

## **A Record 541**

### Chapter 541: Treasure Hunt

Not long after the green jade flying carriage sped away into the distance, the spirit patterns on its surface flashed momentarily, following which a cloud of white mist emerged to encompass the entire carriage.

This wasn't just a normal white cloud. Instead, it was able to conceal all of the spiritual power fluctuations emanating from the flying carriage.

From the outside, the carriage appeared no different from a normal cloud, and it was flying through the forest in a stealthy fashion without giving off any energy fluctuations.

Han Li gave a pleased nod upon seeing this.

As expected of a transportation treasure used by Gongshu Jiu, the carriage had many brilliant uses, and even now, he still hadn't fully grasped all of the carriage's abilities.

As the carriage sped through the air, Han Li released his spiritual sense to inspect his surroundings, trying to ascertain their location as soon as possible.

After flying for close to half a day, an elated look suddenly appeared on Han Li's face, and the carriage began to fly to the left at his behest.

Shortly thereafter, a massive swamp emerged.

The ground in the swamp was a peculiar black color, and all of the vegetation inside was also black while giving off a putrid odor.

This swamp was most likely the Black Mud Swamp recorded on the map, and it was still quite far away from the route provided to him by Wyrn 3.

In any case, it had allowed Han Li to ascertain his current location, and he cast an incantation seal into his flying carriage, upon which it immediately accelerated even further.

"This swamp looks really interesting, Uncle. There should be a lot of good stuff inside. Are we not going to take a look?" Jin Tong suddenly asked.

"The Black Mud Swamp has already been annotated on the map, so I'm assuming many primordial hunters have come here in the past. Hence, there's no need to waste our time here. There will be many more places for us to visit in search for treasures anyway," Han Li replied with a shake of his head.

"You're right, let's keep going," Jin Tong said with an eager expression.

"Pixiu, you told me that you're very adept in searching for natural treasures and resources, this is your time to shine. I'll give you 30% of all of the treasures that we find," Han Li said.

"Really?" the Pixiu asked in a shocked voice as it instantly stood up.

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

"Alright, I'm on it!" the Pixiu replied, and its eyes were glowing with excitement.

"I want some too, Uncle!" Jin Tong yelled in protest.

"You'll definitely get your share as well, but only if you contribute and don't slack off," Han Li said with a smile.

Jin Tong immediately nodded vigorously in response.

Five days later, a vast mountain range appeared before Han Li.

The mountain range wasn't all that tall or remarkable, but the gaps between the mountains were filled with dense black mist, making it very difficult to see the mountains, thereby enshrouding the entire mountain range in a sense of mystery.

"We're finally here," Han Li gently exhaled as he cast his gaze toward the misty mountain range.

This was one of the points on the route supplied to him by Wyrms 3.

Even though the route given to him by Wyrms 3 wasn't necessarily a truly safe one, he had no choice but to follow it.

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"Master, there's a great abundance of water-attribute spiritual qi in this mountain range. I've already sensed many spirit materials in here. Should we begin?" the Pixiu asked while sniffing at the air.

"Alright, let's start here," Han Li replied with a nod, then made a hand seal, and the green jade flying carriage descended into the mountain range.

Thanks to the cloud of mist around the flying carriage, they hadn't been attacked by any primordial beasts, and at this point, they had already made it quite far into the primordial land.

In the beginning, Han Li had been able to spot the occasional primordial hunter, but as they traveled deeper into the primordial land, that was no longer the case.

At this point, there was no need to be in a hurry.

After flying into the sea of mist within the mountain range, the flying carriage became even more well concealed, and the Pixiu was scouring the area while continuing to sniff at the air as it said, "Around 1,500 kilometers directly up ahead is a spirit plant that should be over 100,000 years of age."

The flying carriage set off in that direction at Han Li's behest, then quickly descended in front of a hollow inside a mountain stream.

In a secretive location within the hollow was a dark red spirit plant that resembled a deer antler that had been carved out of red jade.

A vast abundance of spiritual qi was emanating from the spirit plant, and Jin Tong's eyes immediately lit up upon taking a whiff.

"This is a Deer Antler Herb," Han Li remarked.

This spirit plant could be used to refine some recovery pills at or above the True Immortal Stage, so it was very highly sought after, and the fact that it was a specimen that was over 100,000 years old only made it even more precious.

Right at this moment, a low roar rang out from within the mountain stream, and a giant green python that was several hundred feet in length sprang out before pouncing directly at Han Li.

The giant python possessed a formidable True Immortal Stage aura, but Han Li was completely unfazed as he swept a sleeve through the air, upon which an azure flying sword flew out before sweeping over the python's body like lightning.

The giant python instantly stiffened before its head separated from its body, and it began to thrash and struggle violently while blood gushed out of its decapitation wound.

Han Li paid no heed to the python as he slowly uprooted the Deer Antler Herb, then stowed it away before continuing onward.

Over an hour later, the Pixiu declared, "I can sense some precious spirit materials underground around 1,000 kilometers to our left."

Han Li quickly arrived at the specified location, then descended into the ground, and before long, he re-emerged with a fist-sized blue stone in his hand.

The sound of countless splashing waves could be heard coming from within the cave, and it was as if there were an entire large river inside.

This was a Thousandfold Profound Water Crystal that was an exceptional material for refining water-attribute immortal treasures, and it was a great find for Han Li.

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In the blink of an eye, close to an entire month had already passed by since Han Li entered this mountain range.

The Pixiu hadn't been exaggerating at all about its treasure-hunting abilities, and at this point, they had already collected a massive bounty of close to 100 spirit plants and materials.

The mountain range was enormous, and as they had been searching for treasures this entire time, they were advancing quite slowly, so they had only just reached the central region of the mountain range.

"Master, I can sense some spirit plants about 1,500 kilometers up ahead... And there appears to be about 20 to 30 of them!" the Pixiu declared in a slightly surprised voice.

Han Li's eyes immediately lit up upon hearing this, and a short while later, the flying carriage descended into a basin.

At the center of the basin was a plot of flat land that had a light purple hue, and there were indeed 20 to 30 purple spirit plants growing here, all of which were releasing abundant spiritual qi and giving off a strong fragrance.

"These are Serene Purple Herbs!" Han Li exclaimed with an ecstatic expression.

This was one of the main ingredients used to refine Heavenly Luster Pills, so it was certainly a pleasant surprise to be stumbling upon so many of them here.

He immediately swept a sleeve through the air to release a burst of azure light to collect the Serene Purple Herbs, but right at this moment, countless thin streaks of blue light erupted out of the ground near the basin before hurtling directly toward him.

These streaks of blue light were no less powerful than attacks unleashed by the average Golden Immortal, and Han Li was very much caught off guard by this.

Upon descending into the basin, he had already scoured the area with his spiritual sense, and he hadn't detected anyone here.

Despite this, he was still able to react in a timely fashion, and he was just about to defend himself when Jin Tong suddenly flew up from the carriage as she said, "I'll take care of this, Uncle!"

She then flicked her delicate little fingers through the air to release countless streaks of translucent golden light, which intertwined with one another to form a giant golden lotus flower in the path of the streaks of blue light.

The streaks of blue light struck the golden lotus flower in rapid succession, and the latter only shuddered slightly before it was able to ward off the former with ease.

Han Li took a glance in Jin Tong's direction, then turned his gaze back to the Serene Purple Herbs.

A burst of azure light flew out of his hand, forming a giant azure palm projection that gently scooped up the Serene Purple Herbs along with the purple spirit soil beneath them.

By the time he flew back to the flying carriage, the beings that had attacked him had already revealed themselves.

As it turned out, it was a group of four or five giant apes with blue fur that stood at around 70 to 80 feet tall.

These blue apes were shimmering with blue light and giving off True Immortal Stage auras, while their leader possessed Golden Immortal Stage powers.

The apes were seemingly chanting an incantation in some type of unintelligible language, and thin threads of blue light shot out of their bodies to form a ball of blue light in front of them.

The blue apes were furious to see Han Li stowing away the Serene Purple Herbs, and the ball of blue light in front of them instantly brightened significantly as a flurry of threads of blue light shot out from within.

At the same time, the leader of the blue apes opened its mouth to release a burst of blue light, which transformed into a giant blue blade that was over 1,000 feet in length before sweeping toward Han Li and Jin Tong.

Jin Tong harrumphed coldly as she switched to a different hand seal, and countless streaks of translucent golden light shot out of the stamen of the golden lotus flower before clashing against the oncoming streaks of blue light.

The streaks of golden light were extremely dense and sharp, warding off the streaks of blue light with ease before quickly forcing them back.

Immediately thereafter, the streaks of golden light crashed into the giant blue blade, punching countless holes into the blade before destroying it altogether.

The wave of golden light then instantly descended upon the group of blue apes, which began to howl in agony, but a layer of blue light then abruptly emerged over their bodies.

A string of resounding booms rang out as their bodies exploded into streams of blue light that burrowed into the ground in a flash.

As soon as these streams of light surged into the ground, the auras of the blue apes instantly became one with that of the water veins underground, making it impossible to detect them.

## Chapter 542: Deadly Swamp

All of this had taken place so abruptly and was so unexpected that Han Li was left feeling quite surprised, and he finally realized why he hadn't detected these blue apes earlier.

As soon as the blue apes burrowed into the ground, they immediately fled into the distance at an astonishing speed.

Han Li was looking on with a contemplative expression, but made no effort to pursue them.

These blue apes' concealment ability was quite profound, but he could still just barely detect their presence. However, he had no intention of hunting them down.

Jin Tong's senses weren't as sharp as Han Li's, and she immediately turned to him with a furious expression, clearly awaiting directions from him.

"Let them go," Han Li said with a shake of his head.

"Why aren't we chasing after them?" Jin Tong asked in an indignant manner.

"Those things aren't normal primordial beasts. Instead, I have a feeling that they come from a nearby primordial tribe, so it won't be wise to blindly pursue them," Han Li explained.

"So what? I can take on 1,000 of these blue monkeys at once!" Jin Tong grumbled as she raised her little fist.

"Don't underestimate these primordial beings. This is their home turf, and there's often great strength to be found in numbers. I'm sure there's no lack of formidable beings among them, just like that Sand Beast we encountered earlier. Our objective is to pass through the primordial land, so it would be unwise to seek out trouble," Han Li said.

Jin Tong's expression changed slightly upon hearing this, and she didn't raise any further argument.



"It seems like you know quite a bit about the state of the primordial world, Master," the Pixiu remarked.

"We're going to be traversing through the primordial land for quite some time, so I naturally had to do some homework," Han Li replied with a smile.

In reality, he hadn't actually managed to find much information about the primordial land while in Primordial Origin City. In the end, he was only able to gather some valuable information from the Transient Guild at quite a high cost.

"Let's go. The primordial tribes here sorely detest primordial hunters, so I'm sure those things will be bringing back reinforcements soon," Han Li continued.

"This is so boring. I'm a little sleepy, Uncle. Call on me again when there's something fun happening!"

Jin Tong gave an unenthusiastic yawn as she spoke, then transformed into a golden ring that fitted itself around Han Li's finger.

Han Li then made a hand seal, and the flying carriage continued onward.

In order to avoid the reinforcements from the blue ape-like beings from earlier, they temporarily refrained from continuing their treasure-hunting endeavors. Instead, they traveled onward at full speed, and it didn't take long before they left the misty mountain range.

After leaving the mountain range, the terrain up ahead instantly became a lot more level, and it didn't take long before a slightly dark forest appeared up ahead.

From a distance, the trees in the forest appeared to be dark gray in color, and the foliage was very dense, so even though it was daytime, there was still a dark and foreboding aura about the forest.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, but he still spurred the flying carriage onward to fly into the forest.

"Something's not quite right here... The world's origin qi in this forest is quite abundant, but I can't sense any spirit materials," the Pixiu suddenly said after they had been flying for some time.

At this point, Han Li had also developed a sense that there was something strange about this forest.

Not only were there very few spirit plants in the forest, his spiritual sense told him that there were any primordial beasts around, either.

However, Han Li didn't pay this much heed. The lack of primordial beasts was something that he was happy to see as it would allow him to travel through the forest faster.

After flying for close to half a day, the Pixiu abruptly stood up as it declared in an excited voice, "I can sense extremely powerful spiritual qi fluctuations coming from the left! There must be something incredibly precious there!"

A hesitant look appeared on Han Li's face upon hearing this, but after a brief moment of contemplation, he still redirected the flying carriage to set off in that direction.

Before long, a dead black swamp had appeared up ahead.

The swamp was filled with decaying black mud, and it was completely desolate and devoid of life. Occasionally, a large bubble would rise up from the mud, then pop loudly to release plumes of dark purple miasma.

"Didn't you say there was something of value here?" Han Li asked with slightly furrowed brows.

His spiritual sense was telling him that the world's origin qi here was much sparser than it was in the rest of the forest, and he couldn't even sense any living beings here, let alone any precious natural treasures.

"I'm certain that there's something deep in the swamp! If we find something good this time, don't forget that I was the one who led us here!" the Pixiu declared in a confident manner.

Han Li was still rather skeptical upon hearing this, but spurred on the flying carriage to continue onward, nonetheless.

After flying for a while, his expression suddenly changed slightly as he brought the flying carriage to a halt.

In this area, the dark purple miasma over the swamp had become extremely dense, making this place as dark as if it were nighttime.

Han Li was unbothered by this miasma, and the flying carriage descended out of the sky at his behest, then stopped over 100 feet above the swamp.

There were countless carcasses in the swamp down below, most of which were already severely decayed, but he could still tell that they belonged to various types of demon beasts.

These carcasses all varied in size from just over 100 feet to in excess of 1,000 feet in size, and there were countless more of these carcasses up ahead, stretching as far as the eyes could see.

The Pixiu seemed to be quite startled by this, and it didn't dare to say anything as it snuck a furtive glance at Han Li out of the corner of its eye.

Han Li's expression remained unchanged, and after a brief pause, the flying carriage continued onward.

The further they ventured into the swamp, the more demon beasts carcasses that they saw until eventually, the entire swamp was completely filled with them, and the air temperature was also dropping sharply.

"Is it still further up ahead?" Han Li asked.

"Well... Yes, but this place is a little scary, so maybe we should turn back..." the Pixiu replied in an uneasy voice.

"I hope you're right," Han Li said.

Having already come this far, he was naturally unwilling to turn back. According to past experience, all precious natural treasures were guarded by powerful beasts. However, whatever guardian beast was here seemed to be quite formidable and was also very adept at concealing itself, to the point that Han Li still hadn't managed to detect it.

However, at this point in the primordial land, he had a feeling that he possessed sufficient power to at least ensure self-preservation, and if he encountered a foe too powerful for him to defeat, then he would just have to run away.

With that in mind, Han Li continued onward atop his flying carriage, but he had slowed down quite a bit and was also proceeding with caution.

Some time later, the flying carriage drew to a halt at his behest.

They had already ventured very deep into the swamp at this point, and there was an astonishing number of demon beasts carcasses here, forming a series of massive mountains of bones.

Additionally, the carcasses here were also far more massive than the ones from before, and the area was littered with giant skeletons the size of mountains.

Even Han Li was beginning to get a little spooked.

"Master, the treasure is right there!" the Pixiu suddenly declared as it pointed forward.

Between two massive mountains of bones several kilometers up ahead was a green pond that was several dozen feet in size, and the water in the pond was so clear that one could see all the way to the bottom.

At the center of the pond was a shimmering golden lotus flower with nine petals, all of which were also golden in color, but in different shades. Despite this, they somehow didn't appear to conflict with each other at all.

There were also nine golden rainbows of different shades hanging in the air above the lotus flower, and the flying carriage immediately began to approach it at Han Li's behest.

Even as they were still several thousand feet away, Han Li could already catch a whiff of an incredibly fragrant aroma from the golden lotus flower, and just this aroma alone was enough to loosen several of the immortal acupoints in his body ever so slightly.

He had no idea what this golden lotus flower was, but its aroma alone told him that it was definitely an exceptional spirit plant.

Right as he was about to get even closer, a piercing screech suddenly rang out from the distant sky.

As soon as he heard this screech, his soul abruptly shuddered, while his body began to sway unsteadily.

However, with his tremendous spiritual sense, he was immediately able to steady himself, following which he looked up to find that a giant black beast had appeared up above.

The black beast had an enormous body that wasn't inferior in size compared with the giant Sand Beast in the sea of sand, and it resembled a wyrm with a layer of huge black scales all over its body, each of which was over 100 feet in size. There were also several huge black bone spikes that were thousands of feet in length on its head, and its four sets of claws were astonishingly enormous.

The black wyrm was staring intently at the golden lotus flower with a greedy look on its face, but its gaze then immediately fell upon Han Li as a ferocious gleam surfaced in its eyes.

"Oh, I'm also feeling a little sleepy, Master!" the Pixiu exclaimed in alarm, then instantly flew back to Han Li's waist as a jade pendant.

Before Han Li had a chance to do anything, a gust of scorching wind swept toward him as the black wyrm whipped its tail at him with astonishing power.

Han Li felt the air constrict around him, and the giant draconic tail arrived before him in the blink of an eye, sweeping toward him with devastating power.

His expression changed drastically as he hurriedly swept a sleeve through the air, releasing three Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords that transformed into a trio of giant azure swords to form a protective barrier in front of him.

Before he had a chance to do anything else, the draconic tail struck the giant swords with an earth-shattering boom, and the three swords shuddered violently before they were flying in three different directions.

However, thankfully, they had managed to defend Han Li from the attack.

In the meantime, Han Li hurriedly made a hand seal, and the flying carriage shot back in retreat as he made a beckoning motion to summon his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords back to himself.

This black wyrm was even more formidable than that giant Sand Beast!

#### Chapter 543: Battle

After sending Han Li flying with a swipe of its claws, the black wyrm paid no further heed to him and swooped down to make a grab for the golden lotus flower.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this.

He could tell that the black wyrm possessed incredible power, but the golden lotus flower was an extremely rare and precious spirit plant, so he was naturally unwilling to pass it up without a fight.

With that in mind, he swept a sleeve through the air to stow the green jade flying carriage away, then flew directly toward the golden lotus flower as a streak of golden light.

However, he wasn't able to get very far before the ground up ahead began to tremble violently, as if an earthquake were taking place, and he instantly stopped cold in his tracks before darting back in retreat at an even faster speed.

Immediately thereafter, the ground up ahead split apart explosively, and an incredibly thick black appendage shot out from underground before sweeping toward the black wyrm.

The black appendage was releasing a burst of tremendous force that swept up a gust of ferocious wind, and even though Han Li was already several thousand feet away, he was still sent flying back involuntarily like a fallen leaf in a storm.

His entire body was dealt an incredibly heavy blow, and he felt as if he were about to fall apart at the seams. If it weren't for his fast reactions and his incredible physical prowess, he would've already been reduced to a pile of mincemeat.

After steadying himself close to 10 kilometers away, he cast his gaze forward to discover that the black appendage was a gargantuan black tentacle that was over 10,000 feet thick.

It was riddled with countless giant suction cups, and at this moment, the tentacle was wrapped around the black wyrm, which was made to resemble a tiny chick that had been caught in the talons of an eagle.

It was roaring and struggling with all its might, but its efforts to free itself were completely futile.

Several more resounding booms rang out in succession, and a few more identical black tentacles erupted out of the nearby ground before also wrapping themselves around the black wyrm, while Han Li looked on in astonishment.

There had been no warning signs at all prior to the emergence of these black tentacles, and he wasn't able to detect them even with his tremendous spiritual sense.

The entire swamp began to tremble and sway as an enormous black figure slowly rose up from the ground behind Han Li.

It was an unimaginably massive creature with a lizard-like upper body.

It had a long and thin neck and a bright red crown of flesh on its head that resembled the comb of a rooster.

However, its lower body resembled that of an octopus, consisting of around a dozen giant tentacles.

The mountainous creature was several dozen times larger than the black wyrm, and its enormous body obscured the entire sky.

Its gargantuan tentacles were flailing violently as they delivered the black wyrm into its mouth, making it resemble a large worm in the beak of a rooster.

An unfathomably powerful aura was emanating from the creature's body, and Han Li's face had turned deathly pale as a sense of horror welled up in his heart for the first time in a very long time.

He immediately turned around and summoned his Mantra Treasured Axis, then unleashed his Reversal True Axis ability to flee the scene as quickly as he could.

The creature's bright red eyes immediately settled on him, following which a black tentacle shot forth like lightning. Han Li was already several dozen kilometers away from the gargantuan creature, but its tentacle was able to catch up to him in the blink of an eye before wrapping itself around him.

Wrapped within the black tentacle, a burst of tremendous force was constricting around Han Li from all directions, causing all of the bones in his body to creak and groan.

He gave a muffled groan as he reversed the direction of revolution of his Mantra Treasured Axis so that it was revolving conventionally again.

Countless golden ripples emerged before spreading outward in all directions, instantly encompassing the surrounding area in a radius of over 10,000 feet, enveloping part of the black tentacle as well.

The part of the tentacle that was enshrouded within the golden ripples was instantly immobilized, and the black creature let loose a low roar as it tugged its tentacle back with tremendous force.



The golden ripples shuddered violently, looking as if they were about to fall apart at any moment.

Right at this moment, a burst of golden lightning flashed past, and all of the golden ripples vanished in a flash.

As a result, the black tentacle was freed, and it flew back to the gargantuan creature, which unfurled its tentacles, only to discover with a surprised expression that Han Li was already nowhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, Han Li appeared out of thin air thousands of kilometers away amid a flash of golden lightning. His face was deathly pale, there was blood trickling down from the corner of his lips, and one of his arms had been twisted to a grotesque angle.

He paid no heed to his own injuries as a burst of dazzling golden lightning erupted out of his body to form another lightning teleportation array, immediately following which he vanished from the spot once again.

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In the sky above a lush forest, a golden lightning array quickly took shape, and Han Li appeared at the center of the array, then scoured his surroundings momentarily before heaving a long sigh of relief.

Immediately thereafter, Jin Tong and the Pixiu appeared beside him, and the former's face was also pale from fright as she exclaimed, "What was that thing, Uncle? I was so scared..."

The Pixiu was also looking quite shell-shocked.

At this point, Han Li had regained some of his composure, and he replied, "I'm not sure. It must've been some kind of primordial true spirit."

"Are primordial true spirits that scary? I thought they would all only be similar to that big Sand Beast," Jin Tong said with a hint of lingering fear in her eyes.

She then turned to the Pixiu with an enraged expression as she accused, "Xiao Bai, weren't you born in the primordial land? How could you lead us into such a dangerous place? Were you trying to get us killed?"

"I was born in the primordial land, but I was taken away by primordial hunters not long after I was born, so I don't know much about this place at all. On top of that, I've already signed a contract with Master, and if he dies, I'll be in a terrible position as well, so there's no way I would've willingly led us into danger like that!" the Pixiu hurriedly argued.

This made sense to Jin Tong, and she gave a cold harrumph before dropping the subject.

"Looks like we've underestimated the primordial land," Han Li murmured to himself.

They hadn't encountered any significant peril during this journey through the primordial land thus far, and as a result, he had become a little complacent, which had almost cost him his life.

He quickly swallowed a recovery pill to heal his broken arm, then cast his gaze toward the primordial landscape up ahead with furrowed brows.

It hadn't been long since they entered the primordial land, yet they had already encountered such a fearsome creature, and there was no telling what other perils laid up ahead.

"What do we do now, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked.

Han Li made a hand seal to conjure up a projection of a map in mid-air, one that depicted the areas that they had previously passed through, as well as areas that appeared repeatedly in the maps that he had previously purchased.

This was a map that he had put together by referencing the map given to him by Wyrn 3 and the ones that he had purchased from Primordial Origin City.

"Let's go here," Han Li decided as he pointed at a hilly region on the map.

"Bright Deer Hill..." Jin Tong read aloud as she looked at the spot on the map that Han Li was pointing at.

"According to the map, Bright Deer Hill isn't too far away from here, and there aren't any large primordial tribes residing in the area, so let's go and rest there for a while before we make a decision on where to go next," Han Li said.

He then swept a hand through the air to erase the projected map, following which the green jade flying carriage set off into the distance at a low altitude.

In the wake of that close call, Han Li knew that he had to be more wary of the primordial land, and he activated all of the flying carriage's protective restrictions, even though doing so was quite costly in terms of Immortal Origin Stones. On top of that, he didn't search for any more treasures, and after flying uneventfully for about half a month, they finally arrived on the edge of Bright Deer Hill.

The dense vegetation on the ground below was gradually becoming sparser here, and even though it was already late at night, Han Li could still see some ferocious beasts prowling through the forest for food or engaged in battle with one another down below.

Some of the more sensitive creatures were able to detect the flying carriage, and they immediately roared up at the heavens to establish their dominance.

Han Li cast his gaze into the distance, and a perplexed look suddenly appeared on his face.

He could sense bursts of powerful spiritual qi fluctuations surging through the air several hundred kilometers up ahead, and it seemed that there were many people locked in battle there.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li swept a sleeve through the air to stow his flying carriage away, then put on his Dragon 5 mask, using which he disguised himself as an unremarkable-looking middle-aged man.

At the same time, he completely concealed his own aura before flying toward the battlefield up ahead in a stealthy fashion.

As he flew through the air, the spiritual qi fluctuations up ahead became stronger and stronger, and upon reaching within 25 kilometers of the battlefield, Han Li descended into sparse forest down below before advancing through the forest on foot.

Before long, he arrived in front of a spacious clearing where an elevated bonfire stand was situated. There was a bright bonfire lit on the stand, illuminating the entire surrounding area, while two groups of strange-looking foreign beings were locked in a fierce battle.

One of the camps of foreign beings were humanoid in appearance, but they were very tall and wiry with extremely long necks. Each of them was standing at around 10 feet tall, and their bodies were dark green in color. Furthermore, there were pairs of long white tusks protruding out of their mouths before curling away to the side.

In contrast, their opponents were far more horrific in appearance.

These creatures were only around five feet tall, but they possessed extremely wide and bloated bodies that were gray in color and covered in thick slabs of armor-like exoskeletons. They had virtually no necks, with nothing separating their chins and chests, and their lips were wide and thick, giving them the appearance of giant bipedal toads.

#### Chapter 544: Conflict

Han Li observed the unfolding battle with a contemplative look in his eyes.

Each side only had several dozen people, but they were displaying some rather interesting modes of attack.

Among the humanoid creatures, some of them were holding short flutes crafted from some type of unknown material, some were holding small drums crafted from beast bones and beast hide, while others were holding copper bells, and they were playing these instruments to release bursts of soundwaves.

Under the influence of these soundwaves, hundreds of demon beasts of different descriptions were rushing toward the opposing toad-like creatures like puppets on strings.

As for the toad-like creatures, they were exposing their bellies, and it sounded as if there were someone pounding their bellies from inside their bodies, producing a peculiar sound that sent various types of spirit insects flying through the air or rushing out of the ground to swarm toward the opposing humanoid creatures.

Among these spirit insects were golden praying mantises the size of cows and horses, as well as some that were as tiny as bees. Individually, none of them were all that formidable, but under the influence of the toad-like creatures, their auras were combined as one, allowing them to match up against their opponents on equal terms.

Among the demon beasts, some had thick exoskeletons, some possessed enormous bodies, some were able to blast forth flames and lightning, and some were extremely fast, but they were unable to keep the spirit insects at bay and were constantly being forced back further and further into retreat.

The humanoid creatures could see that the situation was unfolding against their favor, and one of them, a man with the longest neck, wearing a necklace crafted out of beast bones, let loose a loud roar.

All of the sounds that were controlling the demon beasts and the spirit insects instantly subsided, and as a result, a temporary truce ensued.

The man then opened his mouth to say something that was completely unintelligible to Han Li.

"Can you understand what they're saying?" Han Li asked through his spiritual connection between himself and the jade Pixiu.

"He's speaking in the universal language used by the primordial tribes, and he's talking to a person called Tureev, asking him why they were so insistent on hunting down their Longneck Tribe, even though they had already abandon the forest that they had been residing in for generations to flee all the way here," the Pixiu translated.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he cast his gaze toward the toad-like beings.

One of the toad-like creatures that was wearing a layer of azure leather armor around its waist stepped forward, then said something in response in a loud and resonant voice.

"He says, don't be naive, Taj. Our Gray Toad Tribe and your Longneck Tribe have always been sworn enemies. Now that your Longneck Tribe has fallen from grace, of course we have to hunt you down and eradicate all of you," Xiao Bai translated without even being prompted by Han Li.

"How dare you! Are you trying to instigate a war between our Beast Race and your Insect Race? Are you not afraid of repeating the same horrific tragedy from millions of years ago? If you spark a war between our two races, our Beast Race will be sure to wipe out all of you once and for all!" Taj replied in a furious voice.

"I know that you've led us here as a distraction to try and divert us away, while your father led the majority of your tribesmen to the Peacock Spirit Tribe over at the Peacock River, but I can tell you now that your efforts are completely futile. Even the Tower Elephant Tribe and the Dark Hog Tribe have already been conquered by our Insect Race, let alone the Peacock Spirit Tribe," Tureev chortled as he slapped his own belly with his large hands.

Taj's expression instantly changed drastically upon hearing this. "What did you say? That's impossible!"

"In the face of the inspect spirits that we revere, the true spirits that you worship are nothing more than a bunch of toothless dogs! Our Insect Race has been plotting its revenge for the past several million years, and it's finally time for your Beast Race to face the flames of our wrath!" Tureev continued as a fervent look appeared in his eyes.

After hearing Xiao Bai's translation, Han Li concluded, "Looks like this is a conflict between two primordial tribes that has nothing to do with us."

He then turned to depart, but right at this moment, the golden ring on his finger transformed into Jin Tong, who landed by his side, and her cheeks were slightly flushed with apprehension as she said, "Don't leave just yet, Uncle, I'm getting a very strange feeling..."

"Could it be that you've been affected by the insect manipulation techniques used by those creatures? Surely not! Even their leader is only a True Immortal, how could they possibly have affected you?" Han Li mused with a perplexed expression.

"I... I don't know... I just feel... really strange..." Jin Tong stuttered.

As soon as her voice trailed off, a pair of golden praying mantises suddenly pounced at Han Li and Jin Tong from either flank before lashing out with their scythe-like appendages.

Han Li immediately swept a sleeve through the air upon seeing this, releasing two Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords that shot forth toward the pair of oncoming praying mantises, slicing them in half in the blink of an eye.

Immediately thereafter, a swarm of black beetles converged from all directions to surround Han Li and Jin Tong, and some of the Gray Toad beings also began to make their way toward Han Li's duo.

Seeing as they had already been exposed, Han Li emerged into the clearing with Jin Tong.

Tureev took a glance at Han Li and Jin Tong, and his expression changed drastically as he began to speak again, and furious looks instantly appeared on the faces of the Longneck beings upon hearing what he had to say.

"What are they saying?" Han Li asked through voice transmission.

"Tureev is accusing the Longneck Tribe of falling into depravity and colluding with humans. He says that it's no wonder that even the true spirits that they worship aren't able to protect them, and the Longneck beings are very angry to hear this," the jade Pixiu replied.

"It sounds like humans aren't very popular around these parts," Han Li mused with a wry smile.

"Humans aren't the only ones that are denounced here, any beings of any race who come from the immortal regions have always come to the primordial land solely to plunder and steal and..."

The jade Pixiu's voice trailed off here.

Indeed, the title of primordial hunter sounded quite prestigious, but they were nothing more than opportunistic gatherers and bandits.

"Tell them that we're just passing through, and that we have no intention of getting involved in their conflict," Han Li said as he swept a sleeve through the air, and the jade pendant hanging from his waist flew through the air before transforming into a jade Pixiu that was around 10 feet in length.

Xiao Bai took a glance at Han Li, then turned to the two groups of primordial beings as it relayed Han Li's message to them.

Tureev took a glance at Xiao Bai, then turned his gaze to Jin Tong before finally turning his attention to Han Li, following which it declared in the language of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, "I would've been willing to let you go, but you just killed two of our spirit insects. How do you plan to compensate for that?"

"What compensation do you want from me?" Han Li asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"Leave that little girl behind and I'll let you go," Tureev declared as he pointed a finger at Jin Tong.

Han Li couldn't help but heave a forlorn internal sigh upon hearing this. He knew that a peaceful resolution was out of the question now.

Sure enough, before he had a chance to say anything, Jin Tong had already stepped forward with an enraged expression as she began rolling up her sleeves.

"You want me to stay, do you?" she asked in a cold voice as her aura began to swell rapidly.

Tureev was very alarmed to sense her rapidly elevating aura, and all of the black beetles around Jin Tong instantly began to rush back in retreat out of an instinctive sense of fear.

Tureev took a few steps backward before hurriedly urging all of his tribesmen to spring into action, and the other Gray Toad beings immediately began to produce the same croaking sound from before with their bloated bellies.



A small portion of the spirit insects that they had summoned were still surrounding the Longneck beings, but the rest were all swarming toward Jin Tong.

"Go and help her," Han Lin instructed with slightly furrowed brows.

Xiao Bai immediately did as it was told, swelling drastically in size as it let loose a loud roar before pouncing at the swarm of spirit insects.

The dense swarm of black beetles inundated Xiao Bai in an instant, but a layer of bright white light had emerged over its body to keep all of the black beetles at bay.

At the same time, it opened its mouth to release a burst of tremendous suction force, which sucked in all of the surrounding black beetles in a frenzy.

Meanwhile, Taj and the other Longneck beings were discussing how to proceed, yet all of them had fallen silent and were staring at Xiao Bai with stunned looks on their faces.

At the same time, Jin Tong had transformed into a giant golden beetle that was slashing its front legs through the air in rapid succession, releasing streaks of translucent golden light that swept forth in all directions, shredding all of the spirit insects in their path.

Tureev was horrified to see this.

In the blink of an eye, his army of spirit insects was on the verge of complete eradication!

In contrast, Taj was ecstatic to see this, and he hurriedly began yelling something in the primordial language.

The Longneck beings were instantly reinvigorated, and they began playing their instruments again, spurring on their demon beasts to attack the surrounding swarm of spirit insects.

The previously orderly ranks of the Gray Toad beings were instantly thrown into complete disarray by Jin Tong and Xiao Bai, and Tureev was frantically instructing his spirit insects to unleash a final wave of attacks while simultaneously instructing his own tribesmen to retreat.

#### Chapter 545: Esteemed Guest

Han Li couldn't understand what Tureev was seeing, but he was immediately able to see through his intentions, and he swept a sleeve through the air, releasing several thousands dark yellow beans that transformed into Dao Warriors before rushing into the swarm of insects.

Meanwhile, Jin Tong flew out of the swarm of insects as a streak of golden light before arriving in front of the Gray Toad beings in a flash, then lashed out with her front legs to send a flurry of streaks of translucent golden light sweeping through the air, instantly killing most of the Gray Toad beings.

Tureev could see that escape wasn't going to be possible, and he immediately fell to his knees as he pleaded, "Please spare us! Why are you killing us when you're a member of the Insect Race yourself? All of us Gray Toad beings are insect envoys, we are loyal servants of the revered insect spirits! I only asked him to leave you behind so that we could take you back to our Insect Race and save you from having to serve as that human's pet!"

Jin Tong ceased in her attacks upon hearing this, and she reverted back to her human form before returning to Han Li's side, then asked, "What is this insect spirit that you speak of?"

"I... I'm afraid I don't know. Our Gray Toad Tribe is nothing more than a tiny branch of the Insect Race. Even though I'm the chief of the tribe, I've only ever heard of the revered insect spirit and never actually had the honor of meeting them," Tureev replied in a hesitant voice.

Jin Tong turned to Han Li upon hearing this, then asked, "Can we use a soul search technique on him, Uncle?"

"Sure," Han Li replied with a nod, then pointed a finger forward, upon which a thread of translucent light flew into Tureev's glabella.

"No!" Tureev wailed with a horrified expression, only for his head to explode violently just an instant later.

"That's quite a nasty restriction," Han Li remarked as his brows furrowed slightly.

The remaining Gray Toad beings were furious to see the demise of their chief, and they began charging at Han Li once again.

Several seconds later, the entire clearing fell completely silent, and all of the Gray Toad beings had been eradicated.

After stowing his Dao Warriors away, Han Li turned to the Longneck beings, who were clearly apprehensive of him, but didn't dare to leave without permission.

All of the Longneck beings were also looking back at Han Li with a mixture of fear and confusion in their eyes, and it was clear that they didn't know how to react to what had just happened.

The man by the name of Taj hesitated momentarily, then voluntarily approached Han Li before extending a grateful salute as he said in the language of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, "Thank you for saving us, Senior."

"Seeing as you can understand my language, I'm sure you're already aware that I didn't kill those Gray Toad beings to save you and your tribesmen," Han Li said as he took a glance at Taj.

"In any case, you've saved all of us by killing those Gray Toad beings, and that is a great kindness that we must repay. However, at the moment, our tribe has been severely ravaged by the Insect Race, so I'm afraid we're in no position to be holding a reception. Otherwise, we would be sure to invite you to our tribe as an esteemed guest," Taj replied in an apologetic manner.

Han Li wanted to dismiss the Longneck beings, but after taking a glance at Jin Tong, he decided to raise some questions instead. "What's going on with the Beast Race and the Insect Race?"

A hesitant look appeared on Taj's face, and only after a brief pause did he reply, "The Insect Race and our Beast Race have different beliefs, and as a result, we've become sworn enemies. We've been fighting relentlessly against each other over the years, and many large-scale wars have taken place between our two races."

"What are these differing beliefs of yours?" Han Li asked.

"Our Beast Race is split up into many different tribes, and all of us worship different true spirit holy beasts. We don't always see eye to eye, but all of us revere true spirits, while all of the tribes of the Insect Race worship different insect spirits," Taj explained.

"I see. That's all I have to ask, you can go now," Han Li said with a dismissive wave of his hand.

"Thank you, Senior," Taj hurriedly replied with a respectful bow, then began making his way back to his tribesmen.

"Let's go," Han Li said as he turned to Jin Tong and Xiao Bai, the latter of which reverted back into a jade pendant before flying back to Han Li's waist.

Meanwhile, Jin Tong was looking a little hesitant, and Han Li knew that this had to have something to do with those Gray Toad beings, so he didn't try to rush her.

Right at this moment, Taj made his way back to Han Li, then extended another respectful salute as he said, "After careful consideration, I feel that it's necessary to invite you to travel to the Peacock Spirit Tribe with us so we can show you some hospitality and repay you for your kindness."

"If you really want to display your sincerity, then get your true leader to come out and see me," Han Li said in an indifferent voice.

A surprised look appeared on Taj's face upon hearing this.

Immediately thereafter, the group of Longneck beings parted to open up a path, following which a figure dressed in a large gray cloak with a gray cloth concealing their facial features emerged.

"Young Mistress Yifan, you can't..."

Taj hurriedly tried to stop them, but the cloaked figure paid no heed to him as they made their way over to Han Li, then crossed their arms over their chest before extending a salute to him.

After that, they removed the gray cloth that was concealing their face to reveal an extremely intricate set of facial features that were virtually no different from those of a human. The only difference was that their skin was light blue, and their ears tapered to sharp points, while a pair of sharp fangs were protruding out from behind their lips.

"You're not a Longneck being?" Han Li asked with a surprised expression.

Earlier, he had noticed that Taj seemed to have been acting under the instructions of someone else, and he had thought that perhaps the chief of the Longneck Tribe was among them, but that didn't appear to be the case.

"I am Nuo Yifan, the daughter of the Calm Dawn Tribe, and I was sent here to unite all of the tribe of the Beast Race to put up a collective resistance against the Insect Race, but as soon as I arrived at the Longneck Tribe, we were attacked by the Gray Toad Tribe and several other tribes, and we fled all the way here. It's only thanks to your timely intervention that we were able to survive, Senior," the blue-skinned woman said.

"Seeing as you're the one calling the shots here, I presume it's you who's inviting me to the Peacock Spirit Tribe?" Han Li asked.

"That's right. You must be a primordial hunter, right, Senior? The Insect Race has recently become more and more aggressive. Not only are they attacking our Beast Race, I've heard that they instructed the Sand Beasts to attack a ship not long ago. If you're not familiar with this area, then you could easily stumble into their territory, and even with your unfathomable powers, a grueling battle would be inevitable," Nuo Yifan said.

"So you're extending this invitation to me for my sake?" Han Li asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"I wish to repay you for saving all of us, but of course, my motives aren't entirely unselfish. I'm hoping that you can protect us on the way back to the Calm Dawn Tribe," Nuo Yifan replied in a candid fashion.

"Would your tribe happen to have a map of the primordial land?" Han Li asked.

"The primordial land is an enormous place, and many areas are ruled over by different powerful beings and tribes, making them inaccessible to others. Hence, even our Calm Dawn Tribe only has a map of some areas occupied by our Beast Race. As long as you're willing to escort us back to our Calm Dawn Tribe, I'll do my best to collect all of the maps in the possession of the nearby tribes," Nuo Yifan promised.

Han Li considered the offer for a moment, then decided to agree.

A hint of elation immediately flashed through Nuo Yifan's eyes as she said, "Thank you, Senior! May I ask your name?"

"My name is Li Feiyu," Han Li replied.

As Taj brought Han Li and Jin Tong back to the rest of the group, the other Longneck beings all began to watch Han Li's duo with clear apprehension and fear in their eyes.

Taj said something to everyone in the primordial tongue, and only then did all of the Longneck beings look away from Han Li and Jin Tong before commencing the process of cleaning up the battlefield.

At the same time, some of them began to collect the carcasses of the Gray Toad beings and the spirit insects, clearly finding them to be useful as materials.

Shortly thereafter, one of the Longneck beings exchanged a glance with Nuo Yifan, following which the former carried a storage ring that was crafted out of bone and laden with materials to Han Li.

Han Li wasn't particularly interested in these materials, but he still accepted the storage ring. After all, if he were to refuse, then that would most likely only make the Longneck beings even more uneasy as they could develop the false impression that he was harboring certain ulterior motives.

However, after accepting the storage ring, he immediately assigned its contents to Xiao Bai and Jin Tong for them to split and devour as they pleased.

Shortly thereafter, the entire group of Longneck beings set off once again, this time toward the south.

Taj was leading the way from the forefront, while Han Li and Nuo Yifan were walking alongside one another at the center of the unit, surrounded by all of the other Longneck beings. As for Jin Tong and Xiao Bai, they had already turned back into a pair of accessories that were fitted around Han Li's finger and hanging from his waist, respectively.

"Once we pass over this hilly region, we'll enter an area where a Hundred-eyed Centipede is active. The centipede is extremely formidable and aggressive, and it's been known to attack anything flying overhead. Hence, we'll only be able to take flight on demon beast steeds once we've passed through that area," Nuo Yifan explained.

"That's fine. The primordial land is a very dangerous place, so it makes sense to take some safety precautions," Han Li replied in an indifferent voice.

At this point, they were already deep in the primordial land, so he naturally had no interest in taking any risks unless it was absolutely necessary to do so.

As he continued to walk along, Han Li declared through voice transmission, "Xiao Bai, I want you to teach me the primordial language."

Xiao Bai was very much taken aback to hear this, and it exclaimed, "The cultivators of the immortal regions have always regarded the primordial language as a lowly language that's completely beneath them. Are you sure you want to learn it, Master?"

"Languages are but tools for communication, so I don't perceive any languages to be above or below others," Han Li replied.

"Alright, if you want to learn, then I'll teach you," Xiao Bai replied.

This chapter is updated by

## Chapter 546: Large Primordial Tribe

Over a month flew by in the blink of an eye.

In the sky above a lush, primordial forest, giant flying creatures of different descriptions were soaring through the air, carrying Longneck beings on their backs as they descended toward the center of the forest.

There was an unremarkable-looking male human among these Longneck beings, standing out like a sore thumb, and it was none other than Han Li.

Taj was straddled atop a winged black deer while flying alongside Nuo Yifan, who was riding a white snow eagle, and they were on a diagonal descent toward a clearing at the center of the forest.

As for Han Li, he was riding a gray mammoth with a pair of ears that were as large as wings, and he was also descending out of the sky a little behind the Longneck beings.

After landing on the ground, Han Li inspected his surroundings briefly to find that there were some dome-shaped buildings concealed within the foliage, blending into the surrounding environment in a harmonious fashion.

However, most of these buildings had already been damaged. Some were half-collapsed, while others had been completely razed to the ground, and a series of lifeless bodies were littered around the buildings.

Most of these bodies belonged to a type of short and petite gray-skinned creature with large heads and facial features that were very similar to those of humans, except their eyes, noses, and mouths were all squished together, presenting a rather peculiar sight to behold.

Additionally, there were also many bodies belonging to Longneck beings and demon beast carcasses strewn around the area, most of which had been horribly disfigured by spirit insect bites.

After conducting a brief search through the area, the expressions of all of the Longneck beings had darkened significantly, and all of them were clearly infuriated by what they had seen.



Shortly thereafter, Han Li saw Taj carrying the body of an elderly Longneck being out of the one of the semi-collapsed buildings, and there was a grief-stricken look on his face.

The body's facial features bore a strong resemblance to Taj, and this observation made it apparent to Han Li that this was most likely Taj's father and the chief of the Longneck Tribe.

Nuo Yifan made her way over to Taj, then crossed her arms in front of her chest and extended a deep bow toward the lifeless body in Taj's arms. After that, she patted Taj on the shoulder and said something to him in the primordial language.

Having already learned some of the primordial language from Xiao Bai on the way here, Han Li was able to discern that she was offering him some condolences.

Taj took some time to compose himself, then fished a long length of black bone that was as smooth as jade out of his father's pocket. He raised the bone up high as he let loose a cry of grief, and all of the other Longneck beings immediately gathered around him while echoing the same sound.

Meanwhile, Nuo Yifan made her way over to Han Li's side as she explained in a slight weary voice, "Taj's father died in battle, and he's about to become the new chief of the tribe."

"It looks like your Beast Race isn't in a very good place right now," Han Li remarked.

"Ever since we defeated the Insect Race during that war several million years ago, all of our tribes have been far too complacent. We've always been keeping close tabs on the Insect Race's activities, but they've been planning these attacks for a very long time, and they struck without any warning, so we were caught completely off guard.

"Having said that, the king of the true spirits that we worship are definitely far more powerful than their insect spirits, so once all of our tribes unite to summon our king, the complete eradication of the Insect Race will be imminent," Nuo Yifan replied in a determined voice.

Han Li wasn't very interested in hearing about these matters, and he said, "I suppose I can only wish you the best of luck. How long left until we reach your Calm Dawn Tribe?"

"At our current speed, we'll be able to return to our Calm Dawn Tribe in three more months at most," Nuo Yifan replied.

Han Li nodded in response and didn't say anything further.

The Longneck beings held a simple ceremony to grieve the dead, then packed up the bodies of all of their fellow tribesmen and the Peacock Spirit beings before setting off once again.

After leaving the settlement of the Peacock Spirit Tribe, everyone clearly sped up significantly, perhaps because they were out of the territory under the complete control of the Beast Race. Aside from several occasions where they had to slow down to avoid some particularly powerful primordial beasts, the rest of the time was spent traveling at full speed.

During this time, Han Li continued to learn the primordial language from Xiao Bai while keeping tabs on the area that they had passed through so that he could incorporate them into the map that he was compiling.

At this point, the maps that he had purchased from Primordial Origin City early were largely useless. The map given to him by Wyrms 3 was still somewhat useful, but it had no overlap with the route that he was currently taking, so he could only use it to ascertain his approximate location.

Two and a half months later, Han Li and the Longneck beings finally made it out of the vast forest.

The Longneck beings were very familiar with this forest, so they were able to pre-emptively avoid many of the powerful true spirits residing in the area, but they were still intercepted by a few ambush attacks from enemy Insect Race beings. Han Li had refrained from getting involved in those battles, leaving Jin Tong and Xiao Bai to do the fighting for him.

Over time, the animosity and wariness that the Longneck beings harbored toward Han Li gradually faded, and Han Li was able to learn more about the primordial land from Nuo Yifan and Taj.

At this moment, they had arrived in front of an enormous canyon.

This was the Dark Star Canyon where the Calm Dawn Tribe resided.

Even though Han Li had already been made aware that the Calm Dawn Tribe was one of the most powerful tribes of the Beast Race, he was still astonished by the sight laid out before him.

Ahead of him was a majestic mountain range that stretched as far as the eyes could see, and there were countless acres of lush vegetation separated by a gargantuan white rift, much like a gash on the body of a giant beast.

At the entrance of the white canyon stood an enormous white stone pass, which was riddled with watchtowers and flags, giving it the appearance of a massive white fortress.

The entire fortress was over 100,000 feet tall, virtually the same height as the two lips of the canyon, and there were three giant arch gates that were around 60,000 to 70,000 feet tall standing at the center of the fortress, in front of each of which was a black metal fence.

A massive, turbulent river was flowing through the central arch gate, and the water in the river was a rather murky green color, churning along while producing a sound akin to that of rumbling thunder.

Upon arriving at the fortress, Nuo Yifan removed the long gray cloak that she had been wearing the entire trip, revealing the luscious curves of her body, which were only accentuated by the light and tight-fitting clothes that she was wearing underneath the cloak.

All of the male Longneck beings couldn't help but gawk at her for a moment before hurriedly looking away.

As for Han Li, he was watching Nuo Yifan with a hint of surprise in his eyes. He didn't know what material the gray cloak was woven from, but it had completely concealed Nuo Yifan's aura, and only now did he realize that she was at the late-True Immortal Stage.

It seemed that even in the primordial land, there existed some tool refinement techniques, but he presumed that only a small number of powerful primordial tribes would be able to afford the services of these tool refinement masters.

Right at this moment, several dozen figures flew out of the fortress, and all of them were rather similar to Nuo Yifan in appearance, with light blue skin and tapered ears, clearly indicating that they were also Calm Dawn beings.

The majority of them were men, who were slightly taller than their female counterparts and had some dark patterns on their skin. However, they weren't physically imposing at all, and not only were they all quite handsome, there was a slightly effeminate appearance about them.

Their leader was a middle-aged man holding an azure jade staff, and he bore a strong resemblance to Nuo Yifan, except the lines of his face were more angular and defined, and he was wearing a long off white robe that gave him a scholarly appearance.

"Yifan," the man called out, and an ecstatic look immediately appeared on Nuo Yifan's face upon catching sight of him.

"Father!"

Meanwhile, the Longneck beings and Han Li were all hovering in the air some distance away.

At this point, Han Li was able to understand the primordial language without much trouble, but he still had some trouble speaking the language due to lack of practice.

"I'm sorry for putting you through such an ordeal, my precious daughter. I'm so glad that you've returned safe and sound," the middle-aged man said with a pained expression as he gently stroked Nuo Yifan's hair.

"I wanted to go on this trip, so you're not to blame, Father. It was a dangerous trip, but thankfully, we've managed to contact all of the northern tribes, and they've all decided to join forces with our Dark Star Canyon. I'm sure it won't be long before we unite the entire Beast Race in the war against the Insect Race," Nuo Yifan said.

"You did very well, my daughter. Over the past half a month or so, some tribes have already arrived at our Dark Star Canyon. However, I heard from them that the Longneck Tribe and the Peacock Spirit Tribe were attacked. Were you affected by the attacks?" the middle-aged man asked.

"While I was at the Longneck Tribe, we were attacked by several enemy tribes, including the Gray Toad Tribe and the Azure Scorpion Tribe, but Chief Tak of the Longneck Tribe was able to divert most of the enemy forces away by fleeing to the Peacock Spirit Tribe, while the other Longneck beings and I fled to Bright Deer Hill.

"After that, the Gray Toad beings caught up to us, but thankfully, Senior Li here intervened to save us and eradicate the Gray Toad beings," Nuo Yifan replied as she gestured to Han Li.

A hint of lingering fear appeared in the middle-aged man's eyes upon hearing this, and he was feeling even more remorseful after hearing about his daughter's close call.

Upon hearing that it was Han Li who had eradicated the Gray Toad beings, he cast his gaze toward his daughter's savior, upon which his pupils instantly contracted slightly.

Not only was he very much taken aback to see that Han Li was a human, all of the other Calm Dawn beings displayed a similar reaction upon catching sight of him.

Due to the fact that Calm Dawn beings were quite similar in appearance to humans, Han Li could clearly see the detest and wariness etched on their faces.

Nuo Yifan could also see the animosity that everyone was displaying, and she immediately added, "It was only thanks to Senior Li's protection that we were able to make it back here safely."

The middle-aged man's expression eased slightly upon hearing this, and he flew toward Han Li with everyone else.

"Thank you for saving Yifan and escorting her back to our Dark Star Canyon. If you want anything for compensation, feel free to state what you desire," the middle-aged man said in the language of the immortal regions as he cupped his fist in a salute toward Han Li.

Han Li raised an eyebrow upon hearing this.

It was clear that the chief of the Calm Dawn Tribe intended to send him away with some treasures, as opposed to allowing him to enter the Dark Star Canyon.

#### Chapter 547: Stay

"There's no need to thank me. On the topic of compensation, I've already told your daughter what I want," Han Li replied in an expressionless manner. fre(e)

The white-robed man's brows furrowed with befuddlement, and he turned to her with an inquisitive expression, upon which Nuo Yifan relayed Han Li's request for maps of the primordial land to him through voice transmission.

The white-robed man's brows furrowed even more tightly upon hearing this, and he turned back to Han Li as he said, "My apologies, Fellow Daoist Li, but I'm afraid that my daughter has made a promise that she can't keep. Our Calm Dawn Tribe is quite a large tribe, but it's still completely insignificant in the context of all of the Beast Race tribes, so we're not capable of gathering all of the maps of the different tribes.

"Hence, I'll have to ask you to state another condition. I know the rules of the human race, and I'll be sure to offer you satisfactory compensation."

"I'm not a primordial hunter, and I'm only asking for these maps as I wish to cross the primordial land en route to another immortal region. Hence, you can remove the locations of the tribes on the maps that you give me and only mark out the more dangerous areas and places where formidable beasts reside," Han Li said.

A contemplative look appeared on Nuo Qinglin's face upon hearing this, and he didn't immediately respond.

Nuo Yifan approached him, and the two of them communicated a while longer through voice transmission before the latter seemed to have finally arrived at a decision.

Nuo Qinglin turned back to Han Li, but still found himself unable to ascertain Han Li's cultivation base.

"In that case, I'll get you to stay in our Dark Star Canyon for a few days. The other tribes of the Beast Race will be gathering here over the next few days, and I'll be able to collect their maps once they arrive," he said.

"I'll be in your care then," Han Li replied with a nod.

While conversing with Nuo Qinglin, Han Li had been observing him the entire time as well, and he noticed that Nuo Qinglin seemed to have also concealed his own aura, and that he was most likely around the early-Golden Immortal Stage.

However, given how these foreign beings were able to use demon beasts in battle, their true combat prowess most likely had to be overestimated by half a rank. As for the other Calm Dawn beings behind Nuo Qinglin, they were all somewhere between the mid-True Immortal Stage and the early-Golden Immortal Stage, with the majority of them at the True Immortal Stage.

Nuo Qinglin gave Han Li a nod, then turned to Taj with a solemn expression as he said, "Thank you for escorting Yifan back to our Dark Star Canyon. Our Calm Dawn Tribe will remember what you've done, and after the war is over, we'll be sure to do everything in our power to assist your tribe in rebuilding a home and making a resurgence."

"Thank you, Chief Nuo!" Taj replied with a grateful expression as he crossed his arms over his chest and extended a slight bow.

"Prior to that, you and your tribesmen can treat our Dark Star Canyon as your own home," Nuo Qinglin continued.

Taj and the other Longneck beings were even more grateful upon hearing this, and some of them had even burst into tears.

After that, Nuo Qinglin led Han Li and the others over the giant fortress before flying into the canyon.

As they flew over the fortress, Han Li could see that there was a giant lizard-like winged beast prowling behind each of the watchtowers on the fortress. Their scales were reflecting a black gleam, and they occasionally opened their eyes to look up at the sky.

Han Li could clearly sense that all of their animosity was directed toward him.

Only after passing over the fortress was the true scale of the Dark Star Canyon fully revealed to Han Li.

There was a green river that was over 10,000 feet wide flowing through the center of the canyon with the sound of rumbling thunder, and on either side of the river were sheer cliff faces that were as steep as they were majestic.

On the sheer mountain faces at an even higher altitude were a series of hollowed-out caves of different shapes and sizes, all of which were interconnected by a system boardwalks that were embedded into the mountain faces to form an enormous and complex cluster of buildings.

Furthermore, these weren't just some simple and crude caves. Instead, there were intricate engravings and well-crafted pillars and railings on the outside, and their openings were sealed with round or rectangular wooden doors of different styles that also had beautiful engravings on them. On top of that, these caves were surrounded by moss, vines, and flowers to give them an even more delightful appearance.

If the Peacock Spirit Tribe settlement had been a small village in a forest, then the Dark Star Canyon where the Calm Dawn Tribe resided would be the equivalent of a thriving human city.

The Dark Star River within the canyon was a winding river that twisted and turned, and the deeper Han Li flew into the canyon, the more surprised he became. A series of giant altar-like buildings had begun to appear on the surrounding mountain faces, and they were giving off bursts of faint array fluctuations.

Han Li knew that he was a rather sensitive figure here, so he only casually glanced at the passing scenery instead of scrutinizing the layout of the entire canyon too closely, and he also refrained from using too much of his spiritual sense.



Nuo Qinglin had been secretly observing Han Li this entire time, and a pleased look appeared on his face upon seeing this.

As the group approached the center of the valley, everyone descended onto a cliff with relatively flat terrain. Nuo Qinglin turned to Han Li as he said, "This is quite a peaceful place. You can stay here for the next few days, Fellow Daoist Li."

Han Li inspected his surroundings to find that the cliff was surrounded by Calm Dawn Tribe settlements, and they weren't overly close, but it was very convenient for them to conduct surveillance on this place or surround it on very short notice.

"Thank you, Chief Nuo," he said with a smile, and Nuo Qinglin and the others promptly departed, flying deeper into the canyon.

Nuo Yifan hesitated momentarily, then decided to stay behind as she approached Han Li with an apologetic expression as she said, "Please don't misunderstand, Fellow Daoist Li. Unfortunately, my tribesmen are still quite apprehensive of humans."

"I've always wanted to ask you this: why is it that you aren't wary of humans like your tribesmen?" Han Li asked. fr(e)e

"Truth be told, my deceased mother was a human, so I'm half-human myself," Nuo Yifan explained after a brief hesitation.

Han Li nodded in response and didn't say anything further.

After the two of them parted ways, Han Li inspected his surroundings briefly with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, then descended onto the cliff and began to make his way toward the hollowed-out cave abode there.

He opened the heavy stone doors of the cave abode, and his brows furrowed slightly at the state of the cave abode.

Everything was covered in a thick layer of dust, clearly indicating that it hadn't been inhabited for a very long time. He swept a sleeve through the air, releasing a gentle breeze that swept out all of the dust in the cave abode.

Immediately thereafter, a series of lamps on the walls lit up on their own, illuminating the entire stone chamber while also giving off a faint musky aroma.

Han Li looked around to find that the cave wasn't very large, and it was split into two rooms that were only slightly larger than the average room.

In the outer room was a stone table and a stone chair, while only a stone bed could be found in the inner room, presenting a set of extremely minimalistic furnishings.

After closing the stone doors, Han Li pulled out a series of array flags and array plates before setting them up around the cave.

Around an hour later, the array was complete, and Han Li sat down onto the stone bed with his legs crossed before tapping the golden ring on his finger.

The golden ring immediately took on Jin Tong's human form before landing beside Han Li, and he said, "Jin Tong, I'll be going into seclusion for a while to see if I can elevate my cultivation base a little. During this time, you and Xiao Bai will be tasked with protecting me."

"Why are you suddenly going into seclusion at a time like this, Uncle?" Jin Tong asked.

"During our time in the primordial land, we've encountered many powerful primordial beasts. Even though we'll be staying in the Calm Dawn Tribe for the near future, so we'll be a little safer than before, but we still have to prepare for the journey ahead. The Heavenly Court isn't going to stop coming after me, and the primordial land is far more perilous than I anticipated.

"Only by elevating my own powers as much as possible can we continue to survive here," Han Li replied.

"Alright, you can count on me, Uncle! No one will be able to disturb your cultivation as long as I'm here!" Jin Tong vowed with a determined expression.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face as he flipped a hand over to produce a storage pouch before handing it to Jin Tong.

"Here's some food for you, make sure to eat it sparingly."

Jin Tong was ecstatic as she accepted the storage pouch from Han Li, then skipped her way to the outer room before sitting down onto the stone table with her legs crossed to inspect the contents of the storage pouch.

"Don't forget about me!"

Xiao Bai immediately jumped down from Han Li's waist before rushing over to Jin Tong's side and cuddling up to her like an affectionate little dog, only to be slapped away by Jin Tong with a disdainful expression.

A faint smile appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and he withdrew his gaze before sweeping a sleeve through the air to activate the array and temporarily cut off the inner room from the outside world.

He then flipped a hand over to produce a pair of jade slips and an ancient yellow scripture, and these were none other than the three time-attribute cultivation arts of the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, the Water Divination Time Arts, the Mantra Axis Scripture, and the Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture.

He had already read through the entirety of the three cultivation arts, and he felt like there was some type of connection between the three, but he had never gotten the chance to conduct a closer examination.

Hence, he was planning to compare the three cultivation arts carefully here to see if he could glean some insights that could assist him in his cultivation.

Among the three cultivation arts, the Mantra Axis Scripture was naturally the most familiar one to Han Li. At this point, he had already obtained six levels of the cultivation art, and his progression in the cultivation art had been quite smooth thanks to the Heaven Controlling Vial.

He hadn't begun using either of the other two cultivation arts yet, but given the foundation that he had already had, he was confident that he would be able to make fast progress in those two cultivation arts as well.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he picked up the Water Divination Time Arts first and began to carefully read through it.

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#### Chapter 548: The Three Cultivation Arts

Han Li pressed the jade slip that contained the Water Divination Time Arts to his own glabella, then closed his eyes and fell completely still.

Initially, his brows were slightly furrowed in befuddlement, but they quickly unfurrowed again as if he had been struck by some enlightenment. However, shortly thereafter, his brows furrowed slightly once again before relaxing for a second time, and the cycle continued to repeat itself.

As time passed, Han Li's brows became more and more tightly furrowed, and this time, he remained stumped by the obstacle that he had encountered.

Sweat was beginning to bead up on his forehead, and remained in the same seated position for three days and three nights.

Upon opening his eyes, his back was already completely drenched in sweat, while his eyes were severely bloodshot, giving him an exhausted appearance.

"How could this be?" he murmured to himself as he removed the blue jade slip from his forehead.

The Water Divination Time Arts consisted of seven chapters, and during the initial phase of its cultivation, he had to manifest a treasure similar to the Mantra Treasured Axis.

This treasure was called the Clear Time Vial, and it could derive time water droplets from absorbing the light of the sun and the moon.

Upon reaching the fourth chapter of the cultivation art, one would be able to refine the time water droplets that they had collected in order to manifest threads of time.

These threads of time weren't unfamiliar to Han Li. Even back in the Spirit Realm, he had seen these threads being produced by the Asura Spiders. [1] These were extraordinary threads that could only arise from the river of time, which contained time law powers, and they could extend the lifespans of mortals and low-grade cultivators, or delay the onset of heavenly tribulations for high-grade cultivators.

From the description in the cultivation, the threads of time refined using the Water Divination Time Arts were supposed to contain a greater abundance of time law powers, thereby making them even more potent, and they could even delay the onset of the three decays for True Immortals.

However, as was the case with the Mantra Treasured Axis, an item that contained time law powers was required to refine the Clear Time Vial. Additionally, many other precious natural treasures were also required, thereby posing a very steep barrier of entry for this cultivation art, and this was presumably why so many Vast Flow Palace cultivators had ultimately refrained from pursuing this cultivation art.

Unlike the Mantra Axis Scripture, this cultivation art didn't allow one to open immortal acupoints as they progressed. Instead, the improvement in one's cultivation base more so hinged upon the rate at which they were able to manifest time water droplets.

Apparently, once one accumulated sufficient time water droplets to form a river, they would be able to unleash even more unfathomable abilities. However, these time water droplets took a very long time to manifest, and in the initial phase of one's cultivation, it would take centuries to accumulate even a single time water droplet, so it was unclear how much time it would take to accumulate an entire river's worth.

From what he had read, Han Li determined that the Water Divination Time Arts was slightly inferior to the Mantra Axis Scripture, but it had its own unique advantages as well.

At this point, he had only read through the cultivation art several times, and he hadn't begun cultivating it at all, so his understanding of it was naturally still rather limited.

He took a deep breath to suppress the befuddlement in his heart, then began to read through the Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture.

The inner room was completely silent with the exception of the sound of rustling pages, and over a day passed by in a flash before Han Li closed the book.

He massaged his sore glabella momentarily, but at the same time, a faint smile had appeared on his face.

The Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture was even more unique than the other two time-attribute cultivation arts. As opposed to a cultivation art, it was more accurate to call it a tool refinement scripture.

The reason why Han Li thought this was because upon reaching a certain stage in the cultivation art, one would be able to break down certain items that contained time law powers to derive something called Illusory Dawn Sand.

After refining this Illusory Dawn Sand using a special technique, one would be able to create a small closed-off space known as an Illusory Dawn Sand Domain using these grains of sand, and that could come in any form, such as an Illusory Dawn Sand Box, an Illusory Dawn Sand Vial, etc.

Inside the space within these vessels, the rate at which time flowed could be altered.

All of a sudden, a thought occurred to Han Li.

If I had a sufficient amount of Illusory Dawn Sand, would I be able to...

However, a self-deprecating look then appeared on his face.

Setting aside whether that's even possible, how am I supposed to obtain so much Illusory Dawn Sand? Items that contain time law powers aren't so easy to find.

With that in mind, he turned his gaze back to the three cultivation arts as a contemplative look appeared on his face.

All three of them were time-attribute cultivation arts, but they focused on different things, and aside from the Mantra Axis Scripture, which could be used as a cultivation art, the other two were more related to treasures that contained time law powers.

After closely examining all three cultivation arts, Han Li became even more convinced that some type of connection existed between them.

Of course, there were bound to be some similarities, considering all three were time-attribute cultivation arts, but Han Li felt like the connection wasn't as simple as that, but at the same time, he couldn't put his finger on exactly what the connection was.

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Around half a month flew by in a flash.

Inside the inner room of the cave, Han Li was standing while holding the three cultivation arts in his hands with a wry smile on his face.

Even after extensive examination and pondering, he was still no closer to a definitive answer.

"I should take a break. If I keep forcing myself deeper into this hole, I'm going to end up hampering my future cultivation," he sighed to himself, then stowed the three cultivation arts away.

The laws of time was one of the three paramount laws, so its cultivation arts were bound to be different from the average cultivation art, and Han Li decided that he wasn't going to pursue the other two cultivation arts before he figured out exactly what type of connection existed between the three.

Of course, another important factor behind this decision was that he didn't have the time to go into seclusion for an extended period.

With that in mind, he sat back down with his legs crossed, then flipped a hand over to produce a white jade vial, and he tipped out a pill that was as translucent as jade from within before swallowing it.

The pill was called a Snow Soul Pill, and it was one of the Golden Immortal Stage pills that he had obtained from Xiao Jinhan, so it was perfect for him to consume.

After swallowing the pill, Han Li closed his eyes to meditate, and once his heart had settled into a calm and tranquil state, he pressed a white jade slip to his own glabella.

This jade slip contained the fifth level of the Mantra Axis Scripture.

Layers of golden ripples spread in all directions from the jade slip, basking Han Li in a soft, golden glow.

In contrast with how difficult the fourth level of the cultivation art had been to understand, the fifth level felt more straightforward to Han Li, and after memorizing its contents, he stowed it away again.

After that, he placed one hand over the other in front of himself to make a hand seal, and his Mantra Treasured Axis appeared before him.

The array in the room concealed the energy fluctuations of the Mantra Treasured Axis, but Jin Tong and Xiao Bai were still able to detect something through their spiritual connection with Han Li, and both of them turned to face the inner room.

The Time Dao Runes on the Mantra Treasured Axis lit up as a string of radiant miniature suns, and over three months quickly passed by in seclusion.

During this time, the Dark Star Canyon had become quite lively. Aside from the other large tribes that ranked alongside the Calm Dawn Tribe, close to half of the smaller Beast Race tribes had also traveled to the Dark Star Canyon.



As a result, things became very busy for the Calm Dawn Tribe. Nuo Yifan paid Han Li two visits in the first month, but on both occasions, so he was told that Han Li was in seclusion, and she hadn't returned since. It seemed that everyone had forgotten that there was still a human residing in the canyon.

On this day, both Jin Tong and Xiao Bai were staring at the light barrier that separated the room that Han Li was in from the outside world, and their eyes were wide with intrigue.

About an hour ago, Han Li had eaten a small round fruit that was riddled with tiny golden spots, and his Mantra Treasured Axis had immediately become brighter as a result.

At the same time, a tiny golden vortex had appeared on the outside of his thigh, and a vast expanse of golden light had begun surging toward the vortex. This was none other than his 61st immortal acupoint!

With the formation of this immortal acupoint, two more Time Dao Runes had appeared on the Mantra Treasured Axis.

A short while later, the surrounding energy fluctuations gradually subsided, and Han Li slowly opened his eyes, but he was looking more concerned than elated.

Even after consuming a fruit that's imbued with time law powers, I was only just barely able to open a single immortal acupoint. How much resources will it take to reach the High Zenith Stage?

With that in mind, a wry smile appeared on his face, but before he had a chance to dwell on this thought, the Heaven Controlling Vial suddenly flew up on its own.

Han Li hurriedly cast his gaze toward his Mantra Treasured Axis, upon which he was ecstatic to discover that an 11th time law thread had appeared around it.

The golden fruit that he had obtained from Gongshu Jiu had allowed him to manifest another time law thread, and that was certainly a pleasant surprise.

Furthermore, judging from the reaction of the Heaven Controlling Vial, it seemed that he was about to be sucked into another vision.

Sure enough, a burst of rumbling rang out, and the Heaven Controlling Vial, which had already swelled to the size of a millstone, released a thick pillar of green light that struck the light barrier around the inner room to form a translucent wall of light.

Jin Tong and Xiao Bai were unable to tell what was happening inside due to the light barrier that was in their way, so they could only return to the stone table in a bored manner.

A green vortex slowly took shape within the wall of light, immediately following which a burst of tremendous suction force erupted forth, sucking his soul out of his body and into the wall of light in a flash.

#### Chapter 549: Vision of the True Mantra Sect

Han Li's consciousness slowly returned to him, and he opened his eyes to inspect his surroundings.

He was already mentally prepared this time, so he wasn't feeling panicked at all. Instead, there was only a sense of excitement and curiosity in his heart.

These experiences were extremely precious, and they had always benefited him greatly while only temporarily costing him the use of his Time Dao Runes.

As he looked around, he was greeted by the sight of several white plazas, which were surrounded by a series of white jade palaces that stretched as far as the eyes could see.

There were some mountains hovering in mid-air, and they were also riddled with palaces.

It seemed that he was situated in a large sect.

However, at this moment, there was smoke rising up all over the sect, and many of the palaces and hovering mountains in the sky had been damaged, indicating that a battle was taking place.

Sure enough, there were countless cultivators locked in battle up above, and they were split into two sides, with one side dressed entirely in white robes, while the other side was dressed in golden robes.

The golden robes weren't unfamiliar to Han Li as it was the attire of the Heavenly Court.

The two sides were quite evenly matched, and it didn't appear as if a decisive outcome were going to arise anytime soon.

After taking in his surroundings, Han Li cast his gaze forward to find that a faint projection of his Mantra Treasured Axis was hovering in front of him.

The Time Dao Runes on its surface were radiating semi-transparent light, and a couple of them had already faded.

The rate at which the Time Dao Runes was fading was the same as before.

He then turned his attention to the body that he had possessed, and he discovered that it was a white-robed cultivator laying in a corner of the plaza.

The man was tall and thin with a head of straw-like yellow hair, and his skin was as wrinkled and wizened as the bark of an old tree. It appeared that this was the body of a foreign being.

There was a large hole in the man's lower abdomen, and his body had almost been sliced into two. On top of that, he was laying in a puddle of his own green blood, and he seemed to met his demise quite some time ago.

Hold on a second, this man looks so familiar... Where have I seen him before?

A contemplative look appeared on Han Li's face as he tried to recall where he had seen this man in the past, but was unable to do so.

He quickly shook his head to rid himself of that train of thought, then attempted to inspect the man's memories.

Right at this moment, a resounding boom rang out in the sky, and the clouds up above began to rapidly revolve, forming a giant vortex in the blink of an eye.

The vortex was releasing an earth-shattering rumbling sound, and beams of golden light were shooting out from within it.

The golden light was as blinding as the sun, and Han Li was astonished to detect the tremendous law powers imbued within these beams of golden light.

This was a type of law powers that was very familiar to him; it was the power of time laws!

The time law powers within these beams of golden light was downright unfathomable, and they struck the beholder with a sense of awe and veneration.

In contrast, Han Li's time law powers was nothing more than trash!

Who could've possibly cultivated the power of time laws to such an extent?

Han Li was so astonished by what he was seeing that he forgot to draw upon the members of his host body.

All of a sudden, the beams of golden light that had erupted out of the vortex transformed into balls of fire that resembled lotus flowers before raining down from above.

One of the golden fireballs descended toward a Golden Immortal Stage white-robed cultivator, who hurriedly conjured up several layers of protective barriers while shooting back in retreat.

However, the protective barriers weren't able to pose any resistance against the golden flames, which passed through them with ease before landing upon the white-robed cultivator's shoulder.

The white-robed cultivator didn't even get a chance to cry out before his body rapidly aged within the golden flames before disintegrating into ashes.

Han Li drew a sharp breath upon seeing this.

Meanwhile, the other golden fireballs also descended toward other white-robed cultivators, avoiding the Heavenly Court cultivators with unerring accuracy, and in the blink of an eye, close to half of the white-robed cultivators had been reduced to ashes.

Right at this moment, a radiant golden cloud rose up from the largest mountain that was hovering in mid-air, and it gave off rays of dazzling golden light.

Han Li was shocked to discover that the golden cloud was also giving off bursts of time law powers.

The time law powers radiating from the golden cloud wasn't as formidable as that of the vortex in the sky, but it was still countless times more formidable than Han Li's time law powers.

The cloud rapidly expanded to obscure the entire sky in the blink of an eye, keeping all of the golden fireballs at bay, but during the process, the golden cloud was also whittled down significantly.

All of a sudden, a rotund red-robed monk appeared above the golden cloud.

The monk was extremely tall and portly, resembling a mountain of flesh, and the rolls of flab on his face had reduced his eyes to narrow slits.

Han Li's eyes immediately widened in shock at the sight of the red-robed monk.

This was the very same lecturing monk that he had once seen through the Heaven Controlling Vial!

Upon catching sight of the red-robed monk, Han Li was also immediately able to recall that the host body that he had possessed belonged to one of the five people who had been listening to the red-robed monk's lecture.

The red-robed monk was largely expressionless as he made a hand seal and declared, "Let there be wind!"

A string of azure runes flew out of his mouth, then transformed into an incredibly thick azure tornado, within which countless azure blades of wind were swirling incessantly. The tornado left a series of inky-black spatial rifts in its wake, while also sending waves of spatial fluctuations sweeping in all directions as it swept toward the vortex in the sky with devastating power.

This is his Mantra Domain!

Han Li was immediately able to identify the ability that had been unleashed by the red-robed monk.

It was thanks to overhearing part of the monk's lecture that Han Li had been able to master this ability.

However, the Mantra Domain that he unleashed was nothing more than an illusion, yet this azure tornado was very much real.

By Han Li's own estimates, if he were to be swept up in that tornado, then he would most likely be instantly reduced to a pile of mincemeat.

Gusts of howling wind were also sweeping through the white palace down below, and some of the weaker cultivators on the battlefield were instantly sent flying away.

The body that Han Li had possessed was also swept away by the fierce gusts of wind, and this was exactly what he wanted.

He hurriedly drew upon the remaining immortal spiritual power in the body, and a layer of yellow light appeared over his body as he vanished into the ground in a flash before fleeing into the distance as quickly as he could.

To Han Li's surprise, not much of the body's immortal spiritual power remained, but it was extremely pure, even more so than his own immortal spiritual power.

Right at this moment, a burst of golden light flashed within the vortex in the sky once again, and an enormous golden hand appeared.

The hand was over 100 acres in size, and at its center was a huge golden halo, which descended from above as the hand came pressing downward while giving off a burst of tremendous time law powers.

The azure tornado instantly fell completely still, as did the gusts of the ferocious wind that were sweeping through the air down below, as well as all of the other combatants on the battlefield.

The red-robed monk above the golden cloud had raised his hands as if he were preparing to unleash some other ability, but he had also been immobilized.

Han Li's escape also drew to an abrupt halt, and he had fallen still as well, suspended within the soil underground.

Everything in the world had fallen still, and the only thing that could still move was the giant golden hand that was descending from above.

As soon as the azure tornado came into contact with the giant hand, the former instantly disintegrated into countless specks of azure light.

Meanwhile, the enormous golden hand continued to descend without pause, then landed upon the red-robed monk in a seemingly gentle manner.

Right before Han Li's astonished eyes, the red-robed monk's body also disintegrated just like the azure tornado.

After slaying the red-robed monk, the giant golden hand didn't continue to descend. Instead, it shrank back into the vortex up above in a flash, and in the next instant, everything returned to normal.

The cultivators on both sides were a little dumbfounded, unsure of what had just happened, but they then spotted the remains of the red-robed monk falling from the sky.

The white-robed cultivators' expressions instantly turned to grief and despair, while the Heavenly Court cultivators were ecstatic.

At this point, the Heavenly Court cultivators far outnumbered the white-robed cultivators, and morale had also completely plummeted for the latter, so the battle quickly became very one-sided.

Deep underground, Han Li was also able to move again in the wake of the disappearance of the giant golden hand.

What just happened?

Just now, his consciousness seemed to have faded, but it was only for a moment, and he couldn't tell if it had merely been a figment of his imagination.

However, he then quickly realized that it hadn't been his mind playing tricks on him as two of the Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasured Axis had suddenly faded.

He immediately released his spiritual sense to inspect what was happening on the surface, upon which he noticed that in the place of the red-robed monk now stood a pile of disintegrated flesh.

Despite this, Han Li was still able to identify the aura of the pile of remains, and his expression instantly changed drastically upon seeing this.

The red-robed monk had just displayed power that was far superior to any cultivator he had ever seen, yet he had been killed in an instant.

At this point, the vortex in the sky was also slowly fading, and before long, it had vanished entirely.



Han Li was momentarily rooted to the spot, then snapped back to his senses before channeling the immortal spiritual power of his host body once again. However, instead of fleeing further into the distance, he burrowed even deeper into the ground, and only after he was extremely deep underground did he draw to a halt.

There, he was finally able to heave an internal sigh of relief before drawing upon his host body's memories.

A string of memory fragments instantly surged into his mind, and after sorting through these memories, Han Li discovered that the sect outside was none other than the True Mantra Sect.

Updated from

#### Chapter 550: Past Secrets

According to the host body's memories, this immortal region was called the Black Soil Immortal Region, and it was countless times larger than the Northern Glacial Immortal Region. As for the True Mantra Sect, it was the undisputed number one sect of the immortal region, and it had been in existence for countless years with innumerable disciples within its boundaries.

As for the body that Han Li possessed, it belonged to a man called Mu Yan, who was one of the True Mantra Sect's five grand elders.

The red-robed monk was Sect Master Miro of the True Mantra Sect and also Mu Yan's master. He was a Great Encompassment cultivator who stood at the pinnacle of the Black Soil Immortal Region and was reverently referred to as Immortal Lord Miro.

Aside from Mu Yan, Immortal Lord Miro had four other direct disciples, and they were the four other grand elders of the True Mantra Sect, as well as the four other people listening to Immortal Lord Miro's lecture from Han Li's vision.

As direct disciples of Immortal Lord Miro, all five of them were High Zenith cultivators.

Despite Immortal Lord Miro's unfathomable powers, he had been killed in an instant, so it was clear that the owner of the giant hand was an extraordinary figure. However, the only thing that Mu Yan seemed to be aware of was that this was a significant figure in the Heavenly Court.

As far as Han Li was aware, only a select group of people could kill a Great Encompassment cultivator with such ease.

Could it be the Time Dao Ancestor?

It was clear that the True Mantra Sect had been attacked by the Heavenly Court, it seemed that the sect had ultimately fallen to its demise after Immortal Lord Miro was slain by the Time Dao Lord.

Han Li couldn't help but wonder why the Heavenly Court had been so determined to stamp out the True Mantra Sect, to the point that even the Time Dao Ancestor had been personally involved in the sect's eradication.

As one of the three paramount laws, the laws of time were fundamentally superior to all other laws with the exception of its two counterparts. If it really was the Time Dao Ancestor who had slain Immortal Lord Miro, then he was most likely one of a handful of the most powerful beings in the entire True Immortal Realm.

Han Li took a deep breath to compose himself, then continued to browse through Mu Yan's memories, trying to find out more information about the Heavenly Court.

After killing Gongshu Jiu in the Infernal Frost Immortal Manor, Han Li had well and truly become an enemy of the Heavenly Court. Even though he currently didn't possess the power to oppose the Heavenly Court, it certainly couldn't hurt to know more about the enemy.

Before long, Han Li's heart was pounding with excitement.

As a High Zenith cultivator, Mu Yan possessed a vast wealth of knowledge and experience, and his memories contained a great deal of information pertaining to the Heavenly Court.

In the past, Han Li had attempted to gather information on the Heavenly Court, and he was able to uncover some things, but most of the information was publicly available anyway, so it wasn't very useful.

Right as Han Li was about to take a closer look at Mu Yan's memories, he was suddenly struck by a rush of dizziness.

Alarmed by this sudden onset of dizziness, Han Li hurriedly stopped what he was doing, and only then did the dizziness subside.

Could it be because the person I've possessed on this occasion is far superior to me when it comes to cultivation base?

Even though he had possessed Mu Yan's deceased body, its memories didn't belong to him, and forcibly scouring through those memories was very similar to performing a soul search technique.

Mu Yan had been a High Zenith cultivator at his time of death, thereby possessing a far superior cultivation base to Han Li, and even though Han Li's spiritual sense was far superior to that of other mid-Golden Immortal cultivators, it was still too much of a stretch for a Golden Immortal to search a High Zenith cultivators soul.

In fact, if it weren't for the fact that Mu Yan was already dead, then Han Li wouldn't have been able to get away with only such minor consequences.

With that in mind, Han Li could only give up on trying to glean more of Mu Yan's memories, and he began inspecting his surroundings while waiting for his soul to recover.

At this moment, he was deep underground, and it wasn't very comfortable having so much soil clinging so tightly to his body.

He swept a hand through the soil, and a burst of yellow light instantly spread outward, forming a space that was around 50 to 60 feet in size, forcing out all of the surrounding soil.

After that, he sat down with his legs crossed and began to rest and recuperate.

The Time Dao Runes on his Mantra Treasured Axis faded one after another, and only after over 30 of them had been snuffed out did his soul gradually return to its original condition.

After that, he continued to search through Mu Yan's memories, attempting to connect the fragmented memories, and he was quickly able to uncover more information about the Heavenly Court.

As the most powerful official organization of the entire True Immortal Realm, the Heavenly Court exerted its control upon all of the immortal regions through Immortal Palaces, while the Heavenly Court itself was situated in a place known as the Middle Earth Immortal Region.

There was indeed a Time Dao Ancestor in the Heavenly Court, and he was the most prestigious and long-standing Dao Ancestor.

Once again, Han Li's soul began to waver, and he was forced to stop for a second time.

Who exactly is this Time Dao Ancestor? Han Li thought to himself as he took some time to recuperate.

Time slowly passed by, and several dozen more of the Mantra Treasured Axis's Time Dao Runes faded before Han Li was fully recovered once again, and he began to search through Mu Yan's memories for a third time.

This time, a grim look gradually appeared on his face, and his expression only darkened further and further.

He had finally found some information pertaining to this battle.

Theoretically speaking, with a Great Encompassment cultivator like Immortal Lord Miro at the helm, the True Mantra Sect should've been able to thrive for the foreseeable future. After all, no one aside from Dao Ancestors could reliably defeat Great Encompassment cultivators.

However, unfortunately, Immortal Lord Miro was also the root cause behind the True Mantra Sect's demise.

As it turned out, the Time Dao Ancestor had begun to regard Immortal Lord Miro as a threat, and the former had decided to strike before things could get out of hand.

As for why Immortal Lord Miro was viewed as a threat, that concerned a secret that very few were aware of.

All of the 3,000 Great Dao laws were derived from the Great Dao of heaven and earth. Just as two tigers couldn't reside on the same mountain, each law could only have a single Dao Ancestor, and if a Great Encompassment Stage Immortal Lord's mastery over a certain type of laws exceeded that of the corresponding Dao Ancestor, then the Dao Ancestor would be replaced.

As for exactly what happened during this process, that was naturally something that wasn't known to a High Zenith cultivator like Mu Yan.

However, it seemed that all Dao Ancestors paid a great deal of attention to cultivators who had mastered the same type of law powers as themselves, particularly when it came to cultivators at or above the High Zenith Stage. Unless those cultivators were willing to pledge their subordination to the Dao Ancestor, they would be eliminated before they could develop their powers any further.

Even so, some Dao Ancestors had still been replaced in the past, and it could be said that all Dao Ancestors had risen to the top by treading upon the bodies of other prospective Dao Ancestors as stepping stones.

Having already cultivated the laws of time to the Great Encompassment Stage, Immortal Lord Miro posed a significant threat to the Time Dao Ancestor, and even though he had done everything in his power to conceal his cultivation base, he was still eventually exposed, thereby leading to the demise of the True Mantra Sect.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this.

At the moment, he was still quite far away from the High Zenith Stage, but wouldn't he eventually also have to worry about being targeted by the Time Dao Ancestor?

Cultivators really do constantly have the odds stacked against them...

For all cultivators who had mastered a type of law powers, the corresponding Dao Ancestor was essentially the heavens, and only by overcoming the heavens could one truly reach the pinnacle.

However, there was no way that he could currently contend against the Heavenly Court, so Han Li only considered this subject briefly before casting aside this train of thought to continue searching through Mu Yan's memories.

At this point, only a small portion of Mu Yan's fragmented memories were still yet to be inspected, and all of a sudden, an elated look appeared on his face.

As it turned out, these remaining memories contained aspects of Mu Yan's cultivation. Just like his master, he had also been cultivating the laws of time, and even though these memories didn't contain the cultivation arts used by Mu Yan, they did contain much of his cultivation experiences and insights.

Han Li had never had anyone that he could turn to for mentorship in his progression in mastering the laws of time, so this was exactly what he needed, and he immediately began poring over these memories.

A short while later, an intrigued look appeared on his face.

He discovered that these cultivation experiences were all very much related to the Mantra Axis Scripture, the Illusory Dawn Treasured Scripture, and the Water Divination Time Arts.

Han Li had always felt like these three cultivation arts were somehow connected, but he had never been able to find the connection.

However, through these memories, he seemed to have found some ways to integrate the three cultivation arts into one.

Could it be that some type of connection really does exist between the three cultivation arts?

After quickly browsing through Mu Yan's remaining memories, Han Li raised his head to look up at the projection of the Mantra Treasured Axis.

At this point, most of the Time Dao Runes on its surface had already faded, and there were only several dozen that were still lit, indicating that he didn't have much time left.

With that in mind, Han Li began to search Mu Yan's body for his storage tools.

Presumably, Mu Yan's storage tools had to contain the cultivation arts that he had been using, and if he could find them, then he should be able to uncover the connection between the three aforementioned cultivation arts.

However, he quickly discovered that Mu Yan's storage tools were nowhere to be found.

They must've been taken by whoever killed him...

With that in mind, a disappointed look appeared on Han Li's face.

All of a sudden, a burst of intense resentment rose up from within the remnants of Mu Yan's soul at the thought of his killer, and it seemed that there had been some treachery involved.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he sensed this burst of fury, and only after some words of consolation from him did the disembodied burst of anger begin to subside.