

A Record 361

Chapter 361: Pill Tribulation

At this moment, countless kilometers away from Han Li's cave abode, a gray-robed figure with a crimson dragon mask on their face was seated with their legs crossed in a dark underground space with.

This person was none other than Wyrms 3, who had just made that exchange with Han Li.

After remaining on the spot for a while longer, Wyrms 3 suddenly stood up, then turned and strode down one of the several passageways connected to this space.

After walking through the pitch-black underground passageway for an indeterminate period of time, Wyrms 3 arrived in an open space in the form of a cave that was several hundred feet in size, at the end of which was a gray stone door behind a faint silver light barrier.

Wyrms 3 made a hand seal while chanting an incantation, and the silver light barrier shuddered before parting down the center.

Wyrms 3 opened the door to reveal a circular secret chamber that was over 200 feet in size, but was completely empty aside from a stone table and a stone chair.

Seated atop the stone chair was an elderly man in a black cloak who was sipping on a cup of spirit tea.

The tea was crimson in color and was also giving off a strong bloody odor.

The elderly man had a hooked nose that resembled the beak of an eagle, and there was a cold gleam in his golden eyes.

Wyrms 3 took a glance at the teacup that the elderly man was holding, and a hint of disgust flashed through their eyes, only to be immediately concealed.

"Did you find out where he got it from?" the elderly man asked as he set down his teacup.

His voice was extremely ghastly to listen to, like the sound of two pieces of rusty metal scraping together.

Wyrms 3 sat down beside the elderly man, then replied, "He found it near Red Moon Island."

"Red Moon Island? Didn't you already conduct a search there before?" the elderly man asked with a hint of surprise on his face.

"I visited Red Moon Island last time under the guise of carrying out a Transient Guild mission, but there's no guarantee that my plan wasn't exposed in advance, so perhaps they took some measures to conceal things at the time," Wyrms 3 replied.

The elderly man offered no response to this, and he began tapping a finger absentmindedly against the table with a contemplative look on his face.

Wyrms 3 also remained silent, and some time later, the elderly man broke the silence as he asked, "What do you think of this? Do you think it's another red herring from Black Wind Island?"

"I don't think so. If Black Wind Island is behind this, I don't think they would've arranged for the location to be Red Moon Island again," Wyrms 3 replied.

"I suppose that's true. In that case, let's search the entire area around Red Moon Island again, then proceed according to the original plan," the elderly man said, to which Wyrms 3 nodded in response.

The elderly man rose to his feet before departing, and only after he had left the room did Wyrms 3 stand up before removing their mask and making their way outside.

As they walked, a murky layer of light rose up over their body before quickly fading away, and they had transformed into a woman with an exceptional figure, while her gray robe had also turned into a red dress that drifted around her like a fiery red cloud.

Before long, she had faded into the darkness once again.

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Around a dozen more years flew by in the blink of an eye.

Inside his medicine garden, Han Li carefully uprooted a Dewform Herb that was around a foot tall, then placed it in a jade box.

This was already the third Dewform Herb that he had matured.

After stowing the jade box away, Han Li made his way out of the medicine garden, but instead of heading to his secret chamber, he exited his cave abode altogether.

Shortly thereafter, he appeared in the sky above the island amid a flash of azure light, then flipped a hand over to produce several array plates of different colors.

He then began to chant an incantation, and the array plates began to glow brightly before flying downward as several streaks of light.

The space around the cave abode suddenly began to flash with spiritual light as a thick yellow light barrier emerged, releasing a vast expanse of yellow mist that completely inundated the entire cave abode.

At the same time, boundless blue light rose up from the sea around the island to form a hemispherical blue light barrier that encompassed the entire island with flashing runes of different sizes on its surface.

Han Li continued to chant his incantation, releasing several streaks of blue light that vanished into the light barrier.

A series of ripples immediately began to surge over the blue light barrier, following which the entire light barrier abruptly vanished along with the island beneath it, making it appear as if this were just a stretch of empty ocean.

Han Li gave a pleased nod upon seeing this.

He had personally altered these restrictions, and even if a late-True Immortal cultivator were to arrive here, they wouldn't have been able to break these restrictions in a short time.

The outermost concealment restriction was one that he had learned from a scripture in Tao Yu's storage tool, and it was even more profound, able to fool the spiritual sense of even early-Golden Immortal cultivators.

After doing all of that, Han Li turned and flew away into the distance as a streak of azure light.

Several days later, he drew to a halt above a certain region of the sea.

This place was just as barren and deserted as the area where he had chosen to construct his temporary cave abode, except the cave abode was situated in the northwestern region of the Black Wind Sea, while this was the southwest.

He released his spiritual sense, then flew toward a certain direction before descending onto an island moments later.

The island wasn't very large, only several dozen kilometers in size, and it was home to a gray mountain. Aside from that, the entire mountain was covered in soil and gray rocks, but barely any plants, presenting a rather bleak sight to behold.

Han Li swept his gaze over the island before flicking his fingers through the air to release streaks of sword qi that struck the gray mountain halfway up.

Countless rocks came tumbling down like rain, and before long, a crude cave abode had taken shape.

Han Li flew into the cave abode, then swept a sleeve through the air to release a flurry of several hundred array flags.

After that, he chanted an incantation before pointing at the array flags, and they instantly transformed into balls of light of different colors that vanished in a flash into different parts of the cave abode.

Several light barriers then quickly appeared to encompass the entire island before vanishing into thin air as well.

With all of the restrictions set up, Han Li sat down with his legs crossed, then swept a sleeve through the air once again to release a streak of golden light that transformed into Daoist Xie.

"Brother Xie, it's very unlikely that anyone will come here, but if someone tries to barge into this place while I'm in seclusion, then please do your best to keep them at bay," Han Li said.

"Rest assured, unless any beings far above the Golden Immortal Stage come here, I'll be sure to keep them out of your way," Daoist Xie replied with a nod, then vanished into thin air amid a flash of golden lightning.

Han Li's expression remained unchanged upon hearing this, but internally, he was quite surprised to discover that his spiritual sense was no longer able to detect Daoist Xie's location.

He immediately activated his Spirit Refinement Technique to enhance his spiritual sense, and only then was he able to detect a very faint trace of lightning fluctuations nearby.

If it weren't for his enormous spiritual sense and the enhancement effects of his Spirit Refinement Technique, there was no way that he would've been able to detect these faint lightning fluctuations.

Despite his surprise, Han Li quickly shook his head and set the matter aside.

He had gone out of his way to construct a new cave abode and set up so many restrictions here as he was about to begin refining a dao pill.

According to the scriptures, a pill tribulation could arise in the instant that a dao pill took shape.

The scriptures stated that pill tribulations arose due to the fact that all dao pills contained the purest of law powers, to the point that they transcended the natural laws of the realm. As a result, the power of the realm would automatically reject dao pills, sending down pill tribulations to prevent dao pills from taking shape.

It was said that pill tribulations were extremely formidable, even more so than most lightning tribulations, and even though this place was very secluded, there was still no guarantee that such a massive spectacle wouldn't attract any unwelcome guests.

The problem with his former cave abode was that moving the medicine garden was quite a chore, and that was why he had decided to come here. Even if someone were to discover him here, with Daoist Xie buying him time, he would be able to make a getaway.

With that in mind, Han Li took a deep breath before closing his eyes to meditate.

Only after three days and three nights had passed by did he reopen his eyes, following which he swept a sleeve through the air to produce a silver cauldron.

A streak of silver light then shot out of his other sleeve and landed beneath the cauldron, transforming into a ball of silver flames that contained a tiny fiery silver figure.

After that, he swept his sleeves through the air in succession to summon various ingredients that almost took up the entire secret chamber.

At the same time, he was running through the dao pill refinement process in his mind, even though he had already envisioned the process countless times.

After making sure that he was fully prepared, he cast an incantation seal through the air, and the silver flame instantly reared up, while the temperature in the cauldron above it quickly began to rise.

All of a sudden, a white crystal emerged at Han Li's behest before flying into the cauldron.

It was none other than a time crystal, and it gradually began to melt in the face of the sweltering heat inside the cauldron.

The golden thread within the crystal was becoming brighter while giving off bursts of time law power fluctuations, and at the same time, Han Li drew a jade box into his grasp, one that contained a Heavenmade Ginseng Root.

A burst of azure light emerged over his other hand before enveloping the Heavenmade Ginseng Root, and the azure light then took on the form of two large hands that began to gently crush the ginseng root.

The Heavenmade Ginseng Root was an extremely rare spirit plant, but it wasn't very hard at all, and it was instantly crushed to a pulp, releasing a large volume of white spirit liquid.

Han Li pointed a finger forward to release a burst of azure light that caught the spirit liquid, then carefully transported it into the cauldron.

The spirit liquid immediately began to boil, and wisps of white mist rose up from it.

There was a look of concentration on Han Li's face as he controlled the silver flame, and before long, the white spirit liquid had transformed into a small ball of white gooey substance that enveloped the time crystal.

Han Li immediately drew another ingredient over to himself upon seeing this, and this time, it was a small box of silver powder that looked as if it were some type of crushed bone.

He raised a hand to release a burst of azure light that enveloped the bone powder, then transported into the cauldron as well.

At the same time, his other hand was making a constant series of hand seals to keep the silver flame beneath the cauldron in check.

The silver bone powder quickly melted as well, forming a ball of silver liquid that fused as one with the gooey white substance, immediately following which Han Li picked up another ingredient before transferring it into the cauldron.

In the blink of an eye, over half a day had passed by, and most of the ingredients in the secret chamber had already been transferred into the cauldron.

At this moment, there was a longan-sized white pill inside the cauldron, and its surface was rather rough and bumpy.

The white pill was gently revolving while being heated by the silver flame beneath the cauldron, and it was giving off wisps of white spiritual qi.

Chapter 362: Time Reversal Revision

In front of the pill cauldron, sweat had already begun to bead up on Han Li's forehead, and his breathing was also slightly jagged.

He had already tried to mentally prepare himself for the level of difficulty of dao pill refinement, but only when putting the process into practice did he realize just how drastically he had underestimated the process.

Dao pill refinement was completely different from that of normal pill refinement.

There were countless different pill recipes out there, but almost all of them involved refining all of the ingredients before gathering them together to condense into a pill.

In contrast, the ingredient that contained the law power was the core of everything in a dao pill. Hence, during the refinement process, he had to refine the ingredients while constantly fusing them with the material that contained the law power, resulting in a snowball process. Essentially, the ingredient refinement and pill condensing processes had to take place in unison, and that resulted in a massive spike in difficulty.

To further compound his woes, he also had to simultaneously control the fire while balancing out the medicinal properties of all of the ingredients.

In particular, the time law powers within the time crystal had to form some type of balance with all of the other ingredients in order to facilitate perfect fusion, and that only further increased the difficulty of the pill refinement process.

Han Li felt as if he were controlling an enormous army, trying to instruct them to adopt an extremely complex formation, but none of the soldiers in the army were under his control, and on top of that, they were occasionally clashing against one another.

He had to balance out all of the conflicts while guiding everyone into the right formation, and if it weren't for the fact that he had made significant strides in his pill refinement mastery of late, he would've already been completely worn out by now.

Even so, at this point, he was gradually beginning to feel the strain, but there were many ingredients that were still yet to be added to the cauldron, and with the addition of those ingredients, things were only going to become even more difficult to control.

Due to the fact that dao pills contained law powers, they couldn't come into contact with any other law powers prior to the completion of the refinement process. Otherwise, some unforeseen change would take place in the pill, resulting in a failure in the pill refinement.

Hence, Han Li was unable to use his Mantra Treasured Axis to assist him, and he could only rely on his pill refinement skills.

He took a deep breath, then swept a sleeve through the air once again, sending another ingredient tumbling into the cauldron.

As time passed, a few more ingredients were transferred into the cauldron, and at this point, Han Li's breathing had become extremely labored, and his eyes had become bloodshot, while an unnatural flush had appeared on his cheeks.

He took a deep breath as he released a burst of azure light to envelop another ingredient, this time a vial of green spirit liquid, then tipped it into the cauldron as well.

The green liquid swirled around in the cauldron momentarily before fusing into the white pill, which was already beginning to take shape.

A layer of green light appeared over the white pill, but it then slowly faded, and right as it was about to completely vanish, the pill abruptly shuddered as lights of different colors appeared on its surface, clashing erratically with one another.

Han Li's expression changed slightly upon seeing this, and he was just about to do something, but it was already too late.

A dull thud rang out from within the white pill, following which a crack appeared on its surface.

In the next instant, all of the light radiating from the pill faded, and the spiritual qi permeating throughout the surrounding area also abruptly vanished.

All of this had taken place in the blink of an eye, and everything instantly returned to normal, as if Han Li had only been refining a normal pill up to this point rather than a dao pill.

Han Li heaved a faint sigh as he released an incantation seal, and all of the silver flames beneath the cauldron instantly surged back to him to form a fiery silver figure that vanished into his body.

He then made a beckoning motion, and the remnants of the pill flew out of the cauldron before flying onto the palm of his hand.

He held the pill up close to his eye for a thorough inspection, and the slight frustration in his heart gradually subsided.

He was already mentally prepared for his first dao pill refinement attempt to conclude in failure, particularly considering this was going to be a dao pill that contained one of the three paramount laws.

With that in mind, a faint smile appeared on his face.

This failed pill may have been useless to other pill refinement masters, but it was extremely useful to him.

He made a hand seal, and his Mantra Treasured Axis appeared behind him amid a flash of golden light.

All of the 360 Time Dao Runes on its surface were giving off dazzling golden light, and the Eye of Truth at its center slowly opened to reveal the eyeball inside.

A beam of radiant golden light shot out of the eyeball, and countless golden runes appeared on the surface of the eye, much like a night sky full of golden stars.

With the emergence of these runes, the golden light released by the Eye of Truth began to flicker incessantly, creating a chaotic kaleidoscope-like effect.

With 360 Time Dao Runes on the Mantran Treasured Axis, the aura and observative powers had both been significantly enhanced.

Han Li closed his eyes so that he could see the world through the lens of the Eye of Truth, and he was able to see through the restrictions set up in his cave abode with ease.

Not only that, but he was even able to clearly see the flow of spiritual power on the restrictions.

Unfortunately, he only had a few restrictions set up at the moment, and that was nowhere near enough to test the true limits of the Eye of Truth's observative powers.

There were definitely going to be more opportunities to test out the observative powers of the Eye of Truth in the future, but this wasn't the time to be doing such a thing, so he returned to the task at hand, focusing its gaze on the failed pill in his hand.

The beam of golden light shooting out of the Eye of Truth instantly fell upon the pill, which immediately began to glow with dazzling golden radiance while giving off bursts of time power fluctuations.

In the next instant, the pill began to revolve in mid-air, and a burst of green spirit liquid abruptly surged out of it.

At the same time, lights of different colors were flashing from the pill, and it was also displaying various other minute changes.

Essentially, the pill refinement process was being played out in reverse right in front of Han Li's eyes, allowing him to clearly observe the entire process.

One of the main things that had given Han Li the confidence to attempt dao pill refinement was none other than this time reversal ability of his Eye of Truth.

A layer of blue light surfaced in his eyes as he stared intently at the failed pill, latching onto every single detail.

All of a sudden, he spotted the misstep that had resulted in the pill's detonation.

The green liquid had been completely extracted out of the pill, and all of the lights of different colors on the pill also faded, restoring it to the state before the green liquid was added.

The scene continued to unfold, and a layer of white light emerged over the pill, following which some white powder was extracted out of it.

Once again, lights of different colors emerged over the pill alongside various minute changes.

Han Li hadn't made a mistake in this step, but he was still eager to see it again so that he could glean some insight and experience.

Thus, more and more ingredients continued to fly out of the pill one after another, and after reviewing the entire process, Han Li had developed a clearer understanding of the dao pill refinement process.

In the end, the pill was restored back to just the time crystal, which was then reverted back into the green liquid from the Heaven Controlling Vial, but Han Li was naturally not interested in this part.

Following a few flickers of golden light, the failed pill re-emerged.

Even though Han Li had reached the late-True Immortal Stage, unleashing the Eye of Truth still exhausted most of his immortal spiritual power.

He exhaled as pulled out a pill before swallowing it, then sat down to meditate, digesting the pill while carefully reviewing the dao pill refinement process in his mind once again.

An hour later, he opened his eyes, feeling completely reinvigorated.

However, he didn't immediately begin another attempt at dao pill refinement as it would take another month to manifest a time crystal.

During the rest of the month, Han Li didn't do anything aside from constantly using his Eye of Truth to review the pill refinement process over and over again.

A month passed by in the blink of an eye, and the Heaven Controlling Vial finally produced a drop of green liquid that was immediately converted into a time crystal by Han Li.

After that, he brought out another batch of ingredients and made his second pill refinement attempt.

Having reviewed the first attempt countless times, Han Li couldn't have been more familiar with the process, and the pill refinement progressed very smoothly, quickly reaching the stage where the green spirit liquid was to be integrated.

He pulled out a vial of green spirit liquid before guiding it into the cauldron, and it quickly shrank down in volume under the sweltering heat.

Han Li raised a hand to release a burst of azure light that enveloped the liquid before integrating it into the pill, and this time, the process was completed without a hitch.

Han Li heaved an internal sigh of relief upon seeing this, then transferred another ingredient into the cauldron.

Perhaps it was due to his extensive revision of his first pill refinement, but this second attempt was progressing very smoothly, and before long, there were only six or seven ingredients left.

However, at this point, a sheen of sweat had appeared on Han Li's forehead, and he seemed to be nearing his limits once again.

He gritted his teeth and braced himself as he transferred a white spirit gel substance into the cauldron, and a flash of white light abruptly appeared, followed by another dull thump, concluding with a charred odor wafting through the air.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, but he then quickly composed himself.

After resting for a moment with his eyes closed, he retrieved the failed pill from the cauldron, then summoned his Mantra Treasured Axis and began scrutinizing the pill with the Eye of Truth.

A beam of golden light shot into the pill, and the pill refinement process was played out in reverse once again.

Once again, Han Li was able to quickly pinpoint the reason for this failure.

One month later, he repeated the same process, commencing his third pill refinement, and prior to this, he had once again extensively reviewed his previous failure.

The time reversal ability of the Eye of Truth was virtually allowing him to simulate the pill refinement process over and over again, thereby granting him a huge amount of experience.

Just like last time, the pill refinement process progressed very smoothly, and before long, it was yet again time to add the white spirit gel substance into the cauldron.

He had already mastered the key to this step, and he was able to complete it without any trouble.

After that, he transferred another ingredient into the cauldron.

At this point, most of the pill refinement process was already complete, and he should've been very happy to have come so far after just two failures, but his mood was immediately dampened just 15 minutes later.

Another dull thump rang out from within the cauldron, heralding his third dao pill refinement failure.

Chapter 363: Arrival of the Tribulation

Han Li's expression darkened slightly as he withdrew his flame of Flame of Essence with a sweep of his sleeve, then retrieved the failed pill from inside the cauldron.

This time, he hadn't been able to make much improvement, only successfully integrating one more ingredient before failing on the second one.

The closer he came to the conclusion of the pill refinement process, the more difficult it became, and his brows were tightly furrowed.

With the Eye of Truth, he could review the pill refinement process however many times he wanted, so he was certain that he would eventually find success, but the problem was that he had only prepared nine batches of pill refinement ingredients, and there had already been used up, so there were only six left.

He took a deep breath and cast aside that train of thought, then trained his Eye of Truth on the failed pill once again.

A month later, Han Li commenced his fourth pill refinement.

Everything was progressing smoothly, and he quickly reached the stage where he had previously failed.

Thanks to his extensive revision, he was able to complete this step with ease as well, smoothly integrating a piece of golden honey into the pill.

He took a moment to compose himself, then turned to find that there were still five ingredients left.

He gritted his teeth as he transferred the next ingredient into the cauldron, then began making a rapid string of hand seals with a look of intense focus on his face, pushing the limits of his pill refinement abilities.

Inside the cauldron, the pill was revolving on the spot with spiritual light of different colors flashing over its surface.

With each ingredient that was added, Han Li had to regulate the interactions between the new ingredient and the other ingredients that had already been integrated into the pill to reach a new equilibrium. It was like pouring cold water into hot oil while also ensuring that no oil spilled out.

Han Li was doing everything in his power to mediate the clashes between the medicinal power of all of the ingredients in the pill, trying to stabilize everything, but his efforts proved to be futile.

A dull thud rang out, and Han Li's expression instantly darkened once again.

This time, he had failed without being able to integrate even a single additional ingredient.

He sat in silence for a while before retrieving the failed pill and inspecting it through his Eye of Truth.

A month later, the fifth pill refinement began.

Once again, progress was very smooth, but even though he had already exercised the utmost caution when adding in the next ingredient down the line, the process still concluded in failure.

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face, and he repeated the same process of revision.

Two or three months passed by in the blink of an eye.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed in his cave abode, cycling through a rapid string of hand seals.

Faint crackling sounds were ringing out occasionally from within the cauldron, and even though the lid of the cauldron, flashes of spiritual light of different colors could be seen.

There was also a strong medicinal aroma in the air, and this time, all of the ingredients had already been transferred into the cauldron.

During these past few months, progress had remained agonizingly slow despite Han Li's best efforts, and he was only able to successfully integrate one more ingredient each time.

Even though he had managed to gradually overcome one hurdle after another, he had exhausted all of his ingredients, and the pill in the cauldron at this moment contained the final batch.

He had already failed at this stage last time, so if the trend of one additional successful ingredient integration per pill refinement attempt continued, then this would finally be the one where he was met with success.

What he had to worry about right now was the upcoming pill tribulation.

He only had this final batch of ingredients left, and if he couldn't ward off the pill tribulation, then he wasn't going to get another chance for at least the next few centuries.

He still had some seeds and seedlings of things like the Dewform Herb and the Heavenmade Ginseng Root, so all he would have to do would be to mature them using the Heaven Controlling Vial spirit liquid, but the other ingredients that weren't spirit plants weren't going to be so easy to obtain.

They would have to be purchased using Immortal Origin Stones, and some of them were not so easy to come by. In particular, there were several primary ingredients that he had only found in Tao Yu's storage tool, and he had no idea how much time and effort it would've taken to gather them on his own.

Not only was he currently in the Black Wind Sea, it was impossible to purchase those ingredients even from the Transient Guild.

Hence, this was his final chance, and he couldn't afford for anything to go wrong.

With that in mind, Han Li reaffirmed his focus, observing all of the changes taking place in the pill cauldron with his spiritual sense.

At this moment, all of the ingredients in the pill were clashing violently against one another like a chaotic pot of boiling water, and even though he had identified the reason for his previous failure during his extensive revision, he was still having a great deal of trouble keeping everything in check.

Time slowly passed by, and Han Li gradually entered an immersive state of tranquility, as if his heart had transformed into the surface of a still lake.

The rate at which he was making hand seals began to slow down, but all of his movements had become more precise and profound.

Incantation seals were streaming out of his hands into the cauldron, and the originally incredibly complex situation in the cauldron had suddenly become very simple in his eyes, allowing him to control everything with ease.

All of the clashes taking place in the pill began to subside, and the pill refinement process was rapidly nearing its conclusion.

A faint smile appeared on his face, and he could feel that his pill refinement abilities had broken through a bottleneck and reached a whole new level.

He took a deep breath as a serious look reappeared on his face, and he suddenly switched to a different hand seal.

A burst of loud rumbling akin to claps of thunder rang out within the cauldron, but this was due to all of the surging energy inside rather than the detonation of the pill.

The lights of different colors flashing within the cauldron also became brighter and brighter while gradually fusing together to form pure golden light.

Han Li's eyes lit up upon seeing this, and he knew that this was a precursor of the pill's formation.

His hand seals became more urgent, while the golden light within the cauldron became more and more radiant, and the medicinal aroma in the air also became more pronounced.

Right at this moment, the sound ringing out within the cauldron abruptly took a turn, resembling an animalistic roar.

All of a sudden, a loud thump rang out, and a burst of dazzling golden light erupted out of the cauldron, sending its lid flying, while a longan-sized golden pill flew out from within.

Streaks of fiery golden light erupted out of the pill, forming a series of golden halos that spread through the air in all directions.

The pill was giving off a burst of incredibly profound time law fluctuations that approached the Heavenly Dao, and Han Li was ecstatic to see that there were two golden marks on its surface.

Never had he thought that he would be able to refine a second-tier dao pill. Perhaps this was due to the abundance of time law powers in the time crystal, or perhaps it was due to some other factor.

In any case, a second-tier dao pill was going to be far more efficacious than a first-tier one.

Right at this moment, countless specks of golden light suddenly began to appear in the clear blue sky up above, quickly forming a vast expanse of surging golden clouds.

The golden clouds had no end in sight, and it was as if they had taken up the entire sky, illuminating even the sea down below a bright golden color.

Vast law fluctuations were surging out of the golden clouds, while all of the world's origin qi within a radius of close to 100,000 kilometers was churning violently.

The law fluctuations emanating from the golden clouds were so immense that they were detectable even to cultivators close to 1,000,000 kilometers away.

The golden cloud was also churning violently while becoming denser and denser, and before long, it had formed an opaque golden barrier that completely kept out the light of the sun.

The entire sea was illuminated a bright golden color, but there was an incredibly heavy sensation in the air, as if the sky were about to fall.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he sensed what was happening outside.

He had seen records of pill tribulations before, and he hadn't anticipated it to be so formidable.

A burst of loud rumbling rang out within the golden cloud, and a vast golden vortex appeared, rapidly revolving as rays of incredibly bright golden light appeared at its center.

A burst of crushing law fluctuations surged out of the vortex, descending upon the entire cave abode.

Countless cracks began to appear on all of the walls of the cave abode, and all of a sudden, Daoist Xie appeared in the sky above the cave abode amid a flash of golden lightning.

It raised its head to look up at the golden cloud, and a hint of emotion flashed past its wooden face.

Right at this moment, the golden vortex in the sky abruptly brightened, and a beam of piercing golden light surged out from within, hurtling down toward the cave abode below.

The golden light contained countless golden runes that were flashing erratically while giving off formidable time law power fluctuations that were filled with aggressive intent.

Daoist Xie made no effort to stop the beam of golden light, merely standing still on the spot.

Right at this moment, the beam of golden light struck the cave abode before piercing directly into it.

However, the restrictions and walls of the cave abode remained completely unharmed, and the golden light passed right through them as if it had no substance.

Han Li was quite startled by this turn of events.

The pill tribulation had arrived far quicker than he had anticipated.

He hurriedly made a hand seal, and his Mantra Treasured Axis appeared behind him before releasing countless golden ripples that instantly enveloped the golden dao pill.

At the same time, he opened his mouth to release the Seven Bright Star Rings, which became interconnected with one another to form a single large ring.

The ring released a burst of dazzling starlight to form a light barrier with countless stars flashing on its surface, as if it were a miniature starry sky.

Countless tiny starlight runes were surging over the surface of the light barrier while giving off hints of law fluctuations.

Before Han Li had a chance to do anything else, the beam of golden light came crashing down like lightning upon the starlight barrier, which immediately brightened considerably as it attempted to keep the beam of golden light at bay.

However, the beam of golden light was able to pass through it just as it had the ceiling of the cave abode, and it struck the dao pill with unerring accuracy.

Chapter 364: Final Roll of the Dice

The golden dao pill shuddered violently upon being struck by the beam of golden light, and arcs of lighting were flashing over its surface.

At the same time, the golden light that it was giving off quickly began to dim, and the enormous spiritual energy that it contained was beginning to display signs of dissipating.

Most importantly, the two golden dao marks on its surface were also flashing erratically, looking as if they were about to rise up from the dao pill and fly toward the golden vortex up above.

Han Li's heart immediately sank upon seeing this.

He had already activated his Mantra Treasured Axis's time-slowing effect, but the beam of golden light was completely unaffected, perhaps because it was also imbued with the power of time laws.

His mind was racing as he made a rapid string of hand seals in a desperate attempt to stabilize the dao pill.

At the same time, bursts of time law powers surged out of the Mantra Treasured Axis, enveloping the golden dao marks on the pill to keep them in place.

However, even with his tremendous power, it was very difficult to stabilize the dao pill and keep the dao marks in place, and at this rate, it would only be a matter of time before the dao pill was completely destroyed.

The golden dao pill was trembling incessantly, as was Han Li.

Stabilizing the pill wasn't just a matter of using as much effort as possible. Instead, he had to strike an extremely meticulous balance, so his immense immortal spiritual power wasn't helping him much here.

Right at this moment, the golden cloud in the sky began to churn once again in an even more violent fashion, resembling a turbulent golden sea.

The speed at which the golden vortex was revolving also increased significantly, and more rays of piercing golden light appeared at its center, resembling arcs of pulsing lightning.

In the next instant, a burst of even more suffocating pressure erupted out of the vortex before descending upon Han Li's cave abode.

The entire cave abode shuddered along with the island that it was situated on, and the cracks on the walls of the cave abode widened even further.

An urgent look appeared on Han Li as he sensed what was happening outside, and his Mantra Treasured Axis also began to revolve rapidly at his behest while all of its Time Dao Runes were giving off dazzling golden light.

A vast burst of golden light surged out of the axis, and it was filled with countless golden runes that were giving off intense time law power fluctuations.

This burst of time law power was almost twice as powerful as what it had previously released, and the burst of golden light instantly split up into several dozen streaks at Han Li's behest, with every single one of them forming a flashing thread of golden light, all of which were emanating formidable time law powers.

The dozens of strands of golden light shot forth before wrapping themselves around the golden dao marks on the pill, and the trembling of the dao marks finally subsided a little, while the violently surging spiritual power within the pill also settled down slightly.

However, Han Li didn't dare to grow complacent, and he continued to try and stabilize the pill with all his might.

At the same time, a series of Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords flew out of his body before forming a circular sword barrier above his head.

Immediately thereafter, his Heavy Water True Axis also appeared, then swelled to over 10 times its original size before also positioning itself above him.

The Heavy Water True Axis was rapidly revolving while producing bursts of loud rumbling, while more treasures continued to fly out of Han Li's body one after another.

There were the silver bell, strange sword, and Integrated Five Extremes Mountain that he had obtained from Tao Yu, as well as those two yin-attribute immortal treasures and all of the other formidable treasures in his collection.

During these past few centuries, he had already completely refined these treasures, granting him complete mastery over them.

With the support of his immense spiritual sense and immortal spiritual power, all of the treasures released layers upon layers of thick light barriers that virtually filled the entire secret chamber.

Han Li had only just completed these preparations when a resounding boom rang out overhead, and a pillar of golden light that was far thicker than the one before came crashing down upon the cave abode.

The entire surrounding space shuddered violently as gusts of fierce wind swept through the area, raising waves that were several hundred feet tall over the surface of the nearby sea.

This pillar of golden light was extremely bright, and it resembled a bolt of lightning, once again passing through the restrictions and ceiling of the cave abode with ease before striking the outermost starlight barrier formed by the Seven Bright Star Rings.

Just like before, the pillar of golden light pierced through the starlight barrier without any trouble, then went on to strike the sword net formed by the Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords.

The golden pillar of light was struck by countless peerlessly sharp streaks of sword qi, but once again, it remained completely unaffected, passing right through to strike the Heavy Water True Axis, which also posed no resistance.

All of the light barriers in the secret chamber were flashing erratically, but their efforts to keep the pillar of golden light at bay remained completely futile.

However, the pillar of golden light had been slowed down a little, so it appeared that Han Li's efforts weren't completely futile.

Even so, the situation was still quite dire.

He had already done everything in his power, yet the pill tribulation still refused to be stopped.

Up to this point, the dao pill still wasn't even close to reaching a state of stability.

Given how damaging the first pill tribulation had been, if it were struck by this second pill tribulation that was even more formidable, then it would surely be completely destroyed.

Never had he imagined that the realm would reject dao pills so vehemently.

He continued to resist with all his might while the pillar of golden light passed through several more light barriers, and it was slowed down even further in the process.

All of a sudden, Han Li seemed to have noticed something.

The pillar of golden light had seemed to have pierced through the first few layers of light barriers without any trouble, yet he could tell that it had shrunk down a little.

It seemed that this pill tribulation wasn't unstoppable, after all.

With that in mind, Han Li opened his mouth to release a ball of blood essence, which split up into several smaller balls before vanishing into the treasures around him.

At the same time, he released all of his immortal spiritual power without any reservation, injecting it into the remaining treasures.

At this point, he had no choice but to make one final roll of the dice.

All of the treasures lit up significantly while giving off even more formidable law power fluctuations, while the pillar of golden light continued to descend.

One light barrier after another was pierced through as the pillar of golden light rapidly approached the dao pill, and Han Li's expression darkened even further.

The pill tribulation had been weakened up to this point, but the effects were still too minimal.

Right at this moment, the pillar of golden light passed through the black flag immortal treasure, then began descending toward the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain.

At this point, there weren't many treasures left in its path.

Han Li took a deep breath, and 35 specks of golden light suddenly appeared over his body.

He was planning to unleash a secret technique that could stimulate the latent potential of his immortal acupoints, and it could take up to a century for him to recover from the repercussions, but he had no choice.

All of a sudden, a burst of faint buzzing rang out up above.

Han Li looked up to see what was happening, and a surprised look instantly appeared in his eyes.

As it turned out, the bright gray light released by the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain had formed a gray barrier that had managed to stop the seemingly unstoppable pillar of golden light in its tracks.

Neither the gray light nor the golden light seemed to be able to get the better of the other, and an elated look appeared on Han Li's face as he hurriedly abandoned the secret technique that he was just about to unleash.

He cast his gaze toward the gray light around the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain to find that it was giving off bursts of law power fluctuations, and this was the exact same type of law power that he had been trying to identify before.

It was this burst of law powers that had stopped the pillar of golden light cold in its tracks, and an enlightened look appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

The Integrated Five Extremes Mountain had the innate ability to weaken lightning tribulations, and he had refined it for the purpose of helping him transcend his ascension tribulation. This pill tribulation was most likely a type of lightning tribulation as well, so it was no wonder that the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain could pose meaningful resistance.

It seemed that this Integrated Five Extremes Mountain was a far more formidable treasure than he imagined.

The Integrated Five Extremes Mountain that he had initially refined had been quite powerful, but only in the context of the Spirit Realm, and it couldn't even have been considered to be an immortal treasure in the Immortal Realm.

However, Tao Yu had dedicated a large amount of resources to refining this treasures, and Han Li had been rather perplexed by this, but he now realized that Tao Yu had most likely been willing to invest so much into the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain as he was already aware that it would be very effective at warding off pill tribulations.

However, this wasn't the time to be pondering such matters.

The Integrated Five Extremes Mountain was able to keep the pillar of golden light at bay, but the pill tribulation was extremely formidable, and the gray light being released by the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain was slowly being overwhelmed.

However, at the same time, the pillar of golden light was also slowly shrinking.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he immediately cast aside all of his other treasures to focus solely on supporting the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain.

One treasure after another came clanging down onto the ground, but Han Li didn't spare them so much as even a single glance.

He had invested countless time, effort, and resources into refining this dao pill, and he certainly wasn't going to accept failure at the last hurdle.

Chapter 365: Undercurrents

The gray and golden light continued to clash in mid-air, causing a huge commotion while bursts of violent world's origin qi surged through the area.

Neither side was able to gain the upper hand, and an impasse had ensued.

However, as time passed, both the gray light released by the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain and the pillar of golden light were constantly being worn down.

Han Li's expression darkened slightly upon seeing this.

He didn't have much immortal spiritual power left, and even with the support of Immortal Origin Stones, he wasn't going to be able to keep this up for much longer.

What was even more concerning was that as it was warding off the pillar of golden light, the law power that the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain contained was constantly being whittled down. At this point, most of it had already been expended, so not only was it also not going to be able to last much longer, it was most likely going to take a very long time to recover after this.

Han Li took a deep breath while replenishing his immortal spiritual power reserves with the Immortal Origin Stone in his hand, while his other hand was still making a series of hand seals so that he could continue to support the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain with his immortal spiritual power.

All of a sudden, the mountain in mid-air abruptly shuddered, following which the gray light that it was radiating quickly faded.

The law power within the Integrated Five Extremes Mountain had finally been exhausted, and it was unable to oppose the pillar of golden light any longer.

Thankfully, at this point, the pillar of golden light had also been severely whittled down, and it struck the dao pill in a flash right after the gray light faded.

The dao pill shuddered violently once again as the two dao marks on its surface began to flash erratically.

At this point, Han Li's immortal spiritual power was close to running out as well, but he made one more last-ditch effort as a burst of dazzling golden light erupted out of the Mantra Treasured Axis behind him, then split up into several dozen strands of golden light once again before wrapping themselves around the dao pill, forming a fist-sized golden ball.

His face had turned deathly pale, and what little remained of his immortal spiritual power had been completely drained, so he wasn't going to be able to do anything else.

The golden ball shuddered while flashing erratically, and it looked as if it could explode at any moment.

Han Li was looking on with an anxious expression, but there was nothing more that he could do.

Right at this moment, Daoist Xie abruptly appeared behind him, then thrust its palms forward, releasing two pillars of golden light that surged into Han Li's body, filling his empty dantian with a burst of pure immortal spiritual power.

Han Li was ecstatic, and he immediately began making a string of hand seals, upon which the golden ball gradually stabilized itself.

Han Li heaved a long sigh of relief upon seeing this, and his Mantra Treasured Axis vanished alongside the golden ball at his behest, revealing the dao pill inside the latter.

Having transcended two pill tribulations, the dao pill appeared even brighter and more vibrant than before, the time law power fluctuations that it was giving off had also become more formidable.

However, there was no time for Han Li to give it a close inspection. The pill tribulation hadn't lasted a very long time, but it had caused a massive phenomenon, and it was sure to have attracted the attention of some nearby cultivators.

With that in mind, he quickly swallowed a pill, then carefully stored the dao pill into a jade box before turning around to give Daoist Xie a nod of gratitude.

"We have to get out of here. I can already sense people coming this way," Daoist Xie said as it transformed into a streak of golden light that vanished into Han Li's body.

Han Li didn't waste any time with words, sweeping a sleeve through the air to release a burst of azure light that stowed away all of the treasures on the ground, as well as the silver cauldron.

He then quickly swept his spiritual sense across the entire cave abode, and only after confirming that there was nothing left inside that could expose his identity did he fly out of the cave abode in a flash.

At this point, the vast golden cloud in the sky had already vanished, but the nearby sea was still slightly more turbulent than usual.

With a sweep of his sleeve, Han Li retrieved all of the array tools near the cave abode, which flew up his sleeve as streaks of light.

He then made a hand seal, and a burst of golden lightning erupted out of his body as he prepared to unleash his lightning teleportation array.

However, right at this moment, gusts of azure wind abruptly emerged out of thin air nearby amid a burst of spatial fluctuations.

In the blink of an eye, an azure array had taken shape, and it was giving off tremendous spatial power.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

The azure array was very similar to his lightning array, except it combined the powers of wind and space rather than lightning and space.

Some time was required to set up the lightning array, so it was already too late to get away without being detected by whoever was in the lightning array.

With these thoughts racing through his mind, Han Li immediately stopped in his tracks before flying back toward the cave abode.

At the same time, he put on his Transient Guild mask and adopted a disguise, transforming himself into a middle-aged man.

Mere moments later, a black-robed man with a thin and tall figure emerged within the azure array. His eyes were quite long and thin, as were his eyebrows, giving him a rather sharp and hostile disposition.

The enormous aura emanating from his body indicated that he was also a late-True Immortal cultivator.

Han Li stopped in his tracks before turning to the black-robed man with a surprised expression.

The man cast his gaze toward Han Li as well, and a wary look immediately appeared on his face.

"I don't recall seeing you around these parts before, Fellow Daoist. My name is Miao Yan, and I just so happen to have been cultivating nearby, so I decided to come here and check out the phenomenon that had just taken place. May I ask your name, Fellow Daoist?" Han Li said with a smile as he cupped his fist in a salute, putting on a friendly façade.

Despite his friendly demeanor, internally, he was very surprised.

He had never seen this person in the Black Wind Sea, and as far as he was aware, the island masters of Black Wind Island and Azure Feather Island were the only two late-True Immortal cultivators that were native to the Black Wind Sea.

Having said that, it was clear to Han Li that there were clearly other powers behind those two islands.

These thoughts were flashing rapidly through Han Li's mind while the black-robed man inspected his surroundings briefly, then turned his gaze back to Han Li as he replied in a rather cold voice, "My name is Ge Yu."

"I see. Did you also come here to investigate the phenomenon that had just taken place, Fellow Daoist Ge?" Han Li asked.

Ge Yu nodded in response, then took a meaningful glance at Han Li as he said, "I immediately came here using my teleportation array upon sensing what was happening here, and I thought I was already extremely fast, but it seems you were able to beat me here."

Han Li's smile remained unchanged as he explained, "My cave abode is just nearby, and I also immediately came here upon sensing the phenomenon, so I naturally got here a little faster."

"Is that right?" Ge Yu mused as he descended toward the cave abode.

Han Li hurriedly trailed along behind him, then pretended to explore the cave abode.

Having already conducted a thorough cleanup job earlier, there was no chance that anything of note would be discovered here.

Sure enough, the two of them quickly searched through the cave abode without discovering anything worthy of note.

"It looks like we're still too late, and whoever was here has already left. I wonder what they were doing to have triggered such a massive phenomenon. Could it be that some powerful treasure was created here? It seems like a bit of a stretch," Han Li mused with a perplexed expression.

Ge Yu merely took a glance at Han Li without saying anything.

Right at this moment, several streaks of light appeared on the distant horizon, then quickly flew onto the scene to reveal a group of cultivators, all of whom were at the early-True Immortal Stage.

Upon detecting the cultivation bases of Han Li and Ge Yu, all of the newcomers immediately chose to keep their distance.

Shortly thereafter, more cultivators arrived on the scene from different directions, and Han Li's expression remained unchanged upon seeing this, but internally, he was feeling a little uneasy.

The vast majority of these cultivators weren't Earthly Immortals, so they were clearly outsiders. It seemed that the situation in the Black Wind Sea was far more complex than he had anticipated, and it appeared that many True Immortals from the outside had entered this region during the years that he had been away.

Could it be that all of them had come to search for resources?

The problem with this theory was that while it was true that the Black Wind Sea was superior to the Spirit Realm, it was considered to be extremely lacking in resources in the context of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, and in this regard, it was inferior even to the Primordial Wave Continent.

"It looks like there's nothing here. The situation may become more complex with more people arriving on the scene, so I'll be taking my leave," Han Li said with slightly furrowed brows as he cupped his fist in a parting salute toward Ge Yu, then flew away as a streak of azure light.

Ge Yu remained on the spot and watched Han Li depart for a moment before also flying away himself as a gust of azure wind.

Only then did the other cultivators nearby begin to approach the island.

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Countless kilometers away, there was a stretch of ocean with an extremely dense cloud of black mist hanging over its surface, and the sky was also very dim.

A burst of spatial fluctuations emerged over the surface of the sea, following which a golden lightning array took shape with Han Li inside it.

He swept his spiritual sense through the surrounding area, upon which his expression eased slightly.

After leaving the island, he had teleported through the Black Wind Sea multiple times before arriving here, so even if there had been someone following him, he should've been able to shake them off his trail by now.

He took a glance at his surroundings, then abruptly swooped down toward the sea below, quickly descending to the seabed before sitting down with his legs crossed.

At this moment, his entire body was racked with sharp pain from using Daoist Xie's immortal spiritual power.

He set up a couple of restrictions, then swallowed a pill before closing his eyes to meditate.

Three days and three nights later, he opened his eyes before rising to his feet.

The discomfort in his body had already completely faded, and having endured this pill tribulation, he had gained a better understanding of the power of time as well, which should've been quite helpful in his bid to master the laws of time through consuming the dao pill.

With that in mind, a hint of excitement appeared in his eyes.

Chapter 366: Early Onset

Moments later, Han Li swept a sleeve through the air to remove the surrounding restrictions, then flew out of the sea toward his cave abode.

On the way back, he suddenly felt a dull and heavy sensation in his head.

What's going on? Could it be that I still haven't fully recovered?

He closed his eyes, planning to inspect his own internal condition, yet right as he activated his Spirit Refinement Technique, the enormous spiritual sense in his mind suddenly began to churn and surge violently without any warning.

It was as if there were countless tiny blades slashing through his mind with reckless abandon, and the onset of pain was so severe and abrupt that he couldn't help but let loose an agonized yell.

He threw his hands onto his own head, and his face instantly became as pale as a sheet.

Immediately thereafter, he stopped cold in his tracks, then plummeted straight out of the heavens, plunging into the sea down below like a dead weight.

His entire body was inundated by the cool seawater, yet it did nothing to relieve his pain, which was only worsening by the second. His sanity was gradually eroded by the agony, and a layer of faint crimson light had appeared over his eyes.

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Han Li reflexively tried to open his eyes, but he was feeling extremely groggy. He forced his own eyes open with great difficulty, but everything in front of him was an indistinct blur, and all he could hear were animalistic howls and roars ringing out around him.

These sound seemed to be able to penetrate directly into his mind, setting his blood alight. It was as if some long-repressed fury in his heart had finally risen to the fore, striking him with a sense of asphyxiation, and only by releasing all of this pent-up fury could he restore his own sanity.

His hands were swinging wildly through the air, throwing erratic punches and palm strikes in a frantic effort to release his unbridled frustration and fury.

He wanted to roar with all his might, but he couldn't hear anything over the chaotic commotion ringing out around him. As he continued to lash out aimlessly at his surroundings, the surrounding commotion was becoming louder and louder, and he seemed to have finally found an outlet through which he could vent his fury.

At this moment, his mind was completely blank.

As the commotion grew louder and louder, the fury in his heart slowly subsided, and he began to detect a strong bloody odor in the air.

Right at this moment, his vision began to slowly recover, and the first sight that he was greeted by was a vast expanse of bright red.

It was as if he had fallen into a boundless sea of blood.

On top of that, there were countless mangled carcasses of all types of different creatures strewn all around him, and it seemed that a horrific slaughter had just taken place here.

Right at this moment, a burst of sharp pain speared through Han Li's mind, and the clarity of his vision was finally completely restored.

He shook his head vigorously, slowly recovering from his stupor, and the clarity in his mind also returned.

In this instant, he felt completely feeble and powerless, and his entire body was throbbing with intense pain, as if he had just endured an extremely fierce battle.

However, as he raised his head once again to inspect his surroundings, he discovered that he was standing on an island, facing the turbulent sea up ahead.

He felt as if his memories were a little jumbled, and he couldn't recall anything from the time after he left the small island on which he had been engaging in dao pill refinement. Thus, he had no idea how he had ended up here.

He took a deep breath and closed his eyes, attempting to recollect what had happened up to this point, yet as soon as he attempted to do so, a burst of agony instantly shot through his mind once again.

He hurriedly abandoned this train of thought before shaking his head once again, and only then did the pain subside a little.

All of a sudden, a thought seemed to have occurred to him, and he turned around to look behind him, upon which he discovered that he was standing on quite a large island that was several dozen kilometers in size, but it was severely ravaged and on the verge of collapse.

At the center of the island was what was once a large mountain range, but it had been split in half down the center, and a huge lake had appeared over the entire island, with seawater gushing in to fill it.

All of the other mountains in the mountain range had also been destroyed, as had all of the vegetation on the island, and it was truly a horrific sight to behold.

A stunned look appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

At this point, most of the pain in his mind had already subsided, and he was able to release his enormous spiritual sense as normal to inspect his surroundings.

In doing so, he was shocked once again to discover that just like the island, the seabed down below had also been severely ravaged, riddled with many deep craters and trenches, as if it were a field that had been plowed.

There were some spots where the rifts were so deep that the magma beneath the earth had come gushing out, but at this point, it had already solidified.

Through his spiritual sense, Han Li was able to detect that this destruction had been wrought over an enormous area.

All of the islands within a radius of thousand of kilometers had been completely destroyed, with some having sunk down to the seabed, while others resembled tattered old rags, just like the one that Han Li was situated on.

Interspersed throughout the remnants of the islands on the seabed were many demon beast carcasses, all of which had been quite formidable, with no lack of Body Integration and even Grand Ascension Stage demon beasts among them.

All of them had been killed in extremely horrific fashion. A Grand Ascension Stage wyrm that was over 1,000 feet in length had been torn into seven or eight pieces, and its blood had stained a massive area of the sea red. Even in death, there was still a look of horror deep in its eyes.

Right at this moment, a bolt of golden lightning descended out of the sky, landing not far away from Han Li to reveal none other than Daoist Xie.

"What happened here, Brother Xie?" Han Li asked.

Daoist Xie was silent for a moment, then asked, "Do you not remember what just happened, Fellow Daoist? You're personally responsible for all of this destruction."

"Me?"

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, following which a hint of foreboding welled up in his heart.

"On the way back to your cave abode, it was as if you had suddenly gone insane. You went on a spree of destruction as if you had been possessed, and you completely lost your sanity. No matter how I tried to call out to you, you displayed no reaction," Daoist Xie explained.

Han Li was silent for a moment upon hearing this, then asked, "How long was I in that... deranged state?"

"About 15 minutes," Daoist Xie replied after a brief moment of contemplation.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face as he fell silent.

Thanks to this reminder from Daoist Xie, he was able to recall what had happened prior to this short bout of amnesia.

During his flight, he had suddenly been struck by a burst of sharp pain in the head, and after that, he had quickly lost consciousness, and the only thing that he could recall was that his heart had been overwhelmed by intense killing intent.

How did this happen? Could it be that I fell prey to some kind of sneak attack?

All of a sudden, a thought occurred to him, and he raised his head as he murmured to himself, "It's the Spirit Refinement Technique..."

At his current level of power, even a Golden Immortal wouldn't have been able to manipulate his mind like this without his detection.

Thinking back to what had just happened, the Spirit Refinement Technique was the only possible explanation.

After a brief moment of hesitation, he tried to activate his Spirit Refinement Technique, and he was instantly struck by a burst of intense agony in his mind that caused him to give an involuntary groan.

He hurriedly stopped what he was doing, and only then did the pain in his mind slowly subside.

That confirmed his suspicions that all of this had been caused by the Spirit Refinement Technique, and his expression darkened even further as he arrived at this verdict.

According to that immortal by the name of He Kang, [1] mastering the third level of the Spirit Refinement Technique should've ensured that he would be fine for the next 30,000 to 40,000 years. However, only less than 20,000 years had passed since he mastered the third level of the spiritual sense, so why had this spiritual sense crisis already arisen?

Had He Kang lied to him, or had some other factor resulted in this early onset of the spiritual sense crisis?

Han Li slowly exhaled as he composed himself.

In any case, seeing as the problem had already arisen, the most important thing for him to do now was to find a solution. Otherwise, he was going to be doomed to the fate of becoming a mindless barbarian who only knew slaughter and nothing else.

It was very fortunate that all of this had taken place in a very secluded area, and the duration of his deranged rampage had been quite short, perhaps due to the fact that this was only the first onset. Otherwise, he could've easily attracted a great deal of attention and landed himself in a huge amount of trouble.

Even though the crisis had been averted for now, there was no telling when he was going to enter that deranged state again, and that was clearly a very dangerous state to be in. Furthermore, according to what he had learned about the Spirit Refinement Technique in the past, these onsets of insanity were only going to become more prolonged with shorter intervals between each successive onset.

According to He Kang, the only way to resolve this issue was to cultivate the fourth level of the Spirit Refinement Technique.

Back in the Blaze Dragon Dao, Han Li had conducted some research into the Spirit Refinement Technique, but he had thought that he would have at least 20,000 to 30,000 years before the onset of the spiritual sense crisis, and he had many other matters to attend to at the time, so he hadn't been very diligent in his research.

According to what he had learned, there were very few records pertaining to the Spirit Refinement Technique in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, and it had been a very long time since the last crisis that had arisen from the Spirit Refinement Technique, so very few people even knew about the forbidden technique.

The Blaze Dragon Dao's Merit Conveyance Palace did carry the Spirit Refinement Technique, but it was listed as a forbidden scripture that couldn't be accessed by anyone other than the dao lords. On top of that, the Merit Conveyance Palace only carried the first three levels of the cultivation art, so that wouldn't have helped Han Li anyway.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face as his brows became tightly furrowed.

Even a major sect like the Blaze Dragon Dao didn't have the second half of the Spirit Refinement Technique, so where was he supposed to find it in the Black Wind Sea?

Chapter 367: Taking the Pill

Han Li remained standing on the spot for a moment in silence, and Daoist Xie didn't say anything, either, merely hovering in front of him.

All of a sudden, a thought seemed to have occurred to him, and he flipped a hand over to produce an azure tiger mask.

He looked at the mask in his hand for a moment with a contemplative look on his face, then stowed it away again.

Immediately thereafter, he stowed Daoist Xie away as well before flying away into the distance as a streak of azure light.

Several days later.

Han Li appeared in the sky above his cave abode, and after sweeping his spiritual sense briefly over the area, he heaved an internal sigh of relief.

None of the restrictions around the island appeared to have been touched at all, and the entrance of the cave abode was also tightly sealed. It seemed that no one had been here since he last left.

He swooped down and vanished into the restrictions in a flash, quickly entering the cave abode.

After briefly visiting all of the areas in the cave abode, he made his way into his secret chamber.

Once there, he swept a sleeve through the air, and a yellow light barrier emerged to encompass the entire secret chamber.

Only then did Han Li put on the azure tiger mask before activating the Transient Guild array plate projection. Right as he was about to release a mission, he stopped what he was doing.

Even though it was virtually impossible to track someone down in the Transient Guild using their mask alone, he had already been using this tiger mask for quite some time, so continuing to use it would only incur unnecessary risk. Hence, it would be best to find an opportunity to switch to a different mask in the future.

With that in mind, Han Li quickly released a mission searching for the second half of the Spirit Refinement Technique.

Due to the fact that the Spirit Refinement Technique was considered to be a forbidden art in the Immortal Realm, he only provided a very vague description of what the cultivation art was, mentioning that it had a significant enhancement effect on one's spiritual sense without actually directly mentioning its name.

However, anyone who had cultivated the Spirit Refinement Technique or were aware of it would definitely be able to tell that he was referring to none other than the Spirit Refinement Technique.

For this mission, Han Li offered quite a substantial compensation and even left room for negotiation if one weren't satisfied with the reward.

After that, he stowed the mask away before heaving a faint sigh.

Given his current circumstances, all he could do was rely on the Transient Guild for now to see if there were any solutions. If he couldn't find any, then perhaps he would have to venture out of the Black Wind Sea.

Back when he first joined the Transient Guild, it had provided him with many pleasant surprises, but as his cultivation base increased, the problems that he was facing also changed, and the Transient Guild was gradually becoming unable to fulfill all of his needs.

For example, it had taken a very long time to secure the supplementary ingredients required for the dao pill, and he was hoping that he wouldn't be disappointed once again.

He shook his head to rid himself of that train of thought, then closed his eyes and activated his Spirit Refinement Technique.

His enormous spiritual sense began to circulate throughout his mind, starting fast before slowing down.

As this happened, Han Li felt a cool and refreshing sensation in his mind without any discomfort, and it was as if that spiritual sense crisis had been nothing more than a distant dream.

This was quite a relief, indicating that his spiritual sense had already returned to normal. He didn't know when the next spiritual sense crisis was going to strike, but it most likely wasn't going to be anytime soon.

With that in mind, Han Li flipped a hand over to produce an azure jade box, then applied a few golden talismans to it.

Even with the talismans acting as a seal, there were still faint law fluctuations emanating from the box, and it contained none other than the dao pill that he had just refined.

He looked at the jade box for a moment, then set it aside before closing his eyes again, preparing to prime himself into his best condition.

As he reopened his eyes three days later, his immortal spiritual power and spiritual sense were all in peak condition, and his heart was also as still as a calm lake.

With a sweep of his sleeve, Daoist Xie was released amid a flash of golden lightning, and Han Li said, "Brother Xie, this is quite an obscure location that we're in, but I'll need you to keep a lookout for me again as a safety precaution."

Daoist Xie remained silent as he nodded in response, then vanished into thin air amid a flash of lightning.

Meanwhile, Han Li swept his sleeve through the air once again, and a dense azure light barrier appeared over the door of his secret chamber before fading away in a flash.

Only after doing all of this did Han Li pick up the jade box from the ground again, and he removed the talismans on its surface before lifting its lid to reveal the golden dao pill inside.

He gently picked up the dao pill between two of his fingers and gave it a close inspection before swallowing it.

In the next instant, his brows instantly became tightly furrowed in pain, and at the same time, vibrant golden light was radiating from his body.

Immediately thereafter, the Mantra Treasured Axis appeared behind him, revolving on the spot while also radiating dazzling golden light.

All 360 Time Dao Runes on the axis were also glowing brightly while rapidly revolving, giving off far brighter radiance than usual.

At the same time, a golden dao mark appeared over Han Li's body, one that was identical to the dao mark on the dao pill.

A few seconds later, a second golden dao mark appeared, and both were giving off bright golden radiance that illuminated his entire body a faint golden color.

The light that was radiating from the dao marks were filled with countless golden runes, all of which were giving off indescribably formidable law power fluctuations.

Han Li's entire body was inundated by these golden runes, and his eyes were tightly shut as he made a rapid string of hand seals.

Five years passed by in the blink of an eye.

The entire island that Han Li's cave abode was situated on was still enshrouded under multiple restrictions that completely concealed it, and it would've been impossible to uncover the island's exact location unless one were in direct contact with it.

This morning, a series of ripples suddenly appeared on the calm surface of the sea, and it was gradually getting closer.

A loud splash then rang out as the upper half of a white sea beast emerged from the waves, slowly swimming toward the island.

The beast had a pristine white body that looked as if it had been carved out of jade, and it was none other than the Pig Dolphin Beast.

At this point, it had already completely consolidated its Deity Transformation Stage cultivation base, and its eight legs were giving off a faint white light while acting as two rows of oars that were propelling it quickly through the water.

After making a breakthrough to the Deity Transformation Stage with Han Li's assistance, it had been in seclusion in its cave abode this entire time.

Not long ago, it had consolidated its own cultivation base, and it had immediately come out of seclusion, hoping to meet Han Li again.

While Pig Dolphin Beasts weren't particularly formidable, they possessed an innate ability that granted them heightened sensitivity to all types of spiritual qi fluctuations, and they also liked to collect ore and spirit materials.

This time, it had brought its entire collection with it, and it was hoping that it could exchange its collection for some more benefits from Han Li.

It didn't take long before the Pig Dolphin Beast had swam a lap around the island. The island had disappeared, and there was an invisible barrier standing in its way.

The barrier was quite gentle and soft, but it was also just as unyielding.

It wasn't overly surprised by this, and it knew that these restrictions had to have been set up by that almighty human cultivator, so it naturally wasn't going to try and barge its way in by force.

However, it seemed that it wasn't going to be able to meet Han Li this time.

With that in mind, the Pig Dolphin Beast took a couple more glances in the direction of the island, then turned to swim away, but right at this moment, a burst of enormous energy fluctuations suddenly emerged to encompass the entire island and the nearby area.

The energy fluctuations were extremely formidable, striking the Pig Dolphin Beast with the impression that it was facing the wrath of the entirety of heaven and earth.

It began to tremble uncontrollably, but it didn't dare to move even a single inch, and at the same time, the nearby world's origin qi suddenly became extremely chaotic and turbulent, forming numerous golden spiritual qi vortexes of different sizes, some of which were in excess of an acre in area, while others were only the size of human fists.

Regardless of what size they were, all of the golden vortexes had countless radiant golden runes swirling within them, and the entire sea was filled with these golden vortex, producing what appeared to have been a golden spirit cloud that wasn't any smaller than the one that had taken shape during the pill tribulation.

The countless swirling golden vortexes presented a stunning sight to behold, and formidable law power fluctuations were spreading out of the golden vortex in all directions.

All of a sudden, all of the golden vortexes converged toward a certain spot like the receding tide.

In the blink of an eye, all of the golden vortexes had disappeared without a trace, and all that remained was a massive thread of golden light that was several dozen kilometers in length hanging in the sky.

The thread of light was quite translucent and was gently swaying from side to side as if it were a living creature.

Countless golden runes of different sizes were dancing over its surface, and it was giving off a burst of deafening rumbling alongside extremely formidable law power fluctuations.

Even though it was only a single thread of light, it seemed to contain more power than all of the countless golden vortexes combined, and it was swaying in the air like a giant dragon that was imbued with boundless power.

All of a sudden, all of the golden light and runes around the thread of light quickly faded, and the thunderous rumbling also gradually subsided.

All that remained was a golden thread of light that was suspended peacefully in mid-air.

It had become even more translucent in appearance, and the time law power fluctuations that it was releasing had also become more formidable.

Furthermore, in contrast with before, the time law power that it was giving off at this moment wasn't chaotic in the slightest. Instead, it was extremely profound and complied perfectly with the natural order.

Just like before, the thread of light continued to sway gently from side to side, but this time, all of the space in its wake seemed to have been completely frozen and immobilized.

This was very similar to the time-slowing effect of the Mantra Treasured Axis, but also seemingly a little different somehow.

Right at this moment, a burst of golden light flashed past the cave abode down below, and the thread of light in the sky suddenly shrank down before vanishing into the cave abode in a flash.

The phenomenon in the nearby area instantly subsided, and everything returned to normal.

The Pig Dolphin Beast stared blankly in the direction of the island for a moment, then hurriedly plunged headfirst into the sea, frantically swimming back to the coral island.

The phenomenon that had just taken place had been quite a spectacle to behold, but it was far smaller in its scale and impact than the dao tribulation, so it didn't attract much attention.

Chapter 368: You're Awake

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the Immortal Realm.

This was a space that was filled with countless golden clouds of different sizes, filling the entire area with radiant golden light.

These golden clouds were drifting up and down incessantly while also constantly taking on all types of unidentifiable forms, presenting a mesmerizing sight to behold.`

On top of one of the golden clouds was an enormous golden stone plaque that was over 100,000 feet tall, and it was radiating bursts of golden light that were swirling incessantly.

A series of golden designs were inscribed upon the stone plaque, and they appeared to have been some type of runes, filling virtually the entirety of the plaque.

These golden runes varied in size and brightness, but generally speaking, the larger tended to be brighter as well.

The largest of the runes were the size of houses, giving off resplendent golden light, while the smallest ones were only fist-sized and were also quite dim.

Some of the golden runes were completely still, while others were flashing incessantly while giving off formidable time law power fluctuations.

Right at this moment, the stone plaque suddenly began to glow with dazzling golden radiance while also emitting a sharp screeching sound.

A new line of golden text then appeared on a blank spot near the bottom of the stone plaque, and the line of text was also gently flashing with golden light.

It didn't take long before the golden radiance emanating from the stone plaque subsided, and everything returned to its original state.

All of a sudden, countless specks of golden light appeared out of thin air in front of the giant plaque, and it formed a huge golden eye, following which an indistinct and emotionless voice rang out, one that didn't sound male or female.

"It looks like one more person had mastered the laws of time..."

The voice echoed in the space for a while before fading away, and in the next instant, the giant golden eye also disintegrated into specks of golden light again.

.....

Inside the secret chamber of his cave abode, Han Li's entire body was basked in radiant golden light, while his Mantra Treasured Axis was slowly revolving behind him.

Hovering above his head was a translucent golden thread that was around a foot in length, and it was slowly swaying from side to side like a spirit snake.

Even though it had been shrunk down by countless orders of magnitude, the time law power fluctuations that it was giving off hadn't abated in the slightest, and it was filling the entire secret chamber, influencing everything around it.

Aside from Han Li and the golden light that was radiating from his body, everything else in the secret chamber appeared to have been completely still.

Han Li opened his eyes, and a hint of excitement appeared on his face as he looked at the translucent thread above his head.

The process of mastering the laws of time had been quite an arduous one, and it had taken him several years just to digest the dao pill.

After that, it had taken him several more years to master the laws of time thanks to the power of the dao pill.

During this period, several mishaps had occurred, but thankfully, he was quite well prepared and had a large supply of precious pills that allowed him to weather the storm.

Furthermore, even though his past attempts to master the laws of time had ended in failure, he had gotten a little closer every single time, and that had assisted him in this process. It was only thanks to a combination of all of these factors that he had managed to succeed in this endeavor.

After mastering the laws of time, everything had become different. He could sense that he had attained a special understanding of this mysterious power, and his interpretation of the Mantra Axis Scripture had also changed.

The clearest sign of this was that he felt a greater sense of control over his Mantra Treasured Axis.

In the instant that he attained this time law thread, he had even gleaned a trace of the passage of time in the entire world around him.

Only after a long while did the excitement in his heart slowly subside, and he made a hand seal, upon which the golden light radiating from the translucent golden thread vanished.

Everything in the secret chamber instantly returned to normal, and as he continued to make more hand seals, the golden thread began to transform according to his will, elongating, shrinking, and even tying itself into knots at Han Li's behest.

The different forms that it took on also had an impact on the time law powers that it was giving off, and an intrigued look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

It seemed that this time law thread was far more profound than he anticipated, but he would have plenty of time to examine it in the future.

Maintaining the time law thread was very taxing on his immortal spiritual power, so he was just about to stow it away when a thought suddenly occurred to him, and he flipped a hand over to summon his Heaven Controlling Vial instead.

He had examined the vial countless times in the past without any notable outcomes, but now that he had mastered the laws of time, perhaps he would be able to glean some more of the Heaven Controlling Vial's secrets.

With that in mind, Han Li took a deep breath, yet before he had a chance to do anything, the Heaven Controlling Vial suddenly began to glow as radiantly as a green sun, then flew out of his grasp before hovering in mid-air.

At the same time, the Mantra Treasured Axis behind Han Li also brightened considerably while revolving rapidly, and the golden time law thread shot forth into the axis in a flash.

The light radiating from the Mantra Treasured Axis had become 10 times brighter than normal, and all of its Time Dao Runes had lit up in unison.

The Eye of Truth quickly took shape at the center of the axis, and even though the eye was still closed, it was also radiating dazzling golden light with countless golden runes flashing around it.

Han Li's expression changed slightly upon seeing this, but he remained still on the spot, refraining from doing anything.

Just like last time, he could sense that the Heaven Controlling Vial, the Mantra Treasured Axis, and even the time law thread were no longer under his control.

A hint of anticipation welled up in his heart.

Whenever something like this happened, he almost always stood to benefit, so he was eager to see what was going to unfold this time.

All of a sudden, the Heaven Controlling Vial and the Mantra Treasured Axis began to resonate with one another, and the light that they were giving off became brighter and brighter, while bursts of formidable energy fluctuations began proliferating outward in all directions.

Right at this moment, the Eye of Truth sprang open, and the time law thread shot out from within before vanishing into the Heaven Controlling Vial.

The surface of the Heaven Controlling Vial instantly began to glow a radiant green color, and it rapidly swelled to the size of a millstone.

Countless green runes appeared on its surface, surging up and down while flashing incessantly like stars in the night sky.

All of a sudden, the green runes rose up from the surface of the vial before converging inside it to form a green cloud that was churning incessantly, with a vortex slowly taking shape within it.

A burst of special energy fluctuations were emanating out of the green cloud, and they weren't particularly formidable, but the space around the Heaven Controlling Vial was rippling violently.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon seeing this, and right at this moment, the green cloud within the Heaven Controlling Vial transformed into a thick pillar of green light that erupted outward.

Countless bursts of translucent light emerged, forming the same translucent wall of light from before.

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

While it was true that the wall of light was clearly something quite profound, he was hoping that the Heaven Controlling Vial would be able to display something different this time, but that didn't seem to have been the case.

However, he then noticed that a green vortex design had appeared on the wall of light, and it was the same green vortex that had previously appeared inside the vial.

The wall of light shuddered as countless streaks of light flashed over its surface, and the green vortex suddenly began to flash, devouring all of the streaks of light as it began to rapidly expand.

Initially, it was only around the size of a washbasin, but in just a few seconds, it had swelled to the size of a house.

A burst of tremendous suction force erupted out of the vortex to envelop Han Li's entire body, and he could sense that his body wasn't being affected by this burst of suction force at all, but in the next instant, his spiritual sense was pulled involuntarily out of his mind and into the vortex.

Before he had a chance to do anything, he felt a burst of sharp pain in his head, immediately following which he fell unconscious.

An indeterminate amount of time passed by before Han Li slowly regained consciousness and opened his eyes.

He was greeted by the sight of a dilapidated ceiling that was riddled with cobwebs and holes, through which he could see the sky overhead.

He could also hear something indistinct, but it was also very loud.

At this moment, his entire body was racked with agony, and even lifting a finger felt like a herculean task.

He turned his head to the side with great difficulty, and in doing so, he discovered that he was laying on a bed in what appeared to have been a dilapidated temple.

As for the sound that he was hearing, it was coming from a yellow-robed young boy with light golden skin, and he was knelt down by his bedside, sobbing in grief.

Han Li was completely dumbstruck upon seeing this.

Where is this place? Wasn't I in my cave abode examining the Heaven Controlling Vial? How did I end up here?

Han Li tried to recall what had happened, but all of a sudden, he was struck by a splitting headache, causing him to reflexively throw his hands onto his own head as he gave a muffled groan.

Thankfully, the pain subsided in an instant, and he had only just heaved a sigh of relief when his expression abruptly stiffened.

Just now, a stream of chaotic and alien memories had flooded into his mind.

These memories were fragmented and incomplete, yet before he had a chance to examine them, the young boy beside his bed had heard his muffled groan, and he immediately raised his head with an ecstatic expression despite the tears that were still swimming in his eyes.

"Master, you're awake!"

Chapter 369: Master and Disciple

Master?

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this.

He didn't recall ever accepting such a disciple, but for some reason, the young boy looked a little familiar to him.

"I knew you'd be alright, Master! I managed to get two Dragon Gall Flowers from Master Zhen, and I've already brewed them into medicine. I'll fetch it for you right now."

The young boy hurriedly wiped the tears from his face as he rose to his feet and made his way outside.

Han Li looked on with a dazed expression as the young boy departed, then took a glance down at his own body, only to be stunned to find that he had become a thin and withered old.

He was wearing an azure daoist robe, and his hands were as wizened as a pair of old tree branches.

What happened? How did I suddenly age so much? What is this place, and who is that boy?

A string of questions flashed through Han Li's mind, none of which he had an answer for.

At this moment, the pain in his body had mostly abated, and he struggled up into a seated position, pressing a hand against the edge of the bed for support.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he hurriedly began inspecting his own internal condition, upon which he became even more concerned.

It had become clear to him that this body definitely wasn't his, but for some reason, he seemed to have possessed it.

On top of that, this body had suffered extremely severe internal injuries to its organs. In particular, it had fallen prey to a type of lethal poison.

With Han Li's normal cultivation base, he would've been able to recover from these ailments in a very short time, but this body only possessed a late-Foundation Establishment Stage cultivation base, so it was completely unable to suppress the poison and these internal injuries.

In other words, this body didn't have much life left in it, and it was only a matter of time before it met its demise.

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face as he took a deep breath, then drew upon which little remained of the magic power in this body before flicking a finger through the air.

A series of water droplets instantly appeared in the surrounding air, then converged toward the space in front of him to form a mirror of water that was around a foot in size, through which Han Li was able to see the reflection of an elderly daoist priest with a white beard.

He then swept a hand through the air to scatter the mirror before falling into deep thought.

At this point, the pain in his head had mostly faded, and he had recalled what had previously happened.

The time law thread, his Mantra Treasured Axis, and the Heaven Controlling Vial seemed to have resonated with one another from that wall of light, and the vortex on the wall of light seemed to have sucked his soul into this place.

Could this be some type of illusion?

Han Li raised his head to inspect his surroundings, only to find that everything around him was extremely realistic, with no signs of any illusion being present.

If this isn't an illusion, then what could it be?

More snippets of memories began to surface in Han Li's mind, and he attempted to sort through them.

Before long, he had already examined all of those memories, and an enlightened look appeared on his face.

These memories belonged to none other than the elderly daoist priest whose body he was currently possessing.

The daoist priest's name was Ling Yunzi, while the young boy just now was his only disciple, Li Yuanjiu.

Ling Yunzi sustained severe injuries during a fight over a spirit plant, and even though he was able to escape, his injuries were too severe, and he perished not long ago.

However, Han Li's soul had somehow possessed this recently deceased body, leading Li Yuanjiu to the false conclusion that his master had been resurrected.

All of a sudden, Han Li noticed something to his left.

Suspended in mid-air there was a very indistinct golden axis that was virtually completely invisible, and he wouldn't have been able to notice it had he not just so happened to have looked in that direction.

The golden axis was none other than his Mantra Treasured Axis, and the 360 Time Dao Runes on its surface were gently flashing.

At this point, around two dozen of the Time Dao Runes had already dimmed, and with each second that passed, one more Time Dao Rune would fade, just like last time the wall of light had been conjured up.

Han Li's mind was racing, and he seemed to have grasped onto something, but it was unclear to him exactly what it was.

Right at this moment, the sound of footsteps rang out as Li Yuanjiu hurried into the room, carefully holding a clay bowl with both hands. The bowl contained a black medicinal liquid that was giving off a pleasant aroma, and Li Yuanjiu carried the bowl to the bed as he said, "Drink this medicine, Master."

Han Li took a glance at the medicine, and he could see that the spiritual qi fluctuations that it contained weren't insignificant, indicating that the ingredients used had to have been quite precious for a Foundation Establishment cultivator.

"Put it here, I'll drink it later," Han Li said as he slowly stood up from the bed.

"Master, you're carrying severe injuries right now, you need to rest!" Li Yuanjiu hurriedly said.

"Don't worry about me, I know my own body," Han Li said with a dismissive wave of his hand.

He had already grown accustomed to his body, so he was able to move in it just fine.

After taking a moment to gather his bearings, Han Li made his way out of the room.

Li Yuanjiu couldn't help but feel as if his master were acting a little strange, but he didn't dare to say anything as he set down the bowl of medicine and hurriedly followed Han Li outside.

Upon emerging from the dilapidated temple, Han Li discovered that it was situated on a mountaintop that was surrounded by more lush mountains, presenting a piece of fine scenery.

However, this mountain range was rather secluded, and the calls of wild animals could occasionally be heard, while the world's origin qi here was also quite sparse.

Han Li released his spiritual sense to inspect the surrounding area.

For some reason, even though this body's cultivation base was very much lackluster, it seemed to have inherited much of Han Li's enormous spiritual sense, and he was quickly able to assess everything within a radius of several thousand kilometers.

However, the entire area was filled with more mountain ranges, and he was unable to ascertain his current location.

"Are you alright, Master?" Li Yuanjiu asked as he followed Han Li outside.

"Where is this place, Yuanjiu?" Han Li asked.

"Th... This is the Mulan Mountain Range where we've always been cultivating. Why would you ask this, Master?" Li Yuanjiu asked with a puzzled expression.

"My memories are a little jumbled right now, perhaps due to my injuries," Han Li explained.

A concerned look appeared on Li Yuanjiu's face upon hearing this, but before he could say anything, Han Li continued, "Don't worry, it's not a major problem. Let me ask you this: which immortal region is this Mulan Mountain Range situated in?"

"The Mulan Mountain Range is situated on the Bramble Wood Continent of the Golden Origin Immortal Region," Li Yuanjiu replied.

Han Li had never heard of the Golden Origin Immortal Region before, but it was definitely outside of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

With that in mind, a contemplative look appeared in his eyes.

He cast his gaze to the left to find that the Mantra Treasured Axis projection had also followed him outside, and close to 100 of its Time Dao Runes had already faded.

"Master, I think you should rest. After you recover from your injuries, we can go back and exact our vengeance on those bastards!" Li Yuanjiu said as he gritted his teeth in fury.

He and Ling Yunzi were from a sect by the name of the Iron Beast Sect in the Mulan Mountain Range, and Ling Yunzi was the son of one of the sect's elders, but unfortunately, his aptitude was quite mediocre, and he was unable to reach the Core Formation Stage, something that he had received much disdain and heckling for over the years.

Li Yuanjiu was an abandoned infant that Ling Yunzi had picked up during one of his outings, and he had raised Li Yuanjiu before accepting the boy as his disciple.

Ling Yunzi knew that his own cultivation aptitude was mediocre, so he gave all of his cultivation resources to Li Yuanjiu, but unfortunately, Li Yuanjiu's aptitude wasn't much better, and he was still stuck at the Qi Condensation Stage.

Even though they were master and disciple, they were just as close as any father and son.

Back when Ling Yunzi's father was still alive, he and Li Yuanjiu were still able to get by in the sect, but several years ago, Ling Yunzi's father had perished during a battle against a formidable foe.

As a result, Ling Yunzi and Li Yuanjiu's statuses in the sect had plummeted, and they were deprived of all cultivation resources before being kicked out of the sect altogether.

Thus, the two of them had become itinerant cultivators.

Li Yuanjiu's aptitude wasn't anything special, but he worked extremely hard in his cultivation, and he had recently reached the pinnacle of the Qi Condensation Stage, bringing him to the cusp of the Foundation Establishment Stage.

The two of them had ventured into a perilous area to search for a type of spirit plant that was very helpful for making breakthroughs, and they had searched for about a month before finally finding the spirit plant, then went through a great deal of effort to slay the demon beast that was guarding the plant.

During the battle, Ling Yunzi had sustained some severe injuries.

However, a group of Iron Beast Sect cultivators had arrived on the scene just then, and they were led by the son of another elder who had constantly been at odds with Ling Yunzi back when he was in the sect.

Those people had taken the spirit plant, and in his attempt to stop them, Ling Yunzi's injuries had been even further compounded.

If it weren't for a life-saving talisman that he had been carrying, he and Li Yuanjiu would've most likely been slain right there and then.

Han Li didn't have much of Ling Yunzi's memories left in his mind, but they were enough to tell a story, and he heaved a faint sigh as he said, "The path of cultivation is a cruel and heartless one where only the strong get to live, while the weak are left to die. Your cultivation base is insufficient right now, so don't think about revenge. You'll only be throwing your life away for nothing."

"Yes, Master," Li Yuanjiu replied as he lowered his head with a dejected expression.

Han Li turned to the boy and swept his spiritual sense through the boy's body, upon which he was surprised to discover that Li Yuanjiu possessed a false spiritual root just like himself, one that possessed four out of five attributes, with only the metal attribute missing. [1]

Hence, it was no wonder that his rate of cultivation progress was so slow. However, just like Han Li, his spiritual sense was also quite formidable for his cultivation, and Han Li couldn't help but wonder if this was just a coincidence or if this meeting had been pre-ordained by fate.

"Yuanjiu, I haven't been able to help you much in your cultivation, and you've been made to suffer by my side all this time. I don't have much time left, and I'm going to bestow upon you a secret technique now. Make sure to work hard in your cultivation and live up to the high hopes I have for you," Han Li suddenly said.

Li Yuanjiu was horrified to hear this, and he hurriedly waved his hands in response. "No, Master! I don't want any secret technique, I just want you to live!"

A stern look appeared on Han Li's face as he said, "Yuanjiu, cultivators like ourselves are constantly attempting to defy the natural order, but my time in this world has already run out, and heaven and earth can no longer tolerate my existence. If you want to make something out of yourself and do me proud, then listen up."

Li Yuanjiu still wanted to say something further, but Han Li didn't give him another chance to speak, sweeping a sleeve through the air to release a burst of spiritual light that vanished into the boy's head in a flash.

Chapter 370: Karma and Fate

The burst of spiritual light scattered in Li Yuanjiu's mind into countless tiny runes that revolved around his head, containing none other than the Great Development Technique. [1]

Li Yuanjiu's entire body instantly stiffened, and before long, his eyes rolled over into the back of his head as he fell unconscious and collapsed to the ground.

Han Li swept a sleeve through the air to release a burst of spiritual light that picked up Li Yuanjiu before carrying him into the dilapidated temple.

"It seems you and I were fated to meet here, and I'm temporarily borrowing the body of your master, so I'll give you this Great Development Technique as compensation," Han Li said in an indifferent voice before preparing to fly away.

However, a hint of surprise then appeared on his face, and he discovered upon a closer inspection that Li Yuanjiu also possessed a remarkable spirit physique, except it hadn't yet been awakened.

Following a closer examination, a hint of intrigue arose in Han Li's eyes, and he swept his sleeve through the air once again to send another streak of spiritual light flying into Li Yuanjiu's body.

"So be it. It's not every day that I get to meet someone so similar to myself, so I'll give you a bit more assistance."

The streak of spiritual light split up into two in Li Yuanjiu's mind, and one of them exploded into countless tiny runes that depicted another cultivation art, namely Heavenbearing Devil Arts. [2]

This cultivation art was something that Han Li had obtained from Man Huzi, [3] and at the time, he had promised to find Man Huzi a disciple so that the Heavenbearing Devil Arts wouldn't be lost, but he had never been able to find a suitable candidate.

On top of that, he had been busy preparing for a Deity Transformation Stage breakthrough at the time, so he had set the matter aside, and even now, he still hadn't fulfilled that promise.

As it turned out, Li Yuanjiu's spirit physique was perfect for the Heavenbearing Devil Arts.

As for the other streak of spiritual light, it shrank down into a tiny speck of light and hid itself in a corner of Li Yuanjiu's mind.

That speck of light contained another cultivation art that came from the same origins as the Provenance True Devil Arts and the Heavenbearing Devil Arts.

However, the seal on it would only be undone once Li Yuanjiu reached the Deity Transformation Stage someday.

However, the path of cultivation was always one that was fraught with peril and unpredictability, so the chances of Li Yuanjiu reaching the Deity Transformation Stage before his lifespan ran out were slim to none, even with the assistance of the two cultivation arts, and his mediocre aptitude certainly wasn't going to help his cause, but Han Li had already done everything that he could for the boy.

He hadn't intended to offer the boy any assistance, but he couldn't help but be moved by Li Yuanjiu's devotion to his master.

With that in mind, Han Li heaved an internal sigh, shaking his head as he directed his gaze away from Li Yuanjiu.

Han Li cast his gaze into the distance, then made a hand seal as he released his enormous spiritual sense over the surrounding area once again.

All of the world's origin qi in a radius of several dozen kilometers instantly converged to form a white cloud.

This was a secret technique that he had previously learned, allowing him to forcibly draw upon the world's origin qi with his spiritual sense.

This secret technique was very taxing on one's spiritual sense, but this body possessed far too little magic power, and Ling Yunzi wasn't carrying any storage tools, either, presumably having lost them during the prior battle, so if he didn't use this secret technique, then he wouldn't even be able to fly.

Han Li drifted up into the air before landing on the cloud, and the white cloud churned slightly before hurtling away at an incredible speed as a streak of white light.

The matters concerning Li Yuanjiu were largely inconsequential. What was important for him was to find out as much about this place as he could as there had to have been some reason that he had ended up here.

With that in mind, he began to scour the surrounding area with both his eyes and his spiritual sense, but after flying for a while, he discovered that the entire area was completely mundane and unremarkable.

He cast his gaze to the left, where the Mantra Treasured Axis projection remained hovering by his side, and at this point, close to half of the Time Dao Runes on its surface had already faded.

His brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and he made a hand seal, upon which the white cloud beneath him accelerated significantly.

A short while later, he suddenly stopped in his tracks, then cast his gaze toward an obscure valley down below.

On a mountain face deep within the valley was a giant purple flower the size of a millstone. Its petals were extremely large and thick, and they were of a very vibrant reddish-purple color.

There were also some red feelers among the flower petals, at the top of which were a series of fist-sized water droplets that were giving off a sweet and fragrant aroma.

Han Li descended in front of the giant purple flower atop his white cloud, and an intrigued look appeared on his face.

This flower was clearly a spirit plant, and the aura that it was giving off was very similar to that of the Blood Crystal Lotus Root.

The purple flower was swaying gently in the wind, and Han Li hesitated momentarily before flicking a finger through the air, sending a gust of fierce wind sweeping toward the flower.

The giant purple flower shuddered, and all of its feelers instantly shot forth like lightning, elongating significantly before intertwining to form a large net that descended upon Han Li.

Of course, Han Li wasn't going to fall prey to something like this, and his white cloud shot back like lightning to evade the flower's feelers.

The feelers waved around in the air while the flower's petals began moving like a giant mouth, producing a faint screeching sound that expressed its rage and frustration.

After thrashing around for a while, the feelers quickly shrank back down to their original length, while the purple flower petals also stopped moving.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon seeing this, and a contemplative look appeared in his eyes.

The flower was indeed quite a remarkable spirit plant, but there was nothing else particularly special about it.

Thus, he promptly departed, flying out of the valley before continuing onward.

As he did so, he was surprised to discover more and more of those giant purple flowers appearing in the mountain range, but none of them were being picked.

He was rather perplexed by this, but he didn't stop to investigate. Instead, he continued to make more hand seals to further accelerate the speed of his flight.

Judging from the number of Time Dao Runes that remained lit on his Mantra Treasured Axis, he didn't have much time left.

After flying for a while longer, a look of surprise and elation suddenly appeared on Han Li's face, and he quickly drew to a halt in front of a col.

Within the col was a cluster of buildings, and there were many restrictions that were flashing with spiritual light set up in the area. There were also some streaks of light flying through the air, and this was a sect.

From Ling Yunzi's memories, Han Li learned that this was none other than the Iron Beast Sect.

He quickly began to chant an incantation while making a hand seal, and his spiritual sense surged out of his body, forming a series of invisible ripples around him.

All of the surrounding world's origin qi also converged to form a layer of transparent spiritual light around him, following which he quickly descended onto a plaza in the sect.

He continued to search through Ling Yunzi's memories while casting his gaze toward a mountain to his right, and atop that mountain stood an azure pavilion, which had the brightest of all restrictions in the sect around it.

This was the Iron Beast Sect's scripture library, and it contained all types of cultivation arts and scriptures.

Han Li flew toward the pavilion before quickly descending in front of it, but his brows furrowed slightly at the sight of the restriction around the building.

The restriction wasn't particularly advanced, and under normal circumstances, he would've been able to bypass or remove it with ease.

However, the magic power in this body was simply far too lackluster, and his immense spiritual sense wasn't going to help him much when it came to bypassing restrictions.

Right at this moment, a streak of light arrived from afar, descending in front of the scripture library as well.

The streak of light then faded to reveal a middle-aged man who was the early-Core Formation Stage, and there was a look of haughtiness and arrogance about him.

Before Han Li even had a chance to take a closer look, his body abruptly shuddered, and an overwhelming sense of fury and resentment welled up in his heart.

This man was the very same person who had severely wounded Ling Yunzi not long ago.

Even though Ling Yunzi had already perished, what remained of his will in this body still harbored intense resentment toward this man.

"Don't worry, I've been using your body, so I'm naturally obliged to fulfill some of your wishes," Han Li mused internally as he cast a cold gaze toward the middle-aged man.

All of a sudden, the man shuddered as a chill ran down his spine, and he hurriedly looked around, but was unable to find anything.

He then swept his spiritual sense through the area several times, but to no avail, once again.

"What the hell!" he murmured to himself with tightly furrowed brows, then raised a hand to release an azure talisman into the restriction.

At the same time, he demanded in an arrogant voice, "Open the restriction! I've come here to retrieve something under orders from the sect master!"

A gray-robed elderly man appeared within the restriction, and a hint of disdain flashed through his eyes, but he then quickly put on a warm smile as he said, "Please wait a moment, I'll open the restriction for you right away, Administrator Wang."

He pulled out a badge as he spoke, and a burst of light shot out of the badge, upon which an opening appeared in the restriction.

"Can you not have done that a little faster? How slow can you be?" the middle-aged man harrumphed coldly before flying into the scripture library without even sparing a glance at the gray-robed elderly man.

The gray-robed elderly man's expression darkened slightly as he swept his badge through the air, and the opening on the restrictions was instantly sealed.

However, what they had failed to notice was that a transparent figure had also flown into the scripture library in the instant right before the opening was sealed.