

## A Record 531

### Chapter 531: The Third Cultivation Art

"That man has a very peculiar aura, and I've never seen such fierce baleful qi in anyone, so he's definitely no ordinary Golden Immortal. On top of that, I can sense that there's some type of extremely formidable power that he still hasn't displayed yet. Additionally, he seems to be an acquaintance of Gongshu Jiu's, so he may be a very important figure in the Heavenly Court.

Regardless of whether we can take him down or not, attempting to do so will result in severe trouble for our sect, so that's an option that we cannot explore," Luo Qinghai replied with a shake of his head.

"How are you so sure of that, Grand Palace Master?" Feng Hai asked.

"Back when the immortal manor first opened, only seven Infernal Frost Scenic Paintings appeared, and I saw all of the cultivators in possession of those seven paintings, but none of them possessed the same appearance or aura as that man.

Hence, he must've entered the immortal manor together with Gongshu Jiu using the eighth Infernal Frost Scenic Painting, which indicates that they had to have been quite close with one another," Luo Qinghai replied.

Everyone nodded in response upon hearing this.

"What do we do then? Are we really just going to hand the Water Divination Time Arts over to him?" Feng Hai asked in an indignant manner.

The other Golden Immortals all fell silent upon hearing this.

"You've always been the best decision-maker out of all of us, Grand Palace Master, so I think you should decide on how we should proceed," the green-faced elderly man said.

"I'm not exaggerating when I say that this has been the most tumultuous period in the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace in the past hundreds of thousands of years. The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, the

Dawn Fall Sect, and the Blaze Dragon Dao have all fallen from their pedestals, while only our Vast Flow Palace remains relatively intact.

In times of crisis, countless opportunities present themselves, and this is the ideal time for our Vast Flow Palace to expand its forces. If we can take full advantage of this opportunity, it's very much possible for us to crush the Dawn Fall Sect and the Blaze Dragon Dao to become the number one sect in the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace," Luo Qinghai said.

Excited looks appeared on everyone's faces upon hearing this.

Even though the Vast Flow Palace was one of the top three sects of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, it had always been inferior to the Dawn Fall Sect and the Blaze Dragon Dao.

If they could surpass those two sects, not only would they be able to reap tremendous benefits, just the honor to be gained was already extremely appealing to them.

"What do you suggest we do, Grand Palace Master?" Feng Hai asked.

"If we want to achieve that objective, then Palace Master Tie and Palace Master Qiu are indispensable to us. Hence, I think we should recover their nascent souls in exchange for the Water Divination Time Arts," Luo Qinghai said.

"I agree. Ensuring the bright future of our Vast Flow Palace is far more important than the Water Divination Time Arts," the green-faced elderly man declared.

"Indeed. On top of that, the cultivation art is extremely profound and difficult to understand. Throughout the entire history of our Vast Flow Palace, barely anyone has been able to make any progress in this cultivation art, and even the exceptional prodigies who managed to make some inroads progressed far too slowly and were quickly outstripped by their peers who were cultivating other law powers, so it really is just a waste of time."

"I also agree. The cultivation art is a small price to pay in exchange for two Golden Immortal Stage elders!"

Everyone else quickly nodded in agreement as well.

Feng Hai was still a little reluctant, but seeing as everyone else had already expressed the approval of the proposal, he didn't raise any further objections.

"In that case, please go fetch the Water Divination Time Arts, Elder Qnig Fu," Luo Qinghai said to the green-faced elderly man, who promptly departed from the hall.

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Han Li was sitting on his own while playing with the white crystal ball in his hand when the sound of footsteps rang out from outside, and Luo Qinghai and the green-faced elderly man entered the room.

"How did your discussion go, Grand Palace Master Luo?" Han Li asked.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, Fellow Daoist Liu. This is the Water Divination Time Arts," Luo Qinghai said as he flipped a hand over to produce a blue jade slip before placing it onto the tea table beside Han Li.

"You're a smart man, Grand Palace Master Luo," Han Li said as he also flipped a hand over to produce another white crystal ball, this one containing the elderly man's nascent soul.

He tossed both of the crystal balls to Luo Qinghai, then reached out to grab the blue jade slip.

Luo Qinghai caught the pair of crystal balls, then injected a burst of blue light into each of them, upon which an elated look appeared on his face.

The two nascent souls inside had only been restricted but not harmed, so they could possess new bodies just fine.

Meanwhile, Han Li injected his spiritual sense into the jade slip for a moment, then quickly withdrew his spiritual sense as a surprised look appeared on his face.

Luo Qinghai had already stowed the pair of crystal balls away, and upon noticing Han Li's expression, he asked, "Is there something wrong?"

"No. Now that the exchange is done, I'll be taking my leave," Han Li replied as he stowed the jade slip away, then turned to depart.

An urgent look appeared in Luo Qinghai's face upon hearing this, and he hurriedly said, "There's no hurry to leave, Fellow Daoist Liu. Why don't you stay at our Vast Flow Palace for a few days so I can show you some hospitality?"

"There's no need for that. I don't know anything about Fellow Daoist Gongshu or what happened in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, so there's no need to waste your time on me, Grand Palace Master Luo," Han Li said.

Luo Qinghai's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this, but it then quickly returned to normal as he turned to the green-faced elderly man as he said, "In that case, I won't keep you any longer. Elder Qing Fu, please escort Fellow Daoist Liu out of the sect for me."

"Yes, Grand Palace Master. Please come with me, Fellow Daoist Liu," the green-faced elderly man replied, then led Han Li out of the hall before flying away into the distance.

Luo Qinghai watched as the two of them departed, and he remained standing at the entrance of the hall for a moment before also departing himself.

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Close to a day later, a streak of azure light flew out of the Ancient Point Mountain Range, then descended onto a small hill to reveal Han Li.

He turned back to the Ancient Point Mountain Range, and a faint smile appeared on his face.

At the same time, Jin Tong emerged beside him amid a flash of golden light.

"It's a good thing you were with me, Jin Tong. Otherwise, that wouldn't have gone so smoothly," Han Li said.

Back in the Vast Flow Palace, he had completely concealed his own aura while adopting his Giant Mountain Ape form, while Jin Tong had released her late-Golden Immortal Stage aura, thereby resulting in the illusion that Han Li possessed her aura, ultimately intimidating Luo Qinghai into complying to his demands.

"I can't believe you gave those nascent souls to them instead of feeding them to me!" Jin Tong said with a displeased expression.

Han Li smiled as he flipped a hand over to summon another pair of Golden Immortal Stage nascent souls, and the displeasure on Jin Tong's face was instantly replaced with elation as he grabbed the pair of nascent souls from him.

These two nascent souls had been a part of a Gongshu Jiu's collection, of which there were five or six left. Perhaps he had secured these nascent souls from the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, or perhaps he had sourced them from elsewhere.

Han Li pulled out the jade slip that contained the Water Divination Time Arts, and a faint smile appeared on his face.

Even though he was still yet to completely grasp the Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture that he had obtained from the Dawn Fall Sect, it had reminded him of the Vast Flow Palace's Water Divination Time Arts.

He was going to be leaving the Northern Glacial Immortal Region anyway, so he may as well claim all three of the immortal region's time-attribute cultivation arts, hence his decision to visit the Vast Flow Palace.

At first glance, the Water Divination Time Arts was different from both the Mantra Axis Scripture and the Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture in that it was a cultivation art that manifested time law powers using the power of water.

However, what was quite surprising to Han Li was that all three of them had certain similarities.

Could it be that the three time-attribute cultivation arts of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region are somehow connected with one another?

Han Li only considered this notion briefly before shaking his head and stowing the jade slip away again.

His top priority at the moment was to leave the Northern Glacial Immortal Region as soon as possible, so he would just have to study the cultivation art another time.

With a sweep of his sleeve, the green jade flying carriage appeared, and he released a burst of azure light to sweep up Jin Tong before flying onto the carriage.

Immediately thereafter, the carriage shot forth toward the entrance to the primordial land as a ball of green light.

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In a certain space countless kilometers away from the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

The sky here was a radiant blue color with giant white clouds drifting lazily through the air, while a series of spirit birds flew through them.

Everything here seemed to be particularly bright, as if there weren't any darkness or shadows here.

Above the white immortal clouds was a vast world that consisted of countless giant mountains hovering in the sky, stretching as far as the eyes could see.

These mountains all varied in size, with some only tens of thousands of feet tall, while the largest ones stood at a staggering tens of millions of feet in size. Each mountain carried one or multiple majestic buildings, and these buildings were all of different styles, but they shared one similarity, which was that they were all radiating dazzling golden light.

The mountains were connected by bridges of rainbow light, presenting a spectacular sight to behold.

There was one mountain that was several million feet tall, hovering in mid-air, and it was riddled with radiant golden spirit patterns.

Around a dozen smaller mountains were hovering around it, much like stars around a moon.

On the summit of the mountain stood a golden palace that was glowing radiantly like everything else here.

The palace was around 1,000 feet tall and constructed from some type of unknown golden jade material, and it was extremely opulent and spectacular.

Above the entrance of the palace hung a silver plaque that read "Dawn Void Palace".

There were also many buildings littered across the smaller mountains around the giant golden peak, some of which were medicine gardens, while others were pill refinement chambers.

The nearest one of the smaller mountains had a large estate on its summit, within which numerous immortals were being kept, and it was looked after by several young servants.

Right at this moment, a streak of white light shot forth from afar, then flashed over the estate before hurtling toward the summit of the giant golden mountain.

The streak of white light was releasing a burst of tremendous spiritual pressure, and a giant azure light barrier quickly surfaced around the estate to keep the immense spiritual pressure at bay, but some of it was still able to force its way through.

All of the immortal beasts in the estate immediately became anxious and restless, while all of the servants' complexions paled significantly as they collapsed to the ground.

Only after the spiritual pressure had completely faded did they return unsteadily to their feet with looks of admiration and longing on their faces.

#### Chapter 532: Arriving at the Primordial Land

"Who was that? Their aura was incredible!" a tall and thin young man asked as he cast his gaze toward the summit of the giant golden peak with an excited expression.

"You were only just assigned to the Dawn Void Palace, so it's no surprise that you don't know of him. That was Xu Yunping, the fifth disciple of the Dawn Void Immortal Lord," one of the older servants replied.

"Master Xu seems to become more powerful everytime I see him," another servant with a pair of bushy eyebrows mused.

"I heard that Master Xu has been cultivating in seclusion for a long time, attempting to break through the mid-High Zenith Stage bottleneck. Now that he's come out of seclusion, I presume he's already made the breakthrough. However, he doesn't seem to have consolidated his cultivation base yet. Otherwise, there would be no spillage of spiritual pressure," the older servant said.

"I heard that Master Xu has only been a disciple of the Dawn Void Immortal Lord, yet he's already reached the mid-High Zenith Stage. If we had even a hundredth of his aptitude, we wouldn't be stuck here," the servant with the bushy eyebrows sighed.

"Master Xu ascended from a lower realm, so it's no surprise that he possesses exceptional aptitude. Even among the Dawn Void Immortal Lord's disciples, he ranks near the top in terms of aptitude, so he's certainly far beyond us," the older servant sighed with a self-deprecating expression.

After that, they began busying themselves with their respective duties again.

Meanwhile, the streak of white light descended in front of the palace on the summit of the giant golden mountain, then faded to reveal a golden-robed young man.

He possessed a pair of handsome features, most notably of which were a pair of bright eyes and sharp brows, and there was an aura of sharpness about him.



On either side of the palace stood a guard clad in golden armor, and the skin on their faces was giving off a metallic sheen.

"Is my master inside?" the golden-robed young man asked.

"He is," one of the armored guards replied.

The golden-robed young man nodded in response, then made his way into the palace and passed through a few corridors to appear in a side hall.

The hall was completely empty with the exception of a silver raised platform, upon which stood a golden chair.

A purple-robed middle-aged man was seated on the chair with his legs crossed. He had a dark complexion, and there was a powerful air of authority about him.

At this moment, his eyes were tightly shut, and bursts of purple light were emanating from his body, which was enshrouded within a cloud of faint purple mist.

The entire hall was also enveloped within a burst of strange power, and as the man breathed, the purple mist pulsed rhythmically, while the space within the hall trembled and buzzed, as if everything in the hall were in his control.

A hesitant look appeared on the golden-robed young man's face, but he still gritted his teeth to muster up his courage as he declared, "Disciple Xu Yunping pays his respects to his master."

The purple-robed man's eyelids fluttered slightly before springing open, and he cast a bright and piercing gaze toward the golden-robed young man, who shuddered involuntarily as his complexion paled slightly.

The bright gleam in the purple-robed man's eyes quickly faded, and his aura also became restrained as he asked, "Is there something you need from me, Yunping?"

"Master, I just received news from the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, informing me that Palace Master Xiao Jinhan had ventured into the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, but they suffered extremely severe losses, with Xiao Jinhan and several Golden Immortal Stage elders perishing in the immortal manor," Xu Yunping reported.

The purple-robed man's expression remained completely unchanged as he asked, "Oh? If I recall correctly, Xiao Jinhan was at the pinnacle of the Golden Immortal Stage. How did he die?"

"After receiving this news, I immediately sent out people to investigate, but only a small handful of the Immortal Palace's cultivators managed to return from the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor alive, and none of them knew exactly what had happened.

However, Xiao Jinhan had been attempting to unite the Northern Glacial Immortal Region for a long time, and as a result, a lot of tension had arisen between him and the other major powers of the immortal region, so I presume his demise must've had something to do with them," Xu Yunping replied.

"I've heard about what Xiao Jinhan had been doing recently. While it's true that he was a little too aggressive, he was still a representative of our Heavenly Court, and his death cannot be tolerated! Send someone to the Northern Glacial Immortal Region to investigate this matter right away.

Find all of the people who contributed to his demise and have them all killed! The authority of the Heavenly Court is not to be challenged!" the purple-robed man declared as a cold look appeared in his eyes.

"I've already sent people to the Northern Glacial Immortal Region to investigate this matter, and I'm sure an outcome will arise soon," Xu Yunping replied.

"Good. Make sure to get to the bottom of this," the purple-robed man said.

"I'll do my best, Master. Also, I have something else to report to you," Xu Yunping said.

"What is it?" the purple-robed man asked.

"I heard that Immortal Envoy Gongshu of the Immortal Prison also entered the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor to pursue some members of the Reincarnation Palace, but he also seemed to have met his demise in there," Xu Yunping said.

"Gongshu? Are you referring to Gongshu Jiu from the Gongshu Clan?" the purple-robed man asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"That's right," Xu Yunping replied.

"Gongshu Jiu wasn't particularly powerful among immortal envoys, but he was still a High Zenith Stage Jade Immortal, so there shouldn't have been anyone in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region capable of killing him. Is the Reincarnation Palace behind this?" the purple-robed man asked as he rose to his feet.

"At this point, those details are still unclear, but we would've surely found out had the Reincarnation Palace sent a High Zenith cultivators into the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. Should I send out some people to investigate this matter as well?" Xu Yunping asked.

"There's no need for that. The Immortal Prison has always acted as an independent entity, so they'll be sure to send someone to investigate this matter, and there's no need for us to get involved," the purple-robed man said.

"Yes, Master," Xu Yunping replied.

"You did very well in taking care of this matter. The Northern Glacial Immortal Region is under my jurisdiction, so it must not be allowed to descend into chaos. Go and arrange for a new palace master to be selected as soon as possible," the purple-robed man said.

Xu Yunping promptly departed after extending a parting salute, while the purple-robed man paced slowly back and forth in the hall with a contemplative look on his face.

Moments later, he suddenly stopped in his tracks, then vanished from the hall amid a flash of purple light.

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Across the sea to the southwest of the Upper Arr Continent was an even larger continent called the Primordial Edge Continent.

The eastern region of the continent was riddled with countless mountains, littered throughout which were innumerable dense forests and other perilous terrains, with very cities present.

Close to 100,000 kilometers inland from the east coast was a cliff that was over 10,000 feet tall and stretched for millions of kilometers, acting as a natural wall that sprawled over the continent from its north to its south.

It was still the same continent, yet it was as if the land had been sliced into two here. Above the cliff was a vast oasis, yet below it was a boundless desert.

Atop the cliff was a city that stretched for tens of thousands of kilometers like a resting black dragon, and there were passes that were filled with restrictions and beacon towers positioned strategically along the city.

Even with all these passes and beacon towers, there was only one city on the border, and it was called "Primordial Origin City".

Close to nightfall, the sun in the sky had already set below the city wall, but its warm radiance could still be seen extending over the horizon, basking the cold, black city walls in a layer of gentle warmth.

In the vast desert at the foot of the cliff to the west of the city, the sand was glowing gold under the light of dusk, and aside from the sound of the gentle breeze blowing through the area, there were no other sounds to be heard.

In stark contrast, on the other side of the city wall stood a massive city that was hundreds of kilometers in size. The city was filled with streets and alleys, as well as buildings of different description, and even though it still wasn't nighttime yet, the city was already brightly lit.

Due to how enormous the city was, aside from the central region of the city, which was relatively well planned-out and organized, the rest of the city sprawled out toward the east in a completely disorganized and haphazard fashion.

At this moment, there were two figures, one tall and one short, slowly walking alongside one another on the ancient path leading toward the outskirts of the city.

The shorter of the two figures was a little girl who appeared to be eight or nine years old, wearing a festive little red coat with embroidered golden edges. She was holding three tanghulus as she walked beside a tall man dressed in an azure robe.

The man was none other than Han Li, while the little girl was Jin Tong.

The first stop on the map that Wyrn 3 had given him was the same location that Daoist Hu Yan pointed out to him, and after arriving in Primordial Origin City, Han Li decided to gather more information before he made a decision on how he was embark on this journey through the primordial land.

"Why do I have to conceal my cultivation base, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked with a puzzled expression while munching on a tanghulu.

"Your late-Golden Immortal Stage aura will attract too much attention here," Han Li replied as he cast his gaze toward the edge of the city.

"Isn't that what we want? It would be great if we could lure a few Golden Immortals into attacking us, and after we kill them all, I'll have more snacks to eat! I've constantly been feeling hungry recently," Jin Tong said in an excited manner.

"Our top priority right now is to leave the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, so you're not allowed to cause any trouble. Otherwise, I'll wear you on my finger as a ring instead of allowing you to follow me in your human form," Han Li warned with a serious expression.

"Don't do that! Fine, fine, I'll behave," Jin Tong sighed in a reluctant voice.

As the two of them were speaking, they had already arrived in the outer city of Primordial Origin City.

### Chapter 533: Primordial Origin City

The streets in the outer city were lined with mud and short brick and tile buildings, most of which had rectangular tables in front of them, upon which were placed all types of merchandise. The majority of the merchandise catered toward mortals, so they were of no interest to Han Li.

As they approached the inner city, the streets became wider and much more uniform, and the buildings that lined the streets also became taller and more extravagant. However, in contrast with the other continents in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, there was a clear disparity in the style in which the buildings were constructed.

There were very few cylindrical pillars incorporated into the buildings here, nor any intricate engravings that were commonplace elsewhere. Overall, the style was simpler and rougher around the edges, and was lacking in intricacy and thoughtfulness.

Furthermore, the wares being sold on the sides of the streets further accentuated the fact that this continent was different from the others.

Even though it was getting dark, there were still quite a few people out on the streets, and after some observation, Han Li discovered that there were many foreign beings here that weren't commonly seen elsewhere in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. After walking for only a few hundred meters, Han Li had already spotted a decent number of foreign beings with peculiar appearances and strange attire.

However, this was no surprise, considering that this continent was situated on the border of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

"Something smells really good, Uncle..." Jin Tong exclaimed as soon as she finished the tanghulu in her hand, following which she immediately rushed over to a streetside stall.

Standing behind the stall was a dark-skinned man with a well-built physique, and he smiled as he asked, "How can I help you, little girl?"

Han Li followed Jin Tong to the stall to find that there was a huge copper pot full of bubbling oil placed beside it. Beside the pot was a table that was laden with freshly deep-fried food that was rather unappealing in appearance, but were giving off an alluring aroma.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly at the sight of the food being sold.

There were appendages of roughly the same thickness as human arms, giant pincers the size of tables, and an eyeball from some type of unidentifiable beast, all of which had been fried to a golden color and a crispy texture.

"You want to eat this stuff?" Han Li asked.

"I do! I'll take all of it!" Jin Tong declared as she swept a hand through the air, and all of the food on the table was instantly stowed away into her storage bracelet.

A resigned smile appeared on Han Li's face as he paid the stall owner, who was ecstatic to have sold so much food at once.

As Han Li and Jin Tong continued to approach the inner city, the streets were becoming more and more packed with pedestrians.

There were many streetside stall owners loudly advertising their wares, and many verbal arguments could also be heard with no shortage of derogatory terms being thrown around.

There were also quite a few places where there were scantily dressed women leaning against the railing or standing at the entrance, waving their fans and their sleeves to attract patrons to their doors.

Most of the people in the city were mortals, and there were quite a few cultivators as well, but the majority of them possessed very lowly cultivation bases. Han Li was listening to the conversations taking place around him, trying to gather some useful information. However, that ultimately proved to be futile, so he grabbed onto Jin Tong's arm and rose up into the air to fly directly toward the inner city.

As they flew through the sky, Han Li suddenly raised an eyebrow at the sight of the countless specks of light down below, and he murmured to himself, "It seems like this entire city is a complex array... The larger the city is, the more stable the array. No wonder there are no city walls constructed here. How brilliant..."

"What's so brilliant, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked while crunching on a giant fried pincer.

An amused smile appeared on Han Li's face as he chuckled, "Don't worry about it, just focus on your food."

In contrast with the outer city, the buildings in the inner city were far more intricately constructed, and many decorative engravings could be seen on these buildings, but they were all depicting strange beasts that Han Li had never seen before.

The shops and restaurants that lined the streets had also turned into three-story pavilions, littered in between which were some large inns.

What was most intriguing to Han Li was that there was a giant hemispherical building every few streets, and these were always the liveliest and most bustling places on their respective streets.

Each of these buildings had four entrances, and the walls were riddled with fortification runes. Every once in a while, the sound of raucous cheering would ring out within these buildings.

"It sounds really fun in there, Uncle! Let's go in and take a look!" Jin Tong suggested with an intrigued expression.

"Those are just arenas where different beasts are pitted against each other, while bets are placed by the spectators," Han Li explained with a shake of his head.

Jin Tong immediately lost interest upon hearing this.

"We've been traveling non-stop recently, so let's take a rest in this city for tonight, then leave the city tomorrow to travel to the primordial land," Han Li said as he took a glance up at the starry night sky.



"You can do whatever you want, Uncle. I'm feeling a little drowsy after my meal, so I'm going to sleep for a bit," Jin Tong replied, then shrank down into a tiny golden beetle before landing on Han Li's finger as a golden ring.

Han Li could only shake his head with a resigned smile as he made his way toward the center of the city.

As he did so, he discovered that the buildings on the streets were becoming sparser.

This wasn't because the city wasn't sufficiently prosperous. Instead, it was because all of the buildings in the core area of the inner city had been constructed in accordance with that giant array. Hence, they couldn't be altered on a whim, and piling too many buildings into the area would compromise the array.

As Han Li made his way to the entrance of a street, he spotted a tall red archway. The pillars of the archway had intricate designs of dragons and phoenixes engraved upon them, and the words "Faint Smoke Garden" were inscribed on a plaque at the center of the archway.

Han Li peered into the archway with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes to find that the world's origin qi in the area beyond it was far more abundant than in other areas, and he began to make his way toward the archway.

Only as he approached the archway did he notice that there was a black wooden plaque nearby, upon which were inscribed the words: "Only cultivators at or above the Deity Transformation Stage allowed."

Han Li stepped through the archway, and he was immediately welcomed by a tall and slender female cultivator in a palace dress.

"Welcome, esteemed guest," the woman greeted as she extended a respectful curtsy.

Her etiquette and mannerisms were completely impeccable, but her smile was a little too uniform and professional, making her slightly cold and uninviting.

"Do you have any spare rooms?" Han Li asked.

"There's a vacant room in a peaceful location in the B-grade garden," the woman replied.

"There are different grades in the rooms here? Do you have any vacant rooms in your A-grade garden?" Han Li asked.

"This must be your first time in Primordial Origin City, right? There's an unofficial rule in all of the immortal inns in the city, which is that all rooms are split into four grades, A, B, C, and D, and A-grade rooms are only accessible to cultivators at or above the True Immortal Stage. Given your Grand Ascension Stage cultivation base, a B-grade room is most suitable for you," the woman explained with an apologetic expression.

"I see. That's fine, please lead the way," Han Li replied with a smile.

He was only planning to stay here for one night anyway, so it didn't really matter whether he stayed in an A-grade room or a B-grade one.

The woman hesitated momentarily, then asked, "You're not going to ask about the price?"

"Arrange for some food and wine to be sent to my room, I'll pay for everything when I leave tomorrow," Han Li replied in an indifferent voice.

"As you wish. Please come with me," the woman replied with another curtsy.

She then led Han Li out of the rear hall and along a winding corridor toward the backyard.

"If this is your first time here, why don't you spend a few more days in Primordial Origin City?" the woman suggested as she led the way. "There are some places that are worth visiting in the city, and it would be a pity not to pay them a visit."

"What are some of these places?" Han Li asked in a casual manner.

"The exact time when Primordial Origin City was first constructed is unknown. Throughout its history, the city has been destroyed on many occasions during battles between cultivators and primordial beasts, and the current iteration of the city was reconstructed with the support of all of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region's top sects after the most recent war," the woman introduced.

"Does that mean primordial beasts have managed to attack their way into the city before?" Han Li asked.

"That's right. The last large-scale war was a very long time ago, so there aren't many people around who still remember it, but I've heard that the primordial beasts were able to force their way into the city under the leadership of some primordial true spirits," the woman replied with a nod.

"Is the city jointly overseen by all of the major sects?" Han Li asked.

"That's not the case. Due to the special location of the city, it's currently being overseen by the city lord's manor, and the major sects play no part in its management. However, the city is on good terms with all of the major sects, so it'll generally receive reinforcements from those sects in its times of need," the woman explained.

"What about the Immortal Palace? Do they play no role in overseeing the city?" Han Li asked.

"The Northern Glacial Immortal Palace has expression intentions of taking over the city in the past, but they've been opposed by all of the major sects, and the city lord of Primordial Origin City is a cultivator at the pinnacle of the Golden Immortal Stage, so the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace has been unable to usurp the city lord's manor. However..."

The woman's voice trailed off here as a hesitant look appeared on her face.

Han Li could already guess what she wanted to say, but he still asked, "What is it?"

"In the wake of the Blaze Dragon Dao incident, the state of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region will most likely undergo a change, and Primordial Origin City may be affected as well," the woman said with a concerned expression.

Han Li was rather relieved to hear this.

It seemed like word of what had happened in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor still hadn't spread across the Northern Glacial Immortal Region yet. At the very least, it appeared that those in Primordial Origin City were still oblivious to such matters.

#### Chapter 534: Sea of Sand

"Indeed, there seems to be some unrest brewing in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region of late," Han Li remarked.

"May I ask for what purpose you're visiting Primordial Origin City, esteemed guest?" the woman asked.

"Truth be told, I'm planning to travel to the primordial land tomorrow," Han Li replied in a candid fashion.

"You're going to leave the city?" the woman asked as she stopped in her tracks with a surprised look on her face. "Are you traveling with someone else?"

"No, I prefer to travel alone," Han Li replied with a shake of his head.

"Please pardon me for sticking my nose into your business, but... with your cultivation base, leaving the city alone will be no different from throwing yourself to the wolves," the woman said as she extended an apologetic bow.

"Why is that? Is there some source of significant peril outside the city?" Han Li asked.

"Outside Primordial Origin City is an extremely vast sea of sand that's filled with countless natural sand traps that are incredibly deep. Not only will it be impossible for a cultivator to traverse through the unforgiving terrain, even beasts from other deserts are unable to survive there. Only by traveling on one of the large ships in the city will you be able to reach the other side of the sea of sand," the woman explained.

"Why can't a cultivator just fly over the sea of sand then? Are there some perils present in the sky as well?" Han Li asked.

"Even a Golden Immortal cultivator most likely wouldn't dare to traverse through the sea of sand on an aerial route. Primordial Origin City is very close to the primordial land, and there were often powerful primordial beings roaming through the sea of sand. Even many late-True Immortal cultivators have met terrible fates upon running into some of these primordial beasts," the woman explained.

Han Li could tell from the tone of her voice that she wasn't merely trying to scare him, and his brows furrowed slightly in contemplation.

"Aside from that, even if one is lucky enough to avoid all of those ferocious beasts, there are many mirages and illusions in the sea of sand that could easily lead one astray. If luck is on one's side, perhaps they'll be able to stumble their way back to Primordial Origin City in a few centuries, but if luck isn't smiling upon them, then..."

The woman's voice trailed off there, but the implications were already very apparent.

"Where can I go to board one of these ships?" Han Li asked after some contemplation.

"The ship dock is located near the beacon tower on the western city gate. These ships only make two trips a year, but you're in luck as the next ship will be departing in just half a month," the woman replied.

"If cultivators are susceptible to being attacked upon entering the sea of sand, wouldn't a ship full of cultivators be even more prone to attracting primordial beasts?" Han Li asked with a puzzled expression.

"Rest assured, esteemed guest. These ships were crafted by the city lord's manor, and I've heard that there are certain mechanisms in the ship that completely conceal its aura to avoid the detection of primordial beings," the woman explained.

"So you're saying that the ship is guaranteed to be able to reach the other side of the sea of sand?" Han Li asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"Nothing is truly guaranteed in life, esteemed guest. As recently as eight years ago, one of the ships was struck down by a primordial true spirit, and there were barely any survivors," the woman replied with a wry smile.

"If it can conceal its own aura, then how was it struck down?" Han Li asked with a surprised expression.

The two of them arrived in the backyard as they were speaking.

"From what I heard, a True Immortal Stage primordial hunter on the ship had slain a nest of juvenile Nine-eyed Centipedes on a hunting trip, infuriating the True Immortal Stage parent of the centipedes, which had been away from the nest at the time. It was able to catch a whiff of the cultivator's bloodline aura from the blood that he had shed at the nest, and that was what ultimately resulted in that tragedy," the woman explained.

"By primordial hunter, you're referring to cultivators who enter the primordial land to hunt for primordial beasts, right?" Han Li asked.

"Yes, but also no. Hunting primordial beasts is indeed one of the objectives of primordial hunters, but on top of that, they're also searching for strange and exotic plants, as well as ore, gemstones, and other resources from the primordial land," the woman replied.

"I'm sure there must've been countless primordial hunters over the years. Have any of them ever been able to piece together a map of the primordial land?" Han Li asked.

"I'm afraid not. If you're going to visit any of the shops in the city, make sure to be on your guard as all of the merchants claiming to have maps of the primordial land for sale are frauds," the woman replied with a shake of her head.

"Why is that?" Han Li asked.

"While it's true that countless cultivators have ventured into the primordial land over the years, they've only been able to explore a very limited area. The only people who have dared to venture deep into the primordial land and returned alive were almighty beings at or above the Golden Immortal Stage, and it's said that only cultivators at or above the High Zenith Stage have been able to pass through the

primordial land to the neighboring Black Mountain Immortal Region. Cultivators of this caliber are extremely rare, and none of them would be willing to map out the primordial land as a public service for others," the woman explained.

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

"You must've come to Primordial Origin City as you're also interested in becoming a primordial hunter, right? I advise you to limit your activities to the already charted areas of the primordial land. There will be no lack of bounties waiting for you even in those explored areas," the woman suggested.

Before long, the two of them had already arrived in front of a courtyard in the B-grade garden.

Han Li swept his gaze over the courtyard to find that it had been arranged in a triangular formation, with a main room at the center, on either side of which was a side room, and in the middle was a small garden filled with vibrant flowers and young immortal plants.

The woman pulled out an azure jade badge that was engraved with the words "Rain Hearing Courtyard", then swept it through the air.

The restriction that encompassed the entire courtyard instantly split open, following which a gentle, fragrant breeze blew out from within, and a pair of maidservants emerged before extending a collective curtsy toward Han Li.

"Both of these maidservants are Core Formation cultivators with their virginities still intact. If you take a liking to them, then that would be a great honor for them. Otherwise, you can just have them perform some servant duties for you," the woman said as he offered the jade badge to Han Li with both hands.

"I don't require any servants. I'm used to being on my own," Han Li said as he accepted the jade badge.

The two maidservants weren't inferior to the woman who had guided Han Li here in the looks department, and a hint of disappointment flashed through their eyes upon hearing this, but neither of them dared to say anything.

"In that case, I'll have them leave you in peace. Please rest for a moment, the wine and food that you ordered will be here shortly," the woman replied.

"You have my thanks," Han Li said as he tossed a brocade pouch toward the woman.

The woman caught the cloth pouch, then inspected its contents momentarily with her hand concealed up her sleeve, and a combination of shock and elation appeared on her face as she exclaimed, "I am in awe of your generosity, esteemed guest. How about I take you to an A-grade courtyard instead?"

"There's no need for that, this courtyard is just fine. You can all go now," Han Li said with a dismissive wave of his hand, then made his way into the courtyard.

A faint smile appeared on the woman's face as she looked on at Han Li's departing figure, and she pulled a top-grade spirit stone out of the brocade pouch for closer inspection.

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The next day, Han Li departed from the Faint Smoke Garden early in the morning.

Having slept an entire night, Jin Tong was completely reinvigorated, and at this point, she had already picked up a wide array of different foods from the street side stalls.

"Are we leaving now, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked with a reluctant expression.

"There's no hurry to leave," Han Li replied in an ambiguous fashion, then made his way toward the western city gate, quickly arriving at the dock there.

"What are we doing here, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked.

"Wait here for me for a bit," Han Li said to Jin Tong, then made his way into a nearby black building.



A short while later, he emerged from the building with a black talisman in his hand, upon which was engraved a design of a large ship.

"What's this?" Jin Tong asked with a curious expression as she grabbed the spirit talisman from Han Li.

"It's a ship ticket," Han Li replied, then briefly explained to Jin Tong why they were going to travel by ship.

"With our powers, there's no need to travel by ship. It would be much faster if we just flew straight through the sea of sand," Jin Tong said as she pursed her lips in displeasure.

"This is going to be our first foray into the primordial land, so it's better to be a bit more cautious. On top of that, seeing as there's a ship that can cross this sea of sand, why wouldn't we take advantage of it?" Han Li said with a smile.

Jin Tong thought about this for a moment, then shrugged her little shoulders before continuing to enjoy her feast.

After stowing the ship ticket away, Han Li made his way toward the bustling streets in the city.

Even though he had a very large collection of pills and resources, most of them had been taken from the storage tools of Gongshu Jiu and the others, so they may not necessarily be useful to him. Hence, he had to prepare some things in preparation for the upcoming journey.

Given this city's close proximity to the primordial land, there had to be many resources unique to the primordial land being sold in the city, so it was definitely worth exploring.

However, Primordial Origin City was massive, and many places were enshrouded in restrictions that could keep out spiritual sense.

It was going to take far too long to just explore the city blindly, so Han Li made his way into a nearby variety store, where he purchased a book that introduced the city to newcomers.

After reading through the book, he developed a rough grasp of the city's layout.

He stowed the book away, then continued onward, and it wasn't long before he arrived in a prosperous area in the inner city.

In contrast with other parts of the city, this place was a giant white jade plaza.

There were close to 100 wide streets branching out in all directions with the plaza acting as the central point, and hovering in the air above the plaza was a white palace that looked as if it had been entirely constructed out of pristine white jade.

There were countless large white runes swirling around the palace, releasing bursts of white light that enshrouded the entire plaza and all of the streets around it.

This was the largest business area in Primordial Origin City, and it was certainly living up to its reputation.

#### Chapter 535: Lost

Han Li stood at the entrance of the street, looking up at the white palace in the sky with a thoughtful expression.

According to the book that he had read, the palace had been created by the city lord of Primordial Origin City, and those inside it could oversee everything that happened along the entire street.

Due to the fact that Primordial Origin City was situated on the border of the immortal region, it had a reputation for being somewhat chaotic, but this street was always a very peaceful place. The reason for this was that battles were strictly prohibited here, and anyone who went against this rule would be severely punished, even killed on the spot in some cases.

Over time, this floating palace became a symbol of power and a beacon of authority in the eyes of Primordial Origin City's cultivators.

Han Li quickly withdrew his gaze, then began to inspect the street around him.

Even though there were many streets branching off from the plaza, it didn't appear messy or cluttered in the slightest. Instead, everything had been arranged in an orderly fashion, and it was clear that the layout of the streets had been set out by experts in the field. Furthermore, all of the shops on each street specialized in only selling one type of merchandise, whether that be materials, or spirit treasures, or pills.

After observing his surroundings for a moment, Han Li made his way down one of the wider streets. All types of spirit plants were being sold in the shops on this street, and it was quite a lively and bustling street.

He began making his way toward one of the larger shops on the street, yet right as he was about to step into it, he suddenly stopped in his tracks, then turned around to look behind him with furrowed brows.

As it turned out, Jin Tong had suddenly vanished.

Han Li released his spiritual sense to search for Jin Tong, and as it turned out, she had rushed over to the nearby food stalls again.

Han Li shook his head in exasperation, but didn't summon Jin Tong back to his side.

Even though her powers still didn't quite place her at the very top of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, he was confident that there was no one in Primordial Origin City capable of harming her.

With that in mind, he made his way into the shop, which was quite large, spanning several thousand feet, and there were many shelves in the shop that were laden with spirit plants and materials.

At this moment, there were many other cultivators already in the shop, and Han Li was immediately greeted by an azure-robed employee.

"How can I help you, esteemed customer? We have the widest range and the cheapest prices that you'll find in Primordial Origin City."

"I'll take a look on my own," Han Li replied as he waved a dismissive hand.

The employee gave an affirmative response, but didn't walk away. Instead, he continued to trail along some distance behind Han Li.

Han Li swept his gaze over the surrounding shelves as he gave an internal nod.

Due to its location, Primordial Origin City was rather isolated from the rest of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but the materials here were very much eye-opening for Han Li. They were all very rare items in other places, and in particular, most of the spirit beast materials here were unidentifiable to Han Li, so they most likely came from outside of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

Fortunately, all of the wares being sold in the shop had signs beside them that laid out their names and how they could be used.

It didn't take long before Han Li had explored the entire shop, and he was looking a little disappointed.

While it was true that the materials in the shop were quite rare, none of them were of a very high caliber, and most of them were only useful to cultivators below the True Immortal Stage.

The azure-robed employee noticed Han Li's expression, and he rushed over to Han Li before pointing at a staircase in the shop as he said, "Are you looking for some better materials, esteemed customers? The first floor only holds the ordinary spirit materials, while all of the high-grade materials are on the second floor."

"Alright, I'll take a look," Han Li replied with a nod.

"Please come with me."

The employee led the way forward, and it didn't take long before they arrived on the second floor.

In contrast with the first floor, there were only seven or eight shelves on the second floor, but they had clearly been constructed with better materials and design.

Han Li's gaze roamed over the materials on the shelves, and his eyes quickly lit up.

These materials were far more abundant in spiritual power than the ones downstairs. Almost all of them were meant for True Immortal cultivators, and there were even a few that could be used by Golden Immortals.

As Han Li walked along the shelves, his eyes suddenly lit up as he stopped in his tracks, and his gaze settled on a red vine.

"This is a length of Heavenly Siphon Vine. It's a very rare material, and we only recently secured it from a primordial hunter," the employee explained.

"Let me take a closer look at it," Han Li said.

The employee pulled out a badge to dispel the transparent restriction around the shelf, then carefully pulled out the red spirit vine before handing it to Han Li.

Han Li accepted the spirit plant, and an elated look appeared in his eyes following a closer inspection.

The Heavenly Siphon Vine was one of the main materials for refining Heavenly Luster Pills, one of the pills in the Huanan Pill Scripture, so it seemed that he was in luck.

"I'll take this vine. How much is it?" he asked.

Even though he had already gathered all of the ingredients required to refine Infernal Azure Pills, it naturally couldn't hurt for him to refine as many of the pills on the Huanan Pill Scripture as possible.

"Heavenly Siphon Pills are useful even to cultivators above the True Immortal Stage, and this one is over 100,000 years old, so it'll cost 350 Immortal Origin Stones," the employee replied after a brief hesitation.

350 Immortal Origin Stones was quite a large sum, even for a late-True Immortal cultivator, but Han Li didn't even hesitate as he replied, "I'll take it."

At the moment, he had over two million Immortal Origin Stones in his possession, so 350 was but a trifling sum.

The employee was ecstatic.

Han Li continued to browse through the wares on the shelves, but was unable to find any more materials that were useful to him.

Shortly thereafter, he left the shop with the Heavenly Siphon Vine.

However, instead of leaving this street, he made his way into another nearby shop.

Before long, almost an entire day had passed by, and Han Li had explored all of the materials shops in the area, securing many useful materials in the process.

Even though Primordial Origin City wasn't as large as some of the major cities in more prosperous parts of the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace, its location meant that there were many types of precious materials here, so it was no wonder that the Northern Glacial Immortal Palace wanted to seize control of the city.

Unfortunately, he was only able to find a few ingredients required for refining Heavenly Luster Pills, and there were still many missing.

The reason why he had been able to source all of the materials required for refining Infernal Azure Pills was because Xiao Jinhan had almost completed the entire list for him.

Han Li wasn't overly concerned or dismayed by this. He would just have to keep searching for Heavenly Luster Pill ingredients after he entered the primordial land.

After that, Han Li departed from the street of shops selling materials, then made his way onto a street lined with variety stores. He made his way into the largest shop on that street, then quickly emerged with a gray jade slip in his hand.

The jade slip contained a map of the primordial land, but according to the shopkeeper, the map had been created based on information purchased from primordial hunters.

The primordial land was fraught with peril, and a variety store like this one certainly didn't have the ability to verify the information that they had been supplied by these primordial hunters, so the shopkeeper didn't dare to vouch for the accuracy of the map.

In other words, it could only be used for reference purposes, and Han Li was both amused and exasperated to hear this.

Having explored countless places and purchased countless maps, this was the first time that he had heard something so irresponsible.

However, given the perils of the primordial land, all of the maps being sold in the variety stores in the city suffered from the same pitfall.

Han Li inspected the jade slip for a moment, then injected his spiritual sense into it.

The map inside the jade slip was split up into two sections, a small section that was white in color, and a far larger section that was gray.

All of the white areas were quite close to Primordial Origin City, and there was very detailed information presented in those sections, including what demon beasts resided in those areas and what types of materials could be found there.

As for the gray areas, they represented the unknown.

According to the shopkeeper, those white areas were ones that had been explored extensively by people sent out by the city lord, so they were essentially official maps that were very reliable.

As for the gray areas, the annotations on them had been made using information supplied by some primordial hunters, and it was impossible to verify the validity of the information.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li summoned another white jade badge, this one given to him by Wyrms 3, containing the map of the safe route through the primordial land.

The route began at Primordial Origin City and led all the way to the Black Mountain Immortal Region, but there were only some sparse pieces of information presented on the areas that the route passed through, while the other areas had been left completely empty.

Han Li compared the contents of the two maps to find that Wyrms 3's map and the official map supplied by Primordial Origin City were virtually identical.

However, outside of the official map, the gray areas displayed some rather significant differences compared with Wyrms 3's map, and it was impossible to tell which one was more accurate.

A contemplative look appeared on Han Li's face as he made his way into another shop.

Before long, he had visited dozens of shops and purchased a large collection of maps.

There had to be some accurate information on these maps, and it certainly couldn't hurt to have more of them for his upcoming journey into the primordial land.

By the time Han Li emerged from the final variety shop, night had already arrived.

All of the streets in this area were lined with a type of white crystal that gave off a gentle white glow in the night, illuminating the area and giving it an air of wonder and opulence.



At this moment, Han Li's brows were slightly furrowed. He had just verified Jin Tong's location using their spiritual connection, and she was still in Primordial Origin City, but for some reason, her spiritual sense was trembling slightly, a situation that generally only arose whenever she was in a state of heightened excitement while in battle.

Han Li immediately set off for Jin Tong's location, quickly arriving in front of a huge dome-shaped palatial building.

The entrance of the palace was over 100 feet wide, and it was packed with people.

This was one of the arenas in Primordial Origin City, and there were restrictions set up nearby, making it impossible for someone to sense what was happening inside the building from the outside.

Han Li was rather perplexed to see this, and he immediately made his way into the arena.

#### Chapter 536: Demonic Man

From the outside, the black palace didn't appear all that large, but it was quite spacious on the inside with seven or eight giant rings that were enshrouded within transparent restrictions. Each ring was around 5,000 to 6,000 feet in size, and they were surrounded by raucous spectators.

Han Li stood at the entrance and swept his gaze over the surrounding area to find that fierce battles were taking place on all of the rings. Some were one-on-one battles between two demon beasts, some battles had more than two combatants, and some battles were taking place between demon beasts and cultivators.

Whenever any of the combatants sustained any injuries, the people gathered around the ring would immediately let loose thunderous cheers.

The raw brutality of these battles seemed to have ignited the bloodlust deep within the hearts of the spectators, and all of them were cheering with excitement.

At the center of the arena was a large stone plaque, upon which were inscribed the matchups for the ongoing and upcoming battles, as well as the odds on offer.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

He wasn't unfamiliar with these types of arenas as he had seen other similar places in the past, but he didn't enjoy this type of environment much.

He continued to scour through his surroundings, and he quickly caught sight of a familiar figure in the crowd beside one of the rings.

Just like all of the spectators around her, Jin Tong was currently yelling loudly at the ring, and her face was brightly flushed.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he heaved a long sigh before making her way toward Jin Tong.

Jin Tong seemed to be oblivious to his approach, and she was yelling at the top of her lungs, looking as if she wanted to jump into the ring to fight herself.

"Jump! Use your tail... Agh, what an idiot!"

Han Li cast his gaze toward the ring in front of Jin Tong to find that there was a pair of ferocious beasts locked in battle inside.

One of them resembled a giant lizard that was over 100 feet in length with its entire body covered in dark purple scales. There were also several sharp hooked spikes on its tail, and its mouth was filled with fangs that resembled sharp swords, giving it a very menacing appearance.

The opposing beast resembled a lion that was 70 to 80 feet tall. It had a single horn on its head and an extremely fearsome physique, coupled with claws that resembled anchors.

A hint of intrigue appeared in Han Li's eyes at the sight of the two beasts.

According to his knowledge, both of the beasts in the ring were primordial demon beasts that had been captured from the primordial land. They were extremely vicious, but their demonic power had been sealed, so there was no danger to any of the spectators.

At this moment, the two beasts were locked in an intense battle, with blood splattered in all directions, while scales and tufts of fur were flying everywhere.

It was clear that Jin Tong was supporting the lizard-like beast, but it was gradually being forced onto the back foot by its opponent.

Right at this moment, the lizard let loose a low roar before darting back like lightning, then swept its spiked tail horizontally through the air, lashing out viciously at its pouncing opponent.

However, the horned beast possessed agility that belied its bulky appearance, and it quickly darted away to the side, allowing it to evade the lizard's sweeping tail.

Before the lizard had a chance to do anything, the horned beast bit down like lightning, sinking its fangs into the midsection of the lizard's tail before whipping its head ferociously to one side.

The lizard was swung through the air before crashing heavily into the restriction that encompassed the ring.

Immediately thereafter, the horned beast pounced forward, and its horn pierced viciously into the lizard's belly, pinning it into the restriction.

A vast volume of blood erupted out of the lizard's body as it let loose an agonized wail, and it was struggling with all its might, but unable to break free.

As it continued to bleed, the lizard's struggles quickly became feebler and feebler, until it finally fell completely still.

The horned beast took a step backward, then whipped its head to the side again to send the lizard flying through the air.

A loud thump rang out as the lizard fell onto the ground, and its limbs spasmed a few times before quickly falling still.

A wave of thunderous cheers instantly erupted around the ring, and the horned beast stood with its head held high and its bloodstained horn pointed directly upward, as if it were basking in the cheers.

Jin Tong stomped her foot into the ground in frustration upon seeing this.

Standing beside her was a purple-robed young man, and he chuckled, "Looks like I win this time."

"Don't get cocky just from winning one bet!" Jin Tong scoffed with a displeased pout.

Han Li was rather taken aback to see this.

Jin Tong had always been quite resentful toward cultivators other than himself, so it was very surprising for him to see her interacting with another cultivator like this.

With that in mind, he took a glance at the purple-robed young man, upon which his pupils immediately contracted slightly.

The man was giving off a True Immortal Stage aura, but with Han Li's immense spiritual sense, he was immediately able to tell that this was a disguise, and that his true cultivation base was at the mid-Golden Immortal Stage.

Furthermore, the aura that he was giving off indicated that he was a demonic cultivator.

"Jin Tong," Han Li called out.

"Oh, what a coincidence, Uncle!" Jin Tong exclaimed as she rushed over to Han Li.

The purple-robed man also turned around to discover Han Li approaching him and Jin Tong.

The man appeared to be in his twenties with a head of slightly curly white hair and a set of handsome features. His eyes were particularly bright, and his pupils were a peculiar light purple color.

"I had to come looking for you because you've been gone an entire day, and it's already nighttime!" Han Li grumbled.

Jin Tong scratched her head in a sheepish manner as she replied, "Is it already that late? I didn't notice. You should come and play with us, Uncle. It's really fun here!"

Han Li paid no heed to Jin Tong as he asked, "Who is this fellow daoist, Jin Tong?"

"He's a friend I just made, his name is Shi Chuankong," Jin Tong replied.

At this point, the purple-robed man had also made his way over to Han Li, and he cupped his fist in a salute as he said, "I am Shi Chuankong, a primordial hunter. May I ask your name?"

As he raised his hands to cup his fist in a salute, his sleeves slid down his forearms to reveal a layer of fine purple scales over his skin.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon seeing this, and he returned the salute as he returned the salute and replied, "My name is Li Feiyu."

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Fellow Daoist Li. Jin Tong and I have been getting along quite well, and we've been having some fun betting on the battles here. I hope I haven't caused any trouble for you," Shi Chuankong said.

"Jin Tong has always been quite naughty, and I don't know how to keep her in check, so I'm very grateful that you've been looking after her for me," Han Li replied with a smile.

"That's good to hear. By the way, I heard from Jin Tong that the two of you have only just arrived in Primordial Origin City and are planning to travel to the primordial land. I also plan to travel to the primordial land by ship in half a month, so how about we travel together?" Shi Chuankong proposed.

"Thank you for the kind offer, Fellow Daoist Shi, but we already have other plans," Han Li refused with a shake of his head.

"Is that so? What a pity," Shi Chuankong replied with a disappointed expression.

"We still have some other matters to attend to, so we'll be taking our leave now, Fellow Daoist Shi," Han Li declared.

"Surely there's no hurry to leave, Fellow Daoist Li. Why don't you place a few bets as well?" Shi Chuankong proposed.

Right at this moment, another wave of raucous cheers rang out from the nearby ring, and another battle had begun.

An excited look immediately appeared on Jin Tong's face upon hearing this, but Han Li shook his head as he replied, "Once again, thank you for the kind offer, Fellow Daoist, but I'm not interested in betting on these arena battles, so I'll leave you to it."

He then grabbed onto the reluctant Jin Tong and dragged her toward the entrance of the hall.

Shi Chuankong shook his head in disappointment before turning back to the ring again.

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"Why were you with that man, Jin Tong?" Han Li asked after exiting the arena.

"He was constantly betting against me, so we started challenging each other," Jin Tong replied as she placed her hands on her hips.

"What do you think of him?" Han Li asked.

"He has a similar scent to yours, so I don't detest him like other cultivators," Jin Tong replied as she summoned a tanghulu and began nibbling on it.

"That's certainly a rare occurrence," Han Li mused with a contemplative expression.

"Is there a problem with him, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked.

"There's more to him than meets the eye, so make sure to be careful if you run into him again," Han Li cautioned.

"For sure! Next time I see him, I'll definitely be more careful so that I don't lose to him again!" Jin Tong replied with a firm nod.

Jin Tong was left feeling rather speechless by this response, and he took a glance back at the arena, then returned to the Faint Smoke Garden with Jin Tong.

The next day, he shopped for some more things that could be useful for the upcoming journey into the primordial land, then returned to the Faint Smoke Garden and remained in his room the majority of the time thereafter.

As a safety precaution, he didn't allow Jin Tong to continue wandering the city as she pleased.

During his infrequent outings, he wasn't able to gather much information about the primordial land, but he did hear some things about the sea of sand outside the city.

The sea of sand wasn't just a barren desert. Instead, some earth-attribute spirit materials could be found there, and there was also a type of special sand beast residing in the area, beasts that could be slain for their precious sand crystals, which were similar to demon cores.

Many of the cultivators in Primordial Origin City often ventured into the outskirts of the sea of sand to slay some smaller sand beasts for their sand crystals.

However, there had been some unrest in the sea of sand recently, resulting in the disappearances of many of the cultivators who had ventured into it, so people were much more apprehensive about the area.

### Chapter 537: Setting Off

Half a month flew by in a flash, and the day that the ship was set to depart quickly arrived.

Han Li left the Faint Smoke Garden early in the morning, then traveled straight to the western city gate with Jin Tong sitting on his finger as a ring.

The biannual ship departures were considered to be important events in Primordial Origin City, so aside from the cultivators traveling on the ship, many spectators had also gathered at the city gate.

By the time Han Li arrived, he discovered that there were already hundreds of cultivators that were lined up at the entrance of the black hall on the inside of the city wall, holding their ship tickets for examination.

Upon joining the line, Han Li briefly scoured through the surrounding crowd to find that only a small number of them were True Immortals, while the vast majority of them were Grand Ascension cultivators.

This wasn't all that surprising to him. After all, past experience had already shown that the chances of survival for cultivators below the Grand Ascension Stage entering the primordial land were simply far too low, even when it came to the already charted areas. However, even for Grand Ascension cultivators traveling through the same charted areas, their chances of survival also weren't very high.

Despite this, they were still willing to take the risk for the chance of being able to secure opportunities that could allow them to ascend to immortality.



Even though the line was very long, there was barely anyone speaking, and even some of the cultivators who were here in groups were conversing with one another in hushed tones or through voice transmission, so the atmosphere was rather solemn.

A few minutes later, the sun finally rose over the city wall, and the first ray of sunlight shone down upon the foot of the city wall, while the toll of a bell rang out from above.

As the bell toll rang out, a black-robed elderly man emerged from the entrance of the black hall, then announced that the ship was ready for boarding before beginning to examine the tickets and allowing the passengers into the hall.

The cultivators up ahead entered the hall one after another, and before long, it was Han Li's turn.

As he offered up his black spirit talisman, the black-robed elderly man flipped a hand over to produce a white jade badge, which he pressed against the talisman, and the latter instantly turned into a wisp of black smoke that seeped into the white jade badge.

Immediately thereafter, the words "A-grade cabin 13" appeared on the badge.

Han Li accepted the badge from the black-robed elderly man, upon which he discovered that there were many tiny characters engraved onto its back.

As he made his way into the hall, he flipped the badge over to see what was inscribed on the back, and at the top of the badge was inscribed the word "Rules", and the rules of the ship were laid out down below.

The first rule was that fighting was strictly prohibited on the ship, regardless of what purpose it was for, and breaking this rule was punishable by death.

The second rule was that no one was allowed to leave the ship for any reason, and this transgression was also punishable by death.

Overall, there were 17 rules in total, and death was the consequence for breaking most of them.

Upon entering the hall, Han Li caught sight of a stone staircase at the back of the hall that led up toward the top of the city wall, and there were currently many people making their way up the staircase.

Han Li did the same, and it didn't take long before arrived at the top of the majestic city wall.

The city wall appeared even wider than it from down below, so wide that 100 people could easily walk along it side by side.

The giant slabs of black stone that were used to pave the city wall were riddled with marks that had been left behind by the passage of time, and at the moment, there were dozens of giant yellow louchuans hovering above the city wall.

These louchuans had bulging centers and tapered tips, and there weren't any fancy decorations on them.

However, they had been completely encased in some type of special metallic material that was riddled with strange runes, giving them a rough and antiquated appearance.

Furthermore, almost all of the ships were riddled with gashes that varied in depth and severity, with some that barely scratched the surface, as well as some that tore through the layer of metal casing and even cut deep into the exposed dragon bone down below.

Groups of black-robed cultivators holding disk treasures in their hands were gathered around the ships, using some type of special secret technique to repair them.

From Han Li's observation, he could see that the most common types of damage displayed on the ships were long and thin gashes and giant conical holes, seemingly having been inflicted by one or two types of primordial beasts.

Right at this moment, a purple figure caught up to him from behind, then began to walk alongside him as they introduced, "That's the handiwork of Sandthorn Snakes and Man-faced Scorpions. One possesses tails as sharp as blades, while the other possesses spike-like pincers. They're the two most

common types of demon beasts in the sea of sand, and their offensive prowess is rather ordinary, but they're very abundant in numbers."

Han Li's brows furrowed ever so slightly as he greeted, "Welcome, Fellow Daoist Shi."

The purple-robed figure was none other than Shi Chuankong, who Han Li had previously encountered in the arena.

"It's good to see you here, Fellow Daoist Li. I've already been waiting for over three months in Primordial Origin City to take this ship. If I had to wait any longer, I would've died of boredom!" Shi Chuankong chuckled.

"I don't think you would've been bored with all of the arenas in the city," Han Li said with a smile.

"I was only doing a little bit of gambling to pass the time," Shi Chuankong replied with a slightly embarrassed expression. "By the way, where's the little girl who was with you last time?"

Before Han Li had a chance to reply, a gust of black wind suddenly blew onto the scene from a beacon tower to the north, and a middle-aged man wearing an embroidered black robe emerged.

The black-robed man had a golden badge hanging from his waist, upon which were inscribed the words "Primordial Origin City", clearly indicating that he was from the city lord's manor.

"He's the ship overseer sent by the city lord's manor, and he's responsible for maintaining order on the ship and dealing with unforeseen mishaps. In the past, this duty was occasionally assigned to several late-True Immortal cultivators, but ever since the incident from eight years ago, it's been solely Golden Immortals who have been assigned with this task," Shi Chuankong explained.

"It's time to board the ship," Shi Chuankong continued as he took a subtle glance at the golden ring on Han Li's finger.

As soon as his voice trailed off, the early-Golden Immortal Stage ship overseer descended onto a nearby ship, and shortly thereafter, what appeared to be an administrator emerged from the ship before commencing the boarding process.

It didn't take long for all of the passengers to board the ship, following which the administrator laid out the rules of the ship, which were identical to the ones inscribed onto the white jade badge.

After that, the administrator declared for the ship to depart, and most of the passengers quickly dispersed, returning to their own cabins.

"They say the same things every single time, I'm starting to develop calluses in my ears from hearing this spiel so many times! This is your first time traveling on a ship like this, right, Brother Li? The scenery in the sea of sand is quite spectacular, but I've already grown sick of it after seeing it so many times, so I'll leave you to appreciate the scenery on your own," Shi Chuankong said as he cupped his fist in a parting salute.

"Go ahead, Fellow Daoist," Han Li replied as he returned the salute.

Shi Chuankong smiled as he said, "Surely there's no need to be so cold and distant. How about you refer to me as Brother Shi from now on?"

Han Li merely smiled and offered no response to this.

Shi Chuankong shrugged in a nonchalant fashion, then casually strolled back to his cabin.

Han Li watched him depart for a moment, then turned his gaze elsewhere, but he was still pondering the motives of this excessively friendly demonic man.

It didn't seem like he harbored any sinister intentions, but Han Li decided that it would be best to keep his distance.

As these thoughts were flashing through his mind, the ship gradually began to ascend, rising up from the dock on the city wall.

After flying away from the city wall, the ship commenced a gradual descent, flying down the sheer cliff face toward the boundless sea of sand down below.

Right as the ship was about to descend into the vast sea of sand, all of the runes inscribed onto the ship lit up in unison.

Immediately thereafter, a burst of faint yellow light suddenly erupted out of the ship, forming a giant yellow light barrier that encompassed the entire ship.

At the same time, a peculiar primordial aura also began to emanate from the ship.

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

Now wonder the ship can avoid the detection of the majority of primordial beasts, it's using a protective array with the core of a powerful primordial beast as a foundation to disguise itself as a primordial being...

Right at this moment, the underside of the ship seemed to have finally come into contact with the bottom of the sea of sand, and after bobbing up and down slightly for a moment, it continued onward in a smooth and stable fashion.

Han Li made his way over to the railing of the ship, then looked down to find that the layer of metal that the ship was encased in seemed to possess a special type of magnetism that repelled the sea of sand, allowing the ship to hover just above the sea of sand as it glided along.

All of a sudden, the light radiating from the ship brightened considerably, and it accelerated drastically, shooting forward like a speeding arrow.

Han Li cast his gaze into the distance, and all he saw was a vast and peaceful expanse of yellow sand. There was no sound to be heard, and it seemed that the entire sea of sand was completely desolate and lifeless.

One of the rules on the jade badge was that cultivators weren't permitted to release their spiritual sense to examine the sea of sand in case they alerted some particularly sensitive primordial beasts, and the administrator had also emphasized the importance of abiding by this rule.

Han Li didn't want to cause any unnecessary trouble, so he was happy to follow the rule.

It was going to take at least half a year to reach the primordial land, and after watching the sea of sand for around two hours, Han Li also grew bored of the monotonous scenery, so he returned to his cabin as well.

### Chapter 538: Unfamiliar Aura

Han Li's cabin was quite spacious, roughly twice the size of a normal room, and it was split up into two sections.

The inner room was the bedroom that housed a bed, while the outer room held a redwood table and a gray cushion.

The spirit fruits placed on the table weren't exactly of the highest caliber, but they were giving off a very sweet and fragrant aroma.

Upon entering the room, the ring on Han Li's finger immediately transformed into a golden beetle, then flew down onto the cushion, where it transformed into an adorable little girl wearing a red coat.

Jin Tong's eyes immediately locked onto the spirit fruits on the table, and her hand shot out like lightning to grab onto an ovular spirit fruit that was riddled with golden seeds. She sank her teeth into the fruit, and the entire room was instantly filled with a fruity aroma.

"Why didn't you let me show myself to that guy before, Uncle? The two of us get along quite well," Jin Tong asked while munching on her fruit.

"That man's aura indicates that he's a demonic cultivator, but it's also somewhat different. I'm unable to see through him without using my Eye of Truth. On top of that, he clearly knew that you were the ring on my finger, yet he still asked where you were, and I can't get a good grasp on his intentions," Han Li said in a thoughtful manner.

"Are you saying that he's plotting against us, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked.

"I can't say for sure for now, but given that we're in a completely unfamiliar place, it would be best to avoid trouble as much as possible," Han Li said.

"It would be great if he's considering coming after us. I'd have another Golden Immortal Stage nascent soul to eat then!" Jin Tong mused with a sly grin.

Han Li was left feeling rather speechless upon hearing this.

He was just about to warn Jin Tong not to start any trouble when his expression abruptly stiffened slightly.

"What's wrong, Uncle?" Jin Tong hurriedly asked.

"Just now, an extremely powerful aura locked onto the ship, but it vanished in a flash. Did you not sense it?" Han Li asked with slightly furrowed brows.

Before Jin Tong had a chance to reply, Han Li held up a hand to stop her as he said, "There it is again..."

Jin Tong hurriedly focused on her senses upon hearing this, but she was only able to detect a slight trace of what Han Li had detected.

"Did you feel that, Xiao Bai?" she asked in a hesitant manner.

The jade Pixiu offered no response as it hung motionlessly from Han Li's waist.

"How dare you ignore me? I think you're asking for a beating!" Jin Tong threatened as she placed her hands on her hips in an angry display.

"I'm not ignoring you, I just didn't want to show you up. I already sensed that aura the first time that it appeared," the jade Pixiu explained.

"So you're saying you're better than me?" Jin Tong asked as she raised an eyebrow.

"No, no, not at all! I came from the primordial land, so I'm naturally more sensitive to the auras of primordial beings," the jade Pixiu hurriedly explained.

"Can you determine the origins of this aura?" Han Li asked.

"I was born in the primordial land, but I was captured by primordial hunters not long after I was born, and I only learned from Gongshu Jiu that I was a primordial true spirit. Hence, I don't actually know much about the primordial land. All I can do is detect this aura, but not discern it," the jade Pixiu replied.

Right as Han Li was about to speak, that faint aura encompassed the entire ship once again.

"You stay here," he said to Jin Tong, then flew out of the room to emerge onto the deck outside.

As he did so, he discovered that there were only around 20 people on the deck gathered together in small groups, chatting with one another in a relaxed manner, and it was clear that none of them had detected this aura.

On the other side of the deck, he spotted the familiar figure of Shi Chuankong, who was currently looking around with a peculiar expression.

He faltered slightly upon spotting Han Li, then gave him a knowing smile, in response to which Han Li gave a slight nod before returning to his cabin.

After sweeping over the ship three more times, the powerful aura finally disappeared once and for all.

However, Han Li remained on his guard, not daring to grow complacent at all. In fact, his wariness was only continuing to grow by the day.



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Over five months passed by in the blink of an eye.

The journey proved to be rather uneventful, and the ship was about to reach the primordial land.

Early in the morning, a cool morning breeze was blowing from the primordial land. Han Li stood on the ship with his hands clasped behind his back, peering into the distance with blue light flashing in his eyes. At the end of his field of vision was a speck of green, indicating that there seemed to be an oasis on the distant horizon.

There were already close to 100 people gathered on the deck, all of whom were passengers who were eager to disembark.

Jin Tong was standing beside Han Li, copying him by clasping her hands behind her back as well, and she asked, "Are you still worried about that aura, Uncle?"

"No, I'm thinking about how we should proceed once we reach the primordial land. There are quite a few disparities between the maps we purchased and the one given to me by Wyrms 3. I feel like the route that she gave me isn't actually the safest one, seeing as I haven't truly agreed to join the Reincarnation Palace. At the very least, the supplied route seems to be incomplete," Han Li replied with a shake of his head.

"Aren't you tired thinking about so much all the time? If there's no good path to take, then let's just establish one of our own!" Jin Tong proposed with a nonchalant smile.

Right at this moment, an alarmed voice rang out from within the crowd.

"What's that?"

"Something's coming from over there!"

Han Li turned to discover a long black line that was rapidly surging over the distant horizon like a black wave, and he could clearly see that this black line was comprised of countless giant creatures with human faces and black scorpion bodies.

Each of the creatures had a thick and burly tail, at the end of which was a crescent-shaped hook that was giving off a cold and menacing gleam.

"Those are Man-faced Scorpions!" someone exclaimed.

Man-faced Scorpions weren't particularly powerful among the demon beasts residing in the sea of sand, but there was an extremely vast number of them, and in the face of a beast tide of Man-faced Spiders, even True Immortals would struggle to keep them at bay.

Right at this moment, a deep and resonant voice rang out from the top floor of the louchuan.

"There's no need to panic."

The ship overseer was standing there behind the railing, looking on with an unflustered expression, and his calm demeanor instilled within everyone on the ship a sense of confidence and reassurance.

"Those Man-faced Spiders aren't anywhere near enough to pose a real threat. Make sure to keep yourselves grounded so that you don't get jostled out of the ship. If you fall off the ship, no one will come to save you," the ship overseer declared in a cold voice.

All of the passengers with lackluster cultivation bases hurriedly distanced themselves from the railing of the ship upon hearing this for fear of falling overboard, and some of them returned to their cabins altogether.

Han Li paid no heed to the warning as his gaze remained firmly fixed on the black wave in the distance.

"There's something else there in addition to Man-faced Scorpions," Han Li said as his brows furrowed slightly.

Jin Tong had also climbed onto the railing of the ship to look into the distance through narrowed eyes.

The sand beneath the wave of Man-faced Scorpions was constantly undulating, indicating that there was something traveling through the sand at a rapid speed.

"It's coming!" Han Li said as he hoisted Jin Tong down from the railing.

The wave of Man-faced Scorpions quickly arrived to block the ship's path.

Each Man-faced Scorpion was the size of a fully grown ox, and they were climbing on top of one another in layers, forming a small black mountain in front of the ship in the blink of an eye.

The ship overseer's brows furrowed slightly, and he seemed to have also realized that something wasn't quite right.

Such a large-scale scorpion tide wasn't very common, but it wasn't an unprecedented occurrence, either. However, never had the Man-faced Scorpions ever attacked in such an organized fashion.

Before he had a chance to get a grasp on what was happening, the ship had already crashed heavily into the black mountain with a dull thud.

The ship shuddered violently as it was slowed down significantly, and the yellow light barrier around it instantly began to glow brightly.

Immediately thereafter, all of the patterns engraved onto the ship also lit up, and the ship abruptly began to accelerate, forcing its way straight through the black mountain.

A string of grotesque cracks rang out incessantly, and it was the sound of countless Man-faced Scorpion exoskeletons being shattered one after another.

Everyone on the ship stabilized themselves while cheering at what they were seeing.

Han Li was holding onto Jin Tong with one hand while leaning over the ship's railing to peer into the sea of sand down below.

The yellow sand down below was churning incessantly, and there were countless yellow demon beasts that resembled maggots the size of dogs squirming and writhing within the sand.

Han Li was quickly able to identify these things, and he immediately yelled, "There are sand beasts that are eating away at the ship from below!"

Everyone was very alarmed to hear this, and they hurriedly rushed over to the railing of the ship to look down below.

At this point, there were already countless squirming sand beasts clinging to the ship, and its metal casing was already riddled with countless holes. To make matters even worse, there were several sand beasts that were significantly larger than their brethren eating their way through the dragon bones at the front of the ship in a frenzy.

These sand beasts had virtually no facial features, and if it weren't for their circular mouths that were lined with sharp fangs, it would be impossible to tell which end was their head and which was their tail.

#### Chapter 539: Sand Beasts

The ship overseer's expression also changed slightly upon seeing this. If these Sand Beasts were to bite their way through the dragon bone frame of the ship, the entire ship would become extremely frail, and it would completely fall apart before it reached the primordial land.

A grim look appeared on his face as he flew out of the ship, then descended out of the sky like lightning.

These Sand Beasts and Man-faced Scorpions were quite sensitive to cultivators, and as soon as they detected the ship overseer's aura, they immediately converged toward him at once.

Circles of black ripples instantly began surging out of the ship overseer's body, completely encompassing both himself and the ship. He had unleashed his spirit domain, but it was clear that he didn't want to

cause too much of a commotion, as evidenced by the fact that the spirit domain encompassed only an area of 100 feet around the ship.

As soon as the surrounding demon beasts rushed into the spirit domain, they were immediately ensnared by wisps of black mist, following which their bodies were corroded and liquefied.

The three larger Sand Beasts were slightly more powerful than their brethren, but even they weren't able to get within 30 feet of the ship overseer before their bodies also disintegrated.

"Is that a spirit domain? That's incredible!"

"As expected of a Golden Immortal Stage ship overseer!"

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All of the passengers on the ship were full of praise upon seeing this.

However, right at this moment, Han Li's expression suddenly changed slightly, and he grabbed onto Jin Tong before darting back in retreat as quickly as he could.

Immediately thereafter, the sea of sand in front of the ship abruptly erupted like a volcano, sending vast volumes of sand flying in all directions and flinging countless Man-faced Scorpions and Sand Beasts into the air.

In the next instant, an enormous Sand Beast that was over twice the size of the ship rushed out of the sea of sand. Its enormous mouth seemed to be capable of devouring heaven and earth, and it swooped down toward the ship with tremendous power.

An alarmed and horrified look appeared on the ship overseer's face upon seeing this, and he immediately attempted to flee, only for a dark red vortex to suddenly take shape within the Sand Beast's gargantuan mouth.

The vortex was giving off bursts of tremendous suction force that completely disregarded his spirit domain and immobilized him on the spot.

With just a single bite, the Sand Beast was able to devour the ship overseer alongside half of the entire ship.

The severely damaged ship immediately began plummeting toward the sea of sand, and passengers onboard had no chance to escape before they were completely inundated by Sand Beasts and Man-faced Scorpions.

A chorus of agonized howls rang out as the strong stench of blood spread through the air.

Aside from over 100 True Immortal cultivators who had reacted quite quickly and managed to survive the ordeal, all of the other passengers had been killed in the blink of an eye.

"Run!" someone yelled, and all of the True Immortals immediately fled in all directions in a blind panic.

Amid the chaos, a strange thought occurred to Han Li: Where is Shi Chuankong?

Shi Chuankong hadn't appeared at all ever since the beginning of this incident, and Han Li was certain that he wouldn't have fallen to his demise so easily.

However, there was no time to ponder such matters as Han Li prepared to flee toward the primordial land with Jin Tong, only to find that the giant sand beast was rushing directly at them.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this.

The Sand Beast was quite formidable, but it was only at the mid-Golden Immortal Stage, so it naturally posed no threat to him.

Right as he was about to engage it in battle, Jin Tong's voice suddenly rang out beside his ears.

"I'll take on that thing, Uncle!"

Jin Tong's eyes were glowing with excitement, and she sprang forward before Han Li had a chance to say anything, transforming into a golden beetle before pouncing at the giant Sand Beast.

Han Li hesitated slightly upon seeing this, but ultimately made no attempt to stop her as he watched her while standing in mid-air with his hands clasped behind his back.

Jin Tong slashed a pair of front legs through the air mid-flight, and hundreds of streaks of translucent golden light shot forth through the air, then dispersed before hurtling toward the Sand Beast from either direction.

The Sand Beast seemed to have realized that Jin Tong was a formidable opponent, and it stopped cold in its tracks, then conjured up two thick pillars of swirling sand that swept toward the oncoming streaks of translucent golden light.

A layer of yellow light emerged over the surface of each pillar of sand, and the yellow light was giving off bursts of low power fluctuations.

Golden light flashed within Jin Tong's eyes as the streaks of golden light brightened considerably, then fused together to form two enormous streaks of light that were several thousand feet in length each before striking the two pillars of sand.

As soon as the two came into contact with one another, the two giant streaks of golden light were able to slice through the pillars of sand in an instant, and they weren't even slowed down in the slightest as they continued to hurtle toward the giant Sand Beast.

The Sand Beast didn't take any evasive measures. Instead, another dark red vortex took shape within its enormous mouth, this one far brighter than the one that it had used to kill the ship overseer.

A burst of tremendous suction force surged out of its mouth in a frenzy, instantly sucking in the two streaks of golden light, which flew into the vortex before vanishing without a trace.

A hint of surprise appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this, but he still displayed no intention of entering the fray.

Bright golden light erupted out of Jin Tong's body, and it transformed into a huge ball of golden light as it flew toward the Sand Beast, which opened its mouth up even wider, while the dark red vortex inside grew even brighter.

A burst of suction force that was several times stronger than before enveloped the ball of golden light, and the nearby space was collapsing in on itself.

The ball of golden light was sucked into the Sand Beast's mouth in a flash, and the white jade pendant hanging from Han Li's waist flashed momentarily before the Pixiu's concerned voice rang out from within it.

"Are you not going to save her, Master?"

"There's no need for that," Han Li replied with a faint smile.

"But..."

Before the Pixiu had a chance to say anything further, an agonized roar suddenly erupted out of the giant Sand Beast's mouth, and it collapsed onto the sea of sand before writhing and squirming violently, as if it were enduring some type of immense pain.

A dull thump then rang out as a streak of radiant golden light shot out of the Sand Beast's body, punching a huge hole into it.

Vast volumes of viscous white liquid came pouring out of the wound, and it was unclear if this was blood or something else.

Another string of dull thumps rang out as more bursts of golden light erupted out of Sand Beast's body, and before long, its entire body was riddled with holes.



Its thrashing became even more violent as it let loose a thunderous blood-curdling howl.

"Looks like I got worried for nothing," the Pixiu grumbled before falling silent again.

Finally, the giant Sand Beast let loose one final roar before its body exploded into countless chunks of flesh, following which Jin Tong flew out from its remains.

It was looking a little worse for wear, with several patches of its golden exoskeleton looking rather dull, as if it had been corroded, but these were only minor injuries.

At this moment, it was holding a yellow crystal the size of a human head, within which was a vortex of dark red light that was giving off bursts of formidable law power fluctuations.

It seemed that the crisis had been averted, but Han Li was looking a little concerned.

He felt like there was something abnormal about the roar that the Sand Beast had let loose prior to its death.

Jin Tong flew back to Han Li's side, then flew in a circle around him before asking, "I killed it, Uncle! Do I get a reward?"

"Once we get out of here, you can eat to your heart's content," Han Li promised with an amused smile, then reached out toward the yellow crystal that Jin Tong was holding. "Let me take a look at that crystal."

"No! It's mine!"

Jin Tong flew back so that she was out of Han Li's reach, then reverted back into her human form, following which the yellow crystal was stowed away amid a flash of golden light.

Han Li could only shake his head with a resigned expression as he said, "Let's get out of here."

Right at this moment, the entire sea of sand began to rumble and tremble without any warning, and huge waves of sand erupted into the sky.

At the same time, a tremendous aura emerged beneath the sea of sand before approaching at an incredible speed.

Han Li's expression changed slightly upon seeing this, and he hurriedly grabbed onto Jin Tong, while his Thunderstorm Wings appeared on his back.

Immediately thereafter, he vanished from the spot amid a flash of lightning.

In the same instant, the sea of sand down below exploded, and an enormous head shot out from down below before chomping down viciously, but at this point, Han Li was already gone, so it bit down onto nothing.

Close to 100 kilometers away, Han Li re-emerged amid a flash of lightning.

The giant head that had just attempted to swallow him whole belonged to another gargantuan Sand Beast, this one at least 10 times the size of the one that Jin Tong had just slain.

The Sand Beast was giving off an immense aura that was infinitely approaching the High Zenith Stage, and a grim look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, but he didn't immediately flee the scene.

The sea of sand was completely unfamiliar to him, and if he were to flee blindly without any direction, he could run into even more trouble.

The mountainous Sand Beast had no eyes, but Han Li could sense its fury. All of a sudden, it opened its enormous mouth before letting loose a deafening roar, causing the nearby space to tremble and buzz violently.

Before Han Li had a chance to react, the head of the massive Sand Beast shot out of the sea of sand before pouncing at Han Li's duo.

Despite its tremendous size, it was as fast as lightning, and it reached no more than 100 feet away from Han Li and Jin Tong in the blink of an eye.

Bright golden light erupted out of Han Li's body as he shot back in retreat, while the giant Sand Beast opened its mouth to conjure up a gargantuan dark red vortex.

At this point, Han Li Jin Tong had only managed to fly no more than 10 kilometers away, and they were immediately caught within a burst of incredibly powerful suction force.

#### Chapter 540: Entering the Primordial Land

Han Li felt the surrounding air constrict around him, and he was stopped cold in his tracks before being sucked toward the giant Sand Beast's mouth by the massive vortex.

A fierce look flashed through Jin Tong's eyes as she prepared to pounce at the Sand Beast, only to be stopped by Han Li, who cast an incantation seal onto her, transforming her into a ring that fitted itself around his finger.

At this point, Han Li wasn't that far away from the giant Sand Beast to begin with, and instead of attempting to flee, he flew toward it instead, reaching its enormous mouth in the blink of an eye.

Immediately thereafter, a burst of golden ripples erupted out of his body before spreading rapidly in all directions, instantly forming a golden spirit domain that was close to 20 kilometers in size, encompassing a small section of the Sand Beast's body within it.

Everything within the golden spirit domain was instantly slowed down significantly, including the suction force surging out of the massive Sand Beast's mouth.

As a result, Han Li was able to steady himself before using his Thunderstorm Wings once again, vanishing on the spot before appearing behind the mountainous Sand Beast's head amid a rumbling thunderclap.

Immediately thereafter, he let loose a low roar as he adopted his Giant Mountain Ape form.

At the same time, a giant green sword appeared in the golden ape's grasp before it was swung at the Sand Beast with tremendous power.

An incredibly thick crescent-shaped dark green sword projection swept through the air, containing countless dark green runes that were giving off bursts of formidable law power fluctuations.

The mountainous Sand Beast immediately attempted to take evasive measures as it dodged to the side, and at the same time, a translucent yellow membrane of light emerged over the skin on the back of its head.

However, with its enormous body and crippling effect of Han Li's time spirit domain, its evasive measures proved to be completely futile, and the sword projection struck the back of its head with immense power.

The translucent yellow membrane flashed erratically as it attempted to keep the sword projection at bay, but it was only able to last an instant before it was severed.

The crescent-shaped sword projection sliced into the Sand Beast's body, inflicting an enormous wound that was close to 1,000 feet in length, and yellow blood immediately came gushing out from within, but Han Li wasn't elated at all to see this.

Relative to the Sand Beast's gargantuan body, this was nothing more than a minor gash.

The giant Sand Beast let loose a thunderous roar, as if it had been enraged by the injury, and bright yellow light erupted out of its body with countless yellow runes swirling within it.

The yellow light expanded outward in all directions, instantly forming a yellow spirit domain that was close to 100 kilometers in radius.

As soon as Han Li was encompassed within the yellow spirit domain, he immediately felt the surrounding gravity increase by several hundredfold.

Before he had a chance to do anything, a thunderous howling sound rang out, and he turned to discover that the Sand Beast's tail, which wasn't encompassed within his time spirit domain, was sweeping toward him with devastating power.

Upon entering the time spirit domain, the tail was slowed down significantly, but it was still sweeping through the air with astonishing speed and power.

Han Li was also bogged down by the heightened gravitational force, so evasion was not an option for him, and he could only lash out with the giant green sword in his hand.

A resounding boom rang out as the nearby space shuddered, and the golden ape was sent flying by the mountainous tail like a giant ragdoll before slamming heavily into the sea of sand down below.

Half of its body sank into the sea of sand, while golden blood trickled down from the corner of its lips, and the webbing between the thumb and index finger of its sword-wielding hand had also been torn open, but that was the extent of its injuries.

At this moment, the sea of sand was swirling like water, forming a giant vortex that enveloped the giant golden ape before attempting to suck it into the depths.

At the same time, several Sand Beasts abruptly sprang out of the nearby sand to pounce at Han Li.

These Sand Beasts weren't particularly massive, but they were entirely formed by sand, and they were giving off enormous Golden Immortal Stage auras.

At this point, the mountainous Sand Beast had also turned to Han Li and was chomping down upon him once again.

At the same time, the flesh on either side of the gash on the back of its head was quickly fusing together, and it wasn't going to be long before the entire wound was healed.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he slashed his giant green sword horizontally through the air.

At the same time, three Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords emerged around him amid a flash of azure light before also sweeping through the air, unleashing bursts of peerlessly sharp sword qi that tore the surrounding sand apart.

As a result, Han Li was freed from the sand, and bright golden lightning instantly erupted out of his Thunderstorm Wings.

However, his lightning power was suppressed by the Sand Beast's spirit domain, so it was only around 30% as effective as it normally was.

In the next instant, Han Li vanished from the spot amid a flash of golden lightning before reappearing close to 10 kilometers away, which wasn't very far, but it allowed him to avoid the terrible fate of being devoured by the gargantuan Sand Beast.

His Thunderstorm Wings then lit up once again, and he began fleeing rapidly into the distance as an arc of golden lightning.

The giant Sand Beast let loose a thunderous roar of fury as it set off in pursuit, but its speed was slightly lackluster compared with Han Li's.

After using his Thunderstorm Wings several times in succession, Han Li was finally able to fly out of the Sand Beast's spirit domain.

With another flash of golden lightning, he appeared several thousand kilometers away, far away from the giant Sand Beast.

Immediately thereafter, he swept a sleeve through the air, and arcs of golden lightning sprang out of his body to form a lightning teleportation array.

With a flash of lightning and a resounding thunderclap, Han Li vanished into thin air, having teleported himself out of the giant Sand Beast's spiritual sensory range.

The mountainous Sand Beast let loose a thunderous roar of fury as it slammed its giant tail into the sea of sand in frustration, causing all of the sand in a radius of thousands of kilometers to churn and rumble like turbulent waves.

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In the sky above a dense forest, a ball of golden lightning emerged amid a burst of spatial fluctuations, then expanded to form a golden lightning array.

Han Li appeared within the array, having already reverted back to his human form, while the giant green sword and his three Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords were circling around him.

He swept a sleeve through the air to stow the swords away, then released his spiritual sense to inspect his surroundings, and he heaved an internal sigh of relief upon confirming that he had shaken the Sand Beast off their trail.

Jin Tong immediately flew off his finger, then yelled, "Why did you run away, Uncle? You could've let that thing swallow me, and I would've taken it down from the inside!"

"That smaller Sand Beast was already powerful enough to injure you, the larger one would've surely been even more dangerous. I wasn't going to let you take the risk," Han Li replied with a shake of his head.

"Master is right. Safety should always be our top priority, so there's no need to take such risks," the jade Pixiu chimed in.

"Xiao Bai! Are you saying that I'm being stupid and unreasonable? I think you need to be taught a lesson!" Jin Tong yelled as she pounced onto the Han Li's leg, then threatened to bite into the white jade pendant that was hanging from his waist.

The Pixiu immediately yelled in alarm before begging for mercy.

Han Li picked Jin Tong up by grabbing onto her braids as if he were plucking a radish out of the ground, then scolded, "Be quiet, you two! We're already in the primordial land now, so we have to be careful."

Jin Tong didn't say anything further, but she was still making menacing expressions as the white jade pendant, while the Pixiu had fallen completely silent.

Han Li shook his head with an exasperated expression, then began to inspect his surroundings.

They were well and truly in the primordial land now, and they were currently situated in a vast primordial forest that spread as far as the eyes could see in all directions.

The world's origin qi here was just as abundant as some of the most prominent spirit veins in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but it was rather chaotic and unstable.

The Pixiu emerged beside Han Li amid a flash of white light, then closed its eyes while inhaling deeply as a blissful look appeared on its face.

Han Li scanned the landscape down below for a moment, then descended onto a branch of a huge banyan tree.

The tree was at least 1,000 feet tall, and this branch was very spacious, able to seat 10 people side by side with no problems whatsoever.

These banyan trees were quite prevalent in some of the warmer and more temperate places on the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, but this one was at least 10 times larger than even the most massive banyan trees on the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

An intrigued look appeared on Han Li's face as he inspected his surroundings.

Not only was this banyan tree absolutely enormous, all of the other trees that were recognizable to him were also far more massive than they were elsewhere.



In fact, the same applied to all of the plants in this forest, making Han Li feel as if he had somehow been shrunk down to the size of an ant.

Of course, there were also some smaller trees in the area, but there weren't many of them.

"This place looks pretty cool," Jin Tong remarked as she also inspected her surroundings with an amazed expression.

"Are all of the plants in the primordial land so abnormally huge?" Han Li asked.

"This is how things are everywhere in the primordial land. On the contrary, I would argue that the trees everywhere else are abnormally small," the Pixiu replied.

Han Li nodded to himself with a contemplative expression upon seeing this.

"Master, all of the demon beasts here are extremely violent and bloodthirsty, so make sure to be careful when traveling through the primordial land," the Pixiu continued.

"Alright, I'll make sure to be on my guard," Han Li replied with a nod.

As soon as his voice trailed off, a ferocious roar rang out from nearby, and black ape that was around 20 feet tall with a dark red horn on its head sprang out from behind a nearby tree, then pounced at Han Li with its claws brandished.

Han Li remained still on the spot as he flicked a finger through the air, releasing a streak of azure light that instantly split the black ape's body in half, sending blood splattering in all directions.

"You certainly weren't kidding about their violent tendencies," Han Li remarked as he turned his gaze away from the black ape's remains.

In any case, they had finally left the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, so he didn't have to worry about the Heavenly Court for now, and that was a very pleasant thought for him. The primordial land was fraught with peril, but with his current powers, he was confident that he would be able to survive.

After taking a deep breath, he flipped a hand over to summon two objects, one of which was the map that had been given to him by Wyrms 3, while the other was another map that he had purchased in Primordial Origin City.

He inspected both maps briefly before stowing them away again, then swept a sleeve through the air to summon the green jade flying carriage.

"Let's go," he instructed.

The primordial land was a very dangerous place, but the fact that it was very rarely frequented by cultivators had to mean that there were many precious treasures and resources waiting to be uncovered. With that in mind, a sense of excitement welled up in his heart.

Jin Tong and the Pixiu also seemed to be quite excited, and they immediately jumped onto the carriage.

Han Li cast an incantation seal onto the flying carriage, and it immediately sped away as a streak of green light.