

## **A Record 271**

### Chapter 271: The Function of the Eye of Truth

The next morning.

Han Li returned to the Crimson Dawn Peak without alerting anyone, and he quickly passed through the courtyard before entering his cave abode.

After activating all of the restrictions in the cave abode, he made his way into his secret chamber, then sat down with his legs crossed on a cushion before flipping a hand over to summon a white porcelain teacup.

This wasn't a treasure or artifact. Instead, it was just an ordinary cup, one that was commonly seen in wealthy mortal clans, and it was something that Han Li had taken from the table while passing through the hall.

He held the teacup in one hand as he gently flicked a finger against its rim.

A faint crack rang out as a piece of porcelain on the rim of the teacup was snapped off.

Han Li nodded to himself as he placed the broken teacup onto the ground in front of him, then made a hand seal, and his Mantra Treasured Axis immediately appeared behind him amid a flash of golden light.

The axis then began to slowly revolve, while a vertical golden eye appeared at its center.

Han Li began to chant an incantation, and the Mantra Treasured Axis instantly sped up in its rotation while emitting a faint buzzing sound.

The semi-transparent Time Dao Runes on the axis lit up one after another, and it didn't take long before all 24 Time Dao Runes were activating, releasing circles of golden ripples that illuminated the entire secret chamber.

The eyelids of the vertical eye at the center of the axis also peeled back to reveal the golden eyeball within.

The circle of runes at the center of the eyeball also began to rapidly revolve, following which a beam of faint golden light was projected out of the pupil.

Han Li directed his gaze toward the broken teacup, and the beam of golden light that was projected out of the Eye of Truth was also turned to the teacup.

The golden light illuminated the white teacup, giving the entire cup a translucent appearance.

However, the broken part of the teacup remained broken, not displaying any changes at all.

It looks like it can't restore ordinary items...

Han Li wasn't all that surprised by this outcome as he wasn't expecting the Eye of Truth to be able to work on ordinary items in the first place.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he flipped a hand over to produce a miniature black octagonal pagoda.

This pagoda was once a spirit treasure of quite a high caliber, possessing the ability to trap a target inside, but it was severely damaged, and as a result, its effectiveness was also severely diminished. However, there were some rather special runes engraved upon it that Han Li was rather interested in, and that was why he hadn't thrown the treasure away.

The pagoda was quite intricately crafted, and even though it was only around a foot tall, it was complete with pillars, doors, windows, and even plaques hanging above every single door, upon which were inscribed runes that spelled out profound mantras.

The pagoda was supposed to have seven levels, but due to the damage that it had sustained, the top level and the roof had both gone missing.

Han Li set the pagoda down onto the ground in front of him, then took a deep breath before activating his Eye of Truth again and directing its gaze toward the pagoda.

The pagoda was basked in golden radiance, and it began to glow with black light while releasing layers of peculiar fluctuations. A series of hidden runes concealed under the eaves of the pagoda and behind its pillars were also revealed.

However, just like with the teacup from before, its missing section remained missing.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he fell into deep thought.

Moments later, he swept a hand through the air to stow the pagoda away, then summoned a damaged red seal that he placed onto the ground before repeating the same process.

The Eye of Truth released another beam of golden light that encompassed the entire seal...

Close to a day later, Han Li was still seated with his legs crossed on his cushion, and he was holding an Immortal Origin Stone to replenish his immortal spiritual power.

There were 17 or 18 items littered on the ground in front of him, and all of them were treasures that were damaged in some way.

These were all of the damaged treasures that were currently in his possession, and they covered a wide array of attributes, such as wind, lightning, water, fire, etc. He had tested the Eye of Truth on every single one of these treasures one by one, but none of them were restored in the form of a projection as had been the case for the stone monument.

"How strange... What am I missing?" Han Li murmured to himself while replenishing his immortal spiritual power reserves.

The Eye of Truth has no effect on ordinary items, nor is it effective on spirit treasures that contain spiritual power, yet it works on that stone monument in the White Finch Valley secret area.. What's so special about that monument?

He refused to believe that the Eye of Truth could only be effective on certain items. Instead, there had to have been a certain classification of items that it could work on.

Could it be...

All of a sudden, a thought sprang into his mind, and he flipped a hand over to produce a rectangular white jade box, upon which was adhered an azure talisman that could preserve spiritual qi.

Han Li gently stroked his hand over the jade box, and the talisman instantly vanished amid a flash of azure light.

He then opened the jade box, and a rich medicinal aroma instantly wafted throughout the room.

Inside the jade box was a high-grade spirit plant that had light purple leaf veins and was giving off a faint glow.

This was a Night Cloud Herb that was around a foot in length, and it was a primary ingredient for refining a type of earthly pill. This particular Night Cloud Herb had been matured to an age in excess of 50,000 years by the spirit liquid from the Heaven Controlling Vial.

Han Li stowed the Immortal Origin Stone away, then made a hand seal to summon his Mantra Treasured Axis again.

With all 24 Time Dao Runes activated, the Eye of Truth released a beam of golden light that fell upon the purple spirit herb.

Purple light began to emanate from the Night Cloud Herb, and under the scrutiny of the Eye of Truth, it began to rapidly shrink, quickly reverting back to only around an inch in length. The specks of light emanating from its leaf veins that were an indication of maturity had also faded, and it had reverted back into the form of a tender seedling.

I was right! The Eye of Truth only works on things that contain the power of time.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face as he had his suspicions confirmed.

After a brief pause, he reached out a hand to touch the seedling, but his hand passed right through the projection, and what he was actually touching was the mature spirit herb underneath.

Judging from the effect of the Eye of Truth on this spirit herb, it seems like the stone monument wasn't restored. Instead, it was only reverted back to an older version of itself, back when it was still whole. If the Eye of Truth really is able to reveal the past forms of items that contain the power of time, then it should work on those things as well.

With that in mind, he flipped a hand over once again, and a rectangular green jade box appeared out of thin air amid a flash of light.

With a sweep of his sleeve, the jade box was opened, and a gray rocky ball flew out from within. It was none other than the lone eyeball of the Primordial Fei Beast.

Han Li directed the gaze of the Eye of Truth toward the eyeball, and as it was basked in golden light, the eyeball gradually began to transform.

Rays of golden light began to radiate from its surface, forming a series of golden threads that extended outward, then intertwined with one another to form a golden skeleton, followed by a giant body.

Before long, a projection of the Primordial Fei Beast had been conjured up, and it was laid out flat in mid-air inside the secret chamber.

Due to how massive the Primordial Fei Beast was, half of its body had already vanished into one of the walls of the secret chamber, so Han Li was unable to see it in its full glory.

Han Li rose to his feet and made his way over to the head of the Primordial Fei Beast projection, and only after some close examination did he withdraw the Eye of Truth.

The massive projection in the secret chamber instantly vanished, leaving only the lone eye hovering in mid-air.

Han Li exhaled as he stowed the eyeball away, then flipped a hand over to produce another item. This time, it was a semi-transparent crystal the size of a water droplet.

This crystal was none other than a crystal that contained the power of time manifested by the Heaven Controlling Vial.

Han Li directed the gaze of the Eye of Truth toward the crystal, and the crystal instantly became enshrouded within a beam of faint golden light, following which it began to release a burst of dazzling white light alongside tremendous spiritual power fluctuations.

Han Li was quite startled by this turn of events, and he hurriedly attempted to stow the crystal away, but it was already too late.

A faint crack rang out, and the crystal fell apart within the golden light.

Before Han Li had a chance to react, the golden law thread within the crystal shot out like a steel needle, passing straight through Han Li before piercing into the Eye of Truth within his Mantra Treasured Axis.

Han Li felt as if the Mantra Treasured Axis had been dealt a heavy blow, and as a result, he was sent stumbling back in an involuntary manner.

Immediately thereafter, he felt the axis behind him begin to tremble while releasing bursts of invisible fluctuations.

He hurriedly cut off the secret technique to close the Eye of Truth, yet even after doing that, the Mantra Treasured Axis continued to tremble.

A hesitant look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this. He didn't know how to intervene, nor did he dare to withdraw the axis back into his body in its current state, so he could only force himself to calm down as he carefully observed the axis.

Thankfully, the tremors running through the Mantra Treasured Axis subsided after only around 15 minutes.

All of a sudden, an incredulous look appeared on Han Li's face. He discovered that a new Tie Dao Rune had appeared on the Mantra Treasured Axis.

#### Chapter 272: Reversal True Axis

A hint of bewilderment flashed through Han Li's eyes, and he began to scrutinize the Mantra Treasured Axis intently with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes. He carefully counted the Time Dao Runes on the axis to find that there were now indeed 25 of them.

Could it be that the Eye of Truth also has the ability to absorb the power of time?

Han Li didn't know whether this additional Time Dao Rune was temporary or permanent, but if it were the latter, then this would be an incredible turn of events.

With that in mind, Han Li was immediately tempted to try more, but unfortunately, he only had a single crystal on hand, so he would have to wait a month before he could try the same thing again.

As for his Earthly Deity Avatar, it would just have to do without the crystals for now.

Han Li heaved a faint sigh to suppress the excitement in his heart, then withdrew the Mantra Treasured Axis back into his body.

After that, he reached into the collar of his robes to pull out the Heaven Controlling Vial around his neck.

This was something that had been with him ever since the beginning of his cultivation journey. It contained the most tremendous power of time out of anything in his possession, and it was the treasure that he wanted to make sense of the most.

He brought the vial closer to his own eyes, and a look of focus appeared on his face as he scrutinized the leaf-shaped patterns on its surface.

The Heaven Controlling Vial was his most important treasure and one of his most well-kept secrets. What had happened with the crystal just now hadn't resulted in any detrimental outcomes, but he was still concerned that something bad could happen to the Heaven Controlling Vial.

After some careful consideration, he decided to try something. He had always really wanted to find out the origins of the Heaven Controlling Vial, and at this point, he was confident that a treasure of the Heaven Controlling Vial's caliber wouldn't be damaged so easily.

After making up his mind, he set the vial down onto the floor in front of him, then activated his Eye of Truth and directed its gaze toward the vial.

The eye projected a beam of golden light onto the vial, which immediately shuddered slightly before rising up into the air.

Han Li's entire body was tightly wound, and there was an anxious look on his face as he scrutinized the vial through his Eye of Truth.

Right at this moment, a speck of white light the size of a grain of rice appeared within the vial, illuminating it from the inside to give it a translucent appearance. All of the leaf-shaped patterns on its surface became extremely vibrant and life-like as a result.

Right as Han Li thought that a projection was going to appear, the light within the vial suddenly turned a dark green color, and it devoured the beam of golden light shining into it like a vortex.

Han Li was quite startled by this, and his first reaction was to close the Eye of Truth, but he then discovered that the vial wasn't displaying any further changes beyond what had just happened.

After waiting for a while longer, there was still nothing of interest happening, and Han Li heaved an internal sigh of relief. Following a brief pause, he decided to activate his newly attained 25th Time Dao Rune as well.



With all 25 Time Dao Runes glowing in unison, the Eye of Truth projected another beam of golden light onto the Heaven Controlling Vial, and this time, something unexpected happened.

A flash of light appeared over the surface of the vial, and it devoured the beam of golden light before shooting out a beam of green light toward the Eye of Truth.

Han Li was stunned to discover that even though the beam of green light wasn't moving very quickly, for some reason, it felt completely unstoppable to him.

The beam of green light fell silently upon the Eye of Truth, turning it a bright green color. At the same time, the entire Mantra Treasured Axis began to tremble violently, and the golden light radiating from it began to warp and blur in an unstable fashion.

It was as if the entire axis were about to collapse!

Han Li hurriedly tried to stabilize the axis upon seeing this, but he quickly discovered that a burst of suction force had emerged in the axis out of nowhere, and it was rapidly drawing upon his immortal spiritual power.

This was a rather concerning turn of events, but Han Li didn't dare to stop as he could sense that the Mantra Treasured Axis was slowly being stabilized by the influx of his immortal spiritual power.

Around 15 minutes passed by, during which over two thirds of Han Li's immortal spiritual power had been depleted, and the tremors in the axis finally ceased, while the green light on its surface had also faded.

It seemed that the Eye of Truth had been forcibly shut.

Han Li heaved an internal sigh of relief, and after verifying that the axis and the Eye of Truth were unscathed, he withdrew the axis into his body with a hint of lingering fear in his eyes. He then carefully examined the Heavenly Controlling Vial and was quite relieved to find that it was also unharmed.

"Looks like I've been underestimating you all this time. You're completely fine, whereas the majority of immortal spiritual power has been depleted. I should continue to conduct these experiments once I've further enhanced the Eye of Truth," Han Li murmured to himself with a wry smile.

After that, he stowed the Heaven Controlling Vial away, then sat down with his legs crossed and closed his eyes. At the same time, the image of the stone monument in the secret area sprang into his mind, particularly the section with the third level of the Mantra Axis Scripture inscribed upon it.

At this point, he was already extremely familiar with the first level of the cultivation art, so he was focusing solely on examining the second and third levels with his spiritual sense, trying to see if those two parts contained any information pertaining to the Eye of Truth.

He sat for seven days and seven nights, carefully reading through both of the latter parts of the cultivation art during this time.

However, in the end, he was unable to find anything. Aside from the records of the Eye of Truth secret technique, there was no further content regarding the Eye of Truth in the rest of the cultivation art.

Han Li slowly opened his eyes and stretched lazily as he rose to his feet.

Even though he hadn't found what he was looking for, he wasn't disappointed in the slightest. Instead, there was a hint of elation in his eyes.

This was because during the reading process, he had summoned the Mantra Treasured Axis on multiple occasions for reference, and he discovered that the 25th Time Dao Rune still remained without displaying any signs of fading away. It appeared to have been just as permanent as the 24 other Time Dao Runes.

Furthermore, he could sense that the flow of time in the area encompassed within the golden ripples had slowed down a little further. It wasn't a significant change, but a noticeable one, nonetheless.

This meant that the Time Dao Rune that had arisen after the Eye of Truth absorbed the crystal manifested by the Heaven Controlling Vial was most likely permanent, but further observation would be required to confirm this.

In any case, Han Li was very excited by this discovery.

Aside from that, he had also made another encouraging discovery while inspecting the third level of the cultivation art.

Attached to the mantra of the third level of the cultivation art was an ability called the Reversal True Axis, and this was an ability that had the completely opposite effect to the Mantra Treasured Axis, accelerating the flow of time rather than slowing it down.

However, this ability only applied to its user. According to the description of the ability, it required one to keep the Mantra Treasured Axis in their body and reverse it, thereby accelerating the flow of time for them and enhancing their speed.

There was a prerequisite to cultivating this ability as well, which was that one had to have manifested at least 18 Time Dao Runes on their Mantra Treasured Axis, and it had nothing to do with which level of the Mantra Treasured Axis that one had progressed to.

However, according to the description in the Mantra Axis Scripture, only after mastering the third level of the cultivation art was it possible for one to attain 18 Time Dao Runes, which meant that it should've been impossible to cultivate this ability at any point before that.

However, Han Li had already attained 25 Time Dao Runes, so theoretically speaking, he should've been able to attempt cultivating this ability.

His original plan was to go into seclusion to cultivate the second level of the Mantra Axis Scripture, but he decided to set that plan aside for now to focus on cultivating this ability instead.

If he could master this ability, then his combat prowess would immediately receive a significant boost.

With that in mind, Han Li sat down with his legs crossed once again before closing his eyes.

After taking several days to prime himself into the best possible condition, Han Li commenced his seclusion.

The Reversal True Axis appeared to have been quite a simple ability, but it was actually far from easy to cultivate.

It was the complete opposite of how one would normally use the Mantra Axis Scripture, so not only were all of the insights that had developed through cultivating the Mantra Axis Scripture completely useless, they were serving as obstacles to a certain extent.

Inside the secret chamber, Han Li was seated with his legs crossed while making a hand seal with both hands, and the Mantra Treasured Axis behind him was slowly revolving while releasing faint golden light. 18 of the Time Dao Runes on its surface had lit up in unison, and they were releasing bursts of peculiar fluctuations throughout the entire secret chamber.

Right at this moment, Han Li brought his palms together, then folded down two his fingers before turning both hands toward to make a strange hand seal while also chanting an incantation.

The Mantra Treasured Axis behind him shuddered slightly, and the buzzing sound that it was emitting gradually subsided. The speed of its rotation was also gradually decreasing, and it looked as if it were going to stop revolving altogether.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li switched to yet another different hand seal, and the Mantra Treasured Axis instantly began spinning rapidly once again, except in the complete opposite direction to before.

Han Li was quite elated to see this, and he was just about to attempt to withdraw the axis into his body when he felt some tightness in his chest, following which blood began to gush up toward the back of his throat.

He immediately stopped what he was doing, and the Mantra Treasured Axis reverted back to its original state before vanishing into his body on its own.

As expected, it's not that easy. Just the method of immortal spiritual power circulation alone is quite difficult to grasp. It appears I won't be able to successfully cultivate this ability without at least several hundred attempts while making adjustments along the way.

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face as he wiped away the blood that was trickling down from the corner of his lips.

Just now, the immortal spiritual power had begun to circulate in opposite directions, thereby clashing against itself, and if he had continued in that fashion, he would've been sure to sustain internal injuries.

After taking a moment to rest and adjust the circulation of immortal spiritual power in his body, Han Li summoned his Mantra Treasured Axis once again.

#### Chapter 273: Shock

Three years later.

A streak of blurry golden light was flashing back and forth through the air within a valley in the Crimson Dawn Peak's territory. It was flying at an incredible speed, leaving trails of afterimages in its wake, and it was impossible to follow with the naked eye.

What was even more peculiar was that there was no rhyme or reason to the streak of golden light's movements. One moment, it would be whizzing directly forward, only to appear in the opposite direction the next instant.

All of a sudden, the streak of golden light drew to an abrupt halt, and Han Li was revealed.

At this moment, his face was slightly flushed, and there was an irrepressible look of joy in his eyes. His entire body was enveloped in a layer of faint golden light that was giving off bursts of strange fluctuations, and he murmured to himself, "If I activate all 25 Time Dao Runes at once, my speed is indeed enhanced. It looks like as I attain more and more Time Dao Runes, this ability will only be enhanced further. Having said that, it is also extremely taxing on my immortal spiritual power..."

The layer of golden light around him then began to gradually fade, but instead of disintegrating, it vanished into his body instead.

As it turned out, that layer of golden light had come from the Mantra Treasured Axis in his body.

During the first year or so in which he had been cultivating this ability, he wasn't even able to circulate his immortal spiritual power in the correct fashion, and that proved to have been a very difficult hurdle to overcome.

There were instances in the past where there had been a mountain no larger than the size of a grain of rice from his perspective, but after activating the cultivation art, he would reach the mountain in the blink of an eye and crash headfirst into it in an uncontrolled manner.

During this period of time, he had inadvertently smashed through several hundred mountains, severely ravaging the surrounding scenery in a radius of several thousand kilometers while also sustaining some minor injuries in the process.

Thankfully, this area was part of his territory, so there weren't any problems.

The silver lining on the dark cloud was that fundamentally speaking, this ability wasn't actually completely opposite to the original cultivation art. Instead, the two shared some similarities, so after failing over 100 times, Han Li was gradually able to master the process of reversing the axis before drawing it into his own body.

At this point, he had become so skilled at this process that he didn't even need to summon the Mantra Treasured Axis at all. Instead, he could reverse it while it was still in his body, thereby significantly enhancing how quickly he was able to unleash the ability, as well as making it much more covert.

Additionally, he was very excited by the fact that the 25th Time Dao Rune had remained all this time without displaying any signs of fading away.

With this ability up his sleeve in conjunction with his lightning teleportation array, he was confident that he would be able to escape even in the face of the average Golden Immortal.

I've spent a very long time mastering this cultivation art. It's time to move onto something else.

With that in mind, Han Li descended toward his cave abode down below.

Before long, he had reappeared in his secret chamber, and he sat down with his legs crossed, then summoned his Mantra Treasured Axis before opening its Eye of Truth.

Sitting on the palm of his hand was a small semi-transparent crystal, which was being basked in the golden light released by the Eye of Truth.

In order to focus on mastering the Reversal True Axis, all of the spirit liquid produced by the Heaven Controlling Vial during the past three years had been used to water spirit plants by Han Li's puppet, so he had only recently taken the time to manifest another crystal.

A faint crack rang out, and the golden thread flew out from within before shooting into the Eye of Truth.

Han Li's entire body shuddered violently as if he had been dealt a heavy blow, but this time, instead of closing the Eye of Truth, he allowed the golden thread to fuse into it.

Moments later, a 26th Time Dao Rune appeared on his Mantra Treasured Axis amid a flash of white light.

A relieved smile appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and it was finally confirmed to him that the Eye of Truth could indeed add Time Dao Runes to his Mantra Treasured Axis by absorbing these crystals.

This meant that as long as he manifested a crystal each month, he would be able to attain a new Time Dao Rune every single month!

For the average immortal, the Mantra Axis Scripture was extremely difficult to cultivate, and it was often the case that two immortal acupoints had to be opened to attain a single Time Dao Rune, yet through this method, it would only take him a single month to attain each new Time Dao Rune, and there didn't appear to have been any upper limit to this!

24 Time Dao Runes were enough to slow time down to less than a 10th of its original speed, and with each cluster of six Time Dao Runes attained, this slowing effect would be noticeably enhanced, so what would happen once he attained 30 Time Dao Runes, 36, or even 60 or 108?

As long as he continued to cultivate the second level of the Mantra Axis Scripture while manifesting crystals every month, it wouldn't take long at all before he got there!

Han Li suppressed the excitement in his heart as he switched to a different hand seal and closed his Eye of Truth.

After that, he closed his eyes as well and began to chant an incantation, commencing his cultivation of the second level of the Mantra Axis Scripture.

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10 years passed by in the blink of an eye.

During this time, Han Li had been cultivating the second level of the Mantra Axis Scripture while manifesting crystals for the Eye of Truth to absorb, and at this point, the number of Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis had already increased to 108.

For some reason, the number of Time Dao Runes refused to increase further from that point, and it appeared that some type of limit had been reached.

However, Han Li wasn't overly disappointed by this. After all, according to the Mantra Axis Scripture, even mastering the third level of the cultivation art should've only given rise to 18 Time Dao Runes, and up to this point, no one in the Blaze Dragon Dao had been able to accomplish that.

Compared with before, the Mantra Treasured Axis's effective range hadn't changed, but it was capable of slowing down the flow time within its effective area to an astonishing degree of less than one thousandth of its normal speed.



He had experimented by instructing a puppet of his to attack him, and as soon as its attack entered the effective area of the Mantra Treasured Axis, it was slowed down to the point that it appeared to have fallen completely still.

Additionally, the speed enhancement effect of his Reversal True Axis had also reached an extraordinary level, allowing him to fly through the air like a shooting star in a completely untraceable fashion.

However, activating either of the aforementioned abilities to their full extent was incredibly taxing on his immortal spiritual power, and his current immortal spiritual power reserves weren't able to support such an astonishing level of expenditure for long at all, so he was only going to use these abilities against extremely formidable opponents.

At this moment, his entire secret chamber was filled with dazzling golden radiance.

Han Li made a hand seal, and the Mantra Treasured Axis appeared behind him with all 108 of the Time Dao Runes on its surface radiating golden light, basking his entire body in a golden glow that made him resemble a Buddha statue.

As the Time Dao Runes lit up one after another, the Mantra Treasured Axis also began to slowly revolve, and all 108 Time Dao Runes had lit up within the span of just a few seconds.

Han Li's complexion had paled slightly, and he could sense his immortal spiritual power being rapidly expended, but he was already prepared for this, and he flipped both hands over to produce a pair of Immortal Origin Stones to replenish his energy.

He then began to chant an incantation, and the axis turned into a complete blur, while a series of golden threads emerged from its surface before converging toward the hole at its center.

These golden threads then intertwined to form a fist-sized golden ball that was flashing incessantly with golden light.

Immediately thereafter, the golden light radiating from the ball of golden threads brightened significantly, and it transformed into the Eye of Truth.

A beam of faint golden light was projected out of the Eye of Truth, and Han Li closed his eyes to inspect his surroundings through the Eye of Truth.

All of the restrictions that he had set up on the surrounding walls were instantly revealed in a transparent state, and there were countless spiritual power runes surging over them. Han Li could see all of the minute changes taking place in the restrictions as clearly as the back of his own hand.

The space up ahead had also turned into a vast expanse of murky grayness, and Meng Yungui, Meng Qianqian, and the others were all gradually revealed alongside the scenery outside the Crimson Dawn Peak.

It seemed that the Eye of Truth was able to peer directly through space itself, and Han Li's heart stirred slightly upon seeing this

The ability of the Eye of Truth to see through illusions wasn't much different from that of his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, but after the number of Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasured Axis had increased to 108, the Eye of Truth had become significantly more powerful, able to observe far more than his Brightsight Spirit Eyes.

He had an ability that could combine his Law Destruction Eye and his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, but even that was now severely lacking compared with his Eye of Truth.

Han Li gently exhaled as a solemn look appeared on his face, and he flipped a hand over to summon his Heaven Controlling Vial.

Right as he was about to observe the vial with his Eye of Truth, an unexpected turn of events suddenly unfolded.

The vial flew out of his hand before hovering mid-air, and dazzling light began to radiate from its surface, making it resemble a tiny green sun.

Immediately thereafter, a burst of tremendous force surged out of the green light, and Han Li was caught completely off guard, flying back involuntarily through the air until his back struck the wall behind him.

A surprised look appeared on his face, and before he had a chance to do anything, his Mantra Treasured Axis flew over to the Heaven Controlling Vial while radiating dazzling golden light that was several times brighter than normal.

In particular, the Eye of Truth was glowing extremely bright, and the circle of runes around the pupil were all squirming rapidly as if they had sprung to life.

It was as if the two were resonating with one another.

Han Li hurriedly set down the pair of Immortal Origin Stones in his hands so that he could make a hand seal, but to his surprise, both the Heaven Controlling Vial and the Mantra True Axis were no longer under his control.

All of a sudden, the Eye of Truth shot a beam of golden light into the Heaven Controlling Vial, and the vial began to rapidly swell in size, reaching the size of a human head in the blink of an eye.

Countless green runes then appeared on the surface of the vial, and they resembled countless swimming tadpoles.

A thick pillar of green light shot out of the vial, then tore through the space up ahead before vanishing into it.

Instead of closing over, the torn space began to warp violently, resembling a large black mouth that convulsing incessantly.

In the next instant, a vast expanse of light erupted out of the spatial rift.

The light was very radiant, but not blindingly so, and it was flowing out of the spatial rift like a gentle stream of water.

At this point, Han Li had already risen to his feet and was observing the scene unfolding before him with a bewildered expression, unsure of whether this was going to spell fortune or disaster.

Even though the Mantra Treasured Axis was currently out of his control, he could still make it disappear by cutting off the immortal spiritual power flowing out of his body, but he wasn't sure if he wanted to do that.

Right as Han Li was hesitating about how to proceed, the situation took another turn.

#### Chapter 274: Lecture From the Big-eared Monk

All of a sudden, the spatial rift began to tremble violently before extending toward both the left and the right, forming an opening that was constantly growing wider.

As the opening continued to expand, more and more light came surging out of it like turbulent waves of the sea, and a translucent wall of light that was around 50 to 60 feet in size took shape in front of Han Li.

The Mantra Treasured Axis brightened even further while beginning to rapidly revolve, and the Time Dao Runes on its surface were also trembling violently, causing the nearby space to twist and warp.

An indecisive look appeared on Han Li's face at the sight of the unfolding phenomenon, but in the end, he decided to wait and observe for now.

There were countless specks of light that were surging incessantly over the wall of light, and the things depicted on its surface were rapidly changing.

Initially, everything was flashing extremely quickly, and it was impossible to make out exactly what was being depicted on the wall of light, but it didn't take long before the image began to stabilize, forming a few concrete outlines.

Han Li was able to tell from these outlines that he seemed to have been looking at a group of people.

Right at this moment, a dull fizzling sound rang out, and one of the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis quickly dimmed before turning a dull gray color.

Han Li faltered slightly upon seeing this.

Even though the axis was currently out of his control, his spiritual connection with it was still intact, and just now, he could feel that his connection to that gray Time Dao Rune had been severed.

It felt like some type of mysterious power had sucked something out of his body, leaving him with a sense of emptiness, and this was something that had never happened before.

However, instead of immediately withdrawing the Mantra Treasured Axis, he forced himself to remain calm and continue observing as he had a feeling that there was something special about this wall of light.

With the dimming of that Time Dao Rune, the scene depicted on the wall of light gradually became a little clearer, and it seemed to have been depicting a mountaintop with a large object at the center, surrounded by several blurry figures of different statures.

Furthermore, there were also some colorful things flashing over the sky above.

Right as Han Li was about to activate his Brightsight Spirit Eyes to take a closer look, a dull fizzling sound rang out once again, and another one of the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis turned gray.

Han Li's expression darkened slightly upon seeing this, but a contemplative look had also appeared in his eyes.

Immediately thereafter, one more Time Dao Rune turned dark.

It seemed that the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis were progressively dimming at set intervals, and an enlightened look appeared in his eyes as he hurriedly turned his gaze back to the wall of light.

Sure enough, with the dimming of those two Time Dao Runes, the image on the wall of light had become clearer once again.

After around five or six more Time Dao Runes turned gray, Han Li discovered that he was able to make out a mountain summit with a forest of lush trees around a strange rock.

The mountain summit was enshrouded within a boundless sea of clouds, and at the center of the scene was a round stone platform that was around 10,000 feet in radius and roughly 1,000 feet tall.

The platform had an azure coloration, and it was connected to the mountain below it, appearing to have been a naturally formed structure.

There were several cracks on the surface of the stone platform, and it was covered in moss and vines, indicating that it was a very old structure.

At this moment, there were five or six figures spread around the stone platform, and all of them were extremely strange in appearance.

One of them was very tall, but he was as thin as a bamboo stick, and he was wearing an extremely loose-footing yellow robe that draped down all around him.

Additionally, his hair resembled a mop of withered yellow wheat, and his face was also extremely yellow and uneven, riddled with pockmarks like the bark of an old tree, as was the case with the skin on his hands, and he resembled a being from the Wood Tribe of the Spirit Realm.

Beside him was a very short figure that was no more than five foot tall, and he was also very thin and. Compared with the extraordinarily tall man beside him, he resembled a small child, yet his head was as large as a water vat, making him appear extremely unbalanced, as if he could fall flat on his face at any moment.

The third person had a set of remarkably long arms and legs, as well as huge hands and feet the size of banana leaves. The skin of his bared upper body was a fiery red color, as if he had been roasted, and there were circles of extremely strange patterns inscribed upon his skin. There was also a tuft of fiery red hair on the top of his head, with tiny flames springing out occasionally from within.

The fourth person was a child that appeared to have been around five or six years of age. He had a round body and a round head, resembling a small ball stacked onto a larger ball. He was wearing a

dudou, as one would expect of an ordinary child, but his arms were twice the length of the average person's, hanging down to his knees, and they also each had an extra joint, giving them an extremely strange appearance.

The final person was enormous in stature, several times larger than everyone else, and he was wearing some type of demon beasthide garment. His skin was a dark green color, and he stood like a metal tower on the mountaintop.

None of these strange beings appeared to have been humans, yet their facial features somehow resembled human ones.

The five of them formed a circle with several thousand feet separating each of them, and they were either standing, sitting, or kneeling on the ground, while their eyes were collectively focused on a portly red-robed monk seated with his legs crossed at the center of the platform.

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The folds of fat on the monk's face compressed his eyes to a pair of tiny slits, and his earlobes were so long that they draped all the way down to his shoulders. Below his head was an extremely rotund body, to the point that his already extremely large red robes kasaya robe wasn't even able to cover his entire body. As a result, his enormous belly was exposed, and it hung all the way down onto the ground, making him resemble a mountain of flesh.

At first glance, a strange thought sprang into Han Li's mind.

Is this person able to walk or even stand up?

However, that thought only flashed through his mind for a moment before he spotted several interesting details about the rotund monk.

Firstly, the kasaya robe that he was wearing was no ordinary garment. There were many gemstones of different colors attached to it, all of which were glowing brightly. Furthermore, he was holding a string of jade prayer beads, and all of the beads were glittering and translucent in appearance, releasing a faint azure glow that disoriented the senses, while runes could be seen dancing inside the beads.

As for the monk himself, while it was true that he was extraordinarily fat, his entire body was giving off a faint sheen, and it was as if he were the center of the entire world.

The monk's lips were moving, and he seemed to have been speaking.

However, instead of sounds, a string of five-colored runes was flowing out from between his lips, forming a stream of five-colored light that spread through the surrounding area before rising up into the air and disintegrating, seemingly resonating with heaven and earth.

Countless specks of light emerged from the stream of light before transforming into gusts of fierce wind that formed several massive tornadoes.

However, these tornados would instantly fade away as soon as they took shape, transforming into a storm of fire that came raining down from the heavens.

Before the rain of fire had a chance to descend onto the ground, it transformed into a storm of ice that froze the surrounding air...

All of these phenomena were extremely life-like, but every single one of them would vanish as soon as they appeared, causing the nearby space to tremble incessantly, while the sea of clouds surged and churned.

Han Li was very much intrigued by what he was seeing.

He noticed that regardless of what phenomena were being conjured up, the stone platform and the environment around it remained completely unaffected, and even the leaves on the surrounding trees remained completely still.

At the same time, there were countless golden lotus flowers blooming behind the portly monk's head, forming a huge golden cloud that was extremely profound in appearance.



As the cloud gently swayed from side to side, ripples that were visible even to the naked eye could be seen surging through the space around it.

The strange-looking figures around the stone platform paid no heed to the phenomena taking place up above, and they continued to stare intently at the portly monk, listening to him speak in a completely enraptured state.

After speaking for a while, the portly monk paused for a moment, and the streak of five-colored light surging through the air faded alongside all of the phenomena.

The trembling space and the churning sea of clouds gradually settled down as well, and the tall yellow-robed figure suddenly rose to his feet before extending a salute toward the monk.

The monk and the other figures all turned to him, and the yellow-robed figure began to speak while making a series of hand gestures, seemingly raising a question to the monk.

All of the other figures were nodding along unconsciously as they listened to him speak, as if they shared the same question, and all of them then turned to the portly monk with expectant expressions.

The portly monk threw his head back and burst into laughter upon hearing the yellow-robed figure's question, causing all of the flabby rolls over his body to tremble with mirth.

The space around the mountain also began to rumble with the portly monk's laughter, while the sea of louds churned and the mountain trembled.

A stunned look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this. Who exactly was this portly monk to be able to affect the environment around him so severely with just his laughter alone?

After his laughter subsided, the portly monk began to speak again while making a series of gestures with his rotund hands, seemingly answering the yellow-robed man's question.

An enlightened look appeared on the yellow-robed man's face as he listened to the portly monk's answer, and he extended a respectful bow to the monk before sitting down again.

Everyone else was enlightened by the answer provided, and they all bowed to the portly monk as well before sitting back down.

The portly monk lowered his hands as he continued his lecture, and the five figures around him began to listen intently with enraptured looks on their faces.

Looking at the intoxicated expressions on everyone's faces, Han Li was suddenly overcome by a strong desire to hear what the monk was saying. However, even the image displayed on the wall of light had become countless times clearer than before, he was unable to hear anything at all, so he could only look on in dismay.

#### Chapter 275: The Price of Eavesdropping

As time passed, the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis continued to fade one after another, while the image being depicted on the wall of light became more and more stable.

To Han Li's elation, as the image stabilized, he began to be able to hear some sound from the wall of light, but it was very muffled and staggered, making it impossible for him to make out what was being said.

During this time, the portly monk said some other things, and just like before, a stream of five-colored runes surged out of his mouth as he spoke. These runes rose up into the air before transforming into a five-colored stream of light, which then transformed into a series of strange-looking plants and ferocious beasts that Han Li had never seen before, presenting a kaleidoscope of fascinating sights to behold.

The five figures seated around the stone platform occasionally raised some questions before sitting back down with enlightened expressions after hearing the monk's answers.

Han Li was becoming really agitated about not being able to hear what was being said, but he could only force himself to remain calm. As opposed to being concerned about the rate at which the Time Dao Runes were fading, he was now beginning to hope that they would dim faster.

A short while later, the image on the wall of light was finally completely stabilized, and the sound coming from the image became a little louder.

It was still rather muffled and unclear, but Han Li was able to make out some of the things that were being said.

Han Li immediately flew over to the wall of light until he was no more than a foot away from it, then sat down with his legs crossed before making a hand seal. All of the immortal spiritual power in his body was injected into his ears at his behest, and he activated an auditory enhancement ability that he had learned by chance in the past before listening intently to the sound coming from the image.

Thanks to this ability, the sound coming from the wall of light instantly became clearer.

The monk's voice was warm and ethereal, striking the listener with a sense of awe and veneration, and even though he was speaking in an unfamiliar language, Han Li's eyes quickly lit up as he listened to the monk's lecture.

He couldn't understand what was being said, but just hearing the voice of the monk alone was giving him an extremely profound sensation, as if he had attained some type of enlightenment, but he couldn't tell exactly what he had been enlightened to.

Even so, he was still feeling ecstatic, and he carefully memorized everything that he was hearing.

After only listening to a single sentence, lights of all types of different colors, including gold, azure, and silver, emerged from his body one after another. All of the cultivation arts and abilities in his body were being activated by the monk's voice!

Han Li was astonished by this turn of events, and he began to listen even more intently.

He still couldn't understand what was being said, but the same enraptured look on the faces of the five figures in the image had appeared on his face as well.

As time passed, the lights flashing from his body were becoming brighter and brighter, and arcs of silver lightning emerged alongside a projection of a Lightning Bird.

A projection of a giant azure bird emerged within a flash of azure light.

A giant golden ape then appeared amid a flash of golden light, pounding its chest as it roared to the heavens.

One true spirit projection after another emerged from his body, and in the blink of an eye, all of Han Li's current true spirit forms had appeared around him before revolving around his body.

The same applied to all of his other cultivation arts as well, and the circulation of immortal spiritual power in his body was becoming faster and more forceful by the second.

Right after the portly monk uttered his eighth sentence, a completely inexplicable turn of events began to unfold.

Han Li's entire body shuddered, immediately following which he was struck by a numb sensation. His dantian had also become scorching hot, but it was a very warm and comfortable sensation.

In the next instant, a clear thud rang out from within his body, and Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, following which an elated look appeared in his eyes.

Before he had a chance to do anything, seven more thuds rang out in succession within his body.

In the next instant, eight specks of light emerged on his body, and they were identical to the 12 existing ones.

He had just opened eight immortal acupoints in one go!

Immediately thereafter, he felt the surrounding world's origin qi surging toward him in a frenzy, forming an enormous vortex of spiritual qi, and the immortal spiritual power in his dantian was rapidly elevating!

Han Li was ecstatic to sense these changes in his body, and he took a glance at the Mantra Treasured Axis in the air to find that over half of the 108 Time Dao Runes had already been snuffed out.

He still had some time left, and he was determined to take full advantage of it. Hence, he continued to listen intently to the portly monk's ninth sentence.

The eight sentences that he had heard up to this point had allowed him to open up eight immortal acupoints, and he felt as if he were in a dream.

He couldn't help but wonder what was going to happen upon hearing the ninth and tenth sentences, and his heart was brimming with excitement.

However, it seemed that his luck had finally run out.

The portly monk was halfway through his ninth sentence, and Han Li could sense that his ninth immortal acupoint was beginning to budge, but all of a sudden, the portly monk stopped talking as he turned to Han Li's direction with a surprised look on his face.

The other five figures also turned to the same direction, and the tall yellow-robed figure instantly rose to his feet before yelling something in an enraged voice. He was speaking in the same language as the portly monk, but his words didn't seem profound to Han Li in the slightest.

The other four figures exchanged a few glances with different looks on their faces, and they remained silent, but it was clear that they weren't very happy.

I've been caught!

Han Li's heart instantly tensed up in anxiety, but before he had a chance to do anything, the portly monk suddenly said something, and the wall of light exploded into countless specks of light that quickly faded away.

The spatial rift was also instantly closed, while the Mantra Treasured Axis flashed erratically with golden light, and all of the Time Dao Runes that remained lit were instantly snuffed out amid a string of faint cracks.

Han Li's entire body shuddered as he threw up a mouthful of blood, and his face instantly turned extremely pale, while the immortal spiritual power in his body was thrown into complete disarray, surging chaotically in all directions.

An alarmed look appeared on his face as he hurriedly summoned a white pill vial, within which was a batch of white pills, and he didn't have time to count them before tipping them all into his own mouth and swallowing them. After that, he immediately closed his eyes to digest the pills.

A string of dull thumps rang out incessantly from within his body, while lights of different colors flashed over his body, clashing and conflicting with one another.

One moment, the azure light suppressed all of the other lights, but in the next instant, the golden light overwhelmed the azure light, following which the silver lightning rose to the fore.

Han Li's face was also alternating rapidly between purple and blue, presenting a harrowing sight to behold.

However, as time slowly passed by, the lights surging over his body gradually faded, and his complexion slowly returned to normal as well.

Only after close to a day had passed did he slowly open his eyes, and his face was still rather pale, but his aura had already stabilized.

Fortunately, he had reacted very quickly, devouring those meridian stabilization pills in a timely fashion. Otherwise, he would've most likely suffered from qi deviation.

Han Li gently exhaled, and an elated look reappeared on his face as he felt the eight newly opened immortal acupoints in his body.

Even though the situation just now had been an extremely perilous one, he had also reaped tremendous rewards, opening up eight immortal acupoints just by hearing the portly monk's lecture through the wall of light.

The ninth acupoint wasn't completely opened, but it was already beginning to budge, and he was certain that he would be able to open it given some time.

Due to the fact that he had focused primarily on attaining additional Time Dao Runes during the past 10 years of cultivation, he hadn't been able to open any new immortal acupoints, yet he had managed to open eight in what was virtually the blink of an eye!

Perhaps it was because these breakthroughs hadn't been attained through cultivating the Mantra Axis Scripture, or perhaps it was because there were already 108 Time Dao Runes on the axis. In any case, he hadn't attained any additional Time Dao Runes as a result of these breakthroughs.

He was naturally ecstatic to have made such significant progress in such a short time, but what excited him the most was the eight and half sentences that he had heard from the portly monk.

The more he thought back to those eight and half sentences, the more profound and unfathomable he felt them to be, and it seemed to him like they were part of the mantra for a certain cultivation art.

To think that that monk was able to help me open up multiple acupoints just by speaking alone... Could it be that he's a Dao Ancestor?

Han Li sat down with his legs crossed as a contemplative look appeared on his face, but in the next instant, a thought suddenly occurred to him, and he hurriedly summoned his Mantra Treasured Axis amid a flash of golden light.

All 108 of the Time Dao Runes on the axis had become dull and gray, seemingly having lost all of their vitality.

It seems like this was both a blessing and a curse. In order to hear that monk's preaching, I've had to let all of my Time Dao Runes go dark. |

Han Li heaved a faint sigh, then consumed a restorative pill before closing his eyes.

Three days and three nights later.

Han Li opened his eyes, and at this point, he had already fully recovered from his injuries, but as he turned to his Mantra Treasured Axis, he discovered that the 108 Time Dao Runes on its surface were still completely dark.

How could this be?

It suddenly occurred to him that that final glance from that portly monk may have harmed the foundation of the Mantra Treasured Axis.

With that in mind, he hurriedly tried to unleash the axis's time-slowness effect, but it was completely unresponsive.

He then tried to unleash his Reversal True Axis ability, but the outcome was identical, and a grim look appeared on his face.

The Mantra Axis Scripture was currently his main cultivation method, and if the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis had been permanently destroyed, then he wouldn't be able to cultivate the Mantra Axis Scripture any longer.

He shook his head and forcibly composed himself, then activated the Mantra Axis Scripture to try and sense the Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasured Axis.

Moments later, his eyes sprang open as a hint of elation appeared on his face.

It was very faint, but he could still sense some power of time within the Time Dao Runes, and his spiritual connection to them hadn't been severed, either.



This was quite a relief. As long as the spiritual connection still remained, there was a chance that the Time Dao Runes on the axis could be restored.

With that in mind, Han Li continued to cultivate the Mantra Axis Scripture, attempting to recover his Time Dao Runes while also pondering the eight and a half sentences that he had heard from the portly monk.

## Chapter 276: Century-long Seclusion

A year flew by in the blink of an eye.

Inside his secret chamber, Han Li sat with his legs crossed, and his Mantra Treasured Axis was slowly revolving behind him while radiating dazzling golden light, and there were countless golden runes surging rapidly over its surface.

One of the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis suddenly began to flash, and all of the golden runes around it lit up before converging into the Time Dao Rune.

The dull Time Dao Rune immediately began to light up at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye, and after just a few seconds, it was restored to its former state, but the other Time Dao Runes were still a dull gray color.

Han Li opened his eyes, and he was overcome by a sense of relief at the sight of the recovered Dao Rune.

Just as he anticipated, it was possible to recover his Time Dao Runes, but it seemed that every single one of these Time Dao Runes was going to take around a year to recover, which meant that it would take over a century to recover all 108 of the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis.

His cultivation was most likely going to be severely hampered during this time, but that couldn't be helped.

In any case, a century was nothing more than the blink of an eye to Han Li, and he could take this time to carefully ponder the eight-and-a-half-sentence mantra that he had heard.

During this past year, he wasn't able to make much progress in this endeavor, but he was becoming more and more confident that he would be able to glean some useful things from the mantra given sufficient time.

Additionally, he could also use this time to nurture some pill refinement ingredients.

With that in mind, he flipped a hand over to produce a jade box, which contained the six or seven pill recipes that he had obtained from Ping Yaozi. Two of those recipes were for pills that were fit for mid-True Immortal cultivators to consume, one of which was for the Growth Bearing Pill, while the other one was for a pill called the Jade Balance Pill.

After examining the ingredients on the pill recipes, he discovered that none of them were all that precious or rare, but they had to have been very advanced in age before they could be used in the recipes.

He had already spent the majority of the Immortal Origin Stones and spirit stones that he had saved up from completing Transient Guild missions on pill refinement, and even though he still had some left, it was nowhere near enough to purchase sufficient pill refinement ingredients for both recipes.

My priority is to restore my Time Dao Runes, so for now, I'll use the spirit liquid produced by the Heaven Controlling Vial to mature spirit plants instead of using them to manifest crystals.

Han Li's Mantra Treasured Axis had been severely affected by the event that had taken place a year ago, but his Heaven Controlling Vial hadn't been impacted at all, so he could still use it to mature spirit plants as usual.

With that in mind, Han Li rose to his feet and emerged from his secret chamber, then summoned a communication array plate before casting an incantation seal onto it.

Moments later, Meng Yungui and Sun Buzheng arrived in the main hall of the cave abode, then extended a collective salute toward Han Li, who was seated beside the stone table.

"We pay our respects to Elder Li!"

"I will be going into seclusion for some time. During this time, I need you two to go out and secure some ingredients for me. Here is a list of the ingredients I want."

Han Li handed each of them a jade slip that contained a list of ingredients from the two pill recipes as he spoke.

The two of them accepted the jade slips, then inspected its contents with their spiritual sense, upon which surprised looks appeared on both of their faces.

Most of the ingredients listed in the jade slip were very precious, and they weren't going to be easy to find.

"I know that the ingredients won't be easy to collect, but this is not an urgent matter, so take your time. All you need to do is find me a sufficient amount within the next century, and if you make any progress during that time, you can bring what you've collected back to me at any time."

Han Li pulled out a pair of storage pouches that were filled with spirit stones as he spoke.

The two servants were quite relieved to hear this, and they accepted the storage pouches before promptly departing.

Following their departure, Han Li also returned to his secret chamber.

Over 100 years passed by in the blink of an eye.

During this time, some events had taken place in the Bell Toll Mountain Range, and there were some new arrivals, while others had departed, but this was nothing out of the ordinary for the Bell Toll Mountain Range. As long as the 13 Golden Immortals of the sect were still present, the foundation of the sect would still be intact.

The Crimson Dawn Peak was quite a secluded place to begin with, and it was becoming more and more dormant. Additionally, Han Li always liked to keep a low profile, so everyone eventually forgot about him, and he barely received any visitors.

Of course, even if anyone did come to visit Han Li, they would discover that the Crimson Dawn Peak was closed to all visitors.

It was very common to see a True Immortal going into seclusion for centuries, and for some True Immortals who were attempting to make important breakthroughs, even seclusions that lasted thousands or tens of thousands of years were quite commonplace.

During his seclusion, Han Li barely left his cave abode at all, spending the majority of his time pondering the eight-and-a-half-sentence mantra that he had heard from the portly monk over and over again.

The only times that he would stop to take a break were when Sun Buzheng or Meng Yungui returned with seeds of certain ingredients listed on the two pill recipes, and Han Li would instruct his giant ape puppet to plant those seeds according to his needs.

Inside the secret chamber, the air had become stagnant, and even the tiny dust particles in the air seemed to have become completely still.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed, and his Mantra Treasured Axis was slowly revolving behind him. All 108 of the Time Dao Runes on its surface had lit up, and they were giving off powerful law fluctuations.

Moments later, he withdrew his hand seal, and the Mantra Treasured Axis behind him vanished into his body amid a flash of golden light.

It was as if some type of restriction had suddenly been lifted, and speed of the air flow in the secret chamber returned to normal, while all of the dust particles also began to drift freely again.

"It's finally all recovered," Han Li murmured to himself, then rose to his feet and made his way out of his secret chamber.

The sky above the Crimson Dawn Peak was bright and clear, just like his current mood, and the sun was hanging high up in the sky, basking the snow-covered mountain in a warm glow.

Han Li emerged from his cave abode, then flew up into the air as a streak of azure light, intending to travel to the valley that he often frequented to test out the new abilities that he had gleaned from the eight-and-a-half-sentence mantra, but he noticed out of the corner of his eye that Meng Qianqian and few of his other servants were gathered on the spirit fields on the mountain.

Thus, he flew over to them before descending out of the sky, and the group of servants hurriedly extended respectful salutes upon spotting him.

Han Li waved a dismissive hand in response, then cast his gaze toward his mountain guardian beast up ahead.

Ever since he adopted this beast, he hadn't paid it much attention, mostly leaving it to be looked after by his servants, but to his surprise, it had reached the mid-Body Integration Stage.

However, what had caught his attention wasn't the Two-headed Griffin. Instead, it was the strange azure bird straddled atop one of its necks.

The bird had a huge head and a disproportionately slender neck. Its body was close to 20 feet in length and covered in countless arrow-like feathers, and there was a fleshy pouch that was over five feet in size hanging in front of its chest.

It was casually straddled atop the Two-headed Griffin, which was countless times more massive than itself, looking around like a proud general riding atop his noble steed.

However, the bird seemed to have been startled by Han Li's arrival, and it flapped its wings in alarm as a hint of fear flashed through its eyes.

Only after receiving a reassuring glance from Meng Qianqian did it settle down, but it was laying itself flat against the Two-headed Griffin's back while covering its head with its wings, peeking out at Han Li through its feathers.

"Is that Featheryearn?" Han Li asked as he turned to Meng Qianqian.

"That's right," Meng Qianqian replied with a smile.

"It's only been 100 years since I last saw it, and it's already close to the Nascent Soul Stage," Han Li remarked with an impressed look in his eyes.

"Indeed. Its appetite is absolutely enormous, and that probably has something to do with its fast progress. I haven't fed it any spirit plants or pills outside of the wind-attribute spirit plants from the fields, but it would occasionally sneak out of the Crimson Dawn Peak, and I don't know what it's been eating during its outings," Meng Qianqian said as she took a glance at Featheryearn.

Han Li pointed at the Two-headed Griffin, which was laying on the ground with a rather bored look on its faces, and he asked, "What's the deal with these two?"

"Featheryearn once snuck out of the Crimson Dawn Peak two years ago, and as it was coming back, it was being hunted by a Deity Transformation Stage demon beast. At the time, the mountain guardian beast swooped in to eat that demon beast and save Featheryearn, and the two of them seemed to have become friends after that," Meng Qianqian explained.

"I bet it went out to hunt for other demon beasts, but ended up biting off more than it could chew and almost became prey for something else instead," Han Li remarked with an amused smile. "By the way, have your brother and Sun Buzheng not returned yet?"

"They already came back seven or eight years ago, but both of them seemed to have encountered some opportunities during their outing, and not long after they came back, they went into seclusion to attempt breakthroughs to the Deity Transformation Stage.

"Both of them are still in seclusion right now, and all of the spirit plants they brought back have already been planted in the fields. Oh, I almost forgot, they also brought back these seeds as well," Meng Qianqian replied as she handed a storage pouch to Han Li.

Han Li accepted the spiritual sense and inspected its contents with his spiritual sense. He then made his way over to the spirit fields and was quite pleased by what he saw.

Meng Yungui and Sun Buzheng had brought back a lot of seeds and spirit plants during their outings, enough for several dozen batches' worth of pill refinement ingredients.

This was not an easy task for them at their current cultivation bases, so it was clear that they had been very diligent.

"They did a good job. I may be going into seclusion after this, so they may not get to see me when they come out of seclusion. Here are two vials of pills for cultivation base stabilization, make sure to give these to them in my stead," Han Li said as he tossed a pair of pill vials to Meng Qianqian.

Meng Qianqian hurriedly caught the vials before extending a grateful curtsy toward Han Li as she said, "Thank you, Elder Li."

Han Li gave her a dismissive wave, then reached toward the spirit fields with azure light glowing from his hands.

The earth began to tremble slightly, and over 100 spirit plants of different colors were enveloped by azure light before being uprooted from the ground. There were still droplets of dew on their leaves and dirt clinging to their roots as they rose up into the air before flying toward his cave abode.

These spirit plants weren't of a sufficient age to be used, so they had to be transferred to the medicine garden in his cave abode to be matured using the spirit liquid from the Heaven Controlling Vial.

## Chapter 277: Mantra Domain

An hour later, in the territory of the Crimson Dawn Peak.

A streak of azure light flew onto a plain that was riddled with scattered rocks, then faded to reveal Han Li.

This place was actually once a scenic valley, but while cultivating the Reversal True Axis a over a century ago, Han Li had inadvertently toppled all of the mountains on either side of the valley, thereby completely filling the valley to create this rocky plain.

Han Li was hovering in mid-air with a solemn look on his face, and there was a burst of peculiar fluctuations emanating from his body.

Right at this moment, a burst of golden light suddenly appeared in his eyes, and he released his vast spiritual sense to encompass the entire surrounding area in a radius of dozens of kilometers.

A circle of extremely tiny runes then appeared within his pupils, spelling out the mantra that he had heard from the portly monk, but not in its entirety. Instead, it was only three and a half sentences of the mantra.

These three and a half sentences were depicted in the form of runes, but not displayed in the order in which they had been uttered by the monk. One of the sentences had been completely scattered before having all of its characters rearranged, seemingly in a completely haphazard fashion.

It seemed that the meaning of the mantra wasn't all that important. Instead, what was important were these characters, which innately contained some type of special power. After studying them extensively, Han Li had been successfully able to integrate them with his tremendous spiritual sense to develop a unique ability that he named the Mantra Domain.

"Let there be wind," Han Li declared.

The complexion of the entire plain was instantly altered as dense dark clouds came drifting in out of nowhere to obscure the formerly bright and clear sky. As a result of the converging clouds, the entire sky instantly darkened.

A gust of fierce wind blew past, sweeping the snow on the plain into the heavens, and a vast expanse of yellow sand was also swept up by the wind, while huge rocks began to roll and tumble over the ground, crashing against one another to produce a string of resounding booms.



"Let there be lightning," Han Li called out, and the dark clouds in the sky were swept up into a frenzy to form a massive vortex.

Bursts of rumbling were ringing out incessantly deep within the vortex alongside flashes of blue lightning.

All of a sudden, a pillar of blue lightning that was as thick as a water vat came crashing down from the heavens before striking the ground, instantly causing the giant rocks down below to explode into a massive cloud of dust and rock shards.

Immediately thereafter, more pillars of lightning came raining down incessantly from the heavens amid rumbling thunderclaps, severely ravaging the entire plain.

The earth was charred black and littered with countless rock fragments, while arcs of blue lightning danced over its surface, and there was an acrid charred odor wafting through the air.

"Let heaven and earth be turned on their heads!" Han Li commanded, and the world around him instantly complied.

A burst of indescribably formidable power was unfurled, encompassing the entire surrounding area.

Han Li felt a blue flash before his eyes, and he was struck by a rush of dizziness. By the time he was able to see clearly again, he discovered a vast expanse of dark clouds that was rumbling incessantly with thunder beneath his feet.

He then looked up to find that a vast expanse of earth that stretched as far as the eyes could see in all directions had appeared above his head.

Up close, he could see countless scattered rocks, as well as a layer of dust that enshrouded the surface of the ground, while in the distance were a series of upside-down mountains that resembled enormous stalactites, the closest of which was none other than his Crimson Dawn Peak.

However, what was quite interesting was that despite the fact that everything had been flipped upside-down, none of it was displaying any signs of falling, not even the layer of dust that was hanging over the entire surface of the earth.

Han Li looked around for a long while before a smile appeared on his face, and he gently clapped his hands together, upon which heaven and earth were instantly restored to their correct configuration, and all of the dust, dark clouds, lightning, wind, and scattered rocks instantly vanished.

The entire area returned to normal in the blink of an eye, and it was as if nothing had ever happened.

The circle of runes in Han Li's eyes had also vanished, and his pupils had returned to their normal state.

That worked even better than I expected. Looks like I now have another trump card against formidable enemies in the future.

At its core, this Mantra Domain ability was actually just an extremely powerful illusory technique, but it didn't require any array or cultivation art to unleash.

All he had to do was spread his spiritual sense over an area around him, and he would be able to manipulate the entire area in any way that he saw fit, creating an illusion that he could trap his opponent in.

As long as his opponent didn't possess superior spiritual sense or any special treasures capable of counteracting illusions, they would inevitably be disrupted by this ability, but to varying extents.

If Han Li were facing an opponent of a similar level to himself, then this Mantra Domain could very well catch them completely off guard, and they would only have to reveal the slightest of openings for their defeat to be sealed.

Around 15 minutes later, Han Li returned to his cave abode.

Inside his secret chamber, he sat down with his legs crossed with a purple jade board sitting on his lap. There was a floral design that was comprised of countless extremely thin patterns engraved onto the surface of the jade board, presenting a beautiful sight to behold.

This was the jade board that he had found in Ping Yaozi's purple jade box, and he had been unable to bypass the spiritual sense restriction on it, so he had left it up to this point.

He had chosen to bring it out again on this day as all of the Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasured Axis had already recovered, so he was able to use his Eye of Truth again.

With all 108 Time Dao Runes activated, the Eye of Truth was currently already over 10 times more effective than his Brightsight Spirit Eyes when it came to seeing through illusions and restrictions.

Han Li made a hand seal with both hands, and his Mantra Treasured Axis appeared behind him amid a flash of golden light.

He then began to chant an incantation, and the Eye of Truth at the center of the Mantra Treasured Axis slowly opened before projecting a beam of golden light onto the purple jade board.

The floral design on the jade board also flashed with golden light before releasing a series of golden runes to obstruct the beam of light projected by the Eye of Truth.

However, the beam of light was able to bypass the runes with ease before shining down upon the jade board.

Instead of seeing the jade board with his eyes, he began to view it through his Eye of Truth.

Golden light was rippling like water on the surface of the board, and the flower design was hovering above the rippling light.

However, Han Li was able to completely disregard it to see what was under the layer of rippling golden light.

It was like he was seeing through a golden river straight to the riverbed, where there was a fine layer of golden sand, upon which was a passage of golden seal text.

Han Li swept his gaze over the passage of text, and a hint of elation instantly welled up in his heart.

Just as he anticipated, the passage of golden text was none other than a recipe for a dao pill!

His heart was brimming with excitement, but his elation began to fade a little as he looked at all of the extremely unfamiliar ingredient names listed on the recipe. It was most likely going to be an extremely difficult task to gather all of these ingredients.

The main ingredient for the recipe, Lightning Pond Golden Elixir, was an extremely rare natural treasure, and there was only a chance for it to arise in the body of a Lightning Devouring Beast that was over 100,000 years of age after devouring a vast amount of Nine Heavens True Lightning.

It was also exactly because of this that this Lightning Pond Golden Elixir contained traces of lightning law powers.

It was no longer just a matter of time for spirit ingredients of this caliber to emerge. Instead, there were many more factors that had to align, and obtaining such ingredients was almost entirely a matter of luck.

However, Han Li had already anticipated that this would be the case, so he wasn't all that disheartened. Instead, this only bolstered his confidence in just how incredible the dao pill was going to be if he could successfully refine it.

He read through the list of ingredients, then turned his attention to the refinement method listed below, memorizing everything that he read. As he reached the final passage of text, a surprised look appeared on his face.

The passage read: "When it comes to the refinement of the dao pill, the supplementary ingredients form the foundation, determining the grade of the pill, while the primary ingredient serves as the catalyst, determining the attribute of the pill. As long as the foundation remains the same, the grade of the pill won't change, but the attribute of the pill hinges entirely on the primary ingredient used..."

An enlightened look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

This passage of text was telling him that in all dao pill recipes, the supplementary ingredients could remain the same, but the attribute of the pill could be altered depending on the primary ingredient used.

In other words, if he were to replace the Lightning Pond Golden Elixir in the recipe with heavy water, which contained water law powers, then he would be able to refine a water-attribute dao pill. While a time-attribute dao pill would arise if he used a crystal manifested by the Heaven Controlling Vial as the primary ingredient.

However, the second half of that passage also stated that ingredient compatibility was an important factor to consider in pill refinement, so if one were to use a different primary ingredient, they would still be able to refine a dao pill, but the chances of success could vary drastically.

However, Han Li wasn't too fazed by this. He had been trying to glean the laws of time through the Mantra Treasured Axis, but hadn't been able to make any progress. Hence, it was already enough for him to know that this pill recipe could allow him to refine a time-attribute dao pill.

He suppressed the elation in his heart as he withdrew his Mantra Treasured Axis into his body, then stowed the jade board away as well before flipping a hand over to produce his Transient Guild mask, which he promptly put on.

All of the spirit medicines listed on the pill recipe were extremely difficult to find, and he wasn't going to be able to gather everything in a short time. Hence, he decided to conduct a search through the Transient Guild first, and if he could find some of the required ingredients, that would naturally be ideal, but if not, then he would just have to release some missions to search for them.

At this point, he had already spent virtually all of his spirit stones, and he did have some Immortal Origin Stones left, but not a whole lot, either. Hence, he didn't have very high requirements for the spirit medicines. As long as the species was correct, he was willing to purchase even seeds.

A burst of azure light was projected from the mask, forming a massive array plate on the wall, and Han Li immediately focused his gaze on the exchange column...

Several days later, several new spirit medicines had appeared in the spirit medicine garden in Han Li's cave abode. Most of them were seedlings that were no more than 10 years of age, while the two exceptions were seeds that were still yet to germinate.

## Chapter 278: Reversal

Half a day later.

Han Li's secret chamber was filled with bright golden light, and he was standing beside his cushion with a rather tense look on his face.

His Mantra Treasured Axis was rapidly revolving behind him while glowing radiantly, and the Eye of Truth at its center was opened while projecting a beam of golden light forward.

Now that all of the Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasure Axis had recovered, he had naturally thought of the portly monk that he had seen in that wall of light again.

Even though the portly monk seemed to have caught him eavesdropping last time, surely there was no way that he could attack Han Li through the projection, even with his unfathomable power.

With that in mind, Han Li took a deep breath, then pulled out his Heaven Controlling Vial before placing it into the beam of golden light.

As soon as the golden light came into contact with the vial, the latter immediately rose up into the air on its own, radiating dazzling green light while releasing a burst of tremendous force.

This time, Han Li was prepared, and he crossed his arms in front of himself as a barrier. As a result, he was only blown back by about 10 feet before drawing to a halt.

All 108 of the Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasured Axis were glowing brightly, while Heaven Controlling Vial was also shining like a green sun as it hovered in mid-air.

It didn't take long before a pillar of green light erupted out of the Heaven Controlling Vial to tear open a spatial rift.

A vast expanse of translucent light surged out of the spatial rift, and the same wall of light as before quickly appeared in front of Han Li.

The scene displayed on the wall of light was extremely blurry and completely silent, but Han Li was already prepared for this, so he naturally wasn't worried at all, waiting patiently as the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis were snuffed out one after another.

As the image became clearer and clearer, Han Li's breathing began to accelerate involuntarily.

However, after just a few seconds, a bewildered look appeared on Han Li's face.

The image depicted on the wall of light this time was completely different from last time.

On this occasion, he was greeted by the sight of a vast landscape that was riddled with massive volcanoes.

There was a dense blanket of inky-black clouds hanging in the sky, within which crimson light was flashing incessantly, while all of the enormous volcanoes down below were erupting with full force, releasing vast plumes of black smoke that were almost connected to the dark clouds up above.

Scorching red lava was surging out of the volcanic craters, forming a series of molten rivers that were over 1,000 feet wide. The molten rivers flowed in all directions before converging at the lowest point in the terrain to form a massive lake of lava.

Bursts of loud rumbling were ringing out from within the wall of light, and the entire landscape was quaking violently. A series of massive trenches were appearing in the earth like cobwebs before extending and widening to split the ground up into massive chunks.

Countless thick and burly worm-like beasts with red skin were constantly being flung to the surface by the churning earth before digging into the soil in a frenzy, attempting to return to their burrows beneath the earth.

There were too many of these creatures to count, and all of them were squirming desperately in an attempt to burrow themselves back into the earth, but they were being crushed by the rocks that were constantly tumbling down from above, splitting their bodies into countless chunks.

These creatures seemed to have possessed extraordinary vitality, and even after their bodies had been split apart, they were still attempting to burrow into the earth with resilience and tenacity.

However, the flow of lava had already seeped into all of the rifts in the earth, drowning all of these creatures and incinerating them into nothingness.

Han Li was rooted to the spot, staring at this doomsday-like scene with astonishment in his heart. His hands were clenched into tight fists, and his palms were sweating profusely.

Right at this moment, a dull thud suddenly rang out, and one of the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis shuddered before quickly fading into a dull gray color.

At this point, around half of the Time Dao Runes had already been snuffed out.

Han Li instantly snapped back to his senses and recalled his objective for conjuring up this wall of light in the first place.

However, the scene depicted in the wall of light was completely different from last time, and that had caught him off guard.

There's something that I've been meaning to try...

With that in mind, Han Li patted the spirit beast pouch on his waist, and a demonic wolf with strands of spittle hanging down from its mouth appeared out of thin air amid a flash of azure light.



As soon as the demonic wolf appeared, it immediately tried to escape, but Han Li was able to grab onto the scruff of its neck with ease before hurling it toward the wall of light.

The demonic wolf was writhing and twisting with all its might as it flew through the air, but it was unable to stop itself from crashing into the wall of light. Upon making contact with the wall of light, its body seemed to have passed through some type of invisible barrier, and it appeared on the other side.

As soon as it landed, it immediately turned around and lowered its center of gravity while snarling at Han Li with its fangs bared.

It worked!

Han Li was ecstatic to find that it really was possible to pass through the wall of light.

However, in the next instant, he noticed that the demonic wolf's fur was beginning to turn a lifeless gray color, and the light in its eyes was also rapidly fading.

Taking into account the demonic wolf's lifespan, it was as if it had aged close to 1,000 years in the blink of an eye.

Immediately thereafter, the pelt and flesh of the demonic wolf rotted away to reveal a complete skeleton, which was then reduced to ashes before being swept away by the wind.

Another dull thud rang out as one more Time Dao Rune on the Mantra Treasured Axis was snuffed out.

This time, Han Li didn't turn his gaze to the Mantra Treasured Axis. Instead, he was staring at the spot where the demonic wolf had just disappeared with a contemplative look on his face.

Moments later, he flipped a hand over to produce a palm-sized mirror that was azure on side and red on the other.

This wasn't a particularly powerful treasure. Instead, it was only a low-grade treasure that was capable of releasing waves and flames. He couldn't even recall when he had obtained it, and he hadn't gotten around to selling it yet.

Just like with the demonic wolf, he tossed the mirror at the wall of light, and it was also able to pass through without any trouble.

Han Li immediately activated his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, trying to see through the wall of light to find out exactly what was happening.

He watched as the mirror reached the other side, and even before it landed on the ground, azure and red light began to radiate from its surface, as if it had been activated by someone and was about to unleash its waves and flames.

In the next instant, a quiet thud rang out, and the light radiating from the mirror flashed momentarily before the entire mirror exploded.

To Han Li's surprise, the mirror hadn't exploded into shards or pieces. Instead, it had disintegrated into a cloud of colorful mist that was rising up into the air before quickly converging to form around a dozen types of ore of different colors, all of which then fell toward the ground.

Han Li wasn't unfamiliar with these materials. Among them, the ones that could be seen in the largest quantities were the red Flame Spirit Rock and the azure Origin Water Rock.

These two types of ore were the primary materials for refining the mirror, while the other types of ore were all supplementary materials for refining the same treasure.

A hint of intrigue appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, yet before he had a chance to do anything else, all of the chunks of ore quickly began to take on a transparent form before vanishing entirely.

At this point, over half of the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis had already faded.

After that, he continued his experiments, tossing things like spirit stones and even Immortal Origin Stones into the wall of light, and he discovered that as soon as those objects landed on the ground, they would quickly fuse as one with the earth, following which the spiritual power inside them faded away, and they were completely assimilated with the earth before also vanishing into thin air.

As time passed, the rate at which the Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis were fading seemed to have been growing faster and faster.

Han Li's brows were tightly furrowed as he stared at the wall of light and the doomsday-like scene displayed upon it. All of a sudden, he flipped a hand over to produce an azure longsword, which he held in his hand.

He then took a step back before raising the longsword and slashing it down upon the wall of light.

A draconic roar rang out as a burst of rippling swordlight emerged over the surface of the azure longsword, then swept directly toward the wall of light up ahead.

After swinging the sword through the air, Han Li bent his knees slightly while holding the sword horizontally in front of himself in a defensive stance. At the same time, he was making a hand seal with one hand, and golden lightning was flashing from his fingertips as he braced himself for any potential backlash.

The sound of a gentle breeze blowing past rang out as the streak of swordlight landed upon the wall of light.

However, contrary to Han Li's expectations, the wall of light wasn't destroyed, nor was there any spatial collapse. Instead, a burst of faint ripples swept over the surface of the wall of light, following which the streak of sword light disintegrated into nothingness.

At the same time, a string of dull thuds rang out from the Mantra Treasured Axis in a rapid succession, and in the instant that the ripples on the surface of the wall of light subsided, the final Time Dao Rune on the axis faded.

A burst of five-colored light emerged from the wall of light amid a faint thump, and the wall of light disintegrated into countless specks of light, while the spatial rift also sealed over.

With all of the Time Dao Runes snuffed out, the Mantra Treasured Axis had also dimmed slightly, and it vanished into Han Li's body.

The light radiating from the Heaven Controlling Vial also faded, and it reverted back to its original size before falling out of the air.

Han Li reached out to catch the vial, then placed it back around his own neck before tucking it into the collar of his robes.

Everything had returned to normal in the secret chamber.

Han Li sat down with his legs crossed, then flipped a hand over to produce a yellow pill. After swallowing the pill, he closed his eyes to meditate.

Maintaining the Mantra Treasured Axis and the Eye of Truth had been extremely taxing on his immortal spiritual power, leaving him feeling quite depleted, but he had naturally fared far better than last time.

Some time later, Han Li slowly opened his eyes, and a wry smile appeared on his face as he offered some words of consolation to himself.

"It looks like I was merely lucky to have seen what I did last time, and that luck isn't necessarily guaranteed every time. For now, I should just focus on collecting pill refinement ingredients and cultivating while recovering my Time Dao Runes."

As soon as his voice trailed off, he rose to his feet and exited his secret chamber.

Chapter 279: Sprouting of the Primary Bean

One day, several years later.

Above the frozen sea to the north of the Ancient Cloud Continent, gusts of fierce wind were howling, while countless snowflakes were fluttering through the air.

The sound of the wind was virtually deafening, and the drifting snow had inundated the entire area.

Han Li was hovering in mid-air beneath the dark clouds in the sky with his Transient Guild mask on.

"This should be the place," Han Li murmured to himself, but his voice was drowned out by the howling wind.

He swept a sleeve through the air to release a streak of azure light, which transformed into an azure longsword that plunged down directly toward the frozen sea below.

As soon as the flying sword descended out of the sky, Han Li also swooped down right behind it.

A sharp clang rang out as the azure longsword pierced into the surface of the ice, plunging through it with ease before drilling into the water.

Han Li immediately followed along, plunging into the sea as well.

A string of loud cracks that even the sound of the wind couldn't drown out rang out across the entire area, and a massive chasm that extended for hundreds of kilometers appeared in the ice, and it was only continuing to extend even further.

Meanwhile, Han Li cast a simple water repulsion restriction onto himself as he entered the water, then sped along behind the azure flying sword toward the seabed with a faint blue light barrier around his body.

Only around 15 minutes later did he draw to a halt, having landed beside a volcanic crater on the seabed. The azure flying sword was plunged into a large rock up ahead, and it was flashing with blue light.

The volcanic crater was completely gray and wasn't giving off even the slightest bit of heat, indicating that this was either an extinct volcano, or one that had been dormant for many years.

Han Li approached the volcanic crater, pulling the azure longsword out of the ground along the way.

As the sword was pulled out, the rock beside the volcanic crater split apart slightly, and a faint glimmer of golden radiance shone out from within the crack.

Han Li lowered his head to take a closer look while slashing his longsword through the water, releasing a burst of azure light. Countless tiny glowing azure sword projections instantly surged forth, slicing into all of the rocks around the volcanic crater.

After the entire layer of rock around the volcanic crater was stripped away, a vast expanse of golden radiance was revealed, instantly illuminating the pitch-black seabed.

As it turned out, there were numerous fist-sized ovular golden balls that resembled some type of egg littered around the volcanic crater.

These things were called Golden Dragon Urchins, and it was a very special type of pill refinement that wasn't a plant, a type of ore, or any living creature. Instead, it was a combination of the three.

Originally, it was a living creature by the name of the Sea Dragon Urchin, and after its death, a layer of moss would gradually grow over its carcass. After that, the carcass had to be covered in molten lava, and only after these conditions were satisfied could it turn into Golden Dragon Urchin after at least 10,000 years.

Due to the fact that this ingredient contained powers of three different attributes, it was often used to harmonize medicines, so it was present in many pill recipes.

Normally, Han Li wouldn't have accepted an ordinary ingredient collection mission like this one. However, this ingredient was required in the earthly pills that he was planning to refine, so he decided to take on this mission. Not only would he be securing an ingredient that he needed, he would be receiving a reward for completing the mission as well, so it was killing two birds with one stone.

Not only did he have to gather ingredients for the earthly pills that he was going to refine, he had to make preparations for dao pill refinement as well. To say that the amount of spirit stones and Immortal Origin Stones required for this was astronomical would be a complete understatement, so he had no choice but to begin taking on as many Transient Guild missions as he could again.

This mission was already the fourth one that he had completed in the past few months, and after completing this mission, he immediately began rising up toward the surface of the sea without pause.

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10 years later.

In a nameless long valley, three figures with animal masks on their faces jumped down from the rock faces on either side of the valley. They looked at the dead beast in the valley, then glanced at the tall figure standing beside it, and all of them were at a loss for words.

None of them had anticipated that this mission to kill an early-True Immortal Stage demon beast would've been completed so easily.

On the way here, they had been a little disdainful of the tall man who had always liked to keep to himself and was unwilling to participate in their strategic planning process. However, to their astonishment, as soon as they arrived in this place, the tall man had immediately displayed incredible combat prowess.

He was able to take down the demon beast on his own, making all of the plans that they had made on the way here seem like a complete joke.

After witnessing the fearsome power displayed by the tall man with the title of Wyrmslayer 15, all of their prior disdain had been completely replaced with awe and veneration.

Han Li wasn't a fan of showing off, and under normal circumstances, he would've kept a much lower profile, but he didn't want to waste any time here as he had to go on another mission elsewhere in a month.

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30 years flew by in the blink of an eye.

On this day, the light of the rising sun was basking the Crimson Dawn Peak in a warm glow, but Han Li's cave abode was looking rather cold and bleak.

Not long after Sun Buzheng and Meng Yungui successfully progressed to the Deity Transformation Stage, they were sent out by Han Li to search for spirit medicine seeds, and shortly thereafter, Meng Qianqian had also left the Crimson Dawn Peak on a journey of her own.

She had taken Featheryearn with her on her journey, and the mountain guardian beast had been left feeling depressed for a very long time in the wake of their departure.

Inside the secret chamber of the cave abode, Han Li emerged amid a flash of azure light, then slowly took off his Transient Guild mask before stowing it away.

He had just completed a mission that had earned him a reward of over 100 Immortal Origin Stones, but that was only a trifling amount compared with his current needs.

After emerging from the secret chamber, he went to the spirit medicine garden in the cave abode.

At this point, the garden had already been virtually completely filled with all types of spirit plants. Planted in an area to the left were several spirit vines that were crawling up a wooden frame, and they would be able to bear fruits once they reached a sufficient age. In another area to the right were countless tiny little flowers that were releasing a cloud of purple qi alongside a strong floral aroma.

The entire spirit garden was thriving and brimming with vitality, with the only exception being the southwestern corner.

That part of the spirit garden was completely empty, and it was as if nothing had ever been planted there.



Whenever Han Li inspected his spirit garden, his gaze would only linger in the southwestern corner for a moment before quickly moving on.

However, on this day, something caught his attention as he swept his gaze over that corner, and he noticed that something seemed to have changed.

He raised an eyebrow as he walked along the edge of the garden to make his way to the southwestern corner. After taking a brief glance, he stepped onto the soft and loamy soil of the garden before crouching down.

Nestled beneath a fist-sized chunk of gray soil right in front of him was a delicate green seedling that was even thinner than a bean sprout, and it was raising up one corner of that chunk of soil, causing it to tilt to the side.

The seedling appeared to have been quite frail, but it was filled with abundant life energy, and it had come from none other than that primary bean.

It sprouted!

Han Li was rather taken aback to see this.

During the first century after he planted the primary bean, he had occasionally watered it with the spirit liquid from the Heaven Controlling Vial, but the primary bean showed no signs of germinating, so he began prioritizing other spirit plants, as well as on manifesting crystals. Hence, he wasn't expecting it to have suddenly germinated on its own.

After carefully examining the seedling for a moment, he noticed that its two delicate leaves bore circles of indistinct dark golden patterns, giving them a rather peculiar appearance.

His brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he flipped a hand over to produce a thin yellow book.

After carefully reading through the book for a moment, the befuddlement on his face only became more pronounced, and he murmured to himself, "Why is it different from this description in Elder Hu Yan's book?"

Even after some extensive examination, he was unable to come up with an answer. In the end, he moved the chunk of soil above the seedling side, then drew out a picture of the golden patterns on its leaves before departing from his cave abode.

Around two hours later.

A streak of azure light descended from the heavens toward a mountain down below.

Upon its landing, the azure light faded to reveal Han Li, and not far in front of him was a large estate with a large red gate, above which was a plaque that carried the words "Hundred Wine Cottage" in free-flowing characters.

Han Li took a glance at the wobbly and inebriated-looking characters on the plaque, and he was just about to step forward when the gate was suddenly opened from the inside.

A voluptuous woman in a white dress then emerged from the estate. The woman was wearing some light makeup, and her hair was arranged into a tall bun, while her entire body was giving off a breathtaking aura of seduction.

The woman was none other than Bai Suyuan's mistress and one of the 13 Golden Immortal dao lords, Yun Ni.

At this moment, there was an enraged look on her face as she hurriedly emerged from inside the estate.

Elder Hu Yan was trailing along behind her in a gray Daoist robe with a pair of gourds hanging from his belt, and he seemed to have wanted to say something, but was also too embarrassed to say it, so he was looking rather awkward.

Upon spotting Han Li outside the estate, the awkward look on his face became even more pronounced, and he stopped in his tracks, not following Yun Ni any further.

As for Yun Ni, she stormed right past Han Li in a fit of rage without even taking a glance at him, then flew away as a streak of white light.

Elder Hu Yan was left looking up at the departing streak of white light with a slightly dazed look on his face, so Han Li could only gently clear his throat to catch his attention.

Elder Hu Yan immediately snapped back to his senses, and he was trying to put on a composed façade while unnecessarily explaining himself, "I've been really busy with official sect duties recently..."

"Indeed, you've always been extremely diligent, and I'm sure Dao Lord Yun came to see you just now for official matters," Han Li replied with a smile and a nod.

Elder Hu Yan gave a pleased nod upon hearing this, then asked, "What brings you here all of a sudden? Let me make this clear in advance: I don't have wine for you to drink!"

"I was out on a mission recently, and I just so happened to have obtained a jar of fine wine that's said to have been brewed using 67 different precious spirit medicines, and I immediately thought of you," Han Li replied with a smile, then flipped a hand over to produce a red jar of wine that he offered to Elder Hu Yan.

Elder Hu Yan's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this, but he immediately put on a composed and restrained façade as he said, "So you do have a conscience, after all! Come in."

## Chapter 280: Dao Warrior Mutation

Han Li and Elder Hu Yan entered the estate together, and they passed through the verandah beside the front yard before arriving in the guest hall. Not long after the two of them sat down, a young servant entered the hall to present them each with a cup of tea.

Elder Hu Yan didn't even take a glance at the cup of tea as he swept a sleeve through the air to summon a wine cup, then filled with the contents of the red jar that Han Li had brought him before downing the entire cup of wine in one go.

He then smacked his lips together for a long while with an enraptured expression, as if he were carefully savoring the wine's flavor, then exhaled as he praised, "This Red Fur wine really is one of the fiercest wines out there!"

"You know of this wine, Senior?" Han Li asked with a slightly surprised expression.

"I drank this wine once while I was exploring the northern region of the Primordial Wave Continent, so I have some recollection of it. This wine is brewed by soaking the bones and blood essence of many types of demon beasts and sealing them in jars for hundreds of years.

"Its color is as red as blood, and it's far too strong for mortals to consume. Even for cultivators, this wine is lethal poison to all those below the Deity Transformation Stage, but of course, it's harmless to immortals like ourselves," Elder Hu Yan explained.

"You are by far the most knowledgeable wine enthusiast I've ever met, Senior. For that, you have my utmost admiration," Han Li said with a faint smile.

"Stop trying to flatter me, kid. If you have something to say, then say it. Seeing as you did bring me this jar of Red Fur Wine, I'll agree to any request of yours as long as it's not too unreasonable," Elder Hu Yan said with a smile.

"While inspecting my spirit medicine garden today, I noticed by chance that the Dao Warrior that I had planted earlier had sprouted. However, its seedling doesn't quite match the description in the book that you gave me, so I came to you to be enlightened on this matter," Han Li said.

Elder Hu Yan's interest was instantly piqued at the mention of Dao Warriors, and he asked, "Oh? In what way is it different?"

"Some strange golden patterns have appeared on my Dao Warrior seedling," Han Li replied.

"What type of patterns? I'll come with you to take a look," Elder Hu Yan said as he raised an eyebrow.

"I made a drawing of the patterns, please take a look at them, Senior."

Han Li flipped a hand over to produce a sheet of paper as he spoke, then offered it to Elder Hu Yan.

Elder Hu Yan accepted the piece of paper, and after looking at it for only a short while, a smile appeared on his face as he said, "You may be in luck, kid. It looks like your Dao Warrior has undergone a mutation."

"How?" Han Li asked with a puzzled expression.

"There are many factors that could cause a Dao Warrior to mutate, including the type of soil it's planted in, the spirit liquid used to water it, and the properties of the Dao Warrior itself. A multitude of factors have to be taken into account before the reason can be pinpointed," Elder Hu Yan explained.

A contemplative look appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing this, and he couldn't help but wonder if the mutation had been brought on by the spirit liquid from the Heaven Controlling Vial or perhaps the underground fire veins.

"Having said that, don't thank your lucky stars just yet. Dao Warrior mutation is something that can't be controlled, and it could change the Dao Warrior for the better or for the worse. It all depends entirely on luck," Elder Hu Yan added after downing another cup of wine.

Han Li could tell that there seemed to have been something on Elder Hu Yan's mind, so he decided not to interrupt him any longer.

"In that case, I'll just have to let the Dao Warrior develop as normal and examine the changes when they arise. Thank you for enlightening me, Senior, I'll be taking my leave now," Han Li said as he extended a parting salute.

"Go on, I'll have a few more cups of wine by myself," Elder Hu Yan replied with a dismissive wave.

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Two days later, in the secret chamber of Han Li's cave abode.

Han Li flipped a hand over to produce his Transient Guild mask before putting it on, and a massive azure array plate was projected onto the wall from the mask.

After ensuring that no adverse changes had taken place in the Dao Warrior, he decided to continue going on Transient Guild missions to earn more spirit stones.

The missions column on the left was constantly being updated with new missions added and completed missions removed, and the mission turnover rate was usually quite high with the exception of some special missions.

Han Li's gaze traveled down the missions column until he spotted a very special mission.

The reason why this mission was special was because the missions released in the Transient Guild generally didn't have any specific details attached. Only after all of the people required for the mission were assembled were the finer details revealed, yet this mission had bucked that trend, having been released with all specific details and mission requirements enclosed.

The mission required one to go to an important place in the Holy Puppet Sect and defend it from an enemy invasion.

Han Li had seen some records of the Holy Puppet sect, and he knew that it was situated in the northwestern part of the Thunderstorm Sea. It was a medium-sized sect that wasn't too far away from the Ancient Cloud Continent, and it was renowned for crafting and selling all types of puppets.

It was naturally unable to compare with the Blaze Dragon Dao when it came to overall size, but due to its special nature, it had always had financial dealings with many immortal sects and clans looking to purchase its puppets, so it was far wealthier than other sects of the same caliber.

Furthermore, the mission could only be taken on by Transient Guild members who held azure masks or above, and that was a clear indication that this was most definitely going to be quite a perilous mission.

However, the reward offered by the Holy Puppet Sect was also extremely handsome, equivalent to over 10 times the reward offered in other normal missions. Han Li was currently in desperate need of spirit stones, and after some deliberation, he decided to accept this mission.

There was still some time left until the assembly date for the mission, so Han Li refined the spirit ingredients that he had acquired up to this point into two batches of pills, then also made some further preparations for the upcoming journey to the Holy Puppet Sect.

Several months later.

In the southwestern region of the Ancient Cloud Continent was a small coastal city by the Windview City. Due to its close proximity to the Thunderstorm Sea in the south, it had a slightly warmer climate and was one of the few places on the entire Ancient Cloud Continent where one could experience all four seasons.

There was an official road that was around 50 to 60 feet wide leading out of the city to the coast, and it passed through a lush forest of willow and elm trees.

Inside the forest, there was a wooden pavilion constructed every few kilometers along the official road, serving as resting spots for those traveling along the official road.

At this moment, everything in a radius of several kilometers around the third pavilion in the forest was enshrouded within a cloud of dense white mist, and within the mist, visibility was limited to only around a foot.

However, the area directly surrounding the third pavilion was completely unaffected by the mist, and there were around a dozen figures seated on the long benches inside. Each of these figures was wearing an azure animal mask with no exception, but in contrast with everyone else, there was a voluptuous woman standing outside the pavilion with a crimson fox mask on her face, and her entire body was giving off a mysterious and seductive aura.

Not far away from her was a slender woman in a pink dress, and she was wearing an azure rabbit mask that was riddled with spirit patterns.

Even though both of them had their faces concealed, the feminine auras that they were giving off were still a sight for sore eyes, and many of the people inside the pavilion were sneaking furtive glances at the two of them.

Right at this moment, a streak of golden light appeared above the forest before descending toward the pavilion.

The golden light pierced straight into the dense mist before landing outside the pavilion, then faded to reveal a tall male figure wearing a black cloak and an azure deer mask. It was none other than Qilin 9.

As soon as he landed on the ground, he immediately approached the voluptuous woman before extending a respectful bow, to which the woman nodded in response.

Immediately thereafter, a streak of azure light flew into the mist as well, then also landed outside the pavilion before fading to reveal the cow-masked Wyrms 15.

Both of the new arrivals attracted a few glances from those who were already seated in the pavilion, but the arrival of Wyrms 15 in particular had caught everyone's attention.

After all, he had become extremely renowned for the frequency at which he was completing Transient Guild missions.

Han Li paid no heed to everyone's prying eyes, but he was rather surprised to have noticed the presence of the woman with the azure rabbit mask that bore the number of "11".

This was because he knew that the owner of this mask was none other than Bai Suyuan.

The mask had concealed her aura, making it impossible to detect her exact cultivation base, but given her Moonlight Immortal Physique, it was safe to assume that she was most likely already a Grand Ascension cultivator.



There was no way that someone of her cultivation base should've been allowed to come on this mission, and that was why Han Li was particularly surprised by her presence here.

However, he didn't display any overt reaction to this, and he approached the fox-masked woman who was clearly the leader of the group before extending a respectful salute, then nodded at Qilin 9, who he had completed a mission with in the past. After that, he made his way into the pavilion before sitting down with his legs crossed, taking no further glances at Bai Suyuan.

Bai Suyuan hadn't managed to identify Han Li. After all, she had only ever seen Han Li adopt disguises using his Transient Guild mask, but she had never seen the mask itself. However, she was somewhat familiar with his reputation for completing guild missions at an extraordinary rate, and thus, she took a few extra glances at Han Li out of curiosity.

Around 15 minutes later, two more people arrived one after the other.

Following their arrival, Qilin 3 turned to everyone in the pavilion as she declared, "Time is of the essence, so now that everyone has arrived, let's set off to the Holy Puppet Sect right away. I'll explain the finer details of the mission to everyone along the way."

Everyone immediately rose to their feet and emerged from the pavilion upon hearing this.

Han Li noticed that aside from Qilin 9, there were several other Transient Guild members that he had previously completed missions with, and they all exchanged slight nods with one another as a form of greeting.

Qilin 3 swept a hand through the air, releasing a sparkling expanse of silver light, which transformed into a crescent-shaped spirit boat in the blink of an eye.

The boat was around 300 to 400 feet in length with rings of profound runes engraved all over its surface. It was also radiating a bright silver glow, and it was clear that this was a flying spirit treasure of quite a high caliber.

Qilin 3 flew onto the deck of the spirit boat, and everyone else quickly followed suit, with a few of them inspecting the spirit boat with envy in their eyes as they flew onto it.