Realm Flower."

"So?" Gui asked.

She might have investigated too early. Otherwise, she would have heard about the flower.

"The Corpse Realm Flower is a unique flower found in the northern region.

Very few people know how to cultivate it. Jing suspects that the heavenly Note Sect might have captured someone from the north," said Liu.

Jiang Hao nodded. "What is truly worth noting is that the Corpse Realm Flower has bloomed."

At this point, he dared not reveal any more details. It was easy to slip.

Zhuang Yuzhen only revealed the cultivation method when the Corpse Heart was threatened. So, the blooming of the Corpse Realm Flower meant that he had surrendered.

Jiang Hao's knowledge was limited, and he didn't dare speculate further about it.

However, the others understood. The possible capture of the Corpse Realm Flower could be an accident, but figuring out a way to make it bloom would mean that someone from the north was captured and forced to reveal the information.

Based on Dan Yuan's information, the person who had gone to investigate the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower had been from the north.

Dan Yuan smiled and turned to look at Jiang Hao. "Friend Jing, have you thought about what information you want?"

"Senior, I was wondering if you knew why the disciples of the Great Thousand God Sect were sent to the Hidden Cloud Prefecture?"

His intention was to find out something for Hong Yuye, but he didn't dare ask openly. That would only bring him trouble. He knew that the stone tablets were from the Great Thousand God Sect.

While investigating the mastermind behind the stone table, he could also learn about the goals of the Grand Thousand God Sect and possibly find the person behind all this.

At the same time, he could also report to Hong Yuye about his findings.

It couldn't be considered a perfect solution, but it would allow him to establish

some crea1D111LY.

"I will give you an answer at our next gathering," Dan Yuan said. Then he looked at the others. "There is no mission this time."

Gui looked at Jiang Hao. "Jing, I found the location of the dragon. Are you willing to go there?"

“Huangsha River,” Jiang Hao said. “You can go there and look upriver.” Finally, his moment had arrived. He had been waiting for this.

With the information about the Corpse Realm Flower and Gui’s task, his credibility was slowly being established in the group. He just had to maintain a good image now.

If he killed the wrong dragon, the consequences would be unimaginable.

“What do you mean?” Gui asked.

She realized that there were three rivers marked on the scroll. One of them was the Huangsha River.

“Do you mean I should go and search upriver?” Gui made a note of it. She found it unbelievable.

She would check it out and see if Jing was correct.

Liu and Xing were also surprised.

Jing had first completed Dan Yuan’s task, and now he was solving Gui’s problem.

Gui hesitated for a while. “What do you want in return? If your information is correct, then you can tell me what you want, so I can prepare.”

“Recently, I’ve been interested in curses,” Jiang Hao said.

He didn’t dare ask for any items from these people, as their strength far exceeded his own. Contact with them would only endanger him. So, information and techniques were the most suitable.

And his interest in curses wasn’t on a sudden whim. It was because he wanted to use it against Bai Ye.



If Bai Ye could use a Sealing Technique to seal his cultivation, Jiang Hao would find a curse to prevent him from advancing too..

Chapter 240: Free Form

“Curses?”

Gui wasn’t very surprised. “What kind of curses are you looking for?”

‘What kind?’ Jiang Hao was puzzled.

“There are different types of curses. For example, there are luck-related curses, which are comprehensive curses that make everything go wrong. But they are not specific, so you might not have control over them. To succeed, you need to pay a significant price. And there are specific curses that can be either instant or delayed. For example, the curse to make someone die a horrible death might happen instantly, but cursing them with no descendant might take effect slowly over a span of decades. I used the latter type on the dragon. I cursed it with decay so that its body would weaken gradually.”

“Can I have both?” Jiang Hao asked.

“You can, but curses have backlash. I can only provide you with a method to avoid the backlash from one type of curse at a time- So, do you want to avoid

the backlash of comprehensive curses or specific curses?” Gui asked.

Jiang Hao understood that there was a price to pay when cursing someone. Gui didn’t mind teaching him some curses with a method to prevent the backlash.

After hesitating for a moment, Jiang Hao said, “Let’s go with the specific curses.”

They were simple and convenient, with a higher success rate. For a beginner, this choice was better. However, he wasn't sure about the difficulty of learning a curse.

"Okay." Gui nodded. "After confirming everything on the Huangsha River, I'll have the curses ready for our next gathering."

Jiang Hao nodded.

"Do you have any recommendations for clone techniques?"

"If it's for protection, it's better to choose some orthodox, external clones," said Xing. "The Clear Sky School has a secret technique called Free Form, which should be suitable."

"Can we get it?" Liu asked.

"It will take some time," Xing said. "However, there is another option: the Bright Moon Sect's incarnation technique, Myriad Bodies. As long as it's a sentient being, such as a spirit herb, spirit beast, or spirit plant, it can be used as a clone. I can give you that right now."

"What do you want in return?" Liu asked.

"Help me find someone. She fled overseas. I will tell you the details later," Xing said.

"Do you want them alive?"

"Doesn't matter."

Jiang Hao was quite surprised. The secret techniques of the Clear Sky School and the Bright Moon Sect were available to be exchanged. He wondered about Xing's identity.

However, he kept a straight face. These individuals were stronger than him and were in cultivation realms that surpassed his own. It was quite difficult to appear capable and mysterious in front of them.

After the exchange was confirmed, Liu said, "I heard from some people overseas that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune pearl is in the southern region. It's possible that someone went there to search for it."

"The southern region?!" Gui exclaimed. "Then I need to leave quickly. If it really erupts, it will be too late to escape. Jing, are you leaving too?"

Jiang Hao shook his head. He couldn't tell them that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was with him. It went everywhere he went. It was still surprising that some people had been able to guess its location. He needed to be cautious.

"The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl is of great importance. If someone tries to seize it, it's best to inform some bigger sects secretly, so they can handle it," said Dan Yuan.

"What will happen if the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl erupts without anyone stopping it?" Xing asked.

The question intrigued Jiang Hao as well. He wasn't aware of the specifics of the pearl.

"If no one stops it, the entire land will turn into a purgatory. According to records, an unparalleled great war occurred in ancient times, during which countless powerful beings perished, and the heavens and earth collapsed. It caused the extinction of many creatures. The reason the war came to a halt was because of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. All people joined forces to seal it," Dan Yuan said.

Jiang Hao felt a chill down his spine. The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was truly terrifying. It was no wonder Dan Yuan had mentioned notifying the bigger sects about it as soon as possible. If they didn't act promptly, it would be even more difficult to contain the situation.

For a moment, Jiang Hao hesitated. He wondered if he should return the pearl to its original place in the ruin. However, it was useful to deter others if he had it on himself.

It could be used to intimidate anyone who tried to get close. Just the mention of the pearl was enough to deter enemies.

But using it to threaten Bai Ye wouldn't have any useful effect.

"Oh, right..." Dan Yuan suddenly remembered something. "The mission of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower is still on. You can gather information on how to plant it, cultivate it, the appearance of the flower, etc."

The others nodded.

The information was almost impossible to find. They had to rely on their luck.

Jiang Hao knew about it but couldn't tell them. If he revealed that he knew about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, he would be in trouble.

They discussed random things for a long time before the gathering ended.

Under the moonlight, Jiang Hao began to take stock of the new information he had learned from the gathering.

"Xing must be someone extraordinary," muttered Jiang Hao. "Liu is obviously somewhere overseas. However, I have no extra information about Gui. The people of the Great Thousand God Sect are behind the stone tablets. I'll know more about it at the next gathering. I could learn about curses at that time too. As for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl... Soon, trouble might come to the

Heavenly Note Sect."

Jiang Hao knew about the origin of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, but he didn't know what exactly had happened in that era.

“Dan Yuan mentioned an ancient war. Hong Yuye mentioned it too. It seems that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was sealed in the ruin in the Devil’s Den. There is the mine too... Hong Yuye did say it was an ancient battlefield as well.”

If all of this was true, then the Heavenly Note Sect was truly incredible. Who would even think of establishing a sect here?

If they could make good use of it, it would be like receiving divine assistance. However, Jiang Hao didn’t remember the Heavenly Note Sect receiving something like that.

The Heavenly Note Sect was still dangerous. Maybe not from external forces, but the internal strife was enough to endanger every disciple.

There was one more danger added to it: the heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

If there were other items like the pearl, one slip would doom the sect. He didn’t think too much about it. That was out of his control.

“Xing wants to find someone, but they are overseas. It’s a pity that I can’t find them. Otherwise, I could have found out more about Xing.”

He needed to find out the identities of the people involved. However, his priority right now was to establish his credibility in the group.

He had to wait for Gui to find the dragon. He could then prove his credibility. “I just need to wait for Gui to visit the Huangsha River.”

Only the next gathering could answer his burning questions. Until then, he needed to find something to do.

Without Cheng Chou in the outer sect’s Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao needed to keep an eye on it.

He also needed to visit Chu Chuan. He could check on his progress this time.

In a few more years, the Bright Moon Sect will hold a grand Dao Conference. It would be best if Chu Chuan could reach the Foundation Establishment Realm at that time and attend the conference.

The most important thing for Jiang Hao was to accumulate more points for lifeblood and cultivation.

He also needed to pay attention to Du Yong and see if he would bury the Corpse Heart somewhere.

Jiang Hao had yet to visit the Lawless Tower again. However, when he recalled the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion appearing again, he didn't want to go anywhere near it..