

A Record 121

Chapter 121: Recommendation

Right as Gong Shuhong's aura was wavering in an unstable manner following the destruction of his Earthly Deity Avatar, a thunderous roar rang out from down below, and a burst of powerful soundwaves swept through the air with devastating power.

This was none other than the Vajra Roar that Han Li had just unleashed in his Giant Mountain Ape form.

The space in the wake of the white soundwaves blurred and warped violently, as if the entire space were about to collapse.

The crimson cauldron hovering in the air shuddered violently in the face of the destructive soundwaves, and it began to sway unsteadily, while the law fluctuations that it was releasing were also cast into disarray.

Right at this moment, a resounding draconic roar suddenly rang out from within the cauldron, immediately following which a burst of red light exploded above the cauldron, forming a huge cloud of blood mist.

Immediately thereafter, a fiery dragon that was over 100 feet in length rose up into the heavens from the blood mist, then twisted around in the sky before swooping down toward Gong Shuhong.

"How dare you destroy my Earthly Deity Avatar and ruin my cultivation foundation! I'm going to bring all of you down with me!" Gong Shuhong roared in a fit of blind fury, and a deranged look appeared on his face.

As soon as his voice trailed off, the crimson light around him brightened drastically while his body rapidly swelled up like a balloon, releasing a terrifying destructive aura.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and he immediately reverted back to his human form before stowing his Essence Fire Raven away with a wave of his hand.

The fiery dragon that Wyrms 3 had transformed into also changed directions and skirted around Gong Shuhong upon seeing this.

Scintillating radiance erupted from the scales on the fiery dragon's body alongside a vast expanse of crimson flames, which instantly encompassed the entire island on the lake of blood before forming a series of fiery red lotus flowers that bloomed in rapid succession.

A burst of scorching law fluctuations instantly permeated through the air, and it was as if a standalone realm had been opened up within the underground cavern.

This is a spirit domain!

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up upon sensing the change taking place around him.

Right at this moment, a burst of incandescent light that was as bright as the sun erupted within the underground cavern. At this point, Gong Shuhong's body had already swelled to several dozen times its original size, and melted away like snow and ice within the blinding radiance.

A series of violent explosions erupted incessantly, and the island at the center of the lake of blood was completely shattered before being instantly devoured by the eruption of light, then reduced to nothingness.

Devastating shockwaves erupted in all directions, shattering the entire underground cavern and causing it to collapse, resulting in huge volumes of the lake's water gushing in in a frenzy.

Above the cavern, the completely barren and lifeless Red Moon City also crumbled away into an enormous set of ruins.

However, there was an area in the cavern that was encompassed within a layer of green light, and it was completely unharmed.

Eight huge pieces of rhomboid turtle shells were hovering above that area, and they were connected together to form an ovular dark green light barrier that was completely unmoved by the shockwaves resulting from the explosions.

Within the light barrier, Han Li had activated his Xuanwu bloodline, and his entire body was encased in a suit of dark green armor as he calmly inspected his surroundings.

The scorching aura that filled the entire space wasn't displaying any sign of fading away, and all of the fiery red lotus flowers littered throughout the area were releasing bursts of strange aura fluctuations to combat the violent energy.

Not far away from Han Li, Wyrms 3 had already reverted back to his human form, and he was seated on a giant fiery lotus flower with his entire body enveloped within a layer of reddish-golden light. His robes were flapping audibly as he made a rapid series of hand seals, supporting his spirit domain with all his might.

Only after a few minutes had passed did the tremors in the cavern gradually subside. At this point, most of the fiery red lotus flowers had already dissipated, and Wyrms 3's spirit domain also slowly crumbled away.

As the final few lotus flowers faded out of existence, Wyrms 3 descended out of the sky with a weary expression.

Han Li also withdrew the turtle shells around him upon seeing this, and he cupped his fist in a salute toward Wyrms 3. "Congratulations on successfully killing Gong Shuhong, Wyrms 3."

"You played a pivotal role in our successful completion of the mission as well, Wyrms 15," Wyrms 3 said as he turned to Han Li.

At this point, the cold apathy that was normally seen in his eyes had completely faded, replaced by undisguised approval and appreciation.

"You're far too kind, Wyrms 3. I only made the slightest of contributions. I certainly wouldn't dare to consider my meager contributions anywhere near significant," Han Li replied with a faint smile.

"There's no need to talk yourself down. In the Transient Guild, power is valued above all else. Those with insufficient power who covet benefits beyond what they deserve can't blame anyone else even if they were to meet their demise, do you understand what I'm saying?" Wyrms 3 asked in a meaningful voice.

"I do, and I will be sure to remember your teachings," Han Li replied in a respectful manner.

"Very good. I can put in a recommendation for you to be promoted to a higher-level member of the guild. Would you like that?" Wyrms 3 asked.

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, then replied, "May I ask what comes with being a higher-level member of the guild? If it requires taking on even more difficult missions, then I wouldn't dare to agree without giving it some careful consideration first."

"Setting aside everything else, if you're successfully promoted, you'll gain the ability to release normal missions and earn the right to exchange resources with other members of the same level," Wyrms 3 explained in an indifferent voice.

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this, and he cupped his fist in a salute as he said, "In that case, I'll have to trouble you to put in a recommendation for me."

"I have the right to submit recommendations, but the guild will send out an envoy to examine your abilities to determine whether you deserve a promotion or not. When that time comes, you'll have to complete another trial mission, but I'm sure that won't be any problem for you given your powers," Wyrms 3 said.

Han Li didn't offer up any further words of gratitude, merely extending a slight bow instead.

"Alright, now that the mission is complete, I have to remain on the island for a while longer to wrap things up. Red Moon Island has a long history, so I'm sure it's laden with many precious resources. You can go explore the island on your own, but make sure you don't stay for too long," Wyrms 3 continued.

Han Li nodded in response before taking his leave, flying away into the distance as a streak of light.

Around 15 minutes later, a streak of azure light burrowed its way out of the ground near Red Moon City, then faded to reveal Han Li.

He stood in mid-air, and he couldn't help but heave a faint sigh as he looked down at the ruins of the city down below.

Seven people had accompanied Wyrms 3 into the city, yet he was the only one that remained, and that was sufficient testament to just how perilous the Transient Guild's missions were.

Gong Shuhong had sacrificed countless lives as a blood sacrifice to enhance his own powers, even going as far as to sacrifice four of the Layman Immortals who had been following him for countless years, reflecting just how cruel and ruthless he was, but similarly, Wyrms 3 was just as cruel and uncaring toward others when it came to achieving his objectives.

However, he was correct in that risk and reward always came hand in hand in the pursuit of cultivation. There were never any easy paths to take in cultivation, and that was something that should've been apparent to all cultivators from the moment they chose to pursue this path.

With that in mind, Han Li shook his head to rid himself of the slight hint of sympathy that he felt toward his fallen comrades.

After taking a brief moment to ascertain the direction he wanted to go in, he sped away into the distance as a streak of azure light, choosing not to linger on the island to search for any of the supposed resources there.

Earlier, he had already stowed away Wyrms 8's storage tool in secret, and in addition to everything that he had obtained before that, this had already been quite a bountiful trip.

The main resources of the island were definitely in Gong Shuhong's possession, which meant that they belonged to Wyrms 3 now. While it was true that there had to be other resources elsewhere on the island, those were far too insignificant for him to bother going out of his way to find.

Two months later, a streak of azure light appeared near Dark Veil Island, then faded to reveal Han Li.

A faint smile appeared on his face at the sight of the small island.

He had just endured quite a perilous trip, but thankfully, he had returned safely and achieved the objectives that he had set out to achieve.

Luo Feng quickly flew out of the island as a streak of light to meet him.

"Senior Liu!" he greeted with an elated expression.

He was the only one who had been informed by Han Li of this trip, and during this time, he had been waiting day and night in constant fear that some terrible fate would befall Han Li. Now that Han Li had returned safe and sound, he was immediately overcome by a sense of immense relief.

"Did anything happen during the time I've been away?" Han Li asked.

"Nothing out of the ordinary has happened during your absence," Luo Feng hurriedly replied.

Han Li nodded in response, then flew back toward his courtyard, while Luo Feng trailed along behind him and reported to him some of the news that had recently arisen during the past couple of months.

One of those pieces of news was that the island that Lu Kun presided over had suddenly gone into isolation without any explanation.

Han Li's heart stirred slightly upon hearing this, but he didn't say anything.

Lu Kun had fallen into the lake in the underground cavern with the head of his Earthly Deity Avatar and never reappeared again, so it was unclear whether he was dead or alive.

However, given the situation at the time, even if he hadn't perished, he would've most likely at least suffered severe injuries.

With that in mind, Han Li dismissed Luo Feng, then returned to his courtyard and fell onto his bed before promptly falling asleep.

Only on the next day did he get out of bed, feeling fully revitalized, then flipped a hand over to produce a cluster of objects, consisting of several storage tools and spirit treasures, as well as Wyrms 8's broken Earthly Deity Avatar.

First, he examined Wyrms 8's broken avatar to find that most of the materials used to refine it were identical to that of Luo Meng's Earthly Deity Avatar, with the main difference being the copious amounts of precious wind-attribute materials used in Wyrms 8's avatar.

Even though these materials couldn't be recycled and reused, Han Li would still be able to learn a great deal from examining them and therefore be better prepared for when he refined his own avatar.

With that in mind, Han Li stowed the avatar away, then began to examine the spirit treasures.

Following his examination, he discovered that Wyrms 16's black metal spike seemed to be a low-grade immortal treasure, but aside from that, none of the other treasures were remarkable in any way. However, for some reason, even though the black metal spike appeared to be completely fine on the outside, it seemed to have sustained rather severe internal damage, and the power of laws imbued within it was slowly seeping out.

At this rate, all of the power of laws within it would be gone in just a few centuries.

It was no wonder that Wyrms 16 wasn't able to utilize the treasure to any great effect.

Thus, his interest in the collection of treasures immediately faded, and he only briefly examined the remaining treasures before stowing them away.

He had no need for any of those treasures in his current state.

Finally, Han Li picked up those storage tools before injecting his spiritual sense into them.

A long while later, he opened his eyes, and a hint of elation appeared on his face.

As expected, the collections of these True Immortals didn't disappoint. The storage trolls contained many precious materials, far exceeding what could be found on Dark Veil Island.

In fact, there were many items that even he didn't recognize, but they were definitely all extremely precious.

With these things in his possession, he wouldn't have to worry about cultivation resources in the near future.

He took a deep breath before splitting these things up into different categories and stowing them away, then flipped a hand over to produce a jade slip.

This was an Earthly Immortal cultivation art by the name of the Profound Astral Wind Arts, and it seemed to be perfect for his needs. However, he still had to follow the set procedure, becoming an Ancestral God first before he could become an Earthly Immortal. Hence, the cultivation art wasn't very useful to him at this current stage, but it was still a good resource to study and examine.

Chapter 122: Trial

Over a month passed by in the blink of an eye.

On this day, Han Li was seated in his secret chamber in a completely still manner with his legs crossed and his eyes closed.

All of a sudden, his eyelids fluttered slightly, and he opened his eyes before rising to his feet. In the next instant, he appeared in the air above the courtyard that he was staying in, having already put on his azure cow mask.

After a brief hesitation, he flew through the air in a certain direction as a streak of azure light.

Close to half a day later, a streak of azure light shot forth through the air above a nameless island countless kilometers away from Dark Veil Island. The streak of azure light circled around in the air a few times upon reaching the island, then faded to reveal Han Li in his cow mask, hovering in the air beside a small hill.

As soon as he appeared above the island, a burst of spatial ripples that were visible to the naked eye emerged not far away, and a gray figure stepped out of thin air.

The figure was wearing a red mask, and their entire body was enveloped in a layer of gray light that concealed their aura. Even though they were standing right in front of Han Li, they somehow felt extremely distant in Han Li's eyes, and he couldn't get a clear look at them no matter how hard he tried.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this.

In the instant that the masked figure had appeared, Han Li had been struck by the feeling that they were most likely even more powerful than Wyrms 3.

The gray figure sized up Han Li for a moment, then declared, "Wyrms 15, Wyrms 3 has recommended that we consider elevating you to an azure member of the guild. Your past contributions are nowhere near enough for you to be considered for a promotion, but seeing as Wyrms 15 was willing to use his one-time recommendation on you, there's nothing for me to say. However, you must complete a trial mission in order to secure the promotion."

Their voice was rather indistinct, and it was impossible to discern their gender and age range.

"I understand," Han Li replied with a nod.

"This is the list of the missions for you to select from," the gray figure said as he flipped a hand over to summon a crimson badge.

With a tap of his finger, the strange patterns on the badge lit up, and countless tiny runes emerged before intertwining with one another to form a crimson screen of light that was several dozen feet in size.

Lines of small text appeared on the light screen, describing the available missions for Han Li to choose from.

Han Li didn't waste any time with words as he immediately directed his gaze to the light screen and began to carefully read through its contents.

The missions were extremely diverse, involving tasks like overseeing a dangerous area for 10,000 years, slaying a powerful being that was ruling over a certain extremely distant region, and gathering various types of rare treasures.

The one thing that all of these missions had in common was that they all appeared to be very difficult, with many of them no less difficult than killing the lord of Red Moon Island.

Han Li's mind was racing as he read through these missions.

Given his current powers, there were some missions that were possible for him to complete, but all of those missions were going to take a very long time, and time was the one thing that he had the shortest supply of.

He didn't even want to wait for 10 years or 100 years, let alone thousands or tens of thousands of years.

The True Immortal Realm that he was situated in was rife with peril, and there were clearly some powers that he was unaware of trying to hunt him down. Otherwise, he wouldn't have lost 300 years' worth of memories and ended up in the Spirit Domain Realm.

He continued to inspect the list of missions while these thoughts were running through his mind, and all of a sudden, his gaze settled on a particular mission.

"Revive the seed of an unknown spirit medicine within 100 years."

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up at the sight of this mission.

He didn't know what spirit medicine this seed belonged to, but given that he possessed the Heaven Controlling Vial, this was surely not going to be a difficult mission for him to complete.

With that in mind, he pointed at the mission on the light screen, making sure to remain composed as he asked, "Would you be able to elaborate on the mission concerning the revival of the spirit medicine seed?"

The light glowing from the gray figure's body flashed slightly, and they seemed to have been rather taken by this request. "Oh? Are you interested in that mission?"

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, then asked, "Is there a problem with this mission?"

"No, that's not it. This mission was released by an elder of our guild. He came across this spirit medicine seed by chance, but he hasn't been able to identify what spirit medicine it belongs to. On top of that, the seed is completely devoid of vitality. By his estimation, it would have to require wood-attribute power of laws of a certain level to have a chance at reviving the seed," the gray figure explained.

"I'll take this mission," Han Li replied with a nod.

The gray figure took a glance at Han Li, and they didn't ask any questions. Instead, they simply stowed the crimson badge away, then produced what appeared to be a white array plate before handing it to Han Li as they said, "This is an object transference plate, and someone will send the seed to you through this plate in a few days. If you can revive the seed, then send it back using this plate, and you'll have completed your trial mission."

Han Li accepted the plate from the gray figure, and a hint of intrigue flashed through his eyes. He had never seen anything of this nature outside of the Immortal Realm.

After Han Li selected his mission, the gray figure didn't stay any longer, raising their arm to release a burst of gray light, which flew forward before circling around in the air.

A spatial rift then opened up before transforming into a murky gray spatial passageway, the edges of which were giving off a faint glow.

The gray figure stepped into the spatial passageway without sparing another glance at Han Li, instantly vanishing into thin air, and the spatial passageway also closed in a flash behind him right after he stepped through it.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he was quite stunned by what he had seen.

Within the gray light was an ordinary-looking talisman with some profound golden patterns on its surface.

It was able to break through space with ease, and Han Li could sense a type of special law fluctuations emanating from it, so it clearly was no ordinary object, yet the gray figure seemed to have only been using it as a transportation device, and that certainly appeared rather excessive.

Han Li shook his head to rid himself of that train of thought, then flew away into the distance as a streak of light.

That night.

Luo Feng hurriedly arrived in the courtyard that Han Li was staying in with an urgent expression, and as soon as he arrived, he immediately cupped his fist in a respectful salute as he declared, "Luo Feng pays his respects to Senior Liu."

"Go and find me some high-grade spirit soils fit for growing spirit plants. There's no need to bring me too much of each type, but try and gather as many types as possible," Han Li instructed.

Luo Feng faltered slightly upon hearing this, then immediately accepted the order without asking any questions.

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Three days later.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed in his secret chamber, and there was a white array plate hovering in front of him. The array plate was revolving on the spot while emitting a faint buzzing sound.

Moments later, a vast expanse of dazzling white light erupted out of the array plate, followed by a flurry of countless silver runes, which revolved around the array plate for a while before surging to the center of the plate to form a ball of white light.

The ball of white light swelled, then shrank, before scattering to reveal a palm-sized azure jade box hovering in the air above the array plate.

Han Li beckoned to the azure jade box, drawing it into his grasp, and after conducting a brief inspection to ensure that nothing was amiss, he removed the lid of the box.

Inside the box was a thumb-sized brownish-yellow seed that was dry and withered, resembling an unremarkable walnut.

Han Li carefully picked up the seed between two of his fingers, then held it in front of his eyes for a meticulous inspection.

After a long while, he shook his head as he concluded that the seed was indeed completely devoid of vitality, just as the gray figure had said.

Furthermore, he couldn't see anything special about the seed, so he didn't know why a seemingly high-ranking elder of the Transient Guild would go to such great lengths to have it revived.

After a moment of contemplation, he summoned his jade badge to open up the entrance to the secret area, then made his way inside before arriving on a plot of empty land behind the wooden hut. Once there, he flipped a hand over to produce a jade basin, which he set down onto the ground, and the basin was filled with some soil of different colors that were giving off strong spiritual power fluctuations.

This was a type of five-colored soil that he had mixed together on his own from the spirit soils that Luo Feng had gathered for him.

He wouldn't dare to proclaim that this composite soil would be capable of nurturing all spirit plants, but the majority of spirit plants would be able to live and grow in this five-colored soil

Han Li buried the seed in the spirit soil, then pulled out his Heaven Controlling Vial.

It had been quite some time since he last used the vial, and a drop of green liquid had already appeared inside it.

He carefully dripped the drop of green liquid into the spirit soil, and the liquid quickly seeped in.

After that, he crossed his legs and sat onto the ground, closing his eyes as he released his spiritual sense to delve into the seed within the spirit soil.

Time slowly passed by, and close to half a day later, his eyes abruptly sprang open as an elated look appeared on his face.

As expected, a hint of vitality arose within the brownish-yellow seed around four to six hours after the green liquid seeped into the soil, and that hint of vitality was growing stronger at an extremely slow rate.

After making this observation, Han Li left the secret area and returned to his courtyard, setting up layers upon layers of restrictions before pulling out the small vial and placing it onto the ground.

It was already late at night, and the stars in the night sky were glowing brightly.

Countless rays of starlight instantly converged to fuse into the vial...

Time flew by in a flash, and in the blink of an eye, an entire month had passed by. At this point, another drop of green liquid had arisen inside the small vial, and Han Li immediately poured it onto the seed.

This time, hints of faint green coloration began to appear on the surface of the brownish-yellow seed...

Five months later, with the application of the sixth drop of green liquid, the vitality within the seed had recovered to close to 20%, and its originally dull and lifeless surface had also taken on a grayish-green color.

Another three months passed by in this fashion, and as Han Li applied one more drop of green liquid to the seed, a tiny little opening appeared on the surface of the seed amid a faint crack, and a tender seedling that was around an inch in length emerged.

Several white roots that resembled strands of silk also emerged from the underside of the seed, plunging themselves into the five-colored spirit soil.

Han Li was observing the green seedling before him with an intrigued expression.

He still didn't know what type of seed this was, but given its current state, it was definitely going to be an extremely remarkable spirit plant once it grew to full maturity.

The seed had originally been completely devoid of life, so the most difficult part was instilling it with a hint of vitality and preserving that newfound vitality. At this point, close to a quarter of the seed's vitality had already been restored, and it was gradually reaching a stable condition.

At this point, it had already been revived, and all that had to be done from here was to transfer the seed to some spirit soil, then slowly nurture it with a suitable wood-attribute spirit liquid, and it would only be a matter of time before it made a full recovery.

Of course, without the green liquid, this process could easily take tens of thousands of years, but that was not something for Han Li to worry about. In order to avoid unnecessary trouble, he had no intention of completely restoring the seed's vitality.

With that in mind, he returned to the secret chamber in the courtyard, and after putting on his cow mask, he flipped a hand over to produce that white array plate.

He placed the seedling and the jade basin onto the array plate, then waved a hand to activate the restriction enclosed within the plate.

A burst of white light arose from the array plate to envelop the jade basin, and in the next instant, the jade basin vanished into thin air.

Chapter 123: Black Sea Heavy Water Tome

Han Li continued to stare at the jade plate hovering before him in a silent, unblinking manner, and a long while later, the array plate began to emit a faint buzzing sound.

Bursts of white light then emerged from the jade plate to form a white array.

An indistinct gray shadow was standing in the array, and it was none other than the same Transient Guild envoy that had assigned Han Li his mission.

"I didn't think that you would actually be able to revive that seed, and it's even more remarkable that you managed to do it in less than a year. The elder who released this mission is quite curious about how you managed to accomplish this, and he requested me to ask about the method that you employed. He's willing to exchange for this method from you, and you can state the price," the gray figure said.

"I'm afraid I'm going to have to disappoint that elder. I just so happened to obtain a small vial of a special liquid by chance, and I used it to nurture the seed along with a type of five-colored spirit soil. Through some testing, I found that I was able to restore a hint of vitality within the seed, and only then did I dare to take on this mission.

"However, I only had a few drops of that liquid to begin with, and I used it all up to complete this mission. As for the method I used to create the five-colored spirit soil, I would be happy to offer that up for exchange if that elder is interested," Han Li replied with a wry smile.

"That's a pity. If you ever get your hands on this type of liquid again, you can contact me at any time. That elder has told me that he's willing to offer you an immortal treasure in exchange. Now that you've completed your trial mission, from this day forth, you will officially be an azure member of our guild. This is your new mask, make sure to keep it safe."

The gray figure didn't ask any further questions, and he swept a hand through the air as he spoke.

A streak of azure light flew out of the jade plate, then fell into Han Li's grasp, revealing itself to be an azure cow mask. Aside from the color, which had turned from blue to azure, it was no different in appearance to Han Li's current mask, and it even retained the number "15" on its glabella.

"Thank you, esteemed envoy," Han Li said as he held onto the azure mask and extended a bow toward the gray figure in the array.

The gray figure didn't say anything further, and with a wave of his hand, he vanished on the spot, following which the white array around him also disintegrated into thin air.

Thus, peace and quiet returned to the secret chamber.

Han Li gently stroked the dense patterns on the mask while sensing the peculiar fluctuations emanating from it, and a moment later, he removed his blue mask before replacing it with his new mask.

After putting on the new mask, it immediately began to ripple with a gentle watery glow, and the blue cow mask that had just been removed disintegrated into nothingness without any warning.

In the next instant, a passage of glowing golden text surfaced in Han Li's mind.

The passage of text contained the method to utilize the mask's many functions. In addition to the old features, which included disguise adoption, aura alteration, and confidential voice transmission, he had also been given access to some new features, including releasing missions and exchanging resources with other members of the same tier.

After memorizing everything, Han Li raised his middle and index fingers together, then tapped them against his own glabella as he began to chant a peculiar incantation.

As soon as his voice trailed off, a burst of gentle azure light emerged from the mask, much like a gentle breeze or a wave of rippling water, spreading throughout the entire secret chamber in a flash.

Within the area encompassed by the azure light, a projection of a massive array plate that took up virtually an entire wall of the secret chamber appeared before Han Li.

This was a square array plate that was of a glowing azure color, and it was riddled with complex array runes. At the very center of the array was a circular vortex roughly the size of a well, and it was slowly revolving while releasing bursts of spatial fluctuations.

The entire array plate was split up into two areas, one on the left and one on the right, with the circular vortex dividing the two. The top grids of the two areas contained the words "Missions" and "Exchange".

Right as Han Li was about to take a closer look, a burst of golden light emerged on the surface of the array plate, and a passage of golden text appeared on its surface, mostly comprised of some rules that had to be followed during exchanges.

Due to the fact that exchanges in the guild had to take place across realms, all of the items put up for exchange were appraised by professional personnel of the Transient Guild, and information like their quality, strengths and weaknesses, and even their places of origin, were all laid out in the descriptions attached to the items. To a certain extent, this ensured the fairness and openness of the exchanges.

Furthermore, if either side were to go back on an agreement, then the perpetrator would be dealt a severe punishment from the guild. In serious cases, they could even permanently lose their guild membership.

After Han Li was finished reading through the rules, the passage of text faded away.

Han Li took a deep breath, then continued to inspect the array plate.

On the left side of the array plate, under the heading of "Missions", there were a series of summaries of missions inscribed vertically, and listed after the descriptions of those missions were the rewards for completing them.

At a rough glance, Han Li saw a variety of missions, including requests to search for certain individuals, hiring notices for assassins, and invitations to join a group of cultivators to explore secret regions. There

was a great deal of diversity in the missions on offer, and the rewards also fluctuated depending on the difficulty of the missions.

In contrast, the contents on the right-hand side "Exchanges" section were a bit more complex.

The items put up for exchange were split up into major categories like "spirit medicines", "spirit materials", "treasures", "talismans", and "scriptures", and all of the categories also had subcategories of different levels.

Han Li took a rough glance at all of the categories before focusing his attention on the "scriptures" category, where he began to take a closer look.

There were quite a few sub-categories under the "scriptures" category, and most of them contained cultivation methods of different attributes.

However, there weren't many cultivation methods for Ancestral Gods. In fact, there weren't even as many cultivation arts of this nature as what was available for sale in the Black Wind Sea. As for high-grade Earthly Immortal cultivation arts, those were even rarer.

After searching for close to six hours, Han Li's eyes suddenly lit up, and he spotted an earth-attribute Earthly Immortal cultivation art by the name of the "Origin Earth Refining Arts".

According to the brief description provided, this was quite an advanced cultivation art, and upon attaining full mastery of the cultivation art, one would be able to at least reach the Golden Immortal Stage.

However, after seeing the asking price for this cultivation art, Han Li was immediately left feeling deflated. The owner of the cultivation art was asking for a mature Fire Origin Dragon Tooth Fruit in exchange.

According to the description, this was a type of spirit fruit that contained the power of laws of fire. Not only was it extremely difficult to find trees that bore this fruit, the fruit itself also required tens of thousands of years to reach full maturity, just like a Profound Heavenly Fruit.

Furthermore, as soon as the fruit emerged, it would immediately begin to release a strong fragrant aroma, and it was often the case that the fruit would be eaten by spirit beasts before reaching full maturity. Hence, mature specimens of this fruit were extremely rare, and there was very little supply to meet the demand.

Hence, he had no choice but to give up on this cultivation art and search for another one.

Around an hour later, he found another Earthly Immortal cultivation art by the name of the "Heavenly Glacial Ice Arts". This was a cultivation art of an inferior caliber to the Origin Earth Refining Arts, but it was a water-attribute cultivation art, so it was very suited to the environment in the Black Wind Sea.

However, the asking price was just as steep. In exchange for the cultivation art, Han Li would have to go and search for an item in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

The mission duration was 100 years, and regardless of whether the requested item was secured or not, one would be able to obtain the cultivation art as long as they didn't perish in the Northern Glacial Immortal Realm.

Han Li naturally immediately gave up on this cultivation art as well.

Over the course of a day and a night, he scanned through virtually all of the cultivation arts up for exchange, and aside from those previous high-grade Earthly Immortal cultivation arts, he only managed to find one more, a cultivation art by the name of the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome.

This was a rather intriguing cultivation art in that not only could it allow one to attain the power of water laws through harnessing the power of faith, one could also use the cultivation art to derive heavy water from seawater. This derivation process was also the process through which users of this cultivation art could attain more immortal spiritual power, so it was truly killing two birds with one stone.

According to the summary of the cultivation art, there were nine tiers of heavy water that could be derived using this cultivation art, and theoretically, it could help a cultivator progress beyond the True Immortal Stage to reach the Golden Immortal Stage.

The reason why it was stated that this was only achievable in theory was because no one had successfully accomplished this in practice. This wasn't because this cultivation art was too profound and difficult to cultivate. On the contrary, it was far easier to cultivate than the previous two cultivation arts, but the process of deriving heavy water was quite difficult, and it required an extremely long time.

Furthermore, the further one advanced in this cultivation art, the longer the time it would take.

The Earthly Immortal who invented this cultivation art was only able to derive three levels of heavy water, which roughly equated to the amount of water in a small creek, and even that had taken him close to 500,000 years. In the end, he was only just barely able to reach the mid-True Immortal Stage, and for a time, he was the laughingstock of all of his fellow daoists.

After that, he was also unable to bear the snail-like progress in this cultivation art, and he switched to a different one. By his estimates, it would've most likely taken him tens of millions of years for him to complete the cultivation of the subsequent six levels.

However, Han Li wasn't too bothered by this. After all, his objective was never to pursue the path of the Earthly Immortal, and he was only using an Earthly Immortal cultivation art as a temporary means for him to recover his magic power.

Furthermore, it was exactly due to this fatal flaw that the asking price for this cultivation art was far cheaper than for the other two. All that was being requested in exchange was any type of material that contained the power of laws.

After making up his mind, Han Li joined his middle and index fingers before tapping them against his own glabella, and a wisp of azure light flew out from within, then landed on the spot where the "Black Sea Heavy Water Tome" was situated on the array plate, where it vanished out of sight.

Around 15 minutes later, a beam of azure light was projected down into the secret chamber from the array plate.

A projection of a male figure wearing an azure raccoon mask, and his build was remarkably tall and muscular. He was dressed in a set of rather strange tribal attire, and he didn't seem to be human.

"I take it that my Black Sea Heavy Water Tome has caught your eye, Fellow Daoist?" the man asked as he cupped his fist in a salute toward Han Li.

His voice was very loud and clear, but he spoke in a rather warm tone.

Han Li returned the man's salute, then replied, "Indeed. I can see that you've requested any type of material that contains the power of laws in exchange for the cultivation art, but you haven't offered any further information. Would you be able to elaborate, Fellow Daoist?"

Chapter 124: Grand Earth Fruit and Sea Condensing Crystal

"Just as there are disparities in the quality of cultivation arts, the same naturally also applies to materials that contain the power of laws. Hence, the number of items required to exchange for my cultivation art will depend on the quality of the items offered," the man said with a smile.

Han Li paused for a moment, then flipped a hand over, and one of those strange walnuts with human-face-like patterns etched on their surface appeared on his palm.

As soon as the item was summoned, it immediately began to release a powerful earth-attribute aura.

"Would something like this be satisfactory to you, Fellow Daoist?" Han Li asked as he took a glance at the man.

The man faltered slightly upon seeing this, and he reflexively took a half step toward Han Li, but then immediately caught himself, putting on a nonchalant smile as he said, "This Grand Earth Fruit does indeed contain a hint of earth law powers, but it's not very abundant at all, so if you want to exchange this for my cultivation art, then I'll be requiring at least 10 of them."

Grand Earth Fruit, eh? So that's what it's called...

Han Li's expression remained unchanged as he filed this tidbit of information away in his mind, and he was in no hurry to respond. Instead, he merely watched the man in an expressionless silence.

The man heaved an internal sigh upon seeing this, thinking that the reflexive half-step he had taken toward Han Li just now had already exposed his desire for the fruits, and he amended, "If you have Grand Earth Fruits of a higher caliber than this one, then I can accept five instead."

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing this, and he raised two fingers as he bartered, "Two."

"That's a little unreasonable of you, is it not, Fellow Daoist? This Black Sea Heavy Water Tome is indeed a slightly flawed cultivation art, but it's still a genuine high-grade Earthly Immortal cultivation. There's no way I can trade it for just two Grand Earth Fruits," the man said as he waved his hands insistently.

"While this is indeed a high-grade Earthly Immortal cultivation art, I would think you know better than anyone that it's not just 'slightly flawed'. Due to its limitations, this cultivation art is next to useless for the vast majority of people, so surely two Grand Earth Fruits will suffice in exchange for it," Han Li countered.

The man contemplated Han Li's words for a moment, then said in a hesitant manner, "I'm afraid I can't accept two Grand Earth Fruits. How about you add one more and make it three instead, Fellow Daoist?"

Han Li paused momentarily upon hearing this, then said, "I can throw in another one, but you have to answer a question for me first."

The man was rather taken aback to hear this, and he asked, "Answer a question? That's all I need to do?"

"That's right, I'm sure you know the answer to this question, Fellow Daoist," Han Li said with a smile.

After some contemplation, the man nodded and prompted, "Go ahead, Fellow Daoist."

"Truth be told, even though I managed to secure several Great Earth Fruits by chance, I don't know anything about what they do, and I was hoping you would be able to tell me, Fellow Daoist," Han Li said.

The man faltered slightly upon hearing this, following which a wry smile appeared on his face as he replied, "You've asked the right person, Fellow Daoist. This fruit is a very special wood-attribute spirit fruit, and it requires 100,000 years to grow into a seedling, 1,000,000 years to develop into a tree, and 10,000,000 years to bear fruit that contains the power of earth laws. It's an exceptional material for refining high-grade immortal treasures and weapons."

"Thank you for enlightening me, Fellow Daoist. Let's complete this trade now," Han Li said with a faint smile.

The man didn't say anything further, merely nodding in silence.

The two of them each raised a hand at the same time, and an object emerged from each of their palms, then flew toward the vortex at the center of the array plate.

What was different was that Han Li had released a human-faced walnut that was giving off earthy yellow light, while the man had released an ancient book.

As soon as the three fruits flew into the vortex, they immediately vanished without a trace.

Shortly thereafter, a burst of light arose from the array plate, and an ancient book with a dark azure cover slowly flew out of the circular vortex.

Han Li reached out to catch the book, then gave it a brief inspection with his spiritual sense, and only after verifying that there was nothing amiss about the book did he turn his gaze back to the man.

At this point, the man just finished examining the three Great Earth Fruits as well, and he cupped his fist in a salute toward Han Li, then vanished on the spot.

An amused smile appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this. He knew that the man was feeling a little angry that he had gotten the short end of the stick, but he didn't care. After stowing the cultivation art away, he turned his attention back to the array plate again.

He now had a high-grade Earthly Deity cultivation art, but he was still missing the materials required to refine an Earthly Deity Avatar.

Han Li had originally intended to use these Great Earth Fruits as the main material to refine his Earthly Deity Avatar, but now that he had decided to cultivate the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome, he had to find a material that contained the power of water laws, so he couldn't use those fruits anymore.

Given his current situation, this should've been a rather simple task.

He raised a hand toward the "Exchanges" section of the array plate, then put up his Great Earth Fruits in exchange for a material that contained water law powers.

Given his observations up to this point, he could tell that even though the Transient Guild was quite a mysterious organization, its operations clearly weren't limited to just the Black Wind Sea, and it had to have quite a high number of guild members. Otherwise, there was no way that such a massive intraguild exchange platform could've been established.

Seeing as there were so many people trading things on the exchange platform, Han Li was confident that it wouldn't be a difficult task to exchange his Great Earth Fruits for a material that contained the power of water laws.

After doing all of that, Han Li did away with the projection of the array plate with a sweep of his hand, then sat down with his legs crossed and pulled out the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome for a thorough reading.

Just as he anticipated, several people contacted him through his mask over the course of just seven or eight days, offering items to trade for his Great Earth Fruits.

However, Han Li didn't immediately accept any offer. Instead, he waited another few days, then carefully compared all of the dozen or so offers that he had received before deciding on a material known as the Sea Condensing Crystal.

The material contained an immense amount of water law powers, and it was extremely suitable to be used with the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome. Apparently, just this fingernail-sized piece of crystal alone

contained the essence of a region of sea tens of thousands of kilometers in radius. Hence, it was far more precious than Great Earth Fruits, and Han Li had to exchange virtually all of his remaining Great Earth Fruits and some other spirit materials for that tiny piece of crystal.

Once everything was prepared, Han Li immediately went into seclusion.

The seasons changed, and over a year passed by in the blink of an eye, as was often the case in the True Immortal Realm.

During this time, Han Li continued to nurture the Soulbirth Flower using the green liquid produced by the vial while also studying the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome day and night, making final preparations for the refinement of his Earthly Deity Avatar.

On this day, on a certain region of the seabed around 10,000 kilometers away from Dark Veil Island.

The terrain of the seabed here was rather uneven, forming a series of rocky structures that resembled an underwater mountain range.

These rocky protrusions were dark red in color with bumpy and uneven surfaces, and they were formed by cooled magma.

A series of dark holes could be seen on the seabed here, and it was unknown where these holes led to.

This was a cluster of underwater volcanoes that erupted very often, so the general area was very rarely frequented.

On a certain flat section of the seabed was a massive hemispherical blue barrier that kept out the surrounding seawater, and it was impossible to see what was going on inside from outside the protective barrier.

Seated at the center of the array with his legs crossed was none other than Han Li.

There were around a dozen massive stone pillars standing around him, while at the center was a fire-attribute array engraved out of crimson runes.

A long while later, he slowly opened his eyes, and there was a solemn look on his face as he began to chant something.

The crimson array beneath him immediately sprang to life, and the dozen or so stone pillars around him began to glow with dazzling crimson light. Even through the blue protective barrier, the surrounding seabed in a radius of several kilometers was completely illuminated.

As he made a hand seal, the ground around him began to rumble and quake.

Moments later, he let loose a low cry, and a series of cracks abruptly appeared on the ground at the very center of the array. That area was around 10 feet in size, and there were no engravings on the ground there. All of a sudden, the cracks fell away to reveal a huge hole.

Within the hole was a vast expanse of bright red, and from there, one could clearly see waves of churning magma not far beneath the ground, as well as the scorching flames burning on top of the magma.

These flames were of a faint reddish-golden color, and it wasn't normal magma groundfire. Instead, it was a type of special fire known as deepsea groundfire, and not only was it capable of mixing and coexisting with seawater, it was many times more powerful than normal groundfire.

Extraordinary waves of heat were radiating out of the huge hole, causing the surrounding seawater to boil and churn.

All of a sudden, Han Li appeared near the opening of the hole, then sat down once again with his legs crossed before flicking his fingers through the air in quick succession.

The surrounding array immediately began to operate a little faster, releasing bright red light that was flowing incessantly into the hole.

The magma underground also began to ripple and flow toward the hole's opening.

A pillar of light golden flames abruptly erupted out of the hole in the ground, and it rose up in a corkscrew fashion 70 to 80 feet up into the air, like a violent fiery geyser that could explode at any moment.

A serious look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and he sped up even further with his output of incantation seals. As a result, the surrounding array began to glow even brighter, and wisps of red light surged out of the array to envelop the golden groundfire.

The violent groundfire instantly became more docile, as if it were a wild stallion that was slowly being tamed, taking on all types of different forms at Han Li's behest.

Only then did Han Li's serious expression ease slightly, and with a wave of his hand, a selection of materials of different colors appeared beside him.

Given his current level of magic power, it was impossible for him to refine these materials, so he had developed the bright idea to use this deepsea groundfire to do the job for him.

With a wave of his hand, a piece of white crystalline ore shot through the air before plunging into the groundfire, and the flames enveloped the piece of ore at his behest.

After an indeterminate period of time, the material slowly melted into a ball of semi-transparent white liquid.

Following a brief inspection, he swept his hand through the air again, and another material flew into the flames...

A month passed by in the blink of an eye.

At this point, almost all of the materials around Han Li had already been refined within the groundfire, and they had mixed together to form a millstone-sized blue ball that was slowly rolling in the fire.

His complexion was a little pale, and he flipped a hand over to summon a Cloud Crane Herb that he promptly devoured, and his complexion began to slowly improve. At the same time, he raised a hand to produce a dark blue crystal.

The crystal was glittering and translucent, and the blue radiance contained within it was clearly visible from the outside. The light was rippling gently like water, and tremendous power of water laws were radiating out from within.

This was none other than the Sea Condensing Crystal.

Han Li took a long look at the crystal, and after taking a deep breath, he tossed it into the groundfire before him.

The groundfire enveloped the crystal at his behest, and right at this moment, a layer of watery blue light suddenly appeared on the surface of the crystal, surging incessantly, making the entire crystal resemble a small ball of glittering water.

The deepsea groundfire was capable of melting metals with ease, yet it was completely kept out by this unremarkable-looking layer of faint blue light.

Chapter 125: Manifesting an Avatar

The Sea Condensing Crystal displayed no sign of melting at all, but Han Li wasn't surprised to see this. Instead, he was growing a little excited, and he began to chant an incantation before abruptly sweeping his arms through the air.

Dozens of array flags flew out of his sleeves in rapid succession, then arranged themselves in an orderly formation around the array before vanishing in a flash.

In the next instant, a series of balls of dazzling flames emerged in the surrounding area, then exploded one after another, and the red light radiating from the array immediately became around twice as bright as before. Countless red runes surged out of the array, forming streams of red light that fused into the groundfire.

A scorching aura surged forth violently from down below, and the surrounding temperature climbed once again, while the golden coloration of the groundfire deepened significantly.

Enveloped within the golden groundfire, the flow of blue light around the Sea Condensing Crystal finally began to slow, and the light was also being stripped away at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye.

Finally, after an indeterminate amount of time had passed, the exterior of the crystal began to melt and take on a slightly murky appearance.

Han Li was quite relieved to see this, and he sped up even further in his hand seals.

As time passed, the Sea Condensing Crystal slowly transformed, taking on the shape of a heart.

Visually, it was still as bright and clear as ever, and its surface was radiating dazzling blue light.

After a moment of contemplation, Han Li raised a hand, and the ball that all of the other materials had melted into flew forth at his behest while he cast an incantation seal with his other hand.

Another blue water-attribute array on the ground was instantly activated, glowing brightly to form a massive blue eight trigrams image that was buzzing incessantly.

All of the seawater in a radius of hundreds of kilometers began to tumble and churn, and countless vortexes of different sizes appeared on the surface of the sea before clashing violently with one another.

Traces of blue light that were barely visible to the naked eye emerged from the seawater, then converged toward Han Li while emanating incredibly rich water law fluctuations emanating.

Han Li made a hand seal, and countless wisps of blue light flew toward him, fusing into the blue ball in an orderly fashion at his behest.

A series of bulges instantly began to appear on the surface of the blue ball, only to then immediately vanish.

The ball slowly elongated, gradually transforming into a blue humanoid being, except it hadn't completely grown limbs yet, and its face was also completely devoid of features.

Han Li wore a solemn expression as he quickly chanted an incantation while releasing a series of incantation seals with his hands.

The blue humanoid creature continued to change shape, and finally, its limbs completely developed, and features that bore a strong resemblance to Han Li's also appeared on its face.

Han Li let loose a loud cry as a burst of azure light shot out of his hand to envelop the Sea Condensing Crystal beside him, slowly dragging it into the chest of the blue humanoid creature, where its heart was supposed to be.

A burst of dazzling blue light erupted into the sky from the blue humanoid figure's body, and even the surrounding groundfire was unable to impede it.

At the same time, a series of blue lines emerged from its chest, then quickly spread throughout its entire body like a system of meridians and blood vessels.

As more and more blue light converged from the surrounding area before vanishing into the humanoid figure's body, its liquid also quickly took on a solid state.

It didn't take long before a blue male figure appeared in mid-air, and a hint of elation flashed through Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

At this point, the initial stage of his Earthly Deity Avatar's refinement was complete, and the process was going quite smoothly.

It was only thanks to the observations that Han Li had made on Luo Meng and Wyrms 8's flawed Earthly Deity Avatar that the creation of his own avatar was going so smoothly.

However, the Earthly Deity Avatar had only just taken shape, and it had to continue to be refined in groundfire in order to be consolidated.

Thus, he took a deep breath and began to make hand seals again.

Groundfire surged and enveloped the Earthly Deity Avatar, forming a fireball to continue the refinement process.

Time slowly passed by, and 49 days flew by in the blink of an eye.

All of a sudden, Han Li's eyes abruptly sprang open, and with a sweep of his sleeve, the giant fireball instantly scattered to reveal the Earthly Deity Avatar inside.

The avatar had shrunk significantly, but it was more condensed, and its entire body was giving off watery blue light, indicating that the refinement process was complete, but it still looked like nothing more than a lifeless empty vessel.

The next step was the final step to refining an Earthly Deity Avatar, and it involved imparting sentience upon the avatar.

With that in mind, Han Li looked around for a moment, then flipped a hand over to produce an object that was dripping with blood. It seemed to have been the heart of a certain demon beast, and it was set down onto the ground beside him.

A strong bloody odor that was interspersed with a peculiar fragrance was released by the heart.

On the bottom of a deepsea trench on the seabed hundreds of kilometers away from Han Li was a massive black hole. The edges of the hole were incredibly smooth, and it seemed to have been the lair of a certain sea beast.

All of a sudden, a massive black shadow shot out of the hole amid a resounding boom, revealing itself to be a massive fish demon that was several thousand feet in length.

The fish demon's entire body was as pristine as white jade, and there was a human face on its head with a mouth that was filled with two rows of sharp white fangs, presenting a terrifying sight to behold.

The fish demon sniffed around vigorously for a moment, following which an excited look appeared on its face, and it shot forth rapidly in a certain direction as a white shadow.

The white fish demon was incredibly fast, covering several kilometers in mere moments before drawing to an abrupt halt.

A ball of faint blue light was visible close to 10 kilometers up ahead, and it was giving off the alluring aroma of its favorite prey, the Sand Pig Beast.

However, there was a young human standing within the blue light, and even though his aura was quite weak, the fish demon's sharp intuition told it that this human was not to be messed with, and it was immediately left feeling a little hesitant.

The young human was naturally none other than Han Li, and a faint smile appeared on his face, even as his head remained lowered. Immediately thereafter, he abruptly vanished from the spot.

In the next instant, a loud splash rang out from the seawater beside the white fish demon, and Han Li appeared out of nowhere, then reached out and made a grabbing motion toward the fish demon.

A burst of terrifying power surged forth, and an explosion boom rang out from the surrounding seawater as it erupted to either side to produce a vacuum area.

The white fish demon was greatly startled by this turn of events, and dazzling blue light began to radiate from its body as it swept its pair of front claws forward.

The nearby seawater churned, and an incredibly thick pillar of water shot forth toward Han Li.

The pillar of water was filled with blue light that was rippling incessantly, and rumbling thunderclaps were ringing out from within.

The two bursts of power collided violently amid an earth-shattering boom, and the pillar of blue water abruptly exploded, while a series of arcs of blue lightning appeared out of thin air before hurtling toward Han Li.

These arcs of blue lightning were actual lightning. Instead, it was water lightning, which was only more powerful than normal lightning.

Han Li gave a cold harrumph, and he made no effort to take evasive measures as he flew directly toward the fish demon.

The arcs of blue lightning instantly exploded upon striking his body, and they were unable to inflict any damage upon him.

The white fish demon was clearly extremely alarmed to see this, and right at this moment, Han Li appeared behind the fish demon in a wraith-like manner, not giving it any time to react before throwing a punch into its head.

The fish demon's head instantly exploded, sending intracranial fluids splattering in all directions to instantly stain the surrounding seawater red.

A ball of blue light flew out of the sea of blood, then fled into the distance as quickly as it could.

Before the ball of blue light was able to get very far, an azure-robed figure suddenly appeared out of thin air, then reached out to grab the ball of blue light, which contained none other than the soul of the white fish demon.

The fish demon struggled vigorously, but was unable to break free.

Han Li took a glance at the soul in his grasp, then returned to the blue array in a flash.

This fish demon was known as a Net Maiden Demon, and it was an extremely rare water-dwelling demon.

In order to impart sentience upon a newly created Earthly Deity Avatar, one of these demons had to be killed on the spot so that its soul could be used as a catalyst.

Han Li had spent a great deal of time and effort to search for one recently, and he had finally managed to find a Net Maiden Demon nearby. Aside from the presence of the underwater volcanoes here, this was the other reason why he had decided to refine his Earthly Deity Avatar in this place.

He sat down with his legs crossed, then released an incantation seal, and the Earthly Deity Avatar also sat down with its legs crossed across from him.

He opened his mouth to release a burst of azure light, which enveloped the blue soul in his hand before descending onto the top of the Earthly Deity Avatar's head. At the same time, he was casting a rapid series of incantation seals.

Translucent light was shimmering on his glabella, and it was becoming brighter and brighter, gradually concealing his facial features and giving them a blurry appearance.

Fine beads of sweat began to slowly flow down his forehead. This was not a simple process for him, and he had to give it his full concentration.

After a long while, his eyes abruptly sprang open, and two bursts of translucent light erupted out of his pupils like two bolts of lightning flashing through the night sky.

He then made a hand seal, and a speck of green light flew out of his glabella. It was a miniature green figure, and it was none other than a small part of his soul.

In order to bestow sentience upon the Earthly Deity Avatar, he had split off a part of his soul to be injected into it. Only then would he be able to control the Earthly Deity Avatar as he pleased.

The miniature green figure vanished into the blue soul on top of the Earthly Deity Avatar's head in a flash, and it immediately released a vast expanse of green light to envelop the blue soul, as if the former were trying to assimilate the latter.

The blue soul immediately retaliated, opening its mouth to bite at the miniature green figure, only for the green figure to send it flying with a punch. As a result, the blue soul was sent crashing into the surrounding azure light, becoming rather feeble and dazed from the impact.

The miniature green figure grabbed onto the blue soul, then opened its mouth and bit down onto the soul before tearing a chunk off its body.

The blue soul immediately let loose an agonized howl as it struggled with all its might, but the miniature green figure was far stronger than it, and it tore another chunk out of the blue soul with its mouth.

In the blink of an eye, the blue soul was completely devoured by the miniature green figure.

Bursts of blue light appeared on the surface of the miniature green figure's body, and the blue and green light intertwined with one another, while the green figure sat down with its legs crossed atop the Earthly Deity Avatar's head. Meanwhile, Han Li was continuing to cast a rapid series of incantation seals, all of which vanished into the Earthly Deity Avatar's head.

All of a sudden, the Earthly Deity Avatar's eyes abruptly sprang open, and a hint of life had appeared in its previously empty and soulless eyes.

Han Li was very encouraged to see this, and he accelerated even further in his casting of incantation seals.

One streak of translucent light shot out of his glabella after another before vanishing into the Earthly Deity Avatar's head, and with each streak of translucent light that disappeared into its head, the Earthly Deity Avatar's eyes would become a bit more lively.

Han Li couldn't help but give a slight nod upon seeing this. Up to this point, everything in the refinement process had gone very smoothly, and all he had to do from here was to inject the juice of the Soulbirth Flower in order to stabilize the soul fragment within the avatar's body.

This was the most important step, and it was going to decide whether the refinement of his Earthly Deity Avatar was going to be successful or not.

With that in mind, he flipped a hand over, and a dark green jade box appeared over his palm.

In the instant that the lid of the box was removed, a burst of dazzling golden light was revealed, and there was a golden peony-like spirit flower laying inside.

However, right at this moment, a wary look suddenly appeared in Han Li's eyes.

Five or six streaks of light had suddenly appeared in the nearby area, and they were rapidly approaching him from all directions.

Each streak of light was giving off a powerful aura, all of which were at the True Immortal Stage!

Chapter 126: Coercion

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this, and he closed the jade box in his hand.

With his spiritual sense, he was able to instantly identify the unwelcome guests as soon as they appeared.

Flying at the forefront of the group was a burly man in a suit of engraved white armor with a hollow visor on his face. This was none other than Ancestral God Han Qiu's Earthly Deity Avatar, which Han Li had already battled once before.

Even through the mask, Han Li could still sense the cold killing intent in the Earthly Deity Avatar's eyes.

As for the five people behind the avatar, judging from their life-like features, yet slightly wooden expressions, it was clear that they were avatars as well.

Aside from a black-armored man and an elderly man with a yellow beard, there was also a pair of azure-robed daoist priests that seemed to have been a pair of identical twins. Han Li had never seen these

people before, but from the information provided by Luo Feng, he was able to identify them as the Ancestral Gods of the nearby islands.

As for the final assailant, a woman in blue, that was a familiar face. It was none other than Mistress Gu Gu, who had accompanied Han Qiu on his previous visit.

The six of them seemed to have somehow concealed their auras, so Han Li was completely oblivious to their presence, even though they had appeared no more than several thousand kilometers away from him.

For True Immortals, a distance of several thousand kilometers was one that could be crossed in an instant.

Flying along at the front of the group, Han Qiu swept a hand through the air to release a streak of white light. It was a glowing white sickle, and in the blink of an eye, it swelled to over 1,000 feet in size before hurtling viciously toward Han Li.

The sickle wasn't an immortal treasure, but it was still a treasure that contained tremendous power, and even before it arrived, the nearby seawater had already been parted by its formidable aura.

At this moment, Han Li was at a vital juncture in the refinement of his Earthly Deity Avatar, and he wasn't even able to get up, much less defend himself.

However, he wasn't alarmed in the slightest as he calmly made a hand seal, then pointed in a certain direction.

A burst of blue light flew out of his fingertip, then vanished into the blue light barrier around him in a flash.

The blue light barrier glowed brightly as it became incredibly substantial and thick, following which countless wave projections appeared on its surface amid a splashing sound.

The light barrier was clearly an extremely powerful restriction, and as soon as it took shape, it was struck by the white sickle.

A resounding metallic clang rang out, and sparks flew in all directions as the sickle was repelled back through the air.

Meanwhile, the wave projections on the surface of the blue light barrier surged violently, but it wasn't sliced apart.

At the same time, Mistress Gu Gu and the others had already summoned their treasures as well. The black-armored man had summoned a dark golden scepter, the yellow-bearded elderly man was wielding an earthy yellow seal, the two azure-robed daoist priests had armed themselves with a pair of long blue halberds, while Mistress Gu Gu was holding a black longsword.

All five treasures were giving off dazzling radiance, and they struck the blue light barrier in unison right after the white sickle.

A string of resounding booms rang out, while the nearby seawater tumbled and churned violently.

However, these treasures were also kept out and repelled by the blue light barrier, just like the white sickle from before.

The blue light barrier trembled violently like a willow tree in the wind, and its surface churned and rumbled once again as if a series of massive waves were washing over it, and even though it quickly stabilized once again, the blue light radiating from it had already dimmed significantly.

Even though it was impossible to see clearly into the light barrier from the outside, one could just barely make out a pair of blurry figures seated across from one another with their legs crossed.

"Fellow Daoist Han Qiu, our differences from last time have already been settled. What is the meaning of this?" Han Li asked in a cold voice.

"You can only blame yourself for being too greedy. If you really hadn't found Luo Meng's Soulbirth Flower, then why have you begun refining an Earthly Deity Avatar? That Soulbirth Flower is still some way away from reaching 10,000 years of age, but it should still just barely suffice," Han Qiu chuckled.

"I see that you're very familiar with the Earthly Deity Avatar refinement process. You waited this long before appearing right as I've reached the final step of my avatar refinement process. I'm assuming you did this because you're certain that I wouldn't be able to retaliate, right?" Han Li asked in a cold voice.

"You're a smart man, Fellow Daoist. Right now, you have two choices, the first of which is to hand over the Soulbirth Flower, and we'll leave right away. You can continue to rule over Dark Veil Island, and we won't interfere with your rule. As for the second choice, I'm sure I don't need to spell it out for you," Han Qiu said with a cold smile.

Instead of responding to Han Qiu, Han Li turned to the other Ancestral Gods as he said, "Fellow daoists, I have no vendetta against any of you. Do you insist on working with Fellow Daoist Han Qiu to have me killed?"

"I may have only met you once before, but I'd consider us to be acquaintances, Fellow Daoist Liu. Hence, I'd advise you not to bother putting up futile resistance, Fellow Daoist. Seeing as you've already chosen to pursue the path of a Profound Immortal and attained a True Extreme Body, why would you go down the path of the Earthly Immortal?

"As long as you're willing to cooperate with us, we would be more than happy to allow you to continue to rule over Dark Veil Island," Mistress Gu Gu said.

"Cooperate? I see, so all of you just want me to become a puppet island master that will do your bidding like a lapdog," Han Li chuckled.

"We tried to be nice, but you've swatted our olive branch aside, so don't blame us for turning to violence. Fellow daoists, as long as you can help me kill this man, I'll be sure to follow through on everything I promised you," Han Qiu assured as he made a hand seal, and the white sickle swept toward Han Li once again.

The other five Ancestral Gods didn't say anything further as they also called upon their treasures, which crashed into the blue light barrier as streaks of light.

The blue light barrier trembled violently, and even though it was able to keep all of the attacks at bay, it had dimmed significantly once again, and there was only a thin layer of it left.

Inside the blue restriction, Han Li had fallen silent, and it was unclear what he was doing.

Han Qiu let loose a loud roar as he made a hand seal, and eight identical giant sickle projections appeared around the white sickle before revolving around it like the petals of a pristine white lotus flower.

The giant sickle lotus flower screeched through the air before crashing into the blue light barrier with an earth-shattering boom, and that was finally enough to shatter the light barrier into countless specks of blue light, revealing Han Li and his Earthly Deity Avatar inside.

The surrounding five treasures from the other Ancestral Gods instantly converged toward Han Li, and right at this moment, specks of blue light appeared around Han Li once again.

A series of hemispherical blue light barriers reappeared around him amid the sound of loud crashing water, and the light barriers appeared to be slightly thinner than the original one, but there were dozens of them this time.

Dazzling blue radiance erupted from the light barriers, giving them a mysterious appearance.

The five streaks of light crashed into the outermost light barrier, which was instantly destroyed, but the treasures contained within the streaks of light were also repelled.

Right at this moment, the other blue light barriers began to buzz incessantly, and the blue radiance glowing on their surface rippled like water. Streaks of blue light shot out of the surrounding seawater, and in the blink of an eye, the broken blue light barrier was restored.

Han Qiu was staring intently at the blue light barriers with a grim expression, and his expression was mirrored on the faces of his five allies as well.

Meanwhile, Han Li was situated in the array with his expression completely unmoved.

He was well aware of the risks involved in refining an Earthly Deity Avatar, and that was why he had secured this Thousandfold Wave Array for a heavy price as a safety precaution.

This array didn't possess any offensive capabilities, but its defensive prowess was incredible, and even with six True Immortals attacking it at once, it was not going to be broken so easily.

At this moment, a jade vial that was filled with golden liquid had already appeared in Han Li's hand, and he was beginning to tip the liquid onto the glabella of the Earthly Deity Avatar down below.

Outside the blue array, Gu Gu and the others didn't strike right away. Instead, all of them were looking at Han Qiu.

"Fellow Daoist Han Qiu, I don't think this man is just an ordinary Profound Immortal. It's not going to be easy to break through this array," the elderly man with the yellow beard mused with a grim expression.

"There's no need to be concerned at all, Fellow Daoist Ge. That man is trying to use a mere 8,000-year-old Soulbirth Flower to stabilize the soul of his Earthly Deity Avatar, and that's going to take at least a day and a night. With that much time on our hands, we'll definitely be able to break through this restriction," Mistress Gu Gu said with a cold smile.

"Indeed. Even with a mature 10,000-year-old Soulbirth Flower, there's no way he can complete this process without at least four to six hours," one of the azure-robed daoist priests chimed in with a nod.

"That is correct, fellow daoists. Let's kill this bastard, and we'll split the resources of Dark Veil Island evenly among ourselves!" Han Qiu urged.

His white sickle then began to glow brightly, and the white lotus flower was manifested once again before hurtling toward the blue light barrier.

At the same time, he made a grabbing motion with one hand, and a translucent little blue sword appeared before plunging forward like lightning.

A streak of blue swordlight that was several hundred feet in length swept through the air, and it was giving off a glacial aura that was tinged with hints of law powers as it flew toward the blue light barrier.

The outermost light barrier flashed erratically, and most of it was instantly frozen into ice.

The white lotus flower immediately took advantage of this opportunity to destroy that light barrier.

Everyone else also unleashed their own attacks, breaking through several more light barriers in the blink of an eye.

A derisive sneer appeared on Han Qiu's face upon seeing this, and with a flick of his wrist, a vast expanse of blue sword qi instantly surged forth, forming a sword mountain that crashed toward the blue light barrier.

The blue light barrier rippled violently once again before shattering moments later, and in the blink of an eye, the six Ancestral Gods had broken through around a dozen light barriers in succession.

Even though the Thousandfold Wave Array had a self-regenerative ability, the attacks coming from the six Ancestral Gods were too thick and fast for its self-repair ability to keep up.

As more and more light barriers were destroyed, they discovered that the deeper they went, the more resolute the light barriers became, thereby requiring more and more time to break through each light barrier.

This was a rather concerning discovery for them, and they all began unleashing their trump card abilities to attack the light barriers.

Time slowly passed by, and over two hours flew past in the blink of an eye.

At this point, the majority of the dozens of light barriers had already been broken, and there were only around seven or eight left.

However, these remaining light barriers were incredibly strong, and even though they were quivering incessantly in the face of the attacks from Han Qiu and the others, they displayed no signs of breaking at all.

An urgent look had crept into Han Qiu's eyes, and as he cast his gaze toward Han Li within the array, he was suddenly struck by an inexplicable sense of unease.

All of a sudden, he stopped what he was doing, then flipped a hand over to produce an egg-sized ball that was dark red in color, with red patterns visible on its surface, and it was giving off a peculiar aura.

Chapter 127: Surprise

"Everyone, get back!" Han Qiu yelled.

"That's Astral Yin Blood Lightning!" Mistress Gu Gu exclaimed at the sight of the dark red ball, then hurriedly backed away with everyone else.

At the same time, all of the other Ancestral Gods conjured up protective barriers of different colors over their bodies to shield themselves.

The red ball flew out of Han Qiu's grasp, transforming into a red shadow that crashed violently into the water barrier.

An earth-shattering boom rang out, and a ball of scintillating crimson light that was thousands of feet in size appeared.

The enormous ball of light lingered in the air for several seconds before finally fading away.

At this point, several more of the blue water barriers around Han Li had already been destroyed, leaving only one final one left. Despite the wave projections surging incessantly over the surface of the water barrier, Han Li and the avatar seated across from him could already be clearly seen.

The explosion of crimson light had also blown a massive crater into the ground, and large volumes of red-hot magma were pouring out from down below before erupting in all directions, causing the nearby seawater to instantly bubble and boil.

This had no impact on Han Qiu and the others, and they were able to ward off the magma and the scorching temperatures with ease.

"As expected of Astral Yin Blood Lightning! Fellow Daoist Han, if you have one more of those, we'll be able to destroy the rest of this array in an instant!" the black-armored man said in an ecstatic voice.

"I only have one ball of this lightning, and I purchased it for a massive price several centuries ago during the Black Wind Island auction," Han Qiu harrumphed coldly with a pained look in his eyes.

"We still have plenty of time left. As long as we combine all of our efforts, we'll be able to break through this final barrier in no time!" Mistress Gu Gu said.

However, as soon as her voice trailed off, a long cry rang out from within the blue water barrier.

Blue light erupted from Han Li and his Earthly Deity Avatar in unison, forming an enormous pillar of radiance.

All of the water-attribute world's origin qi in a radius of hundred of kilometers converged toward the scene in a frenzy, forming an enormous vortex of spiritual qi that gushed into the Earthly Deity Avatar's body, causing the blue light that it was releasing to become brighter and brighter.

Within the blue light, the Earthly Deity Avatar stretched its limbs as if it had just awoken from a long slumber, and its face was just as expressive and full of life as a normal person.

"It's already done?"

"That's impossible!"

Han Qiu and the others were astonished by what they were seeing.

Han Li turned toward Han Qiu and the others through the water barrier with an indifferent expression, then flashed them a faint smile as he pointed a finger at the water barrier around him.

The final water barrier instantly faded away into countless translucent blue threads, which shot forth toward Han Qiu and the other Ancestral Gods like lightning.

Han Qiu and the others were still in a state of astonishment, and they hurriedly shot back in retreat, no daring to face the oncoming blue threads head-on.

Right at this moment, blue light flashed within the eyes of Han Li's Earthly Deity Avatar, and it raised its arms up into the air as it let loose a loud roar.

The blue light around it instantly brightened before churning violently like a ferocious wave, and a burst of laws of water surged through the blue radiance in a flash.

All of the seawater in a radius of several hundred kilometers instantly rose up to form an enormous wave that converged toward the Earthly Deity Avatar in a frenzy.

Han Qiu and the others were still rushing back in retreat, and they were caught completely off guard as the waves of seawater crashed into their bodies, exerting a burst of tremendous force upon them that slowed them down in their tracks.

However, as Earthly Immortals, they were never going to be impeded by the waves for any extended period of time, and they quickly broke free before continuing to fly back in retreat.

Mistress Gu Gu was the slowest out of everyone to react, and her body was instantly bound by the thin blue threads.

Right as she was about to unleash an ability to struggle free from the threads, they rapidly spread over her body as if they were living creatures, binding her up in layers to form a huge blue cocoon.

In the next instant, Han Li appeared beside the cocoon in a wraith-like manner before throwing a punch with a cold expression.

Even before his fist arrived, a devastating aura swept directly toward the ensnared Mistress Gu Gu.

Despite the predicament that she was in, Mistress Gu Gu didn't panic at all as she began to chant an incantation.

A black longsword instantly appeared outside the blue cocoon, then hurtled directly toward Han Li as a massive streak of black swordlight that was giving off indescribably fearsome sword intent.

Even before the streak of black swordlight reached Han Li, the terrifying sword intent that it carried had already infiltrated his mind, threatening to tear his soul apart.

Seeing as Han Li had just finished refining his Earthly Deity Avatar, Mistress Gu Gu was confident that his soul had to be in a very feeble state, and she was targeting that perceived weakness.

However, to her surprise, Han Li made no effort to evade the attack. His semi-transparent True Extreme Membrane appeared over his body in a flash, and his fist didn't slow down in the slightest as it crashed heavily into the blue cocoon as a golden shadow.

A blood-curdling howl rang out from within the cocoon, followed by a dull thump, and the cocoon bulged violently as the howl abruptly cut off.

Almost at the exact same moment, the streak of black swordlight also struck Han Li's shoulder with a loud clang.

The True Extreme Membrane on his body shuddered slightly before instantly returning to normal, warding off the fearsome attack. As for the burst of sword intent that the swordlight carried, it vanished into Han Li's mind without producing any effect, not even triggering the slightest change in his expression.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and by the time Han Qiu and the others returned to their senses and rushed forward to save Mistress Gu Gu, the aura of her Earthly Deity Avatar had already completely disappeared.

Han Li slowly withdrew his arm before releasing an incantation seal with a sweep of his hand, and the thin blue threads parted to reveal a broken Earthly Deity Avatar inside. The avatar was already completely shattered, and the spiritual light on its surface had also faded, making it resemble a cluster of broken rocks.

Han Qiu and the others exchanged a glance upon seeing this, and each of them could see their own shock and wariness mirrored in one another's eyes.

At the same time, the other four Ancestral Gods were all glowering at Han Qiu with furious expressions.

If they had known that they were going to be dealing with a Profound Immortal who was capable of destroying an Earthly Deity Avatar with just a single punch, then they would've never come here.

With a casual wave of his hand, Han Li stowed Mistress Gu Gu's storage treasure and that black longsword away. At the same time, his Earthly Deity Avatar vanished into his body in a flash as a blue shadow.

Only after doing all of that did he slowly sweep his gaze over the remaining Ancestral Gods, ultimately settling his gaze on Han Qiu.

His eyes didn't seem to bear any malice, but Han Qiu's heart instantly jolted at the sight of Han Li's scrutiny, and an intense sense of foreboding welled up in his heart.

All of a sudden, Han Li's body blurred, and he vanished on the spot.

"Look out!" Han Qiu yelled with a grim expression.

Immediately thereafter, he began to chant an incantation while sweeping his sleeves through the air, releasing a large plume of white smoke that formed a sea of white mist around him that was several hundred feet in size.

The other four Ancestral Gods were already considering retreat, and they hurriedly summoned their treasures or unleashed secret techniques to protect themselves.

All of a sudden, Han Li appeared above Han Qiu in a wraith-like manner, and one of his arms had already swelled significantly in size. A layer of golden ape fur had also appeared on the arm, and it was glowing with dazzling golden light.

He let loose a low roar as he thrust his fist through the air, and spatial fluctuations instantly erupted above Han Qiu, following which a rapidly revolving golden vortex appeared.

An enormous golden fist projection flew out of the vortex with devastating power, and as it came crashing down, the white smoke around Han Qiu churned and tumbled violently, looking as if it could crumble away at any moment.

Han Qiu was horrified by this turn of events. This punch was far more powerful than any attack that Han Li had unleashed during their previous clash!

In a fit of desperation, he let loose a wild roar as he hurriedly made a hand seal.

A glacial aura instantly erupted out of the white mist, freezing the surrounding seawater into ice. A white mountain of ice that was giving off faint law fluctuations instantly took shape above Han Qiu's head.

The tip of the mountain was extremely sharp, and it rose up toward the golden fist projection like a giant sword of ice.

The two clashed with an earth-shattering boom, and the white mountain of ice shuddered violently before exploding, sending countless chunks of ice flying in all directions.

In contrast, the golden fist projection wasn't even slowed down in the slightest as it continued to crash down with incredible force.

In this dire situation, a metal shield flew out of Han Qiu's body, and it was giving off a burst of law fluctuations as it transformed into a black light barrier to stop the golden fist projection in its tracks for a brief moment.

The black light barrier was then instantly shattered, following the same fate as the white ice mountain.

However, Han Qiu was able to take advantage of that brief instant of respite to fly away into the distance as a blue shadow. Unfortunately for him, his left arm was grazed slightly by the fist projection, and it had been destroyed in an instant.

At this moment, Han Qiu's heart was filled with shock and horror, and he didn't even dare to take a single backward glance.

Right at this moment, a cold harrumph sounded beside his ears, and he was instantly struck by a burst of excruciating pain in his head, as if someone had driven a red-hot dagger straight into his brain.

He immediately stopped cold in his tracks as he threw his hands over his head and let loose a blood-curdling howl.

In the next instant, Han Li appeared directly in front of him before throwing a vicious punch, and Han Qiu's Earthly Deity Avatar also followed the same fate as Mistress Gu Gu, shattering into a pile of powder.

The other four Ancestral Gods were horrified to see this. They were already considering retreat, and they didn't hesitate any longer as they sped away into the distance as four streaks of light.

Han Li watched as the four Ancestral Gods fled the scene, making no effort to pursue them. Instead, he took Han Qiu's storage tools and treasures in an unhurried manner before inspecting the contents of the former with his spiritual sense.

After fleeing for tens of thousands of kilometers without rest, the four Ancestral Gods finally realized that they weren't being pursued, and they gradually drew to a halt as they stopped to catch their breath.

"Han Qiu has completely screwed us over! What was he thinking, inviting us to take on such a powerful enemy?" the yellow-bearded elderly man snapped in a furious voice.

The other three Ancestral Gods were also enraged.

"Judging from that man's abilities, he seems to be a Profound Immortal. No wonder he was so powerful," the black-armored man said with a hint of fear in his voice.

The two azure-robed daoist priests' expressions changed drastically upon hearing this.

They had only become Ancestral Gods a few dozen millennia ago, and they were among the weakest Ancestral Gods in the entire Black Wind Sea, so they were even more horrified to hear this.

"I couldn't care less about what happens to Han Qiu, but he's dragged up into this mess with him! I don't think that man is just going to let things slide and forgive what we did!" the yellow-bearded elderly man said with a concerned expression.

As Ancestral Gods, they were tied to their respective territories, so they couldn't just run away without suffering a severe loss in power.

This was exactly why all Ancestral Gods and Earthly Immortals were extremely cautious with everything that they did, taking the utmost care not to make enemies that they couldn't afford to make. On this occasion, they were lured in by the benefits promised to them, and they were of the opinion that this was virtually a done deal, which was why they had accepted Han Qiu's invitation, but never did they think that this would be the outcome.

The four of them exchanged a series of uneasy glances with one another.

They were only mere Ancestral Gods with no backers, so if Han Li were to come after them in vengeance, they were as good as dead.

Chapter 128: Breaking the Chains (1)

Han Li opened his eyes, then withdrew his spiritual sense from the storage treasure.

The Soulbirth Flower he had prepared had already reached 100,000 years of age, so the final soul manifestation process was completed in no more than 15 minutes. Furthermore, the outcome was close to perfect, and he was able to control the Earthly Deity Avatar as he pleased.

The reason why he had waited for over two hours was both to fool his opponents, as well as to lure them into expending more of their trump cards. Furthermore, he had expended a great deal of energy refining this Earthly Deity Avatar, and this gave him some time to recover.

Thankfully, he hadn't decided to reveal himself early. Otherwise, that bolt of Astral Yin Blood Lightning would've been nasty to run into.

Now that he had successfully attained an Earthly Deity Avatar, he had more important things to do, and those four Ancestral Gods were nothing more than small fry, so it didn't matter that he had allowed them to escape.

With that in mind, Han Li stowed away the array tools on the ground with a wave of his hand, then emerged from the sea before flying toward Dark Veil Island.

One morning, several days later.

Basked in the light of the rising sun, it was as if Dark Veil Island had been plated in a layer of gold, and the entire island was giving off a soft and warm glow.

Many residents of the island had already gathered in front of the Ancestral God statues on the island, and all of them wore solemn and reverent expressions as they clasped their hands together in front of their chests in prayer while chanting prayers incessantly.

At this moment, Luo Feng was in his usual azure scholarly robe, standing on the plaza at the center of the island as he looked up at the renovated Ancestral God statue.

Unlike the island residents behind him, he didn't participate in the prayers. Instead, his hands were hanging down by his sides, and he seemed to have fallen into deep thought.

Right at this moment, a streak of light suddenly flashed past above everyone, arriving at an incredible speed from afar before landing beside Luo Feng.

"Senior Liu!" Luo Feng greeted in a loud voice as he extended a deep bow toward the new arrival.

That person was naturally none other than Han Li, who had just returned to Dark Veil Island after successfully refining his Earthly Deity Avatar.

All of the residents of Dark Veil Island hurriedly ceased their prayers and turned to Han Li before extending respectful bows.

"Come with me," Han Li instructed in an indifferent voice, then flew up into the air again, traveling toward the courtyard that he was staying in.

Luo Feng faltered slightly upon hearing this, then also immediately followed along as a streak of light.

The two of them landed one after another in the open-air area of the courtyard, and Han Li sat down beside the stone table before waving a hand at Luo Feng, indicating for him to take a seat as well.

"Chief Luo, there's something that I've been keeping from you this entire time, but there's no need for me to keep the secret any longer. Truth be told, Ancestral God Luo Meng of your Dark Veil Island has already been dead for over 1,000 years."

Luo Feng's complexion paled slightly upon hearing this, and a wry smile appeared on his face as he replied, "Senior Liu, I had already roughly guessed that this was the case, and the other elders on the

island are aware of this as well, but we've all made an unspoken agreement not to speak about this as we didn't want to spark a panic among the island's residents.

"We'll be counting on you for the continued protection of our island, Senior Liu. Words cannot begin to express my gratitude to you."

"You don't have to worry about that. I made a promise to you, and I intend to see it through. At this point, I've already successfully refined an Earthly Deity Avatar and found a high-grade Earthly Immortal cultivation method. Now, I need you to erect deity statues of myself on the island so I can begin to gather the power of faith," Han Li said with an indifferent expression.

Luo Feng was slightly taken aback to hear this, but he then quickly cupped his hand in a salute as he replied, "Rest assured, Senior Liu, I'll get that arranged as soon as possible."

"Here are some treasures and scriptures for you to use on nurturing the brightest talents on the island. Their growth will be the key to Dark Veil Island's future prosperity."

Han Li swept a sleeve through the air as he spoke, and a storage bracelet flew through the air before arriving in front of Luo Feng.

Luo Feng caught the bracelet, and after only a brief inspection of its contents, a stunned look appeared on his face. The quantity and the value of the items in the storage bracelet far exceeded his imagination.

In fact, it was no exaggeration to say that just the scriptures, treasures, pills, and materials contained within this storage bracelet alone already far exceeded everything that had been accumulated on the island over the past tens of thousands of years.

Unbeknownst to him, this was only a small portion of the spoils that Han Li had obtained from his prior trip to Red Moon Island. The life savings of any True Immortal, even if they were merely a vagrant immortal, was nothing to be scoffed at.

Luo Feng held the storage bracelet with both hands, and his body was trembling uncontrollably as he knelt down and kowtowed onto the ground. "Senior Liu, our Dark Veil Island will eternally remember what you've done for us."

"There's no need for such formalities. From this point onward, I'm going to go into seclusion for a while, so don't come to find me unless something urgent comes up," Han Li said with a wave of his hand.

"Yes, Senior Liu," Luo Feng replied in a solemn voice, then departed from the courtyard.

Half a month later, all of the original deity statues on Dark Veil Island were removed and replaced by new statues, which were erected all over the island in a higher concentration.

The newly constructed deity statues still bore a slight resemblance to the former deity statues, but they represented a different person.

Every morning and night, large numbers of island residents would gather beneath Han Li's statues and pray, just as they had always done in the past.

On this night, a resounding boom suddenly rang out in the sky above Dark Veil Island, and a vast expanse of dazzling silver radiance cascaded straight down from the night sky before surging into the courtyard that Han Li was staying in like a falling galaxy.

There were seven or eight huge silver flags standing around the courtyard, and all of them began to glow brightly before quickly being enveloped in a layer of dense silver mist.

At this moment, the azure-robed Han Li was seated with his legs crossed in an empty area in his courtyard, and his Earthly Deity Avatar was also seated across from him with a solemn look on its face.

"Let's begin," Han Li declared.

As soon as his voice trailed off, he immediately closed his eyes, and his spiritual sense descended into his dantian.

Inside his dantian, the golden nascent soul's eyes were still tightly shut, but there was no pain etched on its face.

Furthermore, it was enveloped in a layer of shimmering translucent light, and that was the spiritual sense that Han Li had left behind to conceal the black chains.

The translucent light around the nascent soul instantly brightened significantly at his behest, then surged back into his consciousness like flowing water.

Immediately thereafter, black light flashed over the body of his nascent soul, and the nine inky-black chains emerged, while a vast expanse of black mist rose up around them.

Meanwhile, the entire courtyard was basked in radiant starlight, and seven balls of dazzling blue light also appeared on Han Li's chest and abdomen. The Earthly Deity Avatar seated across from him immediately made a hand seal upon seeing this, then pointed a finger at his dantian.

As it did so, Han Li felt a burst of heat rise up within his dantian, and a surge of vast and warm magic power immediately flowed forth like a mighty river to wash through his entire body.

At the same time, the starpower within his body began to rapidly circulate, transforming into countless thin silver threads that surged through his limbs and his meridians.

As Han Li made a series of hand seals, the two bursts of power finally gathered in his dantian without any obstacle, then transformed into thin threads of bright silver light that plunged straight toward his nascent soul.

In contrast with last time, both the number of silver threads and the power of the aura imbued within them exceeded the previous batch by over a hundredfold.

In fact, Han Li could sense traces of power of laws that hadn't been present previously in this aura.

A resounding boom rang out like a rumbling thunderclap in Han Li's dantian, and the converging threads of silver light instantly surged into the vast expanse of dense black mist with unstoppable force, much like a mighty army of cavaliers.

Immediately thereafter, a loud string of cracks and pops rang out within Han Li's dantian, and the black mist was completely torn apart, quickly dissipating to reveal the black chains concealed within.

The threads of silver light showed no signs of stopping there, and they continued to converge toward the black chains.

This time, Han Li didn't try to hurry the process by distributing the threads of light onto all of the chains at once. Instead, he selected one of them and directed all of the threads of light to wrap around that single chain.

A burst of loud sizzling akin to the sound of red-hot metal being cooled in water rang out, and plumes of black smoke immediately began to rise up from the black chain. The chain began to tremble violently, and the black light glowing from its surface rapidly faded.

At the same time, countless tiny black runes also emerged from the black chain, trying to replenish the black light that was being rapidly whittled down.

All of the threads of silver light were enveloped in a layer of watery blue light that was giving off low fluctuations, and this blue light was fusing with the black runes to significantly hamper the restoration effect that the runes had on the chain. As a result, the rate at which the chain was recovering was nowhere near as fast as last time.

Han Li immediately activated his Spirit Refinement Technique upon seeing this, and the vast spiritual sense in his consciousness instantly transformed into translucent threads of spiritual sense that surged into his dantian in the blink of an eye.

The translucent threads of spiritual sense intertwined with one another at his behest to form a giant ax, which sprang up before crashing down upon the black chain.

If the threads of silver light from before could be compared with an army of cavaliers, then this ax of spiritual sense would be akin to a unit of heavy infantry, charging through the opening created by the cavaliers to deal the enemy a lethal blow.

A sharp clang rang out, and the black chain shuddered violently, while the ax of spiritual sense was sent flying back.

The clang ringing out from the clash was extremely penetrative, and even though it had originated in Han Li's dantian, it was able to resonate all the way to his consciousness, striking him with a burst of sharp pain.

However, the entirety of his attention was focused on the chain in his dantian, and he couldn't afford to get distracted.

A clear chip had appeared on the chain at the spot where it had just been struck by the ax, and Han Li was instilled with an immense sense of confidence upon seeing this.

He paid no heed to the sharp pain spearing through his consciousness as he continued to hack away at the chain with the ax.

One strike, two strikes, three strikes...

As the seventh strike was dealt, a dull thump rang out, and the black chain snapped in half before disintegrating into black light.

However, instead of dissipating into nothingness, the black light surged into the remaining eight chains, vanishing into them in a flash.

Immediately thereafter, the eight chains lit up in unison, and the number of black runes on their surfaces instantly increased, while the black light glowing from them also became denser and more substantial.

Han Li faltered slightly upon seeing this, following which a wry smile appeared on his face.

If every single one of these chains was going to fuse with the other chains after being snapped, then that meant that each subsequent chain would become more difficult to sever than the previous one.

Chapter 129: Breaking the Chains (2)

Right as the first chain around Han Li's nascent soul was destroyed, the thin and withered man seated on the huge black chair in the underground palace countless kilometers away from the Black Wind Sea suddenly stirred slightly. His eyelids then slowly peeled back to reveal a pair of murky eyes that appeared as if they were affected by cataracts.

At the same time, all of the dark azure chains in the entire underground palace around him immediately rose up from the ground as if they were weightless feathers, and they began to tremble and screech incessantly.

A contemplative look appeared on the man's face, but that was quickly replaced by a cold smile, and he slowly closed his eyes again without doing anything further.

All of the chains in the palace quietly descended onto the ground again, and peace and quiet were restored.

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In the small courtyard on Dark Veil Island, Han Li's eyes were tightly shut, and he was focusing all of his attention on directing the threads of silver light toward the second black chain.

Right at this moment, his brows suddenly furrowed slightly, and something resonated within his consciousness.

He had a vague feeling that by severing the first chain, he seemed to have alerted a certain terrifying being on the other end of the chain.

This immediately struck him with a sense of anxiety, and he was very concerned that a new chain would appear in his dantian out of nowhere like last time.

Thankfully, even after a long while had passed, no new chains appeared, and he was quite relieved as he returned his attention to the second chain.

The silver threads of light formed by his magic power and starpower latched onto the second chain one after another, quickly enveloping the entire chain.

Just like last time, black smoke immediately began to rise up from the surface of the chain, while the black light radiating from it rapidly receded.

However, compared with last time, the rate at which the black light was receding was clearly slower, and at the same time, Han Li's threads of silver light were also being whittled down at a faster rate.

As a result, progress was significantly slower.

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One night, several days later, the pillar of silver light in the courtyard disintegrated into specks of silver light amid a resounding boom.

Han Li slowly opened his eyes as he cast his gaze toward the Earthly Deity Avatar seated across from him, and a hint of exhaustion flashed through his eyes.

During these past few days of tireless toil, a large number of the black runes on the second chain had been erased, and in the end, he was able to snap it with several dozen strikes of his spiritual sense ax.

However, following this ordeal, what little magic power that Han Li had in his body and the magic power that had been converted from the power of faith by his Earthly Deity Avatar had all been exhausted, so he was forced to temporarily stop what he was doing.

"Looks like I'm in it for the long haul," Han Li sighed to himself, then flipped a hand over to produce a pill, which he devoured before closing his eyes to meditate.

Meanwhile, his Earthly Deity Avatar was seated beside him with a placid expression, and its entire body was glowing with blue radiance as it absorbed the power of faith being transmitted to it from the deity statues all over Dark Veil Island.

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Meanwhile, in the Driftcloud Realm.

High up in the sky, there were countless massive clouds of different shapes and forms scattering and gathering haphazardly with the blowing of the wind.

As the sun continued to travel across the sky, the angle at which the sunlight was cascading down was constantly changing, and as a result, the colors of the clouds were also changing, taking on all of the colors of the rainbow.

Beneath a huge cloud that resembled a five-colored phoenix was a lush mountain range that stretched for over 1,000 kilometers in length. The meandering mountain range resembled a hibernating wyrm, presenting a formidable sight to behold.

At the very center of the mountain range was a lone mountain that was over 10,000 feet tall, towering far above the other mountains around it.

The entire bottom half of the mountain was covered in lush greenery, while the plants on the mountain summit, which reached all the way up into the clouds, were more sparse, and there were exposed slabs of white rock everywhere.

A spacious white plaza had been constructed on the mountain summit, and near the cliff at the rear of the plaza stood a majestic golden palace.

At this moment, there were several dozen cultivators dressed in all types of different attire gathered in the palace, resembling officials of mortal empires as they stood on either side of the palace with respectful expressions.

There were people of both genders and a wide range of different ages and appearances among these cultivators, but every single one of them was at the Grand Ascension Stage, with no exceptions.

At this moment, the main seat at the center of the palace was occupied by a young man dressed in a tight-fitting black robe. He appeared to be no more than 20 to 30 years of age, and he was very handsome, with a pair of sharp and piercing eyes. This young man was none other than Fang Pan, who had been sent to the Driftcloud Realm to quell the beast tide.

Among the Grand Ascension cultivators, an elderly man in a gray daoist robe stepped forward, then informed Fang Pan in a respectful voice, "Immortal Envoy Fang, thanks to the combined efforts of the Immortal Revelation Sect, the Eminent Flame Sect, and many other cultivation sects on the Eastern Stream Continent and the Western River Continent, the beast tide on those two continents have already been completely suppressed. I'm sure it won't take long before the beast tide is completely quelled."

Everyone in the palace was full of awe and veneration toward this immortal envoy who had come from the Immortal Realm, not just because he possessed unfathomable power, but also because of his excessive brutality.

Upon arriving in the Driftcloud Realm, he immediately announced a series of countermeasures to be adopted against the beast tide, and not only had he instructed all of the sects to strictly follow these measures, he had personally overseen their implementation.

Several of the elders from major sects had been killed for not carrying out his instructions with a satisfactory level of efficiency, but none of the cultivators in the palace dared to harbor even the slightest resentment toward the immortal envoy.

Of course, part of this was because they didn't dare to harbor such feelings, but another reason for this was that he had been extremely diligent in dealing with the beast tide, even more so than the people of the Driftcloud Realm themselves.

On many occasions, they had witnessed him charging into the beast tide on his own to slay the most fearsome queen beasts concealed within.

After hearing this report, Fang Pan gave a slight nod, and he was just about to say something when a burst of yellow light suddenly lit up on his waist, accompanied by an urgent buzzing sound.

His expression changed slightly upon seeing this, and he pulled out a circular communication plate before injecting his spiritual sense into it.

Moments later, his expression began to darken slightly, and in the end, he was looking absolutely livid.

All of the cultivators in the hall were extremely anxious to see this, and they didn't even dare to breathe too loudly for fear of drawing attention to themselves.

After stowing the communication plate away, Fang Pan turned to everyone in the hall and declared, "All of you, set off at once. Order all of the sects to deploy all of their cultivators and eradicate the remnants of the beast tide on the two continents as soon as possible. Anyone who dares to go against this order will be executed on the spot!"

Everyone was stunned to hear this, but they didn't dare to raise any objections, and all of them accepted the order before departing from the palace.

It didn't take long before Fang Pan was the only one left in the palace.

He flipped a hand over to produce a semi-transparent white jade vial, which he held up in front of his own eyes. Looking at the drop of golden blood essence that was slowly sliding along the wall of the vial, he murmured to himself, "So what if you can break the Origin Separation Law Chains?"

"Now that you've returned to the Immortal Realm, I'll be able to use this drop of blood essence to track down your exact location. Once I'm finished with this matter, I'll return to the Immortal Realm and deal with you myself! This time, you won't be getting away..."

A sinister look appeared on his face as he spoke, and his eyes were filled with cold killing intent.

.....

Time continued to pass by, and an entire year flew past in the blink of an eye.

During this year, a silver pillar of light could be seen shining down from the night sky on Dark Veil Island virtually every night, and strange sounds were also frequently heard all over the island.

All of the island's residents knew that this was because the Ancestral God protecting their island was cultivating in seclusion.

Initially, they were rather disgruntled by this, but over time, they gradually grew accustomed to the commotion, and at this point, they were finding it difficult to sleep at night without the usual commotion.

However, on this night, the disturbance on the island was far more severe than normal, and the entire island was trembling incessantly. Even the sea around the island was being affected, resulting in the formation of countless giant waves.

Many of the island's residents were unable to sleep, so they gathered in front of the deity statues all over the island to offer up their earnest prayers.

At this moment, Han Li was seated with his legs crossed in that small courtyard at the center of the island. His entire body was basked in bright starlight, and his eyes were tightly shut with a solemn look on his face.

His Earthly Deity Avatar was seated across from him, and watery blue light was glowing around its entire body. It was converting the power of faith in its body into magic power, which it was constantly injecting into Han Li's body.

At this moment, Han Li's dantian was completely filled with glowing white starpower, and his golden nascent soul was hovering within the white radiance.

At this point, eight of the black chains protruding out of its body had already disappeared, and there was only a single chain left. It was extending out of the nascent soul's lower abdomen, and it was a virtually substantial chain of a dark azure color.

This chain was the final chain that remained in the wake of the destruction of the eight other chains.

Thanks to the combination of the array and Han Li's starpower and magic power, Han Li was able to whittle down the black light glowing from the chain, and after over three months of toil, the black light was finally eradicated to reveal the chain within.

A translucent ax formed by spiritual sense appeared in Han Li's dantian at his behest, then rose up before crashing heavily down onto the final chain.

A resounding boom akin to a rumbling thunderclap rang out within Han Li's dantian, and the ax of spiritual sense was flung back before disintegrating into specks of translucent light, while the chain remained completely unharmed, with not even the slightest scratch on its surface.

Han Li's expression remained unchanged, and it seemed that he had already anticipated this.

All of a sudden, he let loose a low cry, and all of the magic power in his body immediately surged forth, gathering all of the starpower in his dantian to form a glowing silver hand, which grabbed onto the chain.

At the same time, his consciousness began to churn violently under the effects of the Spirit Refinement Technique, and immense spiritual sense surged into his dantian, forming a giant translucent hand that also grabbed onto the chain.

After the two hands closed themselves tightly around the chain, both of them pulled back vigorously at Han Li's behest.

The black chain was instantly stretched taut amid a loud clang, and a burst of sharp pain speared through the nascent soul's body.

Han Li gritted his teeth tightly as he injected more and more of his spiritual sense into his dantian, and at the same time, the two giant hands continued to tug on the chain with all their might.

The black chain was clanging and groaning incessantly, but it showed no signs of coming loose.

Chapter 130: Familiar

Right at this moment, a burst of azure light suddenly appeared on the dark azure chain, and a series of tiny dark azure runes emerged, releasing a burst of strange law fluctuations.

At the same time, Han Li felt a burst of strong suction force act upon the pair of translucent hands that were manifested from his spiritual sense, and both his magic power and spiritual sense began to quickly seep out, as if they were being drawn into the chains before being sealed away.

His eyes immediately sprang open as a hint of alarm on his face, and his Earthly Deity Avatar switched to a different hand seal at his behest before pointing both of its index fingers at his dantian.

A burst of water-attribute power of laws instantly flowed into his dantian, forming a blue light barrier that closed in on the dark azure chain before completely enveloping it.

The runes on the surface of the chain were instantly isolated within the blue light barrier, and the peculiar fluctuations that it was releasing also began to wane.

Right at this moment, a burst of light flashed within Han Li's eyes, following which a series of animalistic cries rang out from within his body.

Immediately thereafter, several balls of golden light erupted out of his body, then transformed into a series of palm-sized projections that included an ape, a phoenix, a Lightning Bird, and a peacock, among others. The projections circled around Han Li momentarily, then flew into his dantian in a flash.

After flying into his dantian, the projections instantly elongated to form a series of glowing hands that grabbed tightly onto the dark azure chain.

"Get out!"

Han Li let loose a low roar through gritted teeth as he endured the excruciating pain shooting through his nascent soul, and all of the hands in his dantian glowed brightly as they tugged on the chain with all their might in unison.

A string of loud clangs rang out incessantly as the runes on the dark azure chain finally began to explode one after another in the face of the tremendous pulling force being exerted upon it, and the chain itself was slowly and agonizingly dragged out of his nascent soul.

As soon as the chain was pulled out of Han Li's nascent soul, it immediately began to writhe and struggle violently like a living creature, doing everything in its power to re-enter the nascent soul.

Han Li harrumphed coldly as dazzling light flashed from the hands locked around the chain in his dantian, and they reverted back into their true spirit projection forms before grabbing onto the chain with their claws, paws, talons, and jaws, then forcibly dragged the chain out of his lower abdomen.

After emerging from Han Li's body, the chain was revealed to be around as thick as an infant's arm, and it was only roughly 10 feet in length. Most of the dark runes on its surface had already faded, but it was still giving off faint law fluctuations incessantly.

Han Li immediately flipped a hand over to produce a white jade box that he had prepared in advance, then grabbed the chain before placing it into the box.

A crisp snap then rang out as the lid of the box was placed tightly over it.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li pulled out a silver talisman before plastering it onto the box.

A burst of gentle silver light flashed from the talisman to envelop the entire jade box, and the aura of the chain within the box was completely contained, severing its connection with the outside world in its entirety.

Only after doing all of that did Han Li heave a long sigh of relief, and he beckoned toward the true spirit projections circling around him, upon which they immediately flew into his body and disappeared.

Right at this moment, a surge of warmth appeared in Han Li's dantian. It wasn't very intense, but it carried an indescribable sense of familiarity.

He faltered slightly upon feeling this sensation, then directed his spiritual sense back into his dantian to discover that the golden nascent soul inside had finally awakened from its slumber, and it was inspecting its surroundings with wide eyes.

The golden light radiating from its body was slightly dim, indicating that it seemed to have also been severely damaged during the process that had just taken place.

Furthermore, a series of wave-like azure ripples had appeared beneath it, looking much like water splashing out of a fountain.

Han Li knew that this was the magic power that he had been deprived of for the past several centuries!

The influx of magic power seemed to be quite gentle and feeble, but it wasn't going to take long before his entire dantian was filled.

With the seal on his nascent soul removed, an enormous weight had been lifted from Han Li's shoulders. He slowly opened his eyes as he looked up at the sky, and an elated smile appeared on his face to reflect the emotions in his heart.

Several days passed by in a flash, and the large silver flags around the courtyard had already been withdrawn but Han Li still remained inside.

One day at around noon, a streak of light suddenly sped up into the sky, reaching an incredible altitude in no more than the blink of an eye. The streak of light was so fast that many people on the island caught a glimpse of it, but no one was able to see it clearly.

The streak of light flew over to an uninhabited part of the sea that was quite far away from Dark Veil Island, then faded to reveal none other than Han Li.

At this moment, his robes were flapping audibly in the wind, and he was giving off an astonishingly powerful aura, having already recovered his early-True Immortal Stage cultivation base.

He had thought that the surge of warmth flowing back into his dantian was his magic power returning to him, but only on this day, after the process had concluded, did he come to realize that his dantian was actually filled with immortal spiritual power rather than magic power.

He was ecstatic at this discovery, and he came all the way here with the intention of testing out his powers.

He let loose a joyful cry as silver light flashed all over his body, and a burst of dazzling lightning erupted forth in all directions, encompassing the entire surrounding area in a radius of several thousand feet.

Countless arcs of silver lightning were flashing incessantly through the air while springing erratically over the surface of the sea, and some were even shooting into the water from thousands of feet up in the sky.

A series of massive waves that were hundreds of feet tall were instantly swept up over the surface of the sea as if the water had been brought to a boil.

Han Li then suddenly removed the Heaven Controlling Vial from around his neck before tossing it through the air, and it began to glow with dazzling green light, then abruptly vanished into the thin air after revolving on the spot for a brief moment.

In the next instant, gusts of fierce wind suddenly began to sweep over the surface of the sea, and a series of five-colored spirit clouds appeared.

The sound of rumbling thunderclaps rang out despite the clear skies, and a massive vial opening that threatened to swallow up the heavens emerged from the spirit clouds like a wyrm rearing its head, then trembled slightly before releasing a torrent of countless dark green runes.

In the instant that the runes surged out of the opening of the vial, they immediately transformed into clouds of azure mist that exploded one after another.

A burst of extremely powerful law fluctuations instantly encompassed the entire area, following which more thunderous rumbling rang out.

The entire space shuddered slightly, and all of the air within a radius of several thousand feet tightened at once as countless arcs of silver lightning rapidly contracted, converging toward the five-colored spirit clouds.

Immediately thereafter, the waves that were rising up from the surface of the sea became even taller, forming enormous pillars of seawater that resembled soaring wyrms as they rose up into the sky in a twisting fashion.

However, regardless of whether it was the lightning or the seawater, all of it would instantly be reduced to powder upon reaching within 10,000 feet of the vial opening before being sucked away by a burst of invisible suction force.

Within mere moments, all of the silver lightning in the sky had been completely sucked in, leaving only the hundreds of enormous pillars of seawater still rising up incessantly toward the heavens.

A contemplative look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

All of a sudden, he raised a hand, and all of the five-colored spirit clouds in the sky began to blur before gradually fading away, leaving only a small green vial that slowly descended from the heavens.

At the same time, the seawater that had already risen into the sky instantly scattered, having lost the force that had drawn them up there in the first place, and as the vast volumes of seawater came crashing down, more enormous waves were swept up over the surface of the sea.

After withdrawing the Heaven Controlling Vial, Han Li gently stroked the patterns on its surface with his fingers, and judging from his expression, he seemed to have fallen into deep thought.

Only after a long while did a peculiar look appear on his face as he murmured to himself, "Now that I already possess immortal spiritual power, I should give that a try. Perhaps I'll be able to recover some of my lost memories."

With that, a surge of warmth instantly rose up within his dantian, and immortal spiritual power flowed through the meridians in his body before quickly gushing into the Heaven Controlling Vial through the palm of his hand.

A burst of dark green light instantly lit up from his palm, and initially, it was rather dim, but it quickly brightened.

As the light radiating from the small vial gradually brightened, it also began to tremble violently.

Moments later, the burst of light had already spread through the air like a scintillating green sun, illuminating most of the surrounding sea with bright green radiance.

As the light grew brighter and brighter, the tremors also grew more and more intense, as if the vial were trying to fly out of Han Li's grasp.

Right as Han Li was on the verge of losing his grip on the vial, a burst of green light suddenly flashed from its opening, following which it released a vast expanse of dark green runes.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he instantly directed his attention toward the runes.

As it turned out, these runes were an incantation composed from golden seal text, [1] and they were hovering within the green light as if they had been carved out of jade, giving off a peculiar aura.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face as he read the passage of golden seal text, following which he suddenly began to chuckle with amusement as he murmured to himself, "Looks like I already tried something similar to this before I lost my memories."

After that, he stroked a finger over the surface of the vial, and all of the dark green runes instantly flowed back into the vial as a burst of azure qi.

Han Li then tossed the vial high up into the air before chanting the incantation that he had just read.

At the same time, he pointed a finger up at the opening of the vial, continuing to inject immortal spiritual power into it.

As the mysterious incantation rang out, all of the world's origin qi in the surrounding area seemed to have been mobilized, and it began to ripple and resonate with the incantation in a strange fashion.

A peculiar azure light barrier that resembled a constantly expanding ball of azure light slowly swelled in all directions, encompassing an area with a radius of several hundred kilometers and isolating it from the outside world.

Right at this moment, a burst of blue light suddenly appeared on Han Li's body, and a humanoid figure emerged involuntarily beside him. It was none other than his Earthly Deity Avatar.

Blue light was flashing above its head, within which were a series of extremely thin blue threads that were releasing clear law fluctuations.