

A Record 341

Chapter 341: Nascent Soul Refinement

"I don't recall ever saying that I plan to let you live," Han Li said in an indifferent voice.

Before the nascent soul had a chance to reply, Han Li opened his mouth to release a burst of silver fire, which instantly enveloped the nascent soul, and it was none other than Han Li's Flame of Essence.

The nascent soul immediately began to howl in agony within the silver flames, but not only was it not displaying any sign of being incinerated, it was no exaggeration to say that its aura hadn't even abated in the slightest.

In a very uncommon turn of events, it seemed that the Flame of Essence was completely ineffective on the nascent soul.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and the silver flames immediately began to swirl around the nascent soul as a tiny fiery vortex at his behest, giving off heat that was several times more intense than before.

"Han Li! The Heavenly Court won't let you get away with this!" the nascent soul howled, and it had taken on a slightly transparent quality within the fiery vortex.

However, the Flame of Essence was unable to affect the nascent soul any further beyond that.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li flicked a finger through the air, releasing a streak of azure sword qi that struck the nascent soul in a flash.

A loud thump rang out as the streak of sword qi exploded, and a faint mark appeared on the nascent soul from its head to its abdomen, but the mark quickly vanished without a trace.

A hint of surprise flashed through Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

"Fellow Daoist Han, the nascent souls of Golden Immortal cultivators are extremely resolute and are fundamentally different from True Immortal Stage nascent souls. At this rate, it's going to take at least several years for you to completely destroy it. This battle hasn't gone on for very long, but there's no guarantee that the people at the White Jade Peak haven't noticed his absence," Daoist Xie said.

"What do you suggest I do with this nascent soul then, Brother Xie? If I just let it go free, there will be no end to the troubles to come," Han Li said as his brows furrowed slightly.

"Golden Immortal Stage nascent souls are quite difficult to destroy, but only for a True Immortal. With my current Golden Immortal Stage power, I can destroy this nascent soul for you, as long as you're willing to spend the required Immortal Origin Stones," Daoist Xie replied.

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up slightly upon hearing this. "Go ahead, Brother Xie, I'm willing to spend the Immortal Origin Stones."

Daoist Xie nodded in response, then opened his mouth to release a vast expanse of golden lightning, which intertwined briefly in the air to form a dense net of lightning that ensnared the nascent soul.

Arcs of lightning were flashing incessantly over the surface of the lightning net, and it was giving off an astonishingly formidable aura, forming a golden and silver ball of light as it intertwined with the Flame of Essence.

The sound of crackling rang out incessantly as the nascent soul began to spasm violently, and it was becoming transparent at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye.

Around 15 minutes later, Daoist Xie made a hand seal, and all of the arcs of golden lightning faded to reveal a nascent soul that was enveloped in silver flames.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, but then unfurrowed just as quickly.

The body of the nascent soul still remained, but it had already turned completely transparent with only faint traces of golden light left on its surface. Its eyes were completely lifeless, and the spiritual fluctuations that it was giving off were extremely feeble, so it was clear that the spiritual power within it had already been completely destroyed, leaving nothing more than an empty husk behind.

"Why didn't you destroy this nascent soul altogether, Brother Xie? Surely you still have some Immortal Origin Stones leftover from the 500 that I gave you," Han Li asked.

"I have no intention of saving Immortal Origin Stones for you, it's just that I suddenly recalled that Golden Immortal Stage nascent souls are a primary ingredient for refining a pill known as the Golden Soul Pill, so it would be a waste to destroy it. At this point, even if there had been any restrictions planted in the nascent soul, they would've already been completely refined, so you don't have to worry about keeping it by your side," Daoist Xie explained.

"What does this Golden Soul Pill do?" Han Li asked.

"I'm not sure. Recently, I've been recollecting tidbits of memories, and one of those contained information about the Golden Soul Pill. It seems to be quite a rare type of pill, and I'll tell you what it does if I manage to recall," Daoist Xie replied.

"Alright," Han Li replied with a nod, then withdrew his spiritual sense chain.

After that, he pulled out a jade box and placed the nascent soul inside it, then adhered a few sealing talismans to the box before stowing it away.

"Congratulations on recovering a lost treasure, Fellow Daoist Han. This treasure here is also quite a formidable one," Daoist Xie said as it handed over the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain and black inkstone that it was holding.

Han Li accepted the pair of treasures, and an excited gleam appeared in his eyes as his gaze first settled upon the black inkstone.

This was most definitely an Acquired Immortal Treasure of a very high caliber, and the Soul Destroying True Light that it was capable of releasing appeared to have contained some type of law power that could directly harm one's soul. This treasure was most likely the culprit behind his amnesia and subsequent descent into the Spirit Domain Realm.

Aside from that, the black cloud space that it carried was also quite a good trapping device.

However, he had no time to inspect this treasure on an in-depth level for now, and he turned his gaze to the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain.

He had refined this treasure in preparation for his ascension tribulation transcendence, and he had invested immeasurable time, effort, and resources into the treasure's creation. Now that he had recovered it, he couldn't help but feel a little sentimental.

Just as the silver-robed young man had declared, the current Integrated Five Extremes Mountain was already far different from what it had once been. Its basis was still the five mountains, but each mountain had been infused with many types of spirit materials, and it had also been refined using a more advanced method.

Just the thought of the restrictive ability unleashed by the silver-robed young man using this treasure was enough to get Han Li rather excited.

However, time was of the essence right now, so he didn't have time to closely inspect the pair of treasures, and he quickly stowed them away.

"We should get away from here as soon as possible, Fellow Daoist Han. We need to leave before the battle at the White Jade Peak comes to an end," Daoist Xie warned.

"I want to get out of here as well, but this restriction is quite formidable and not so easy to break through. Do you have any ways to bypass it?" Han Li asked with a wry smile.

Daoist Xie flew over to the wall of yellow mist as he spoke, and he inspected it briefly before suddenly pressing a palm flag against it, following which a layer of yellow light appeared over his hand.

Han Li faltered slightly upon seeing this, following which a hint of intrigue appeared in his eyes.

Ever since it had fully integrated itself with this puppet, Daoist Xie had become much more life-like and bore a much closer resemblance to an actual living cultivator.

Moments later, Daoist Xie withdrew its palm, and Han Li asked, "What do you think?"

"This is a very profound restriction with many interconnected layers. Whoever set up this restriction has to be an exceptional master," Daoist Xie mused.

"Is there a way to break through it?" Han Li asked.

"There is, but it's going to require a large sum of Immortal Origin Stones to activate one of this immortal puppet's abilities," Daoist Xie replied.

"How many will you need?" Han Li asked.

"In addition to what I have left, I'll need... about 300 more," Daoist Xie replied.

Han Li was rather taken aback to hear this, and a wry smile appeared on his face as he said, "That's fine, just do what you need to do."

In order to lure in the silver-robed young man so that Daoist Xie could attack him, he had already placed around 600 to 700 Immortal Origin Stones into Daoist Xie's body, and now that he was having to spend 300 more Immortal Origin Stones, that was already close to a third of his entire wealth.

It seemed that he had to be sparing in his reliance on Daoist Xie unless it was absolutely necessary. He was still hoping to be able to purchase some dao pill ingredients using his Immortal Origin Stones, and that was going to be a significant expenditure.

With that in mind, he flipped a hand over to produce a storage pouch, which he tossed at Daoist Xie.

Daoist Xie wasted no time in pulling all of the Immortal Origin Stones out of the storage pouch before directly swallowing them, then said, "I'll also require the assistance of your dao warriors."

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, but he duly obliged, handing over his dao warrior gourd to Daoist Xie.

Daoist Xie made a hand seal, and a burst of bright yellow light immediately emerged at the opening of the gourd, following which a series of dark yellow beans came falling out like rain.

Before long, several hundred dao warriors beans had been tipped out, and Daoist Xie began to chant an incantation, upon which the patterns on the surface of the beans lit up in unison.

The beans began to give off a bright yellow glow, but instead of transforming into dao warriors, they expanded slightly before slowly elongating to form what appeared to have been a series of yellow wooden rods.

Bright yellow light was radiating from these wooden rods, and they connected together to form a seemingly haphazard array, but in reality, it was far more profound than it seemed.

Han Li was quite intrigued to see this.

It wasn't a rare occurrence for dao warriors to be used to set up arrays, but Han Li had never seen anyone use dao warriors as array flags as Daoist Xie was doing here, and he couldn't help but wonder if this method of dao warrior usage was something that Daoist Xie had recently recalled.

As Daoist Xie continued to chant its incantation, it released a series of incantation seals out of its hands, every single one of which fell upon the wooden rods with unerring accuracy.

All of the hundreds of wooden rods shuddered in unison, and countless translucent yellow threads rose up from them before intertwining to form a yellow array.

Immediately thereafter, Daoist Xie thrust both palms forward, and all of the wooden rods instantly flew into the wall of yellow mist, which began to churn and produce a layer of yellow light to obstruct the wooden rods.

Daoist Xie was making a rapid string of hand seals, and countless bursts of yellow light were rapidly circulating throughout the yellow array, forcibly nullifying the yellow light being released by the wall of mist as the wooden rods slowly progressed forward.

The section of the wall of mist that was encompassed within the yellow array began to rapidly dissipate, creating a huge indentation.

As the yellow mist scattered, a translucent light barrier with lights of different colors surging over its surface was revealed, and it appeared to have been another profound restriction.

Han Li gave a slight nod at the sight of the array, while Daoist Xie sat down with its legs crossed as it continued to chant its incantation.

All of a sudden, thick arcs of golden lightning emerged over its body, giving off bursts of violent law fluctuations that proliferated in all directions.

All of the world's origin qi in a radius of thousands of kilometers was stirred up, forming balls of purple light that converged toward Daoist Xie.

Chapter 342: Leaving the Sect

A series of dark clouds emerged, and they quickly came together to obscure the entire sky. Arcs of lightning could be seen occasionally flashing within the clouds amid deafening thunderclaps, and boundless lightning-attribute spiritual qi was converging from all directions before fusing into the clouds.

Daoist Xie made a hand seal as it chanted an incantation, and lightning was flashing over its body before spreading outward to form an enormous lightning array that was several dozen acres in area.

The lightning array was rather peculiar in that it was very thin and long, and there were countless lightning runes drifting through the air within it.

All of a sudden, Daoist Xie opened its eyes before casting an incantation seal up toward the heavens, and bolts of lightning began to crash down from the clouds.

All of the lightning was injected into the lightning array around Daoist Xie, causing it to glow radiantly while giving off bursts of thunderous rumbling.

Han Li was standing in mid-air, and he appeared to have been quite calm and composed, but in reality, he was feeling quite tense.

His battle against the silver-robed young man had been quite brief, but it had caused quite a commotion, and this lightning array was giving off extremely formidable energy fluctuations that were definitely detectable to those at the White Jade Peak.

He could only hope that the battle there was still raging so that he would have enough time to make his escape.

Right at this moment, Daoist Xie let loose a low roar, and the lightning array abruptly rose up from the ground, hovering in mid-air while rapidly shrinking down.

Just a few seconds later, it had shrunk down from its original size of several dozen acres down to a ball of lightning that was only around 200 to 300 feet in size, and it was giving off blinding lightning that was too bright to look directly at.

"Go!"

Daoist Xie abruptly rose to its feet as it made a hand seal, and the ball of lightning shot forth as a streak of white light, striking the indentation in the wall of yellow mist at an incredible speed while revolving rapidly.

An earth-shattering boom rang out, and all of the mountains within a radius of several hundred kilometers began to rumble violently. Massive trenches opened up in the earth, and some of the smaller mountains were toppled altogether, presenting a doomsday-like scene to behold.

The yellow mist restriction was also churning violently, and it was as if turbulent waves were rolling over its surface.

Incredibly thick bolts of lightning were erupting out of the ball of lightning before spreading through the yellow mist restriction, peeling it away layer by layer, but at the same time, the surrounding yellow mist was also constantly converging to replenish the mist that was being stripped away, and an impasse had ensued.

"Fellow Daoist Han, I need your help!" Daoist Xie suddenly said.

Han Li immediately sprang up into the air without any hesitation upon hearing this, and after a few flashes of azure light, he appeared no more than 1,000 feet away from the indentation in the yellow mist restriction.

He then swept a sleeve through the air to release 72 streaks of golden light, which circled around him momentarily before instantly forming a giant golden sword that was several hundred feet in length with golden lightning flashing around it.

Han Li made a hand seal, and the giant sword slashed forward at his behest.

All of a sudden, a streak of swordlight that was over 1,000 feet in length with golden lightning flashing over the entirety of its blade struck the indentation in the yellow mist with tremendous might.

A resounding boom rang out, and that sword strike from Han Li proved to be the final straw that broke the camel's back, tearing apart all of the yellow mist that was converging from all directions to significantly slow down the restriction's rate of recovery.

Daoist Xie let loose a loud roar upon seeing this, and the ball of light exploded violently into an incandescent sun as shockwaves that were visible even to the naked eye erupted in all directions. Finally, a huge hole the size of a house had been blown into the yellow mist restriction.

After unleashing that attack, the lightning flashing over Daoist Xie's body quickly faded, and it was looking rather weary.

Han Li immediately swept a hand through the air to cast an incantation seal, and the hundreds of dao warrior beans flew back out of the wall of yellow mist before returning to his gourd. Immediately

thereafter, a burst of azure light erupted out of his body, sweeping up both Daoist Xie and the gourd before he flew out of the restriction through the massive hole.

Right after he had flown out through the hole, yellow mist converged from all directions to seal it again in the blink of an eye.

All of the unrest in the wall of yellow mist then quickly subsided, and it was as if nothing had ever happened.

Han Li cast his gaze toward the sky outside, and he heaved a long sigh of relief, feeling as if he had just escaped from the brink of death.

He then turned to Daoist Xie as he asked, "How are you feeling, Brother Xie?"

"The restriction was far more formidable than I anticipated. It's a good thing that you intervened at the perfect time to break the restriction, but I'm going to have to take a long rest after this, Daoist Xie replied.

Han Li nodded in response, then swept a sleeve through the air to release 12 lengths of Lightning Restraining Wood, then began to chant an incantation.

Arcs of lightning emerged over the Lightning Restraining Wood, quickly forming a lightning array with countless lightning runes flashing within it, causing the nearby space to warp and ripple.

Han Li closed his eyes momentarily to sense something, then quickly reopened them before giving a slight nod and withdrawing his hand seal.

The lightning array immediately ceased operating, and countless arcs of lightning flowed back into the lengths of Lightning Restraining Wood before they were stowed away.

The lightning teleportation array was functioning as normal, which meant that there were no further spatial restrictions up ahead.

"Even for the Immortal Palace, setting up this one restriction would've already been quite difficult, so there's no way that there could be a second, even larger restriction outside of it," Daoist Xie remarked.

"That may be the case, but the situation over at the White Jade Peak could take a turn at any moment, so let's get out of here for now," Han Li said as he took a glance back at the yellow mist restriction, then made a hand seal to conjure up a smaller lightning array around himself.

Daoist Xie flew into Han Li's grasp as a streak of golden light, following which both of them were teleported away.

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Around two hours later.

Arcs of golden lightning sprang out of the space above the Crimson Dawn Peak to form a lightning array, and Han Li emerged inside it, looking a little pale and weary.

He had unleashed his lightning teleportation array consecutively in order to reach the Crimson Dawn Peak as quickly as he could, and even with the support of Immortal Origin Stones, his immortal spiritual power reserves were still severely depleted.

Han Li took a deep breath before descending out of the sky.

All of the servants had already been alerted by the thunderclap that had just rung out, and they hurriedly rushed forward to greet Han Li.

Many of the servants of True Immortal Stage elders had gone to attend the preaching ceremony as well, and at this moment, there were only three servants left on the mountain. After all, the mountain couldn't just be left completely unattended.

The three servants were just about to extend bows to Han Li when he raised a hand and said, "No need for formalities. Wait here for a moment, I have something to speak to all of you about."

After that, Han Li immediately flew into his cave abode in a flash, arriving directly at the spirit medicine garden inside.

He had a habit of carrying important items on his body, but he couldn't constantly carry these spirit medicines with him, and that was why he had taken the risk to come back here despite the urgency of the situation.

He had expended a huge amount of time, energy, and resources gathering these spirit medicines, and he certainly couldn't just leave them behind.

He swept a sleeve through the air to release a burst of azure light, which instantly encompassed the entire spirit medicine garden.

In the next instant, all of the spirit medicines rose up out of the ground alongside the surrounding plots of spirit soil before flying into Han Li's grasp one after another. He then quickly stored them into suitable containers before stowing them away in his storage bracelet.

Moments later, the entire cave abode shuddered as all of the restrictions were removed, and a series of array tools flew out of all parts of the cave abode before also being stowed away.

Outside the cave abode, the three servants were exchanging puzzled glances with one another.

"What's going on?" a square-faced young man murmured in an uncertain voice.

Meng Xiong was one of the three servants, and he shook his head in response. "I don't know, but judging from Elder Li's expression, something very important must've happened. Perhaps it has something to do with those violent tremors we felt earlier."

Right at this moment, Han Li appeared before them in a wraith-like manner amid a flash of azure light, and before the three servants had a chance to do anything, he said, "Time is of the essence, so I'll keep it brief. The sect has encountered a major crisis concerning the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, and there will most likely be very far-reaching consequences.

"I'm planning to leave this place right away, and you have two options right now: come with me, or stay here to fend for yourself. You've all been serving me for many years, so even if you choose to stay, I'll leave you with some treasures and resources."

The expressions of the three servants changed drastically upon hearing this.

This was far too abrupt a turn of events, and they had no idea what to do.

"I'll give you 10 seconds to make your decision," Han Li said as he clasped his hands behind his back.

As soon as his voice trailed off, Meng Xiong stepped forward as he cupped his fist in a respectful salute.

"Elder Li, my aptitude is quite mediocre, and without everything you've given me, there's no way I would've made it to my current cultivation base. I'm willing to continue to follow you."

Han Li nodded in response, then gestured for Meng Xiong to stand beside him.

Immediately thereafter, the square-faced young man also stepped forward, expressing a desire to follow Han Li.

The young man's name was Meng Guang, and he was a man of few words.

The final servant remained standing on the spot with his head lowered, and he wasn't saying anything, but his decision was clear.

Han Li didn't say anything, either, flipping a hand over to produce a storage pouch that he tossed at the servant.

"Thank you, Elder Li," the servant said as he caught the storage pouch before hurriedly extending a respectful bow.

"Let's go," Han Li said, then swept a sleeve through the air without delay, releasing a burst of azure light that swept up Meng Xiong and Meng Guang before flying away.

Shortly thereafter, on a mountaintop not far away from the Crimson Dawn Peak, Han Li's trio was surrounded by a circle of Lightning Restraining Wood.

Han Li made a hand seal, and arcs of golden lightning sprang out of the Lightning Restraining Wood to form a huge lightning array around them.

The surrounding space began to ripple like water, and the ripples spread outward in all directions.

Meng Xiong and Meng Guang were quite alarmed to see this, and both of them reflexively closed their eyes.

Immediately thereafter, the three of them vanished amid a flash of lightning and a rumbling thunderclap.

Chapter 343: Plans

In a certain region of the sea to the west of the Ancient Cloud Continent.

This place was near the Thunderstorm Sea, and the sky was filled with dark clouds with bolts of lightning flashing within them.

However, in contrast with the lightning deep within the Thunderstorm Sea, the lightning here was far less formidable. Occasionally, a bolt of lightning or two would come crashing down out of the sky, but for the average cultivator, as long as they proceeded with caution, they were at no threat of severe bodily harm.

The seawater here was extremely murky, almost like mud, and the entire surface of the sea was enshrouded under a dense blanket of gray mist that seemed to have been infinitely vast, and there were strange gusts of wind howling within the mist that produced a sound resembling human sobbing.

This place was known as the Sobbing Mist Sea, and it was a very renowned area to the west of the Ancient Cloud Continent, but not for good reasons.

Beneath this region of the sea was an enormous gray rock crystal mine, and after it had been completely exhausted of its mineral resources, the seawater had taken on this murky appearance, and this blanket of gray mist had arisen.

The murky seawater and the mist weren't harmful to human cultivators, but the marine demon beasts here seemed to intensely detest this environment, and most of them had moved away. As a result, the cultivator population in the region was also decreasing year after year, making this place more and more barren and desolate.

Deep within the sea of mist was a black island that only had a radius of less than 10 kilometers, and at the center of the island was an extremely desolate black mountain that was several thousand feet tall.

Right at this moment, a burst of golden light flashed within an obscure cave at the foot of the mountain, and the entire mountain shuddered slightly.

The golden light flashed a few times before abruptly brightening significantly, and even the surrounding black mountain face had been illuminated a golden color, while an enormous aura was surging out of the cave.

However, right at this moment, an azure light barrier appeared at the opening of the cave with countless azure runes flashing over its surface, intercepting the aura before it could spread even further.

Even so, the entire island still shuddered violently, while the nearby gray mist was also churned up into a frenzy.

Right at this moment, a loud squawk rang out in the distance, and an azure shadow flew out at an incredible speed before landing near the black island, revealing itself to be an azure bird.

The bird was massive with a wingspan of around 200 to 300 feet, and it had a large head coupled with a thin neck. Its entire body was covered in arrow-like azure feathers, and there was a large fleshy pouch hanging in front of its chest, giving it a rather hideous appearance.

Standing atop the bird's back was none other than the Meng Qianqian, and the bird was naturally Featheryearn.

A hint of elevation appeared in Meng Qianqian's eyes at the sight of the golden lightning flashing in the cave, and all of a sudden, the golden lightning in the cave brightened even further, while thick arcs of golden lightning began to emerge.

The parts of the black rock walls that were struck by the arcs of golden lightning shattered like tofu, and it didn't take long before the entire mountain collapsed violently to reveal a ball of lightning that was several hundred feet in size.

The shadow of a massive lightning array could be seen within the ball of light, and arcs of golden lightning were crashing into the surrounding azure light barrier, causing it to tremble violently, but it remained intact.

All of a sudden, the ball of golden lightning flashed once again, and an incredibly thick pillar of golden light tore through the azure light barrier before erupting into the heavens.

All of the world's origin qi within a radius of hundreds of kilometers churned violently, as did the nearby sea of mist, forming a huge vortex around the pillar of lightning.

The pillar of golden lightning remained for a few seconds before slowly dissipating, and the ball of golden lightning on the island also vanished to reveal Han Li, Meng Xiong, and Meng Guang.

Meng Qianqian immediately flew down from Featheryearn's back with an elated expression, and she was just about to say something when Han Li said, "Now's not the time to talk. Come with me!"

Immediately thereafter, he summoned an azure flying boat amid a flash of azure light, and it instantly swelled to over 100 feet in size.

On either side of the flying boat were two rows of azure spirit wings that were formed by spiritual power.

This Azure Luan Boat was something that he had obtained from a True Immortal while undertaking a mission, and it wasn't a treasure of a particularly high caliber, but it was quite fast, nonetheless.

Han Li flew onto the flying boat, closely followed by Meng Xiong and Meng Guang.

Meng Qianqian faltered slightly before also doing the same, then cast an incantation seal to stow Featheryearn into her spirit beast pouch.

With a flick of his finger, around a dozen thick streaks of azure sword qi were sent flying through the air before striking the black island down below, instantly destroying what remained of it and causing it to completely sink into the sea without a trace.

At the same time, Han Li made a hand seal with his other hand, and the azure flying boat began to glow radiantly as it shot forth into the distance as an azure shadow, vanishing in the blink of an eye.

Not long after their departure, two streaks of light arrived from afar, revealing a pair of humanoid figures, one of which was a middle-aged daoist priest wearing a black hat, while the other was a gray-robed elderly man.

"This is the place! The spiritual qi fluctuations still haven't completely dissipated yet," the daoist priest said with a hint of excitement on his face.

There was an elated look on the gray-robed elderly man's face as well, and he nodded in response. "Indeed, and these are some extremely formidable spiritual qi fluctuations. I spotted a huge pillar of golden light rising up into the air from here. Could it be that some treasure is about to emerge?"

As he was speaking, he had already released his spiritual sense to inspect his surroundings.

"That's definitely a possibility. This region of the sea has always been very unpredictable, so nothing would surprise me," the daoist priest replied, then flipped a hand over to produce a yellow plate treasure with countless runes engraved on its surface.

Bursts of rippling yellow light swept forth from the plate treasures, encompassing the entire surrounding area within a radius of several kilometers.

After scouring the area for a while to no avail, the gray-robed elderly man asked, "Have you found anything, Fellow Daoist Wan?"

The daoist priest remained silent, continuing to use his plate treasure to release halos of rippling yellow light.

Moments later, he withdrew his hand seal, and the gray-robed elderly man hurriedly asked, "How did it go?"

"That pillar of light wasn't a precursor for the emergence of any treasure. Instead, it was a result of someone unleashing some type of ability here," the daoist priest sighed.

The gray-robed elderly man's face fell slightly upon hearing this, and he was still holding onto a shred of hope as he asked, "Are you sure?"

"All nine layers of restrictions in my Precious Domain Plate have been activated, so there's definitely no mistaking it," the daoist priest replied with a roll of his eyes.

The gray-robed elderly man shook his head with a wry smile as he replied, "In that case, it looks like we got excited for nothing. By the way, have you managed to detect that person's cultivation base?"

"Judging from the lingering spiritual qi fluctuations here, they were most likely at or above the Body Integration Stage," the daoist priest replied.

The gray-robed elderly man's expression changed slightly upon hearing this, and a hint of lingering fear appeared in his eyes as he said, "In that case, it's a good thing that we arrived late. Otherwise, if we had been any earlier and irked that senior, then we would've been in severe danger."

"In any case, we should leave this place right away to avoid any potential misunderstandings," the daoist priest replied in a calm voice.

"Indeed, Fellow Daoist Wan," the gray-robed elderly man immediately replied with a nod.

Shortly thereafter, two streaks of light rose up into the sky before flying away into the distance.

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At this point, Han Li and the others were already hundreds of thousands of kilometers away.

Han Li circled around above the sea for a while, then arrived in another large coastal city in the western region of the Ancient Cloud Continent.

This place was known as Heavenly Cloud City, and it was the capital of the Heavenly Cloud Nation. It was quite a large city that directly neighbored a spirit vein of a decent size, making it a very habitable place.

Not only was the city quite close to the Thunderstorm Sea, its large size meant that many of the cultivators passing through the area would choose to stop here for some rest and to replenish supplies.

Some of the high-grade cultivators returning from adventures in the Thunderstorm Sea would also come to the city to sell or exchange their spoils.

As a result, Heavenly Cloud City was becoming more and more prosperous by the day, and it had already become one of the largest cities within a radius of tens of thousands of kilometers.

Han Li and the others snuck into the city, then chose a secluded medium-sized inn to stay in.

Even the most formidable cultivator stationed in the city was only at the Body Integration Stage, so there was naturally no chance of Han Li being discovered.

That night, in the guest hall.

Han Li was seated on the main chair, while Meng Xiong, Meng Guang, and Meng Qianqian were standing respectfully before him.

After conjuring up a soundproofing restriction, Han Li gave the trio a brief recount of what had taken place in the Blaze Dragon Dao.

At this point, Meng Qianqian possessed the most advanced cultivation base out of all of the servants, but she was quite lacking in life experience, and she was momentarily completely rooted to the spot after hearing such shocking news.

Meng Xiong and Meng Guang were already aware that something had to have happened during the preaching ceremony, but they were still astonished after hearing Han Li's story.

"Qianqian, I'll give you a choice just like I gave the others, and the conditions remain the same. What is your choice?" Han Li asked.

Meng Qianqian remained silent, seemingly still reeling from the bombshell that had just been dropped on her.

"If you need to discuss the matter with Yungui before you make a decision..."

"There's no need for that," Meng Qianqian replied without any hesitation. "I wasn't hesitating, Elder Li, I was just surprised. Regardless of what choice my brother makes, I'm willing to continue to follow you."

Han Li nodded in response, then said, "Right now, I'm no longer an elder of the Blaze Dragon Dao, so you're not to refer to me as such in the future, understood?"

"Yes, Senior Li," the three servants immediately replied in unison.

Han Li didn't say anything further as he rose to his feet, then made his way over to the window, casting his gaze out toward the distant Thunderstorm Sea with a contemplative look in his eyes.

After a long while, Han Li still hadn't said anything, and after a brief hesitation, Meng Qianqian asked in a timid voice, "What are your plans from here, Senior Li?"

Han Li offered no response, seemingly still contemplating something in silence.

Meng Qianqian's trio exchanged a glance with one another, and they naturally didn't dare to disturb him, so they could only wait in silence.

A long while later, Han Li finally declared, "I'm planning to leave the Ancient Cloud Continent for a while."

Chapter 344: Spoils

Meng Qianqian faltered slightly upon hearing this, then hurriedly said, "Brother Li, my brother and Brother Sun still haven't arrived yet, would you be able to wait a bit longer? They're very loyal to you, and I'm sure they'll choose to continue to follow you."

"Your cultivation bases are still quite lacking, so I'll leave all of you here in Heavenly Cloud City. This city has quite a good spirit vein nearby, and it'll be perfect for your cultivation needs," Han Li replied.

Meng Qianqian was rather unwilling to accept this arrangement, but she could tell that Han Li had already made up his mind, so she could only nod in response. "Yes, Senior Li."

"Come with me," Han Li said, then began to make his way outside.

Shortly thereafter, the four of them arrived in a peaceful forest by the name of Moonview Forest in the western part of the city.

The forest was closest to the spirit vein, so the world's origin qi here was very abundant, and there were individual courtyards littered throughout the forest, all of which were enshrouded in restrictions and separated by some bamboo forests and fake mountains.

These were temporary cave abodes constructed by high-grade cultivators who had come from outside the city. After all, some cultivators preferred peace and quiet and didn't want to stay in inns.

At this moment, Han Li and his group were strolling through the forest under the guidance of a white-robed young man.

"All of our cave abodes were designed by master artisans, and the forest is split up into four areas, A, B, C, and D. The cave abodes in Area A have the most abundant spiritual qi, while the ones in Area D have the least spiritual qi.

"Right now, we're in Area D, but even here, the world's origin is far more abundant than other places in the city, and it can accelerate one's rate of cultivation by a quarter, whereas the cave abodes in Area A can enhance one's rate of cultivation by a half," the white-robed young man introduced in an enthusiastic fashion.

"Take us to Area A," Han Li said in an expressionless manner.

The white-robed young man could tell that Han Li was the one calling the shots, and he was ecstatic to hear this. "Please come with me, fellow daoists."

Moments later, the group passed through an archway and arrived in a large bamboo forest, within which some cave abodes could be seen.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon seeing this. The world's origin qi here was far more abundant than outside, almost comparable with some of the mountains in the Blaze Dragon Dao, and Meng Xiong and Meng Guang were ecstatic to sense this, while Meng Qianqian was trailing along at the back in silence with a complex look on her face.

"This is Area A. What do you think, fellow daoists?" the white-robed young man asked.

Instead of replying to the question, Han Li asked, "Are there any vacant cave abodes here?"

The white-robed young man's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this, and he replied, "We do. There are three vacant cave abodes."

"What price can you do for me if I rent them long-term?" Han Li asked.

The white-robed young man took a glance at Han Li, then stated a price.

Han Li turned to inspect his surroundings, refraining from offering a response for now.

"Our cave abodes are the best in Heavenly Cloud City, so the rent is a little more expensive, but you're definitely getting good value for money..."

Han Li waved a hand to cut off the white-robed young man, then pulled out a storage pouch that he tossed at him as he said, "I'll rent all three cave abodes for 300 years for now."

The white-robed young man caught the storage pouch, then inspected its contents briefly with his spiritual sense, and an ecstatic look immediately appeared on his face.

He pulled out three azure badges before handing them to Han Li, then said, "These are the restriction badges for the three cave abodes. Do you need me to take you there?"

"No need, we'll go on our own. You can go now," Han Li replied as he accepted the badges.

The white-robed young man promptly departed, while Han Li pulled out another storage pouch before handing it to the three servants along with the three badges.

"There are some cultivation resources in this storage pouch. Stay here and cultivate, and I've already informed Meng Yungui and Sun Buzheng to come here."

Meng Xiong and Meng Guang both nodded in response.

"How long will you be gone for, Senior Li?" Meng Qianqian suddenly asked.

"At least a few decades, perhaps even over a century. If any of you change your mind during this time, then you're free to leave," Han Li replied in a calm manner, then abruptly vanished from the spot.

Meng Qianqian hurriedly strode forward a few steps, but Han Li was already nowhere to be seen, so she could only heave a forlorn sigh, but a determined look then appeared in her eyes.

Several months later.

A massive black boat was sailing through the waves somewhere on the Thunderstorm Sea.

The seawater around the giant boat was churning incessantly, with waves that were several hundred feet tall occasionally rising up, and the dark clouds in the sky were hanging at a very low altitude with thick bolts of lightning crashing down every once in a while.

The boat was completely unobstructed by the waves and lightning, and it was rapidly advancing over the sea like a giant beast.

The black was a Seafaring Lightning Boat, and it was traveling from the Ancient Cloud Continent to Thunderclap City of the Primordial Wave Continent.

In contrast with the hostile environment outside, everything was very harmonious within the giant boat, with people constantly passing through the corridors, while the restaurants and tea rooms on the top floor of the boat were very lively and bustling.

Some of the cultivators in the boat had even gathered together to hold some small exchange events or to discuss cultivation insights and experiences.

One of the rooms in the boat was completely enshrouded within a soundproofing azure light barrier, and on the bed inside the room sat a man with a dark complexion.

There were seven blue rings hovering around him, and they were drifting up and down incessantly while giving off a faint buzzing sound.

The man's eyes were closed, and he was making a string of hand seals.

Meanwhile, the seven rings were glowing brighter and brighter, and a formidable burst of law power fluctuations was spreading through the air.

A faint smile appeared on the man's face as he made a hand seal, and the seven rings instantly fell into his grasp.

The man was none other than Han Li in disguise, and these seven rings were called the Seven Bright Star Rings, a rare set of immortal treasures that he had found in the portly black-robed guard's storage tool.

It was primarily used to trap enemies, and the law power that it contained was also geared toward trapping.

Han Li had conducted some experiments during the past few days to find that these Seven Bright Star Rings were quite formidable. In particular, when used during clear nights, the rings could resonate with the star power in the night sky to significantly enhance their power.

It was most likely the case that Han Li had struck with such efficiency and brutality that the portly guard didn't even have a chance to summon this treasure before he was killed.

Han Li opened his mouth to produce a burst of azure light that stowed the rings back into his body.

Even though he had already recovered the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain, having more trapping treasures was naturally never a bad thing.

During the time that he had spent on the Seafaring Lightning Boat, the rings had already been partially refined, and it wasn't going to take much longer for him to complete the refinement process.

Aside from that, the thin guard also had a formidable immortal treasure called the Asura Heavenly Ghost Flag in his storage tool.

However, this was a ghostly immortal treasure that wasn't very suitable for his cultivation arts, so he only briefly inspected it before returning it to his storage bracelet.

As for the silver-robed young man, he was a Golden Immortal cultivator who clearly had very powerful backers, and he had far more treasures than his two late-True Immortal Stage guards, possessing four immortal treasures.

Aside from the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain and the black inkstone, there was also the silver bell that he had summoned at the beginning of the battle and a black fang-shaped sword.

With that in mind, Han Li opened his mouth to release the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain, and it hovered in front of him while revolving on the spot, releasing a vast expanse of gray light that was interspersed with gray runes and was giving off a burst of formidable law power fluctuations.

He had already carefully examined the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain to find that its outward appearance hadn't changed much, but internally, it had changed drastically, with many spirit materials infused into all of the five extreme mountains.

Even though he had refined the five extreme mountains, materials like the Divine Essencefused Mountain and Arctic Origin Crystals had proven extremely difficult to come by, and he had only just barely managed to gather enough to refine the five extreme mountains.

Somehow, the silver-robed young man was able to find a large amount of all five types of materials, enhancing the power of the five extreme mountains by almost twofold. Furthermore, he had also used some type of refinement method to completely fuse the five mountains into one, thereby further significantly bolstering its power.

In particular, the law powers imbued within it had become far more formidable than before.

Various thoughts were flashing through Han Li's mind as he felt the law fluctuations emanating from the small gray mountain.

Back in the Spirit Realm, his cultivation base had been too lowly for him to be able to grasp law powers, so he hadn't paid much heed to the hint of law powers that the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain contained.

However, things were completely different now. Having already reached the late-True Immortal Stage, he had faced many formidable foes and witnessed many types of law powers, thereby granting him better insight into the law fluctuations that the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain was giving off.

This law power was extremely profound, and it seemed to have been related to trapping, but was also completely different from the trapping law powers imbued within the Seven Bright Star Rings.

However, as for how these law powers differed and how he could hope to truly master them, Han Li still had no clue, and he shook his head to rid himself of that train of thought.

Even directly devouring the Heaven Controlling Vial spirit liquid that contained the power of time laws wasn't enough for him to master the laws of time, so it was undoubtedly going to be even more difficult to try and master certain law powers through immortal treasures alone.

Seeing as he couldn't figure it out, then there was no point thinking excessively about it. In any case, adding these formidable treasure to his collection was certainly a good thing.

With that in mind, he opened his mouth to swallow the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain again.

He was the one who had created this treasure, so it wasn't going to take him long to refine it again now that he had recovered it.

Aside from the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain, Han Li had recovered another lost treasure from the silver-robed young man's storage tool, namely the Thunderstorm Wings.

This treasure was nowhere near as powerful as the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain, but it had been with him ever since his time in the Mortal Realm, so he was naturally very happy to have recovered it.

Perhaps the Thunderstorm Wings hadn't managed to catch the silver-robed young man's eye, but it had never been refined, and it was casually tossed to the bottom of his storage tool, where it had most likely already stayed for many years.

Hence, he was able to easily break the seal and regain control over the Thunderstorm Wings, thereby saving him the trouble of having to refine it.

Chapter 345: Laying Low

At the moment, Han Li was simultaneously refining the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain, the Seven Bright Star Rings, and that silver bell in his body all at once.

The bell was an immortal treasure that contained some type of soundwave law powers, and the fact that it was able to scatter the Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords with just a single attack was clear testament to its power, and that was why Han Li had decided to work on refining it.

As for the black fang-shaped sword, it was similar to the Asura Heavenly Ghost Flag in that it was also a yin-attribtue treasure, so he had set it aside.

At the moment, his spiritual sense was comparable to that of even early-Golden Immortal cultivators, but refining three immortal treasures at once was still his limit.

As for the black inkstone that was capable of unleashing the Soul Destroying True Light, it contained far more law power than the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain, the silver bell, and the other immortal treasures.

Han Li naturally wanted to be able to make the treasure his own, but it seemed to be containing some type of restriction that made it impossible for Han Li to refine it no matter what he tried.

This left Han Li feeling a little frustrated, but he wasn't short on immortal treasures at the moment, and he didn't have that much time on his hands, so he could only set the inkstone aside for now.

Aside from immortal treasures, the trio's storage tools also contained many other treasures, as well as countless pills and precious materials. In particular, the silver-robed young man alone possessed as many as over 10 materials that were imbued with law powers.

Additionally, the three of them had a total of over 10,000 Immortal Origin Stones, and with such a massive haul, Han Li wouldn't have to worry about Immortal Origin Stones for a very long time.

However, the biggest pleasant surprise to Han Li was that he had found a large amount of dao pill ingredients in the silver-robed young man's storage tool.

There were as many as seven of the nine ingredients listed on the dao pill recipe, and all of them were in quite large quantities as well.

Han Li was initially quite shocked by this, but everything immediately made sense to him after he found an identical dao pill recipe to his own.

It seemed that the silver-robed young man also had intentions of refining a dao pill, and given his status and the enormous power of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, that wasn't going to be a difficult objective to accomplish, but now, those ingredients had fallen into Han Li's hands.

At this point, he was only missing two dao pill ingredients, the Heavenmade Ginseng Root and the Dewform Herb, and he was sure that he would be able to acquire them as long as he kept an active eye on the information circulating within the Transient Guild.

All of a sudden, a thought occurred to him, and he flipped a hand over to produce a palm-sized golden badge, which was crafted from some type of special metal, and it was extremely heavy despite its small size.

On one side of the badge was a design of a golden dragon that was roaring to the heavens, giving off a sense of unmatched power and regal authority, while on the other side was a name: Tao Yu.

Above the name was a feather crown design, and Han Li's expression darkened slightly at the sight of the golden badge.

Right at this moment, he suddenly raised an eyebrow as he opened the window of his cabin.

Outside was the turbulent Thunderstorm Sea, but the Seafaring Lightning Boat had restrictions all around it, so the sound of the thunder and the crashing waves was mostly kept out.

A faint glimmer of golden light appeared in the distant sky before vanishing in a flash, and in the next instant, a burst of spatial fluctuations erupted within Han Li's cabin as a lightning array appeared, following which Daoist Xie emerged inside it.

The golden lightning array quickly surged into Daoist Xie's body as arcs of golden lightning, and Han Li took a brief glance at Daoist Xie before remarking, "Looks like you've made a complete recovery."

Daoist Xie nodded in response. "I didn't think the lightning power here would be so abundant. That was really beneficial to my recovery."

Han Li offered no response to this as he stepped aside to allow Daoist Xie into the cabin, then sat back down with his legs crossed.

Daoist Xie had severely exhausted itself from the earlier battle, and after arriving in the Thunderstorm Sea, it had immediately begun absorbing the extremely abundant lightning power here to replenish itself. To Han Li's relief, it was able to make a full recovery in just a few months.

Having a Golden Immortal Stage ally was extremely helpful, so it was very important that Daoist Xie was in good condition.

"It looks like you're still worried about that Tao Yu," Daoist Xie remarked as it caught sight of the golden badge that Han Li was holding.

"I wouldn't exactly say that I'm worried. I already killed him, so there's no point in thinking about it. I'm just wondering if the Immortal Palace has already found out that I'm the one who killed him," Han Li replied.

Previously, he had spent a great deal of Immortal Origin Stones to search for information on this golden badge in the Transient Guild, and his efforts had paid off.

This badge was an elder badge of the Immortal Palace, and Tao Yu was the name of the silver-robed young man. He was also a newly promoted elder of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and on top of that, he wasn't actually from the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. Instead, he had been sent here from some other immortal region over 1,000 years ago to accumulate experience, and he certainly wouldn't have anticipated meeting his demise in this foreign immortal region.

There was no way that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace would let him get away with this, so at this moment, he was leaving the Ancient Cloud Continent with the intention of returning to the Black Wind Sea, both to check on his Earthly Deity Avatar and to lay low for a while.

The Black Wind Sea was a very secluded place that was virtually completely cut off from the outside world, thereby making it a suitable place for him to hide from the Immortal Palace.

"Given the power of the Immortal Palace, it shouldn't be difficult for them to identify you as the culprit, but you left in a very timely fashion, and thanks to that long-distance lightning teleportation array, even the Immortal Palace shouldn't be able to track you down anytime soon," Daoist Xie said.

"I certainly hope that's the case," Han Li said with a wry smile. "By the way, I didn't think you would be able to master the lightning teleportation array so quickly. That came as quite a surprise to me."

"The array is quite profound and combines both lightning power and spatial power. It's a good thing that I already have innate mastery over lightning power. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to grasp it so easily," Daoist Xie replied.

All of a sudden, a thought occurred to Han Li, and he asked, "Have you noticed anything strange or interesting while cultivating in the Thunderstorm Sea, Brother Xie?"

"Not that I can recall. Are you referring to anything in particular?" Daoist Xie asked.

Han Li hesitated momentarily, then told Daoist Xie about the giant eye in the lightning cloud vortex that he had seen during his last trip across the Thunderstorm Sea.

A solemn look appeared on Daoist Xie's face as it exclaimed, "That's very shocking to hear!"

"Does anything in your memories match the description of the eye?" Han Li asked.

"No. This is my first time here in this Thunderstorm Sea. Having said that, I don't think even a High Zenith Stage Jade Immortal would be able to severely wound you with just a single glance like that giant eye did," Daoist Xie said.

"Both Xiao Jinhan and Dao Lord Baili were only one step away from reaching the High Zenith Stage, but I feel like even if they were to reach the High Zenith Stage, they still wouldn't have been able to display even a fraction of that eye's power," Han Li agreed with a nod.

"This place is already quite close to the central region of the Thunderstorm Sea, and that's where I encountered that giant eye. Now that you've already fully recovered, I suggest you remain inside the Seafaring Lightning Boat so you don't run the risk of encountering that formidable being," Han Li said.

Furthermore, he had followed his own advice, remaining strictly within the Seafaring Lightning Boat during this entire trip thus far.

"Alright," Daoist Xie replied with a nod.

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Meanwhile.

Ouyang Kuishan and the other dao lords that had turned on the Blaze Dragon Dao were standing in the main hall of the sect, and all of their auras were rather unstable, indicating that they still hadn't recovered from their injuries.

Standing across from them were seven or eight other Golden Immortals from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, while Xiao Jinhan was seated on the main chair in the hall.

All of the dao lords were rather disgruntled to see Xiao Jinhan occupying such an important seat in the sect, and a few of them were glowering at him with outright fury, but Xiao Jinhan paid no heed to them as he asked, "How are things coming along?"

"We've already managed to track down Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni. Both of them fled to the Upper Arr Continent with severe injuries, and Elder Lu Yue has already gone after them with some other elders. I'm sure an outcome will arise there soon. However, Baili Yan remains elusive to this day, and it's unclear how he's managed to do so," an elder of the Immortal Palace reported.

"Very good. Even though Baili Yan is still on the run, he's already been severely wounded, and after his karmic fire remission, his past several million years of cultivation has all gone to waste, so he won't pose a threat to anyone. In fact, he most likely won't even be able to withstand the fifth decay," Xiao Jinhan said with a nod.

It seemed as if he was saying this to all of the Immortal Palace cultivators present, but all of the dao lords were also listening with mixed feelings.

"Dao Lord Ouyang, Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni have committed the cardinal crime of treason by assisting the Reincarnation Palace. According to the rules of the Heavenly Court, all of their relatives and disciples must be apprehended and sent to the Heavenly Court. Have you done this yet?" Xiao Jinhan asked as he turned to Ouyang Kuishan.

"Yes," Ouyang Kuishan replied with his eyelid twitching slightly.

"Very good. You can all go now," Xiao Jinhan said with a dismissive wave of his hand.

All of the Immortal Palace cultivators promptly departed, while the dao lords exchanged a few glances with one another, and only after a subtle gesture was made by Ouyang Kuishan did all of them exit the hall as well.

Moments later, all of the dao lords were gathered outside the hall, and the golden-furred man among them wore a furious expression as he grumbled, "What are the intentions of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, Dao Lord Ouyang? The incident concerning Baili Yan has already come to a conclusion,

so why are they still here? Are they trying to take advantage of this opportunity to take over our Blaze Dragon Dao?"

"If I had known this would happen, I wouldn't have helped them target Dao Lord Baili. If Dao Lord Baili were here, Xiao Jinhan definitely wouldn't have dared to be so arrogant," the silver-skinned woman said in a cold voice.

Complex looks appeared on everyone's faces upon hearing this, while Ouyang Kuishan remained silent with a wry smile on his face.

The Immortal Palace's intentions were very clear. Following the recently concluded battle, the Blaze Dragon Dao had suffered severe losses, and it was no longer a match for the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace.

At this point, Xiao Jinhan alone would've been sufficient to wipe out the entire Blaze Dragon Dao.

Chapter 346: Wanted Fugitive

While Ouyang Kuishan and the dao lords were lamenting the circumstances, a grim look had also appeared on Xiao Jinhan's face inside the hall.

At this point, he had already stood up from his chair and was pacing back and forth with his brows tightly furrowed.

Moments later, a burst of white light suddenly rose up from his body, then transformed into a white light screen in front of him.

A white humanoid figure appeared on the screen with dazzling white light radiating from their entire body, giving them a rather blurry appearance, and one could only just barely make him out to be a middle-aged man.

Xiao Jinhan immediately ceased in his pacing as he forced a smile onto his own face. "Elder Tao."

"Xiao Jinhan, it's already been several months, have you found out who the killer of my son is?" the white figure asked in a cold voice.

"It was an inner sect elder of the Blaze Dragon Dao by the name of Li Feiyu. He has already fled from the Blaze Dragon Dao, and we've sent out people to apprehend him," Xiao Jinhan immediately replied.

"An inner sect elder? You're telling me a mere inner sect elder was able to kill Yu'er?" the white figure asked as a hint of fury crept into his voice.

"He's no ordinary elder," Xiao Jinhan hurriedly replied. "According to our investigation, he was only in the Blaze Dragon Dao for no more than 1,000 years, and when he first arrived, he was only at the early-True Immortal Stage, but we've since determined his cultivation base to have already reached the late-True Immortal, and he's cultivating the Blaze Dragon Dao's Mantra Axis Scripture. On top of that, he seems to be connected to Baili Yan as well. I have a feeling he most likely has some connection to the Reincarnation Palace."

"I don't care who he is! I entrusted my son to you, and now, he's been killed! Xiao Jinhan, you better provide me with a satisfactory outcome. Otherwise..."

The white figure's voice trailed off there, but the threat that he was making was already very clear.

Xiao Jinhan's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this, and he lowered his head slightly as he replied, "Rest assured, Elder Tao, I'll be sure to get to the bottom of this."

The white figure gave another cold harrumph before vanishing amid a flash of light, following which Xiao Jinhan raised his head with a steely expression.

He then called out to someone outside the hall, and a golden-robed young man immediately flew in before falling to one knee.

"What are your instructions, Palace Master?"

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Two years flew by in a flash.

Outside Thunderclap City, a giant boat slowly drew to a halt, and moments later, a series of figures flew out from within before descending onto a huge dock.

Han Li was among them, and a reminiscent look appeared in his eyes at the sight of Thunderclap City.

At this moment, his aura was restrained to the early-Grand Ascension Stage, so he didn't stand out among the cultivators around him.

He took a subtle glance at his surroundings, and upon verifying that there was nothing strange happening on the dock, his expression eased ever so slightly as he quickly made his way into the city.

Thunderclap City hadn't changed much since his last visit. The Urgent Lightning Trees were still as vast as ever, and the streets were just as packed and lively.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li made his way toward a certain direction, and it didn't take long before he arrived at the Thunderclap City Immortal Outlet.

Just like before, the Immortal Outlet was very lively and bustling with many cultivators inside, most of whom were gathered around the missions wall.

Han Li also arrived in front of the missions wall, then cast his gaze upward, and a grim look quickly appeared on his face.

Near the top of the wall was an extremely eye-catching mission that was presented in large golden text: "Apprehend Blaze Dragon Dao Elder Li Feiyu. Reward: 20,000 Immortal Origin Stones. Anyone who provides accurate information on him can also receive a reward of 2,000 Immortal Origin Stones."

After the mission was a portrait of Han Li.

"Looks like things have gotten quite troublesome. These Immortal Outlets are present on all continents, so you're most likely a fugitive all over the entire immortal region at the moment," Daoist Xie mused in Han Li's mind.

"20,000 Immortal Origin Stones, eh? The Immortal Palace sure does think highly of me!" Han Li chuckled coldly internally.

"Who is this Li Feiyu? 20,000 Immortal Origin Stones is a huge reward!"

"Haven't you heard? An internal conflict arose in the Blaze Dragon Dao several years ago, and it's said that their first dao lord was working with an evil organization to try and take over the entire immortal region. Fortunately, Palace Master Xiao of the Immortal Palace discovered the plot in time and put an end to it. I'm assuming this Li Feiyu must be an ally of the Blaze Dragon Dao's first dao lord."

"I see. He must've also committed some heinous crimes!"

"I'm sure he did. Otherwise, there's no way they'd be offering such a huge reward for his capture."

There was a spirited discussion taking place in the nearby crowd, and Han Li inspected the missions wall for a while longer, then walked around the Immortal Outlet for a bit before leaving in an unhurried manner.

Even though he was also confident that there was no way that the Immortal Palace would be able to track him down, he was currently being wanted everywhere, so he had to be careful. Otherwise, a single misstep could lead to his demise.

After leaving the Immortal Outlet, Han Li visited the materials shops in Thunderclap City.

Thunderclap City was an important city that connected the Primordial Wave Continent to the Ancient Cloud Continent, so it had an even more diverse array of materials than some of the large cities on the Ancient Cloud Continent.

After returning to the Black Wind Sea, it would become rather inconvenient to purchase things, and he couldn't make all of his purchases solely through the Transient Guild, so he had to buy some things here first in case certain unprecedented needs arose.

After doing all of that, he left Thunderclap City.

At this point, he had already adopted another disguise, transforming into a fair-skinned scholar, and his cultivation base had also been restrained down to the Body Integration Stage.

He lingered momentarily outside the city, then flew away in an unhurried manner as a mundane streak of azure light.

"Aren't there teleportation arrays in Thunderclap City?" Daoist Xie asked in his mind. "Why didn't you leave using one of them? That would've made things a lot easier."

"Thunderclap City is a very renowned city on the Primordial Wave Continent. If the Immortal Palace is searching for me, this is most likely one of the places that they'll be keeping a close eye on, and there may be some treasures here that can expose my true appearance, so it's better to proceed with caution," Han Li explained.

Not only was he going to refrain from using teleportation arrays in Thunderclap City, he was going to avoid them elsewhere as well.

At his current speed, it would only take him several years to cross the Primordial Wave Continent anyway.

"You sure are as cautious as ever. Even while buying things in the city, you adopted several disguises."

"It can't hurt to be careful."

At this point, Han Li had already flown a sufficient distance out of the city, and after confirming that he wasn't being followed, he immediately accelerated, flying into the distance at a far higher speed than before.

Unbeknownst to Han Li, the extra caution that he was exercising had indeed paid off.

In order to search for him, the Northern Glacial Immortal Region had invested a huge amount of effort and resources. Not only were they actively scouring the entire immortal region for him, special sensory restrictions had also been set up in the teleportation halls of all of the major cities.

The restriction had been set up in accordance with the aura that Han Li had left behind in the wake of his battle against Tao Yu, and it would raise the alarm if Han Li were in its vicinity.

All True Immortals had some ways through which they could alter their auras, so this was far from a foolproof method, but it was already the best that the Immortal Palace could do.

In order to set up these restrictions, not only had the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace invested a huge amount of Immortal Origin Stones, Xiao Jinhan was forced to give up a massive portion of his personal wealth as well.

As for why these restrictions had been set up in teleportation halls, this was because, generally speaking, one would reflexively activate their cultivation arts to protect oneself in the instant that they were teleported away, and that was the best opportunity for the sensory restrictions to detect Han Li.

The population density near Thunderstorm City was quite high, so Han Li didn't fly at his full speed, only raising his speed to about the same level as the average True Immortal while also taking as secluded a route as possible.

Only after passing the areas of high population density did he gradually begin to accelerate.

The Primordial Wave Continent was a very perilous place, but given his current powers, he would have no trouble traversing through it.

After about three years of travel, he finally arrived at Seaside City.

Instead of entering the city, he hovered in mid-air, looking down at the small city from above.

A short while later, he cast his gaze toward another direction, where the teleportation array that led to the Black Wind Sea was situated.

"I'm finally back," Han Li murmured to himself, then flew in that direction as a faint azure shadow.

Even though many years had already passed by, he naturally hadn't forgotten where the teleportation array was situated, and it didn't take long before he was close to reaching the location.

All of a sudden, he stopped cold in his tracks as his brows furrowed ever so slightly.

As it turned out, the seaside cave had disappeared, and it had been replaced by a city.

The city wasn't very large, only less than 10 kilometers in size, and its walls were constructed from giant white bricks, standing at around 200 to 300 feet tall. The entire city was enshrouded under a dense light barrier that was giving off a gentle white glow, and through the light barrier, one could see a series of tall buildings.

At the center of the city was a white pagoda that was far taller than the surrounding city walls, presenting a magnificent sight to behold.

There was only a single city gate, above which was a plaque that read "Wave View City."

Han Li swept his spiritual sense through the surrounding area momentarily before landing outside the city gate, where there was already a long line of cultivators waiting to enter the city.

At this moment, Han Li had disguised himself into a young man with a yellow complexion, and his cultivation base had also been restrained down to the Body Integration Stage, so he didn't stand out at all.

As soon as Han Li joined the line, the slightly portly young man in front of him turned around with a friendly smile as he said, "I don't recall seeing you around these parts, Fellow Daoist. Is this your first time in Wave View City?"

"That's right," Han Li replied with an indifferent nod.

The young man seemed to have been completely oblivious to Han Li's rather cold demeanor, and his smile remained unchanged as he asked, "Where are you from, Fellow Daoist? Have you also come here because you want to go out to hunt for marine demon beasts?"

Han Li offered no response, merely taking a glance at the young man to discover that he was at the late-Body Integration Stage.

The young man's smile stiffened slightly at the sight of Han Li's slightly hostile gaze, and an awkward look appeared on his face as he said, "Please pardon my rudeness. My name is Qin Zhong, and I have a decent reputation in this city. If you want to form a demon beast hunting team, you can come to me at any time."

Chapter 347: Spot

Han Li's expression eased slightly upon hearing this, and he nodded in response. "I see. Greetings, Fellow Daoist Qin, my surname is Liu."

"It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Fellow Daoist Liu," Qin Zhong said with a smile.

He was a very talkative person, and after a brief chat, the tense atmosphere quickly mellowed out.

"Do you know when this city was constructed, Fellow Daoist Qin? I came here once several hundred years ago, and this city didn't exist back then," Han Li asked.

"This city was only constructed just over 100 years ago, and there's a teleportation array in the city leading to the Black Wind Sea, so there are often specialty local products from that region appearing in the city. As a result, it's become more and more renowned and attracted many people, so it's been quite prosperous of late," Qin Zhong explained.

"I see," Han Li replied with a nod, and his heart sank slightly upon hearing this.

This was a sign that the Black Wind Sea's connection with the outside world had improved significantly, which was perhaps a good thing for the Black Wind Sea. After all, the Black Wind Sea had far less abundance in cultivation resources than the rest of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, so this was certainly good news for the cultivators in the area.

However, this was certainly not encouraging news for Han Li, who was trying to lay low.

While the two of them were chatting with one another, the line continued to progress onward, and it didn't take long before it was their turn.

After submitting an entrance fee, Han Li was quickly allowed into the city.

Everything in Wave View City gave off a sense of newness. The ground and the streets were virtually completely pristine, as expected of a newly constructed city.

Han Li took a glance at his surroundings, then cast his gaze up toward the pagoda in the distance.

The white pagoda had five floors, and there were five blue jade pillars hovering above it, each of which several dozen feet tall and as thick as a bucket with countless runes inscribed upon them.

The five jade pillars were radiating blue light and bursts of formidable spatial power fluctuations that were resonating with one another.

Qin Zhong could see Han Li looking up at the pagoda, and he asked, "You must be on your way to the Black Wind Sea, right, Fellow Daoist Liu?"

Han Li nodded in response, then asked, "Does the teleportation still happen once per century?"

He didn't bother to try and hide his intentions of going to the Black Wind Sea as many of the people who came to this city were en route to the same destination.

"That's right. You came at a very good time as the next teleportation takes place in less than two years. However, there are many people seeking to go to the Black Wind Sea at the moment, so competition for spots is very fierce, and it most likely won't be easy for you to claim one," Qin Zhong said in a meaningful voice.

"It sounds like you have a way to secure a spot. If that's the case, please enlighten me," Han Li said.

Indeed, judging from how many people were in the city, the teleportation spots most likely were going to be hotly contested.

Of course, if he were to display his true power, then he would be able to secure a spot with ease, but that could expose his identity, so if he could acquire a spot from Qin Zhong instead, he was willing to do so, even at an inflated cost.

"I do indeed have a spot right now, and if you're interested, we can have a more in-depth conversation," Qin Zhong said as he glanced at a nearby restaurant with a mysterious smile on his face.

"Of course," Han Li replied with a nod.

The two of them entered the restaurant, requested a booth, then ordered some food and wine.

"The clear spirit wine of this restaurant is quite exquisite. Have a taste, Fellow Daoist Liu," Qin Zhong said with a smile as he filled Han Li's cup.

The wine was a clear green color with a thin layer of spirit mist drifting on top, giving off an intoxicating aroma.

Han Li took a glance at it, but remained unmoved.

In contrast, Qin Zhong seemed to have been quite an avid drinker, and he downed two cups of wine in a row.

Right as Qin Zhong was about to fill his cup a third time, Han Li finally interjected, "Let's leave the drinking for later, Fellow Daoist Qin. How about we discuss the teleportation spot first?"

"Please pardon me, Fellow Daoist Liu. I no longer have a need for sustenance, but I've never been able to give up good food and wine. Let's cut straight to the chase. I can tell that you're quite a direct and straightforward person, so I won't waste your time."

Qin Zhong set down his cup as he spoke, and a serious look appeared on his face.

"Go ahead," Han Li prompted.

"This is your first time here in Wave View City, so you're probably unfamiliar with the state of affairs here. Right now, there are many people who want to go to the Black Wind Sea, but for some reason, the Black Wind Sea has severely tightened its regulation of teleportation spots, so not just anyone can claim one with Immortal Origin Stones alone.

"On top of that, you need to have some local forces vouch for you, so it's become a lot more difficult for outsiders to enter the Black Wind Sea," Qin Zhong prefaced.

"I've always heard that the Black Wind Sea is different from other places in the immortal realm in that it's a relatively isolated area, and that the majority of its cultivators are descendants of the Earthly Immortals there, so they can't be faulted for trying to mitigate risk. Tell me about the spot that you have, Fellow Daoist Qin," Han Li said.

There didn't appear to have been any urgency in Han Li's demeanor at all, so Qin Zhong could only continue, "My spot doesn't actually belong to me. Instead, it belongs to a good friend of mine. She was originally planning to go to the Black Wind Sea for some business matters, but she just so happened to have reached a critical juncture in her cultivation and requires some pills, and that's why she's trying to sell her spot."

"I see, but if the teleportation spots really are so sought after, then surely she would've been able to sell it long ago instead of holding it to this point, so why does she still have it?" Han Li asked.

"To tell you the truth, this friend of mine is rather short on funds at the moment, so she's asking quite a steep price for this spot," Qin Zhong revealed.

Han Li was actually rather relieved to hear this, and he asked, "How much is she asking for the spot?"

"15 Immortal Origin Stones," Qin Zhong replied after a brief hesitation.

"15? If I recall correctly, each spot used to cost five Immortal Origin Stones," Han Li said as he raised an eyebrow.

"The spots are still selling for five Immortal Origin Stones each, but as you know, demand is quite high right now, and spots have occasionally popped up in the black market for around 10 Immortal Origin Stones each.

"Furthermore, the black market sellers aren't responsible for finding anyone to vouch for you. 15 Immortal Origin Stones is a little steep, but my friend's clan is a very influential one in this area, and they can vouch for you free of charge," Qin Zhong replied.

"I see..."

Han Li stroked his own chin as a contemplative look appeared on his face, seemingly weighing up his options.

"You're probably not aware of this, Fellow Daoist Liu, but at the moment, the Black Wind Sea is increasingly tightening regulations on its teleportation arrays. All those who enter and exit the Black Wind Sea are thoroughly examined, and if anyone causes any trouble in the Black Wind Sea, then the power that vouched for them would receive a very severe punishment.

"Hence, the reputable powers in the city normally aren't willing to vouch for outsiders, and even if you pay someone to do so, five Immortal Origin Stones may not get the job done," Qin Zhong hurriedly added.

"In that case, why are you so certain that your friend's clan would be willing to vouch for me?" Han Li asked.

"My friend has already considered this eventuality, so she requested me to get to know someone before I offer them the teleportation spot. We've only just met, but I can tell through our conversation on the way here that you're not some heinous individual," Qin Zhong explained with a smile.

Han Li nodded in response. "Alright, then I agree to your offer."

A hint of elation flashed through Qin Zhong's eyes upon hearing this, and he hurriedly said, "In that case, I'll notify my friend to come here right away."

"Alright, I'll wait here, please be back soon," Han Li replied with a nod.

Qin Zhong downed his cup of wine, then rose to his feet and cupped his fist toward Han Li in a parting salute before quickly leaving the booth.

Following his departure, Han Li also rose to his feet, then made his way over to the window and cast his gaze toward the white pagoda in the distance with furrowed brows.

It seemed that some significant changes had taken place in the Black Wind Sea since his departure, and he wasn't sure if he had made the right decision in coming back.

An hour passed by in the blink of an eye, and Qin Zhong finally returned with a smile on his face.

Trailing along behind him was a figure dressed in white, wearing a veiled conical hat that obscured her features.

The figure lifted the veil to reveal a set of stunning features, but her skin was abnormally pale, as if there were a layer of frost over her skin, and her entire body was giving off a glacial aura.

"Sorry to keep you waiting for so long, Fellow Daoist Li," Qin Zhong said in an apologetic manner.

"It's fine," Han Li replied with a nod, then cast an inquisitive gaze toward the woman in white.

"That's right, this is the friend of mine who has the teleportation spot."

Qin Zhong took a glance at the woman as he spoke, and his eyes were filled with affection, clearly indicating that he was head over heels for her.

The woman blushed slightly and glared at Qin Zhong in a shy manner, but there was a hint of affection in her eyes as well.

Both of them had clearly been cultivating for countless years, yet they were acting like a pair of young lovebirds, and Han Li couldn't help but roll his eyes internally upon seeing this.

"My name is Xue Luo, it's a pleasure to meet you, Fellow Daoist Liu," the woman said to Han Li in a slightly shy manner.

"The pleasure is all mine, Celestial Maiden Xue. Would I be able to see the teleportation token?" Han Li asked.

Both Qin Zhong and Xue Luo were at the pinnacle of the Body Integration Stage, and the latter's aura was fluctuating slightly, and that was a precursor for an imminent breakthrough.

"Of course."

Xue Luo pulled out a palm-sized black badge, and on one side was inscribed the words "Black Wind", while "Teleportation" was inscribed on the other.

The badge was identical to the one that Han Li had once received from the master of Black Wind Island, and he inspected it briefly before giving a nod, then swept a sleeve over the table to produce 10 Immortal Origin Stones.

Xue Luo's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and Qin Zhong's face also fell slightly as he said, "Fellow Daoist Liu, we agreed on 15 Immortal Origin Stones!"

Chapter 348: Questions

"Truth be told, I'm a little short on funds at the moment as well, and I only have 10 Immortal Origin Stones. Can I substitute the remaining five Immortal Origin Stones with these?"

Han Li swept a sleeve over the table once again as he spoke, and five fist-sized white crystals appeared, all of which were giving off wisps of glacial qi.

Of course, he didn't care about a mere five Immortal Origin Stones. Instead, the problem was that he was posing as a Body Integration cultivator at the moment, and it would've been far too eye-catching for him to easily produce 15 Immortal Origin Stones.

In the Black Wind Sea, even an early-True Immortal Stage Earthly Immortal wasn't guaranteed to have 15 Immortal Origin Stones in their possession.

"These are Frost Soul Crystals!"

Xue Luo was ecstatic at the sight of the white crystals, and she immediately picked one up for a closer inspection.

Qin Zhong was about to raise some objections, but he immediately decided to hold his tongue upon seeing Xue Luo's reaction.

"I would like to substitute these five Frost Soul Crystals for five Immortal Origin Stones. Will that be alright?" Han Li asked.

"That's perfectly fine," Xue Luo immediately replied with a nod, then immediately stowed the crystals away as if she were afraid that Han Li would change his mind.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face as he also stowed the badge away in an unhurried manner.

"Fellow Daoist Liu, I'll have to trouble you to come with me to my clan to finalize the vouching proceedings," Xue Luo said.

"That's fine. Thank you, Celestial Maiden Xue," Han Li replied with a nod.

Xue Luo hesitated momentarily, then cast a hopeful gaze toward Han Li as she asked, "Also, would you happen to have more of these Frost Soul Crystals?"

"Why do you ask? Would you like to buy some?" Han Li asked.

Xue Luo exchanged a glance with Qin Zhong, then replied, "These crystals are very useful to me, so if you do have some more, I'm willing to purchase them from you."

"If you have any Frost Soul Crystals to spare, you'll be doing us a huge favor, and if you need any help from me, I'll be sure to heed your call," Qin Zhong immediately chimed in.

Han Li took a glance at the duo, then swept a sleeve over the table to produce a pair of white crystals as he said, "I do actually have two more Frost Soul Crystals."

Each of these two Frost Soul Crystals was around twice the size of each of the previous five, and Xue Luo was ecstatic to see this, but she refrained from immediately reaching out for the crystals.

Instead, she took a deep breath, then asked, "Would you be able to sell them to me, Fellow Daoist Liu? I'll be sure to give you satisfactory compensation."

"I came across these Frost Soul Crystals by chance anyway, so if you want them, I can give them to you free of charge," Han Li said as he pushed the two Frost Soul Crystals toward Xue Luo.

A hint of surprise flashed through Xue Luo's eyes upon hearing this, and she shook her head as she replied, "I can't just accept such a precious gift free of charge! Please state a price, Fellow Daoist."

"In that case, how about this? Seeing as you come from a prominent clan in Wave View City, I'm sure you must have many information sources. Has anything major happened in the Black Wind Sea recently? Also, why has the Black Wind Sea suddenly become so much stricter in its examination of people seeking to enter the region? If you can answer those two questions, I'll give you these two Frost Soul Crystals," Han Li said.

A hint of elation flashed through the eyes of Xue Luo and Qin Zhong upon hearing this, and the former asked, "Is that a serious offer?"

"Most certainly so," Han Li replied without any hesitation.

Xue Luo took a moment to gather her thoughts, then said, "While Wave View City and the Black Wind City are only separated by a single teleportation array, there's not much flow of information between the two places, so we don't know much ourselves.

"When it comes to major events taking place in the Black Wind Sea, all we've heard of is the battle between Black Wind Island and Azure Feather Island. Recently, the battle has gradually risen to the fore, and it's becoming more and more intense."

"Do you know if other more secluded parts of the Black Wind Sea have also gotten swept up in this conflict?" Han Li asked.

"I'm not sure about that, but I've heard from some people who came from the Black Wind Sea that the battle is still limited to only the central region, while the areas outside of that are still relatively peaceful. That's all I know about the situation," Xue Luo replied.

Han Li nodded in response. Given what he had just heard, Dark Veil Island was most likely still untouched.

"By the way, I heard from a fellow daoist who came from the Black Wind Sea about a decade ago mentioned an event that took place there that had apparently caused quite a stir," Qin Zhong suddenly said.

"Oh? What exactly was this event?" Han Li asked with a hint of intrigue in his eyes.

"I'm not sure about the exact details, but apparently, the Castaway Gale around some parts of the Black Wind Sea had suddenly converged inward, destroying several islands in the process," Qin Zhong replied.

"I heard about that as well. The Castaway Gale is a natural barrier that isolates the Black Wind Sea from the rest of the immortal region, and it's already existed for countless years, but never had anything like that happened before that point," Xue Luo chimed in.

"I see. Would either of you be able to provide an answer to my second question?" Han Li asked.

Xue Luo and Qin Zhong exchanged a glance before both of them shook their heads in response. "Many people in Wave View City have actually been trying to find out why the regulations have suddenly become so strict, but no one has been able to get to the bottom of things so far."

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly in contemplation as he replied, "I see. In any case, you've managed to answer one of my questions, so you can have one of these Frost Soul Crystals."

"Thank you, Fellow Daoist Liu."

Xue Luo picked up one of the crystals before stowing it away, then cast her gaze toward the other crystal as she asked, "Would you be willing to sell this Frost Soul Crystal for two Immortal Origin Stones?"

Han Li didn't refuse this offer, and the three of them remained in the booth for a while longer before departing.

Han Li made a trip to the Xue Clan with the duo, and it was a large trading house situated in the eastern part of Wave View City.

Xue Luo proved to be quite trustworthy, quickly finalizing the vouching proceedings for Han Li.

With that, both sides had gotten what they wanted, and it was a win-win situation.

Han Li tactfully turned down Xue Luo's offer to stay and enjoy the Xue Clan's hospitality, then promptly departed.

"That went quite smoothly," Daoist Xie remarked in Han Li's mind.

"Indeed," Han Li replied as he flipped a hand over to produce a white badge.

One side of the badge was engraved the image of a strange white bird with a flat head and an eagle beak, while on the other side was inscribed the character for "Xue".

This was the Xue Clan's token, and it had been given to him by Xue Luo.

A contemplative look appeared in Han Li's eyes as he inspected the white badge.

"Is there something wrong with the badge?" Daoist Xie asked.

"No, I just feel like the bird engraved on it is rather interesting," Han Li replied with a shake of his head.

He had seen this design in the Black Wind Sea before, and if he recalled correctly, it was the symbol of a large island near Dark Veil Island, an island by the name of Snow Kite Island.

According to the records on Dark Veil Island, everyone on the entirety of Snow Kite Island suddenly vanished tens of thousands of years ago, and that was still an unsolved mystery to date.

Han Li was wondering whether the Xue Clan was somehow tied to Snow Kite Island, but he quickly rid himself of that trivial train of thought and stowed the badge away as a hint of concern appeared on his face.

"Are you still concerned about the changes that have taken place in the Black Wind Sea? Didn't you say that the most formidable cultivator there is the master of Black Wind Sea, and he's only a late-True Immortal Stage Earthly Immortal? If that's the case, surely you have nothing to fear," Daoist Xie said.

"That may be true, but for some reason, I can't shake off this feeling of unease," Han Li replied.

"I think you're getting a little paranoid from constantly having to worry about being apprehended by the Heavenly Court," Daoist Xie said.

"Perhaps so," Han Li replied in a self-deprecating manner, but the concern on his face wasn't eased in the slightest.

As they were speaking with one another, Han Li arrived on a street in the eastern part of the city.

It was noon at the moment, and the street was teeming with people, most of whom possessed lofty cultivation bases.

There was no lack of Spatial Tempering and Body Integration cultivators among them, and they were most likely itinerant cultivators who had come here to purchase different things.

Most of the shops that lined the street were material shops, and all of the spirit plants and demon beast materials sold inside were quite fresh, clearly indicating that they had been recently acquired.

Han Li wanted to take his mind off his current concerns, so he began wandering aimlessly through the shops.

Wave View City wasn't very large, and it didn't have many shops, but there was a high degree of diversity in the wares on offer, and he was able to find some things that he needed, thereby improving his mood.

Shortly thereafter, he drew to a halt in front of one of the larger material shops, then cast his gaze into the shop to find that it was selling a large range of products, all of which had been placed on around a dozen shelves.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face as he made his way inside, and right at this moment, a white-robed young man just so happened to come out of the shop.

The two of them passed each other by, and Han Li stopped in his tracks before turning to look at the white-robed young man's departing figure with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

The white-robed young man was displaying a late-Body Integration Stage cultivation, but Han Li was immediately able to identify him as an early-True Immortal cultivator.

The aura concealment method that he was using was quite advanced, and Han Li may not have been able to see through his cover had it not been for his immense spiritual sense.

The white-robed young man didn't notice Han Li's gaze, and he quickly vanished into the crowd, while Han Li withdrew his gaze and stepped into the shop.

It was a very normal occurrence for cultivators to conceal their cultivation base. After all, he was doing the exact same thing.

As soon as Han Li entered the shop, he was immediately greeted by the hospitable shopkeeper. "What can I help you with today?"

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Close to a day later, Han Li had already visited all of the shops in the city, and he had found several good materials, as well as two types of rare spirit plant seeds.

Perhaps it was because this was a newly constructed city in a rather secluded location, but there was no Immortal Outlet here, and that put Han Li slightly more at ease.

At this moment, he was standing in the central area of the city, not far away from the white pagoda.

Under the night sky, the pagoda was giving off a faint white glow that matched the luster of the moon, presenting a marvelous spectacle to behold.

At this moment, the gates of the pagoda were tightly shut, making it impossible for anyone to see inside.

Han Li didn't use his spiritual sense to forcibly inspect the interior of the pagoda, and after staying there for a while longer, he turned to depart, renting a room in a secluded inn to the west of the city before going into seclusion.

Chapter 349: Perplexing

Han Li stayed in the secret chamber in the inn for close to two years.

During this time, he occasionally came out of seclusion a few times in disguise, but only to visit all of the shops in the city, keeping an eye on any news about the Immortal Palace while also checking to see if there were any spirit materials worth buying.

Perhaps it was because the Black Wind Sea was truly too secluded, but even up to this point, the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace still hadn't sent anyone to Wave View City. However, news of what had happened in the Blaze Dragon Dao had still managed to travel here, and it had become the most shocking piece of news in the entire Northern Glacial Immortal Region in recent years.

Han Li naturally paid some extra attention to this news, and he was quite relieved to hear that Daoist Hu Yan hadn't fallen into the hands of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace. However, at the same time, he was a little perplexed about why Daoist Hu Yan wasn't also a wanted fugitive in the Immortal Outlets.

Aside from that, Baili Yan appeared to have still been alive as well.

Han Li didn't have any ties to him, but he was still happy to see that Baili Yan hadn't met his demise. After all, he was currently wanted by the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, so it definitely wasn't a bad thing that Baili Yan was diverting their attention away from him.

One day, at the center of Wave View City.

A burst of dazzling light erupted out of the five-story white pagoda, and a pillar of blue light rose up from its rooftop straight into the heavens.

At this moment, many of the cultivators in the city were gathered around the pagoda, watching the cultivators entering the pagoda with undisguised envy on their faces.

All those who were entering the pagoda had naturally obtained teleportation spots, and it had been said that many cultivators had reaped benefits from the Black Wind Sea of late. This was the primary reason why Wave View City was already so prosperous despite being such a new city.

In the crowd was a fair-skinned scholar holding a folding fan, and he was staring at the white pagoda in an expressionless manner, making it unclear what he was thinking.

All of a sudden, he emerged from the crowd and stowed his folding fan away as he strode toward the pagoda.

This person was none other than Han Li in disguise.

After entering the pagoda, he passed through a short corridor to arrive in a spacious hall that was over 1,000 feet in size, and on either side of the hall's entrance stood a cultivator wearing Black Wind Island robes.

"Please display your teleportation badge and vouching token," the black-robed cultivator on the left said to Han Li in a calm manner.

Han Li flipped a hand over to produce the two requested objects before handing them over.

The black-robed cultivator summoned a white jade tablet, which released a burst of white light that enveloped the two objects, following which a pair of fist-sized golden runes appeared on the tablet before vanishing in a flash.

"Right this way, Fellow Daoist," the black-robed cultivator on the right said as he gestured toward the entrance of the hall.

Han Li gave a slight nod in response, then made his way inside.

The hall was rectangular in shape, and the floor was paved with pristine white jade bricks. There were countless runes engraved upon the surrounding walls, and they were giving off a white glow that illuminated the entire hall.

Aside from several Black Wind Island cultivators, there were already around two dozen cultivators dressed in different attire waiting inside the hall.

The teleportation array was situated at the very back of the hall, and even though it hadn't been activated yet, it was already giving off bursts of faint spatial fluctuations.

Han Li's arrival didn't attract much attention, drawing only a few glances from some of the cultivators, while everyone else paid no heed to him.

He casually swept his gaze across the hall while making his way over to an empty corner of the hall, where he sat down with his legs crossed.

His expression remained unchanged, but he was actually rather intrigued to notice that the white-robed cultivator who had been concealing his own cultivation base that he had encountered upon first entering Wave View City was standing no more than 200 feet away from him.

This wouldn't have been worthy of note on its own. After all, it wasn't a strange occurrence for a True Immortal to travel to the Black Wind Sea.

What had truly caught Han Li's attention was that there were five or six cultivators around the white-robed young man, all of whom were also True Immortals that were only revealing Body Integration Stage cultivation bases. In particular, one of them, a middle-aged man with a square face and thin eyebrows, was at the late-True Immortal Stage, ranking alongside Han Li as the two most formidable cultivators present.

It was rather noteworthy that such a formidable force was collectively traveling to the Black Wind Sea, but as long as they didn't get in his way, Han Li certainly wasn't going to meddle in their business.

Time slowly passed by, and around a dozen more cultivators had arrived in the next two hours.

Right at this moment, a black-robed elderly man emerged as he declared, "Sorry to keep you all waiting, everyone, it's almost time for the teleportation array to be activated."

The declaration immediately caused a stir among the crowd, and all of the cultivators who were meditating had opened their eyes and risen to their feet.

Han Li rose to his feet alongside everyone else, and he discovered that he had met this black-robed elderly man once before; it was the itinerant immortal referred to as Elder Yi. [1]

"I'm sure you're all aware that things are a bit different nowadays than they were before, so prior to entering the Black Wind Sea, I'll have to get all of you to pass through this sensory array," the black-robed elderly man said as he raised a hand and made a hand seal.

Several of the jade bricks on the floor between the elderly man and everyone else abruptly lit up with golden light, following which a series of golden runes flew out from within, quickly intertwining in mid-air to form a ring of golden light that was around 10 feet in size.

Inside the golden ring, balls of golden light of different sizes were whizzing incessantly through the air.

A hint of blue light flashed through Han Li's eyes, and he discovered that every single one of these balls of light was formed by countless golden seal text runes. His expression remained unchanged, but his heart sank slightly upon seeing this.

Most of the cultivators present seemed to have already been aware that this was going to happen, and aside from a few who displayed surprised reactions, the rest began to pass through the ring of light one after another.

Whenever someone passed through the rings of light, the balls of golden light around it would shudder slightly and display some minute changes.

Meanwhile, Elder Yi's gaze remained fixed firmly on the ring of light this entire time, seemingly observing something.

Before long, around a dozen people had already passed through the ring of life and entered the teleportation array. Even the white-robed cultivator that Han Li had noticed earlier had already passed through the ring of light, and up to this point, no abnormalities had been displayed.

Instead of immediately approaching the ring of light, Han Li made his way over to a purple-haired Body Integration Stage young woman beside him as he said, "Greetings, Fellow Daoist, I am Luo Feng of Dark Veil Island. I had to leave the Black Wind Sea due to clan matters several hundred years ago, and at the time, this procedure hadn't been implemented. Could it be that something's recently happened in the Black Wind Sea?"

Judging from her attire, she seemed to have been a cultivator from Cedar Gift Island, which Han Li recalled was affiliated with Black Wind Island.

The purple-haired woman was just about to make her way toward the ring of light when she stopped in her tracks, then turned to Han Li as she explained, "If you've been away for several centuries, then it's no surprise that you don't know about this. This is a new rule established by Island Master Lu a century ago, and I don't know the exact reasons why, but it seems to have something to do with a certain evil cultivator."

"I see. Thank you for enlightening me, Fellow Daoist," Han Li replied with a smile as he cupped his fist in a salute.

The purple-haired young woman waved a casual hand before making her way forward.

Meanwhile, Han Li's mind was racing as he cast his gaze toward the ring of golden light once again.

His first thought upon hearing mention of an evil cultivator was that it had to have been himself. After all, he had killed Tao Yu, who was clearly a very important figure, and it would've only made sense for him to have been deemed an evil cultivator by the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace.

However, he then quickly decided that this most likely wasn't the case.

Not only had he not heard of any ties between Black Wind Island and the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace prior to this, the fact that this restriction had already been set up for a century indicated that it clearly had nothing to do with him. After all, back then, he was still in the Blaze Dragon Dao and hadn't done anything out of line.

Aside from that, the white-robed cultivator hadn't triggered any reaction from the restriction, so it seemed that this restriction didn't pay any heed to one's true cultivation base.

As these thoughts were flashing through Han Li's mind, more cultivators continued to pass through the golden array. At this point, there was barely anyone left around him, and the other True Immortals that had concealed their true cultivation bases had also stepped into the teleportation array.

Thus, he took a deep breath before stepping into the ring of golden light.

The surrounding balls of golden light shuddered in unison, following which a burst of gentle force instantly enveloped his entire body, flowing over him like trickling water.

Han Li's expression remained unchanged as he continued.

One step!

Two steps!

Three steps!

All the while, Elder Yi continued to scrutinize the golden array with his hands clasped behind his back.

The ring of golden light didn't encompass a very large area, and Han Li was able to pass through it in just a few steps without any mishaps, much to his relief.

Shortly thereafter, the remaining few cultivators also passed through the sensory restriction without any incident.

Only then did Elder Yi give a slight nod before sweeping a sleeve through the air to wave away the restriction. At the same time, streaks of blue light shot out of his other sleeve before landing upon Han Li and the others, revealing a series of blue talismans.

In the next instant, the teleportation array lit up with dazzling radiance, and Han Li's entire field of view was completely filled with white light.

A long while later, the scene around him stabilized once again, and he found himself situated within a circular hall.

This was the interior of Black Wind Island's Heavenly Star Pagoda, so Han Li had some recollection of this place.

A hunch-backed elderly woman wearing a black robe was standing in front of the array, and she smiled as she declared, "Welcome to the Black Wind Sea, fellow daoists!"

Everyone cupped their fists in a collective salute toward the elderly woman before stepping out of the array and making their way toward a nearby archway.

Han Li was walking slowly among the crowd, and all of a sudden, he slowed down slightly, seemingly having noticed something.

Just now, he had noticed out of the corner of his eye that the white-robed cultivator wasn't following the crowd. Instead, he had stopped in the hall after stepping out of the teleportation array, and the same applied to all of the other concealed True Immortals as well.

The hunch-backed elderly woman didn't raise any objections to this, and Han Li became even more curious about who these people were.

Chapter 350: Lockdown

After leaving the Heavenly Star Pagoda, Han Li made his way along the white stone plaza toward a nearby street, just like everyone else, and it wasn't long before he entered the city.

Black Wind City was the most prosperous city in the entire Black Wind Sea, and this was the most prosperous area in the entire city.

The city remained largely unchanged since Han Li's last visit, except several extremely opulent shops had opened up on the most lively and bustling crossroads in the area. Business was booming for these shops, and countless cultivators were constantly entering and exiting the establishments.

Han Li maintained a casual façade as he made his way onto a nearby street, one that was lined with materials shops, and he turned back to take a glance at the Heavenly Star Pagoda before stepping into one of the shops.

The shop wasn't very large, and there weren't many customers inside.

Han Li was immediately greeted by an enthusiastic employee, who asked, "What can I help you with today?"

Han Li began to engage in a casual conversation with the employee, but his peripheral vision was still focused on the Heavenly Star Pagoda.

An entire hour passed by, and nothing happened on the plaza outside the pagoda.

All of a sudden, a group of cultivators appeared on an obscure corner of the plaza, and they were none other than the hunch-backed elderly woman and the group of concealed True Immortals, with the late-True Immortal Stage middle-aged man bringing up the rear.

As soon as the group appeared on the plaza, they immediately rose up into the air and flew away in a certain direction, vanishing into the distance in the blink of an eye.

Han Li's suspicions were confirmed upon seeing this.

If he recalled correctly, that direction was where the island master's manor was situated.

After purchasing a few materials to keep up appearances, Han Li left the shop, then cast his gaze toward the direction that the group had flown away in with a slightly hesitant look in his eyes.

However, he then shook his head and departed in another direction.

Regardless of how these people were related to the master of Black Wind Island or what their intentions were, they most likely had nothing to do with him, so it was best for him to avoid attracting unnecessary trouble.

With that in mind, Han Li passed through several more streets, and as he emerged from a secluded alley, he had adopted another disguise, transforming into a yellow-skinned man.

With the Transient Guild mask, adopting disguises was very easy, so he took on a new appearance in virtually every single place that he passed through.

After that, he began to explore Black Wind City while replenishing some supplies.

Perhaps it was because the Black Wind Sea's ties with the outside world had been strengthened, but the city really had become a lot more prosperous than before, and various types of materials and pills that had been quite rare in the past could now be found in all of the shops.

Close to half a day later, Han Li rose up into the air as a streak of azure light before flying away into the distance.

Shortly thereafter, he descended onto the plaza in front of the island master's manor.

At a rough glance, this place hadn't changed much, either, except the manor was currently enshrouded under layers of light barriers of different colors, and there were also some cultivators patrolling nearby, indicating that security had become a lot tighter than before.

Han Li didn't linger for very long here before making his way toward the Talisman Letter Palace where missions were released.

There were many more cultivators gathered in the palace than during his last visit, and the number of missions on the stone wall inside had also increased significantly.

Furthermore, the contents of the missions had also changed drastically, and there were many more missions

There were even missions that offered rewards for killing certain Azure Feather Island cultivators, each one with its own corresponding reward.

Han Li quickly read through all of the missions on the stone wall, but he was unable to find any related to himself or even the Blaze Dragon Dao.

However, he still wasn't completely reassured.

He strolled around the hall for a while to strike up some conversations with other cultivators who were also looking at missions, and only after confirming that there were no signs of the Immortal Palace coming after him here was he finally able to heave an internal sigh of relief.

However, prior to leaving, he took on a mission to acquire a certain demon beast material in order to avoid suspicion.

After leaving the Talisman Letter Palace, Han Li took another glance at the island master's manor before flying toward the city gate as a streak of azure light.

However, halfway to the city gate, a burst of dull rumbling suddenly rang out from all over the island, accompanied by the sound of splashing waves.

Han Li hurriedly stopped in his tracks, then looked around to find that pillars of blue light had erupted into the heavens around Black Wind City, forming a fence-like structure around the entire city.

Formidable energy fluctuations were emanating from the pillars of light, causing the surrounding space to tremble and quiver.

Waves of watery light then began to surge out of the pillars of blue light, causing them to bend and converge toward the center, quickly fusing together to become interconnected.

Before long, a thick blue light barrier had taken shape, encompassing the entire city within it.

Countless ripples were surging over the light barrier, and it was clear that this was a very intricate array.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and after a brief moment of contemplation, he continued onward, quickly reaching the city gate.

There were many people gathered at the city gate, causing quite a commotion.

Han Li descended discreetly by the edge of the crowd, then made his way into the throngs of people.

At this moment, the group of cultivators at the front of the line were communicating to a black-robed city guard.

"What's going on? Why has the protective array suddenly been activated?"

"We urgently need to leave the city, would you be able to make an exception and let us through?"

"Island Master Lu has ordered for the protective array to be activated as we've just received news that some cultivators from Azure Feather Island intend to attack Black Wind City. This is just a safety precaution, and as soon as the threat is alleviated, we'll immediately deactivate the array," the leader of the guards declared to everyone as he cupped his fist in an apologetic salute.

Han Li was rather taken aback to hear this.

He had already heard that the conflict between Black Wind City and Azure Feather Island was worsening by the day, but he didn't think that things were already this severe.

Judging from everyone's reactions, it seemed that they weren't overly surprised by this explanation.

Han Li pondered the situation momentarily, then turned to a red-robed elderly man beside him as he asked, "Fellow Daoist, could it be that the city's protective array is activated quite often?"

The red-robed elderly raised an eyebrow upon hearing this, and he asked, "Are you not from the Black Wind Sea?"

"I only just arrived on Black Wind Island through the teleportation array, so I'm not very familiar with the state of affairs here," Han Li replied in a polite manner.

"I see. The conflict between Black Wind Island and Azure Feather Island has been getting more and more intense. Black Wind City is the stronghold of Black Wind Island, but it's still not all that safe, and the city's protective array has already been activated many times in recent years," the red-robed elderly man explained.

"Which side has the upper hand in the conflict?" Han Li asked.

"Overall, Black Wind Island is more powerful than Azure Feather Island, but recently, Azure Feather Island has managed to recruit many islands as allies, so they're not able to stand toe to toe against Black Wind Island. I wonder when this war is going to come to an end," the red-robed elderly man sighed.

Han Li nodded in response with a contemplative look in his eyes.

Right as the crowd was abuzz with conversation, a Grand Ascension Stage middle-aged man emerged from the crowd, then asked, "May I ask when the array will be deactivated? You can't just expect all of us to wait indefinitely."

"I'm afraid I can't give you a precise answer. Perhaps it'll only be two or three days, perhaps it could be up to 10 days or half a month. If you need to leave the city for some urgent reason, you can go the island master's manor to request an audience with Island Master Lu. If you can acquire an exit token from Island Master Lu, then you'll be free to go," the leader of the guards replied.

The man's brows furrowed tightly upon hearing this, but he didn't say anything further.

Many others were also reluctant to accept this arrangement, but they clearly didn't dare to oppose the authority of the island master's manor. As for applying for an exit token, none of them actually had to leave the city that urgently, so after some more discussion, all of the cultivators gathered at the city gate quickly dispersed.

Han Li's brows were slightly furrowed as he heaved an internal sigh.

It seemed that his luck was rather bad. If he had set off just a little earlier, perhaps he would've already been out of the city by now.

He took a glance up at the blue light barrier in the sky, then bade farewell to the red-robed elderly man before returning the same way that he had come.

The activation of the protective array had caused a stir in the city, but it quickly subsided. After all, this was a fairly regular occurrence, so everyone quickly continued with what they were doing.

Before long, Han Li arrived in an inn in a secluded part of the city, where he rented a room.

Night soon arrived, and inside the secret chamber, Han Li's eyes suddenly sprang open as he rose to his feet, then swept a sleeve through the air to release around a dozen streaks of azure light that descended all around the room to form a restriction.

Immediately thereafter, he made a hand seal, and arcs of golden lightning appeared over his body before quickly spreading outward to form a golden lightning array.

The lightning array then flashed with golden light, and he abruptly vanished from the spot.

The remaining traces of golden lightning lingered momentarily in the room before completely fading away.

Meanwhile, in a secret chamber deep beneath the island master's manor.

It was quite a dimly lit room that was surrounded by rippling black light.

At the center of the secret chamber was a large blue jade platform, above which were hovering a series of blue array flags, of which there were at least 10,000.

Dazzling blue light was radiating from these array flags, forming a hemispherical blue light barrier that enshrouded the blue jade platform down below.

Engraved onto the platform was an image of a city, and upon close inspection, one would quickly be able to tell that it was none other than Black Wind City.