

A Record 391

Chapter 391: Saved

Some time later, the Lightning Bird appeared somewhere within the Soul Stirring Winds amid a flash of silver lightning, but the arcs of silver lightning around its body had already diminished significantly.

All of a sudden, the Lightning Bird retracted its wings before reverting back to its human form.

Right at this moment, the space no more than 10,000 feet away shuddered, immediately following which the giant ghostly head emerged amid a vast expanse of black flames.

A grim look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

Continuing to run away like this was simply going to be futile, and even though he didn't want to use Daoist Xie, he had no choice but to do so.

With that in mind, arcs of golden lightning emerged over his body, and Daoist Xie was getting ready to strike at any moment.

The giant ghostly head seemed to have also sensed something, and a serious look appeared in its eyes.

Right at this moment, the black mist behind it was abruptly stirred up into a frenzy, following which a ball of dazzling yellow light shot out from within.

It was an ovular burst of yellow light that was over 100 feet in size, and it was revolving rapidly as it hurtled through the air.

Furthermore, the yellow light was very dense, making it impossible to clearly identify what was inside it, and it was giving off formidable energy fluctuations.

As soon as the burst of yellow light appeared, a streak of crimson light with countless crimson runes flashing within it immediately shot forth.

All of the crimson runes then converged to form a translucent crimson thread that shot into the giant ghostly head at an astonishing speed, piercing through the black flames around it with ease.

The crimson thread was so fast that only after it had flown into the giant ghostly head did it realize what had happened, upon which it instantly swung around.

Right at this moment, a resounding boom suddenly rang out from within the ghostly head, and it immediately stiffened, following which the black flames around it began to churn violently.

Another resounding boom rang out as a pillar of crimson flames exploded out of the ghostly head like a volcanic eruption, sending waves of scorching heat sweeping in all directions.

In the span of just a few seconds, the entire ghostly head disintegrated into a vast expanse of black flames.

A sharp screech rang out from deep within the black flames, following which a black shadow flew out from within, then sped away into the distance, vanishing out of sight in the blink of an eye.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly as blue light flashed within his pupils, and he was able to catch a glimpse of the black shadow.

It was a humanoid creature with a disproportionately large head, and it was wielding the very same trident that Han Li had previously been attacked by.

Unfortunately, the black shadow had fled too quickly for Han Li to get a good look at it.

Han Li withdrew his gaze as he turned his attention to the ball of yellow light. At the same time, he flew back in retreat while making a hand seal, and the Seven Bright Star Rings immediately emerged from his body.

The seven rings hovered around him, forming an orderly star array, and all of the rings were releasing dazzling starlight that connected together to form a starlight restriction.

Even though the ball of yellow light had helped him force the ghostly head into retreat, he was not so naive to believe that this was an ally, so he had to take the necessary safety precautions.

Meanwhile, the ball of yellow light swiveled around slightly, then faded to reveal a yellow flying boat that was around 40 to 50 in length.

It resembled a flying dragon, and it seemed to have been constructed from some type of yellow spirit wood.

At the front of the boat were embedded a pair of bright yellow egg-sized ovular crystals that were giving off a special type of law fluctuation, but Han Li wasn't able to identify the crystals.

There were two people standing next to each other on the flying boat, one of which was none other than Daoist Hu Yan!

There was a rectangular object on his back that was enveloped within a yellow cloth. The object was around a foot in length, and the yellow cloth seemed to be able to keep out spiritual sense, making it impossible for Han Li to see what was beneath it.

Standing beside Daoist Hu Yan was none other than Yun Ni, and a stunned look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

"Elder Hu Yan! Elder Yun Ni!"

"I sensed from afar that a battle was taking place here, so I decided to come and take a look, but I certainly wasn't expecting to see you here," Daoist Hu Yan chuckled.

Meanwhile, Yun Ni merely nodded at Han Li without saying anything.

"I was also not expecting to meet the two of you here," Han Li said with a smile as he made a hand seal to withdraw the starlight restriction around him.

Daoist Hu Yan was his closest acquaintance back in the Blaze Dragon Dao, and the two of them had been quite close.

Ever since the incident back in the Blaze Dragon Dao, Han Li had been keeping tabs on news pertaining to Daoist Hu Yan, but he certainly wasn't expecting to run into him here.

"Looks like we really are connected by fate," Daoist Hu Yan mused with a smile.

"Thank you for stepping in and forcing that black shadow into retreat, Elder Hu Yan," Han Li said as he cupped his fist in a grateful salute.

"Don't worry about it, I just so happened to be passing through anyway. Speaking of which, how did you end up being pursued by that Yin Wraith? That thing is not easy to deal with, and you're extremely fortunate not to have been devoured by it," Daoist Hu Yan said with a serious expression.

"So that's what it's called. That thing was indeed quite formidable. Do you know its origins, Elder Hu Yan?" Han Li asked.

"Yin Wraiths are a type of creature unique to this area. It's impossible to ascertain their exact cultivation base, but even the average Golden Immortal would struggle to escape the fate of being devoured by one. However, these creatures generally only appear in the deepest parts of the Soul Stirring Winds, so it's very rare to see one so far on the outskirts," Daoist Hu Yan mused with a befuddled expression.

"In any case, these Yin Wraiths are quite powerful, but they're not very intelligent, so now that this one's fled in retreat, it won't come back," Daoist Hu Yan continued.

"That's good to hear. If I hadn't run into the two of you here, I would've most likely met my demise," Han Li replied as he extended a grateful nod.

"Now that we're no longer in the Blaze Dragon Dao, I think it would be best to do away with the 'elder' title," Daoist Hu Yan said with a meaningful expression.

Han Li nodded in agreement.

He had joined the Reincarnation Palace, while Daoist Hu Yan was most likely already a member of the Reincarnation Palace, so they were once again part of the same organization, but Han Li chose not to reveal this information.

"I saw a while back that you've also become a wanted fugitive of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, Fellow Daoist Li. I must say, I feel a little guilty about this. If we hadn't been so close back in the Blaze Dragon Dao, you wouldn't have been implicated by connection," Daoist Hu Yan said in an apologetic voice.

"The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace isn't actually after me because of my connection to you. Instead, I have other differences with the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace," Han Li explained in an ambiguous manner.

"I see. Hold on a minute, have you already reached the pinnacle of the True Immortal Stage? No wonder you were able to ward off that Yin Wraith," Daoist Hu Yan said with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

Yun Ni had been standing beside Daoist Hu Yan in silence this entire time, and she was clearly also quite taken back to hear this.

"I was simply very fortunate to have made some progress in my cultivation since we last met," Han Li replied in a humble manner.

"Back when you first joined the Blaze Dragon Dao, you were still only at the early-True Immortal Stage, yet you've reached the pinnacle of the late-True Immortal Stage in just a few centuries since then. I've never heard of anyone in the entire Northern Glacial Immortal Region making such rapid progress!" Daoist Hu Yan exclaimed with an incredulous expression.

"You're far too kind, Senior Hu Yan. I was only able to make such fast progress by obtaining some pills by chance," Han Li explained, once again intentionally keeping things very ambiguous.

"Is that so? I suppose with the right pills, one can indeed significantly enhance their rate of cultivation progress," Daoist Hu Yan mused with a thoughtful expression.

Han Li heaved an internal sigh of relief upon seeing this.

Thanks to the Heaven Controlling Vial, he was able to make rapid progress in his cultivation, but the downside was that this incredible progress could attract much suspicion from those who had known him over any substantial period of time.

With that in mind, Han Li didn't want to linger on this topic, so he quickly changed the subject. "By the way, what are you two doing here?"

"After escaping from the Blaze Dragon Dao, we've constantly been in hiding from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, but on this occasion, we have to make a trip to the Black Wind Sea for an important matter, but the teleportation array is closed indefinitely, so we had no choice but to pass through these Soul Stirring Winds," Daoist Hu Yan explained.

"I see," Han Li replied with a contemplative nod.

"Why are you also here, Fellow Daoist Li? Could it be that you just came from the Black Wind Sea?" Yun Ni suddenly asked.

"That's correct, Senior Yun Ni. The Black Wind Sea is not a very safe place at the moment," Han Li replied.

A hint of elation flashed through both Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni's eyes upon seeing this, and that certainly didn't escape Han Li's attention.

"Why did you come to a place as secluded as the Black Wind Sea in the first place, Fellow Daoist Li?" Yun Ni asked.

"Prior to joining the Blaze Dragon Dao, I actually stayed in the Black Wind Sea for some time. After becoming a wanted fugitive of the Immortal Palace, I decided to lie low for a while, so I came back to the Black Wind Sea, and I've been able to cultivate in relative peace for the past few centuries. However, there's been a great deal of unrest in the Black Wind Sea of late, and it's no longer safe for me to stay there, so I decided to leave. I also decided to cross through the Soul Stirring Winds due to the

inaccessibility of the teleportation array, but it seems I was overconfident in my own powers," Han Li said with a self-deprecating expression.

"What's been happening in the Black Wind Sea recently?" Daoist Hu Yan asked.

Chapter 392: Imminent Emergence of the Immortal Manor

Daoist Hu Yan swept a sleeve through the air to release a streak of red light as he spoke, and the streak of light flew toward Han Li before hovering in front of him.

Han Li focused his gaze on the streak of red light to discover that it contained a golden jade vial that was giving off a faint medicinal aroma.

"This is a vial of Six Profound Pills that are very effective for both recovery and restorative purposes. It must've been quite a taxing journey for you through these Soul Stirring Winds, so these pills will be perfect for you," Daoist Hu Yan said.

"I appreciate the kind gesture, Senior Hu Yan, but I can't accept these pills. You've already saved me from that Yin Wraith, so I certainly can't ask for compensation just for answering a few simple questions," Han Li said with a shake of his head as he returned the jade vial to Daoist Hu Yan, who stowed it away again without raising any objections.

After a brief pause, Han Li gave Daoist Hu Yan a recount of what he had seen in the Black Wind Sea, as well as revealing that cultivators of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace had appeared on Black Wind Island.

However, he made no mention of the fact that he had joined the Reincarnation Palace. After all, even though he speculated that Daoist Hu Yan was also a member of the Reincarnation Palace, this wasn't something that Daoist Hu Yan had ever openly admitted to.

Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni listened to what he had to say with contemplative looks on their faces, and they didn't appear overly surprised, as if they had already anticipated that all of this would happen.

"It seems like the two of you already expected all of this to happen in the Black Wind Sea," Han Li remarked with a smile.

Daoist Hu Yan raised an eyebrow upon hearing this, while Yun Ni took a glance at him, and both of them remained silent.

"If you don't want to answer the question, then just pretend as if I never asked," Han Li said with a faint smile.

"It would be rude of us to keep secrets, given how candid you've been with us, Fellow Daoist Li," Daoist Hu Yan said after a brief moment of contemplation.

"Hu Yan!" Yun Ni's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this.

"It's fine. Fellow Daoist Li is no stranger to us, and perhaps we may need his help for what we're going to do," Daoist Hu Yan said in a meaningful voice.

Yun Ni didn't say anything further upon hearing this.

"What do you mean by that, Senior Hu Yan? If there are some complicated circumstances involved, then I'm happy to be kept in the dark," Han Li said with slightly furrowed brows.

He was trying to stay out of trouble as much as possible at the moment.

"Don't be so quick to jump to conclusions, Fellow Daoist Li. What I'm about to tell you could be a brilliant opportunity," Daoist Hu Yan said with a hint of mystery in his voice.

"Alright, then please go ahead, Senior," Han Li prompted.

"You just mentioned the increased frequency of natural disasters taking place all over the Black Wind Sea just now, and there's actually a reason for that. To put it in simple terms, an immortal manor is about to emerge, and that's causing a disturbance in the spirit veins in the region. The cultivators of the

Northern Glacial Immortal Palace have also come precisely for this immortal manor, and that is our objective as well," Daoist Hu Yan revealed.

Han Li was quite taken aback to hear this, but at the same time, this answered some of the questions that had been on his mind of late.

This explained all of the strange actions that had been taken by Black Wind Island and Azure Feather Island, as well as the sudden appearance of Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators in the Black Wind Sea.

The Origin Void Pill that he had refined for Wyrn 3 most likely had something to do with this immortal manor as well.

With all these thoughts racing through his mind, Han Li took a deep breath to collect himself, then continued to listen to Daoist Hu Yan had to say.

"This immortal manor is called the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, and it's a cave abode that was left behind by an almighty senior referred to as the Infernal Frost Immortal Lord countless years ago. It's impossible to ascertain just how many years it's been, but it was said that this immortal lord had gone to great lengths to seal this immortal manor in a spatial rift before vanishing without a trace.

"After that, once every few tens of thousands of years, the immortal manor would appear somewhere in the Northern Glacial Immortal Realm. Inside the immortal manor are countless precious treasures, pills, cultivation arts, and even immortal treasures. It could be said that it's the number one treasure trove of the Northern Glacial Immortal Realm," Daoist Hu Yan continued, and at the same time, he was observing Han Li's expression.

However, Han Li's reaction was rather unexpected to him. Aside from the initial surprise that Han Li had displayed, he had remained quite calm thereafter.

Han Li was silent for a moment, then asked, "Could it be that the opportunity you were referring to earlier is the opportunity for me to accompany the two of you into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor?"

"Precisely! Are you not interested, Fellow Daoist Li?" Daoist Hu Yan asked.

Instead of answering Daoist Hu Yan's question, Han Li said, "It sounds like the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor has already existed for countless years, so it must've emerged quite a few times in the past. Even if there were many precious treasures inside, surely they would've already all been taken at this point."

"You don't have to be concerned about that, Fellow Daoist Li. The immortal manor is rife with restrictions, and it's not easy to obtain the treasures inside. There have been many who have bitten off more than they could chew and lost their lives in the immortal manor, and the possessions that they left behind have added to the treasures waiting to be claimed.

"On top of that, it's said that someone discovered an independent area within the immortal manor during its last opening, and no one knows they found in that area," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Instead of displaying any excitement upon hearing this, Han Li fell silent once again.

Daoist Hu Yan didn't try to rush Han Li into a decision, merely waiting in silence as he pondered the offer.

"Thank you for the invitation, Senior, but as the saying goes, risk and reward always come hand in hand, and I'm not prepared to take such a risk right now, so I'll have to turn down the offer this time," Han Li decided after some deliberation.

His top priority right now was to find a way to reach the Golden Immortal Stage, and accompanying Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni into this Infernal Frost Immortal Manor was only going to lead him astray.

Most importantly, the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace had also sent many cultivators into the Black Wind Sea on this occasion, with no lack of Golden Immortals among them, and if they were to uncover his identity, then the immortal manor would most likely become his final resting place.

Daoist Hu Yan seemed to have gleaned Han Li's thoughts, and he asked, "Are you worried about encountering Immortal Palace cultivators inside the immortal manor?"

Han Li nodded in response. "I am but a mere True Immortal cultivator, and I'll be completely powerless to defend myself if I encounter any Immortal Palace cultivators."

Furthermore, both Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni were also wanted fugitives of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, so accompanying them into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor would only further increase his chances of exposure.

"There's no need to be concerned about that. I know that you've also joined the Transient Guild, and the disguises that can be adopted using Transient Guild masks are so profound that even Golden Immortal won't be able to see through them easily. If we disguise ourselves as a trio of itinerant cultivators, I'm sure the cultivators of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace wouldn't be able to identify us.

"On top of that, there are always many powers that send cultivators into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor whenever it emerges, and that includes the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect. The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace may be formidable, but they'll have their hands full dealing with their competitors, so they won't be able to target itinerant cultivators like the ones we'll be posing as," Daoist Hu Yan said.

"Are you saying that the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect have also sent people to the Black Wind Sea?" Han Li asked as a hint of surprise appeared on his face.

"The top three sects of our Northern Glacial Immortal Region have never been absent from such an occasion. Even though the Blaze Dragon Dao is no longer the force it once was, the other two sects are relatively unaffected, and I'm sure they've already sent people to the Black Wind Sea upon receiving wind of the immortal manor's imminent emergence.

"Additionally, due to what happened to the Blaze Dragon Dao, the other two sects are harboring more enmity toward the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace than ever before, and there's a decent chance that they'll join forces to target the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace in the immortal manor," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

"So essentially, the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace will be too busy dealing with them to focus on us, is that correct?" Han Li asked.

"That's right," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a nod.

Han Li fell into deep thought upon hearing this.

Daoist Hu Yan did have a point. After all, not only was the Immortal Palace at odds with the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect, it also had the Reincarnation Palace to worry about.

It was very likely that Wyrn 3 was also planning to venture into the immortal manor, and with so many enemies at every turn, it was very likely that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace would be completely preoccupied.

Daoist Hu Yan could tell that Han Li was beginning to warm to the idea, so he continued, "On top of that, there are many treasures in the immortal manor, and at your current cultivation base, perhaps you'll be able to find an opportunity in there that can help you break through to the Golden Immortal Stage."

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this, and he asked, "Are there really treasures in the immortal manor that can help one make progress to the Golden Immortal Stage?"

"I've only heard rumors that they exist, but I'm inclined to believe those rumors. After all, there has been a past instance of someone in the immortal manor finding a cauldron full of premium pills that can enhance the cultivation base of Golden Immortals," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

"It sounds like you don't know too much about the immortal manor yourself, Senior. Perhaps there are some precious treasures in there, but I really don't want to risk my life for what could possibly be nothing more than a pipe dream," Han Li said after some contemplation.

"That's a reasonable viewpoint. Cultivators like us do everything in our power to mitigate risk as much as possible. Having said that, you're currently cultivating the Mantra Axis Scripture, right?" Daoist Hu Yan asked.

Han Li didn't know why this question was being raised, but he still nodded in response. "That's correct."

"I presume you're not familiar with the origins of this cultivation art, right?" Daoist Hu Yan asked with a mysterious smile.

"Please enlighten me, Senior Hu Yan," Han Li said as he cupped his fist in a salute.

"The Mantra Axis Scripture may be the premier cultivation art of the Blaze Dragon Dao, but it doesn't come from the Blaze Dragon Dao. Instead, it was taken by Dao Lord Baili from a sect called the True Mantra Sect many years ago," Daoist Hu Yan revealed.

Chapter 393: Return

Han Li nodded in response to this revelation, and he wasn't overly surprised.

Even though this was the True Immortal Realm, it wasn't much different in nature from lower realms in that there were still conflicts constantly taking place between cultivators, and every single day, there were countless sects being destroyed, with their treasures and cultivation arts being plundered.

With that in mind, Han Li chose to remain silent. Daoist Hu Yan had clearly mentioned this topic for a reason, and there had to have been a follow-up.

Sure enough, after a brief pause, Daoist Hu Yan continued, "What I want to tell you is that there are more than just three levels of the Mantra Treasured Axis. Instead, the full cultivation art has nine levels."

Han Li's expression instantly changed drastically upon hearing this.

After reaching the pinnacle of the late-True Immortal Stage, he had begun planning for this future cultivation once he reached the Golden Immortal Stage, and he had tried to search for cultivation arts related to the laws of time that were beyond the True Immortal Stage, but to no avail. Hence, he was naturally extremely excited to hear that there were more parts of the Mantra Axis Scripture.

Han Li took a deep breath to suppress his own excitement, then asked, "In that case, why did Senior Baili declare that there were only three levels to the Mantra Axis Scripture?"

"Even in the context of the entire True Immortal Realm, cultivation arts related to the laws of time are exceedingly rare, and those that can support one's cultivation to the Golden Immortal Stage are already extremely sought-after. If it were revealed that the Mantra Axis Scripture had more than three levels, then endless troubles would've most likely awaited the sect," Daoist Hu Yan explained.

"That does make sense," Han Li mused with a contemplative nod.

"On top of that, Dao Lord Baili only obtained the first six levels of the cultivation art, and at the moment, I have all six levels in my possession," Daoist Hu Yan revealed.

Han Li's expression remained unchanged, but internally, he was growing rather excited as he asked, "What do you need me to do, Senior Hu Yan?"

"All you need to do is accompany us into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor and help me obtain a certain item. After that, I'll give you the latter three levels of the cultivation art," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a smile.

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

Meanwhile, Daoist Hu Yan stood calmly with his hands clasped behind his back, seemingly completely unconcerned by the possibility that Han Li could reject him.

A long while later, Han Li raised his head as he said, "If what you're telling me is true, then I'm certainly open to considering the offer. However, I have to make sure that you really do have the latter three levels of Mantra Axis Scripture in your possession."

Daoist Hu Yan faltered slightly upon hearing this, then nodded in response as he flipped a hand over to produce a jade slip. After that, he cast a few incantation seals into the jade slip before tossing it at Han Li.

Han Li caught the jade slip before briefly inspecting its contents with his spiritual sense, then nodded as he declared, "This indeed a continuation of the Mantra Axis Scripture."

Only the first few lines of the jade slip were revealed to him, but having already mastered the first three levels of the Mantra Axis Scripture, he was naturally able to identify from those few lines whether this was the fourth level of the cultivation art.

"In that case, do we have ourselves an agreement?" Daoist Hu Yan asked with a smile.

"Before I answer that, I have a question that I'd like to ask you," Han Li replied.

"Go ahead, Fellow Daoist Li," Daoist Hu Yan prompted.

"I am just a True Immortal cultivator, and my powers are far inferior to yours, so even if I accompany you into the immortal manor, I struggle to see how I can offer you any meaningful assistance. I'm sure there must be a reason why you're willing to offer me such substantial compensation for my participation, and I want to know that reason," Han Li said.

"Even if you hadn't asked me this question, I would've explained it to you. I've already told you just now that I'm entering the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor in order to obtain a certain item. During this process, my chances of success will be significantly increased if I can benefit from the assistance of your Mantra Treasured Axis," Daoist Hu Yan explained.

"If it's a precious treasure that you're going after, then there will surely be people fighting over it. Will that not put us in a dangerous situation?" Han Li asked as his brows furrowed slightly.

"There will definitely be some danger, but the Mantra Axis Scripture is an extremely precious cultivation, so you can't expect to obtain it without taking any risk. Of course, we'll do everything in our power to keep you safe, but I can't make any promises beyond that," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Han Li still seemed to be rather hesitant upon hearing this.

"How about this? As a show of sincerity, as long as you're willing to enter the immortal manor with us, I can give you the fourth level of the Mantra Axis Scripture right away, and after we obtain the item that I'm searching for, I'll give you the subsequent two levels," Daoist Hu Yan said.

Han Li contemplated the matter for a moment longer upon hearing this, then nodded in agreement to the offer.

"Alright, in that case, we have ourselves an agreement. Rest assured, you can count on me to follow through on my promises," Daoist Hu Yan said with a smile.

"That was never a concern for me, Senior Hu Yan. We've known each other for many years, and I'm well aware of your integrity and character," Han Li replied with a smile of his own.

"Come and board our flying boat, Fellow Daoist Li. We're still inside the Soul Stirring Winds right now, and this is not a place anyone should stay in for an extended period of time," Daoist Hu Yan said as he made an inviting hand gesture.

Han Li duly obliged, flying onto the yellow flying boat, and Daoist Hu Yan made a hand seal, upon which the entire flying boat began to radiate dazzling yellow light, forming a ball of yellow radiance that encompassed the entire boat.

Immediately thereafter, the ball of yellow light set off at a remarkable speed, and it was giving off type of special energy fluctuations that seemed to be capable of suppressing Soul Stirring Winds, as evidenced by the fact that all of the Soul Stirring Winds in the path of the ball of yellow light instantly parted to grant it free passage.

Sitting on the flying boat, Han Li was surprised to discover that he was unable to hear the sounds of the Soul Stirring Winds at all.

It seemed that this flying boat had similar properties to his Wind Shelter Bead, except those properties were significantly more enhanced in the former.

With that in mind, he began to carefully inspect the flying boat, particularly the three yellow crystals embedded into the boat.

Yun Ni noticed what Han Li was looking at, and she explained, "Those crystals come from the remains of Evil Warding Beasts."

"Evil Warding Beasts? The same beasts that are said to be able to bring luck and ward off misfortune?" Han Li asked with a hint of surprise in his eyes.

He had seen records of this type of beast in some ancient scriptures in the past. It was said that these beasts possessed the innate ability to suppress all evil entities, thereby earning itself a resounding reputation in the True Immortal Realm.

It was also said that those who had such a beast by their side would always be blessed with good fortune, and for this reason, Evil Warding Beasts had been hunted to near extinction many years ago.

"I don't know if Evil Warding Beasts can bring good fortune or not, but Hu Yan used their remains to refine this flying boat, and quite evidently, it's very effective at warding off Soul Stirring Winds," Yun Ni replied with a faint smile.

"I see, as expected of a man of Senior Hu Yan's talents. By the way, where is Bai Suyuan right now?" Han Li asked.

"Yuan'er had already left the Blaze Dragon Dao prior to the preaching ceremony, and she's currently cultivating in a safe place," Yun Ni replied.

"That's good to hear," Han Li replied with a nod.

At the mention of Bai Suyuan, Han Li couldn't help but think of Meng Qianqian and the others. In order to avoid exposing his own identity, he hadn't contacted them at all since last parting ways with them.

However, everyone had to forge rely on themselves in life, and perhaps Meng Qianqian and the others could carve out their own paths without his protection.

Han Li shook his head to rid himself of this train of thought, then closed his eyes and began to cultivate.

Three days passed by in the blink of an eye.

It only took the flying boat three days to cover the same distance that had taken Han Li about half a month to travel.

The three of them were standing in mid-air, looking at the sea up ahead, and Daoist Hu Yan mused, "So this is the Black Wind Sea..."

"The Black Wind Sea is on the outskirts of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, so the world's origin qi here is naturally far sparser than elsewhere. At the moment, we're on the northwestern border of the Black Wind Sea. Here are some maps of the entire region," Han Li said as he pulled out a pair of jade slips before handing them to Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni.

Daoist Hu Yan accepted the jade slip before injecting his spiritual sense into it, upon which he raised an eyebrow as he remarked, "It looks like the Black Wind Sea is quite a massive region."

"The Black Wind Sea may be secluded, but it's no smaller than the average continent," Han Li agreed with a nod.

Daoist Hu Yan's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing, and he stowed the jade slip away before flipping a hand over to summon a blue scroll, upon which was a piece of scenic artwork.

"That's an Infernal Frost Scenic Painting!" Han Li exclaimed as his gaze fell upon the blue scroll.

"Oh? How do you know that, Fellow Daoist Li?" Daoist Hu Yan asked with a surprised expression.

"I once saw this item being sold in a secret auction held before the preaching ceremony, but that one had been an incomplete artwork, yet even so, it had still been purchased for a very high price. Could it be that you were the one who purchased the item?" Han Li asked.

"An Infernal Frost Scenic Painting was sold at an auction before the preaching ceremony? This is the first time I've heard about this. However, I obtained this artwork from elsewhere, so it's definitely not the same as the one that you saw," Daoist Hu Yan said with a surprised expression.

"Does that mean there are two of these Infernal Frost Scenic Paintings? Also, judging from its name, it seems to have something to do with the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, is that right?" Han Li asked.

"That's right. In order to enter the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, you must have an Infernal Frost Scenic Painting, so it acts as a key of sorts. According to my knowledge, there are a total of eight of these paintings.

"The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, the Dawn Fall Sect, the Vast Flow Palace, and the Blaze Dragon Dao all have one each, while the remaining four are missing. The one that you saw during that auction must've been one of those four," Daoist Hu Yan mused.

Chapter 394: Temporary Separation

Han Li was enlightened upon hearing this.

It was no wonder that the mysterious red-robed female cultivator had been willing to pay such a high price for an incomplete Infernal Frost Scenic Painting. With that in mind, Han Li couldn't help but wonder which organization she was affiliated with.

"You just mentioned that the Blaze Dragon Dao also has one such painting. Could it be..."

"That's right, the Blaze Dragon Dao currently no longer has an Infernal Frost Scenic Painting. The painting has always been in the possession of Dao Lord Baili, but now that Dao Lord Baili and I have both left the sect, we naturally took the painting with us," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a smile.

Han Li shook his head as he heaved a faint sigh. "At the height of its powers, our Blaze Dragon Dao was ranked alongside the likes of the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect, with 13 Golden Immortal dao lords and thousands of True Immortals among its ranks, as well as countless subsidiary powers.

"If Dao Lord Ouyang and the others hadn't colluded with the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, there was no way that the Immortal Palace would've been able to do anything to our Blaze Dragon Dao."

Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni's expressions both darkened slightly upon hearing this, and it was clear that this was still something that weighed on their mind.

"To be honest, what you saw was only a surface-level picture. In reality, deep-rooted conflicts had already been raging between the 13 dao lords for a very long time, and if it wasn't for Dao Lord Baili, the Blaze Dragon Dao would've been left in the dust by the Vast Flow Palace and the Dawn Fall Sect long ago. There's no point in mentioning this now, let's focus on the matter at hand," Daoist Hu Yan sighed.

With that, he began to chant an incantation while making a rapid string of hand seals, and streaks of blue light flew out of his hands to form a circular array projection that was radiating dazzling blue light.

After that, Daoist Hu Yan swept a hand through the air, and the Infernal Frost Scenic Painting that he was holding flew through the air as a streak of blue light before landing at the center of the array in a flash.

Wisps of blue light that resembled clouds and mist instantly began to rise up from the artwork, and a glacial aura also began to spread through the surrounding area, causing the nearby air temperature to plummet.

In the blink of an eye, the surface of the sea within a radius of several dozen kilometers down below had frozen solid, while snowflakes were drifting through the air.

The Infernal Frost Scenic Painting was hovering at the center of the array, and the latter was revolving around the former.

The two were resonating with one another, and the blue light that they were radiating intertwined together before flashing in a rhythmic fashion, as if they were detecting for something.

A hint of curiosity appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this, but he didn't ask any questions as he didn't want to distract Daoist Hu Yan.

As for Yun Ni, he wasn't very familiar with her, so he naturally wasn't going to ask her any questions, either.

Moments later, Daoist Hu Yan swept a sleeve through the air, and the entire blue array projection instantly disintegrated into specks of blue light that were then scattered in the wind.

The light radiating from the Infernal Frost Scenic Painting also faded before it returned to Daoist Hu Yan's grasp.

At the same time, the glacial aura in the air also receded, but the surface of the sea down below remained frozen solid.

"How are things looking?" Yun Ni asked.

"Judging from the current signs, there should be roughly three or four years left until the immortal manor emerges," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Han Li took a glance at the blue scroll that Daoist Hu Yan was holding upon hearing this. It seemed that this painting wasn't just a key.

"What about the exact location?" Yun Ni asked.

"I'm unable to detect it from here, so we must be too far away. Thankfully, we still have time. We can decide on a few locations on the map, then try again from those places," Daoist Hu Yan replied.

Yun Ni nodded in response.

Daoist Hu Yan turned to Han Li as he asked, "Do you have any plans, Fellow Daoist Li? We still have some time left, would you like to stay with us or make some preparations on your own?"

Han Li considered his options for a moment, then replied, "If I'm going to be accompanying the two of you into the immortal manor, then it would be best for me to make some preparations, so I think I'll go off on my own for now."

"That's probably a good idea. The immortal manor is fraught with peril, so it would be in your best interests to make some preparations," Daoist Hu Yan replied with a nod.

He then flipped a hand over to produce a palm-sized red array plate before handing it to Han Li as he continued, "Find a safe place, and if you need anything from me, contact me using this Bonfire Plate."

Han Li accepted the array plate to find that there was a flame design emblazoned on its surface, and he nodded in response before stowing it away.

After that, Daoist Hu Yan cautioned Han Li not to be discovered by cultivators from the Immortal Palace, then promptly departed with Yun Ni.

Han Li lingered in the area for a moment longer, then flew away in a different direction as a streak of azure light.

Half a month later.

Han Li emerged near Dark Veil Island amid a flash of azure light.

He took a glance at the island to find that all of the restrictions were still in place, indicating that the island remained in lockdown.

He then withdrew his gaze before flying away into the distance.

On the surface of the sea not far away from Dark Veil Island was an enormous vortex that was rumbling like thunder. All of the seawater within a radius of tens of thousands of kilometers were converging toward the vortex before being sucked into it.

Han Li flew straight into the sea, and before long, he arrived on the seabed.

Within a blue restriction sat his Earthly Deity Avatar with its eyes closed and its legs crossed, and there was a water law thread hovering above its head, slowly revolving in the same direction as the vortex up above.

The surrounding seawater was constantly converging toward the vortex before being rapidly converted into drops of heavy water, and at this point, there was already a ball of heavy water the size of a human head between the Earthly Deity Avatar's palms.

The ball of heavy water didn't appear to be remarkable in any way upon first glance, but Han Li could clearly sense that it was different.

In particular, its density far exceeded that of heavy water of the first level.

Han Li flew into the blue restriction as an azure shadow, then sat down with his legs crossed.

With only three or four years left, he couldn't be bothered to search for another place to go into seclusion, so he decided to return to Dark Veil Island.

He made a beckoning motion, and the ball of second level heavy water flew out of his avatar's grasp before landing in front of him.

Just this small ball of second level heavy water was already as heavy as a mountain that was several thousand feet tall.

Han Li closed his eyes as he released his spiritual sense, and he could sense tremendous water-attribute spiritual power surging out of the ball of second level heavy water, striking him with the false impression that he was currently standing in front of a vast lake.

He opened his eyes, and a pleased look appeared on his face.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly, and he began considering refining all of his first level heavy water into second level heavy water.

However, he then shook his head to dismiss the thought.

He didn't have much time on his hands at the moment, and it was best to leave such a time-intensive task until after he returned from the immortal manor.

With a sweep of his sleeve, Han Li returned the ball of heavy water to his Earthly Deity Avatar, following which a contemplative look appeared on his face.

With only several years left before the emergence of the immortal manor, there wasn't enough time for him to make any substantial progress in any of his cultivation arts. Hence, the only way that he could maximize his powers in a short time would be to work on his spirit treasures and immortal treasures.

Immortal treasures that he had taken from others like the Seven Bright Star Rings weren't going to be easy to refine, so it seemed that his only options were the Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords and the Heavy Water True Axis.

With that in mind, Han Li raised a hand, and a series of streaks of azure light flew out of his sleeve, transforming into 72 small azure swords with thin arcs of golden lightning flashing over them.

These were none other than his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords, and they were giving off a tremendous and peerlessly sharp aura, causing the nearby seawater to quiver and shudder.

The swords had been slightly damaged during his battle against that Yin Wraith, but after being nurtured in his body over the past few days, they were close to making a full recovery.

Han Li lifted his other hand, and his Heavy Water True Axis also flew out of his body.

He looked back and forth between the two treasures for a moment, then ultimately decided on the Heavy Water True Axis and stowed his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords away.

While his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords were his bonded treasure, it was not going to be easy to enhance their powers in a short time, and doing so without a proper plan could have a detrimental effect.

As for his Heavy Water True Axis, this was a faux immortal treasure that he had created using a cultivation art, and it still had much room for improvement. On top of that, even if it were damaged from a failed refinement attempt, the consequences would be far from catastrophic.

After making up his mind, Han Li took a deep breath, then made a hand seal, and the Water Dao Rune on the Heavy Water True Axis instantly lit up, releasing waves of blue ripples.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this.

As he had progressed in his cultivation through the years, he had developed a deeper understanding of how to use the Heavy Water True Axis in battle. It wasn't going to be very difficult to enhance its power, and he had even considered refining the treasure again on multiple past occasions.

He flipped a hand over to produce a jade slip, which contained the refinement method of the faux axis.

After that, he pressed the jade slip to his own forehead and closed his eyes.

Only after sitting completely still for three days did he reopen his eyes, then rose to his feet before pulling out some materials and beginning to make some inscriptions on the ground.

A day and a night later, an extremely complex array had appeared on the ground.

Within the array were eight ring designs that were giving off bursts of blue light, and Han Li was seated at the center of the array.

His Earthly Deity Avatar had also stopped manifesting heavy water and was seated across from him.

Han Li made a hand seal while opening his mouth to release a ball of azure nascent flames, and at the same time, his Earthly Deity Avatar also opened its mouth to release a ball of blue flames that mixed together with the azure nascent flames.

The two flames came together to form a blue and azure fireball that was several feet in size, and it enveloped the Heavy Water True Axis to scorch it with intense heat.

All of the runes on the Heavy Water True Axis instantly lit up as it began to tremble and buzz.

Chapter 395: Remodeling

Han Li began to chant an incantation while casting a series of incantation seals forward, and the array immediately began to operate.

The eight ring designs within the array blurred momentarily, following which a series of profound golden runes appeared within them, intertwining with one another to form numerous spherical projections in mid-air.

As Han Li continued to cast more incantation seals into the array, the spherical projections exploded into balls of blue flames, making it appear as if the entire array had been set alight.

Right at this moment, he switched to a different hand seal, and all of the balls of fire drifted out of the array before converging toward the Heavy Water True Axis.

The fireball around the Heavy Water True Axis rapidly swelled to the size of a millstone, and the heat that it was radiating was rapidly elevating, causing the surrounding air temperature to spike drastically.

In the face of these scorching blue flames, the spirit patterns on the surface of the axis gradually began to turn transparent.

A month flew by in a flash.

At this point, the Heavy Water True Axis had already turned completely transparent, resembling a translucent blue crystal that was radiating dazzling blue light.

However, this blue light was constantly pulsating, and it was as if the Heavy Water True Axis could succumb to the heat and melt into a liquid form at any moment.

At the same time, the Water Dao Rune on the axis had become even brighter and was giving off formidable water law fluctuations.

Han Li swept a sleeve through the air upon seeing this, and seven or eight different materials appeared in front of him.

All of these materials were different shades of blue and contained water law powers.

He made a hand seal while sweeping a sleeve through the air, and all of the blue flames in the entire array gradually converged into the eight ring designs in the array.

A few seconds later, all of the blue flames in the array had completely gathered in the eight rings, forming eight pillars of blue fire.

With a wave of Han Li's hand, the eight materials each flew into one of the eight fiery pillars.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li began to chant an incantation, and the eight pillars of blue fire began to rapidly revolve, transforming into eight fiery tornadoes that were radiating scorching heat.

The eight materials within the fiery tornadoes melted into balls of blue liquid one after another, and within each ball of blue liquid was a blue rune that symbolized the law powers that the materials contained.

Han Li gave a slight nod upon seeing this, then switched to a different hand seal once again, upon which the blue liquid within the eight pillars of fire flew out in unison before vanishing into the ball of fire around the Heavy Water True Axis.

Han Li then took a deep breath as a look of concentration appeared on his face, and he began to make a rapid string of hand seals.

Meanwhile, the ball of fire around the Heavy Water True Axis began to revolve, quickly forming a fiery vortex.

The eight pillars of fire within the array also converged and fused into the fiery vortex, causing it to rapidly expand while also increasing in heat.

Large beads of sweat were beginning to appear on Han Li's forehead as he continued to make a rapid string of hand seals, and the eight balls of liquid gradually fused into the Heavenly Water True Axis while the fiery vortex continued to revolve.

With each ball of liquid that was infused, the blue light radiating from the axis would brighten slightly, and countless blue runes could be seen dancing within the light.

The blue light appeared very chaotic, while all of the blue runes inside were also jumping around in a completely haphazard fashion, causing the entire axis to tremble in an unstable fashion.

Right at this moment, the Earthly Deity Avatar's eyes abruptly sprang open, and it made a hand seal as a thick blue translucent thread appeared above its head.

Immediately thereafter, the blue thread shot forth and infused itself into the Heavy Water True Axis.

A burst of blinding blue light erupted out of the Heavy Water True Axis, illuminating the entire seabed within a radius of several hundred kilometers.

A burst of formidable water law fluctuations were emanating from the blue light, sending visible ripples spreading through the surrounding air.

All of a sudden, all of the blue runes around the Heavy Water True Axis were abruptly stabilized before vanishing into the axis in a flash.

Han Li immediately began casting incantation seals into the axis upon seeing this, and the axis began to buzz and tremble, as was the case with the blue light that it was emitting.

In the next instant, the surface of the sea within a radius of hundreds of kilometers began to churn violently, and countless vortexes appeared beneath the surface.

All of a sudden, countless blades and arrows of water began to sweep through the seawater, shredding everything in their path.

All of the living marine creatures within a radius of several hundred kilometers were instantly slaughtered, while a thick layer of the seabed had also been stripped away.

Han Li faltered slightly upon seeing this, following which an elated look appeared in his eyes.

He then took a deep breath, and the elation in his eyes faded. At the same time, the flow of azure nascent flames surging out of his mouth ceased, and the array on the ground instantly stopped functioning as well.

The Earthly Deity Avatar also withdrew the blue nascent flame that was streaming out of its mouth. With all of the flames out of the way, all that was left was the semi-transparent Heavy Water True Axis hovering in mid-air.

Han Li opened his mouth to release a ball of blood essence, fused into the Heavy Water True Axis in a flash.

Immediately thereafter, the semi-transparent axis quickly began to take on an opaque black color, and at the same time, it was rapidly cooling down.

Blue light flashed over the axis's surface, and nine specks of gentle blue light emerged before transforming into nine Water Dao Runes.

A burst of water law fluctuations that were several times more formidable than before surged out of the Heavy Water True Axis, and a hint of elation appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

After toiling away for over a month, he had finally succeeded.

He was looking a little weary, and only after taking a recovery pill did his complexion gradually improve.

Han Li exhaled as he examined the Heavy Water True Axis, and the satisfaction in his eyes grew even more pronounced.

The refinement had been unexpectedly successful, and the axis's power had been significantly enhanced. Even though he hadn't tested it in battle yet, he estimated that it was at least four to five times more powerful than before.

The primary reason for this was the substantial investment that Han Li had made, infusing eight materials that contained water law powers into the Heavy Water True Axis at once. Many of these materials had been obtained from Han Li's past enemies, and they could've been used to refine an immortal treasure or two of comparable power to the Heavy Water True Axis.

Now that all of them had been infused into the Heavy Water True Axis, it only made sense that there was such a significant enhancement in power.

Aside from that, there was another important factor, which was that the water law thread that the Earthly Deity Avatar had manifested from the power of faith had also been infused into the Heavy Water True Axis.

A water law thread manifested by an Earthly Immortal wasn't going to be as pure as one manifested by a True Immortal who had truly mastered the laws of water, but it was still nothing to be scoffed at.

Han Li made a beckoning motion to draw the Heavy Water True Axis into his grasp, and he felt as if he were holding a vast sea, allowing him to control all of the water-attribute spiritual power within a radius of thousands of kilometers.

Han Li tossed the Heavy Water True Axis before making a hand seal, and the axis began to emit dazzling blue light as all nine of the Water Dao Runes on its surface lit up, forming a blue ring of light.

He closed his eyes as he carefully sensed the change taking place within the blue ring of light, trying to glean the laws of water.

Even though he was currently cultivating the laws of time, it naturally couldn't hurt to master more laws.

Having just remodeled the Heavy Water True Axis, he had developed a deeper understanding of the laws of water, and he was certainly going to take full advantage of this opportunity.

A burst of water-attribute law powers began to spread through the area, and the nearby seawater began to churn violently once again, sending enormous waves sweeping over the surface.

Right at this moment, a burst of black light flashed from the Heavenly Water Pouch strapped to the Earthly Deity Avatar's waist, and a ball of second level heavy water flew out from within.

As soon as the ball of heavy water emerged, it immediately flew toward the Heavy Water True Axis before fusing into it.

The light radiating from the Heavy Water True Axis rippled slightly, then became a little brighter.

Han Li's eyes sprang open as a hint of surprise appeared on his face, but he made no effort to stop what was happening.

The Heavy Water True Axis continued to revolve as one ball of heavy water after another flew out of the Heavenly Water Pouch before fusing into the axis.

Due to the time constraints, the Earthly Deity Avatar hadn't manifested much second level heavy water, and before long, the Heavenly Water Pouch was completely emptied.

After absorbing all of this heavy water, the blue light radiating from the axis had become brighter, while the axis itself had also become significantly heavier.

This was a very pleasant surprise to Han Li.

Back when the Heavy Water True Axis was first refined, it hadn't been all that powerful, and only after it had absorbed a huge quantity of first level heavy water did it become one of his trump cards.

Unfortunately, it was unable to absorb more heavy water beyond a certain point, thereby stunting its growth, but now, following its remodeling, it had regained the ability to absorb heavy water.

Han Li swept a sleeve through the air, and a ball of first level heavy water flew out of one of his Heavenly Water Pouches before enveloping the Heavy Water True Axis.

However, the Heavy Water True Axis seemed to be rather resistant to level one heavy water and refused to absorb it.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, but he quickly realized why this was happening.

Not only had the Heavy Water True Axis become far more powerful following the refinement process, the energy that it contained had also become far purer.

In comparison, the energy imbued within the first level heavy water was of an inferior level, so it would've actually only been detrimental for the axis to absorb first level heavy water.

"It looks like I'll have to refine all of my first level heavy water, after all," he murmured to himself as he flipped a hand over to produce a Heavenly Water Pouch, then handed it to his Earthly Deity Avatar.

At this point, there were only roughly three years left until the emergence of the immortal manor, so time was very tight, and the more second level heavy water that he could refine, the more powerful the Heavy Water True Axis would become.

The Earthly Deity Avatar accepted the Heavenly Water Pouch, then drew out a large ball of first level heavy water.

At the same time, dazzling blue light began to radiate from its body as bursts of power of faith were transmitted to it from afar, while a tiny blue thread of light appeared above his head.

A wry smile appeared on Han Li's face at the sight of the thin blue thread.

All of the water law powers that the Earthly Deity Avatar had manifested from the power of faith had been infused into the Heavy Water True Axis, thereby leaving the avatar's cultivation base severely impaired, and now, it had to start all over again in its manifestation of law powers.

Chapter 396: Preparations

The Earthly Deity Avatar made a hand seal as it channeled its Black Sea Heavy Water Tome, and the thread of light above its head began to emit beams of blue light with countless tiny blue runes within them, shining upon the first level heavy water in its hands.

The heavy water instantly began to condense, slowly evolving into second level heavy water.

However, this process was extremely slow, and Han Li could only heave a faint sigh upon seeing this.

The rate of heavy water manifestation was extremely slow to begin with, and now that the avatar's water law powers had been significantly impaired, this process was only going to be even slower.

At this rate, it wasn't going to be able to manifest much second level heavy water at all in three years.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li flipped a hand over to summon his Heaven Controlling Vial, inside of which was a drop of green spirit liquid.

He then cast an incantation into the vial, and all of a sudden, countless dark clouds began to gather in the sky, while the world's origin qi began to churn violently.

Several days later, Han Li was holding a time crystal in his hand.

With his immense late-True Immortal Stage immortal spiritual power, manifesting these time crystals was no longer very taxing on him at all.

With a sweep of his sleeve, the time crystal flew over to his Earthly Deity Avatar, following which the translucent golden thread inside fused into the thread of blue light.

The thread of blue light instantly brightened significantly as a layer of golden light appeared on its surface, while the rate at which the ball of first level heavy water in its hands was being converted into second level heavy water was sped up significantly.

Before long, the entire ball of first level heavy water had been converted into second level heavy water.

The Earthly Deity Avatar stowed the ball of heavy water away, then produced another ball of first level heavy water to continue the conversion process.

Han Li heaved an internal sigh of relief upon seeing this.

Thankfully, the time crystals were capable of accelerating this process. Otherwise, he would've been at a loss for what to do.

After lingering on the seabed for a while longer, he rose up through the water and quickly broke through the surface.

From there, he inspected his surroundings briefly before descending onto a small coral island near Dark Veil Island.

The seabed was quite peaceful and safe, but the moonlight wasn't able to reach the seabed, so he wouldn't be able to manifest more spirit liquid.

With a sweep of his sleeve, a series of array flags flew out before landing near the island.

This was a very secluded place, so Han Li didn't bother to be too meticulous with his security measures, only setting up a few arrays before sitting down with his legs crossed and setting down his Heaven Controlling Vial beside him.

After that, he swept his sleeve through the air once again to summon the ingredients required to refine the Golden Soul Pill.

He had already gathered all of the required materials, but he had been too busy to refine the pill prior to this.

Now that he had nothing to do anyway, he decided to take advantage of this opportunity to refine this pill in preparation for a future breakthrough.

After meditating for some time to prime himself into the best condition, he flipped a hand over to produce his silver cauldron, then opened his mouth to release his Flame of Essence onto the underside of the cauldron.

After doing all of that, he summoned the jade box that contained Tao Yu's nascent soul, then removed all of the restrictions around the nascent soul before transferring it into the cauldron.

Once that was done, he opened his mouth to release a stream of azure nascent flames that mixed together with the Flame of Essence, and the temperature within the cauldron was instantly significantly elevated.

Enveloped within the two flames, the nascent soul was being subjected to scorching heat while Han Li observed the changes taking place within the nascent soul with rapt focus.

At the same time, he was constantly making hand seals to control the two-colored flames within the cauldron.

Close to a month flew by in the blink of an eye.

At this point, the nascent soul within the cauldron had shrunk down into a fist-sized golden bead with streaks of translucent light surging over its surface.

Han Li picked up another ingredient before transferring it into the cauldron, and close to another month flew by in a flash.

On this day, the world's origin qi in the area suddenly began to rumble and churn, while beams of golden light emerged to form a series of golden flowers.

At the same time, heavenly music was ringing out across the heavens, and an ecstatic look appeared on Han Li's face as he stared at the cauldron in front of him.

Hovering in the air above the cauldron was a longan-sized golden pill that was giving off dazzling golden radiance, and it was none other than a Golden Soul Pill.

The refinement process for the Golden Soul Pill wasn't actually all that complicated, and with Han Li's current level of pill refinement proficiency, he was able to successfully refine the pill in less than two months.

There was a projection of a miniature humanoid figure around the pill, and it was as if the pill possessed a soul.

At the same time, it was giving off a peculiar medicinal aroma, and as soon as Han Li breathed in this aroma, he could feel his own soul beginning to display signs of making a breakthrough.

"As expected of a pill that can elevate one's soul," Han Li praised as he carefully stored the Golden Soul Pill into a jade box, then adhered a few talismans to the box before stowing it away into his storage bracelet.

After that, he made a beckoning motion to draw his Heaven Controlling Vial to himself, then cast an incantation seal into it, and all of the world's origin qi around the coral island instantly began to converge toward the Heaven Controlling Vial in a frenzy

Several days later, the surging world's origin qi around the coral island gradually subsided, while the Heaven Controlling Vial slowly descended, and the drop of spirit liquid inside had been converted into a time crystal.

He stowed the vial away, then took a recovery pill before sweeping a sleeve through the air to release a burst of azure light, which enveloped the time crystal before transporting it to the seabed.

Moments later, the streak of azure light returned from the seabed, carrying a Heavenly Water Pouch.

It was flying in a rather sluggish manner, as if it were carrying a huge mountain.

Han Li reached out to grab the Heavenly Water Pouch, and his arm instantly sank down a little.

He released his spiritual sense to inspect the contents of the pouch, and to his elation, he discovered that it already contained enough second level heavy water to fill a pond.

It seemed that with the time crystal speeding up the process, the Earthly Deity Avatar was able to manifest second level heavy water quite quickly, even though the avatar's water law powers were severely hampered.

With that in mind, he summoned his Heavy Water True Axis, then drew a ball of second level heavy water around the size of a human head out of the Heavenly Water Pouch.

The ball of heavy water then spread over the axis at Han Li's behest, and blue light began to radiate from the nine Water Dao Runes on the Heavy Water True Axis, illuminating the entire nearby area a bright blue color.

The nine Water Dao Runes began to rapidly devour the second level heavy water like nine mouths, and it didn't take long before all of the heavy water had been absorbed, following which the light radiating from the axis became slightly brighter once again.

Han Li continued this process without pause, infusing another ball of heavy water into the axis.

One ball of second level heavy water after another flew out of the Heavenly Water Pouch before fusing into the Heavy Water True Axis, and after a day and a night, the Heavenly Water Pouch was finally emptied.

The axis was glowing with dazzling blue radiance, and as it revolved, it was giving off astonishing power that was causing the nearby space to tremble incessantly.

It was clear that the axis had become noticeably more powerful after absorbing the heavy water.

Furthermore, unlike before, when the axis's spiritual connection with Han Li had been severed after it had absorbed too much first level heavy water, even though the axis had absorbed close to a pond's worth of second level heavy water, its spiritual connection with Han Li still remained completely unaffected.

Han Li's gaze fell upon the nine Water Dao Runes on the axis as a contemplative look appeared on his face.

The axis's improved tolerance capacity for heavy water was most likely due to the increase in the number of Water Dao Runes.

This was certainly good news as he wouldn't have to refine the axis with his nascent flame like before.

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Three years later.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed on the coral island, and it was as if he had never moved from that spot in the past three years.

At this moment, a ball of radiant blue light was hovering in front of him, and beside it was a ball of heavy water.

Within the ball of blue light was the Heavy Water True Axis, and even though it was merely hovering in mid-air, it was still giving off an incredibly heavy aura that was causing the nearby space to tremble and ripple, as if even the space itself were unable to bear its enormous weight.

Han Li made a hand seal, and the Heavy Water True Axis began to slowly revolve.

The trembling of the surrounding space instantly became even more violent, while enormous waves were swept up over the nearby sea and gusts of ferocious wind were howling through the air. Thankfully, the coral island remained unaffected thanks to the restrictions that had been set up in advance.

The blue light radiating from the Heavy Water True Axis enveloped the surrounding heavy water before rapidly absorbing it.

Once all of the heavy water was gone, Han Li made a beckoning motion, and the Heavy Water True Axis instantly stopped revolving. The blue light that it was radiating also faded as it fell into Han Li's grasp.

As soon as the axis ceased in its rotation, all of the unrest in the surrounding area also subsided, and it was as if nothing had ever happened here.

The Heavy Water True Axis looked no different from before aside from the fact that the nine Water Dao Runes on its surface had become noticeably larger, and they resembled nine blue swirling vortexes.

Furthermore, they were giving off far more formidable water law fluctuations than before.

The nine bursts of law fluctuations came together to form a formidable stream, and in terms of sheer volume of law power, the axis possessed far more than any of Han Li's other immortal treasures.

With this significantly enhanced Heavy Water True Axis, Han Li's chances of survival in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor would undoubtedly be increased.

A hint of excitement appeared on his face as he examined the axis. Even though it had been absorbing second level heavy water for the past three years, it showed no signs of slowing down, so it was clear that it could still absorb far more.

Chapter 397: Well-prepared

With that in mind, Han Li patted the Heavenly Water Pouch strapped to his waist.

He still had quite a large quantity of first level heavy water left. Up to this point, only around a third of the heavy water in the pouch had been converted into second level heavy water before being absorbed by the Heavy Water True Axis, and he couldn't help but wonder how much more the axis would be able to absorb.

He promptly stowed the axis away before flipping a hand over to summon the crimson communication array plate that had been given to him by Daoist Hu Yan.

Three years had already passed by, and according to what Daoist Hu Yan had said, the emergence of the immortal manor was imminent, yet Han Li hadn't been contacted at all.

Has there been a change of plans?

Initially, he hadn't actually been all that eager to go to this immortal manor. After all, there were many powers involved, including the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, and with so many Golden Immortals in the mix, it was going to be a very perilous trip. Even if there were many precious treasures inside the immortal manor, they were simply not worth risking his life over.

However, after learning that Daoist Hu Yan possessed three more levels of the Mantra Axis Scripture, he had no choice but to take this matter seriously, particularly after already having witnessed the tip of the iceberg when it came to the unfathomable power of the laws of time.

With these thoughts running through his mind, he was considering whether he should be the one to contact Daoist Hu Yan, but he quickly abandoned the idea after some contemplation.

Regardless of whether Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni had found the entrance to the immortal manor, he wasn't going to be able to help them, so the best thing for him to do was to remain patient and not disturb them.

Even though the Black Wind Sea wasn't very safe at the moment, with their combined powers, they should be safe unless they encountered an opponent of Xiao Jinhan's caliber.

With that in mind, Han Li stowed the array plate away as a contemplative look appeared in his eyes.

All of a sudden, he flipped a hand over to produce a storage pouch, which contained the remaining batches of Origin Void Pill ingredients.

After that, he stowed his Heaven Controlling Vial, then flew toward a certain direction, vanishing into the distance in the blink of an eye.

Only after flying for several days without pause did Han Li stop on a deserted island countless kilometers away from Dark Veil Island.

This place was already quite close to the Soul Stirring Winds, so there was a great deal of disturbance in the world's origin qi, coupled with howling winds and enormous waves.

He paid no heed to the terrible environment as he released his spiritual sense throughout the surrounding area, and only after confirming that there were no potential hazards around did he withdraw his spiritual sense.

Immediately thereafter, he swept a sleeve through the air to release a thick stack of array tools.

He then began to chant an incantation, and all of the array tools flew to various parts of the island before vanishing out of sight.

Moments later, a yellow cloud restriction emerged to encompass the entire island.

In the blink of an eye, the island was completely isolated from the outside world, and it was as if it had become an independent space.

Before long, a thick azure restriction had also been set up outside of the yellow cloud restriction, following which a white mist restriction appeared outside of the azure one.

In the blink of an eye, seven or eight restrictions had taken shape to encompass the entire island, and the outermost one was a blue restriction with countless ripples surging over its surface. As soon as this restriction appeared, the entire island instantly vanished, blending in with the sea around it.

These were the exact same restrictions that Han Li had used to protect his temporary cave abode, so he was able to set them up in a very well-rehearsed fashion.

Han Li took a glance at his surroundings, then sat down with his legs crossed onto a plot of flat ground at the center of the island.

He then raised a hand to release a burst of silver light, which transformed into a silver cauldron that landed in front of him.

Immediately thereafter came another streak of silver light. This time, it was the Flame of Essence, and it landed on the underside of the cauldron.

After preparing everything, Han Li flipped a hand over to produce the storage pouch from before, then swept a sleeve through the air to release a batch of Origin Void Pill ingredients.

After taking some time to compose himself, he immediately picked up one of the ingredients beside him before transferring it into the cauldron.

He was planning to use the remaining time before the emergence of the immortal manor to try and refine another Origin Void Pill. He didn't know what the pill could be used for, but he speculated that Wyrms 3 was most likely planning to use it in the immortal manor for some purpose.

Initially, he was only a little curious about this pill, but seeing as he was also going to venture into the immortal manor, he may as well refine one for himself. It certainly couldn't hurt to be well-prepared, and perhaps the pill could come in useful.

He had chosen to come all the way here to refine the pill instead of refining it near Dark Veil Island in light of the pill tribulation that had descended the last time he had refined this pill.

Thanks to his prior experience, he was already quite proficient in the refinement of the Origin Void Pill, and he was flying through the steps with efficiency and precision.

While Han Li was refining the Origin Void Pill, a blue-robed middle-aged man was standing in mid-air above a nameless island countless kilometers away.

The man was none other than Luo Qinghai, and at this moment, his brows were tightly furrowed in agitation, in stark contrast with his normal composed and measured demeanor.

Standing behind Luo Qinghai was the effeminate young man by the name of Nan Kemeng, and at this moment, his brows were also tightly furrowed.

Neither of them were saying anything, and the atmosphere was a little heavy.

Right at this moment, a streak of blue light appeared on the distant horizon, and both of them immediately turned to that direction.

The streak of blue light quickly arrived in front of Luo Qinghai and Nan Kemeng, then faded to reveal a middle-aged man with a coarse beard.

As soon as the man appeared, he cupped his fist to extend a salute, only for Luo Qinghai to raise a hand to stop him as he asked in an urgent voice, "No need for formalities. Have you discovered anything?"

The bearded man was silent for a moment, then shook his head in response. "The seven of us have scoured the areas that we're responsible for several times, but none of us have been able to find anything."

Luo Qinghai's expression remained unchanged upon hearing this, but Nan Kemeng could clearly detect that the air temperature had dropped slightly.

"Should we continue, Palace Master?" the bearded man asked in a hesitant voice.

"Yes. Expand the scope of the search, and make sure no detail is missed," Luo Qinghai instructed in a grim voice.

"Yes, Palace Master," the bearded man replied, then flew away as a streak of light.

"Master, is it possible that the information we've received is inaccurate, and the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor isn't actually going to be emerging in the Black Wind Sea?" Nan Kemeng asked.

"No. The signs of the immortal manor's imminent emergence have become more and more apparent in the Black Wind Sea in recent years, and the Infernal Frost Scenic Painting is also reacting here, so there's no mistaking it," Luo Qinghai replied with a shake of his head.

"In that case, why are we unable to find the entrance? According to past records, as long as one has the painting, it shouldn't be difficult to find the entrance of the immortal manor," Nan Kemeng said.

"There's only one possibility..." Luo Qinghai mused as his eyes narrowed slightly.

"What is it?" Nan Kemeng asked.

Luo Qinghai offered on reply as he flipped a hand over to produce a small blue mirror, then cast an incantation seal into it, and immediately swelled to several times its original size while radiating dazzling blue light.

A series of images rapidly flashed over the mirror, and only after a long while did the image stabilize, revealing a middle-aged man with a purplish-red face.

"How are things going on your end, Junior Martial Brother Fan?" Luo Qinghai asked, and he was speaking in a much warmer tone than when he was speaking with the bearded man from before.

"Not well, I'm afraid. The people from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace suddenly disappeared some time ago along with some important figures from Black Wind Island, and we've been unable to track them down up to this point," the man in the mirror replied with a shake of his head.

Luo Qinghai's expression darkened even further upon hearing this.

After hearing this exchange, Nan Kemeng also realized what Luo Qinghai had been alluding to earlier, and he asked, "Master, are you speculating that the people from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace have done something to prevent us from finding the entrance?"

"It's most likely the case that Xiao Jinhan has sealed the entrance using some type of secret technique. Otherwise, it would've definitely already appeared by now, given that there's less than a year left before the emergence of the immortal manor," Luo Qinghai replied.

"I don't know much about the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, but I do know that the entrance of the immortal manor is a connective point between two realms, so there's no way it could be sealed discreetly in a short time," Nan Kemeng said with furrowed brows.

"He was most likely somehow able to ascertain the location of the entrance in advance, then set up some restrictions there beforehand," Luo Qinghai harrumphed coldly.

An incredulous look appeared on Nan Kemeng's face upon hearing this.

"There's not much time left until the emergence of the immortal manor. What should we do, Palace Master?" the man in the mirror asked.

"We have to find the entrance of the immortal manor no matter what. Keep searching for leads on the people from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace and the master of Black Wind Island. There are so many of them, there's no way that they could've simply disappeared into thin air without leaving any traces behind. Employ some extreme measures if necessary," Luo Qinghai said in a meaningful voice.

"Yes, Palace Master," the man in the mirror replied, then quickly vanished from the mirror.

Luo Qinghai made a hand seal, and the blue mirror rapidly shrank down before flying back up his sleeve.

After that, he remained standing on the spot for a moment longer, then abruptly swept a sleeve through the air to envelop both himself and Nan Kemeng before flying away into the distance.

Chapter 398: Time Running Out

Meanwhile

There were around a dozen figures standing in mid-air above a certain area in the Black Wind Sea.

All of them were dressed in black robes, they were members of the Dawn Fall Sect.

They were led by none other than the zombie-like Feng Tiandu and the master of the Dawn Fall Sect.

Aside from those two, three of the other Dawn Fall Sect cultivators present were also Golden Immortals.

One of them was extremely tall and rotund, resembling a mountain of flesh from afar.

The other two had much more normal figures, but the coloration of their skin was very peculiar.

One of them had skin that was as black as ink, and in dim light, it would've been difficult to even discern his facial features from one another. In contrast, the other man was as pale as a sheet, and even his hair and eyebrows were completely white and devoid of color.

As for the rest of the Dawn Fall Sect cultivators, all of them were at the mid or late-True Immortal Stage.

The portly Golden Immortal turned to Feng Tiandu and the Dawn Fall Sect Master as he reported, "According to our search, not only have the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators disappeared from Black Wind Island, Island Master Lu Jun and several of his most important subordinates have also gone missing.

"After performing a soul search technique on one of the administrators, I learned that they had suddenly disappeared several days ago."

"It's just as you say, Senior Martial Brother. Xiao Jinhan has most likely somehow concealed the entrance of the immortal manor," the Dawn Fall Sect Master said with a grim expression.

"Looks like we were too careless. This emergence of the immortal palace is more significant than previous ones, so I should've predicted that Xiao Jinhan would take some measures to prevent others from getting in," Feng Tiandu sighed.

"I also discovered that aside from our Dawn Fall Sect, there are several other powers that are also searching for the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace cultivators," the portly Golden Immortal continued.

"Oh? How many are there?" Feng Tiandu asked.

"Around two or three, but all of them are very alert, so I didn't dare to get too close, and I wasn't able to find out too much. However, I'm certain that I spotted Western Extreme Palace Master Cui Can of the Vast Flow Palace's Five Extreme Palaces among them," the rotund Golden Immortal replied.

"Seeing as we were able to determine that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace had to have concealed the entrance of the immortal manor, the other powers must've been able to arrive at the same conclusion as well," Feng Tiandu said.

"How could Xiao Jinhan do something so deplorable? He's trying to keep everyone out of the immortal manor! What do we do now, Senior Martial Brother?" the Dawn Fall Sect Master asked as he turned to Feng Tiandu with tightly furrowed brows.

"There's still some time left until the immortal manor emerges, and we have to find the entrance before then no matter what. Otherwise, if Xiao Jinhan obtains what he's searching for, then our Dawn Fall Sect will be at risk for suffering the same fate as the Blaze Dragon Dao," Feng Tiandu said in a cold voice.

.....

In Black Wind City.

In a room in an inn at the center of the city sat a man and a woman.

They were none other than Daoist Hu Yan and Yun Ni in disguise, and there was a lavish feast laid out before them, but neither of them showed any interest in it, and both appeared quite agitated.

"I didn't think Xiao Jinhan would have a trick like this up his sleeve. We don't have much time left, Hu Yan. What should we do?" Yun Ni asked with a hint of anxiety in her voice.

"It looks like continuing to wait in Black Wind City isn't going to do us any good, so let's go search elsewhere. In any case, we have to find the entrance of the immortal manor no matter what!" Daoist Hu Yan said with a determined expression.

"But we're only two people, and the Black Wind Sea is so vast. How are we supposed to find the entrance on our own? Should we call upon Li Feiyu to help us? It most likely won't make a difference, but I suppose we can always give that a try as a last resort," Yun Ni proposed.

"There's no need for that. This region isn't very safe at the moment, so we should avoid contact with others as much as possible. As for how we're going to find the entrance, I have some ideas," Daoist Hu Yan said as he rose to his feet, then made his way out of the room.

Yun Ni knew that once Daoist Hu Yan made up his mind, there was no dissuading him, so she could only heave a faint sigh before following him out of the room.

.....

On a rather desolate-looking island elsewhere in the Black Wind Sea, a group of white-robed cultivators were gathered.

The group consisted of around a dozen people, all of whom were standing in small groups of two or three in silence.

Judging from the way that they were arranged, their leader appeared to be a square-faced elderly man standing at the center of the group, and his aura indicated that he was a Golden Immortal, while everyone else around him were True Immortals.

At this moment, all of them were looking around with anticipation in their eyes, seemingly waiting for someone or something.

Some time later, a streak of silver light appeared on the distant horizon, and it was traveling at a rapid speed, arriving near the island in the blink of an eye.

The streak of silver light contained a silver-robed woman, and the square-faced elderly man immediately approached her with a fawning smile on his face as he greeted, "Welcome, Fellow Daoist Qu."

A faint smile appeared on the silver-robed woman's face as she asked, "Have you made any discoveries?"

"Not at the moment, but even though our Xue Clan moved out of the Black Wind Sea many years ago, we still have many contacts here, and I've already sent out people to get in touch with these contacts while also helping out in the search, so I'm sure we'll find something soon," the square-faced elderly man replied.

The silver-robed woman's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, and she said, "There's not much time left before the emergence of the immortal manor, so we have to do everything in our power to find the entrance. Otherwise, all of us will have come here for nought."

"Rest assured, Fellow Daoist Qu, we're doing everything in our power," the square-faced elderly man immediately replied.

The silver-robed woman nodded in response, then spoke to the elderly man for a while longer before flying away as a streak of silver light.

A long-faced man swept a sleeve through the air to conjure up a white light barrier around everyone, then approached the square-faced elderly man as he said, "Esteemed patriarch, that woman's cultivation base is far superior to ours, and she claims that she wants to work with our Xue Clan to venture into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor together, but is she really being earnest and forthcoming with us?"

"She tries to hide her malice behind that smile of hers, but I can tell she's not a kind person."

"I'm sure she won't turn on us. Her cultivation base is indeed far superior to ours, but she's on her own, while all of the other powers that have come to the Black Wind Sea have superior numbers on their side, so it makes sense that she would want to secure some allies," the square-faced elderly man replied.

The long-faced man didn't say anything, but the concern on his face didn't diminish at all.

"Rest assured, with the Snow Silkworm Array from the 10 of you and myself, we'll be able to ensure at least self-preservation. Even if she wants to use us, it's not like she can interfere with what we do once we enter the immortal manor," the square-faced elderly man said with a faint smile, seemingly quite pleased with himself.

The long-faced man's expression eased slightly upon hearing this, and he smiled as he said, "You're right, esteemed patriarch. It seems I was just excessively cautious."

Meanwhile, the silver-robed woman was racing over the sea, and there was a longhorn beetle perched on her shoulder. Its body was a pristine white color, as if it had been carved out of jade, and at this moment, the voice of the square-faced elderly man was coming out of its mouth.

"... it's not like she can interfere with what we do once we enter the immortal manor..."

"Pathetic little bugs," the silver-robed woman scoffed to herself with a cold sneer. "I suppose I'll spare you for now, seeing as you're still useful to me."

The silver-robed woman stowed the white longhorn beetle away, then began making a string of hand seals, and a cloud of white mist flew out of her sleeve.

The mist then quickly dispersed in all directions, revealing itself to be a swarm of tiny semi-transparent white insects.

A Core Formation Stage eel demon beast was swimming through the sea when it came into contact with a few of these white insects, and the insects immediately vanished into its body like water droplets into cotton, but the eel demon beast remained completely oblivious as it continued to swim through the water.

Similar scenes were unfolding across the entire nearby area at the moment, with these white insects entering the bodies of all types of marine demon beasts and even ordinary fish as they spread far and wide at a rapid speed.

.....

Meanwhile, a group of around a dozen cultivators were seated in a circular formation on a calm area of the sea.

There were three bald men hovering in front of the group, all three of whom were at the Golden Immortal Stage, while the others were all True Immortals.

Each of these cultivators had a small blue flag hovering in front of them, with countless runes visible on each flag.

All of the flags were giving off water law fluctuations, indicating that they were immortal treasures, and they appeared to be part of the same set.

These cultivators were collectively chanting an incantation while making a constant string of hand seals, and dazzling blue light was radiating from the flags before coming together to form an enormous blue light barrier that resembled a huge mirror.

Each of the three bald Golden Immortals had a palm outstretched, sending a pillar of blue light surging into the giant mirror, and all of a sudden, the mirror shattered into several dozen smaller mirrors amid an audibel crack.

Each mirror depicted a different setting, varying from under the sea, or in the sky, or on an island.

Different images were constantly flashing over these mirrors, and all of the cultivators present were scrutinizing the mirrors intently to see what was happening in all of those places.

.....

All of the major powers that had come to the Black Wind Sea were naturally feeling extremely agitated by their inability to track down the immortal manor's location, and all of them were searching frantically.

Initially, they tried to cover their tracks as much as possible, but as time passed and they became more desperate, they gradually began to throw caution to the wind, not bothering to keep their search secretive any longer.

With so many formidable foreign cultivators suddenly appearing in the Black Wind Sea, all of the local powers were left feeling quite uneasy, and more and more islands were going into lockdown.

Chapter 399: Another Piece of News

Half a year flew by in the blink of an eye.

On this day, the world's origin qi in a certain area on the outskirts of the Black Wind Sea suddenly began to churn violently, and countless dark clouds appeared in the sky before forming a massive vortex.

Immense law fluctuations were emanating from the dark clouds, raising turbulent waves of the nearby sea and sweeping up ferocious gusts of wind.

Thankfully, this area was quite close to the Soul Stirring Winds, so the disturbance wasn't all that apparent.

The black cloud churned and rumbled for a while before a thick pillar of black light shot down from the vortex amid a resounding boom.

There seemed to be nothing but empty sea down below, but all of a sudden, multiple layers of restrictions appeared in the path of the pillar of black light.

In the blink of an eye, the pillar of black light pierced through these light barriers before continuing onward, only to be stopped cold in its tracks by a gray mountain projection.

An earth-shattering boom rang out as the surrounding space shuddered, as did the nearby sea, and a series of massive rifts appeared on the seabed.

After releasing that pillar of black light, the black cloud up above quickly dispersed, and the restrictions above the surface of the sea also faded to reveal Han Li.

His complexion was looking a little pale, but there was an elated look on his face.

He exhaled as he swept a sleeve through the air, releasing a ball of bright azure light that revolved rapidly around the island, gathering all of the array tools distributed throughout the island before returning them up his sleeve.

In the next instant, Han Li began to make a rapid string of hand seals, and arcs of golden lightning appeared over his body before spreading outward to form a golden lightning array.

Immediately thereafter, Han Li vanished from the array amid a rumbling thunderclap.

.....

A tall and imposing figure was seated in a dim space somewhere in the Black Wind Sea.

Their entire body was enshrouded within a layer of black mist, making it impossible to catch a clear glimpse of them, and there was a menacing aura emanating out of the black mist.

There were several other figures seated around the tall figure, but none of them dared to get too close.

Right at this moment, all of the black mist around the tall figure surged into their body, revealing none other than Xiao Jinhan.

A peculiar look appeared on his face as he cast his gaze toward a certain direction while rising to his feet, and everyone else around him hurriedly stood up as well.

These were none other than the Golden Immortal Stage elders of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, and Deputy Palace Master Xue Ying was also among them.

"What is it, Palace Master?" Xue Ying asked in a respectful voice.

Xiao Jinhan paid no heed to her as he flipped a hand over to produce a white jade plate that was around the size of a washbasin.

The entire plate seemed to have been crafted from some type of white jade material, and there were many antiquated designs etched onto the edge of the plate, while a series of white jade grids were present on the plate, slowly revolving around the plate's center.

Gentle white light was radiating from the plate, while a streak of black light had emerged in one of the grids on the edge of the plate, presenting a stark contrast.

However, the black light only flashed a few times before quickly fading away, but a hint of law fluctuations could still be detected from the black light before it vanished.

"Has someone refined a dao pill?" Xiao Jinhan murmured to himself.

A hint of surprise appeared on Xue Ying's face as she said, "There's now way that there would be a Dao Pill Master in a place as secluded as the Black Wind Sea. Could it be someone from the Vast Flow Palace or the Dawn Fall Sect? But why would they refine a dao pill at a time like this?"

"I don't have an answer to that. Perhaps they're trying to use some type of alternative method to find the entrance of the immortal manor," Xiao Jinhan speculated.

He then flipped a hand over to stow the white jade plate away before making his way toward a giant blue gate of light not far in front of him.

The gate was over 1,000 feet in size with countless antiquated patterns engraved onto its frame, and it was radiating dazzling blue light.

The light at the center of the gate was even brighter, and it resembled flowing water, forming a blue vortex.

Occasionally, the blue light at the center of the gate would abruptly brighten before spreading outward, and there were nine giant white jade pillars standing around the gate of light, with each one riddled with profound engravings.

The ground surrounding the nine pillars were also covered in complex patterns, forming an enormous array, and at the top of each pillar sat a cultivator with their legs crossed.

The three dao lords led by Ouyang Kuishan were among them, and they were chanting a collective incantation.

Radiant white light was surging out of the jade pillars and the array, forming a thick white light barrier that encompassed the entire gate of light.

With each eruption of blue light, the white light barrier would shudder violently, as would the nine surrounding jade pillars and the cultivators seated atop them.

"The closer we get to the emergence of the immortal manor, the more powerful the tremors will become, so make sure to be on your guard and don't slip up at this crucial juncture," Xiao Jinhan instructed.

"Rest assured, Palace Master, we've made extensive preparations for this, and we'll make sure that nothing goes wrong," Xue Ying replied in a confident manner.

"On top of that, keep a closer eye on Ouyang Kuishan and the other dao lords. Make sure that they're not slacking off," Xiao Jinhan said.

"They wouldn't dare," Xue Ying replied with a cold smile. "Besides, now that we're already here, they have no choice but to comply."

Xiao Jinhan nodded in response, then asked, "How are things going outside?"

"The people of the Dawn Fall Sect and the Vast Flow Palace are still searching frantically for us like headless chickens, but they haven't made any progress," Xue Ying reported with immense schadenfreude in her voice.

A pleased smile appeared on Xiao Jinhan's face upon hearing this, following which he said, "They're not a major concern of ours. What are the people of the Reincarnation Palace up to?"

"The people of the Reincarnation Palace remain as secretive as ever, but even if they discover the outermost restrictions, if they try to break through those restrictions by force, the trap that we set up would be activated.

"It may not be able to wipe them all out, but it'll be sure to pose them a great deal of trouble, and even if they can break through, it'll take them at least a year or so, by which time the entrance of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor would've already closed long ago," Xue Ying replied with a smile.

Xiao Jinhan gave a pleased nod in response, then cast his gaze toward the blue gate of light with a look of yearning in his eyes.

Right at this moment, a burst of white light suddenly emerged on the body of a nearby white-robed cultivator.

This was none other than the man with the Feng surname who had arrived in the Black Wind Sea in advance, and a hint of surprise appeared on his face as he flipped a hand over to summon a white array plate.

A small line of text appeared on the array plate, and his expression instantly changed drastically after taking a glance.

He hurriedly made his way toward Xiao Jinhan as he declared, "We have bad news, Palace Master!"

.....

Arcs of golden lightning sprang out of thin air in the sky near Dark Veil Island, following which a golden lightning array took shape.

Han Li appeared within the array before inspecting his surroundings while also releasing his spiritual sense, and only after confirming that the nearby area was safe did he flip a hand over to produce a jade box, which contained the Origin Void Pill.

Even though he had previously successfully refined this pill, he was still only able to refine a single one after using up all of the remaining batches of ingredients.

A thoughtful look appeared in his eyes as he inspected the Origin Void Pill in his hand.

Through this pill refinement, Han Li had gained a deeper understanding of the pill. It was very similar to a dao pill, but its intended purpose seemed to be different.

However, he had no idea what its exact purpose was supposed to be.

He inspected the pill for a while longer before stowing it away, then cast his gaze forward with slightly furrowed brows.

Another half a year had passed by without any updates from Daoist Hu Yan, and he couldn't help but wonder if something had gone wrong.

Han Li was silent for a moment before flipping a hand over to produce the crimson communication array plate, then cast an incantation seal into it, and a crimson array immediately emerged.

He communicated a message into the array, but even after a long wait, there was still no response from Daoist Hu Yan.

Han Li's brows became tightly furrowed upon seeing this.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he flew into the sea while putting on his Transient Guild mask.

If something really had gone wrong with the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, there should be some information on the subject being exchanged in the Transient Guild.

As soon as he put on his Transient Guild, Han Li was immediately rooted to the spot.

At the moment, the information exchange section of the Transient Guild was in a state of complete pandemonium, and he hurriedly began to read through the pieces of information being released..

During these past few years, he had either been busy refining his Heavy Water True Axis or refining his Origin Void Pill, so he hadn't kept up to date with the latest information on the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor.

It seemed that the entrance of the immortal manor still hadn't appeared during the past three years, and all of the powers were searching frantically for it.

However, the reason why the Transient Guild had been stirred up into such a frenzy was due to the release of a certain piece of information.

"The entrance of the immortal manor is under Red Moon Island."

It was unclear whether this information was actually accurate, but it had created a massive stir in the Transient Guild, nonetheless.

"Red Moon Island..." Han Li murmured to himself.

This was a very familiar place to him. Was the entrance of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor really situated under that island?

A contemplative look appeared on his face as he flipped a hand over to summon the Hard Ink Crystal that had been given to him by the Pig Dolphin Beast.

It had found the crystal near Red Moon Island, and Wyrms 3 seemed to have been quite interested in it.

It seemed that all of the signs were pointing to Red Moon Island.

Perhaps it really is true...

Chapter 400: Assembly

Right at this moment, the communication array beside Han Li suddenly lit up, following which a crimson projection of Daoist Hu Yan appeared, and it declared, "Fellow Daoist Li, come meet us at Sea Fig Island right away."

This was the exact same island that all of the Transient Guild members had been instructed to assemble at prior to carrying out the mission on Red Moon Island.

"Sea Fig Island... Could it be that the entrance of the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor really is beneath Red Moon Island?"

"It sounds like you've also seen that piece of information circulating in the guild. The news is most likely true, so come and meet up with us right now," Daoist Hu Yan urged.

"Alright, I'll set off right away," Han Li replied with a nod, then concluded the communication and stowed the communication array plate away before flying toward the surface of the sea.

Moments later, a streak of azure light emerged from the sea, then flew away into the distance.

.....

Elsewhere in the Black Wind Sea, all of the Vast Flow Palace's cultivators were traveling on a large blue flying boat.

"Red Moon Island... Its location isn't very secluded, nor is it close to the center of the Black Wind Sea, so it can be easily missed," Luo Qinghai murmured to himself with a contemplative expression as he stood at the bow of the boat.

Hovering in front of him was a small blue light screen that depicted all of the islands littered throughout the Black Wind Sea.

At this moment, there were four people standing behind him, consisting of a middle-aged man wearing a feathered hat, a young scholar with a fair complexion holding a blue feather fan, a quiet and serious-looking elderly man with a black beard, and a man wearing a conical bamboo hat that was positioned very low to conceal his facial features.

What was particularly noteworthy was that the man in the conical bamboo hat was missing both of his arms.

As for the other Vast Flow Palace cultivators, including Nan Kemeng, they were all standing a bit further away.

"I did previously conduct a search on Red Moon Island, but at the time, I wasn't able to find anything. Perhaps I was too negligent," the young scholar said slightly furrowed brows.

"If the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace really did set up concealment restrictions well in advance, then it would be impossible to uncover the location of the entrance through conventional means, so don't blame yourself. I don't know who leaked this piece of information, but my intuition tells me that it's true," Luo Qinghai said.

A hint of excitement appeared on the young scholar's face upon hearing this, and the serious-looking elderly man also raised his head with a faint gleam in his eyes.

Even the conical bamboo hat of the armless man shifted ever so slightly, and all of the other Vast Flow Palace cultivators that were further away were also displaying reactions of excitement.

Luo Qinghai didn't say anything further as he made a hand seal, and the blue flying boat instantly sped up, flying onward as a giant blue shadow.

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In the sky above another area of the Black Wind Sea, all of the Dawn Fall Sect cultivators were gathered together.

"Do you think this piece of information is true or not, Senior Martial Brother?" the Dawn Fall Sect Master asked as he turned to Feng Tiandu.

"There must be some truth to it. In any case, none of you have been able to find any leads thus far, so we may as well pursue this one," Feng Tiandu replied in an expressionless manner.

A slightly awkward look appeared on the Dawn Fall Sect Master's face as he said, "In our defense, the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace is clearly somehow concealing the entrance of the immortal manor, so..."

Before he had a chance to finish, Feng Tiandu swept a sleeve through the air, releasing a large black cloud that enveloped everyone before surging away into the distance, vanishing out of sight in the blink of an eye.

.....

Hovering in mid-air above a lush island was the silver-robed woman by the name of Qu Ling.

She was wearing an azure mask that was projecting an azure light screen, and she was inspecting the light screen with a hint of a smile in her eyes.

Right at this moment, a ball of white light appeared on the distant horizon before rapidly approaching her, and Qu Ling took a glance in that direction, then removed the mask on her face before stowing it away.

Upon arriving above the island, the ball of white light faded to reveal the Xue Clan cultivators, and there were even more of them than last time.

"Fellow Daoist Qu, have you heard the rumor that the entrance of the immortal manor is located beneath Red Moon Island?" the square-faced elderly man asked with an excited expression.

"I have. That piece of news has caused quite a stir in the Transient Guild," Qu Ling replied with a nod.

"Do you think the news is reliable?" the square-faced elderly man asked.

"There are many people in the Transient Guild doubting the validity of this news, but no one has been able to present any concrete evidence against it, so there's a chance that it could be real. Regardless, we'll have to make a trip to Red Moon Island and take a look for ourselves," Qu Ling replied.

The square-faced elderly man nodded in response with a contemplative expression.

"I don't know much about this Red Moon Island," Qu Ling continued. "Your Xue Clan was once a local power of the Black Wind Sea, so I'm assuming you must know more than me about this island, Fellow Daoist Xue Shan."

"In the past, Red Moon Island wasn't all that renowned in the Black Wind Sea, and our Xue Clan left the Black Wind Sea tens of thousands of years ago, so I'm afraid I don't know much about the island, either. All I've heard is that the island master was quite a renowned and formidable Earthly Immortal, but for some reason, he was killed, and Red Moon Island has been left abandoned since then."

"I see..." Qu Ling mused as her eyes narrowed slightly in contemplation.

"Seeing as we've already decided to go to Red Moon Island, we should set off right away. If the entrance of the immortal manor really is there, then we have to strive to get there before anyone else," Xue Shan urged.

"Alright, let's go," Qu Ling replied with a nod.

Xue Shan immediately swept a sleeve through the air upon hearing this, releasing a burst of white light that enveloped all of the Xue Clan's cultivators, but before he had a chance to do anything else, a gentle breeze suddenly blew over his back, following which a burst of sharp pain speared through his lower abdomen.

He looked down to find a white snake head protruding out of his lower abdomen, and locked in the mouth of the snake was none other than his nascent soul.

Xue Shan's eyes immediately widened with incredulity.

Even though there wasn't much spiritual light radiating from his body, he was wearing a compact suit of spirit armor that he had refined over the course of hundreds of thousands of years, yet it wasn't able to pose any resistance against the white snake.

A burst of white flames shot out of the snake's mouth before striking the nascent soul, instantly freezing it solid.

Immediately thereafter, the white snake opened its mouth up wide to devour the frozen nascent soul before shooting back toward Qu Ling.

Xue Shan gave a muffled groan, and his body was turned around by the force of the white snake's withdrawal.

Standing behind him was Qu Ling with a cold look on her face and a large white snake wrapped around her body, flicking its forked tongue out in a menacing fashion.

"What the hell are you doing, you insane woman!"

"Patriarch..."

All of this had taken place so abruptly that only now did the Xue Clan cultivators realize that their patriarch had been attacked, and all of them immediately flared up with rage, releasing a vast array of spirit treasures in the blink of an eye, as if they were already prepared for something like this.

A cold sneer appeared on Qu Ling's face as she swept a sleeve through the air to release a ball of golden light, which transformed into a giant golden beetle that was several hundred feet in size to keep the barrage of oncoming spirit treasures at bay.

"Why..." Xue Shan asked with great difficulty as the vitality rapidly seeped out of his body.

"I only approached your Xue Clan as I wasn't familiar with the Black Wind Sea and required a guide. Now that the location of the immortal manor's entrance has been revealed, I no longer require your services," Qu Ling explained in a cold voice, then flicked a finger through the air, and a hole was instantly punched through Xue Shan's glabella.

The light in his eyes faded, and his lifeless body crumpled to the ground.

Qu Ling then cast her gaze toward the giant golden beetle, which was standing firm against the barrage of spirit treasures with ease, completely unscathed by the attacks.

However, it certainly didn't enjoy being attacked, and a furious look appeared in its eyes as it swept its two front legs through the air, releasing two translucent streaks of light that severed a pair of spirit treasures like a hot knife through butter.

All of the Xue Clan cultivators were astonished to see this.

"There's no way we can defeat her! We have to split up and run!" the long-faced man roared, then flew away as a streak of white light, doing so in such a hurry that he was even leaving his spirit treasures behind.

Everyone else immediately snapped back to their senses upon hearing this before also fleeing in different directions.

"None of you are getting away!" Qu Ling sneered as she flicked a finger through the air, and the golden beetle instantly lashed out with its two front legs once again, releasing two thick streaks of translucent light that were each over 100 feet in length.

The two streaks of light shuddered slightly, then split up into around a dozen smaller streaks of light that swept toward the Xue Clan cultivators at an astonishing speed, reaching them in the blink of an eye before slicing through their protective treasures and the protective spiritual light around their bodies with ease.

A string of agonized wails rang out as all of the Xue Clan cultivators were sliced to shreds along with their spirit treasures, and a faint smile appeared on Qu Ling's face as she swept a sleeve through the air to release a burst of silver light, which swept up Xue Shan's body before dragging it toward her.

She inspected the body briefly, then stowed it away as she turned to the golden beetle with a smile and said, "Golden Immortals make for good sources of sustenance, but there's no need to hurry, the best delicacies are still yet to come."

After that, she withdrew the giant golden beetle as well before flying away as a streak of silver light.