

## **A Demoness 241**

### Chapter 241: Capturing A Spy

At noon, on the outskirts of the Cliff of Broken Hearts, Chu Chuan practiced the Hundred Revolutions of the Heavenly Note Technique.

Currently, he was practicing the first set of movements. He always practiced it diligently. He never slacked off.

Chu Chuan's goal was to be able to spar better with the spirit beast and Xiao Li.

In these past two years, he didn't know how he had managed to get through. In any case, they had guided him well.

When he finished his practice, he suddenly noticed someone standing behind him.

It was Jiang Hao.

"Senior Brother Jiang?" Chu Chuan looked surprised.

He had hardly seen Jiang Hao in the past two years.

"The beast and Junior Sister Xiao Li are out of the sect. Today, I've come to assess your progress," Jiang Hao said, picking up a tree branch from the ground.

"I see... That's why I didn't see the spirit beast for so many days," said Chu

Chuan.

Chu Chuan, although still a young boy, had grown quite a bit in these two years. Combined with his cultivation at the fourth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, he no longer resembled the weak and frail child he had accompanied to the sect.

Jiang Hao felt a bit sentimental, looking at the child in front of him.

“Senior Brother Jiang, should I start?” Chu Chuan took a deep breath and prepared to make a move.

“Sure.” Jiang Hao nodded.

Chu Chuan quickly stepped forward. In the blink of an eye, he was in front of Jiang Hao and throwing a punch.

Jiang Hao didn't dodge but simply swung the tree branch.

A crisp sound rang out as the branch hit Chu Chuan's fist, forcing it to change direction. Chu Chuan followed up with a kick.

The branch blocked that too.

Chu Chuan's foot was pushed back. He tried again. He was faster and more agile than before.

Jiang Hao stood firm, using only the tree branch to defend himself. He didn't even turn his head, regardless of the continuous attacks.

Chu Chuan became more and more frenzied. There was a surge in his strength. When his kicks and punches had no effect, he used different techniques to launch an attack.

After more than two years of practice, he was finally getting better. He felt exhilarated.

Jiang Hao began to counterattack. The branch struck Chu Chuan's chest, forcing him to step back.

"Instability in your aura, inadequate execution of the technique," Jiang Hao said.

Then, he countered with a sweeping leg attack, causing Chu Chuan to lose his balance.

"Rigid movements, incorrect posture, failure to generate force from the waist..

At this point, Chu Chuan used magical attacks. Jiang Hao broke them all.

"You're decent at using magical techniques, but not skilled enough."

Jiang Hao attacked Chu Chuan from all directions. Chu Chuan was curled up on the ground.

Finally, Jiang Hao threw down the tree branch. "Overall, your progress has been too fast, so the other aspects couldn't keep up. The foundation of your cultivation isn't refined enough."

Chu Chuan sat up on the ground and grimaced in pain. "Senior Brother Jiang, am I at least considered a bit impressive?"

"It depends on who you're comparing yourself to," Jiang Hao said calmly.

"Compared to ordinary outer sect disciples, you're indeed impressive. Compared to your childhood sweetheart, you're slightly inferior."

"Just... slightly inferior?" Chu Chuan was pleasantly surprised.

Jiang Hao smiled. "Even that "slight" difference will be impossible to catch up to in a lifetime."

"What cultivation level is Chu Jie at now?" Chu Chuan looked at Jiang Hao with anticipation.

“If she is focused on cultivation, she might be at the sixth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm. However, if she is focusing on refining her cultivation more, then the fifth stage.”

Chu Chuan was at the fourth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm. Zhao Qingxue, with exceptional talent, was also in the fourth stage. It wasn't surprising for Chu Jie to be at the fifth stage.

The Bright Moon Sect was not weaker than the Clear Sky School. If Chu Chuan could advance one step ahead, it wouldn't be a waste.

Right now, the most important thing was to refine the cultivation and strengthen the foundation. In the early stages, it wasn't crucial to advance quickly to another stage. It was more important to refine and strengthen one's cultivation. Chu Chuan was of the right temperament to do this.

“Impressive...” Chu Chuan looked delighted. “Senior Brother Jiang, when can I see Chu Jie?”

“In a few years... If you reach the Foundation Establishment Realm by then, it would be best,” said Jiang Hao.

“Will you come with me at that time, Senior Brother Jiang?”

Jiang Hao shook his head.

In theory, it would be impossible for him to go with Chu Chuan. But with the Nine Rings of Heaven and Earth and the Heaven Secrets Hidden Talisman, he could perhaps have a three-day window to make a trip there.

However, he couldn't leave the sect. The probability of him being targeted was high. It would be dangerous.

After checking Chu Chuan's progress, Jiang Hao headed to the outer sect's Spirit Herb Garden.

There were some changes in representatives from the other branches, but Xia Cheng was still there.

There were also more people in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

When Jiang Hao arrived, some people walked over to greet him. However, they acted strangely in front of him.

Jiang Hao was also unsure why they were acting like that. Was it because they were dissatisfied with Xia Cheng's change of attitude toward him or because he was credited with the achievement of making the Corpse Realm Flowers bloom?

Regardless, they weren't making a move against him, so Jiang Hao brushed it off.

He headed straight for the Lawless Tower. He wanted to see Zhuang Yuzhen and perhaps get some more information from him.

It wasn't suitable to stay away for too long since Elder Baizhi was keeping an eye on the case.

On the way, he saw Liu Xingchen.

"I was just looking for you, Junior Brother Jiang," said Liu Xingchen. "What a coincidence that I ran into you here!"

"Senior Brother Liu, greetings! Why were you looking for me?"

Whenever Liu Xingchen came to find him, there was usually something going on.

"Do you remember the incident because of which your resources were stripped? The five-year deadline is coming to an end," said Liu Xingchen.

"Oh... so, can I receive them now?"

Forty spirit stones were not a small quantity.

“That was intended, but... someone from the heavenly Joy Pavilion appeared, and they had a very violent aura around them,” said Liu Xingchen helplessly. “The Law Enforcement Hall decided to extend your punishment for three more years.”

Jiang Hao fell silent. His resources for three more years would be confiscated again! Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do about that.

“It seems that you don’t really care that much about it,” said Liu Xingchen. “Junior Brother Jiang, I suggest you show a little more concern about it and complain to your Cliff Master. If you even pretend to be miffed about it, they’ll be more at ease.”

Jiang Hao wouldn’t really go to complain to his master. He wasn’t a True Disciple. If he complained too much, his master might start disliking him. It wasn’t worth it.

His master had given him five thousand spirit stones last time as a reward, after all. It was best to just accept his fate and not attract the attention of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion.

The reason his resources got confiscated for three more years must have been because he had seen the Pavilion Master near the Lawless Tower last time.

“Oh... there’s another interesting matter,” Liu Xingchen said with a smile.

“While you were away, someone went to your house and kept an eye on you. The people of the Law Enforcement Hall happened to see him. He turned out to be a spy from the Sunset Immortal Sect. He insisted that he was there to meet you. So, you are even more suspicious now. You may need to cooperate with our investigation in the near future. Of course, it won’t affect your tasks outside. If you take a mission and you fail, you still have to pay compensation.”

“What if they come looking for me when I happen to be away from the sect?” Jiang Hao asked.

“If the person can’t be found, the problem becomes more serious. You might be made to pay a large amount as compensation,” said Liu Xingchen.

Jiang Hao was speechless..

Chapter 242: Didn't You Know That The Heavenly Note Sect Was A Demonic Sect?

The Law Enforcement Hall seemed to constantly remind Jiang Hao that he belonged to the demonic sect.

They could just command him to do what they wanted him to do, but they gave him a choice. They allowed him to pay compensation.

Jiang Hao had no intention of taking on another mission. Getting involved with a spy was unexpected.

With a sigh, he stopped thinking about it.

He would stick to his previous plan and continue stalling.

He now had eight thousand spirit stones. He could go ahead and prepare for another incarnation of the Immortal Peach Tree.

This time, he didn't want to delay because he only needed one purple bubble to obtain a new divine power.

Obtaining a new divine ability would give him an edge. He wasn't sure what kind of divine ability he would get this time.

“I heard something else these past few days,” Liu Xingchen said unexpectedly.

“I heard that Bai Ye has challenged Manlong.”

“Really?” Jiang Hao was surprised. “He challenged one of the top ten disciples?”

“Yes.” Liu Xingchen nodded. “It happened a couple of days ago, and it won’t be long before it’s announced publicly. His chance of success is not high, so I don’t know why he’s in such a hurry. If he reaches the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, his chance of success will be higher. He may not be able to hold onto the position even in the peak stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, let alone the late stage. It seems he has some plans for this year.”

The news surprised Jiang Hao. He didn’t expect Bai Ye to start pursuing a position among the top ten this soon.

He thought Bai Ye was like him, waiting to improve his cultivation before trying to be one of the top ten disciples.

Bai Ye was trying to act too fast without any preparations.

“When?” Jiang Hao asked.

“To fight one of the top ten disciples, the challenge must be issued a year in advance. So, they will be fighting next year. The location is chosen by the challenger, but it will be announced one day before the fight.”

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief. He still had one year left.

In one year, he could learn some curses, even if he wasn’t able to catch up to Bai Ye in his cultivation. He didn’t want Bai Ye to become one of the top ten disciples.

“Since Bai Ye chooses the location, is it possible that he can set up formations there?” Jiang Hao asked.

“No.” Liu Xingchen shook his head. “Normal formations and restrictions cannot be set up at the venue unless... they are set up secretly without anyone discovering them.”



Jiang Hao nodded.

After talking for a while, Liu Xingchen walked toward the mining area. "Since I have met you already and relayed the information to you, I'll get going."

Jiang Hao bid him farewell. However, he wondered what Liu Xingchen was planning next. Was he going to the mines to find another remnant soul and let it possess him?

Liu Xingchen was very close to reaching the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. He wanted to know if the two creatures who possessed him had decided to join forces against him.

However, he was going to meet Zhuang Yuzhen, so he needed to save the Daily Appraisal ability for that.

A short while later, Jiang Hao reached the fifth floor of the Lawless Tower. He stood in front of the prisoner's cage. Jiang Hao tapped on the wooden bars.

"Are you awake?" he asked.

Zhuang Yuzhen slowly raised his head. His eyes brightened when he saw Jiang Hao.

It seemed like he had been waiting for him for a long time.

"It seems like you really wanted to see me," Jiang Hao said calmly.

"Didn't your sect inform you that I wanted to see you?" Zhuang Yuzhen asked.

Jiang Hao shook his head. "No."

No one had even informed him about that. Zhuang Yuzhen had been deceived. That was normal in a demonic sect. Even the members of the sect were often deceived, let alone prisoners.

“Don’t tell me this is a demonic sect!”

“Huh?” Jiang Hao was surprised. “Didn’t you know this was a demonic sect when you came here, Senior?”

Zhuang Yuzhen was momentarily stunned. Then he sighed. “When I came here,

I only knew that this was a substandard and inferior sect.”

‘Substandard?’ Jiang Hao didn’t agree with that. Although the Heavenly Note Sect wasn’t very big, it was still a first-class sect. At least in the southern region, it was one of the most powerful sects out there.

It was on par with the Blackheaven Sect and the Sunset Immortal Sect, which were both first-class sects.

Azure Mountain was considered a decent sect. However, the Heavenly Note Sect had attacked it and won.

As for the Clear Sky School and the Bright Moon Sect, they were true immortal sects. They were top-notch sects that were unparalleled in the whole realm. Even if several sects joined forces, it wouldn’t be enough to challenge them.

“Senior, you should be more cautious,” Jiang Hao said. Attacking a sect without knowing everything about it could get one trapped like Zhuang Yuzhen.

“Cautious?” Zhuang Yuzhen sneered. “Would you be cautious to pick a flower from the neighborhood?”

Jiang Hao was speechless. His answer would be affirmative. He was always super cautious when doing anything.

“Senior, how did you know that the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower was in the southern region? You are from the north, right?”

In fact, he knew it was all related to Dan Yuan.

Some people in the southern region already knew about the Heavenly

Fragrance Dao Flower being in the Heavenly Note Sect. It wasn't a big secret.

Jiang Hao wanted to find Dan Yuan's real identity. If he found him in person, he could snatch his stone tablet and figure out who was behind all this.

If it weren't for the fear of being detected by the mastermind behind the stone tablets, Jiang Hao would have already found out the real identities of Dan Yuan and the others at the gathering. However, he didn't want to be reckless.

Besides, it was highly likely that he wouldn't be able to use his divine ability with a shred of his consciousness in the stone tablet. "It wasn't that difficult. I just had to ask someone."

"How did you contact this person?" Jiang Hao asked.

"First, tell me why the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower is in your hands," Zhuang Yuzhen said.

"I don't know. You should ask the higher-ups who are aware of this matter. I'm just following orders," said Jiang Hao.

That was partly a lie. He knew that the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower was handed to him so that spies could be lured in. It was a bait.

"What else do you know?" Zhuang Yuzhen stared at Jiang Hao.

"What do you mean?" Jiang Hao asked in confusion.

“You know what I’m talking about,” Zhuang Yuzhen said.

“Can you tell me what will happen after the Corpse Realm Flower matures?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Kid, you’re only in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. You should know that I could kill you with a single breath if I were out of here. Tell me what else you know.” Zhuang Yuzhen seemed unable to restrain the anger in his voice.

“It seems like you don’t really want to talk with me,” Jiang Hao said.

“I have had enough of your nonsense. Tell me how much you actually know and where you learned about that name.”

Jiang Hao remained calm and took a step forward. He beckoned the prisoner closer. “Come closer, and I’ll tell you two more words. After I finish, you will be calm and willing to talk more..”

Chapter 243: Lin Zhi Is About To Be Expelled From The Sect

“Come back here!”

“Stop right there!”

Zhuang Yuzhen struggled frantically against the prison bars.

After uttering the mysterious words, Jiang Hao watched him flip entirely. He just turned around and left. He didn’t plan on talking with the prisoner for too long. Talking too much usually ruined the suspense.

The prospect of something unknown drove people crazy. It made them curious and restless. Only after finding out more could the mind be calm again.

Zhuang Yuzhen was feeling that now. He didn't know how much Jiang Hao knew, and the doubt was making him frantic.

"Bring him to me! I will tell him everything!"

At this moment, the black-robed woman approached the prisoner. "Be a little more sincere, why don't you?"

"I won't talk if I don't see him. Let him come here, and I'll tell him everything!"

The black-robed woman hesitated. "Well... I'm not in a hurry."

"You b\*tch! I'll remember this!" Zhuang Yuzhen struggled.

Smack!

Suddenly, a whip struck his face. He was momentarily stunned. Then the whip struck again.

Smack! Smack!

"Is that all you have? If you dare, just kill me, you b\*tch!"

While Zhuang Yuzhen cursed, the black-robed woman whipped him continuously.

After a while, she stopped whipping him and left.

Zhuang Yuzhen's mouth was swollen.

Jiang Hao felt that he couldn't go back to the Lawless Tower anymore. The words he had uttered were "Corpse Heart." That had been his last resort.

If he went to meet the prisoner again, he would have no bargaining chip left. The prisoner would suspect that Jiang Hao had no other information against him.

The best option was to leave him in suspense for now.

Zhuang Yuzhen had been astonished to learn that the Heavenly Note Sect was a demonic sect. It was as though he thought he belonged to an immortal sect. The Divine Corpse Sect wasn't an immortal sect in any shape or form!

Clones were extremely important to them. Abiding by the rules of the immortal sect would hamper them greatly.

If that were the case, then the Divine Corpse Sect must be divided into two groups: one conservative and the other corrupt.

'I don't think that's possible.'

In the cultivation world, many people were murdered in their own sects by their own people, irrespective of whether they were from the demonic or immortal sect.

The disciples of the Divine Corpse Sect weren't very rigid about their rules. They even used any person, living or dead, as a Divine Corpse!

However, if they left the ordinary cultivators alone and didn't tangle with other immortal sects, they could be considered part of the immortal sect.

The reason why the Heavenly Note Sect was considered a demonic sect was because they didn't care about ordinary cultivators. They weren't above harming ordinary people for their own gain. They killed and robbed them. They treated cultivators the same way, too.

Secondly, they would go to any length to become stronger or get what they wanted. They would refine tools, make talismans, create pills, and dupe others, especially if they were poor.

The wealthy usually didn't indulge in petty crimes, but there were still cases of that happening. They even abducted ordinary non-cultivators every few years. That was how ordinary people ended up as workers in the Spirit Herb Gardens.

Back in his own courtyard, Jiang Hao began to study the nameless manual. Recently, he had reached a bottleneck. He wanted to progress to a higher level as soon as possible.

In the following months, he needed to earn spirit stones and find out where Bai Ye was staying. He wanted to be prepared so that he could curse Bai Ye when the time came.

It was unexpected that Bai Ye would challenge Manlong so soon. It was no wonder Jiang Hao hadn't suffered any attacks from Bai Ye recently. He was busy preparing for the fight with Manlong.

Jiang Hao put down the nameless manual and finally felt that he had reached a new level of knowledge. His perception became even more sharp, and he noticed subtle changes in the world around him.

He could see things more clearly and sense the flow of spiritual energy. He could even feel his Primordial Spirit through his breath.

The more he studied it, the more he understood how Hong Yuye could see through him so easily. It felt like he was stripped naked.

When he realized this, he studied the manual even more.

Suddenly, he thought of a possibility. 'If I fully master the nameless manual, will I be able to conceal even the Heavenly Secrets?'

Suddenly, he thought of a possibility. 'If I fully master the nameless manual, will I be able to conceal even the Heavenly Secrets?'

Currently, he could perceive and conceal his aura, spirit, and magical abilities. He could only confirm it by learning everything in the nameless manual and testing it in front of Hong Yuye.

“Speaking of which, it’s been half a month. How is it that the spirit beast and the others haven’t returned yet?”

Without the spirit beast and the others, many things had to be put on hold, especially Chu Chuan’s weekly test. He had no choice but to wait.

At the White Moon Lake, Zhao Qingxue rushed in.

She approached Zhou Chan. “Senior Sister Zhou, can I ask you something?” she said nervously.

“What is it?” Zhou Chan said.

“Is there a rule in the sect that expels an outer sect disciple if they remain at the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm for more than three years?”

“There is such a rule, but very few people get expelled. There aren’t many people who remain at the first stage for so long.”

None of the twelve branches had people that slow. Even if someone’s talent was very poor, they still managed to advance to the second stage within three years.

“Lin Zhi is still at the first stage...”

Zhou Chan was surprised. “That’s unlikely... but if he is still in the first stage, then maybe he isn’t suitable for cultivation.”

“Is there a way to help him stay in the sect?”

“I don’t know about that. I don’t even know who oversees the matter,” Zhou Chan said sadly. “I’ll ask Elder Qian Xu. Don’t worry.”



After a while, Zhou Chan and Zhao Qingxue arrived at the courtyard of Elder Qian Xu.

“Still at the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm after three years? said Elder Qian Xu in surprise. “Wouldn’t it be just plain torture on the disciple if he is allowed to stay when he isn’t suitable for cultivation?”

Zhao Qingxue lowered her head sadly.

“Well... just inform the outer sect of the Cliff of Broken Hearts. We can let him stay for another year. If he fails to advance to the second stage after a year, then he will have to meet the Cliff Master of the Cliff of Broken Hearts. If the master agrees to let him stay, the other branches will have no problem with it.”

“Should I inform them to let him stay for another year then?” asked Zhou Chan.

Elder Qian Xu nodded. “Remember to leave one or two spirit stones as a gift for doing so.”

“I see... Thank you, Elder Qian Xu.”

She bid him farewell and left with Zhao Qingxue.

Elder Qian Xu just shook his head and didn’t think about it further.

“Thank you so much, Senior Sister Zhou,” said Zhao Qingxue gratefully.

“That’s alright. Don’t worry. I’ll talk to the people in the outer sect. It’s almost August, and there’s still half a year left. Hopefully, Lin Zhi can do it this time,” said Zhou Chan. “If he fails to advance to the second stage for another year, I won’t be able to help him anymore. The Cliff Master is the head of the Cliff of Broken Hearts. We can’t even get an audience with him, let alone ask him for help.”

Zhao Qingxue nodded. Everything depended on Lin Zhi after this..

## Chapter 244: How Do You Repay Kindness with Enmity?

At the Cliff of Broken Hearts, Jiang Hao stayed indoors. Since his return from the Lawless Tower, he had been busy with his own affairs.

During this time, he tried to comprehend the fourth form of the Heavenly Blade, but he couldn't understand it. It seemed that his spiritual energy was not strong enough. He had no choice but to wait. Perhaps it would be different if he reached the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

The Seven Forms of the Heavenly Blade were extremely powerful. The requirements for the new techniques were even more difficult. The three forms of the Heavenly Blade were barely enough for his needs, and he still hadn't mastered any spells.

The Hong Meng Heart Sutra had even higher requirements. After mastering the Universe in a Palm technique, he needed to advance to another stage to learn another technique.

For now, he could only rely on his divine abilities. Another half a month had passed, and it was already mid-August. Xiao Li and the others had been away for two months. Jiang Hao wondered why they hadn't returned yet.

He wasn't worried about their safety, but he felt that Xiao Li might not want to come back to the sect after her parents passed away. After all, the house was her last reminder of her parents. If she left, it would be left empty.

During this period, he visited Chu Chuan twice and Lin Zhi once. Chu Chuan was doing okay. He had made some more improvements since the last time. He had chosen to give up on certain things to focus on his cultivation.

He wanted to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm and join the Bright

Moon Sect. Jiang Hao had told him that even if he reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, he still wouldn't be able to compete with Chu Jie. Chu

Chuan wasn't concerned. After he reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, Chu Jie wouldn't worry too much about him. He wanted to reassure her that he was fine.

However, he was still undecided about whether he wanted to be a disciple of a demonic sect. Jiang Hao didn't say much on the matter. That was Chu Chuan's choice, so Jiang Hao didn't want to interfere.

Compared to Chu Chuan, Lin Zhi was far behind. He was truly as the beast had described—always getting beaten.

He had already reached the third stage of the Star-Moon Lifeblood Refining Realm and absorbed the power of the sun, moon, and stars at a faster rate. However, due to the influence of the Star and Moon Pearl, he couldn't advance to the Foundation Establishment Realm. He might stay in the Lifeblood Refinement Realm for many years yet.

It was difficult for Lin Zhi. Jiang Hao asked him if he still wanted to stay in a

demonic sect. Lin Zhi's answer was always affirmative.

Jiang Hao gave him some guidance in his cultivation and let him be. He would eventually have a bright future if he endured. Jiang Hao didn't tell Lin Zhi about it. Instead, he sent the beast to keep encouraging him. The beast was looking over his progress, after all.

It wasn't easy to endure something like that. To remain in the Lifeblood Refinement Realm for five or ten years without losing hope was an ordeal.

In the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao found some bubbles.

[Strength +1]

[Spirit Sword +1]

[Spirit +1]

[Endurance +1]

There were quite a few white and green bubbles, but unfortunately, there wasn't a single blue one.

Jiang Hao saw a young girl running toward him in a panic. "Senior, something has happened."

The girl, around sixteen or seventeen years old, seemed relatively new here.

Jiang Hao couldn't remember seeing her in the garden before.

"What happened?" he asked calmly.

"A spirit herb is withering," said the girl, and she pointed in a direction. "Over there."

Jiang Hao frowned and quickly went to investigate. At the spirit field, a young boy looked at him fearfully. He was kneeling on the ground. "I-I didn't do anything. It was like this when I reached here."

"It's fine. Step aside," Jiang Hao said.

If it was the boy's fault, he would be punished. If not, there was no need to make things difficult for him.

The boy was surprised to see Jiang Hao so calm. He thought he would be punished.

He had transferred from another Spirit Herb Garden recently. He had witnessed one of his fellow villagers being beaten to death.

Jiang Hao observed the spirit herb in front of him. It was an antidote, and it was currently wilting. After a while, he confirmed that it was affected by an external aura.

He checked the soil and found something strange. Jiang Hao looked around and saw the Corpse Realm Flower nearby.

The spirit herb was affected by the Corpse Realm Flower.

“You two, go about your business and don’t come near here for now,” Jiang Hao said to the young boy and girl.

The young boy couldn’t believe it. He wasn’t even scolded or interrogated!

Using his spiritual energy, Jiang Hao drew a line on the ground to isolate the aura from spreading through the soil. That would prevent the Corpse Realm Flower from affecting that part of the spirit field for a while.

He approached the Corpse Realm Flower and appraised it.

[Corpse Realm Flower: The newly sprouted Corpse Realm Flower extends its roots and exerts a tremendous influence on surrounding spiritual beings. If it is transplanted to a barren one-acre plot without other plants, it will grow rapidly. It is best to irrigate it with the blood of beasts during transplantation to prevent it from withering. Eventually, it can open the Door of Death, leading to a special realm.]

Jiang Hao looked at the slightly darkened leaves. He felt helpless. ‘So... it needs to be transplanted to a place without other plants... a barren land.’

Jiang Hao observed the Spirit Herb Garden and found no such place. Perhaps it needed to be planted outside the garden.

He couldn't make a decision on his own. He needed to find a senior or ask the Cliff Master. The other Spirit Herb Gardens might be having similar issues.

"Perhaps I can take this opportunity to enter the Hundred Bones Forest."

Jiang Hao didn't intend to help others transplant the Corpse Realm Flower.

Instead, he wanted to go to the Law Enforcement Hall and see if there were any tasks related to the Hundred Bones Forest.

He wanted to find Bai Ye and obtain something related to him. He needed to lay the foundation for the curse.

He went to find his master.

"Transplant it to a safer place?" Ku Wu Chang thought about it. "Why not transplant it outside Miao Tinglian's residence for now? She doesn't have any missions, and she knows about spirit herbs. She can keep an eye on it. As for how to transplant it, you can figure it out on your own."

Jiang Hao was the one who was able to grow the Corpse Realm Flower, so it was okay to trust him.

"Alright. I'll find Senior Sister Miao Tinglian then," said Jiang Hao.

In the courtyard, there were two True Disciples who seemed to be teaching some techniques.

Jiang Hao had never studied here before, and his master had only taught him once. That was the difference between inner sect disciples and True Disciples.

"Junior Brother Jiang, I thought I treated you well. Why do you want to harm me?" Miao Tinglian expressed her dissatisfaction.

Mu Qi was also curious. “Tinglian’s residence doesn’t have a barren area, but mine does.”

Jiang Hao kept his head down and didn’t say anything.

Many people in the sect were aware of the relationship between Senior Brother Mu Qi and Senior Sister Miao Tinglian.

The Cliff Master also assumed that Senior Sister Miao Tinglian lived with Senior Brother Mu Qi.

These two were probably the only ones in the sect who treated him well, and he had no intention of making things difficult for them, but the Cliff Master had given his instructions.

“How do we transplant it anyway?” asked Miao Tinglian. “I observed the Corpse Realm Flower. It withers very easily.”

“Beast blood,” Jiang Hao said. “If beast blood is used to nourish it while transplanting, it won’t wither.”

“Really?” Miao Tinglian was surprised. “I’ve never heard of that before..”

Chapter 245: Are You Interested In A Twenty-year-Old Junior?

“It really works.”

That afternoon, Miao Tinglian proceeded with the transplantation. Without beast blood, there were signs of withering, but with the use of beast blood, it could be transplanted successfully.

“This is the first time I’ve seen this kind of spirit herb.”

At this moment, they were in a mountain pit, which was where Mu Qi often experimented with his techniques.

It was barren and close by. At the same time, it was secluded enough that their residence couldn't be seen.

"Now that everything is settled, I won't disturb you any longer, Seniors," said Jiang Hao politely. He turned to leave.

"Wait!" Miao Tinglian pointed to the Corpse Realm Flower. "Other Spirit Herb

Gardens will definitely face the same problem. They will come and ask about

Thri

Jiang?

Jiang Hao didn't hesitate. "Now that you are the guardian of the Corpse Realm Flower, they will definitely come to ask you, Senior Sister Miao. The information is yours to share. If you are willing, you can tell them. If not, it's up to you."

He didn't intend to get involved in such matters. It would be better if he didn't attract other people's attention.

Apart from Bai Ye, if he kept his head down, he wouldn't encounter any more problems.

The Foundation Establishment Realm disciples were easy to handle. Only True Disciples like Bai Ye were difficult to get along with.

Dealing with more aggressive disciples was very challenging. Taking action would expose him. However, if he didn't take action, the perpetrator would keep becoming unreasonable.

Jiang Hao had disciples in the sect, but no one had found evidence against him. However, they might use the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror if it happened again.



Once discovered, he would be sent to the Lawless Tower. People would get very suspicious if they discovered his cultivation realm.

With exceptional talent, the blessings of the heavens and earth, the inheritance of great power, and the guidance of a knowledgeable mentor, Han Ming, at twenty-three years old, was only in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

As a demonic sect, would the Heavenly Note Sect be willing to nurture Jiang Hao if they thought he was talented?

Jiang Hao was not naive. He didn't want to entrust his life and death to others. Some might take the risk and reveal themselves, but Jiang Hao was always cautious.

It was one of the reasons Jiang Hao tried hard to escape the clutches of Hong Yuye. He wanted to be in control of his own life. For that, he needed to get stronger. Hiding his abilities was the best step for now. "In that case, I will make the decision myself," Miao Tinglian said.

Jiang Hao nodded and prepared to leave.

"Oh, there's one more thing." Miao Tinglian smiled as she looked at Jiang Hao's puzzled face. "A junior has recently arrived at the Cliff of Broken Hearts. She is twenty years old and in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Are you interested? You're twenty-four. You two would make a good match. I've seen her. She's very beautiful."

Jiang Hao was speechless. Even Mu Qi was momentarily stunned. He pulled him away. "Junior Brother Jiang, you can go about your own business now. Please ignore her words. Don't mind her."

Jiang Hao nodded and bid them farewell.

Miao Tinglian was relentless when it came to setting him up with someone. A twenty-year-old in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm was indeed impressive. However, how could she be interested in someone like Jiang Hao who relied on opportunities to accumulate his cultivation?

Jiang Hao had no intention of finding a partner.

In the following seven days, Jiang Hao noticed that Du Yong was looking for him more often. He visited again today. "Senior Brother Jiang, have you been staying in the inner sect lately?" "Yeah. I've been busy with some matters."

The spirit herbs in the Spirit Herb Garden were still recovering. He needed to keep an eye on them. The other gardens had attempted to transplant the Corpse Realm Flower, but they had failed. Upon learning that the Cliff of Broken Hearts had successfully transplanted it, they headed to Miao Tinglian's residence to ask her about it.

"I recently obtained a secret technique for cultivating the soil, but I'm not sure if it works," said Du Yong. "I wanted to ask for your help, Senior Brother Jiang."

"A secret technique?" Jiang Hao pretended to be confused. In his heart, he was glad that Du Yong was finally taking action.

"Yes. It's something that can't be easily explained. I want you to come to my place and take a look. When will you have some free time, Senior Brother Jiang?" Du Yong asked.

It was unexpected for Jiang Hao to be invited to other people's houses.

Based on his understanding of the Nine Extremes Corpse Dissolution Technique, Qu Zhong, the current Du Yong, should have reached the Primordial Spirit Realm.

The danger was high. Jiang Hao couldn't get involved without knowing everything.

He used the Daily Appraisal on Du Yong.

[Divine Corpse Du Yong: Former inner disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect, in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. His body was taken over by Qu Zhong. He wants to lure you out and have clones attack you. Thereafter, he will replace your heart. To ensure his safety, he severed a part of his Primordial Soul and granted autonomy to the clone. The original body has already escaped to avoid any unexpected complications.]

‘Severed a part of his Primordial Soul?’ Jiang Hao was surprised.

Why would he go to such lengths to deal with someone in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm?

He couldn’t understand why the enemy was so cautious.

As for the heart, it must refer to the Corpse Heart!

Jiang Hao wondered what had startled the enemy.

‘Giving autonomy to the clone... does that mean the main body and the clone can’t share memories?’

Some avatars needed to be controlled by the original body, and the original body could use the clone’s senses to observe the surroundings. But granting autonomy to the clone would make it more difficult for the original body to know about the clone’s surroundings.

“Senior Brother Jiang, when will you be available?”

Jiang Hao decided to give it a go. If he obtained the Corpse Heart, he could control Zhuang Yuzhen, and there would be a chance of finding out who Dan

Yuan actually was.

He just wasn’t sure how strong the other clones of Qu Zhong were.

If they were in the late or peak stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, he would use the rings to escape.

“Any time is convenient for me. It depends on you, Senior Brother Jiang.” Du Yong smiled.

“Let’s do it tomorrow afternoon. I should be done with my work by then,” Jiang Hao said.

Tomorrow, he could use the Daily Appraisal to check on the situation of the other clones.

“Okay. I’ll come find you tomorrow.” Du Yong nodded with a smile.

He then turned and left.

The next day, Jiang Hao used the Heaven Secrets Hidden talisman and followed Du Yong to his house.

“It’s in the courtyard.” Du Yong led the way.

Jiang Hao nodded and looked at the courtyard ahead. There were faint glimmers coming from the courtyard.

It was a formation.

As he arrived in the courtyard, he noticed that there was indeed dirt on the ground, as if Du Yong had been experimenting with the soil.

But before he could take a closer look, he felt the formation activate.

“Wait a moment, Senior Brother Jiang. Let me perform the technique for you to see, then you’ll understand,” Du Yong said.

Jiang Hao observed him without interrupting, but he remained vigilant. He was on guard against any sudden movements.

He had also prepared the Thousand Miles Teleportation Talisman, just in case..

Chapter 246: Not Even A Single Penny

Jiang Hao suddenly thought of something while watching Du Yong perform his technique.

'If I lure a disciple out of the sect and kill them, will the Law Enforcement Hall still investigate the matter? I should ask Liu Xingchen about it...'

At this moment, the surrounding formation activated, and Jiang Hao felt a familiar sensation. He was being teleported.

If Du Yong had attacked while he was experiencing the fuzzy feeling, he would have succeeded. However, Jiang Hao endured the dizziness and stepped forward.

Sure enough, he felt an attack coming from behind. It was an attack on the level of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Boom!

The Nine Heavens Battle Armor protected him by blocking the impact from behind.

Using his momentum, Jiang Hao leaped to the edge of the mountain peak. He turned around and looked back.

There was a woman near Du Yong who was still dizzy from teleportation.

She was in a blue dress with a white belt tied around her waist. Her black hair was tied up in a simple bun. Her skin was unusually pale.

Her delicate face showed surprise.

Jiang Hao was also somewhat surprised that the clone was a woman. Her cultivation was at the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm, just like his own.

In that case, Qu Zhong's original body should be at the late or peak stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Jiang Hao could see two peaks side by side. That was Twin Cloud Peak. He wasn't very far from the Heavenly Note Sect. They were currently on top of one of the peaks.

"So, you managed to evade me? And you have a treasure that is in the Primordial Spirit Realm. It seems like we have a problem." The woman in blue spoke with a crisp and pleasant voice.

"May I ask who you are?" Jiang Hao asked.

At this point, he activated the Daily Appraisal.

[Divine Corpse Liu Yun: Former inner disciple of the Snow Spirit Sect, at the middle stage of the Primordial Soul Realm. She was possessed by Qu Zhong and is now one of his three Divine Corpses. She possesses autonomy and acts independently of the original body. She cannot share the original body's experiences, and if she doesn't reunite with the original body for a long time, she will gradually lose her memory and eventually develop an independent personality, but it will be difficult for her to exist for a long. Her mission is to replace your heart and then head to the Blackheaven Sect. She feels puzzled that you were able to dodge her attack. Out of caution, she has started using enchantment on you.]

'Enchantment...' Jiang Hao always got a headache when it came to enchantments.

He hadn't studied enchantments after being discovered reading a book on them by Hong Yuye. Now, he couldn't be sure whether the enchantment was working on him or not.

'A divine corpse with autonomy...'

Jiang Hao didn't need to worry about revealing his secret since this clone didn't share memories with Qu Zhong.

"I'm Liu Yun." Liu Yun pushed Du Yong aside.

Du Yong had already lost his divine sense, and his consciousness had transferred to Liu Yun.

"Liu, you aren't an ordinary human, are you?" asked Jiang Hao.

"Am I not beautiful enough for you?" Liu Yun asked as she took a step forward.

"Not really." Jiang Hao shook his head.

"Why don't you have any thoughts when you look at me?" Liu Yun was already closer to him.

If she took a step further, she could prevent Jiang Hao from jumping off the cliff and escaping.

"Because I already know the two words I need to know about," Jiang Hao said with a smile.

"What are they?" Liu Yun asked.

Jiang Hao smiled. "Qu Zhong."

As soon as Jiang Hao said the name, Liu Yun froze. She looked astonished.

"What did you say?" "Your name," said Jiang Hao.

“You...” Liu Yun looked shocked.

Jiang Hao made his move. The Half-Moon Blade emerged from its sheath and shone brightly. He used the first form of the Heavenly Blade: Moon-Slaying.

Liu Yun also made her move. Ice spikes appeared under her feet as she attacked Jiang Hao.

Both of them launched their attacks.

Whoosh!

They both dodged each other’s attacks.

Jiang Hao leaped up and slashed with the Half-Moon Blade once again.

Purple energy surged around the Half-Moon Blade. Jiang Hao then used the second form of the Heavenly Blade: Mountain Suppression.

The immense pressure suppressed everything around it. He had used the Mountain Suppression technique that was stored in his wrist guard.

Ice began to form around Liu Yun. It surrounded her and then shot forward to attack.

Boom!

Crack!

The immense pressure of Mountain Suppression shattered the ice.

Boom!



The blade cut through everything and slashed at Liu Yun, severely injuring her with a single strike.

Gritting her teeth, Liu Yun once again performed her technique.

At this moment, moonlight reflected in her eyes.

Her arm flew into the sky. Purple energy appeared before her once again. A silver blade pierced through her body. It shattered the spiritual energy she had gathered.

Liu Yun, with only one arm intact, looked at the man who suddenly appeared before her. His hand was around the hilt of the saber, which was buried in her chest. It took all of her spiritual energy away.

“My name is Liu Yun, not Qu Zhong,” she said with difficulty.

Jiang Hao was stunned.

At this moment, Liu Yun’s power turned violent.

Jiang Hao drew his blade and slashed at her without hesitation.

The blade stabbed repeatedly through Liu Yun’s body. She flew backward and crashed into a rock.

Liu Yun fell to the ground with no life left in her.

“Liu Yun?” Jiang Hao thought it was Qu Zhong controlling Liu Yun. He had no

idea that Liu Yun was her own self.

He had no way of knowing the truth. She was already dead.

He wanted to ask her about the Corpse Heart and Zhuang Yuzhen. However, he had found no window for a conversation.

Jiang Hao picked up her storage treasure and went through it.

“Not even a single spirit stone?”

Then he picked up Du Yong’s storage treasure. It was empty as well.

Qu Zhong was stingy...

He slashed at the corpse two more times to make sure it was dead.

Jiang Hao started a fire to burn the corpse. After the fire went out, he also left the place. He didn’t rush back.

He arrived at one of the peaks and placed the box on the ground. Then he backed away a little and opened the box.

In an instant, a powerful aura extended from the box.

Jiang Hao was vigilant. He unsheathed the Half-Moon Blade.

Soon, a bright red heart appeared in his sight. Although it had no body, it was still beating ceaselessly.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The beats were unusually loud. It pulsated with life.

After observing for a moment, Jiang Hao used the Universe in a Palm technique to encase the heart in a purple sphere. It floated on his palm.

The heartbeat stopped, and the aura dissipated.

“I wonder if this sealing method can prevent it from absorbing the aura of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.”

After storing the heart in a small sphere, Jiang Hao destroyed the box. The box had a peculiar aura, and he was concerned about it being traced back to him. He didn't want to keep it.

He then used the golden ring to teleport to his courtyard directly.

Jiang Hao then headed to the Spirit Herb Garden. He needed an alibi.

If Du Yong's death was investigated, the Law Enforcement Hall might come after him. He needed the people in the Spirit Herb Garden to see him there so that they could vouch for him.

He also needed to be cautious about the Corpse Heart. He didn't want any trouble..

Chapter 247: Caught by the Demoness Again

At the Candlelight Pill Pavilion, inside the alchemy room close to the Earth

Fire, Lian Daozhi paced helplessly. He was attempting to break through to the Primordial Spirit Realm, and it was harder than he had expected. He had failed again.

However, he was absolutely confident that success was only a matter of time.

Moreover, he had already found the right pills. He only lacked the final spirit herb. That spirit herb wasn't impossible to find. It was just a bit rare.

At this moment, a Foundation Establishment Realm disciple, who had been waiting for a long time, came up to him nervously. "Senior Brother, the Bitter Fruit has been intercepted."

The Bitter Fruit, as its name suggested, had a very bitter taste. However, it could balance other flavors and adjust spiritual energy appropriately.

There were many spirit herbs for adjusting spiritual energy, but among them, the Bitter Fruit had a relatively low side effect.

"Intercepted?" Lian Daozhi's face darkened. "There were five of you at the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm and two at the peak of Foundation Establishment Realm. You couldn't keep a fruit safe?!"

Lian Daozhi wouldn't have used this fruit if he wasn't refining a relatively obscure pill. The Bitter Fruit was of low value. However, some alchemical solutions required such things. Otherwise, why would they go to such lengths?

"It was a cunning enemy that suddenly appeared out of nowhere," said the disciple in the Foundation Establishment Realm. "They tricked us."

"It's not far from here, and Azure Mountain doesn't have the guts to come here. Does that mean... is it someone from the sect?" Lian Daozhi asked.

He needed to get the fruit. He still had ten days to use it.

"The assailant was a beast in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Its movements were unpredictable. We couldn't find it at all. We couldn't keep up with its speed," said the nervous disciple. "But... It was wearing a collar. It must belong to one of the seniors in the sect."

“A beast in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm... and wears a collar,” muttered Lian Daozhi as he stared at his junior. “Does it call itself Lord Beast?”

“Yes! It said something about having powerful friends...”

Lian Daozhi sighed. “Tell me in detail what actually happened.”

The group had sealed off the area and waited for the Bitter Fruit to ripen, but the beast had somehow entered the formation and plucked the fruit right in front of everyone. They chased after it but were tricked. In the end, it got away.

“You are useless!” said Lian Daozhi.

The junior disciple lowered his head and remained quiet.

Lian Daozhi knew only one person who owned a beast like that. Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

The matter wasn't easy to handle. Lian Daozhi would have used threats and intimidation if it were any other disciple in the Foundation Establishment Realm. However, Jiang Hao was different. Apart from their cooperation in planting spirit herbs, Jiang Hao had several merits to his name.

His latest achievement was when he had been able to complete the sect's mission by growing the Corpse Realm Flower.

If he was discovered, the Cliff of Broken Hearts might take action.

After all, this achievement had brought many benefits to Cliff of Broken Hearts. If the person who had contributed to such benefits was harassed, the branch might protest.

That was partly the reason Lian Daozhi was hesitant to act.

Next was the Hall of Merits. With such achievements, Jiang Hao was probably mentioned there. Lian Daozhi couldn't go against that. If he did, the Hall of Merits might demand spirit stones for the damage caused. "It seems I have to make a small trip."

The next day, Jiang Hao appraised the Corpse Heart.

[Corpse Heart: Zhuang Yuzhen's Corpse Heart. Absorbing the aura of divine items can greatly enhance Zhuang Yuzhen's resurrection. Absorbing the aura of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower gives it more possibilities. Currently sealed by the Universe in a Palm and unable to resonate with divine items.]

'It seems like there is no problem for now.' Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

He would continue sealing it layer by layer each day.

After sealing the Corpse Heart, he began sealing the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

After completing these tasks, he looked around to make sure that no one was watching. Then he took out the Book on Enchantments.

He intended to read through the contents once again. He sat under the peach tree, enjoying the cool summer breeze while flipping through the book.

After a while, he heard a soft laughter in front of him.

"It seems you're very interested in enchantments."

Jiang Hao instinctively closed the book and looked up. He only saw empty air in front of him. Slowly, a red figure materialized.

She sat on a wooden chair and gazed at Jiang Hao. This was the first time Jiang

Hao had seen Hong Yuye appear.

“Senior...”

“What cultivation realm are you in?” Hong Yuye reached out and picked up the book on the table.

“Middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm,” Jiang Hao said.

“How old are you?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Twenty-four,” Jiang Hao said.

“Middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm at twenty-four? That’s a bit slow,” Hong Yuye said as she casually flipped through the book. “I don’t have very high talent at cultivation.”

Hong Yuye chuckled. “I gave you a ladder, and you actually climbed up.” Jiang Hao lowered his head and remained silent.

“How is your undercover mission going?” Hong Yuye’s gaze remained on the book.

“I have established a foothold in the gathering and will soon be able to find out why the Great Thousand God Sect sent people to the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. The person who tried to snatch the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower could also reveal some information,” Jiang Hao said.

This was the progress he had made in the past two years. Although he was far from finding out who exactly was behind the stone tablets, he was still a step ahead.

Hong Yuye stopped flipping through the book and looked at Jiang Hao. She was a little unaccustomed to him being truthful.

“Have you discovered anything else?” she asked.

“In the gathering, Xing is likely someone of authority. I suspect he is from the

Bright Moon Sect. He said he could obtain the secret technique of the Clear Sky School called the Free Form technique. He already has the Bright Moon Sect’s technique, Myriad Bodies.”

Jiang Hao envied it a little. He didn’t plan to cultivate it himself, but having a clone to do things was convenient, like Qu Zhong.

Although he had lost two clones and the Corpse Heart, his main body had escaped unscathed. No one could find him, even if they tried.

From the beginning, he had planned to retreat once the plan started.

“It seems you are fully focused on this.” Hong Yuye stared at him.

“Senior, when doing tasks for you, I don’t hold back on my efforts.”

It wasn’t like he had a choice. He was constantly worried about Gui finding out about his identity, or that he might face Qu Zhong’s other clone. Every day he delayed was a day wasted.

Hong Yuye smiled faintly, lowered her head, and continued reading the book.

“Make some tea.”

Hong Yuye hadn’t visited for a long time, so there was still plenty of tea left. He didn’t need to spend spirit stones to replenish it any time soon.

“Tell me about your experience at the gathering,” Hong Yuye said.



Jiang Hao prepared the tea and sat down at the table. He poured a cup for her and for himself. Then he began to recount the events of the gathering.

He didn't hide anything.

When he told her about Liu looking for the Clear Sky School's Free Form technique and the Bright Moon Sect's Myriad Bodies, she shook her head. "The Myriad Bodies and Free Form Technique are just superficial methods." "Are there other techniques?" Jiang Hao asked curiously.

"Well... the technique would be the Myriad Bodies, but that isn't used for re-cultivation. It is used in line with another secret technique," Hong Yuye said.

"What secret technique?" Jiang Hao asked.

"The Shifting Star Technique.."

Chapter 248: Is He Going to Make a Move Against Me Tonight?

"The Shifting Star Technique?"

This was the first time Jiang Hao had heard of something like that. It seemed to be associated with the Bright Moon Sect.

However, Hong Yuye obviously had no intention of continuing the conversation. She simply drank her tea and flipped through her book again.

Jiang Hao continued with his report. He talked about the Corpse Realm Flower and the purpose of the Great Thousand God Sect in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture.

He then told her about Gui and her mission.

Hong Yuye looked at him.

“Is there something wrong, Senior?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Last time, were you in that village to visit your junior’s family, or were you there for that dragon?” she asked.

“It was both,” Jiang Hao said truthfully. “Everything is under control.”

He hadn’t planned to attack the dragon. He just happened to find it there by the river. Most things he had achieved till now were because of luck.

Hong Yuye smiled. “Go on.”

After that, Jiang Hao talked about the discovery of the Misfortune Pearl.

“Will it really be devastating if the Misfortune Pearl appears somewhere?”

“Doesn’t matter. The moment you touch it, you’ll die,” said Hong Yuye. “When it begins releasing its power, it’ll be like a raging flood. Your meager power will not be enough to seal it again.”

Jiang Hao was deep in thought. The thing had its pros and cons. The advantage was that he could use it to threaten someone. However, if he used it, he would suffer too.

“Is it Possible for it to be unsealed by resonance?” liana Hao asked.

Hong Yuye chuckled softly. “You weren’t worried about this when you brought it out of that ruin. Since you weren’t worried then, you don’t need to worry now. Because you can’t take it back anyway. Without the Misfortune Pearl, the whispers around it will subside. Just continue sealing it... Maybe you will be surprised. ”

“Surprised?” Jiang Hao was puzzled.

Hong Yuye didn’t continue. She seemed to have lost interest.

She didn’t ask anything else. She quietly drank her tea and flipped through the book.

After a while, she put the book away.

She got up and approached the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. The sixth leaf was about to grow. She gently touched it.

“How do you usually take care of it?” she asked. “I just use a bowl of water to water it every day.” “Did you water it today?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Not yet.” Jiang Hao shook his head.

Hong Yuye had arrived too early. He usually watered it before he left for the Spirit Herb Garden.

“Go fetch a bowl of water, then,” Hong Yuye said softly.

After a while, Jiang Hao handed her a bowl of water.

Hong Yuye watered the flower and gave the bowl back to him.

Then she began to fade away.

“Remember, your first responsibility is to take care of my flower,” she said as her voice dissipated. She was gone!

Jiang Hao put the bowl aside. He wasn't surprised.

He wondered if Hong Yuye had put his book back on the table.

Jiang Hao tidied up the teapot and left the courtyard.

He headed to the Law Enforcement Hall.

He wanted to see if there were any tasks related to the Hundred Bones Forest. However, he didn't find any suitable tasks.

Most of the people in the Hundred Bone Forest were looking for sparring partners, and the ones who accepted the tasks were mostly from the Flowing Waterfall. Both sides were experts in body techniques.

He arrived in front of the sect's mission board.

It had been several years since he had taken on a mission. Perhaps it wouldn't be long before one was assigned to him.

Looking at it, he found that this time the sect's mission was about cultivating spirit herbs. The location was at the border between the Hundred Bones Forest and the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

'Spirit Mountain?' It seemed to be an area with wild spirit herbs. Perhaps he could find something there. After all, Bai Ye was also well versed when it came to spirit herbs.

Jiang Hao quickly looked at the list. Han Ming from the Cliff of Broken Hearts was assigned to the task.

'Junior brother Han... I can go and ask him to switch missions with me.'

It wasn't an easy thing to do, but with his accomplishments and reputation in the Law Enforcement Hall, it should be possible.

He could always offer spirit stones...

After selling some talismans, Jiang Hao returned to the Spirit Herb Garden. Just as he entered, he saw a man waiting for him.

It was Lian Daozhi from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

'Why is he here?' Jiang Hao wondered.

But most likely, he had a cultivation task. Maybe he had more spirit herbs he wanted Jiang Hao to grow.

"Junior Brother Jiang." Lian Daozhi smiled when he saw Jiang Hao.

"Do you have spirit herbs you want to grow again?" asked Jiang Hao.

"No... I actually came to see you because of a personal matter," he said. "I wonder if you are free right now."

"Of course," Jiang Hao said.

Lian Daozhi was at the peak of the Golden Core Realm, so it was only out of politeness that he asked a junior if he had time. It wasn't like Jiang Hao could refuse, even if he was busy. That would imply that Jiang Hao was deliberately provoking Lian Daozhi. He didn't want any trouble.

The two of them sat in one of the pavilions inside the garden.

"I remember that you had a spirit beast as a pet, Junior Brother Jiang. I haven't seen it recently. Is it alright?" asked Lian Daozhi.

'Did it cause trouble?' Jiang Hao wondered.

"It's not in the sect. It went out for a few days."

"I see..." Lian Daozhi wasn't surprised. "I tasked some juniors with guarding a spirit herb called Bitter Fruit. It was meant to be harvested after ripening, but a spirit beast took it away. It's not surprising for wild spirit herbs to be claimed by spirit beasts. However, the juniors told me that the beast was wearing a collar, so I assumed it might be yours. Anyhow, I was wondering if you could sell the Bitter Fruit back to me. The market price is thirty spirit stones, but I am willing to pay thirty-five. I'm in urgent need of it, so I'll buy as many as you have."

Jiang Hao got up and apologized to Lian Daozhi. "I'm very sorry, Senior Brother Lian. If this is my beast's doing, I'll naturally return the herb to you. It was yours to begin with. The spirit beast is mischievous. Please don't mind it. I hope you can overlook this mistake on my part, Senior Brother Lian."

The beast was obviously causing trouble the moment it got out of the sect. In addition, it had to mess with a senior in the sect. It had been caught red-handed.

The fact that Lian Daozhi spoke to him so politely meant that he was wary about something. Otherwise, why would someone at the peak of the Golden Core Realm be so polite with someone supposedly at the Foundation Establishment Realm?

He had even visited Jiang Hao in person.

"No, no, Junior Brother Jiang, that's quite alright." Lian Daozhi also stood up. "Indeed, we were not as skilled as the beast, and it claimed the fruit anyway. I came here to buy them from you, fair and square. I have no other intention."

Lian Daozhi was too polite. Jiang Hao wondered if he was planning to make a move against him tonight.

Jiang Hao politely refused. After several attempts, Lian Daozhi finally offered to purchase the fruit at half the market price. He wouldn't listen at all, so Jiang Hao relented.

“Then I’ll get going. I won’t disturb you any longer, Junior Brother Jiang.”

“Senior Brother Lian, rest assured, once the beast gets back, I’ll personally deliver the spirit herbs to you.”

After that, Lian Daozhi turned and left. ‘He is quite sensible and easy to get along with.’

The price difference between thirty-five and fifteen was insignificant to him. The main thing was to keep the other person happy.

There was no doubt that the transaction had been quite pleasant..

Chapter 249: Taking Your Surname

On the same afternoon, Cheng Chou and the others returned.

“Master, I’m back! I brought you some gifts!”

The beast hopped in front of Jiang Hao and handed him some fruits. “Master, have one!”

Jiang Hao picked one up and took a bite. It was surprisingly bitter.

Fifteen spirit stones were gone just like that.

Xiao Li lowered her head and approached Jiang Hao. She handed him a bag of pastries.

“These were left by... my mother. I didn’t eat them.”

“Why?” Jiang Hao asked as he took the pastries.

Xiao Li fidgeted with the hem of her shirt. “She used to say that if I gave them all to you, she would make me more next time. She is not there anymore to make more...”

“I see.” Jiang Hao accepted them. “Thank you.”

“This one is from Father...” Xiao Li handed Jiang Hao a bamboo shoot. “Can I plant it somewhere?”

“I’ll help you plant it.” Jiang Hao remembered the bamboo shoot he had helped Xiao Li’s father dig up in the mountain.

His courtyard had plenty of things, and one more bamboo shoot wouldn’t make a difference.

“Also...” Xiao Li hesitated for a moment. “Mother said that you were my family if anything happened to her. She told me that if they died, I should take your surname. Senior Brother Jiang, please call me Jiang Xiao Li from now on.”

Jiang Hao was surprised, but he nodded. “If that is okay with you, I don’t mind either.”

“Really?” Xiao Li was surprised. “So... are you my elder brother from now on?” Jiang Hao was speechless, but he nodded.

After the beast and Xiao Li left, Jiang Hao turned to Cheng Chou. “Tell me about your journey.”

This time, Cheng Chou looked a little disheveled, but he wasn’t injured.

“After you left, the spirit beast suddenly appeared. With the help of the villagers, the funeral went smoothly. However, Junior Sister Xiao Li seemed to be in denial for a few days. She kept saying that her parents would wake up. Nobody knew what to tell her. Without the spirit beast, I didn’t know what I would have done, either. After the burial, Junior Sister Xiao Li stayed inside the house and refused to come out.”



“She didn’t talk to anyone. She was completely different from before. She didn’t smile or jump around. Fortunately, the spirit beast comforted her through her grief. She tearfully gave away the chickens and ducks that her parents had raised. She also gave away the fishing nets and boats. She couldn’t bring herself to give away the farming tools. She kept saying that if her parents somehow came back, they would feel sad to see their tools gone.”

Cheng Chou sighed. “After that, we cleaned the house, washed the bedding, and closed the door behind us. Every few steps, Junior Sister Xiao Li kept looking back as though she expected to see her parents waving at her.” Jiang Hao listened quietly while eating the red bean cake.

“And then?” Jiang Hao asked.

“The journey was relatively smooth. Just as we were about to arrive, the beast went to pick some fruits to make Xiao Li happy. When it came back, I realized that it had caused trouble with someone. Fortunately, no one followed us. The fruits were too bitter, so Xiao Li didn’t eat them..

‘So... they are just leftovers. I really thought the beast had brought it for me.’

Jiang Hao understood the situation. The spirit beast wasn’t reckless or stupid. It was just that those who had seen it happened to recognize it.

He headed to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion and handed the fruits to Lian Daozhi and apologized.

Lian Daozhi gave him two hundred spirit stones in return.

Jiang Hao used that to buy some Foundation Establishment Pills and handed them to Cheng Chou. He had thought of splitting the two hundred spirit stones into three equal portions and distributing them to Xiao Li, Cheng Chou, and the beast. However, the beast and Xiao Li didn’t need spirit stones.

Cheng Chou had done well over the past few years, so Jiang Hao bought him some pills. Cheng Chou was overjoyed.

He only received twenty spirit stones per month. It would have taken him a year to save enough spirit stones to buy pills.

After that, Jiang Hao went to meet Han Ming and explained his intentions.

Han Ming was overjoyed to switch places with Jiang Hao. He didn't like working with spirit herbs. He would rather venture out on an adventure any day than stay back and farm. If it weren't for the fact that he couldn't refuse the mission assigned to him, he would have gone out long ago.

Jiang Hao then went through the necessary procedures to switch places with Han Ming. Everything went smoothly.

Late that night, Jiang Hao successfully accepted the sect's mission. They would depart for the mission next month.

In Heavenly South Prefecture, Bi Zhu sat in the hall, waiting for further news.

She had learned from Jing that the dragon was in the Huangsha River.

However, after observing for a while, she hadn't found anything remarkable about the Huangsha River. There was no reason for the dragon to venture there.

She was about to reach the exact location. She wouldn't be delayed for more than a few days.

'I still don't believe that he's so capable and can complete missions ahead of me.'

Bi Zhu wanted to see for herself. She waited anxiously. After a moment, a crane's cry was heard.

She smiled. 'It's finally here!'

She walked out to see an immortal crane landing in the courtyard.

As she approached, the crane flapped its wings, and a sheepskin scroll fell to the ground.

Bi Zhu picked up the scroll, threw a bottle on the ground, and went into the house.

The crane looked at the bottle on the ground. It obediently picked it up and turned to leave.

As it left, it angrily cried out toward the house.

Boom!

A thunderbolt struck the crane, burning off half of its feathers.

“If it weren’t for your master’s sake, you would be tonight’s dinner,” said Bi Zhu from inside the house.

The crane let out a mournful cry and quickly fled.

Bi Zhu sat at the table and opened the sheepskin scroll.

Inside was a map of Hidden Cloud Prefecture. A red circle marked a location on the map with the words:

“The exact location of the dragon.”

The circle indeed enclosed a river. It marked the upper reaches of the

Huangsha River!

Bi Zhu was surprised. Jing was right!

After hesitating for a moment, she decided to set off immediately to see if she could find what she was looking for.

If the dragon was indeed there, then Jing wasn't as simple as he made himself out to be.

Back at his lodging, Jiang Hao took out the stone tablet and observed it for a while.

He found that Gui had finally found the location.

[Gui: I found the location of the dragon. Jing was right! I'm heading to the Huangsha River right now.]

[Liu: Really? That's impressive! I'm still cultivating my clone. It's so difficult. I want to find another way!]

Watching them chat, Jiang Hao wanted to tell them that there was indeed a better way, but he couldn't do it. Not yet anyway. Maybe next time..

Chapter 250: The Show Begins

It was early September. There were still more than ten days left until the sect's mission.

Jiang Hao stood in front of the peach tree. The peaches had already grown, but they weren't ripe yet.

He plucked a fruit and tasted it. It was sour but with a tinge of sweetness.

'I feel that the fruits will be extraordinarily sweet when they ripen this time.' With each incarnation, the taste of the peaches improved.

Jiang Hao activated his Daily Appraisal ability. He wanted to see how many spirit stones were needed this time.

[Immortal Peach Tree: Related to the ancient Immortal Peach Tree. Possesses a trace of the divine tree's characteristics. The fruits are sweet. Leave a fruit on the tree and set up a Spirit Gathering Formation in the surrounding area with 14,700 spirit stones. It can activate the trace of the divine tree's characteristics and initiate an incarnation. After seven incarnations, it will turn into a true Immortal Peach Tree. Planting it beside a divine item will make the incarnations more successful.]

'14,700 spirit stones... it's a bit too much.' Jiang Hao frowned.

Although he had sold quite a few talismans, he only had around 10,300 spirit stones.

He was still short of four thousand spirit stones.

If he paid one thousand to the Law Enforcement Hall, he would be short of five thousand spirit stones for the incarnation.

'The rewards for the sect's mission are better. Maybe I'll get around three hundred spirit stones... it's still not enough.'

For Foundation Establishment Realm disciples, the rewards were usually a few hundred spirit stones.

Golden Core Realm disciples would get around one thousand. Those in the Primordial Spirit Realm would get even more.

However, nobody knew that he was in the Primordial Spirit Realm, and he couldn't tell anyone either.

Recruiting disciples fetched him more spirit stones. Last time, he received three thousand spirit stones from the Cliff Master when he went for recruitment. That was the kind of payment someone in the Primordial Spirit Realm received.

When the Corpse Realm Flower bloomed, he received five thousand spirit stones as a reward. He somehow needed to find a way to earn four thousand more.

He had no choice but to wait and see how things turned out. If he couldn't gather enough spirit stones, he would have to wait until next year.

He walked to the corner of the courtyard, where he had planted bamboo shoots. He had appraised them, too. They were ordinary bamboo shoots and needed to be watered occasionally.

There was a divine item and abundant spiritual energy at his place, so he didn't need to care for them too much.

"Master, I've noticed that the outside world is vast. Why don't you go out and explore?" asked the spirit beast as it hopped in front of Jiang Hao.

"I'll take you to even larger places in the future," Jiang Hao said with a smile.

"Will you go with me too, Master?"

Jiang Hao smiled but didn't answer the beast.

He watered the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower and left the house. He turned back and said to the beast, "You'll be a Golden Core demon soon."

The rabbit, who was about to reach the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, was indeed getting closer to the Golden Core Realm.

"Master, you're joking! I'm just an ordinary demon."

Jiang Hao headed to the Spirit Herb Garden. On the way, he ran into Miao Tinglian.

"Junior Brother Jiang, I have something to discuss with you," she said.

“What is it, Senior Sister Miao?” Jiang Hao was puzzled. As far as he knew, the Corpse Realm Flower should be fine now.

“I wanted to give you something.” She handed Jiang Hao two thousand spirit stones.

“What’s this for?” Jiang Hao asked in surprise.

Two thousand spirit stones were not a small amount. Why would she suddenly give him so many spirit stones?

It would normally take him a lot of time to earn that much. If he only relied on the sect’s resources, it would take him five years to earn that much! “This too,” said Miao Tinglian as she handed him some pills.

Jiang Hao was astonished. “Heavenly Revitalizing Pill?”

“Yes, I had Mu Qi especially prepare those for you. I thought you might need it,” she said. “I would have given you more spirit stones but having pills is safer.” Jiang Hao was baffled. Why was she giving him spirit stones?

“It’s because of the Corpse Realm Flower,” said Miao Tinglian. “You told me how and where to transplant them to keep them alive. So many disciples now approach me to ask about it. I took a hefty sum from them. So, I wanted to give a fair share of it to you, Junior Brother Jiang.”

“Oh...” Jiang Hao hesitated. “Can I exchange them for spirit stones instead?” Miao Tinglian was speechless.

“The current market price for the pill in the sect is four thousand, but I’ll give you five thousand spirit stones,” she said.

Miao Tinglian hesitated. “Junior Brother Jiang, don’t let anyone know that you earned so many spirit stones. It might be dangerous for a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator to carry around so many spirit stones. You might be attacked... or worse. You better spend them soon.”

“Thank you for the warning, Senior Sister Miao.” Jiang Hao nodded gratefully.

He also knew that it was not safe to have too many spirit stones as a late Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator.

It was just as well that not many people knew his master had given him five thousand spirit stones.

Many people would be envious.

Jiang Hao sighed in relief as he received five thousand spirit stones from Miao Tinglian.

In total, he received 7,000 spirit stones from Miao Tinglian. After deducting the four thousand that he needed for the peach tree from the spirit stones he just received, he would have three thousand left. He could pay one thousand spirit stones to the Law Enforcement Hall and still have two thousand left. He could use that to buy more talisman-making materials. It would be safer that way.

It was already mid- September when Jiang Hao finally went to the Law Enforcement Hall.

This time, he met Liu Xingchen, but there was a difference in his aura from before. His aura was an amalgamation of a dark aura and the aura of a dragon.

The remnants of a True Dragon’s soul and the sorcerer’s soul seemed to be teaming up.

“Hello, Junior Brother Jiang. I heard you specifically requested the sect’s mission?” said Liu Xingchen.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao nodded.

He activated the Daily Appraisal on Liu Xingchen.



[Liu Xingchen: True Disciple of the Heavenly Faction. Born with the aura of a dragon. The remnants of the True Dragon's soul and the sorcerer's soul within his body have sensed a mortal threat. They are exerting their influence and summoning another remnant soul to seize control of his body. The three intend to work together and completely take over his body. Aware of this, he has been loitering around the Devil's Den and the mines to find another remnant soul to boost their courage. The reason he is on good terms with you is to get close to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower to watch it carefully. He suspects that the deaths of Du Yong and another unknown Primordial Spirit Realm cultivator are related to you. His interest in you had grown.]

Jiang Hao didn't know what Liu Xingchen was thinking. But he knew that Liu Xingchen was extremely confident in his abilities. Wasn't he afraid of causing trouble?

Perhaps that was the arrogance of a True Disciple.

If the remnants of the True Dragon's soul and the sorcerer's soul knew that Liu Xingchen was aware of their plan, Jiang Hao didn't know what they would do.

Jiang Hao had no way of knowing what kind of mortal threat they sensed.

It was fascinating that Liu Xingchen was trying something like that. However, the latter information worried him a bit.

Du Yong's death had been investigated, but no one had approached Jiang Hao to question him yet.

'Was it because he died outside the sect?'

"I heard that there will be another junior next year who will be going for the recruitment missions," said Liu Xingchen.

'There goes my opportunity to earn three thousand spirit stones.' Jiang Hao sighed inwardly.

"By the way, Junior Brother Jiang, do you remember Du Yong?" Liu Xingchen suddenly asked.

"I remember. He used to come to the Cliff of Broken Hearts often to see the Spirit Herb Garden," Jiang Hao said calmly.

"We investigated and found out that he was an undercover agent... or rather, he was replaced by a spy to keep an eye on the sect. He was killed outside the sect not so long ago," said Liu Xingchen. "We are searching for the main body of the person who used him as a clone and a spy. We haven't found them yet. You were quite close to Du Yong, so you are obviously placed under observation."

After talking for a while, Liu Xingchen bid farewell and headed to the mines. "I'll get going now. I have important matters to attend to."

Jiang Hao suspected that the "important matter" was to find another remnant soul in his body for possession. He was both shocked and impressed by Liu Xingchen.

However, Du Yong's case made him somewhat concerned..