

A Record 151

Chapter 151: Heavy Water Lightning Beads

The auction continued, and as the auction items increased further and further in value, the atmosphere in the venue was also becoming more fervent and electric.

At this point, the attendees on the second and third floors were the only ones still making bids, while those on the first floor could only watch the proceedings.

At this moment, there was a square jade box sitting on the auction platform, inside of which was a purple jade tome.

"The next item is a high-grade True Immortal cultivation art by the name of the Purple Heavens Lightning Arts. It's an extremely rare lightning-attribute cultivation art, and upon reaching full mastery, one would be able to open up all 36 immortal acupoints in their body, thereby progressing to the Golden Immortal Stage!

"Regarding its origins, I'm sure the story that I'm about to tell next is one that's already quite familiar to everyone. This was the exact same cultivation art that Daoist Master Purple Heavens used several million years ago to slay three late-True Immortal cultivators!" Wen Hua introduced.

This declaration immediately created a huge stir throughout the entire venue, and a few surprised voices could even be heard coming from the booths on the third floor.

Han Li's expression also changed slightly upon hearing mention of the term "immortal acupoints".

Even though he had already converted all of his spiritual power to immortal spiritual power following the recovery of his cultivation base, due to the loss of his memories and a lack of a suitable cultivation art, it could be said that in some sense, he hadn't truly begun to cultivate.

However, through some Earthly Immortal cultivation arts, he had learned that opening up these immortal acupoints was integral to the advancement of one's cultivation base, and just as Wen Hua claimed, opening up 36 immortal acupoints would allow one to progress to the Golden Immortal Stage.

However, Earthly Immortal cultivation arts placed more importance on the accumulation of the power of faith and the manifestation of law powers, so very little mention of immortal acupoints was made. It seemed that after cultivating for a sufficiently long period of time, the immortal acupoints would naturally open up, and that seemed to be the case for the Black Sea Heavy Water Tome as well.

Wen Hua was quite pleased with the crowd reaction, and a faint smile appeared on his face as he declared, "Daoist Master Purple Heavens has already been missing for over 1,000,000 years, but this cultivation art has been passed down. However, I'm obligated to inform all of you that the prerequisites required to use this cultivation art are very rigorous.

"One has to possess a top-tier lightning-attribute spiritual root, or innate lightning-attribute constitutions such as the Five Lightning Physique or the True Lightning Essence Physique. Only then will the cultivator be able to attain full mastery of this cultivation art. Without further ado, the base price for this cultivation art is 500 top-grade spirit stones, and each bid must go up by an increment of at least 10 top-grade spirit stones."

Many people were very tempted to participate in the bidding race for the cultivation art, given that it was of the lightning attribute, which was renowned for its power.

There were many Earthly Immortals in the Black Wind Sea, but they were outnumbered by itinerant cultivators, who needed suitable high-grade cultivation arts more than anything else.

However, many people were left disappointed after hearing the rigorous prerequisites that had to be satisfied in order to use this cultivation art, but there were still quite a few people that were interested.

Han Li was also missing a cultivation art, so he was initially tempted, but he was also left feeling disappointed after hearing about the required prerequisites.

"510!"

"530!"

"580!"

Even though Han Li wasn't bidding for the cultivation art, there were plenty of people keen to get their hands on it, and following a flurry of bids, the price was quickly raised to 700 top-grade spirit stones.

"800!"

A rather lazy voice rang out from one of the booths on the third floor, raising the price by 100 top-grade spirit stones in one go.

A middle-aged scholarly man on the second floor who had made a bid of 600 top-grade spirit stones earlier hesitated momentarily, then gritted his teeth as he declared, "850!"

"900!"

The bidder on the third floor seemed to have been rather displeased by the competition they were facing, and it was clear that their pockets were extremely deep.

Han Li couldn't help but grimace upon hearing this.

Everything that he currently owned, including the reward from Lu Jun and the spoils that he had plundered from the two Azure Feather Island cultivators and the Three Scourges of Splendid Mountain, only added up to around 1,000 top-grade spirit stones.

Prior to this, he had already instructed Mu Xue to gather information on the auction, so he knew some of the auction items that were still to come, and he had already decided on his target.

He had thought that he would have more than enough funds to secure his target auction item, but it seemed that he was mistaken. These True Immortals who had cultivated for countless millennia were truly astonishingly wealthy.

After the price was raised to 900 top-grade spirit stones, the other bidders on the second floor could only surrender, despite their clear reluctance to do so.

The sale of the Purple Heavens Lightning Arts was like the precursor to the climax of the auction, and some of the subsequent treasures weren't quite of the same caliber as the Purple Heavens Lightning Arts, but frequent bids were still made thanks to the electric atmosphere.

The auction item that was currently being presented was a dark golden hammer.

It was an octagonal hammer roughly the size of a human head, and the handle was over four feet in length. Its appearance wasn't all that remarkable, but it was giving off a vast aura, as if there were a huge mountain sitting on the stage, rather than just a hammer.

"The next item is an Acquired Immortal Treasure called the Mountain Shattering Hammer. It's forged from a combination of 10,000-year-old copper essence and Profound Golden Glacial Iron. It contains the power of metal laws, and just a single blow with this weapon can shatter mountains and split rivers!

"However, the hammer is also extremely heavy and can be quite unwieldy for some, so I'd advise careful consideration before bidding. Without further ado, the starting price is 600 top-grade spirit stones, and each bid must go up by an increment of at least 10 top-grade spirit stones," Wen Hua declared.

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up as his grip unconsciously tightened around the armrests of his chair.

This was the exact item that he was targeting.

He didn't know what perils he was going to encounter during his journey to search for his lost treasures, and he was desperately in need of some powerful treasures to use along the way.

Even though he was unable to draw upon the power of metal laws in the Mountain Shattering Hammer, it was undoubtedly a very suitable weapon for him as a Profound Immortal.

"610!"

"630!"

"660!"

Despite Wen Hua's warning, there were still many people willing to cast bids for the Mountain Shattering Hammer, and before Han Li even had a chance to place a single bid, the price had already soared to 700 top-grade spirit stones.

"900!" Han Li declared, raising the price by 200 in one go.

If he allowed the price to continue to rise over small increments, things could quickly get out of hand, so he had to nip the bidding in the bud.

Everyone around him immediately turned to him with stunned expressions.

"1,000!"

A voice rang out from the third floor. The voice seemed to have belonged to an elderly man, and he hadn't cast any bids on any other auction items prior to this.

A dark look appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing this.

Aside from spirit stones, he had prepared some other treasures as well, with the most important one being that Soulbirth Flower, which he had already matured to 30,000 years old, so it could definitely fetch a handsome price.

"1,200!"

Before Han Li had a chance to make another bid, yet another 200 top-grade spirits stones were added to the bidding price, and the bid had been made by the owner of the lazy voice from earlier.

"1,500!"

The same elderly voice rang out once again, raising the price by another 300.

"1,800!"

The owner of the lazy voice wasn't backing down in the slightest.

Not only were the tens of thousands of cultivators on the first floor stunned by how quickly the price was rising, even those on the second floor couldn't help but be astonished by the wealth of the pair of competing bidders on the third floor.

Han Li could only shake his head with a wry smile.

The bidding war continued, and the price was quickly raised to over 2,000 top-grade spirit stones. Ultimately, the owner of the elderly voice secured the item for a price of 2,300 spirit stones.

Close to half a day passed by in the blink of an eye, and at this point, the auction was nearing its conclusion.

All of the most precious auction items were being brought onto the stage one after another, including materials that contained law powers, high-grade Earthly Immortal cultivation arts, immortal herbs, some exotic beasts, and even the egg of a Nine-headed Frost Dragon.

The Nine-headed Frost Dragon was a true spirit with the innate ability to wield the power of water laws, and upon reaching full maturity, its powers would rival those of a mid-True Immortal cultivator, so it was far more formidable than any beast that Han Li had ever encountered.

To one's surprise, a fierce bidding war immediately ensued, and in the end, the egg was purchased by someone on the third floor for over 2,000 top-grade spirit stones.

These were the true treasures of the auction.

At this point, even though the ordinary cultivators on the first floor could only sit and watch, they were still thoroughly enthused by the bidding wars they were witnessing, and many of the people on the second floor were also beginning to come to terms with the fact that they were also out of the running.

Han Li was starting to grow a little disinterested, despite the lively and bustling scenes transpiring before him.

None of these items were things that he needed. There were powerful spirit treasures presented, including even a Profound Heavenly Treasure, but none of them suited him, so he didn't make any bids.

"The next items are three Heavy Water Lightning Beads. This treasure was refined using level three heavy water by a cultivator with exceptional mastery over the laws of water. Even though it's a disposable treasure, it's extremely powerful, and even a mid-True Immortal cultivator could be prone to sustaining severe injuries if they were struck by one of these lightning beads head-on."

Three blue jade boxes were brought onto the stage as Wen Hua was speaking, and each one contained a longan-sized black bead, which appeared to be completely unremarkable aside from some black mist drifting around them.

"The starting price for these three Heavy Water Lightning Beads is 500 top-grade spirit stones, and each bid must go up by an increment of at least 10 top-grade spirit stones," Wen Hua declared.

Many of the cultivators in the venue were very excited after hearing Wen Hua's description of the beads.

They were astonishingly expensive considering they were disposable treasures, but they were definitely worth buying if they really were capable of severely injuring even mid-True Immortal cultivators.

Han Li was also rather tempted by the item as he stroked the True Water Pouch strapped to his waist.

While he was contemplating how to proceed, the bidding had already begun, and it didn't take long before the price was raised to 700 top-grade spirit stones.

"750!" Han Li finally made a bid.

This was already quite a steep price, and some of the bidders immediately backed out of the bidding war.

"760!" Another bid was cast by a red-haired young man not far away from Han Li.

Han Li took a glance at the young man, then made another bid without any hesitation. "800!"

The young man hesitated momentarily, then decided against making any further bids.

"850!" This time, the bidder was a bald man on the second floor.

"900!" Han Li immediately countered.

"1,000!"

The bald man took a glance in Han Li's direction as a cold smile appeared on his face.

During the bidding for the Mountain Shattering Hammer earlier, he had been observing the bidders to try and gauge the depths of their pockets, and Han Li was naturally one of the people that he had been observing.

Chapter 152: First Glimpse of a Dao Pill

At this point in the bidding, everyone had already fallen silent. It wasn't that no one could afford this price, it was just that the three Heavy Water Lightning Beads simply didn't seem worth such a steep price to them.

After all, they were disposable treasures, and a sum of 1,000 top-grade spirit stones was potentially enough to purchase a low-quality Acquired Immortal Treasure.

Hence, everyone was merely watching Han Li and the bald man in silence, interested in seeing how far they were willing to go.

Of course, this was an extremely welcome sight for the auctioneer, Wen Hua.

The higher the final selling prices of the auction items, the higher his commission would be, and his reputation as an auctioneer would also be enhanced.

"1,000 top-grade spirit stones going once! Are there any more bidders?" Even though this was a question that appeared to have been directed at everyone, Wen Hua was looking straight at Han Li.

Han Li's brows were tightly furrowed as he sat in silence, and a triumphant look appeared in the bald man's eyes upon seeing this before he looked away in a casual manner.

No further bids were made, and as Wen Hua declared that the price of 1,000 top-grade spirit stones was going twice, the triumph in the bald man's eyes became even more pronounced.

Right as Wen Hua was about to finalize the sale, Han Li suddenly interjected, "I don't have enough spirit stones on me, but I have something I would like to have appraised."

This declaration created quite a stir, and the bald man also faltered slightly before a derisive sneer appeared on his face.

Meanwhile, Han Li flipped a hand over to produce a rectangular jade box, which he handed to the female attendant beside him.

The attendant hurriedly took the jade box from Han Li, then rushed over to the table beside the auction platform under the scrutiny of tens of thousands of people before setting the box down onto the table.

The blue-robed man and the middle-aged woman weren't even looking at the box, clearly displaying no interest in what Han Li was offering.

At this point in the auction, they had already appraised countless treasures, and the vast majority of them were quite mediocre, with the most valuable one being a Sea Soul Rock that contained a wisp of water law powers, but even that item was only appraised to be worth 480 top-grade spirit stones.

With the other two appraisers showing a complete lack of interest, it was left to the grey-robed elderly man to appraise the item, and he gently opened the box, upon which a surprised look immediately appeared on his face.

He took a glance in Han Li's direction, then passed the jade box to the blue-robed man beside him.

The blue-robed man had witnessed the change in the elderly man's expression, and a hint of intrigue appeared in his eyes as he took a glance at the item in the box as well. A similar look of surprise immediately appeared on his face, and he passed the box to the middle-aged woman, who displayed the same reaction as the other two appraisers.

The three of them then held a discussion through voice transmission, and the gray-robed elderly man turned to Han Li as he said, "We have appraised this item to be worth 1,000 top-grade spirit stones. Is that a satisfactory price for you, Fellow Daoist?"

The smile on the bald man's face instantly stiffened in the wake of this declaration, and a flurry of chatter immediately rang out.

"What?"

"Did I mishear him? What could possibly be worth 1,000 top-grade spirit stones?"

"Could it be an Acquired Immortal Treasure? It doesn't look like something like that would fit in such a small box!"

"Could it be some type of pill?"

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According to the rules of the auction, the appraisers had no obligation to reveal to everyone what the items that they appraised were. Hence, everyone was left to speculate about what could possibly have been in the box.

Han Li contemplated this price for a moment, then gave the gray-robed elderly man a nod to indicate that he accepted the offer, following which he immediately placed a bid of 1,100 top-grade spirit stones.

The box contained the Soulbirth Flower that he had matured to 30,000 years of age, and it would've definitely been an extremely sought-after item in the Black Wind Sea. Hence, he was actually not very pleased with this price, but he was in need of spirit stones, and with the Heaven Controlling Vial, it hadn't been all that difficult for him to nurture the flower, so he decided to accept the price after some thought.

After some hesitation, the bald man placed another bid as well. "1,150!"

"1,200!"

"1,300!"

"1,500!"

The bald man hesitated momentarily, then gave a cold harrumph as he leaned back against his chair with his arms crossed, bowing out of the bidding war.

"Sold for 1,500 spirit stones!" Wen Hua immediately declared with an elated expression.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li was approached by a young woman in black, who asked, "Would you like to finalize the transaction now or wait until the end of the auction, Senior? If you want to finalize the transaction now, I'll have to ask you to come to the rear hall with me."

"I'll do it now," Han Li replied, then rose to his feet and followed the woman toward the rear hall.

Seated inside one of the booths on the third floor were Lu Jun and Lu Yuqing, and the latter's gaze fell upon Han Li through the booth, upon which her brows furrowed slightly.

"What is it, Yuqing?" Lu Jun asked.

"For some reason, that man seems a bit familiar to me," Lu Yuqing replied as she cocked her head to the side in a contemplative manner.

"Have you met him before?" Lu Jun followed her gaze and took a glance at Han Li, who just so happened to making his way toward the rear hall.

"Maybe it's just my imagination," Lu Yuqing replied with a shake of her head, ridding herself of that train of thought.

The auction continued, and her gaze was immediately drawn to the next auction item.

Meanwhile, inside the rear hall, a black-robed elderly man was seated with his legs crossed, and there was a rectangular jade box placed beside him.

"Please take a seat, Fellow Daoist," the elderly man said with a warm smile as he rose to his feet and cupped his fist in a salute.

Han Li sat down across from the elderly man, then immediately swept a sleeve through the air to release a small pile of precisely 500 top-grade spirit stones onto the table.

"I see you like to do things quickly, Fellow Daoist," the black-robed elderly man chuckled, and with a sweep of his sleeve, three jade boxes appeared on the table.

Han Li removed the lids of the jade boxes with a sweep of his own sleeve to examine the three Heavy Water Lightning Beads for verification, following which he gave a pleased nod.

With the transaction complete, he gave the elderly man a nod, then rose to his feet to depart.

"Please wait a moment, Fellow Daoist," the black-robed elderly man hurriedly called out as he also rose to his feet.

"Can I help you?" Han Li asked.

"I have been requested by someone to ask if you have any more Soulbirth Flowers that you'd like to sell. It only has to be above 20,000 years of age, and of course, we'll be sure to offer you a satisfactory price," the black-robed elderly man said.

"If I had more Soulbirth Flowers, I would've already brought them out earlier in the auction instead of watching all those treasures slip away from right under my nose," Han Li replied in a rather self-deprecating manner. "I only managed to obtain this one by chance."

A hint of disappointment appeared on the elderly man's face upon hearing this.

With that, Han Li turned to leave once again, only to suddenly turn back around as he said, "Come to think of it, I also have something I'd like to ask you, Fellow Daoist. Do you know these Heavy Water Lightning Beads were refined by?"

The elderly man faltered slightly upon hearing this, then replied, "These beads were also purchased by our auction house by chance, and we don't know who they were refined by. However, I've heard that they were refined by a powerful being outside of the Black Wind Sea."

Han Li nodded in response, then made his way out of the rear hall and returned to his seat in the auction venue.

His return naturally attracted a great deal of attention and scrutiny, but he paid those prying eyes no heed.

"The next item is a pair of horns from the late-True Immortal Stage spirit beast, the Sky Splitting Roar. The horns have been perfectly preserved with no loss of spiritual nature whatsoever. The base price is

600 top-grade spirit stones, and each bid must go up by an increment of at least 10 top-grade spirit stones."

With a wave of Wen Hua's hand, a pair of glowing purple horns appeared on the stage, emanating dazzling purple radiance.

All of the cultivators in the hall were extremely excited to see this, and a fierce bidding war immediately commenced.

Han Li naturally had no intention of taking part, but he continued to remain in the venue and watch the auction.

Close to three hours later.

"And now, for the moment everyone has been waiting for! The next item will be the final item of our grand auction!" Wen Hua declared in an excited voice as he placed an item onto the auction platform.

It was a red wooden box that was extremely tightly sealed with a bunch of spirit talismans plastered onto its surface.

Even so, the world's origin qi around the box was still fluctuating slightly as rippling light that resembled surging flames appeared around it.

A hint of intrigue appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

There were other cultivators who couldn't wait to see what was in the box, and they released their spiritual sense to try and inspect the box's contents, only to be thwarted by the spirit talismans on the box.

Wen Hu wasn't bothered at all by this, and his smile remained unchanged as he chanted an incantation while casting a series of incantation seals through the air.

The spirit talismans on the box flew off one after another, and upon the removal of the final talisman, the wooden box sprang open on its own to reveal a crimson pill.

The pill was only around the size of a thumbnail, and it was giving off fiery red light that was proliferating outward in rings around it.

There was an extremely eye-catching crimson line on the surface of the pill, and upon closer inspection, one would find that it was formed by countless runes, giving it an extremely profound and mystical appearance.

Countless stunned voices rang out one after another, and the entire hall quickly erupted into a frenzy.

"Your eyes do not deceive you, fellow daoists. What you're looking at is a dao pill, renowned as the kings of all pills!" Wen Hua declared, and there was a hint of genuine excitement in his voice.

As an Earthly Pill Master, his pursuit and longing for improvement in the art of pill refinement was something that the average person simply couldn't comprehend.

"I'm sure all of you are aware of just how valuable dao pills are, so I won't say too much about it here. This is a first-tier fire-attribute dao pill. If any of you are using fire-attribute cultivation arts, there's a chance that you'll be able to master the laws of fire using this dao pill! The base price is 2,000 top-grade spirit stones, and each bid must go up by an increment of at least 100 top-grade spirit stones!" Wen Hua declared, promptly commencing the bidding.

Chapter 153: Perceiving the Lightning Beads

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing the base price of 2,000 top-grade spirit stones.

With such an astronomically high starting price, there was no way he would be able to secure it with his wealth, or lack thereof.

After Wen Hua announced the commencement of the bidding, most of the people in the hall fell silent and began to look around with anticipation in their eyes. Everyone wanted to see who would ultimately lay claim to this dao pill.

"2,000!"

Finally, the brief silence was broken by someone from a booth in the southeastern corner of the third floor, and the voice sounded as if it belonged to an elderly man.

Cultivators from all of the most powerful forces on in the Black Wind Sea were gathered here for the auction, so there was no shortage of people with immense wealth at their disposal and a keen interest in this dao pill.

"2,200!"

"2,500!"

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All of the bidders were from the third-floor booths with no exceptions.

Within no more than half a minute, seven or eight rounds of bidding had already concluded, and the price of the dao pill had been bid up to over 3,000 top-grade spirit stones.

"4,000!"

A female voice suddenly rang out, and once again, it was from one of the booths on the third floor. Everyone looked on in astonishment as the flurry of bids drew to a temporary halt.

The entire auction venue had fallen silent once again.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon hearing this voice, and he seemed to recall that this was the same person who had secured that piece of Phoenix Blood Fire Jade from earlier.

"4,200!" Another bid rang out from the third floor.

The female voice immediately retaliated with an astonishingly high bid. "5,000!"

Everyone else was silenced for a moment by this extraordinary bid, only to erupt into a raucous frenzy, and everyone focused their gaze on that booth, trying to see what the person inside looked like.

"5,000 top-grade spirit stones going once! 5,000 spirit stones going twice! If anyone's still interested, you better place your bids now! If you miss this opportunity, another one may not arise even in the next 1,000 years! And... Sold for 5,000 top-grade spirit stones! Congratulations to this fellow daoist!"

With that declaration, the dao pill was sold to the mysterious cultivator on the third floor, and that also spelled the conclusion of the Black Wind Sea's centenary auction.

Wen Hua thanked everyone for coming, then declared the conclusion of the auction.

Han Li was mixed in the crowd as he slowly made his way out of the palace.

Everyone around him was still spiritedly discussing everything they had seen during the auction, particularly that dao pill at the end, which was undoubtedly going to be talked about for a long time to come.

Looking at the excitement on the faces of the people around him, Han Li developed a better idea of just how rare and precious dao pills were.

Upon returning to his temporary cave abode, Han Li immediately activated all of the restrictions inside before making his way into the secret chamber.

After taking a seat in the secret chamber, he flipped a hand over to summon the three Heavy Water Lightning Bead, then picked up one of them between his thumb and index finger for a close examination.

The bead was completely unremarkable in appearance and only around the size of a longan. There were wisps of black mist that lingered perpetually over its surface, and it wasn't giving off any special aura at all, making it appear quite innocuous.

However, given how much people had been willing to bid for the beads during the auction, he was confident that the power contained within them had to be far more potent than he could imagine.

Of course, he hadn't paid such a steep price for the beads just for their destructive power. Instead, he wanted to see if he could study them to find new ways to utilize heavy water.

After all, even though he was able to use heavy water, if he didn't know how to wield it, then it wouldn't even be as powerful as an ordinary spirit treasure in his hands.

He placed the bead onto palm, then closed his fingers over it, carefully massaging it to feel the patterns on its surface.

Only after a long while did he open his hand again, and a peculiar look had appeared on his face.

The material of the Heavy Water Lightning Bead was identical to the heavy water refined by his Earthly Deity Avatar, and he was able to feel some tiny marks on its surface that were as thin as human hairs, connecting together to form a series of strange patterns.

Even with his wealth of knowledge and experience, he wasn't able to make heads or tails of the patterns.

After a moment of contemplation, he closed his eyes, and a translucent thread shot out of his glabella, entering the black mist before venturing into the bead.

It was as if there were an entire world contained within the bead, and initially, all he could see was inky darkness. However, upon closer inspection, he spotted specks of black light, as well as wisps of azure and purple lightning that were flashing incessantly.

At the same time, he could feel the traces of law powers within the bead.

These three types of power were combined together to create a very harmonious equilibrium, and they were all connected while also keeping one another in check, like a ferocious tiger that was biding its time, waiting to be let loose from its cage so that it could unleash its wrath.

Close to two hours passed by, and Han Li finally reopened his eyes.

He shook his head as he heaved a faint sigh, then stowed the three Heavy Water Lightning Beads away before exiting the cave abode. After that, he flew in a certain direction as a streak of azure light, vanishing into the distance in the blink of an eye.

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In a completely uninhabited area of the sea tens of thousands of kilometers away from Black Wind Island.

A streak of azure light arrived in a flash, then faded to reveal Han Li.

He released his spiritual sense to encompass the entire surrounding region in a radius of thousands of kilometers in the blink of an eye, carefully inspecting his surroundings.

Only after ensuring that there were no other cultivators in the area did he flip a hand over to produce one of the Heavy Water Lightning Beads.

Azure light flashed over his palm, and a wisp of immortal spiritual power was injected into the bead.

The surface of the bead immediately lit up with crimson light, and all of the spirit patterns engraved upon it also flashed momentarily before dimming again.

Han Li casually tossed the bead forward, and it shot forth rapidly through the air, giving off no aura fluctuations as it traveled tens of thousands of feet in the blink of an eye.

A thunderous boom rang out as the Heavy Water Lightning Bead exploded, and a mountainous ball of black light appeared with hundreds of bolts of azure and purple lightning that were over 1,000 feet in length surging through the air in all directions. They resembled whips of a lightning god, flashing through the surrounding space while giving off formidable law fluctuations.

The space that was struck by the bolts of lightning immediately began to warp and shudder violently, looking as if it were about to be torn apart.

Meanwhile, a giant crater had appeared on the surface of the sea beneath the vast ball of black light, and all of the fish and sea beasts within the crater were instantly destroyed.

In the next instant, the ball of black light also exploded into vast expanses of black radiance that swept forth in all directions.

Han Li had already conjured up his True Extreme Film, and blue light was flashing in his eyes as he carefully observed every single detail that arose following the explosion of the lightning bead.

The waves of black light reached him in the blink of an eye, and his pupils contracted drastically as he shot back in retreat, but it was already too late, and he wasn't able to fly very far at all before the black light caught up to him.

A sound akin to that of pitter-pattering rain falling on a banana leaf rang out, and there were countless hair-thin black needles within the black light, striking against his True Extreme Film.

The True Extreme Film flashed erratically as countless white spots appeared on its surface, and only after a long while did it return to a stable state.

Han Li heaved a faint sigh of relief upon seeing this. Thankfully, the True Extreme Film was able to withstand the assault. Otherwise, he would've most likely already had countless tiny holes punched into his body at this point.

All of those black needles had been formed by heavy water, granting them extraordinary penetrative power, and even his body most likely wouldn't have been able to keep them at bay without any additional defenses.

The sea down below churned violently, and an enormous crater with a radius of close to 10,000 feet appeared on its surface.

Han Li spread his spiritual sense through the area, and a stunned look appeared on his face as he discovered that everything with a radius of close to 10 kilometers from the epicenter of the explosion had been pierced by the heavy water needles, killing all of the sea beasts in the area.

Given how fearsome these black needles were, Han Li imagined that even he would've sustained severe injuries had he been situated at the epicenter of the explosion.

After witnessing all of this, Han Li finally understood why the beads had triggered such a fierce bidding war during the auction.

Only after several more seconds had passed did the residual effects of the explosion begin to subside.

Han Li made sure that the aura of law powers in the air had completely faded before flying back to the epicenter of the explosion, where there was still a charred smell lingering in the air.

At this point, the crater on the surface of the sea down below had already been refilled by seawater, but there were still some unnatural wave formations in the aftermath of the explosion.

Given the price that Han Li had paid for these Heavy Water Lightning Beads, he had essentially just detonated 500 top-grade spirit stones, and if any other auction-goers had been present, they would've been stunned by such an astonishing waste.

However, Han Li was completely unfazed, and his head was slightly bowed as he contemplated what he had just seen in silence.

Only after a long while of contemplation did he murmur to himself, "It seems like the power of laws were used to forcibly seal the power of lightning into heavy water, and an injection of immortal spiritual power would be required to unleash this power. However..."

It seemed that there was something that he was unable to wrap his head around, and his voice trailed off into silence as he fell into deep thought.

Judging from the process through which the Heavy Water Lightning Bead had released its power and the final outcome, there was no way that it would've been capable of unleashing such devastating power if it had only released the power of laws and lightning stored within.

Han Li closed his eyes as he carefully replayed what he had just seen in his mind over and over again, and all of a sudden, he was struck by a flash of enlightenment.

In the instant that the Heavy Water Lightning Bead released its power, all of the spirit pattern restrictions engraved upon its surface had been activated, causing the lightning to disperse the heavy water, transforming it into countless tiny blasts of heavy water that contained the power of laws.

Anything within the area would be like a foreign object that disrupted the fragile equilibrium, causing it to be simultaneously attacked by the heavy water, the lightning, and the power of laws, which was a formidable combination that even the average True Immortal wouldn't have been able to withstand.

Even though Han Li had managed to develop a rough idea of how these beads worked, he was still left feeling rather dismayed.

In order to prevent his magic power from being contaminated by the power of faith, he had refrained from accepting the power of laws derived by his Earthly Deity Avatar, so it was impossible for him to replicate the refinement of these Heavy Water Lightning Beads.

However, this hadn't been a completely fruitless experiment. At the very least, through his observations, he had received a great deal of inspiration on how he could utilize his heavy water.

After lingering in the area for a moment longer, Han Li rose up into the air before flying into the distance.

After flying for a few hundred kilometers, he began to descend toward a nearby small coral island that was only several kilometers in radius.

Upon landing on the island, he flipped ah and over to produce the True Water Pouch was filled with heavy water.

Over the course of the past three years, he had been maturing the Soulbirth Flower with the spirit liquid from the Heaven Controlling Vial while also intermittently refining crystals that contained the laws of time, helping his Earthly Deity Avatar derive more heavy water.

At this point, he had already accumulated enough heavy water to fill most of a small stream.

Chapter 154: Blaze Dragon Dao

After a brief pause, Han Li flipped a hand over, and a ball of heavy water around the size of a watermelon flowed out of the True Water Pouch, where it hovered in mid-air, enveloped by his immortal spiritual power.

The heavy water was flowing and circulating incessantly, and it didn't appear remarkable at all, but its weight was already comparable to that of a mountain that was several thousand feet tall.

He closed his eyes, and after running all of the ideas that he had developed earlier through his mind, he reopened his eyes.

He then made a grabbing motion with one hand, and a burst of silver lightning shot out of his palm, forming a silver lightning net around his hand.

After that, he thrust both palms forward, and the silver lightning net began to extend toward the ball of heavy water as if it were a living creature.

The lightning net wound itself around the ball of heavy water, and the latter immediately began to sway and quiver violently, as if it were receiving some type of powerful stimulus.

Han Li hurriedly released more of his immortal spiritual power, and with the injection of immortal spiritual power, the ball of heavy water was gradually stabilized again, but its surface was still rippling incessantly.

Han Li began to lower his other hand upon seeing this, injecting lightning into the ball of heavy water.

The tiny arcs of lightning resembled countless peerlessly sharp blades that sliced countless minuscule gashes onto the surface of the ball of heavy water, then burrowed their way deeper inside.

As more and more lightning was injected into the ball of heavy water, it began to slowly shrink, and Han Li was ecstatic to see this.

However, just that slight lapse of concentration resulted in the simultaneous explosion of the lightning and the ball of heavy water.

A burst of powerful shockwaves instantly struck him head-on, blasting him back through the air before sending him plunging into the sea.

By the time he returned to the coral island, close to half of the island had already been destroyed by the explosion, and a wry smile appeared on his face upon seeing this.

After taking a moment to adjust his robes, Han Li pulled out his True Water Pouch again and released another ball of heavy water from within.

Moments later, tiny arcs of silver lightning reappeared as well.

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A short while later, another violent explosion rang out, and silver lightning erupted in all directions.

This time, Han Li was already prepared, so he wasn't sent flying, but his brows were tightly furrowed.

He made a sweeping motion with his hand, and wisps of immortal spiritual power were released, gathering the tiny particles of heavy water that had been scattered through the air.

This heavy water had been extremely difficult to come by, and he didn't want to waste any of it.

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

This morning, Han Li suddenly rose up from the island, hovering high up in the sky.

His robes were flapping around him amid the sea breeze, and there was a hint of weariness in his eyes, but his eyes were glowing brightly, much like the rising sun on the horizon.

In his hand was a black ball that was roughly the size of a human fist, and there were matte silver patterns that bore a strong resemblance to arcs of lightning running all over its surface.

During the past few days, Han Li had failed on countless occasions to replicate the Heavy Water Lightning Bead, but he had finally succeeded here.

In terms of physical appearance, there were clear differences between this lightning ball and the Heavy Water Lightning Beads. The lightning ball was significantly larger, and there was no black mist lingering around it. Due to the presence of the eye-catching silver lightning veins on its surface, Han Li had decided to name it Heavy Water Veined Lightning.

Due to the lack of incorporation of law powers, the heavy water hadn't been refined to a sufficient degree of purity, so the lightning ball was quite large, and the lightning within also wasn't sealed as securely as was the case in the Heavy Water Lightning Beads.

However, this was the extent of his capabilities up to this point.

Just figuring out the right ratio of heavy water to lightning alone had already proven to be an extremely difficult task. Due to how difficult heavy water was to control, injecting too little power of lightning into the heavy water would result in a product that was lacking in power, but injecting too much would result in an unstable product that could explode at any moment.

Finally, he had managed to refine one that he was quite pleased with, so the next step was naturally to test out its power.

With that in mind, Han Li injected a wisp of immortal spiritual power into the ball, then tossed it forward with a flick of his wrist.

The Heavy Water Veined Lightning flew through the air in an arc, then fell toward the surface of the sea.

After flying to about 4,000 to 5,000 feet away from Han Li, the silver patterns on its surface abruptly lit up, following which a thunderous explosion rang out.

Immediately thereafter, countless arcs of silver lightning spread through the air in all directions, encompassing the entire area in a radius of over 1,000 feet.

Han Li had already retreated to over 10,000 feet away, but his gaze had remained firmly fixed on the explosion this entire time.

The explosion was extremely similar to the one that displayed by the Heavy Water Lightning Bead earlier. Just like in that explosion, a vast ball of black light that was close to 1,000 feet in size had appeared, accompanied by flashes of silver lightning.

However, what was different this time was that the explosion was lacking in the formidable law power fluctuations.

As was the case with the explosion of the Heavy Water Lightning Bead, a massive crater had appeared on the surface of the sea beneath the ball of black light, sending enormous waves hundreds of feet tall surging in all directions.

Moments later, the surface of the sea was still riddled with enormous waves, but it was no longer as violent and terrifying as it appeared earlier.

Han Li flew back to the spot where the lightning ball had exploded, and after carefully sensing the changes in the surrounding air, he spread both hands open to release hair-thin strands of immortal spiritual power.

The air around him rippled slightly, and countless barely visible black spots were drawn toward the palms of his hands by his immortal spiritual power.

Only after a long while did the tiny black specks converge to form a pair of fist-sized balls of black liquid, which was none other than the heavy water contained in the lightning ball from earlier.

"Looks like the lack of law powers is really impacting its power. That wasn't even a tenth as powerful as the explosion from the Heavy Water Lightning Bead," Han Li murmured to himself as he heaved a faint sigh.

Despite this, he was still quite pleased with the power of the Heavy Water Veined Lightning.

Even with the lack of law powers, he had managed to replicate the Heavy Water Lightning Bead quite well, and just like the Heavy Water Lightning Bead, his Heavy Water Veined Lightning also appeared to be completely innocuous right up to the moment before it was detonated.

Furthermore, he was able to recover the tiny specks of heavy water dispersed by the explosion, so not much of a loss was incurred.

Most importantly, he only had two Heavy Water Lightning Beads left, but given sufficient time, he would be able to refine an unlimited supply of Heavy Water Veined Lightning. If he were to unleash dozens or even hundreds of this lightning at once, then their collective power would still be extremely formidable.

Right at this moment, his brows suddenly furrowed slightly, and he flipped a hand over to produce an azure mask that he quickly put on his face.

In the next instant, a vast expanse of azure light surged forth, transforming into a massive azure array plate projection.

A series of ripples surged out of the azure light, and a humanoid projection of a figure wearing a loose-fitting robe and an azure vulture mask appeared before Han Li.

"Have you contacted me about the mission that I released?" Han Li asked.

"That's right, I have some information for you," the projection replied, and their voice was a little sharp, but it was impossible to tell whether they were male or female.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this. "You only have some information for me?"

"I'm afraid so. Both of the things that you're searching for, namely dao pill recipes and cultivation arts related to the laws of time, are extremely difficult to come by. There are many guild members enquiring about such items every single day, but how many of them actually end up obtaining those things?" the projection chuckled.

"I clearly stated in the mission debriefing that I want concrete and useful information. If you only have some inconsequential information or unreliable rumors to impart, then I'm afraid that won't suffice," Han Li said.

"Why don't you take a listen to what I have to say before you decide whether the information I have for you is worth the reward?" the projection chuckled.

Han Li merely nodded in response, encouraging the figure to continue.

"Have you heard of the Heaven Flow Palace, the Blaze Dragon Dao, and the Dawn Fall Sect?" the projection asked.

"The Heaven Flow Palace is a vastly renowned immortal sect in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but I don't know about the other two sects," Han Li replied.

"All three of these sects are in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, and I'm telling you about them because all three of them possess cultivation arts related to the laws of time," the projection said.

Han Li was rather intrigued to hear this, but his expression remained completely unchanged as he asked, "Would you be able to elaborate on that?"

"Out of those three sects, the Heaven Flow Palace is the most powerful, the Dawn Fall Sect is the most enigmatic, while the Blaze Dragon Dao has been around the longest. However, all of them have been studying the laws of time for millions of years. According to my knowledge, the Dawn Fall Sect's premier cultivation art, the Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture, can allow one to glean the laws of time upon reaching a sufficiently advanced level.

"The Heaven Flow Palace has a cultivation art called the Water Divination Time Arts, which is also related to the laws of time. The Blaze Dragon Dao also possesses a cultivation art of this distinction, but I'm not sure what its name is," the projection explained.

Han Li nodded in response with a contemplative expression, then asked, "Do you know if any of those cultivation arts are superior to the others?"

"That concerns the secrets of the three sects, so I don't know the answer to that," the projection replied.

"I see. Do you know the locations of the three sects? Surely this is information that you're privy to."

"Of course. The Heaven Flow Palace is situated in the Point Heaven Mountain Range of the Upper Arr Continent, which is located in the south of the immortal region. The Dawn Fall Sect is situated in the Peaceful Small Heaven Realm in the north of the immortal region, and the Blaze Dragon Dao is situated in the Bell Toll Mountain Range of the Ancient Cloud Continent, which is located in the east of the immortal region," the projection replied.

Han Li was silent for a moment upon hearing this, then asked, "Do you know what are the requirements to join the Blaze Dragon Dao?"

According to what he had learned during these past few years on Black Wind Island, the Black Wind Sea was situated in the southeast of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, which meant that it was closest to the Blaze Dragon Dao and the Heaven Flow Palace.

His top priority at the moment was to recover his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords and Daoist Xie, which had been revealed to be in the east by the Bonded Eight Spirits Vat, thereby making the Blaze Dragon Dao a logical destination.

Instead of answering Han Li's question, the figure asked, "Is the information that I'm providing worthy of the reward for your mission?"

"If that's all the information that you have, then I could've uncovered all of this myself in due time. If you don't have any information that's more useful than what you've provided so far, then I suggest you don't waste any more of our time," Han Li replied in a cold voice.

The figure wasn't fazed by Han Li's cold demeanor, and they countered, "Don't underestimate the information that I've provided, Fellow Daoist. Without my help, even if you manage to get to the Blaze Dragon Dao, you'll only be made a guest elder at the very most, and the secret scriptures of the inner sect will be completely out of your reach."

Chapter 155: Departure

"What do you mean by that?" Han Li asked.

"According to my knowledge, the Blaze Dragon Dao keeps a very close eye on its cultivation arts, and they're only made available to inner sect disciples and elders. In order to enter the inner sect, you'll require a recommendation from an inner sect elder.

"Otherwise, even as a True Immortal, you'll only be accepted as an outer sect guest elder, and only after an extremely extensive probation period will you have a sliver of an opportunity to enter the inner sect," the projection explained.

"It sounds like you know someone that can put in a recommendation for me," Han Li said as he raised an eyebrow.

"To tell you the truth, that's not something I can do for you. However, I know of a way that'll allow you to obtain an inner sect token of one of the elders at the Blaze Dragon Dao. With that token, you'll be able to directly enter the Blaze Dragon Dao's inner sect," the projection said.

A smile appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing this, and he prompted, "In that case, I'm all ears. This piece of information is definitely worthy of the reward I'm offering."

"I once took on a mission from our Transient Guild, requiring me to help the clan of one of the Blaze Dragon Dao's inner sect elders resolve a major problem, and the reward for completing the mission is an inner sect token left behind by that elder. I can pass this mission onto you," the projection said.

"Given how valuable the reward is, I'm assuming the mission won't be very easy to complete, right?" Han Li asked.

"The mission debriefing didn't actually reveal exactly what needs to be done. It only states that this mission can only be completed by someone with a True Immortal Stage cultivation base at the very minimum. As for the exact details of the mission, you'll have to go to the clan in question to find out," the projection replied.

"Is there a time limit on when the mission must be completed?" Han Li asked.

"No. Anyone that takes on the mission will receive a jade slip, and as long as the jade slip hasn't broken on its own, that means that the mission is still in effect," the projection .

Han Li paused for a moment to contemplate the situation, then decided, "Alright, I'll take on the mission. Please give me the jade slip, Fellow Daoist."

Han Li then raised a hand to release a blue storage pouch, which flew through the air and into the azure array plate.

At the same time, a white jade slip also slowly flew out of the array plate.

Han Li caught the jade slip, then inspected it briefly before injecting his spiritual sense into it.

The jade slip contained the mission debriefing, as well as a map of the Ancient Cloud Continent.

However, upon closer inspection, Han Li discovered that the map was severely lacking in detail, with only the area near the Bell Toll Mountain Range displayed, while almost everything else was left blank.

After examining the storage pouch sent over by Han Li, the figure said, "This is a tracking map. Once you reach the general vicinity of the Bell Toll Mountain Range on the Ancient Cloud Continent, the shortest path to the destination will be revealed to the holder of the jade slip."

"I see. You have my thanks, Fellow Daoist," Han Li replied with a nod.

The figure cupped their fist in a salute toward Han Li, then quickly vanished on the spot, and the array plate that was hovering above the sea also disappeared.

Han Li stowed his mask away, then flew back toward Black Wind Island as a streak of azure light.

Several days later.

The residual hype of the centenary auction still hadn't died down yet, so the entire Black Wind Island was still as lively and bustling as ever. Many of the shops in Black Wind City were seizing this opportunity to do everything they could to attract more customers through their doors.

The streets in the city were packed with people and carriages, and there were also many figures flying through the air to access the hovering buildings up above.

A unremarkable-looking azure-robed young man was making his way along a wide street toward the center of the city, and beside him was another young man with a dark complexion. They were none other than Han Li and Mu Xue.

"Senior Liu, I've always felt like you're not an ordinary cultivator, but I didn't think you would actually be able to secure a teleportation spot from the Heavenly Star Pagoda," Mu Xue said as he turned to Han Li with a wide smile, and Han Li also smiled in response, but offered no explanation.

Mu Xue didn't speak any further about this subject upon seeing this. Despite the fact that Han Li had always displayed a mild and amiable personality, he still harbored a great deal of awe and veneration toward this unfathomable senior, and of course, he longed to reach this level himself someday.

Looking at the throngs of people making their way through the streets, Han Li suddenly asked, "Have you ever thought about leaving Black Wind Island to see the outside world?"

Mu Xue faltered slightly upon hearing this, then replied in a slightly dejected manner, "Black Wind Island is already the most prosperous place in the entire Black Wind Sea. If an itinerant cultivator like myself were to go anywhere else, I would struggle just to survive."

"The world is a vast place that encompasses far more than just the Black Wind Sea. You have decent cultivation aptitude, you're just missing some resources," Han Li said with a smile.

"You're far too kind, Senior Liu. I can only hope to encounter more clients like yourself and save up some more spirit stones. Perhaps I'll be able to advance a little further on the path of cultivation then," Mu Xue replied with a self-deprecating smile.

Mu Xue reminded Han Li very much of his younger self, and thinking back to when he first embarked on the path of cultivation, his aptitude had been far inferior to Mu Xue's. If it weren't for the Heaven Controlling Vial, perhaps he wouldn't have even made it to the Spirit Realm.

A reminiscent look appeared in his eyes as he was guided by Mu Xue to the Heavenly Star Pagoda.

Around an hour later, the two of them arrived at the end of the main street leading to the center of the city, and a white stone plaza that was over 10,000 feet in size had appeared up ahead.

There were only a few people on the plaza, and all of them were hurriedly making their way toward a cylindrical stone pagoda at the very center of the plaza.

Han Li looked up to find that the stone pagoda was over 1,000 feet tall, and the entire structure was of a pristine white color. There were countless lines of different depths and shapes on its surface, forming some type of special array patterns.

"That's the Heavenly Star Pagoda up ahead, Senior Liu. This is where we'll have to part ways," Mu Xue said in a respectful voice as he extended a deep bow toward Han Li.

By the time he stood up straight again, Han Li was already nowhere to be seen, and a forlorn look flashed through his eyes.

Right at this moment, a familiar voice suddenly rang out in his heart.

"Do not excessively belittle yourself, Mu Xue. The spirit stones and that cultivation art in the storage pouch are my parting gifts to you. Work hard in your cultivation, and there's definitely a chance that you could make a name for yourself someday."

Mu Xue faltered slightly upon hearing this, then laid a hand onto his own waist to find that a storage pouch had appeared there without his detection.

He immediately began looking around, and he spotted Han Li near the Heavenly Star Pagoda.

Looking at Han Li from afar, a surge of warmth instantly welled up in his heart, and he extended another deep bow, remaining in a bowed position for a long time.

Meanwhile, Han Li continued to make his way directly toward the pagoda without looking back at Mu Xue.

The pagoda didn't have any visible entrances, and just as a befuddled look appeared on Han Li's face, a burst of spiritual power fluctuations suddenly surged forth, following which an object flew out of his sleeve amid a flash of light.

It was the black badge that had been given to him by Lu Jun, and it flew into the pagoda before vanishing without a trace.

Immediately thereafter, a burst of spatial fluctuations swept over Han Li, and he also vanished on the spot, reappearing inside the pagoda a second later.

He looked around to find that the interior of the pagoda was completely hollow, much like a giant upside-down cup.

There were countless array runes inscribed onto the walls around him, as well as spirit stones of an exceptional quality embedded onto the wall at the points where the runes intersected.

There were also circles of ring-shaped array patterns engraved onto the ground underfoot, giving off faint spatial fluctuations.

At this moment, there were around 30 to 40 other people in the pagoda, and there were both humans and beings of other races among them. However, the one common trait that they all shared was a formidable aura.

Han Li's gaze roamed over the people around him, and as his gaze fell upon a woman in a long red dress, he couldn't help but look at her for a moment longer.

The woman possessed breathtaking beauty, and her fiery red dress perfectly accentuated the gorgeous curves of her exceptional figure.

Her facial features were extremely intricate, but her brows and eyes were a little long and narrow, giving off a cold aura that presented a stark contrast with her alluring body, but it was somehow still a perfectly harmonious combination.

Many of the people in the pagoda were also casting furtive glances her way, some with hints of lust in their eyes, but one dared to step out of line.

Even though Han Li's gaze had also lingered momentarily on her, that wasn't due to any physical attraction that he felt. Instead, it was because he couldn't sense the woman's cultivation base at all, thereby evoking a sense of wariness within him.

The woman paid no heed to all of the glances cast her way, crossing her arms in front of her chest as she pondered something in silence.

All of a sudden, she seemed to have detected something, and she turned to take a glance at Han Li, but at this point, his gaze was already elsewhere.

Right at this moment, an elderly voice suddenly rang out. "Sorry to keep you all waiting, fellow daoists. It's time for the teleportation to commence. Simply carry your badge in your hand and you'll be able to enter the array."

Han Li turned to find that the gray-robed elderly man that had been seated on one side of the array had risen to his feet, and a circular array plate had appeared in his hand.

With a sweep of his sleeve, dozens of streaks of blue light shot forth, and each of them flew toward one of the people in the pagoda with unerring accuracy.

Han Li made a beckoning motion with one hand to draw the approaching streak of blue light into his grasp, upon which he discovered that it was a profound talisman with around a dozen silver runes inscribed in beveled silver text flashing on its surface.

Everyone else caught their talismans as well, then proceeded to make their way toward the circular array engraved onto the ground.

Han Li stepped into the array along with everyone else, and after everyone had piled into the array, the elderly man made a hand seal with one hand, then firmly pressed his palm down onto the array plate while chanting a fast incantation.

A loud buzzing sound rang out as all of the runes on the walls of the pagoda began to glow brightly, as did all of the spirit stones embedded onto the walls, and all of the spiritual power contained within the spirit stones surged forth in a frenzy.

The array patterns underfoot began to radiate dazzling white light, which swallowed up everyone in an instant.

Chapter 156: The Perilous Path of Cultivation

The entire surrounding space was filled with dazzling white light, immediately followed by a rush of dizziness, while the sound of howling wind rang out.

At the same time, there seemed to be gusts of astral wind sweeping toward everyone, only to be kept out by some type of invisible force right before it came into contact with their bodies.

Only after what seemed like a long time did this peculiar sensation abruptly fade away, and everything became clearly visible again.

Han Li quickly inspected his surroundings to find that everyone had been teleported into a massive underground cavern, and the ground and the walls of the cavern were quite similar to what was inside the Heavenly Star Pagoda, with the same engraved runes and embedded spirit stones.

The talisman that Han Li had been holding had vanished at some point during the teleportation, and a wry smile appeared on his face upon seeing this.

He had wanted to study the talisman, but the teleportation had concluded before he had a chance to react, and the talisman had disappeared from his possession.

Seated not far away outside the array was an elderly itinerant immortal with a head of white hair coupled with a set of youthful facial features, and there were around 20 to 30 people standing behind him. These people were all dressed in different attire, and many of them didn't appear to have been from the Black Wind Sea.

After Han Li and the others emerged from the array at the center of the cavern, all of those people stepped onto the array to replace them.

Right as he was passing by these people, a sense of peril suddenly welled up in Han Li's heart, and he reflexively took a glance at a few of the people in the ground.

The group of cultivators in questions were quite unremarkable in appearance, and their auras were very stable. Even their expressions were quite calm and collected, but for some reason, Han Li could instinctively sense a dangerous aura from them, and that was making him quite apprehensive.

Right at this moment, a physically imposing green-skinned man emerged from the group that had been teleported into the underground cavern alongside Han Li, and he arrived in front of the elderly itinerant cultivator as he cupped his fist in a salute and said, "Thank you for your hard work, Elder Yi. I'll be taking over from you for the next 100 years."

The elderly man rose to his feet with a smile, then flipped a hand over to produce a round array plate that he offered to the green-skinned man as he said, "I was wondering who the island master would send to relieve me of my post, but I didn't think it would be you, Brother Lu! I'll leave everything here to you then."

The green-skinned man accepted the array plate, and the two of them bade farewell to each other before the elderly itinerant immortal also made his way into the array.

Moments later, everyone in the array was teleported to Black Wind Island amid a flash of bright white light.

Only after everyone in the array had disappeared did the hint of apprehension in Han Li's heart begin to fade.

Meanwhile, the green-skinned man stowed away the array plate as he turned to everyone and declared, "From this day forth, the Black Wind Cave teleportation array will be closed for 100 years. If you wish to return to the Black Wind Sea, come back 100 years later when the array reopens. Of course, you have to prepare enough immortal origin stones to cover the teleportation cost.

"If you leave this cave and travel northward along the coastline for a few thousand kilometers, you'll reach Seaside City. Those of you who are visiting the Primordial Wave Continent for the first time can stop by Seaside City for some supplies before continuing on your way. I wish all of you a smooth journey."

Everyone cupped their fists in a salute toward the green-skinned man before exiting the underground cavern.

Han Li followed everyone out of the cavern, and he was immediately greeted by a slight fishy odor in the air, which was carried into his nostrils by the sea breeze.

He rose up into the air, and from that vantage point, he could see that he was situated above a vast and boundless sea.

Directly up ahead was the choppy and turbulent ocean, while behind him was a winding coastline, and the cavern that he had just emerged from was situated within a well-concealed cliff on the coast.

The people that had arrived here alongside Han Li didn't linger here for very long before scattering in all directions, and the woman in the red dress had also departed.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li began to fly northward along the coastline as a streak of azure light.

Initially, the landscape down below was rather barren and desolate, but after flying for a while, vast forests began to appear.

The trees in this place were remarkably tall, and it was a very common sight here to see trees standing close to 1,000 feet in height, resembling a series of tall mountains. The ground was covered in a thick layer of fallen leaves, as well as countless shrubs and weeds, giving it a primordial appearance, as if no one had ever set foot in this place.

The forest stretched into the distance as far as the eyes could see, and Han Li could hear the roar of a certain type of demon beast ringing out up ahead.

The primordial aura of this place evoked a long-absent sense of excitement in Han Li's heart, and after flying for close to an hour, the outlines of a coastal city began to appear in his field of view.

The city wasn't very large, only several hundred kilometers in radius, and it was completely enshrouded under a light barrier that resembled a dense film of yellow sand. At first glance, it appeared as if there were a giant yellow turtle shell encompassing the entire city, and the words "Seaside City" were inscribed above the city gates in ancient text.

There was only a single opening in the yellow light barrier that granted access to the city gates, and it was quite a lively and bustling area with cultivators occasionally emerging from the city on their own or in groups to fly into the forest up ahead.

At the same time, there were also cultivators flying out of the forest toward the city. Many of them looked rather worse for wear, and some of them even had bloodstains on their clothes, but most of them appeared to be quite excited.

Han Li quickly descended onto the ground, and at this point, he had already withdrawn his aura, posing as a Body Integration cultivator as he joined the crowd that was entering the city.

There were two teams of azure-robed guards situated at the city gate, and all of them were at the Spatial Tempering Stage, while their leader was a Body Integration cultivator.

However, these guards didn't raise any questions to the people entering the city. Even for a completely unfamiliar face like Han Li, he was allowed into the city after issuing some spirit stones as payment.

Beyond the city gate was a wide street that extended into the city, and the street was lined with all types of shops.

The city didn't have a particularly large population, but most of them were cultivators with lofty cultivation bases, and mortals were an extremely rare sight here.

The shops that lined the streets weren't particularly elegant. In fact, they were rather crude in appearance, selling wares such as spirit herbs, ore, demon beast materials, and other types of materials.

After a brief inspection, Han Li discovered that despite the crude appearance of the shops, the wares being sold all seemed to be of quite a high standard that wasn't inferior in the slightest compared with the most prestigious shops in Black Wind City.

As opposed to calling it a city, it was more accurate to call Seaside City a supply point for cultivators.

After observing his surroundings for a while, Han Li made his way toward a variety shop.

There was no one else in the shop aside from a hideous man with pockmarks all over his face sitting behind the counter, and he hurriedly rose to his feet at the sight of Han Li.

The pockmarked man was only a Deity Transformation cultivator, and he was displaying a very respectful demeanor after sensing Han Li's Body Integration Stage aura. "What can I help you with, Senior? My shop isn't very big, but I have a very comprehensive range of wares that'll be sure to satisfy all your needs."

"Do you sell maps here?" Han Li asked.

The pockmarked man flipped a hand over to produce an azure jade slip as he smiled and replied, "Yes, I have the most detailed map of the Lost Grave Forest here. If you want to hunt for any demon beasts or gather any spirit herbs, the map will lay out all of the locations where you'll find the things you're looking for."

It seemed that the Lost Grave Forest was the name of the primordial forest outside Seaside City.

Han Li shook his head as he replied, "I don't need a map of the Lost Grave Forest. Do you sell maps of the Primordial Wave Continent? Also, if you have any maps of the other nearby continents, I'd be happy to purchase them as well."

The pockmarked man faltered slightly upon hearing this, following which a slightly peculiar look appeared in his eyes.

"Is there a problem?" Han Li asked as his brows furrowed slightly.

"No, not at all," the pockmarked man hurriedly replied, then flipped a hand over to produce a pair of jade slips, one yellow and one blue.

Han Li picked up the yellow jade slip, then injected his spiritual sense into it.

"That one contains a map of our Primordial Wave Continent, while this blue jade slip contains a map of the nearby area. You've definitely come to the right place for maps, Senior. My family has been selling map jade slips for generations.

"It's easy to find maps of the Primordial Wave Continent, but maps of the nearby continents are quite rare, and I daresay my shop is the only one in the entire city that sells such maps," the pockmarked man said with a hint of pride in his voice.

As it turned out, the pockmarked man had a right to be proud. The map in the yellow jade slip was far more detailed than the average map, not only clearly depicting the terrain on all parts of the Primordial Wave Continent, there were even some detailed annotations attached to certain special areas.

One of those special areas was the Lost Grave Forest outside Seaside City. The forest had a radius of tens of thousand of kilometers, and it was inhabited by all types of demon beast. In fact, it was said that there were even some True Immortal Stage demon beasts residing in the heart of the forest, making it an extremely perilous place.

In addition to that, there was also an abundance of natural treasures in the forest, so there were many cultivators who would come here from far and wide to hunt for demon beasts and search for spirit ingredients. Of course, once they entered the forest, they would be solely responsible for their own safety.

There were many perilous places on the Primordial Wave Continent, and the Lost Grave Forest was only one of them.

Compared with this place, the Black Wind Sea could be considered to be an extremely safe area.

Shortly thereafter, Han Li withdrew his spiritual sense from the yellow jade slip, and an uncertain look had appeared on his face.

Even though he had already made preparations for this trip, it seemed like the Immortal Realm outside of the Black Wind Sea was far more perilous than he had imagined. Even with his current powers, he wouldn't dare to proclaim that he could safely cross the Primordial Wave Continent, and this was a perfect representation of how perilous the path of cultivation could be.

After a brief pause, Han Li injected his spiritual sense into the blue jade slip, and moments later, he withdrew his spiritual sense again.

This was indeed a map of the nearby continents, but it was nowhere near as detailed as the map of the Primordial Wave Continent, with only some important areas being marked out.

Just as he had anticipated, the Primordial Wave Continent and the nearby continents were separated by the sea, and the Ancient Cloud Continent was situated to the east of the Primordial Wave Continent, with the continents separated by what was known as the Thunderstorm Sea.

Seaside City was situated on the westernmost border of the Primordial Wave Continent, so if he wanted to get to the Ancient Cloud Continent, then he would have to cross the entire Primordial Wave Continent and the Thunderstorm Sea.

According to the annotations on the map, the Thunderstorm Sea was, as its name suggested, rife with violent thunderstorms all year round, making it an extremely perilous place to traverse through.

Chapter 157: Immortal Outlet

"Are you alright, Senior?"

Han Li had been standing on the spot, holding the two jade slips with a dazed expression for quite some time, and the pockmarked man was growing a little concerned.

Han Li snapped out of his train of thought, then asked, "How much for these two jade slips?"

The pockmarked man stated a price that wasn't very expensive, and Han Li issued the requested sum of spirit stones.

"You just said that your family has been selling map jade slips for generations, so you must know the Primordial Wave Continent very well. I have some questions to ask you. If you can provide me with satisfactory answers, then you can keep these spirit stones." Han Li flipped a hand over as he spoke, producing a small pile of spirit stones that he set down onto the counter.

A hint of greed appeared in the pockmarked man's eyes as he glanced at the high-grade spirit stones on the counter, and he said, "Go right ahead, Senior. I'll be sure to tell you everything I know."

"Is there any safe way to cross the Primordial Wave Continent from Seaside City? For example, are there any teleportation arrays I can use?" Han Li asked.

"You seem to have very little knowledge on our Primordial Wave Continent, Senior. Among all of the continents in this area, our Primordial Wave Continent is situated in quite a secluded region, and most of the land is primordial and uninhabited.

"Even if there are some cities, they're only small cities with very low populations, so most of them won't have any teleportation arrays. This is particularly true for a rural city like Seaside City. Hence, if you want to get to somewhere from here, the only way is to fly there," the pockmarked man replied.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this.

"Having said that, this doesn't apply to the entire journey. While there are no teleportation arrays in Seaside City, the central region of the continent is far more prosperous, and there are some cities there that have teleportation arrays, but I've heard the required cost to use those teleportation arrays is extremely steep," the pockmarked man hurriedly added.

"Do you know which cities on the continent have teleportation arrays?" Han Li asked.

"All of the cities with teleportation arrays have already been marked out on the map of the Primordial Wave Continent. Perhaps you didn't notice them, but they're the ones with white vortex symbols on them," the pockmarked man replied with a smile.

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, then injected his spiritual sense into the yellow jade slip again, and sure enough, there were indeed some cities in the central and eastern regions of the Primordial Wave Continent that had some tiny white vortex symbols on them.

"I see." Han Li nodded as he withdrew his spiritual sense from the jade slip.

There were quite a few of those cities on the map, so as long as he could make it to the central region of the Primordial Wave Continent, the rest of his journey across the continent would be far safer.

The pockmarked man hesitated momentarily, then asked, "Are you really planning to cross the entire Primordial Wave Continent, Senior?"

Han Li nodded in response.

"In that case, I must inform you that there are many perils along the way. If you're traveling alone, there are many natural obstacles that you'll most likely struggle to cross. My advice is for you to go and take a look in the Immortal Outlet in the city," the pockmarked man advised.

Han Li nodded in response with a contemplative expression upon hearing this. "Alright, thank you for providing me with this information, you can have those spirit stones."

He knew that he would come into contact with the Immortal Palace very quickly after leaving the Black Wind Sea, but he didn't expect this day to come quite so soon.

During his time in Black Wind City, he had learned that these so-called Immortal Outlets were places set up by the Immortal Palace, where cultivators could take on the missions released by the Immortal Palace and also release missions of their own.

It was clear that the pockmarked man regarded the journey across the entire continent to be an extremely perilous one for a Body Integration cultivator, so he was advising Han Li to make the journey as part of a team that was carrying out a mission.

It wasn't impossible for him to make the journey on his own given his current cultivation base, but this was a completely foreign continent to him, and he was missing all of his treasures, so it was best to take some safety precautions.

With that in mind, he gave the pockmarked man a parting nod before leaving the shop.

There were no flight restrictions in the city, and after flying along the main street in the city for a while, a golden building appeared in front of Han Li.

The building was situated on a hill, and it looked as if it had been constructed from pure gold. What was most remarkable about it was that there was a massive golden dragon engraved onto the roof of the building, and it was roaring to the heavens, presenting a formidable and majestic sight to behold.

The golden building appeared to be rather similar to the imperial palaces of the mortal world, and all of the mortals passing through the area regarded the building with awe and veneration in their eyes.

The words "Immortal Outlet" were visible above the gate of the golden palace, inscribed in ancient text.

Han Li stood at the entrance of the building for a moment before making his way inside.

Upon entry, he was greeted by the sight of a vast and spacious hall that was at least 10,000 feet in size. There were many cultivators dressed in different attire in the hall, but the majority of them were at or below the Deity Transformation Stage, and there were barely even any Spatial Tempering cultivators around.

To the left of the hall was a large shop that was selling all types of treasures, pills, and spirit materials. The wares being sold here seemed to be of a slightly superior standard to the wares sold in the shops in the city, and as a result, it was attracting quite a few customers.

To the right of the hall was another shop with a series of long stone tables placed outside. It seemed to be a shop that exclusively dealt in acquisitions, and there were many cultivators lined up outside, waiting to sell things to the shop.

The hall and these shops were managed by some golden-robed cultivators with the same golden dragon design embroidered onto their robes, and the most powerful one among them was a Spatial Tempering cultivator, who was seated deep in the hall with his eyes closed.

The hall resembled a small city, and it was far more lively and bustling than the actual city outside.

At the very center of the hall was a huge azure jade wall, upon which was inscribed many lines of small text that contained mission descriptions and corresponding rewards.

There were many cultivators gathered near the stone wall, all of whom were inspecting the missions on the wall, and some of them were speaking to their companions, seemingly gauging whether a mission was worth taking on.

Han Li took a glance at the shops on either side of the hall, then paid them no further heed as he made his way directly to the stone wall at the center of the hall.

There was a huge number of missions on the wall, and they were constantly changing intermittently.

However, the missions at the very top of the stone wall were displayed in golden text, and they were the only permanent missions on the wall, while the other missions that were constantly changing were inscribed in white text.

After taking a moment to listen to the conversations taking place around, Han Li learned that the missions displayed in golden text were ones that had been released by the Immortal Palace, while the rest had been released by ordinary cultivators.

Upon learning this distinction, he directed his attention back to the missions before him, and sure enough, there were indeed missions recruiting companions for long journeys.

In fact, there were quite a few of these missions, and some of them were purely recruiting travel companions, while others required one to protect someone on the way to other cities.

These missions all had different cultivation base requirements, but the longer journeys generally requested cultivators ranging from the Deity Transformation Stage all the way to above the Spatial Tempering Stage. However, this was no surprise.

Aside from a small number of areas on the Primordial Wave Continent, the rest of the continent was rife with peril, and there were many stretches between cities that were so perilous that they were completely uninhabited for hundreds of thousands of kilometers. For the vast majority of cultivators, attempting to cross those areas was no different from committing suicide.

Upon emerging from the pockmarked man's shop, he had already decided on his next destination. It was a city near the central region of the Primordial Wave Continent by the name of Bright Hill City.

That was the closest city of Seaside City that had a teleportation array.

As his gaze roamed over the wall, Han Li quickly narrowed down his selection to three missions, one of which was purely recruiting travel companions, the second one required one to escort a merchant party to their destination, while the last one required one to escort a certain person.

He approached the stone wall, then said to one of the golden-robed cultivators sitting there, "I want to take on mission number 252."

This was the merchant party escort mission. The commencement dates of the other two missions were still quite far away, while the merchant party was going to set off in three days.

The golden-robed man flipped a hand over to produce a jade tablet, and he didn't even bother to raise his head as he said, "Hand over your immortal token."

"Immortal token?"

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, then immediately realized that this so-called immortal badge was most likely something that was required for one to take on missions from the Immortal Outlet.

The golden-robed man's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he pointed at a room with an azure door in the deepest part of the hall as he said, "Have you not collected an immortal token yet? See that room over there? That's where you can get an immortal token."

Han Li thanked the golden-robed cultivator before making his way toward the room.

He was currently in disguise, and he was praying that no one would be able to see through it.

At the moment, he was wanted by the Ubiquitous Pavilion, and he definitely didn't want to have his true appearance cataloged in an organization like the Immortal Palace, which had a presence throughout the entire Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

Han Li strode over to the azure door, then gently exhaled before knocking on the door.

The door swung open on its own to reveal a small room, within which was seated a golden-robed elderly man with a Body Integration Stage cultivation base.

Han Li was quite relieved to see this. Given the cultivation base and spiritual sense of the elderly man, the chances that he could see through Han Li's disguise were extremely slim.

"You're here for an immortal token, right? Come," the golden-robed elderly man said as he beckoned to Han Li.

Han Li cupped his fist in a salute toward the man, then stepped into the room.

"Tell me your name and where you came from," the elderly man instructed as he pulled out a book and a silver brush.

"My name is Liu Shi, and I come from the Black Wind Sea."

The elderly man nodded in response, then wrote something down onto the book before flipping a hand over to produce a golden badge that he waved in Han Li's direction.

A burst of golden light surged out of the badge before enveloping Han Li's entire body.

Han Li was slightly alarmed by this, but he maintained a calm façade.

The golden light receded in a flash, and Han Li's visage had been emblazoned onto the badge.

The elderly man waved his silver brush over the badge a couple of times, and golden light flashed from the badge before immediately fading.

"Alright, it's done. This immortal token will serve as your proof of identification when you go to Immortal Outlets to accept missions and rewards, so make sure to keep it safe," the elderly man said as he tossed the golden badge at Han Li.

Han Li caught the badge with a surprised expression.

That burst of golden light just now had only served to record his visage without conducting any type of examination on him, and he couldn't help but be surprised by how lax this process was.

Alternatively, could it be that the masks of the Transient Guild were able to bypass the identity verification of the Immortal Palace?

The golden-robed elderly man seemed to have noticed Han Li's expression, and he said in a meaningful voice, "Our Immortal Palace has no intention of knowing too much about our fellow daoists, nor do we care if you've presented your true appearance to us."

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon hearing this, then gave the elderly man a nod before exiting the room.

Looking at the throngs of people in the hall, he realized that it was most likely precisely because of how lax the administration process was that there were so many people gathered here.

With the immortal token, Han Li was quickly able to claim the mission that he wanted.

One of the golden-robed cultivators seated beside the stone wall cast an incantation at him, and a passage of text immediately appeared on his immortal token, instructing him to travel to an inn in the city to meet the person who had released the mission.

Han Li didn't linger in the Immortal Outlet any longer as he exited the palace, and after taking a moment to determine what direction he was supposed to go in, he flew away as a streak of azure light.

Chapter 158: Setting Off

Seaside City, White Cloud Inn.

This wasn't a particularly large inn, and just like the majority of the inn in the city, it catered to both mortals and cultivators.

Of course, the vast majority of cultivators who stayed in inns like this didn't possess particularly lofty cultivation bases, and as a safety precaution, they would often disguise themselves as mortals. In reality, this was kind of an unspoken rule. After all, if a mortal were to learn that why were living next door to an almighty cultivator, then they most likely wouldn't even be able to fall asleep at night.

On this day, the White Cloud Inn was much busier than usual. Starting from several days ago, someone had reserved the entire inn, and all of the original employees had been temporarily kicked out. At the moment, everyone in the inn was extremely busy.

The entire inn, from the front hall to the backyard, was laden with large crates that were filled with all types of goods.

There were also a series of horse-beast-drawn carriages that were also laden with all types of goods outside the inn, and these were the most common form of transportation on the Primordial Wave Continent.

A slightly rotund middle-aged man was pacing back and forth, instructing his subordinates to load the crates of goods from the beast-drawn carriages onto a white flying ark in the yard.

Despite how busy he was, a faint smile would occasionally appear on his face.

As the regional manager of the Chengquan Trading House, one of the three biggest trading houses of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, he had purchased a batch of several types of rare spirit materials unique to this area during the past 100 years.

Due to how dangerous this continent was, as long as he could transport these goods safely to Bright Hill City in the central region of the continent, he would immediately be able to sell everything for several times the price he had purchased it for.

The only downside to all of this was that among these goods, there was a large batch of spirit materials with very stringent freshness requirements, so they had to be kept alive. Hence, they couldn't be stored in storage treasures and could only be transported using this flying ark.

The only concern that he had now was the safety of the return journey.

This wasn't his first time traversing across this continent, so he knew that it was a very perilous trip. Recently, there had been a rather frequent occurrence of the trading house running into unforeseen perils all over the continent, resulting in the demise of even some Spatial Tempering Stage elders, so he didn't dare to get complacent.

He was only a Deity Transformation cultivator, and even though there were many elders and guest elders in the trading house, only two of them were at the Body Integration Stage. Hence, after some extensive thought, he decided to hire Body Integration cultivators at a steep cost to accompany them on this journey from the Immortal Outlet.

Right at this moment, a streak of azure light descended in front of the inn before fading to reveal a dark-skinned man with a coarse beard, and it was none other than Han Li in his disguised form.

The rotund middle-aged man turned to Han Li upon sensing his arrival, and his immediately widened as he detected Han Li's cultivation base.

A bright smile appeared on his face as he hurriedly emerged from the inn, then cupped his fist in salute as he asked, "I presume you must've taken on my escort mission, Senior. May I know your name?"

"My name is Liu Shi. You must be Fellow Daoist Kou, right?" Han Li asked.

"That would be me."

The rotund man turned and invited Han Li into the inn, then instructed one of his subordinates to bring Han Li a cup of spirit tea.

After taking a seat across from Han Li, the man hesitated momentarily, then said, "This might be a little rude of me to ask, but may I please see your immortal token, Senior Liu?"

Han Li did as he was requested, flipping a hand over to produce his immortal token before handing it to the man.

The man inspected the token for a moment, and after verifying that it did indeed belong to Han Li, the smile on his face widened even further as he said, "We'll be counting on you, Senior. We're not setting off until two days from now, so in the meantime, you can rest in one of the rooms in the inn."

Han Li nodded in response, and the rotund man immediately instructed one of his subordinates to take Han Li to one of the rooms on the second floor.

Han Li set up an array in the room, then sat down with his legs crossed on the bed and flipped a hand over to produce a stack of thick books.

These were introductory books to the Primordial Wave Continent that he had purchased in the city earlier, and this was the perfect time to be reading them.

Two days passed by in the blink of an eye.

Late that night, a white flying ark was hovering in the air above the inn, and all of the goods had already been loaded onto the ark.

On the deck of the ark, there were around a dozen cultivators standing at the bow and the stern, and Han Li was one of them.

All of these cultivators belonged to the same trading house that the rotund man worked for, and aside from a pair of Body Integration cultivators, the rest of them all possessed rather lowly cultivation bases.

At this moment, Han Li was standing on one side of the deck, and he was taking a furtive glance at the other side with a peculiar look in his eyes.

Standing near the bow of the ark was a gorgeous woman in a long red dress.

Through his observation, he had determined that this was the very same woman who had recently been teleported out of the Black Wind Sea with him, but at this moment, she was wearing a red veil over her face that concealed her features.

Han Li had previously been unable to detect her cultivation base, but at the moment, her aura indicated that she was an early-Body Integration cultivator.

However, due to the fact that he was in disguise, the woman didn't seem to have identified him.

The commencement of the journey was imminent, and the man with the Kou surname was feeling rather uneasy as he cupped his fist in a salute to everyone. "I'll be counting on all of you for this trip."

Han Li and the others all nodded in response.

The rotund man took a glance at Han Li and the woman in the red dress, and he was feeling slightly more reassured. With a sweep his sleeve, countless white spirit patterns instantly appeared on the flying ark, and a vast expanse of white mist was also released to encompass the entire ark.

From the outside, the flying ark appeared to be no different from a cloud drifting through the sky, so it was very well-concealed.

The flying ark set off, flying over the night sky at a decent pace.

"Regarding our journey, this is the arrangement that I propose: the two of you and the two elders of our trading house will be split up into two groups, with one group protecting the ark while the other group rests, and we'll swap over once every half a month. What do you all think?" the rotund man asked.

"I'm happy to follow your lead," Han Li replied with a nod, while the woman in the red dress also nodded in silence.

The other two were both elders of the trading house, so they naturally had no objections, either.

"Alright, in that case, the elders of our trading house will look after the ark for this first half-month. I'll be counting on you," the rotund man said to the two other Body Integration cultivators.

The two of them offered no response as they sat down onto the ark, one at the bow, and one at the stern.

Meanwhile, Han Li and the woman in the red dress were arranged rooms to stay in on the ark.

The room was quite spacious, completely with a guest hall and a bedroom, and there was also a small secret chamber.

With a wave of his hand, several dozen streaks of azure light flew out of Han Li's sleeve, landing around the room to form an azure light barrier.

After that, he arrived in the secret chamber before taking a seat with his legs crossed.

There was still half a month until he had to relieve the other two Body Integration cultivators from their posts, and he had to make full use of this time.

After a moment of contemplation, he raised a hand, and a ball of heavy water flew out of the True Water Pouch strapped to his waist before hovering in mid-air in front of him.

A serious look appeared on his face as he made a series of hand seals, and arcs of silver lightning sprang out of his palms before entering the ball of heavy water.

The ball of heavy water immediately began to swell and warp in an unstable manner, looking as if it were about to explode, but it was forcibly trapped within the azure light that Han Li was releasing out of his hands.

He flicked his fingers rapidly through the air to cast a series of incantation seals, and the silver lightning within the heavy water instantly became very tame, transforming into thin strands of silver lightning.

At the same time, the heavy water also began to settle down, and the two gradually integrated themselves with one another.

A long while later, the ball of heavy water was nowhere to be seen, having been replaced by a fist-sized black ball with silver lightning veins flashing on its surface. This was another ball of Heavy Water Veined Lightning.

At this point, Han Li had already become quite proficient in refining Heavy Water Veined Lightning, and he inspected the black ball for a moment before stowing it away.

Immediately thereafter, he drew another ball of heavy water out of his True Water Pouch, and silver lightning flashed from his hands once again to fuse with the heavy water...

The destructive power of the Heavy Water Veined Lightning was still rather lackluster, but given sufficient quantity, they could still pose a serious threat.

He didn't know what perils he was going to encounter in the journey ahead, so he had to prepare for the worst.

A month passed by in the blink of an eye, and Han Li was relieved of his post by the two trading house elders. Nothing of note had taken place during this time.

Inside his secret chamber, Han Li was seated with a rather weary look on his face, but his eyes were filled with elation.

He had already refined part of the heavy water he was carrying into Heavy Water Veined Lightning, and there were seven or eight balls of the lightning in total.

A single ball of veined lightning wasn't very useful, but given sufficient numbers, it could definitely prove to be quite a formidable force that even a late-True Immortal cultivator would have to be wary of.

With that in mind, Han Li stowed the black ball in his hand into his storage bracelet, then flipped a hand over to produce a pill. After swallowing the pill and meditating for a short while, all of the weariness in his eyes had completely faded.

He flipped a hand over to produce a black array plate, and it was none other than one of the Twin Starshift Plates.

He had just sent a crystal to the Black Wind Sea a month ago, and this was the day on which his Earthly Deity Avatar was supposed to send him the heavy water that it had refined.

He cast an incantation seal onto the array plate, which immediately began to buzz audibly while releasing a large expanse of black light.

Han Li cast another incantation seal onto the array plate, causing it to revolve on the spot and glow even more brightly.

However, the usual ball of heavy water didn't appear, and a befuddled look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

Could it be that something had happened to his Earthly Deity Avatar?

Right as he rose to his feet to take a closer look, a small ball of heavy water slowly appeared over the center of the array plate.

He heaved an internal sigh of relief upon seeing this, then sat down once again before stowing the ball of heavy water away with a wave of his hand.

The black array plate continued to revolve on the spot, and only after several more minutes had passed by did another small ball of heavy water appear.

This was not an encouraging sight for Han Li, and a contemplative look appeared on his face as he continued to scrutinize the array plate.

Judging from this situation, it seemed that nothing was wrong with his Earthly Deity Avatar, but there was a problem with this Twin Starshift Plate. For some reason, it was having much more difficulty transmitting heavy water than before.

With that in mind, he carefully inspected the array plate, but didn't discover anything amiss.

There were eight dark azure spirit stones embedded into the center of the array plate. These stones were called Starshift Stones, and they contained the power of space, and they acted as the energy source for treasures like the Twin Starshift Plates to function.

The eight Starshift Stones were giving off a faint glow, indicating that there was still sufficient spatial power within them, so theoretically speaking, the Twin Starshift Plate on the Earthly Deity Avatar's side should've been fine as well.

Why is this happening?

Han Li fell into deep thought with his brows tightly furrowed, and a short while later, he abruptly raised his head as a possibility occurred to him.

He had left the Black Wind Sea and was currently traveling eastward over the Primordial Wave Continent, so at the moment, he had to have been a vast distance away from his Earthly Deity Avatar. Could it be that there was an effective distance limit on the Twin Starshift Plates?

Chapter 159: Eastbound Journey

The more Han Li thought about it, the more convinced he became that this problem had to have something to do with distance.

It stood to reason that this array plate would function similarly to a teleportation array, so the longer the distance, the more difficult the transmission.

A concerned look appeared on his face as he arrived at this conclusion.

He had only just arrived on the Primordial Wave Continent, so he was still quite far away from the Blaze Dragon Dao, yet it was already becoming extremely difficult to have heavy water transmitted to him. By the time he reached the Blaze Dragon Dao, the Twin Starshift Plates would most likely be rendered completely useless.

However, he couldn't just abandon his journey to the Blaze Dragon Dao for this reason, so this was just a problem that he would have to find a solution to after reaching the Blaze Dragon Dao.

With that in mind, he refocused his attention on the Twin Starshift Plate. Seeing as it was still able to transmit heavy water to him for the moment, he had to capitalize on this window of opportunity before it passed him by.

Back when he was in the Black Wind Sea, it would've only taken mere moments for his Earthly Deity Avatar to transmit all of the heavy water that it had refined in a month to him, but on this occasion, the same process took a full three days.

Han Li turned his gaze to the Twin Starshift Plate in his hand to find that the eight Starshift Stones had become semi-transparent, clearly having had most of their spiritual power exhausted.

The spiritual power used up in all of the past transmissions combined was less than what had been used for this single transmission.

A wry smile appeared on his face as he stowed the array plate away, then drew another ball of heavy water out of his True Water Pouch to continue refining more Heavy Water Veined Lightning.

Half a month passed by in the blink of an eye, and Han Li was on lookout duty once again.

He made his way out of his room, and he discovered the flying ark was traveling over a lush forest.

The woman in the red dress also emerged from her room not far away, and the two of them exchanged a glance before making their way to the opposite ends of the ark.

Both of the Body Integration Stage elders of the trading house were looking rather weary, and they cautioned, "We're beginning to get quite deep into the Lost Grave Forest, and more and more high-grade flying demon beasts are appearing, so make sure to be on your guard."

The man with the Kou surname had also arrived on the deck, and he cupped his fist in a salute toward Han Li and the woman in the red dress. "I'll be counting on you."

It seemed that he had been quite on-edge during this trip, and he would regularly come out to the deck to oversee proceedings. At this moment, he was looking quite weary, and his eyes were slightly bloodshot.

"Rest assured, Fellow Daoist Kou. I accept the mission, and I'll do my best to complete it," Han Li replied with a nod, then flew over to the left hand side of the ark's bow.

The woman in the red dress offered no response, merely giving a slight nod before flying toward the stern.

The flying ark continued onward, but a short while later, a burst of rustling suddenly rang out from the forest down below. As it turned out, there was a red cloud flying rapidly toward the ark, and it hadn't been fooled by the white cloud around the ark at all.

Blue light flashed within Han Li's eyes, and he was able to identify the red cloud as a flock of giant red birds.

These birds resembled eagles, and each of them was several dozen feet in size. They didn't have many feathers, and large sections of wrinkly red skin was bared, while each of them had a fleshy crest on its head. Their talons were disproportionately thick and large compared with the rest of their bodies, and they were extremely hideous in appearance.

The man with the Kou surname hadn't gone back to rest yet, and upon spotting the flock of birds, he exclaimed, "Those are Chicken Crest Eagles!"

The birds were closing in on the ark extremely quickly, and there were close to 1,000 of them, with each of them giving off an aura that wasn't inferior to that of a Nascent Soul cultivator.

The birds began to squawk with excitement as they opened their beaks to blast a series of crimson fireballs toward the flying ark.

At the same time, bright red light began to glow from their talons, and a flurry of sickle-shaped crimson claw projections were unleashed, howling through the air as they hurtled toward the ark.

"Activate the protective barrier!" the man with the Kou surname yelled.

The spirit patterns around the ark instantly lit up, and streaks of white light emerged to form a thick white protective barrier.

The crimson flames and claws projections struck the protective barrier with tremendous force, but the barrier remained resolute, displaying no signs of breaking.

At this point, Han Li had already risen up into the air, and with a sweep of his sleeve, nine streaks of white light flew out, revealing themselves to be a set of nine identical white flying swords.

Each flying sword was glowing with white radiance, and they were all spirit treasures.

Han Li had found this set of flying swords in the First Scourge's storage pouch, and they were a little similar to his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords, so he decided to keep them, seeing as he had no suitable treasures to use at the moment.

Han Li made a hand seal with one hand, and the nine flying swords began to glow brightly, transforming into hundreds of white sword threads in a flash.

The sword threads intertwined to form a massive white sword net, which encompassed the entire area of several thousand feet up ahead.

All of the crimson birds that came into contact with the white sword net were instantly sliced into pieces, falling into the forest down below as chunks of flesh and blood.

In the blink of an eye, dozens of the birds had been slain.

Meanwhile, the woman in the red dress had also sprung into action. A dragon formed by crimson flames had appeared before her, and it was extremely life-like. The dragon was close to 1,000 feet in length, and it blasted an enormous pillar of flames out of its mouth, incinerating all of the crimson birds in its path into ashes.

There was a huge number of these birds, but they were lacking in individual power, and it didn't take long before most of them had been slain by Han Li and the woman, following which the rest fled for their lives.

The nine flying swords flew back to Han Li at his behest, and the flying ark continued onward, but it didn't take long before more disturbance appeared up ahead, and the ark was attacked by a swarm of black hornets.

Han Li immediately released his set of nine flying swords once again...

At this point in the Lost Grave Forest, there was a huge number of flying demon beasts in the area, and even though the ark was concealed, many of the demon beasts were able to see through the concealment.

There were certain days when the ark was attacked more than 10 times in a day, but thankfully, the man with the Kou surname was quite familiar with the layout of the forest, intentionally steering the ark so that it avoided all of the dwelling places of powerful demon beasts.

As a result, they were only attacked by demon beasts that weren't all that formidable, and given how Han Li and the woman in red were both actually True Immortal cultivators disguised as Body Integration cultivators, they naturally had no trouble dealing with these attacks.

The man with the Kou surname was feeling much more reassured upon seeing this.

However, as a result of all these attacks, the flying ark was frequently forced to slow down, so progress wasn't ideal.

Around a dozen more days passed by in the blink of an eye.

A giant white vortex formed by countless rapidly revolving white sword threads had completely enveloped a mountainous azure beast, trapping it inside.

The azure beast roared as a layer of metallic azure light surfaced over its entire body, keeping the countless surrounding sword threads at bay.

At the same time, it was blasting gusts of fierce azure wind out of its mouth in an attempt to shatter the vortex around it.

However, the white sword threads were extremely formidable, and they were able to quickly slice the dark azure light around the giant beast into shreds before piercing into its body.

The azure beast didn't even get a chance to cry out before it was sliced into a pile of meat by the countless sword threads.

With a wave of his hand, the countless sword threads converged to reform the nine flying swords at his behest, then flew back up his sleeve.

There were still several other azure beasts near the flying ark, and they were all quickly slain as well, following which the ark continued onward.

At this point, the vegetation of the forest down below was gradually becoming more sparse, exposing large sections of earth, and it seemed that they were finally about to fly out of the Lost Grave Forest.

After close to another half-day passed by, the forest down below had completely vanished.

The landscape up ahead was beginning to turn black, and there were some black rocks on the ground as a bleak desert appeared up ahead.

The ark suddenly began to slow down here, and the man with the Kou surname arrived along with the two Body Integration Stage elders.

"Up ahead is the Black Rock desert. It's already quite late now, so it won't be wise to keep going. We'll rest here for the night, then continue our journey tomorrow. Thank you for your hard work, seniors!"

Han Li immediately recalled that he had previously read about the Black Rock Desert in one of the books that he had purchased in Seaside City.

It was a perilous place where gravity was several times heavier than it was elsewhere, apparently because there were underground ore veins that were affecting the origin magnetic force in the region.

Furthermore, there were some extremely formidable dark beasts residing deep in the Black Wind Desert that lurked underground during the day, then came out at night.

Thankfully, the desert wasn't very large, so all of the people crossing this area would choose to do so as quickly as possible during the day.

The ark slowly descended toward the ground, and everyone on the ark was feeling rather weary. Aside from the two Body Integration Stage elders, who were on lookout duty, everyone retired to their rooms to rest.

Dusk slowly transitioned into night, and a bright full moon appeared in the sky.

There was not a single cloud to be seen in the sky above the entire desert, only countless dazzling stars that were flashing radiantly.

The ark was resting beside a giant rock, and it was completely enshrouded in darkness, with the only light on the ark coming from some lit lamps in the rooms.

Right at this moment, the door of one of the rooms on the ark swung open, and a figure emerged from within, silently treading over the ark quickly arriving on the desert outside.

It was none other than Han Li, and he was traveling along the desert in leaps and bounds. Once he was sufficiently far away from the ark, azure light emerged over his body, and he flew away into the distance.

Only after flying for close to 100,000 kilometers did he draw to a halt, then descended toward an oasis down below.

This desert oasis was only several hundred kilometers in area, and most of the plants here were sand poplar trees and hardy willow trees, which were capable of growing in dry, desert conditions. The trunks of these trees were generally only several dozen feet tall, and due to their constant exposure to the scorching sun and the fierce desert winds, their branches and leaves were all growing in a rather lopsided manner.

On the edge of this oasis was a miniature crescent-shaped lake, which was shimmering under the moonlight, presenting an alluring sight in the desert landscape.

Han Li made his way to the edge of the lake, then scooped up some water before drinking it out of his cupped hands, instantly filling his mouth with a cool and refreshing sensation.

He sat down onto the ground, then released his spiritual sense to encompass the entire surrounding area in a radius of tens of thousands of feet.

Shortly thereafter, he reached into the front of his robe and pulled out the Heaven Controlling Vial, which he carefully set down before himself.

As a ray of moonlight shone down upon the vial, it immediately began to glow, and all of the leaf patterns on its surface lit up, giving the entire vial a glittering and translucent appearance. A series of

specks of white light took shape around the vial, transforming into giant halos of white light that were glowing radiantly.

The small lake was also instantly illuminated by the white light, and looking at it from afar, it was as if the lake had suddenly been frozen solid.

Chapter 160: Gan Jiuzhen

Han Li closed his eyes and made a hand seal as he began to meditate, but a short while later, his eyes abruptly sprang open, and a wary look flashed across his face.

He reached forward to grab the small vial before tucking it back into the front of his robe, then rose to his feet and withdrew his spiritual sense.

After that, he quickly concealed his aura as well before hiding behind one of the nearby hardy willow trees.

Moments later, a figure flew past overhead, traveling into the distance in an extremely stealthy manner. In fact, the figure wasn't even giving off any spiritual power fluctuations, and it was as if a mortal had just passed through.

Blue light flashed through Han Li's eyes as he took a glance at the passing figure, and a perplexed look appeared on his face.

The figure was none other than the woman in the red dress who was accompanying him on this journey.

The woman clearly hadn't come for him, so he initially decided not to pry into this matter. However, she was flying rather slowly and intentionally concealing her aura, making her appear rather suspicious, and Han Li couldn't help but feel a little apprehensive.

What is that woman doing going out alone this late at night?

After a brief moment of contemplation, he flipped a hand over to produce a High Zenith Invisibility Talisman.

Immediately thereafter, a burst of purple light lit up from his fingertip, and his body gradually faded into invisibility.

Even though the talisman had an aura concealment effect, Han Li didn't follow along too closely, making sure to trail along several thousand feet behind the woman.

The woman was naturally completely oblivious to this, and she continued to fly onward, flying straight out of the oasis after around 15 minutes.

Han Li followed her all the way to the edge of the oasis, and after confirming that she didn't seem to be harboring any ill intent, he decided that this was as far as he would go.

Hence, he drew to a halt before preparing to return to the lake.

However, right at this moment, a burst of dazzling light suddenly appeared in the night over 10,000 feet up ahead, and three massive shadows emerged to stop the woman in her tracks.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this, and as it turned out, the three giant shadows were a trio of mountainous white snow toads.

The snow toads were all of a pristine white color, and there were thick layers of frost covering their limbs and faces. Each of them also had a glowing ice crystal on their lower abdomen, presenting a particularly eye-catching sight in the night.

Han Li was rather surprised to see this. These toads were extremely massive, yet they had somehow been able to conceal themselves in such a way that even Han Li hadn't been able to detect them in advance with his spiritual sense.

A burst of deep croaking rang out as the three snow toads opened their giant mouths to reveal their dark purple tongues, which were emanating wisps of glacial qi.

Aside from the snow toads, there were also two figures standing atop the head of the middle toad.

One of them had an effeminate appearance and skin that was as fair as snow. They were wearing a tight-fitting long robe, but their chest was completely flat, and it was rather difficult to say whether they were male or female. As for the other figure, it was a hideous man with a portly frame and an unsightly face.

"Do you remember us two brothers, Gan Jiuzhen?"

The figure with the effeminate appearance was pointing at the woman in the red dress from afar as he spoke, and there was an indescribable note of femininity in his high-pitched voice.

"I don't have a habit of remembering nameless scoundrels suffering from gender identity crises," the woman in the red dress harrumphed coldly in response, and her voice was filled with undisguised disgust.

The effeminate man's face immediately became brightly flushed, seemingly so enraged that he was unable to even speak.

"It doesn't matter if you don't know our names. All you have to know is that this day next year will be your death anniversary!" the hideous man declared in a cold voice.

Gan Jiuzhen seemed to have lost patience with this war of words, and a derisive look appeared on her face beneath her veil as she took the initiative to lash out at her assailants.

With a flick of her wrist, crimson light began to surge over the crimson bracelet that she was wearing, as if it had suddenly sprung to life.

A draconic roar rang out as a ball of fire erupted out of the bracelet, transforming into a fiery dragon that was over 1,000 feet in length before pouncing over the night sky toward the two men standing atop the snow toad.

The effeminate man's expression changed slightly upon seeing this, and he bent down to gently pat the snow toad beneath his feet.

A string of deep croaking rang out as the three giant snow toads opened their mouths in unison, releasing a vast expanse of translucent ice that hurtled toward the fiery dragon, stacking layer upon layer on top of itself to form a massive mountain of ice as it did so.

A resounding boom rang out as the fiery dragon crashed into the mountain of ice, and flames erupted in all directions alongside countless ice crystals, which exploded into glittering ice powder that spread through the air.

As a result of the collision, the fiery dragon was unable to maintain its draconic form any longer, and it erupted into a sea of flames that crashed into the mountain of ice.

Fire and ice were erupting in all directions, creating a huge cloud of white water vapor that obscured a large section of the sky.

Han Li watched the unfolding battle from afar for a moment, then turned to depart, not wanting to get swept up in this mess.

However, right as he turned around, he suddenly felt a burst of violent spiritual power fluctuations hurtling toward him, and he reflexively crossed his arms to form a barrier in front of himself.

Immediately thereafter, he was struck by a tremendous burst of invisible force, which sent him flying toward Gan Jiuzhen while also forcibly stripping away the concealment effect of the High Zenith Invisibility Talisman.

While in mid-air, he turned to find that three more giant shadows had appeared right at the spot where he had been situated just a moment ago. It was another set of three snow toads that were virtually identical to the ones standing before Gan Jiuzhen.

A hint of foreboding welled up in his heart upon seeing this, and azure light flashed from his body as he steadied himself not far away from Gan Jiuzhen.

"I see that you recruited an ally. If it isn't for the fact that one of these babies of mine has undergone a golden eye mutation, I wouldn't have been able to discover him," the effeminate man said with a seductive smile.

Only upon hearing this did Han Li notice that the snow toad beneath the two men was indeed a little different from the other ones in that its pupils carried a faint golden hue.

Han Li took a glance at the two men, then said, "I'm only passing by, and I have no intention of getting involved in this battle."

Meanwhile, Gan Jiuzhen raised a hand, and the sea of fire that was clashing with the mountain of ice reverted back into the form of a fiery dragon before flying back to her at her behest, circling around her in a wary fashion.

She took a glance at Han Li, and a hint of bewilderment flashed through her eyes, but she didn't say anything to him as she directed her gaze back to the two men, focusing her attention on the battle at hand.

"I don't care if you're just passing by or an ally of hers. Now that you've entered our Six Toad Fire Melting Array, you'll have to die here with her! The path to the afterlife is a very lonely one, so you two can keep each other company on the way there!" the hideous man cackled in a sinister manner.

As soon as his voice trailed off, the six snow toads surrounding Han Li and Gan Jiuzhen began to glow with white radiance in unison, and a burst of violent fluctuations surged through the surrounding area.

In the next instant, a massive crystalline silver wall appeared out of thin air, trapping Han Li and Gan Jiuzhen within it.

As soon as the crystalline wall appeared, Han Li immediately felt the surrounding air temperature plummet.

At the same time, a string of crackling rang out from the surrounding space, and a series of hexagonal snowflakes began to appear. As it turned out, even the air was beginning to freeze solid.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and a layer of azure light appeared over his body as his immortal spiritual power flowed out of his dantian, forming a burst of warm energy that spread over him to keep the biting chill at bay like a layer of warm clothes.

However, he quickly discovered that his efforts were completely futile.

The glacial energy in the air was interspersed with wisps of law powers that could easily bypass this layer of immortal spiritual power, and his True Extreme Membrane also wasn't very effective at keeping out the cold.

Han Li noticed that the glacial energy was seeping through his skin before making its way toward his dantian, and he was just about to summon his Essence Fire Raven to ward off the biting chill when a layer of crimson flames suddenly appeared over his body to instantly expel the glacial energy.

He turned to discover that Gan Jiuzhen's entire body was basked in flames, and a trail of fire was extending from her wrist, connecting her flames to his.

Furthermore, she wasn't concealing her aura any longer, and as a result, Han Li discovered that she was a mid-True Immortal cultivator.

Right at this moment, Gan Jiuzhen's voice suddenly rang out beside Han Li's ears. "Fellow Daoist Liu Shi, I don't care if you really are just passing through by chance, or if you intentionally followed me here. I only have one question for you right now: are you willing to join forces with me?"

"If you're asking for my help, then this Six Toad Fire Melting Array must be quite difficult to deal with," Han Li replied via voice transmission with slightly furrowed brows.

"This is an ice-attribute array that's capable of melting even true flames. Hopefully that gives you an idea of what we're dealing with here," Gan Jiuzhen replied in a cold voice.

Right as Han Li was hesitating about how to proceed, he noticed that the layer of crimson flames around him was slowly being whittled away, and the heat that was being released was also receding.

"These two set up this array specifically to target me, so I won't be able to resist its effects for very long. Once the glacial qi freezes our meridian and dantians, we'll be completely at their mercy."

As Gan Jiuzhen was speaking, she continued to draw upon more of her immortal spiritual power in order to bolster the flames around herself and Han Li. Despite the dire situation that they were in, her voice was as calm and collected as ever, as if she were talking about something extremely mundane.

"Alright, I'll help you," Han Li replied.

As soon as their alliance was forged, the effeminate man began to chant an incantation.

The six snow toads opened their mouths in unison and began to emit an extremely high-pitched screeching sound.

Their long tongues were fluttering incessantly in their mouths as bursts of silver glacial were released, forming two walls of mist that converged from both sides before fusing into the crystalline wall that Han Li and Gan Jiuzhen were trapped in.

A string of loud crackling rang out as the crystalline wall became thicker and thicker while constantly closing in around Han Li's duo, causing the surrounding air temperature to plummet even further.

Han Li was even able to see wisps of glacial qi that were visible to the naked eye closing in around him, constantly whittling away at the layer of crimson flames that he was enveloped within.

"Fellow Daoist Liu, if I focus solely on helping you keep out the glacial qi, do you have a way to break through this array?" Gan Jiuzhen asked via voice transmissions while making a series of hand seals to strengthen her flames.