

A Record 131

Chapter 131: Crystallization of the Spirit Liquid

Han Li watched the peculiar changes taking place in the avatar across from him, and a hint of surprise appeared on his face.

Immediately thereafter, his attention turned to the small vial, which was hovering high up in the air, and he noticed that a drop of shimmering green spirit liquid was slowly flowing out from within.

As soon as the drop of spirit liquid dropped out of the vial, it was suspended in mid-air by a burst of inexplicable force, preventing it from falling any further.

Moments later, silver light suddenly flashed from the surface of the small vial, following which a pair of black lines emerged. The pair of lines then abruptly split open to reveal a pair of round eyes, which were no different in shape from the eyes of a person, but the pupils were a silver color.

As soon as the pair of eyes appeared, they immediately took a glance in Han Li's direction, following which two bursts of silver light were released from within to envelop the drop of spirit liquid.

In the next instant, a mouth suddenly appeared beneath the eyes on the vial as well, and a semi-transparent ball of fire erupted out from within to envelop the drop of spirit liquid as well.

Right at this moment, a burst of dull rumbling akin to a thunderclap rang out, accompanied by a burst of subtle fluctuations that were barely visible to the naked eye.

Han Li quickly inspected his surroundings, following which his pupils immediately contracted slightly.

As it turned out, the sea down below had also been affected by that burst of peculiar fluctuations, and the huge waves that were swept up by the gusts of ferocious wind were all completely pulverized by that burst of fluctuations, stirring up layers upon layers of white foam.

At the same time, fierce winds were howling incessantly, and rays of light that were imbued with the world's origin qi suddenly appeared out of thin air, then began to converge toward Han Li like schools of semi-transparent fish.

In the beginning, there were several hundred of these rays of light, but their numbers rapidly increased to the thousands, then to the tens of thousands as they continued to converge from all directions.

After just mere moments, Han Li found himself unable to discern the individual rays of light anymore as there were simply far too many of them. They were stacking up on top of one another, compressing each other to form a continuous band of light as they surged rapidly toward the drop of spirit liquid suspended in mid-air.

As more and more of the light appeared and they began to travel faster and faster, an enormous vortex formed by the world's origin qi appeared. The vortex was several hundred kilometers in diameter, and it stood above the sea like an enormous spiraling pagoda that connected heaven and earth.

The sky was originally bright and clear, but a massive cloud that extended for hundreds of kilometers quickly took shape, encompassing a vast section of the sea beneath it.

Simultaneously, all of the world's origin qi within a radius of thousands of kilometers became extremely erratic, churning like boiling water as they converged toward the area that Han Li was situated in in a frenzy.

Even the islands situated tens of thousands of kilometers away were affected by these phenomena, and the cultivators on the island were greatly alarmed. Hundreds and thousands of figures flew out of their islands one after another before turning their eyes collectively in the direction that Han Li was situated, and there were several True Immortal cultivators hovering in the air in front of the azure light screen several hundred kilometers away from Han Li.

All of the True Immortals seemed to have been familiar with one another, and they were all exchanging glances with apprehension and befuddlement in their eyes.

They had thought that some type of powerful treasure had just emerged, so they had rushed here from their respective islands in anticipation and excitement, but upon their arrival, they quickly realized that they seemed to have been mistaken.

A handsome young man in a pristine white robe turned to an elderly man beside him as he said, "Fellow Daoist Qin, you've always possessed the most powerful spiritual sense out of all of us, and you were the first one to get here. Do you know exactly what's happened here?"

"This light barrier before us keeps out all spiritual sense, so I'm unable to detect what's happening inside. However, judging from the looks of it, it seems like someone is refining a powerful treasure here," the elderly man replied with a shake of his head.

"Have any of you considered the possibility that it could be someone refining an Earthly Deity Avatar?" a red-robed man with a rather effeminate appearance speculated with narrowed eyes.

"I don't think that's the case. I think Fellow Daoist Qin's theory is more likely."

"I agree."

"What's the point in making these empty speculations? Let's just go in and find out what's happening! If we join forces, surely there's nothing for us to fear," a hideous dark-skinned man suggested.

Despite the urgent tone of his voice, he hadn't moved in the slightest.

A cold smile appeared on the elderly man's face upon seeing this, and he said, "A being capable of setting up a spiritual sense obstructing restriction like this is not someone I can afford to mess with. If you want to know what's happening, you can feel free to go in, but I won't be accompanying you."

As soon as his voice trailed off, he immediately sped away as a streak of light.

The remaining few True Immortal exchanged a few glances with one another, and all of them were looking rather awkward. They were all sly old foxes that had lived for countless years, and none of them were willing to take the risk to infiltrate the restriction first.

With the departure of the elderly man, they quickly lost interest in staying any longer, so after exchanging some small talk, they flew back to their respective islands.

Given the situation here, it was most likely the case that no powerful treasure had emerged, and if the elderly man's theory were correct and there really was an extremely powerful senior refining a treasure here, then there was a chance that they would turn on any bystanders in the area once they were done refining their treasure.

As long as they departed of their own accord before that senior completed the refinement of their treasure, there was nothing for them to fear.

Han Li was naturally completely oblivious to what these True Immortals were thinking. In fact, he was far too preoccupied with other matters to even consider such a thing.

Just now, the vast vortex of origin qi had abruptly collapsed inward to form a massive pillar of light that extended straight up into the heavens, and the clouds in the sky were also swirling incessantly around the pillar of light in a frenzy.

Right at this moment, a layer of hazy azure light suddenly appeared around Han Li, and before he had a chance to figure out what was happening, the immortal spiritual power in his body began to spill out like a turbulent wave under a burst of immense suction force, then surged directly toward the drop of spirit liquid that was enveloped in silver light.

This was naturally a very alarming turn of events, and Han Li immediately raised a hand to make a series of hand seals, causing the azure light around him to tremble slightly while the leakage of immortal spiritual power from his body was slowed.

At the same time, a layer of azure light also appeared around the Earthly Deity Avatar, and the magic power in its body that was converted from the power of faith was almost completely sapped away in the span of just a few seconds.

With a wave of his hand, Han Li stowed the avatar away, but that wasn't the end of his troubles.

Even though he was doing everything in his power to hold back his immortal spiritual power, it was still constantly flowing out of his body, except at a far slower rate than before.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he flipped a hand over to produce several pills, all of which he devoured at once.

As the spiritual power within the pills was converted into immortal spiritual power in his body, the sense of emptiness in Han Li's dantian finally abated slightly.

He raised his head to look up at the drop of dark green spirit liquid in the air, and a complex look appeared in his eyes.

Five whole days passed by, but the phenomenon taking place around Han Li hadn't changed in the slightest. Situated right in the eye of the storm, Han Li was struggling immensely.

If someone familiar with him were to see the state that he was currently in, they would've most likely been given a massive fright.

At this moment, Han Li had a pair of sunken eyes, skin with a waxy yellow complexion, and there was even a layer of dry dead skin on his lips. It seemed that his essence and energy were both severely depleted, and only his eyes remained as bright as ever.

The reason for this was that the immortal spiritual power in his body had been constantly seeping out over the course of the past few days, and at this point, the supply was already completely exhausted, along with a large chunk of the stash of high-grade pills that he had accumulated.

At this point, he discovered that taking further pills only had an infinitesimal effect on his immortal spiritual power recovery, and he wasn't going to be able to last much longer at this rate.

However, for some reason, there was a voice in his heart telling him that as long as he persevered, he was going to reap a tremendous reward in the end.

Han Li took a deep breath as he stowed away the several pills that he had summoned back into his storage treasure. He then gritted his teeth and made a strange hand seal, and his dried and cracked lips parted slightly as he began to chant an incantation.

As he did this, the complexion of his skin suddenly began to improve, and his sunken eyes also returned to normal.

He resembled an old tree that was on the brink of death abruptly being rejuvenated by a bout of heavy rainfall.

Unfortunately, this was a secret technique that allowed one to regain their vitality and increase the amount of immortal spiritual power in their body, but at the cost of burning through blood essence, and the price that he was incurring for using this secret technique was far beyond what the average person could imagine.

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Another three days and three nights passed by in the blink of an eye.

All of a sudden, the azure ball of light that encompassed a vast area around Han Li began to rapidly shrink without any warning. After no more than 20 seconds, it had already shrunk down to a radius of only around 10 feet, and that drop of spirit liquid, which had already turned virtually completely translucent, was enveloped within it.

Within this small area, a vast volume of extremely dense world's origin qi was still surging toward the drop of spirit liquid at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye.

All of a sudden, a resounding boom rang out, and the azure light barrier shrank once again. As it did so, even more world's origin qi was compressed to the extreme and forced into the drop of spirit liquid.

The drop of spirit liquid that was hovering in mid-air instantly solidified, transforming into a semi-transparent crystal that fell out of the air.

At the same time, a dry and withered hand suddenly shot out to catch the crystal.

The owner of the hand was naturally none other than Han Li, and following the ordeal that he had just endured, he had become unrecognizably emaciated, looking like nothing more than a sack of skin and

bones. His robes were draping down all around his body, making him resemble a clothes rack that the azure robe was hanging from.

Even though he was in terrible shape, there was a smile on his face, and there was a look of utter exhaustion in his eyes, but they were still shining as bright as ever.

He raised his head to look up at the small vial, which was still hovering in mid-air, only to find that its original dark green color had faded, and the mouth and that pair of eyes had also vanished. Furthermore, it was looking rather blurry and indistinct, almost impossible to see clearly.

He was rather surprised to see this, but he wasn't concerned as a vague sense of familiarity had surfaced in his mind, and he was confident that the vial would return to normal after absorbing moonlight for a few days.

Chapter 132: Heavy Water

After stowing the small vial away, Han Li began to carefully inspect the crystal in his hand.

The crystal also struck him with a sense of familiarity, but he couldn't recall how to use it.

All of a sudden, a thought occurred to him, and he closed his eyes, following which a translucent thread shot out of his glabella before wrapping itself around the crystal.

Moments later, his eyes abruptly sprang open, and a bemused look appeared on his face.

"How did this happen?" Han Li murmured to himself.

Through his spiritual sense, he discovered that this crystal was a spirit material that contained a type of law powers, which was identical to the type of law powers imbued within the eyeball of that one-eyed giant.

However, the law powers imbued within this crystal weren't even a tenth as potent as what was in that eyeball.

Given the small vial's various abilities and the series of phenomena that had taken place earlier, Han Li was able to conclude with relative confidence that this wasn't some type of earth-attribute law powers.

However, as for exactly what it was, he didn't have much of an idea, and he decided that he was going to see if he could find some information from the array plate of the Transient Guild once he returned to Dark Veil Island.

As he was contemplating this matter, he took the time to swallow a few pills, and the pills quickly melted into bursts of pure energy that flowed to all parts of his body, giving his complexion a visible improvement.

He took a glance at his surroundings, then rose up into the air as a streak of light before flying toward Dark Veil Island.

He returned quietly to the island without alerting anyone, then went straight into the secret chamber in the courtyard he was staying in.

Shortly thereafter, the world's origin qi within a radius of hundreds of kilometers began to converge toward the small courtyard, forming a massive vortex of spiritual qi.

At this point, all of the residents of the island, regardless of whether they were cultivators or mortals, were already accustomed to the phenomena brought about by Han Li.

The phenomenon of converging spiritual qi lasted all the way until nighttime before slowly dissipating.

However, not long after that, bursts of starpower from the Big Dipper shone down from the night sky, forming seven huge pillars of starpower that descended into the courtyard.

This cycle of gathering spiritual qi during the day and harnessing starpower at night went on for an entire month.

Inside the secret chamber, Han Li was slowly revolving within a cocoon of bright azure light.

All of a sudden, the azure light faded in a flash to reveal Han Li inside, and at this point, he had already made a full physical recovery.

He quickly inspected his internal condition with his spiritual sense, upon which a relieved look appeared on his face.

Thankfully, having cultivated the Big Dipper Origin Arts, he had built up a tremendous physical foundation, so he was able to make a full recovery despite the grueling ordeal he had endured.

As for the Heaven Controlling Vial, just as he had anticipated, it had also returned to its original appearance after absorbing starpower during this period.

Han Li exhaled as he pulled out that crystal formed by the drop of spirit liquid once again, and he plucked the crystal between his fingers as he raised it to his eye, while a contemplative look appeared on his face.

He then flipped his hand over to produce the eyeball of the one-eyed giant, then closed his eyes and injected his spiritual sense into it.

Sure enough, the law powers contained within the crystal were identical to the type imbued within the eyeball, but up to this point, Han Li still hadn't managed to figure out exactly what this type of law powers was.

As he opened his eyes, he came to a decision.

He had almost been sucked completely dry for the sake of this crystal, so he had to figure out what it was no matter what.

With that in mind, he pulled out the azure mask from the Transient Guild before putting it on, then pointed a finger at his own glabella while chanting an incantation.

Rippling azure light that resembled water rose up from the mask, forming a huge array plate projection in front of him.

He navigated directly to the missions area, where he released a mission of his own. He provided a description of the one-eyed giant and promised a handsome reward to anyone that could identify the creature.

After that, Han Li stowed the crystal and the mask away before making his way out of the small courtyard and flying away into the distance.

In a certain region of the sea near Dark Veil Island, turbulent waves were rumbling incessantly, and there was a massive vortex that was over 100 kilometers in size, churning everything that fell into it straight to the seabed.

Han Li appeared in a flash, then flew into the center of the vortex without any hesitation, quickly reaching the seabed.

A blue figure was seated with their legs crossed on a large rock on the seabed, and it was none other than Han Li's Earthly Deity Avatar.

The avatar had its arms encircled in front of its chest, and black rippling light was shimmering all around it as it cultivated the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome.

Bursts of power of faith were being transmitted to the Earthly Deity Avatar from afar, and a law thread had emerged above the avatar's head, giving off bursts of water law fluctuations.

Han Li gave a slight nod at the sight of the law thread.

This method of cultivation used by Earthly Immortals to manifest law powers using the power of faith was quite unique, and just the power of faith supplied by the people of Dark Veil Island alone was enough to allow the Earthly Deity Avatar to manifest a law thread so soon.

At the same time, the avatar had also accumulated a sizeable amount of magic power in its body, but it was rather scattered and chaotic, perhaps due to the fact that the magic power was mixed with the power of faith.

The cultivation method employed by Han Li was different from that of other Earthly Immortals, and the difference was that he didn't allow any of the power of faith harnessed by his Earthly Deity Avatar to flow into his body.

As a result, he was unable to enjoy the benefit of manifest law powers using the power of faith, but on the flip side, his immortal spiritual power wouldn't be contaminated by the power of faith.

After all, he had only refined this Earthly Deity Avatar in order to break the seal on his nascent soul.

All of a sudden, he turned his gaze toward the hands of his Earthly Deity Avatar, and his brows furrowed ever so slightly.

There was a ball of black water the size of an infant's fist hovering above the avatar's hands, and it was shimmering with black light, giving it a rather peculiar appearance.

Sure enough, the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome really was living up to its reputation of being extremely slow to progress in.

Not long after he returned to Dark Veil Island, he had left his avatar here to cultivate the first level of heavy water, and it had only managed to manifest such a tiny amount in over a month.

It was no wonder that the creator of the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome had taken over 500,000 years just to manifest enough heavy water to fill a small creek.

Han Li beckoned to the ball of heavy water, and it flew over to him before landing on his palm.

It was only a tiny ball of heavy water, but it was no lighter than a small mountain.

After inspecting the ball of heavy water for a moment, he stored it into a jade vial, then flew away without lingering any longer. Right as he emerged from the sea and was about to return to his courtyard, an astonishing phenomenon suddenly began to unfold above Dark Veil Island.

All of the world's origin qi in a radius of thousands of kilometers had converged to form an enormous spiritual qi vortex, and spiritual qi was trailing down from the vortex like rays of light, forming a giant waterfall of light that surged into a palace on Dark Veil Island.

That palace was none other than Luo Feng's residence.

At this moment, the palace was surrounded by a vast sea of five-colored light, and all types of light of different colors were surging incessantly amid bursts of loud rumbling.

Han Li took a glance in the direction of the palace from afar, then abruptly vanished on the spot.

The massive commotion was clearly visible and audible across the entire island, but no panic had ensued. Instead, all of the members of the Luo Clan, particularly the Spatial Tempering and Body Integration cultivators, all appeared extremely excited.

This phenomenon was a clear indication of a Body Integration cultivator making a breakthrough to the Grand Ascension Stage!

Inside the palace, Luo Feng was seated with his legs crossed, and the light radiating from his body was flashing wildly. His aura was fluctuating drastically, and his expression was also constantly changing, as if he were undergoing some type of trial.

All of a sudden, Han Li appeared beside him without any warning.

Luo Feng's aura was fluctuating more and more violently, and droplets of sweat were beginning to bead up on his forehead and his cheeks. At the same time, he seemed to be losing control over his own emotions.

The five-colored sea of light around the palace was also trembling in an unstable manner, and rays of light would occasionally shoot out in random directions, smashing huge craters into the ground around the palace, much to the alarm and panic of the surrounding bystanders, who quickly fled into the distance.

Han Li flicked a finger through the air upon seeing this, and a burst of gentle translucent light shot out before entering Luo Feng's glabella.

Luo Feng's expression instantly eased slightly, and the wild flashing of the light around him subsided, while the five-colored sea of light outside the palace was also stabilized.

As more and more spiritual qi surged down from the heavens, the five-colored sea of light around the palace also gradually transformed into a massive cocoon of light.

Time slowly passed by, and after an indeterminate period of time, the cocoon of light suddenly shuddered, following which a peculiar fragrant aroma wafted out from within.

A faint crack rang out as a small rift appeared on the cocoon of light, and a burst of golden light escaped from within, then transformed into a series of golden flowers, while a burst of heavenly music rang out.

All of the members of the Luo Clan gathered near the palace were ecstatic to see this, and a collective thunderous cheer rang out.

Inside the palace, light was revolving around Luo Feng's body, and his skin had turned as fair as jade. Furthermore, he had also taken on a slightly more youthful appearance.

He slowly opened his eyes, and an excited look appeared on his face.

This Grand Ascension Stage breakthrough was not one that he had much confidence in, and he was almost unable to transcend the tribulation of inner demons. However, a burst of external power had suddenly entered his body, fortifying his mind and ensuring a safe breakthrough.

Luo Feng was just about to rise to his feet when he spotted Han Li standing beside him.

He faltered momentarily at the sight of Han Li, then immediately realized what had to have happened, and he extended a deep bow toward Han Li. "Thank you for your assistance, Senior Liu."

"It's nothing, don't mention it. I didn't expect you to reach the Grand Ascension Stage so soon. This is truly worthy of celebration!" Han Li replied with a slight nod.

"It's all thanks to those cultivation resources that you bestowed upon me that I was able to take this step," Luo Feng replied in a respectful voice, and his heart was full of gratitude.

"As long as you serve me to the best of your abilities, there will be more where those resources came from," Han Li replied with a wave of his hand.

As a Body Integration cultivator, Luo Feng's usefulness had been limited, but now that he had reached the Grand Ascension Stage, he could be entrusted with more important tasks.

Chapter 133: The Three Paramount Laws

"Rest assured, Senior. Our Luo Clan owes everything to you, and we'll be sure to serve you with absolute diligence and loyalty," Luo Feng declared with a solemn expression.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face, and he was just about to say something else when his expression suddenly changed slightly.

"You're far too kind, Chief Luo. Your breakthrough to the Grand Ascension Stage is something for the entire island to celebrate, so you should go and meet your clansmen," Han Li said, then immediately vanished from the spot.

Luo Feng was already accustomed to Han Li's elusive and enigmatic ways, so he extended a bow at the spot where Han Li had just disappeared, then took a moment to adjust his robes before making his way outside.

At the same time, Han Li appeared back in his courtyard, then immediately made his way into the secret chamber.

As he did so, he pulled out and put on his azure mask, upon which a speck of white light was flashing incessantly.

Han Li pointed a finger forward, and a streak of white light flew out of the mask before transforming into a buzzing white vortex in front of him.

A projection of another masked figure appeared, and all that could be made out of their facial features was a pair of blue eyes.

Han Li wasted no time, cutting straight to the chase as he asked, "You accepted my missions, so I presume you must know what that one-eyed giant is, right, Fellow Daoist?"

"I just so happen to have some knowledge in various types of exotic beasts, and if I'm not mistaken, the one-eyed giant you're asking about should be a rare type of earth-attribute spirit beast. However, the description provided in the mission isn't very detailed, so I can't be absolutely certain. If you could provide me with some more details, I'll be able to make a more informed judgment," the figure replied.

Han Li's eyes lit up slightly upon hearing this, and he provided some more details to the masked figure. "It does indeed sound like you're quite the expert. The appearance of the beast..."

The fact that the masked figure was able to determine that it was an earth-attribute spirit beast just from Han Li's rough description alone indicated that they were very knowledgeable, and perhaps they really did know what this beast was.

"It seems my guess was correct. The one-eyed giant that you're referring to is a beast by the name of the Primordial Fei Beast," the figure confirmed after hearing Han Li's more detailed description.

"Can you enlighten me on this creature?" Han Li asked.

"This is a type of extremely rare spirit beast, and I've never seen it myself. All I've heard about it is that it's born from chaos and possesses innate earth law powers, allowing it to manipulate the earth as it pleases. Upon reaching adulthood, these beasts will attain powers equivalent to those of a True Immortal," the masked figure explained.

Han Li nodded in response with a contemplative expression, then asked, "I see. Is there anything special about such a beast?"

"The only special thing I can think of about this beast is that its lone eye will occasionally mutate, giving rise to a wisp of time law powers, which is extremely sought-after among all immortals.

"However, these mutated Primordial Fei Beasts are exceedingly rare, with only roughly one in 10,000 such beasts undergoing this mutation. On top of that, wherever a mutated Primordial Fei Beast appears, a period of extreme unrest is sure to follow in that area," the masked figure replied.

"The laws of time..." Han Li murmured to himself, and even though his expression remained calm, his calm facade belied his actual emotions.

He had previously suspected that the abilities unleashed by the Primordial Fei Beast had something to do with the laws of time, so there was an extremely high possibility that the one-eyed giant had been a mutated Primordial Fei Beast.

"That's right. As bearers of one of the three paramount laws, it's not wonder that mutated Primordial Fei Beasts always stir up so much trouble wherever they appear," the masked figure said.

"What are the three paramount laws?" Han Li asked with a perplexed expression.

A strange look appeared in the masked figure's eyes upon hearing this question, and they seemed to have been rather taken aback. "You don't even know about the three paramount laws?"

"Forgive me for my embarrassing lack of knowledge, and please enlighten me," Han Li replied with a faint smile.

"This is a piece of general knowledge, so there's hardly any enlightening to be done. The three paramount laws refer to the laws of time, space, and reincarnation. It's said that those three laws are the root of all laws, and the other 3,000 Great Dao laws were all born from those three paramount laws.

"The paramount laws are also the rarest and most mysterious laws in the Immortal Realm, and even among the Holy Ancestors, not many have been able to master such laws. As for immortals below the Holy Ancestors, even coming into contact with the three paramount laws is nothing more than a pipe dream," the masked figure said with a hint of longing in their voice.

"The 3,000 Great Dao laws..." Han Li repeated to himself with a thoughtful expression.

"It's said that each type of law represents a Great Dao, and each Great Dao can ultimately lead one to the pinnacle of the True Immortal Realm. There are 3,000 types of known laws in the Immortal Realm, so that's why it's said that there are 3,000 Great Dao laws," the masked figure explained, still with a hint of longing in their voice.

"I see," Han Li murmured in a contemplative voice.

"Materials that contain the three paramount laws are priceless treasures in the Immortal Realm, and it's impossible to obtain them through conventional means. I've heard that people have even begun offering large rewards on information pertaining to the whereabouts of Primordial Fei Beasts.

"If you have some information, I suggest you sell it in the guild. I'm sure many people would be willing to pay a handsome price for such information," the masked figure said in a meaningful voice.

"I don't have any information on the whereabouts of any Primordial Fei Beasts. I just so happened to see some records describing such a beast recently, and I was curious about what they were," Han Li replied in a nonchalant manner.

"I must admit, I was also very intrigued when I first saw a description of this beast," the masked figure chuckled.

"Thank you for answering my questions. I have no further questions, and I'll issue your reward to you in a moment," Han Li said.

The projection of the masked figure nodded in response, then promptly vanished from the spot.

With a wave of his hand, Han Li summoned the promised reward, then placed it onto the array plate's transmission site, and it vanished amid a flash of light.

After that, Han Li removed the azure mask, and a faint smile appeared on his face.

He wasn't smiling about the eye of the Primordial Fei Beast. Instead, he was thinking about that crystal that the Heaven Controlling Vial had created after devouring so much of the immortal spiritual power in his body.

Even though he hadn't made any further attempts, he presumed that just like with the manifestation of the spirit liquid, the vial was capable of creating this crystal more than just once.

If that were the case, then theoretically, he would be able to secure an infinite supply of this material that contained one of the rarest powers of laws in existence.

Now that he thought about it, this vial was able to speed up the maturation of spirit medicines, so it wasn't much of a surprise that the crystals formed by the spirit liquid contained the laws of wood or the laws of time.

A solemn look then appeared on his face, and he decided that he had to keep this matter a secret, given how precious materials that contained the laws of time were.

If for some reason, he was forced to exchange the crystal for other items, he had to ensure that his identity remained confidential to the other party.

After all, given his current paltry cultivation base, revealing such a precious treasure in his possession would've been no different from courting death.

With that in mind, another thought suddenly occurred to Han Li, and a grim look appeared on his face.

Could it be that this crystal had something to do with the centuries of memories that he had lost?

He immediately rose to his feet as this thought sprang into his mind, and as he paced back and forth in his secret chamber, this notion was becoming more and more likely in his mind. He pulled out the crystal once again, then sat back down with his legs crossed and began to carefully inspect it with his spiritual sense.

However, even after an extensive and thorough inspection, he still wasn't able to find anything useful.

Han Li pointed a finger at his own glabella, and his Law Destruction Eye appeared amid a flash of black light, following which a beam of black shot out from within.

At the same time, two bursts of blue light shot out of his eyes, and the three bursts of light fused as one.

At the same time, Han Li chanted an incantation while making a hand seal, and an enormous burst of spiritual sense surged out of his glabella amid a flash of translucent light, then also fused together with the three bursts of light.

As a result, the three bursts of light gradually transformed into a huge black and blue eye that began to scrutinize the crystal.

This was a secret technique that combined his Law Destruction Eye and Brightsight Spirit Eyes.

A burst of black and blue light shot out of the eye to envelop the crystal, immediately following which a hint of elation appeared on Han Li's face.

At the center of the crystal was a faint golden thread that was barely visible, and it would've been impossible for him to find it if not for the use of this secret technique.

Half a month later, a certain area of the sea near Dark Veil Island was churning incessantly, while an enormous vortex was slowly revolving.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed on a reef island, contemplating something meticulously with the crystal pressed against his forehead.

According to the scriptures that he had recently consulted, it was virtually impossible to try and master the power of laws purely through inspecting a material that contained that power of laws. However, if he were to use a cultivation art related to the laws of time, then this was definitely going to be a beneficial experience.

It was a bit like discussing cultivation insights and experiences with other cultivators. As for exactly how this was beneficial and how much one could benefit from such discussions, that was up to them.

Time was one of the three paramount laws, so he naturally didn't want to pass up any opportunity to try and examine it.

After an indeterminate period of time, Han Li opened his eyes before removing the crystal from his forehead, then shook his head with a slightly disappointed expression.

Even after so many days and experimenting with all types of methods to try and detect the laws of time within the crystal, his efforts had proven to be completely futile, but that really wasn't much of a surprise.

He continued to fiddle absentmindedly with the crystal in his hand, but his gaze was piercing through the sea as he observed his Earthly Deity Avatar on the seabed in a contemplative silence.

The crystal in his hand didn't seem to have been changing at all, but in reality, the laws of time within it were getting weaker by the day, and the golden thread was gradually becoming shorter and shorter.

At this rate, it was only going to take about half a month before the laws of time in the crystal completely faded, and that was a rather disappointing prospect to Han Li.

As a result of this, it seemed that his idea to sell the crystal to others in exchange for resources simply wasn't feasible.

He withdrew his gaze as he turned his attention to the crystal in his hand once again.

"Nevertheless, I have to give it an actual try. After all, I can wield some power of water laws now," Han Li murmured to himself as he raised a hand before making a beckoning motion.

The massive vortex in the sea up ahead churned violently for a moment before gradually subsiding, immediately following which a blue shadow emerged from within in a flash. The blue shadow quickly descended beside Han Li, following which the blue light radiating from its body faded to reveal the Earthly Deity Avatar.

Han Li tossed the crystal at his Earthly Deity Avatar, and the latter caught it as black light flashed from its body, following which the thread of laws on top of its head slowly burrowed its way into the crystal.

In order to examine the power of laws within the crystal, it only made sense that the power of laws had to be used. However, the laws of time within the crystal was one of the three paramount laws, so there was an element of risk to what Han Li was doing.

However, he naturally wouldn't be willing to give up on this idea without attempting it, and he could only hope that this wouldn't have much of an impact on his Earthly Deity Avatar.

As these thoughts were going through his mind, the thread of water laws had already entered the crystal in a flash.

All of a sudden, the crystal began to glow with scintillating golden light.

Han Li was ecstatic to see this, but before he had a chance to do anything, an unexpected turn of events suddenly unfolded.

Chapter 134: Extraordinary Spirit Artifact

A resounding boom rang out as the crystal abruptly exploded, and the nearby space was instantly filled with countless fine ripples. Faint shadows, both bright and dark, then quickly proliferated throughout the surrounding area.

The explosion had taken place without any warning, and Han Li was too close to crystal, so he didn't have sufficient time to take evasive measures. All he could do was manifest a layer of True Extreme Membrane over his body before he was struck by a burst of tremendous force.

He was immediately sent flying back like a cannon, and the energy in his body surged violently as he threw up a mouthful of blood.

After steadying himself several thousand feet away, he turned to find that the reef island beneath his Earthly Deity Avatar was already nowhere to be seen, and the surrounding seawater had also been dispersed by a burst of tremendous force. As a result, a completely empty region with a radius of several thousand feet was formed, and it took a long time for that area of the sea to return to normal.

Even though his avatar was able to form a protective light barrier using its laws of water, its right arm and close to half of its body was still destroyed in the explosion, giving it a rather pitiful appearance, but thankfully, its foundation remained unharmed.-

All of a sudden, something caught Han Li's attention, and he turned his gaze to the law thread hovering above his avatar's head.

It was originally a light blue water-attribute law thread, but not only had it become a little thicker than before, there was some faint golden light flashing inside, giving off a similar aura to the laws of time.

Han Li suppressed his bewilderment as he summoned his avatar to him, and at the same time, he opened his mouth to release a burst of nascent flames, which quickly enveloped the avatar. At the same time, he brought out an array of spirit materials with a sweep of his sleeve, and they gradually began to melt and change shape in the nascent flames.

A day and a night later.

On the seabed, Han Li was inspecting his Earthly Deity Avatar, which had already returned to normal, and the avatar immediately sat down with its legs crossed at his behest.

It then encircled its arms in front of its own chest, and the law thread above its head began to quiver slightly white radiating blue light that was far brighter than before.

The entire surface of the sea began to surge and churn, and enormous waves were raised, while a vortex that was even more massive than the previous one began to take shape. The giant waves that were swept up surged all the way to Dark Veil Island thousands of kilometers away, and the entire island began to tremble as if an earthquake were taking place.

All of the islands inhabitants were quite alarmed by this, and many cultivators at or above the Spatial Tempering Stage hurriedly flew into the sky to see what was causing this phenomenon.

However, moments later, all of the cultivators returned the same way they had come in silence, as if they had all simultaneously received some type of instruction. At the same time, the island became encompassed under a series of light barriers, and the disturbance gradually subsided soon thereafter.

Meanwhile, Han Li was standing on the seabed with an astonished look on his face.

In front of him, his Earthly Deity Avatar's eyes were tightly shut, and at the center of its encircled arms, a tiny ball of heavy water was rapidly revolving on the spot while expanding at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye.

Soon, it had become the size of a bean, then swelled to the size of a finger...

After no more than two hours, an egg-sized ball of heavy water had appeared before Han Li, and it was still steadily expanding along with the surging water currents in the surrounding sea.

Han Li took a deep breath, and the astonishment on his face turned to elation.

However, as he shifted his gaze slightly upward, a peculiar look appeared in his eyes.

Just like the golden thread in the crystal, the hint of golden light within the law thread hovering above his avatar's head was slowly fading.

Could it be...

A thought sprang into his mind upon seeing this.

Time quickly flew by, and half a month went by in a flash.

On the seabed, Han Li was seated with his legs crossed, and at this point, the golden light within the law thread above his Earthly Deity Avatar's head had already become extremely dim.

Even so, the rate at which his Earthly Deity Avatar was deriving heavy water didn't slow down in the slightest.

All of a sudden, the law thread shuddered, and the golden light within completely faded.

In the same instant, the churning seawater in the surrounding area also became far more tranquil, while the huge vortex on the surface of the sea rapidly shrank down to only several hundred kilometers in size.

Simultaneously, the speed at which the avatar was deriving heavy water was also reverted back to the initial rate.

Han Li was inspecting the large ball of heavy water in front of his avatar with a contemplative look on his face.

Somehow, the power of time laws imbued within the crystal had managed to fuse with his avatar's law thread, and it rapidly enhanced the rate at which his avatar was able to derive heavy water. However, the fusion wasn't very stable, and the power of time laws continued to constantly seep away during this process. Once it completely disappeared, the rate of heavy water derivation naturally returned to normal.

In any case, Han Li had finally managed to find a use for these crystals. Given the original rate at which his avatar was deriving heavy water, Han Li estimated that it would've taken around 1,500 years to derive this much.

Hence, the crystal was an extraordinary artifact, and it was no wonder that it had almost sucked him dry.

With that in mind, Han Li flipped a hand over to produce his True Water Pouch, which he stored the heavy water into.

After stowing the True Water Pouch away, he didn't linger on the seabed any longer. Instead, he flew out of the water as a streak of azure light, then made his way back to Dark Veil Island, while his Earthly Deity Avatar was left behind to continue deriving heavy water.

Half a month later.

A series of rather complex and profound spirit patterns had been engraved onto a plot of empty land on a lone island that was quite far away from Dark Veil Island. Around the plot of land stood nine silver stone pillars, which were also riddled with spirit patterns, as well as many star-like specks of silver light.

It was a profound array, and Adam was seated at its center with his legs crossed and his eyes closed.

Beside him were around a dozen jade vials, wooden boxes, and other containers for pills. Even though the containers were all tightly sealed, there were still faint medicinal aromas escaping from within.

Moments later, he gently exhaled as he opened his eyes, then flipped a hand over to summon his Heaven Controlling Vial.

Azure light began to glow from his body, and his immortal spiritual power surged into the vial along his arm.

The dark green floral patterns on the surface of the vial lit up one after another, quickly becoming so bright that it appeared that Han Li was holding a ball of dazzling green light in his hand.

Shortly thereafter, the small vial flew out of his grasp before hovering in mid-air.

As Han Li flicked his fingers through the air, streaks of azure light were released before vanishing into the vial in a flash, and the surrounding world's origin qi began to ripple, while a drop of green liquid began to slowly flow out of the vial.

Shortly thereafter, the silver eyes and silver mouth surfaced once again on the vial, releasing silver flames that enveloped and scorched the drop of green liquid. The world's origin qi that was converging from the surrounding area also formed a massive pillar of light around the vial.

All of a sudden, Han Li shuddered as the immortal spiritual power in his body began to surge out in an uncontrollable fashion before being absorbed by the drop of spirit liquid.

However, instead of being alarmed, he was ecstatic, and he heaved an internal sigh of relief before pointing a finger forward.

A streak of azure light shot out before landing on the array around him.

The array immediately began to operate, and the spirit patterns on the ground lit up one after another, radiating dazzling white light and forming a white ball that was over 100 feet in size. The white ball encompassed his entire body before beginning to revolve on the spot.

The world's origin qi that was converging from all directions also flowed into the white ball, and they immediately began to surge through the white ball in a haphazard fashion as streaks of spiritual light.

The concentration of spiritual qi inside the ball was rapidly rising, quickly reaching several times the concentration outside the ball, and this spiritual qi was constantly replenishing the immortal spiritual power that was rapidly surging out of Han Li's body.

At the same time, he picked up an azure jade vial from behind him, then tipped out a green pill that was around the size of a longan.

The pill was called the Azure Flower Pill, and it was currently the best energy recovery pill that he could procure.

Even though there was still plenty of immortal spiritual power left in his body, he still devoured the pill without any hesitation before focusing on refining it.

At the same time, he cast several incantations seals in succession, all of which fell upon the surrounding nine stone pillars. Vast expanses of silver light instantly began to radiate from the stone pillars, and countless star runes emerged, drawing starpower down from the night sky, forming seven pillars of starlight that injected their power into Han Li's body...

Five days later, Han Li's expression had turned rather grim.

Even though he had prepared the best pills and a spirit gathering array, his efforts were proving to be rather ineffective.

His immortal spiritual power had run out once again, and he could only use that same secret technique from before to convert his blood essence into immortal spiritual power for the vial to absorb.

Several more days passed, and he was once again reduced to a sack of skin and bones, and overall, he only appeared to be in slightly better condition than last time.

Thankfully, the drop of spirit liquid had solidified into another semi-transparent crystal.

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face as he inspected the crystal, but there was a hint of elation in his eyes.

Several days later.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed on a giant rock in the sea near Dark Veil Island. His body was protected by several spirit treasures, and the crystal was hovering in a still manner in front of him.

His Earthly Deity Avatar was also seated with its legs cross across from him, and it was protected by several spirit treasures as well.

After taking a moment to brace himself, Han Li made a beckoning motion with his hand, and the law thread hovering above his avatar's head drifted over to him before slowly entering the crystal.

This time, he wanted to experience the laws of time for himself.

This was one of the three paramount laws, and seeing as his avatar was able to use it to speed up its derivation of heavy water, perhaps it would also trigger some type of unexpected change in him.

However, to his surprise, after the law thread entered the crystal, no explosion took place.

Why isn't it working?

Han Li was rather taken aback to see this.

This crystal was no different from the last one, and it also contained the power of time laws. However, for some reason, he was unable to control the water law thread to fuse with the laws of time inside the crystal.

Han Li was unwilling to give up, and he tried the same thing four or five more times, all with the same outcome.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and after some contemplation, he sent the water law thread back to the top of his avatar's head with a wave of his hand. He then tossed the crystal at the avatar as well.

The Earthly Deity Avatar caught the crystal, then injected its water law thread into it, and sure enough, the crystal exploded, sending powerful shockwaves sweeping in all directions.

However, this time, Han Li had ensured that both he and his avatar were sufficiently protected, so both of them remained unharmed, and the water law thread was once again tinged with a hint of gold.

"Looks like this thing can only be used by my avatar, but is beyond my reach," Han Li murmured to himself as a wry smile appeared on his face.

Chapter 135: Bonded Eight Spirits Vat

Even though Han Li was feeling a little disappointed, he quickly told himself to be content with what he already had.

It was already incredibly fortunate that these crystals were able to significantly enhance the rate at which he could derive heavy water. If he expected anything more than that, then he would simply be asking for too much.

Of course, if he could somehow glean the secrets of the laws of time someday, there was a chance that he would be able to use these crystals for himself, and just the mere thought of this sent a flash of excitement surging through his heart.

However, at this point, that was only a distant dream.

For the vast majority of itinerant cultivators, just mastering one of the 3,000 Great Dao laws to become a True Immortal was already a very difficult task, let alone master one of the three paramount laws.

Furthermore, even though he had already recovered his cultivation base, the true crisis still hadn't been completely averted yet.

Hence, his top priority at the moment was to attain more power as quickly as possible, as well as to recover his lost memories and treasures, lest he suffer the same inexplicable fate that had caused him to end up in the Spirit Domain Realm.

Even though the Black Wind Sea was quite secluded and safe, it was not a place that he could remain at for long. If his enemies were to somehow find him, then he would be in a world of trouble. Perhaps

someone had already detected his approximate location prior to the seal on his nascent soul being undone.

As for how to recover his lost memories, at the moment, there were only two leads available to him.

The first one was naturally to return to the Ascension Platform where he had first completed his ascension. He would then try to track down Gao Sheng, who had served as his guide at the time, and ask him what had happened after they left the platform.

However, the Northern Glacial Immortal Region was extremely vast, so he had no idea how he was supposed to track down Gao Sheng, and even if he could find him, there was no guarantee that Gao Sheng's words would be credible.

Furthermore, Gao Sheng was a late-True Immortal cultivator, so it was definitely not a good idea for Han Li to approach him on a whim without being able to ensure his own safety.

The second lead was the wanted notice that had been passed down from the Immortal Realm, and mysterious length of dark azure chain that he had sealed into a white jade box.

For some reason, he couldn't shake the feeling that the two things were somehow connected, and he was convinced that if he could find the person who had released the wanted notice or the owner of the chain, then he would be able to find an important lead relating to his lost memories.

Of course, regardless of which one of those leads he chose to pursue, he required more power to ensure his safety.

Looks like the best way to enhance my powers in a short time would be to recover my lost treasures, as well as Jin Tong and Daoist Xie. [1]

Aside from that, there was another way to get stronger, which was to get his avatar to derive large volumes of heavy water as quickly as possible.

According to the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome, even if it were only heavy water of the first level, as long as one possessed sufficient quantity, it would still suffice as a trump card to be used in battle.

However, even with an endless supply of crystals that contained the power of time laws, it was still going to take quite some time to accumulate a substantial amount of heavy water.

One morning, roughly a month later.

Han Li was standing in the open-air area of his courtyard, a rusty and antiquated-looking octagonal copper vat had appeared before him.

A different exotic beast was engraved onto each of the vat's eight faces, including a Qilin, a Taotie, and a Kui, all of which were extremely menacing to behold. [2]

A series of strange ring-shaped patterns had been engraved onto the vat around the beasts, and there were also an ancient rune inscribed in gold-plated text beneath each beast, with each rune around the size of a human head.

On the bluestone slab beneath the copper vat was a sector-shaped array that had been engraved using a sharp object, and looking down at it from above, it resembled a flower in full bloom.

The vat was filled with clear water, which was as still as a mirror without even the slightest ripple running over the surface.

At this moment, Han Li was standing beside the vat with one hand resting on its edge, gently rubbing along the vat's surface.

This vat was called the Bonded Eight Spirits Vat, and it was a treasure that he had obtained from the Transient Guild's trade array plate at quite a heavy price.

This wasn't a treasure that could help him in battle or in his cultivation. Instead, it was something that was specifically used to find certain people or objects.

In contrast with other similar treasures, this vat could only be used to search for people or objects that had a bloodline or spiritual connection with the user.

Han Li had exchanged for the vat despite the heavy asking price as he wanted to use it to find his bonded flying swords, the Gold Devouring Beetle Monarch, and other important things.

He raised his head to look at the sunlight that was filtering over the wall of his courtyard, and with a flick of his wrist, several longan-sized top-grade spirit stones appeared on his palm, all of which were giving off watery blue radiance or an earthy yellow glow.

He walked a lap around the vat, embedding the water and earth-attribute spirit stones in his hands into the mouths of the eight beasts engraved onto the vat's surface.

After that, he returned to his original spot before beginning to chant an incantation, and a hint of excitement gradually began to appear in his eyes.

As the first ray of morning sunlight shone over the wall and down onto the vat, the surface of the water in the vat was immediately tinged with a faint golden glow.

Han Li placed both hands onto the edge of the vat upon seeing this, then switched to another incantation, one that was very profound and difficult to understand.

As he did this, the sector-shaped array beneath the vat began to glow with azure light, and eight ancient runes on the vat also began to shine brightly.

At the same time, the still surface of the water in the vat began to ripple, and the mouths of the beasts engraved onto the vat also lit up in unison.

Blue and yellow light began to shine into the vat from its walls, illuminating the water inside the vat to form a blue and yellow yin yang diagram.

A serious look appeared in Han Li's eyes as he raised a hand before extending it over the surface of the water.

A faint burst of light flashed over his index finger, and drop of golden blood essence slowly appeared before dripping down.

A dull thud immediately rang out, seemingly from directly within Han Li's consciousness.

He stared intently into the water, and he saw that after the drop of blood essence fell into the water, not only did it not display any signs of dissolving, it began to rapidly revolve like a spinning top instead.

As a result, all of the water in the entire vat was quickly stirred up, and the originally clearly divided yellow and blue light were also mixed together somehow, forming a series of strange lines that resembled mountains and rivers.

Han Li began to chant another incantation upon seeing this, and the drop of blood essence instantly stopped spinning, as if it had just received an instruction.

It then warped and changed shape to form a miniature golden sword, which was completely identical in shape to Han Li's bonded flying swords, his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords.

"Go!" Han Li instructed, and the tiny golden sword immediately began to vibrate at a high speed on the surface of the water, then abruptly changed turned to the east before quickly hurtling away in that direction.

The sword was moving very quickly, and the area within the vat was quite limited, so it should've struck the wall of the vat in an instant, but as it turned out, the tip of the sword continued to maintain a distance of around a foot away from the wall of the vat, keeping them separated.

However, upon closer inspection, one would discover that the mountain and river patters on the surface of the water in the vat was rapidly receding, making it appear as if the sword were traveling over a vast distance.

Only after around 15 minutes had passed did the mountain and river patterns on the surface of the water gradually draw to a halt, and the golden sword was suspended over a set of blurry and indistinct patterns.

Han Li couldn't clearly see the terrain being displayed by the patterns. All he could tell was that the swords were definitely outside of the Black Wind Sea, and they were extremely far away in the east.

After looking at the surface of the water for a moment longer, he pointed a finger at the miniature golden sword, trying to get a clearer sense of the current situation that his bonded flying swords were in.

However, in the instant that his finger came into contact with the golden sword, his consciousness suddenly rippled slightly, and a faint hint of familiarity rose up in his soul.

Could it be...

Han Li immediately closed his eyes and focused on examining this sensation, and moments later, his eyes abruptly sprang back open, and an ecstatic look appeared on his face as he exclaimed, "There's no mistaking it! That's Daoist Xie's aura!"

However, a perplexed look then quickly appeared on his face. Did this mean that Daoist Xie and the Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords were together, or did they just so happen to be situated not far away from one another?

With that in mind, another thought occurred to him, and he murmured to himself, "I wonder if Jin Tong is with them as well."

To follow up on that thought, he began to chant another incantation, then gently swept the palm of his hand over the surface of the water.

The tiny golden sword in the water instantly reverted back to a drop of blood essence, and after completing his incantation, Han Li instructed once again, "Go!"

The drop of blood essence shuddered slightly, then began to dart around haphazardly through the water like a headless fly.

Moments later, it abruptly sank straight down to the bottom of the vat, where it vanished without a trace.

With the disappearance of that drop of blood essence, the spirit stones embedded into the vat were also completely spent, and the glow that they were radiating gradually faded. As a result, the water inside the vat also reverted back to its original state.

Han Li couldn't help but heave a forlorn sigh upon seeing this.

He didn't know whether it was because the subject was too far away, or if there were some other reason at play, but the drop of blood essence was unable to determine the Gold Devouring Beetle Monarch's location. In fact, it wasn't even able to determine the direction that it was in.

If it weren't for the fact that Han Li could still feel an extremely faint spiritual connection to the Gold Devouring Beetle Monarch, he would've perhaps been inclined to believe that it had already perished.

Thankfully, he had received some leads on the Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords and Daoist Xie. Even though it was only a rough direction, it was still certainly better than nothing.

He was confident that if he were to set off in search of them according to the direction provided by the vat, he would be able to track them down with his spiritual connection to them once he was close enough.

With that in mind, Han Li was struck by the impulsive urge to set off right away, but he knew that even if he were to set off on such a journey, he had to take care of some matters on Dark Veil Island first.

1. As a quick reminder, Jin Tong is the name of the Gold Devouring Beetle Monarch. 金童

2. All three of these are beasts from Chinese mythology. 妖兽

Chapter 136: Arrangements

Close to a month later.

In a secluded area of the Black Wind Sea, there were over 100 small gray islands littered across the region.

These islands were all of different sizes, but they were all smaller than 10,000 kilometers in area, and they resembled a string of pearls embeeded onto a wall of jade.

Vegetations on the islands were very sparse, as was the spiritual qi. Not only was there not a single animal to be seen on the island, there weren't even any seabirds in the area, presenting a rather bleak and desolate sight to behold.

In reality, these islands had all been encompassed under a near-transparent light barrier, and if one were outside the light barrier, they would only be able to see a vast stretch of empty ocean. In fact, even if the average True Immortal cultivator were to scour the area with their spiritual sense, they wouldn't be able to discover anything amiss.

At this moment, two figures, one male and one female, were seated on either side of a round stone table in a secret chamber constructed in the belly of a mountain on a certain island.

One of them was a man with an imposing physique and a hollow helmet on his face, and it was none other than Ancestral God Han Qiu of the Cold Crystal Race, and the woman with him was Mistress Gu Gu, with whom he had targeted Han Li on multiple occasions.

"Are you sure he won't be able to find us here, Fellow Daoist Han Qiu?" Mistress Gu Gu asked as she gripped tightly onto the teacup in his hand, within which the tea had gone cold long ago.

"Rest assured, Fellow Daoist Gu Gu. I had to spend almost all of my belongings to exchange for this illusory array from Master Illusory Light, even a Late-True Immortal cultivator wouldn't be able to find us here. That man is only a Profound Immortal, so there's no chance he'll discover us.

"Even if he does stumble into this area, he won't be able to see the true landscape as long as he doesn't break the core of the array," Han Qiu replied, but despite what he was saying, there was a rather uncertain look in his eyes.

"I should've never allowed myself to get involved in this mess! Not only has my avatar been destroyed, I can't even return to my home! If I hadn't taken part in this, I would still be doing whatever I please on my Worry Bone Island!" Mistress Gu Gu sighed.

"What's the point of saying that now? As Earthly Immortals, we're envied by countless people, but even in the Black Wind Sea, we are only bottom-dwellers. Risk and reward come hand in hand, and unless we're blessed with immense fortune, our situation most likely won't change even over the course of the next 100,000 years. How is an existence like this different from being dead? I made an error in judgment this time, but as long as we can weather the storm here and refine new avatars, we can definitely rise again someday!" Han Qiu said.

"You make it sound so easy to refine new avatars. If you ask me, we should find a way to leave the Black Wind Sea," Mistress Gu Gu said as she released her teacup.

"That's preposterous! Setting aside the fact that we don't have a way out, even if we somehow manage to leave the Black Wind Sea, we'll lose the protection of our law powers, and we wouldn't even be able to match the average itinerant cultivator in battle! How would that be a better option to staying here?" Han Qiu harrumphed coldly.

A dejected look appeared on Mistress Gu Gu's face upon hearing this, and she didn't say anything further.

Right at this moment, Han Qiu abruptly sprang up from his chair as if he had been pricked in the bottom, and he yelled, "Impossible!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, a burst of earth-shattering rumbling rang out, and all of the islands in the entire area shuddered in unison, along with the transparent light barrier above them.

Enormous plumes of dust rose up into the sky as a series of bottomless rifts appeared on all of the islands. Countless rock fragments erupted forth in all directions before falling onto the surface of the sea like rain, churning up its surface into a frenzy.

Massive waves swept through the area, and one island after another began to crumble away before sinking to the bottom of the sea.

Two figures emerged from the smoke and debris, and they didn't linger for even a single moment as they flew westward as quickly as they could.

However, they were only able to flee for a few hundred kilometers before a streak of light arrived directly in front of them.

Grim looks appeared on Han Qiu and Gu Gu's faces as they looked at the figure they were being confronted by.

Han Qiu swallowed his pride and extended a slight bow as he asked, "Senior Liu, is there really no way that you would spare us?"

Han Li merely smiled and offered no response.

Han Qiu also fell silent for a moment, then continued in a careful voice, "If you spare our lives, we're willing to offer up everything in our respective races in gratitude."

Meanwhile, his hands were concealed up his sleeves, and he was tightly gripping an azure jade tablet in one hand, while making a hand seal with the other.

Mistress Gu Gu hadn't said anything, but she had also subtly withdrawn her hands up her sleeves.

Right at this moment, a layer of azure light appeared over Han Li's body, and he took a step toward the two Ancestral Gods.

Both of the Ancestral Gods immediately sprang into action upon seeing this, and a burst of radiant azure light appeared from one of each of their sleeves before connecting together to envelop the two.

In the blink of an eye, the two of them vanished from the spot.

Mere moments later, a flash of light appeared in the sky tens of thousands of kilometers away, and the two of them reappeared.

"Thank heavens we prepared this pair of Divine Travel Pendants in advance. Even as Profound Immortal, I'm sure he won't be able to catch up to us anytime soon," Han Qiu said as he inspected his surroundings with a hint of lingering fear in his eyes.

"These Divine Travel Pendants are indeed quite extraordinary. The only drawbacks are that they take too long to activate and require both of us to activate them at once. We almost didn't make it out in time back there. This place isn't safe, either, so we should continue on our way," Mistress Gu Gu said in a concerned manner.

Han Qiu was just about to respond when a voice suddenly rang out from the faraway distance.

"You two got away a bit faster than your avatars did."

Han Qiu and Gu Gu were horrified by the sound of the voice, and they immediately tried to activate their Divine Travel Pendants once again, only for Han Li to descend right before them in a flash.

"How is he this fast?" Mistress Gu Gu wailed in a despairing voice.

Han Qiu's eyes were also filled with shock and horror.

With a flick of his wrist, Han Li summoned a black longsword into his grasp, and it was none other than the one that Mistress Gu Gu's had used.

He pointed the tip of the sword upward, and a massive sword projection that resembled an enormous mountain appeared, piercing a hole straight through the clouds up above.

Han Qiu and Mistress Gu Gu were in complete despair, but they still mustered up their final shreds of courage to summon their most powerful treasures.

With a sweep of his sleeve, a translucent wheel of ice appeared in front of Han Qiu. The wheel was riddled with countless ice spikes that were giving off white glacial qi.

Meanwhile, Gu Gu swept her hands through the air, and a gray puppet appeared out of thin air, then vanished into her body amid a flash of light.

Han Li could see what they were doing, but he paid it no heed as he abruptly turned his wrist downward.

A sharp screeching sound rang out as the mountainous sword projection was instantly tipped upside-down before crashing down upon the two Ancestral Gods.

Han Qiu immediately opened his mouth upon seeing this, expelling a mouthful of blood essence from under his visor, and the blood essence vanished into the white wheel of ice in a flash.

Immediately thereafter, it was as if the ice wheel had sprung to life, and it began to rapidly revolve on the spot before transforming into a huge ice phoenix that flew directly toward the oncoming sword projection.

Meanwhile, a cloud of dense mist began to surge out of Mistress Gu Gu's body, sending a powerful corrosive aura surging through the air.

In the next instant, the black sword protection swelled even further in size, completely obscuring the heavens.

The gray mist was instantly dispelled, while the ice phoenix was decapitated, and the bodies of the two Ancestral Gods were completely destroyed by the sword projection.

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Meanwhile, Han Li's Earthly Deity Avatar had arrived on the island of the Cold Crystal Race along with Luo Feng.

First, they slew several elders and the chief of the opposing race, then smashed all of the statues of Han Qiu on the island. Only after that did they declare that Han Qiu was already dead, and that Cold Crystal Island now belonged to Dark Veil Island.

The Cold Crystal beings naturally refused to believe this initially, but Han Qiu remained absent, and they had also lost the protective light membranes granted to them by their Ancestral God, so they had no choice but to surrender.

After that, the two of them traveled to Worry Bone Island and repeated the same process.

During the following month, Dark Veil Island's new Ancestral God, Liu Shi, quickly became a name that everyone in the nearby region was aware of. The Ancestral Gods that had targeted him in the past were so horrified that they all fled their islands, not daring to return.

As for the nearby Ancestral Gods who were yet to make contact with Han Li, all of them hurriedly traveled to Dark Veil Island to try and appease him.

There were even two itinerant cultivators that joined Dark Veil Island to become guest elders, and they were sent to preside over Cold Crystal Island and Worry Bone Island in his stead.

All of a sudden, Dark Veil Island had become a dominant force in the region.

However, all Han Li did was slay Han Qiu and Gu Gu, and he left everything else to Luo Feng and his avatar.

Several months later, in the secret chamber of Han Li's courtyard.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed on a futon, while Luo Feng was standing before him with a serious look on his face.

"I have to go into seclusion soon, and I'll most likely be in seclusion for a very long time. My avatar is also busy cultivating, so you'll be solely responsible for overseeing matters on the island," Han Li said.

"Rest assured, Senior Liu, I'll be sure to look after the island diligently in your stead," Luo Feng hurriedly replied.

"I'm going to be setting up an array around this courtyard soon, and no one is permitted to approach this place. If you encounter something that you can't take care of, don't come to me, just seek out my avatar," Han Li instructed.

"Yes, Senior Liu," Luo Feng immediately replied.

Following Luo Feng's departure, a streak of blue light abruptly flew out of Han Li's body, then transformed into a humanoid figure, revealing itself to be none other than his Earthly Deity Avatar.

Han Li rose to his feet, then flipped a hand over to produce a pair of identical black array plates, one of which he handed to his Earthly Deity Avatar.

The array plates were similar in size and shape to go boards, and their surfaces were riddled with countless small white dots, while a nine palace grid and the 16 directions were engraved onto the edge of the plate, presenting a rather intriguing sight to behold.

The plates were called Twin Starshift Plates, and they were capable of teleporting treasures from one plate to another. This was another treasure that he had exchanged from the Transient Guild at a very steep cost.

One night, around half a month later, a figure with an extremely well-disguised aura left Dark Veil Island in a stealthy fashion.

Only upon arriving in an area of open sea several dozen kilometers away from the island did the figure abruptly transform into a streak of azure light, hurtling rapidly toward the center of the Black Wind Sea.

Chapter 137: Black Wind City

As the center of the entire Black Wind Sea, Black Wind Island boasted an extremely vast territory, and it was more appropriate to call it a continent than an island.

Aside from the main Black Wind Island, there were also dozens of islands littered throughout the nearby area.

Black Wind Island had an abundance of spirit veins and world's origin qi, and its massive territory was laden with resources, far more so than other islands. Furthermore, it had the only teleportation array that led to the outside world.

Every day, there were countless immortals, mortals, and resources converging to Black Wind Island from all parts of the Black Wind Sea. Similarly, there were also countless rare materials that were exchanged here before spreading to all parts of the Black Wind Sea, making this an extremely thriving central hub.

There were even some who proclaimed that half of the Black Wind Sea's most precious resources were concentrated on Black Wind Island.

On the southern coast of Black Wind Island was an enormous city that resembled a gargantuan beast laying sprawled out on the ground. The city walls alone were thousands of feet tall, resembling vast mountains.

The city was filled with an array of imposing and majestic buildings, as well as wide and pristine streets that were teeming with pedestrians.

There were also buildings hovering in the air above, and streaks of light were traversing back and forth through the air.

This city was Black Wind City, the largest city on Black Wind Island, and it was also home to the teleportation array that led to the outside world.

Even before first light, the entire city had already been teeming with activity for quite some time.

As a coastal city, Black Wind City had an abundance of all types of piers and docks. Countless boats and ships of different sizes were constantly traveling over the sea to reach Black Wind City, and the vast majority of them belonged to mortals.

There was a particularly large pier on an area of the coast close to 10 kilometers away from Black Wind City. The pier was thousands of feet long and around 200 to 300 feet wide. It was entirely constructed from white jade, and there were countless faintly glowing runes engraved onto its surface.

The white jade pier stood far taller than the surface of the sea down below, resembling the resting arm of a giant.

At this moment, the pier was packed with people, all of whom were staring expectantly into the distance, as if they were waiting for something.

There was a completely unremarkable-looking young man standing in the crowd. He appeared to be around 17 to 18 years of age and had a slightly dark complexion.

Mu Xue gently exhaled, and he was immediately greeted by the unique fishy and salty aroma of the sea breeze, which caused his brows to furrow slightly.

Having come from an inland region, even though he had already been on Black Wind Sea for two years, he still wasn't used to the smell of the sea.

Right at this moment, a voice suddenly rang out nearby. "You've come pretty early today as well, Brother Mu."

Mu Xue turned to discover a man with an imposing figure making his way toward him. The man had a thick and coarse beard, and his facial features were rather menacing to behold.

Surely you jest, Brother Zhao. When have I ever arrived earlier than you?" Mu Xue chuckled.

The man's name was Zhao Hu, and despite his intimidating appearance, he actually had quite an easy-going personality. Just like Mu Xue, both of them were foreign itinerant cultivators who had come to Black Wind City to make a living, and the two of them had established a close friendship.

The two began to make small talk with one another, and Zhao Hu lowered his voice as he asked, "How have things gone for you this month, Brother Mu?"

As it turned out, luck hadn't been on Mu Xue's side recently, and his brows furrowed slightly as he shook his head in response. "Things haven't been great recently. I haven't received many jobs at all in the past few days. What about you, Brother Zhao?"

"I received a job from an important client yesterday and managed to make some money," Zhao Hu replied with a pleased expression, but he wasn't gloating to Mu Xue.

"I'm going to make an extra effort and strive to earn enough spirit stones to buy a vial of Nascent Formation Elixir by the end of the year," Zhao Hu continued with a hint of excitement in his eyes.

"I must offer you my congratulations in advance then, Brother. Given your spiritual roots and cultivation aptitude, you'll definitely be able to manifest a nascent soul with the assistance of some Nascent Formation Elixir. Once that happens, you'll be able to venture out into the sea with hunting parties to hunt for sea beasts, and you'll be able to earn spirit stones far more quickly than you are now!" Mu Xue said with a hint of envy on his face.

He had only just reached the Core Formation Stage, so he was still far away from the Nascent Soul Stage.

Zhao Hu's smile grew even more pronounced upon hearing this, and he patted Mu Xue on the shoulder as he said, "You're still a young man, Brother Mu. The only advantage that I have over you is my age. By the time you get to my age, you'll have left me far behind."

Right at this moment, a burst of dull rumbling rang out from the distant horizon.

Mu Xue and Zhao Hu immediately ceased their conversation as they turned their attention to the horizon.

Several clouds were drifting apart in the sky amid the rumbling, and an enormous white shadow appeared in the distance.

It was traveling extremely quickly, arriving near the pier in just a few seconds to reveal itself to be a gargantuan white louchuan.

The vessel was over 10,000 feet in length and close to 1,000 feet tall, hovering in mid-air like a majestic white mountain.

The louchuan had somewhere between 20 to 30 levels, and every single level was divided up into countless square grids, which were the windows of the rooms on the ship.

The louchuan rapidly decelerated as it arrived at the pier, quickly drawing to a halt in mid-air.

All of a sudden, the spirit patterns on the pier began to radiate spiritual light of various colors, which converged to form a thick pillar of light that erupted straight into the heavens, coming into direct contact with the giant vessel.

In response, countless spirit patterns appeared on the underside of the vessel as well, forming a series of arrays, and the pillar of light instantly injected itself into the spirit patterns.

The pillar of light resembled a giant chain that connected the pier and the louchuan together.

Under the guidance of the pillar of light, the giant white vessel slowly descended, coming to a rest in front of the pier.

The louchuan was called the Skydrift Cloud Ark, and it was vastly renowned throughout the Black Wind Sea.

Even though the Black Wind Sea was only considered to be an insignificant rural area in the context of the entire Northern Glacial Immortal Region, its area was incredibly vast in the eyes of all of the cultivators here.

Even for a True Immortal, it would've taken them countless years to fly across the entire Black Wind Sea.

The islands in the Black Wind Sea were very dispersed, and all types of demon beasts were residing in the sea, making it a very perilous region. Hence, it was extremely inconvenient for cultivators to travel to different islands unless they were at the True Immortal Stage.

The number one trading house on Black Wind Island had identified this as a business opportunity, expending a huge amount of resources to construct this Skydrift Cloud Ark, which was capable of transporting tens of thousands of people to all parts of the Black Wind Sea.

Thanks to the special refinement methods used, the Skydrift Cloud Ark was extremely fast, far more so than the average True Immortal cultivator.

Even though traveling on the ship was quite expensive, it was still a very popular form of transport among the cultivators of the Black Wind Sea for its speed and safety.

All of a sudden, a vast expanse of white light began to radiate from the Skydrift Cloud Ark, and the white radiance formed a long passageway that was projected to the pier.

A series of cultivators then flew out from the passageway before arriving on the pier.

Mu Xue and Zhao Hu immediately approached those cultivators with smiles on their faces.

"May I ask if you're traveling to Black Wind City, esteemed senior? I reside permanently in the city, so I know it like the back of my hand. If you want to go somewhere or do something in the city, I'll definitely be able to help you," Mu Xue said to a black-robed man in a welcoming voice.

Meanwhile, Zhao Hu had approached someone else and was doing the same thing, as was everyone on the pier around them.

The black-robed man paid no heed to Mu Xue and flew directly toward Black Wind City himself.

However, Mu Xue wasn't disheartened in the slightest, and he immediately turned to the next person with a welcoming smile. However, that person also ignored him and flew away on their own.

Before long, over half of the louchuan's passengers had already disembarked, but up to this point, no one was willing to hire Mu Xue.

"Yes! Rest assured, Senior, you can count on me!"

Meanwhile, Zhao Hu had already received a client.

It was a Body Integration cultivator, who swept a hand through the air to release a burst of blue light that enveloped Zhao Hu's body, following which both of them flew toward Black Wind City.

A hint of frustration flashed through Mu Xue's eyes upon seeing this. Perhaps it was because he was still too young and perceived to be lacking in maturity, but business had always been quite lackluster for him.

Right at this moment, an azure-robed man drifted down from the louchuan, but instead of immediately setting off for Black Wind City, he began to inspect his surroundings as if he were appreciating the scenery.

"Is this your first time coming to Black Wind Island, Senior? If you're going to Black Wind City, then you'll most likely require a guide. Black Wind City is extremely massive, and not only is the layout of its streets very complex, there are restrictions in the city that limit the use of one's spiritual sense.

"If you don't have a capable guide, it'll be quite troublesome to find things. I grew up my entire life in Black Wind City, so I'll definitely be able to help you get to where you want to go," Mu Xue greeted.

"So you're a guide?" the azure-robed man asked.

"That's right. I've already been working as a guide here for about four or five years, and I only charge five mid-grade spirit stones for my services."

Mu Xue could tell that Han Li was interested, and he was ecstatic. In order to ensure that this client didn't slip through his hands, he charged a slightly lower price than normal.

"This is indeed my first time visiting Black Wind City, so I will be needing a guide," the azure-robed man replied with a nod, then swept a hand through the air to release a burst of azure light, which carried both of them toward Black Wind City.

"What's your name?" the azure-robed man asked as he took a glance at Mu Xue.

"My name is Mu Xue," Mu Xue hurriedly replied.

"Mu Xue? That sounds like a girl's name," the azure-robed man remarked with a faint smile.

"My name was given to me by my mother," Mu Xue replied as he scratched his head in a slightly embarrassed manner.

"You just told me that you grew up your entire life in Black Wind City. Those who live by the sea are constantly exposed to the sea breeze, which will result in a dark complexion, but also some red coloration of the skin, and you don't seem to fit that bill. I'm assuming you actually grew up in a mountainous area, right?" the azure-robed man asked with a hint of a smile on his face.

Mu Xue's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this, and he lowered his head as he replied, "Your wisdom is truly unmatched, Senior. I did indeed grow up in a mountain village, and I offer you my sincerest apologies for lying to you. As an outsider, I have no choice but to tell some lies in order to make a living in Black Wind City."

"It's fine, that doesn't matter to me. All that matters is that you serve as a good guide," the azure-robed man replied with a dismissive wave of his hand, and a reminiscent look had appeared in his eyes.

The azure-robed man was none other than Han Li, and it had taken him around two months aboard the Skydrift Cloud Ark to arrive at Black Wind City.

As he took in the city before him, a hint of surprise flashed through his eyes.

The city was so massive that even with his exceptional eyesight, he was unable to see its boundaries. The entire city was encompassed under an enormous array, which was giving off immense spiritual power fluctuations.

The two of them quickly arrived near Black Wind City, where they were greeted by dozens of different gates on the city wall.

"These gates are meant to split up the different types of visitors to the city. Local residents or cultivators generally don't need to pay an entrance fee, whereas mortals or merchant parties have to pay in silver. You're a cultivator who's visiting the city for the first, so you'll need to go through that gate," Mu Xue introduced as he pointed to a certain gate on the left.

Chapter 138: Immortal Origin Stones and Earthly Pill Masters

Han Li merely nodded in response and flew directly toward the gate that Mu Xue was gesturing toward.

A long line had already taken shape in front of the gate designated for foreign cultivators, and there were several black-robed cultivators stationed at the gate, accepting entrance fees from all those entering the city.

These people appeared to be no different from human cultivator, but in reality, they were all Dao Warriors.

There were several lines of large text engraved onto one side of the city gate, displaying the different fees that had to be submitted by visitors of different cultivation bases. However, the highest tier was only for Spatial Tempering cultivators, and no fees were specified for those at or above the Body Integration Stage.

"Why does it only go up to Spatial Tempering cultivators? Does this mean those at or above the Body Integration Stage don't need to pay an entrance fee?" Han Li asked.

"That is indeed the case, Senior. Cultivators at or above the Body Integration Stage are considered to be esteemed guest that don't need to pay," Mu Xue replied with a smile.

"I see," Han Li replied with a smile.

Before long, the two of them had already arrived at the city gate, and Han Li made his way into the city with his hands clasped behind his back without summoning any spirit stones.

Spiritual light flashed from the hands of the two Dao Warriors stationed at the gate, and the light flashed over Han Li's body before he was granted passage.

A hint of surprise appeared on Mu Xue's face upon seeing this. He handed one of the Dao Warriors a pair of low-grade spirit stones before hurriedly following along behind Han Li, and the awe and veneration in his eyes had only become more pronounced.

Beyond the city gate was a road that was around 70 to 80 feet wide, and it was paved with azure jade in a clean and orderly fashion.

The street was extremely lively and bustling, and cultivators were an extremely common sight, many of whom were quite advanced in their cultivation bases.

The street was lined with rows of well-organized shops that were all very clean and orderly, most of which sold cultivation materials of a very high quality.

There were no strict flight restrictions in the city, so as long as one didn't fly too high, they would be allowed to do as they pleased.

Hence, Han Li rose up into the air to inspect his surroundings.

He wasn't able to see much from outside, but now that he had entered the city, he was greeted by the sight of one bustling street after another, stretching as far as his eyes could see. These streets were all teeming with pedestrians, as well as countless shops of all descriptions.

He couldn't help but be stunned by the sight of such a thriving city.

"Esteemed senior, have you come to Black Wind City to buy something, or is there something else on your agenda?" Mu Xue asked in a careful voice as he arrived beside Han Li.

"I heard that the teleportation array leading out of the Black Wind Sea is in this city, is that right?" Han Li asked.

"It is. The teleportation array is in the Heavenly Star Pagoda at the center of the city. Could it be that you wish to leave the Black Wind Sea, Senior?" Mu Xue asked.

Han Li merely nodded in response.

"I don't mean to be rude, Senior, but every year, there are many people who come to Black Wind City with the intention of leaving the Black Wind Sea, but almost all of them end up failing. It's a very difficult task to be granted access to that teleportation array," Mu Xue said with a wry smile.

Han Li's expression remained unchanged as he asked, "Oh? And why is that?"

"The teleportation array connected to the outside world is an ancient teleportation array controlled by the island master, and it's only activated once every century. There's only a set number of people teleported each time, and the island master decides who gets to fill those spots. Not only will you have to claim one of those spots, using the array incurs an extremely steep cost that even many immortals can afford," Mu Xue explained.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, and he asked, "Do you know when the array is set to be activated next?"

"It shouldn't be too far away. The array is always activated after the grand auction, which also takes place once every century. The grand auction is happening soon, and that's why the city is more lively than usual," Mu Xue replied.

Han Li was rather relieved to hear this, and he asked, "So how do I secure one of those spots from the island master?"

Mu Xue's expression stiffened slightly, and he scratched his head sheepishly as he replied, "Well... This is a rather confidential matter, and my cultivation base is too low, so I'm afraid I don't know..."

Han Li didn't blame Mu Xue for his lack of knowledge on this subject, and he asked, "You also just mentioned that the cost to use the array is very expensive. How many spirit stones will it require?"

"The island master asks for immortal origin stones rather than spirit stones, and five are required per person," Mu Xue replied.

"Immortal origin stones? What're those?" Han Li asked.

"From what I've heard, immortal origin stones are a type of special currency used by immortals, and their creation requires an immortal to inject their energy into a certain type of special crystal," Mu Xue replied.

This was the first time that Han Li had ever heard of immortal origin stones, and after a moment of contemplation, he asked, "How much are these stones worth? If they're a type of currency, then surely they can be exchanged for with spirit stones, right?"

"Immortal origin stones aren't just an ordinary type of currency. Apparently, they're extremely precious even to immortals, and generally speaking, no one would put them up for trade. I've already been in Black Wind City for many years, and I've only ever heard of one occasion several decades ago when a trading house managed to exchange for an immortal origin stone from an immortal.

"At the time, the trading house had to sell several of its shops on the island to gather enough spirit stones for the transaction," Mu Xue replied.

Han Li nodded in response with a contemplative expression, and he was rather intrigued by the concept of these stones.

He didn't ask any further questions, nor had he expected leaving the Black Wind Sea to be a simple matter.

In any case, he was very curious about Black Wind City, so there was no hurry for him to pursue this matter.

With that in mind, he made his way deeper into the city, while Mu Xue trailed along behind him, providing him with tidbits of information on the city.

The two of them explored the city for close to half a day, and it was a very eye-opening experience for Han Li.

What was particularly of interest to him was the central area of the city, which boasted countless pill shops, material shops, and treasure shops of all descriptions, presenting an almost dizzying sight to behold.

However, according to Mu Xue, they had only explored less than 10% of the city, and upon hearing that, Han Li was thoroughly convinced that this was indeed the largest city in the entire Black Wind Sea.

All of a sudden, he drew to a halt and turned his gaze to a large shop on the side of the street.

This was a five-story shop with a wide entrance, and the decor was lavish, but not excessively so. Instead, it gave off quite a grand and majestic aura, and it was a huge pill shop.

"This Thousand Medicine House is arguably the best pill shop in all of Black Wind City, and it's said that the shop even has some ties with the island master. They sell all types of precious pills at fair prices, and they've always maintained a spotless reputation," Mu Xue introduced.

Han Li nodded in response, then made his way into the shop.

He didn't have many energy recovery pills left, and he was in even shorter supply of other restorative pills. He was going to have to leave the Black Wind Sea and travel eastward in search of his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords, among other things, so he had to prepare a good stash of pills in case of emergencies.

Mu Xue followed him into the shop.

The shop was filled with wide counters, of which there were dozens in total. The counters were laden with all types of pills, as well as a whole host of pill refinement ingredients.

At this moment, there were quite a few customers browsing through the wares sold in the shop.

Han Li and Mu Xue were immediately welcomed by a yellow-robed attendant upon entering the shop. "Welcome to our Thousand Medicine House. May I ask what type of pills you need?"

Han Li took a glance at the counters around him, following which his brows furrowed slightly.

The pills on these counters were all quite good, but they weren't of a sufficient standard to be of use to him.

"Are these all the pills that you have here? Do you have any better pills?" Han Li asked.

The attendant took a closer look at Han Li upon seeing this, seemingly trying to gauge Han Li's status, then replied, "Our shop is the best pill shop in all of Black Wind City, so we naturally have better pills than this, but the price will also..."

All of a sudden, a yellow-robed elderly man hurriedly approached them, and he yelled, "Shut your mouth, you insolent cur! I'll attend to this senior!"

It was clear from his attire that he was also working at the shop, seemingly in a managerial position.

The attendant immediately realized that he had made a mistake, and he extended an apologetic bow toward Han Li before backing away with his head lowered.

"He has no clue what he's talking about, please don't take offense, Senior," the yellow-robed elderly man said as he cupped his fist in an apologetic salute.

Han Li was completely unbothered, and he replied, "It's alright. Where are your best pills? Take me to them."

"Please come with me," the yellow-robed elderly man said as he made an inviting hand gesture, also treating Mu Xue with a great deal of respect by extension.

Mu Xue hurriedly returned the salute.

"I am the manager here at the Thousand Medicine House, and my name is Lu Ping. May I ask your name, Senior?" the yellow-robed elderly man asked.

"Liu Shi."

"Welcome, Senior Liu. The pills sold on the first few floors of our Thousand Medicine House are all ordinary pills refined by Temporal Pill Masters, so it's no surprise that they haven't managed to catch your eye. If you visit our shop again, please head straight to the top floor. All of the pills there are refined by Master Hao, and I'm sure they'll be of use to you, Senior Liu," Manager Lu explained in a warm and hospitable voice.

In order to keep a low profile, Han Li had restricted his own cultivation base to the Grand Ascension Stage. Lu Ping was an early-Body Integration cultivator, so he was already able to get a rough sense of Han Li's aura.

"Master Hao is one of the Black Wind Sea's top three pill refinement masters, and it's said that his skills are already on par with those of a B-grade Earthly Pill Master," Mu Xue explained to Han Li in a quiet voice.

As he was speaking, the three of them had already arrived on the fifth floor.

There were only counters here, only intricately crafted wooden shelves. There were only three such shelves with several attendants standing next to each shelf, but there wasn't a single customer on the level aside from Han Li.

"Our Thousand Medicine House has very close ties with Master Hao, and most of the pills refined by him are sold in our shop. This shelf contains pills to enhance one's cultivation base, all of these restorative pills, and over here are the pills that have regenerative, antidotal, and other effects," Manager Lu introduced.

Han Li's eyes lit up slightly at the sight of these pills.

As expected of the best pill shop in Black Wind City, all of the pills here appeared to be of quite a high quality, not inferior in the slightest to the ones that he had exchanged from the Transient Guild. In fact, there were even a few that were clearly of a higher quality.

Judging from the prior conversation, it seemed that only those capable of refining pills useful to immortals or those close to ascending to become immortals could be referred to as Earthly Pill Masters. In contrast, those who refined pills for ordinary cultivators were Temporal Pill Masters. At the very least, that was the assumption that Han Li was making.

As for whether this was actually the case, he would have to find a chance to clarify the matter.

Chapter 139: Pill Masters of the Immortal Realm

Han Li didn't pay any attention to the pills used for cultivation base enhancement or restoration. Instead, he made his way straight to the shelf that carried energy recovery pills.

Beneath each pill on the shelf was a detailed description of the pill's effects, as well as its price.

His gaze slowly roamed over the shelf, and he quickly spotted a type of pill called the Origin Return Pill.

This pill had an immense energy recovery effect. Every time he manifested a crystal that contained the laws of time, he would be left in desperately short supply of energy, so this pill was perfect for shortening his recovery time.

"I'll take five vials of Origin Return Pills," Han Li declared.

Each vial only contained three pills, but it cost 30 top-grade spirit stones. Thankfully, Han Li had obtained quite a few top-grade spirit stones from the Earthly Immortals and itinerant cultivators that he had previously slain, so the price wasn't too steep for him to afford.

"Yes, Senior!" An elated look appeared on Lu Ping's face as he pulled out a badge.

A burst of white light shot out of the badge before landing on the protective barrier around the shelf, and an opening appeared, following which one of the attendants immediately crouched down and pulled out five green jade vials.

After some more searching, Han Li picked out some Origin Watch Pills, which allowed the consumer to accelerate their absorption of the world's origin qi for a short time, as well as some Bone Alteration Pill, which was a pill that could provide a disguise that could fool even the spiritual sense of late-True Immortal cultivator.

These two types of pills weren't cheap, either, and he had spent the majority of his top-grade spirit stones here.

However, he was willing to make this investment if it meant that he could better deal with the potentially perilous journey ahead.

Manager Lu was naturally very pleased, seeing as this was quite a big sale for him.

Right as he was about to introduce some other pills to Han Li, the sound of footsteps rang out, and two more figures arrived on the fifth floor.

One of them was a young woman who appeared to be around 18 to 19 years of age. Her robes were as pristine as snow, and she resembled a pure celestial maiden who had descended from the palace on the moon.

Beside the young woman was a blue-robed young man who appeared to be in his twenties. He was also quite handsome in appearance, but the arrogant look on his face made for a negative first impression.

The blue-robed young man took a glance at Han Li out of the corner of his eye, then interjected in a rude manner, "Lu Ping, are the spirit ingredients I asked you to prepare last time ready?"

"Please pardon me for not coming out to greet you sooner, Master Fang. The spirit ingredients that you asked for have been prepared well in advance, I'll go fetch them now."

Manager Lu hurriedly made his way toward the duo, shooting Han Li an apologetic glance as he was speaking.

Han Li took a glance at the blue-robed young man, and his gaze settled onto a small crimson cauldron design emblazoned onto his collar.

"That's a symbol that can only be worn by pill masters. That man is an A-grade Temporal Pill Master," Mu Xue introduced in a quiet voice.

Han Li nodded in a contemplative manner upon hearing this, then withdrew his gaze as he continued to browse through the other pills on the shelves on his own.

Meanwhile, Lu Ping called over a couple of attendants to accompany the Master Fang and the young woman, while he quickly made his way downstairs.

The white-robed young woman had a concerned look on her face as she made her way over to the wooden shelf that carried all types of restorative and antidotal pills.

"Given Brother Mo's powers, I'd say he's most likely just fallen into some type of special space or restriction that severed his connection with his Origin Soul Lamp. There are examples of this happening in the past, so don't be too concerned," the blue-robed young man consoled in a gentle voice as he trailed along behind the young woman.

"I'm also confident in his abilities, but I have to find him no matter what," the young woman replied with a nod, and her voice was as crisp and pleasant as the call of an oriole.

Han Li paid no heed to the two of them as he quickly scanned through all of the pills on the fifth floor, but didn't find anything else that caught his fancy.

"Let's go," he said to Mu Xue, then turned to make his way back downstairs.

After leaving the Thousand Medicine House, Han Li took a glance at the throngs of people on the streets, then turned to Mu Xue as he asked, "Are there any cave abodes on Black Wind Island available for temporary accommodation?"

"Around 250 kilometers away from the city is a mountain by the name of Mount Youyang, and it was developed by the island master to serve as temporary accommodation for cultivators. I've taken a few people there in the past, so I'm very familiar with its whereabouts, and I can take you there as well if you need, Senior," Mu Xue replied.

"No need. Just tell me the rough location, and I'll go there on my own," Han Li said.

Mu Xue was slightly dejected to hear this, but he immediately did as he was told. "Just take the main road at the center of the city out of the northern gate and keep traveling northward to get to Mount Younyang."

With a flick of his wrist, Han Li casually tossed out a longan-sized azure rock, which fell toward Mu Xue.

Mu Xue hurriedly caught the object to find that it was a high-grade spirit stone, and an elated look immediately appeared on his face, but he then offered the spirit stone back to Han Li with both hands in a slightly fearful manner as he said, "This is too much, Senior. Five mid-grade spirit stones will suffice."

"Just take it. I'm not giving this spirit stone to you for free. There's something that I need you to find out for me," Han Li said with a smile.

Mu Xue faltered slightly upon hearing this, and he didn't immediately withdraw the spirit stone as he asked, "What is it, Senior?"

Han Li was quite pleased with Mu Xue's reaction, and he replied, "I want you to help me find out how I can claim one of the spots to leave the Black Wind Sea. If you can find out information that's useful to me, I'll be sure to reward you."

"Rest assured, Senior, you can count on me!" Mu Xue assured with a nod as an elated look appeared on his face.

With that, the two of them parted ways, departing in different directions.

Han Li slowly made his way along the main road at the center of the city while looking at the shops around him, and he was in no hurry as he casually strolled out of the city.

After emerging from the city, he walked for a while longer before abruptly springing up from the ground and vanishing in a flash.

250 kilometers was a distance that Han Li could cover in the blink of an eye, and he quickly descended in front of an elegant mountain that was several thousand feet tall.

He looked up to find that the mountain wasn't very tall, but it was extremely lush, and there was a ring of cloud and mist halfway up the mountain, giving it the appearance of an immortal abode.

He also noticed a layer of faint and peculiar spiritual power fluctuations that encompassed the entire mountain like an enormous, invisible net.

After observing the mountain for a moment, he withdrew his gaze, then made his way toward a grand hall situated at the entrance to the mountain.

Upon entering the hall, he was greeted by a sight of a massive screen, upon which the entirety of Mount Younyang was embroidered in golden thread, presenting a breathtaking sight to behold.

In front of the screen was a large wooden table that was of a reddish-purple color. Its surface was as smooth as a mirror, and a beast-head incense burner was sitting on the corner of the table, out of which incense smoke was billowing incessantly.

Behind the cloud of smoke was an elderly man in a scholarly azure robe, and he was reading an ancient book with keen interest, seemingly not having detected Han Li's arrival at all.

Han Li looked around to find that there was no one else in the hall, so he approached the table before clearing his throat to catch the elderly man's attention.

Only then did the elderly man raise his head to look at Han Li, and a hint of displeasure flashed through his eyes.

"Are you here to rent a cave abode?" the elderly man asked.

"Do you have any cave abodes that are more quiet and secluded in location?" Han Li asked.

The elderly man gave him a disgruntled glance as he replied, "I've heard this request so many times that my ears are about to develop callouses! Everyone who comes here asks for the same thing. Do you all regard yourselves as True Immortals?"

As soon as his voice trailed off, a burst of spiritual pressure that was far superior to the Grand Ascension Stage erupted out of Han Li's body, and the elderly man almost fell out of his chair in shock and horror.

He hurriedly stood up from his chair with a fearful expression, extending a deep bow as he implored, "Please forgive me for my insolence, Senior."

Han Li had no intention of pursuing the matter, and he withdrew his aura as he tossed a small pouch of spirit stones at the elderly man, then said, "Find me a quiet cave abode, and keep the change."

The elderly man accepted the pouch of spirit stones, and a hint of elation flashed through his eyes as he pointed at the giant screen behind him and said, "This cave abode here is situated on the edge of the Sun Watch Cliff on the mountain summit, and it's always been the most peaceful of the few A-grade cave abodes on the mountain. Will this one suffice for your needs?"

Han Li turned to find that a speck of light had appeared on the summit of the mountain embroidered on the screen, and it was indeed quite a peaceful and secluded location that was far away from all of the other cave abodes.

"Alright, I'll take that one," Han Li replied with a nod.

The elderly man immediately stowed the spirit stones away, then handed a round black badge to Han Li.

Moments later, outside the hall.

Han Li injected a wisp of magic power into the round badge, and a layer of faint dark golden light instantly appeared on its surface.

According to the elderly man, not only did this badge serve as the key to opening the cave abode, it was also the token that would allow him to enter Mount Youyang's mountain protection array.

As long as he had this badge in his possession, he would be able to fly anywhere on Mount Youyang. Otherwise, he would trigger the array and be targeted as a trespasser.

Han Li looked up at the sun, which was gradually setting in the west, and he flew up toward the mountain summit in a flash.

Before long, he had already arrived in a relatively spacious cave abode.

Even though restrictions had already been set up here, Han Li still set up several more restrictions of his own for peace of mind.

After that, he arrived in the secret chamber and sat down with his legs crossed, where he stared absentmindedly at the space before him with different emotions flashing through his eyes.

He had seen and heard many things in Black Wind City on this day that had left a deep impression on him.

After a brief silence, Han Li suddenly called out, "Mo Guang."

His shadow immediately swayed and warped for a moment, following which a shadowy figure emerged. It was none other than Mo Guang, and its expression was still as wooden as ever.

"Do you know how pill masters are ranked in the Immortal Realm, Fellow Daoist Mo Guang?" Han Li asked.

"According to my knowledge, pill masters of the Immortal Realm are primarily split up into three categories, namely Temporal, Earthly, and Heavenly," Mo Guang replied.

Chapter 140: Dao Pill

Han Li nodded with a contemplative look in his eyes, then said, "I see, so there really are Heavenly Pill Masters above Earthly ones. If I'm not mistaken, I presume Temporal Pill Masters can only refine pills useful to normal cultivators, while Earthly Pill Masters are capable of refining pills useful to immortals. So what sets a Heavenly Pill Master apart from those two?"

"You're largely correct on the classification of Temporal and Earthly Pill Master. As for Heavenly Pill Master, they're also known as Dao Pill Masters, and they're the loftiest pill refinement masters of the Immortal Realm. The one thing that separates them from other pill masters is their ability to refine dao pills," Mo Guang explained.

"How are dao pills different from other pills?" Han Li asked.

"Dao pills are pills that contain the power of laws," Mo Guang replied.

A thought seemed to have occurred to Han Li upon hearing this, and he asked, "Does that mean that consuming such pills will allow one to directly perceive the power of laws?"

"In the Immortal Realm, there are two main paths that immortals take to master the power of laws in order to become True Immortals, the first of which is through the use of cultivation methods, cultivating for vast spans of time for the slim chance of being able to attain the power of laws.

"The second path is to refine some type of spirit material that contains a certain type of power of laws into a pill, then taking that pill to directly perceive the power of laws contained within," Mo Guang explained.

Han Li was astonished to hear this, but he took a deep breath to compose himself, then asked, "Is that really true? Doesn't that mean that taking a single dao pill would save tens of thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of years of cultivation?"

"That's not the case. Even if one does manage to obtain a dao pill, there's still only a very slim chance that they'll be able to attain the power of laws contained in the pill. However, even so, these pills are still immensely beneficial to perceiving the power of laws," Mo Guang explained.

"The probability of being able to attain the power of laws through the consumption of dao pills must be related to the quality of the dao pill, right?" Han Li asked.

"Of course. Generally speaking, dao pills will definitely contain the power of laws, but not all pills that contain the power of laws are dao pills. The exact way to tell whether a pill is a dao pill or not is to see if there are dao patterns present on its surface following refinement, and the quality of a dao pill can be determined based on how many dao patterns it has," Mo Guang explained.

"Dao patterns, eh? Do you how many dao patterns the highest grade dao pills will carry?" Han Li asked.

"The most number of dao patterns a pill can have is nine, and those are referred to as ninth-tier dao pills, but they exist almost only in legends. Even first-tier dao pills are extremely rare and precious in the Immortal Realm," Mo Guang replied.

"I see... No wonder Heavenly Pill Masters are so revered in the Immortal Realm," Han Li mused.

"I'm aware that back in the Spirit Realm, you were already quite a capable pill refinement master, so I'm assuming you're asking these questions because you have aspirations of becoming a Heavenly Pill Master yourself.

"However, according to my knowledge, perhaps one in every 1,000 pill masters could become an Earthly Pill Master, but even among 100,000 Earthly Pill Master, perhaps not even a single one would go on to become a Dao Pill Master. As for Heavenly Pill Masters capable of refining high-grade dao pills, those are even rarer," Mo Guang said.

"Pill refinement is something that requires experience. Spirit materials that contain the power of laws are extremely rare, so there simply isn't enough of those materials to practice on," Han Li said with a smile, seemingly completely unsurprised by how rare Heavenly Pill Masters were.

"That is indeed an important reason. The other reason is that dao pill recipes are just are rare, and they're virtually all in the possession of the Immortal Realm's most powerful entities. Just like pill refinement masters of the Spirit Realm, most Heavenly Pill Masters serve those powerful entities, and its extremely rare to see an independent Heavenly Pill Master," Mo Guang explained.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this.

"Also, there's a rumor about dao pills, which is that the recipe for each type of dao pill can only be mastered by a set number of Heavenly Pill Masters. Once this quota is filled, no one else will be able to master the refinement method for that type of dao pill," Mo Guang added.

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this. "Really? That sounds a little far-fetched."

"No one has been able to verify the authenticity of this rumor, but everyone would rather believe that it's true than renounce the claim. Hence, generally speaking, unless it's absolutely necessary to do so, no one is willing to share their dao pill recipe with others," Mo Guang said.

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing this. This was completely understandable to him as he would do the exact same thing in that position.

"That's all I know about dao pills and Heavenly Pill Masters, I hope this information was helpful to you," Mo Guang concluded, then prepared to return to Han Li's shadow.

However, another thought suddenly occurred to Han Li, and he called out, "Please hold on for a moment, Fellow Daoist Mo Guang, I have something else to ask you."

"What is it, Fellow Daoist Han?" Mo Guang asked.

"I'd like to know more about immortal origin stones," Han Li said.

"Immortal origin stones are fantastic things that can quickly replenish one's immortal spiritual power during battle, and can also be used to enhance one's rate of cultivation, so they're extremely rare and sought-after everywhere in the Immortal Realm," Mo Guang said.

"I see, no wonder it can be used as a type of currency. How long does it take to create an immortal origin stone?" Han Li asked.

"That differs from person to person. Generally speaking, a late-True Immortal cultivator would be able to create one in a year, while a mid-True Immortal cultivator would take a decade, and it would take over a century for an early-True Immortal cultivator," Mo Guang replied.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this.

Five immortal origin stones were required to use the teleportation array, and in Han Li's mind, if these immortal origin stones didn't take very long to create, then he would've done so himself, but it seemed that this wasn't a feasible option.

"The timeframes that I just laid out apply only to low-grade immortal origin stones. Just like spirit stones, immortal origin stones are also split up into four grades, namely low-grade, mid-grade, high-grade, and top-grade. Generally speaking, only high-grade immortals will be able to create high-grade and top grade immortal origin stones," Mo Guang continued.

"Aside from the constant injection of immortal spiritual power, are there any other requirements to creating such stones?" Han Li asked.

"During the creation of an immortal origin stone, the creator will be unable to cultivate. No immortal is willing to deal with such a damning limitation, and that's why immortal origin stones of all grades are extremely rare in the Immortal Realm," Mo Guang replied.

Han Li nodded in response, and a disappointed look surfaced in his eyes.

It seemed that his chances of being able to exchange for immortal origin stones were also extremely slim.

Seeing as Han Li had fallen silent, Mo Guang knew that his services were no longer required, and it vanished into Han Li's shadow in a flash.

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That night.

A streak of light abruptly rose up from the summit of Mount Youyang, then vanished in the blink of an eye like a flash of lightning.

Shortly thereafter, a figure appeared in a secluded region of the sea tens of thousand of kilometers away, hovering above the surface of the water.

It was none other than Han Li, and his eyes were as bright as stars as he made a grabbing motion in front of his own chest, then tossed something high up into the air before beginning to chant an incantation.

As he did this, the small vial that was hovering in mid-air began to tremble violently, and all of the world's origin qi within the surrounding area also began to display signs of unrest.

A spherical azure light barrier began to slowly expand outward in all directions, and the waves on the surface of the sea began to surge and churn.

Seven days and seven nights passed by in the blink of an eye.

A small crystal slowly descended out of the sky, alongside the small vial, which had become virtually completely transparent, and the sea had returned to a calm and tranquil state.

Han Li had taken an Origin Return Pill in advance, so he wasn't left in an emaciated condition as he had been in the past. However, he was still looking rather feeble and weary, and after catching the crystal and the vial, he immediately flipped a hand over to produce a green jade vial, out of which he poured another Origin Return Pill that he promptly devoured.

A cool and refreshing sensation began to spread through his throat, and as the pill entered his stomach, the cool sensation quickly turned into a surge of warmth, which flowed throughout his body before finally entering his dantian.

He felt a slightly warm sensation in his dantian, following which the rate at which he was absorbing the world's origin qi increased drastically, thereby significantly enhancing his rate of immortal spiritual power recovery.

Manager Lu had told him about how exceptionally efficacious high-grade pills were, and at the time, Han Li hadn't taken it to heart, but only after taking these Origin Return pills did he come to realize just how different they were from the pills he had taken in the past.

This was a pill that could drastically enhance the rate of immortal spiritual power recovery for a short time. Furthermore, it could also be taken to enhance the rate of creation of immortal origin stones, so it was no wonder that they cost such a steep price.

After resting on the spot for a moment, Han Li flew back toward Black Wind City as a streak of azure light.

As soon as Han Li reappeared in the Thousand Medicine House, he was immediately spotted by Manager Lu, who was attending to another customer. He was rather taken aback to see Han Li back so soon, but he quickly excused himself, then approached Han Li with a warm smile.

"Welcome, Senior. To what do I owe this honor?" he asked as he cupped his fist in a respectful salute.

"The pills that I purchased from here last time were quite good, so I decided to come back and have another look," Han Li replied with a smile.

Manager Lu's smile widened even further upon hearing this, and he quickly led Han Li upstairs as he said, "You are most welcome to visit our shop at anytime, Senior. Please come with me."

Just like during Han Li's last visit, the fifth floor was very quiet, with not a single customer present.

"Have you come to purchase more Origin Return Pills, or would you like to try some other types of pills?" Manager Lu asked.

"Before I decide what pills I want to buy, I have some questions I'd like to ask you," Han Li said in a calm manner.

Manager Lu faltered slightly upon hearing this, then nodded in response. "Please go ahead, Senior."

"Not only are the pills sold in your shop very fast-acting, they're extremely efficacious as well, and I presume that must be directly related to the quality of the spirit ingredients used and the skills of the pill refinement master, right?" Han Li asked.

"That is indeed the case. It sounds like you're an expert in the art of pill refinement, Senior," Manager Lu said with a smile.

"I wouldn't call myself an expert, I'm only dabbled a little in pill refinement myself in the past as well," Han Li replied.

Manager Lu seemed to have been rather taken aback to hear this, and he hurriedly asked, "May I ask what tier pill refinement master you are, Senior?"

Han Li put on an embarrassed expression as he replied, "Truth be told, I've been residing in a secluded area for a long time prior to coming here, and I've never had a chance to have my pill refinement skills evaluated. One of the reasons I came today is to have my skills evaluated by a pill refinement master of your shop so I can determine what level I'm at."