

A Record of a Mortal's Journey to Immortality: Immortal Realm #Chapter 71: Holy Nirvana Physique - Read A Record of a Mortal's Journey to Immortality: Immortal Realm Chapter 71: Holy Nirvana Physique

Chapter 71: Holy Nirvana Physique

A deafening boom rang out as a giant golden palm that was several acres in size came descended from the sky, crashing down upon a blurry azure shadow with devastating might.

However, the azure shadow was extremely fast and was just barely able to evade the giant palm.

Having missed its target, the giant palm crashed down onto a mountain, causing the entire mountain to shatter and collapse with an earth-shattering boom.

The azure shadow instantly skirted around the massive palm to arrive behind the right arm of the golden giant that was connected to the palm, and bright azure light erupted from the crest on its head before spreading over its entire body. All of the azure light then converged toward its sharp talons, which were swept viciously through the air.

Dozens of azure talon projections came together to form a huge azure net that swept toward the golden giant's right arm, tearing through the space in its path with ease, creating a series of inky-black spatial rifts.

The golden giant raised its head in response, but it was still in the process of withdrawing its right arm, so there was no time for it to evade the attack.

A string of loud metallic clangs rang out as golden and azure light erupted between the azure net and the giant's right arm, but the explosion of light only lasted for an instant before the golden light was torn apart by the talon projections like paper.

In the face of the azure net, the golden giant's right arm was sliced off with ease as if it were made from tofu.

A hint of elation appeared in the Azure Luan Bird's eyes, but right at this moment, the golden spiritual patterns on the surface of the severed arm suddenly began to glow brightly, and it instantly exploded into an enormous cloud of yellow mist.

In the blink of an eye, the cloud of mist had already expanded to encompass an area that was dozens of acres in size.

The Azure Luan Bird immediately turned and fled the scene as soon as it realized that something was wrong, but the cloud was too massive to escape from.

All of a sudden, the Azure Luan Bird felt the air constrict around it, and its movements instantly became extremely slow and sluggish.

There were countless thin yellow threads dispersed throughout the cloud of yellow mist, and those threads had bound its entire body.

The Azure Luan Bird let loose an alarmed cry as it attempted to spread its wings and struggle free from its bindings, but the yellow threads around it instantly released a torrent of countless yellow runes in response.

The air around the Azure Luan Bird tightened even further, and it felt as if it were being crushed under a giant mountain, making it an immense struggle just to make even the slightest movement.

However, in the next instant, a vast expanse of silver flames erupted forth to envelop its entire body.

The thin yellow threads quickly melted and disintegrated within the silver flames, but there were countless more yellow threads converging from all directions to bind the Azure Luan Bird tightly once again.

Thus, a cycle ensued in which the thin threads around the Azure Luan Birds were constantly disintegrating and reforming, and during this process, it was able to regain some mobility.

Blue light flashed in its eyes as it attempted to find a way out, but right at this moment, the surrounding space suddenly dimmed, and at the same time, a burst of invisible force came crashing down upon it.

Immediately thereafter, an enormous hand appeared around the Azure Luan Bird, and the hand was so close that every single line on its enormous handprint was clearly visible.

As soon as the hand emerged, it immediately began to close around the Azure Luan Bird.

Han Li frantically adopted his Giant Mountain Ape form upon seeing this, and he was able to complete the transformation right as the giant hand closed around his body.

An agonized look appeared on the giant golden ape's face as bursts of tremendous force compressed toward its body from all directions, causing its bones to creak and shudder, but thankfully, its physical body was strong enough to withstand the crushing force of the giant's grip for now.

What was truly astonishing to Han Li was that his Flame of Essence was completely ineffective on the giant hand.

Right at this moment, the surrounding cloud of yellow mist swept back rapidly, revealing the enormous figure of the golden giant not far away. There was a sinister smile on the giant's sickly yellow face, and its left hand was closed tightly around the giant golden ape.

A speck of piercing yellow light flashed from the giant's chest, immediately following which all of the yellow mist converged toward the wound left behind by its severed right arm.

The mist quickly churned and intertwined to form a brand new arm, which the golden giant immediately clenched into a mountainous fist, then raised it up high before sending it crashing down toward the giant ape's head with devastating might.

Even before the fist arrived, the tremendous power imbued within it was already causing the surrounding space in a radius of close to 1,000 feet to warp and rumble violently.

A hint of despair welled up in the giant golden ape's heart upon seeing this.

Even with his immensely powerful physical body, being struck by such a fearsome blow would undoubtedly result in at least severe injuries, if not death.

With that in mind, Han Li was forced to make a decision, and he quickly made a hand seal as bright purple light erupted from his body.

The golden giant's fist came crashing down with devastating force, but in the next instant, a hint of surprise appeared on its face.

Contrary to its expectations, its fist wasn't able to smash through the giant ape's head. Instead, a dull thump rang out as a burst of purple light pierced through the back of its hand, and the fingers of its other hand were also folded back as if they had been snapped.

The purple light flew over to a short distance away, then faded to reveal a golden ape that was around 2,000 to 3,000 feet tall.

However, in contrast with before, this giant ape's entire body was covered in countless purplish-golden scales, and there was an azure horn on the top of its head. In addition to that, two more pairs of furry ape arms had grown out of its shoulders and ribs.

[1]

A serious look appeared on the golden giant's face as it cast its gaze toward the six-armed giant ape, and the injuries dealt to its two hands were instantly healed.

A layer of yellow light appeared over each of its two fists, and several massive golden runes flew out of the yellow light, then circled around before fusing into its fists in a flash. As a result, its fists swelled to around twice their original size, and a burst of terrifying power akin to a volcano on the brink of eruption was brewing within those fists. Even though the power hadn't been unleashed yet, the nearby space was already trembling and buzzing incessantly.

The six-armed giant ape let loose a long roar upon seeing this, and it took a huge stride forward, instantly covering a distance of thousands of feet as it arrived directly in front of the golden giant, then lashed out with its fists, which were glowing with radiant purplish-golden light.

The golden giant immediately responded in kind without any hesitation.

Two pairs of fists clashed violently with an earth-shattering boom, and the nearby space began to buzz loudly as destructive shockwaves swept through the surrounding area.

This time, the six-armed giant ape remained completely unmoved, while the golden giant was sent flying back through the air.

Not only that, but its fists had been reduced to nothing more than grotesque masses of mangled flesh, and its arms had also been completely snapped and bent to strange angles.

The golden giant's eyes were full of incredulity as it flew back for several thousand feet before crashing heavily into a mountain, which was instantly topped like a pile of frail sticks.

Even after plowing through the mountain, the golden giant didn't slow down in the slightest as it continued to fly back, and only after toppling several mountains in a row was it just barely able to arrest its momentum.

At this point, the six-armed giant ape had already caught up,

The golden giant was quite surprised by this sudden turn of events, but it remained calm and unflustered as yellow light surged out of its chest before quickly spreading to its snapped arms to repair the damage there. At the same time, it swept its right leg horizontally through the air like a giant blade, aiming a vicious kick at the giant ape's midsection.

Enormous power surged through the air, sweeping up a huge white blast for energy.

The six-armed giant ape suddenly crouched down, rolling over in an extremely ugly maneuver to evade the kick, then instantly sprang forward to crash into the golden giant's body with tremendous force. At the same time, it wound its bottom pair of arms tightly around the giant as it was sent flying back through the air.

An alarmed look appeared on the golden giant's face, and bright yellow light erupted out of its entire body as it raised its arms, which were still yet to be fully healed, in a frantic attempt to struggle free.

However, the giant golden ape then reached out with its middle pair of arms to latch onto the giant's arms in a vice-like grip before snapping them once again. At the same time, purplish-golden light flashed from its top pair of arms, and they began to release a metallic gleam as they were plunged viciously toward the giant's chest.

The pair of arms instantly pierced into the giant's body, then churned around forcefully. The golden giant's movements instantly ceased, and the light in its eyes rapidly faded, while the recovery of its arms also came to a grinding halt.

A furious look appeared on the projection of the sickly yellow face before it also quickly faded away.

Han Li then withdrew his arms from the golden giant's body, and one of his hands was holding a yellow bean that was giving off dazzling radiance.

The golden giant shuddered, and as Han Li's arms were withdrawn from its chest, all of the golden light emanating from its body completely faded. It reflexively stumbled back a few steps as countless cracks appeared on the surface of its massive body, and it quickly disintegrated into an enormous cloud of yellow mist that was scattered by the wind.

Almost at the exact same moment, the six-armed giant ape's aura plummeted drastically, and it reverted back into Han Li's human form amid a flash of purplish-golden light.

His face was extremely pale, and he hurriedly summoned a Cloud Crane Herb that he promptly devoured, and only then did his complexion improve slightly.

Looking at the gradually dissipating cloud of yellow mist, Han Li heaved a long sigh of relief as a hint of lingering fear flashed through his eyes.

The golden giant wasn't capable of using any cultivation arts or secret techniques, but its physical body and strength were no less powerful than a Profound Immortal's, and he was no match for it without unleashing his Holy Nirvana Physique.

However, not only did this ability have extremely steep physical requirements on the user, it also expended a vast amount of magic power, far more than what he was able to muster up with his current magic power reserves.

Originally, it would've required the absorption of a vast amount of the world's origin qi to recover the function of his Organ Refinement Origin Arts, but thankfully, after mastering the sixth level of the Big Dipper Origin Arts, he was able to recover some of the cultivation art's function, thereby allowing him to use his organs as vessels for magic power.

Even though doing so required the expenditure of dozens of times the amount of quintessential purple qi that was normally required, he had still devoured almost his entire supply of Cloud Crane Herbs without any hesitation as soon as he noticed the abnormal activity taking place in the Origin Realm Temple.

Even so, he was still only able to maintain his Holy Nirvana Physique for a few seconds, and it wasn't even at peak power during those few seconds.

Thankfully, the golden giant wasn't to react sufficiently quickly to the situation. If it had immediately fled to buy just a little bit of time as soon as Han Li completed his transformation, the outcome of that battle would've been completely different.

As the medicinal power of the Cloud Crane Herb was converted into magic power, a hint of color quickly returned to Han Li's complexion, and he took a glance at the yellow bean in his hand, then raised an eyebrow before stowing it away.

1. For more information on the Holy Nirvana Physique, please refer to RMJI Chapter 2005: Holy Nirvana Physique. 📖

Chapter 72: Subjugating a Grand Ascension Cultivator

On a spacious rooftop somewhere in the inner city of Black Water City, Daoist Clear Bright and Layman Bone Flame were standing next to one another in silence.

The latter's brows were tightly furrowed, and he had a furious look on his face, looking as if he could snap at any moment.

The former's expression wasn't much more pleasant, and after a long while, he finally mused, "Who exactly is this man? Not only was my Spirit Nascent Sword Talisman unable to strike him down, even you..."

His voice trailed off there as he heaved a faint sigh, not wanting to speak any further on the matter.

A pained look appeared on Layman Bone Flame's face as he spat through gritted teeth, "That Golden Dao Warrior of mine was close to a Profound Immortal in power, how could it possibly have been defeated by a descended immortal?"

He had broken through the interrealm barrier at great cost to forcibly open up a spatial passageway and send down a primary bean, but only a short while later, his connection with the bean was completely severed, leaving him both furious and despondent by the loss.

"It seems like either the Ubiquitous Pavilion's information is inaccurate, or he must've encountered some especially fortunate circumstances that allowed him to return to full power. Now that we've failed to capture him, there's going to be trouble looming for our two sects in the Spirit Domain Realm. We have to find a way to address that as quickly as possible," Daoist Clear Bright said with a contemplative look in his eyes.

Layman Bone Flame's expression darkened even further upon hearing this. "He's not getting away with this!"

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Meanwhile, in the Origin Realm Temple.

Daoist Closed Mountain looked on as Han Li approached him in an expressionless manner, and his flabby rolls began to tremble uncontrollably from fear.

If he hadn't been bound by the rope formed by the Flame of Essence, he would've already fled the scene even faster than the elders and disciples of the temple.

Han Li drew to a halt before him, then stared at him expressionlessly for a while before suddenly raising a hand and extending a finger toward his glabella.

"Spare me, Senior Han! I was only following orders! I had no choice!" Daoist Closed Mountain hurriedly implored as his back instantly became drenched in cold sweat.

"Is that right? Whose orders were you acting on?" Han Li asked with a faint smile as he lowered his hand again.

"The orders were from the patriarch of our temple in the Immortal Realm. Otherwise, there's no way I would've dared to try and go against you, Senior Han," Daoist Closed Mountain hurriedly replied.

"Why would the patriarch of your Origin Realm Temple issue an order to have me captured? Does he know me?" Han Li asked.

"According to our patriarch, a powerful organization in the Immortal Realm is offering a reward for your capture, and the reward is far loftier than what lower realm cultivators like myself can imagine. Patriarch Bone Flame of the Heavenly Ghost Sect received the bounty, and he coaxed our patriarch into joining forces with him. That's what led to this... this misunderstanding," Daoist Closed Mountain hurriedly replied.

"Misunderstanding? You make it sound so trivial! So you're telling me that Patriarch Bone Flame received the bounty, but Patriarch Clear Bright of your Origin Realm Temple didn't?" Han Li asked with an unconvinced expression.

Daoist Closed Mountain's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this, and he carefully answered, "Perhaps the two patriarchs hatched the plan together. I'm only responsible for carrying out their orders, I don't know the exact details. I was extremely reluctant to oppose you, Senior Han, but I couldn't go against the orders of the patriarchs."

Han Li fell silent upon hearing this, and he began to ponder the information that he had just received, particularly the part pertaining to the reward being offered for his capture.

Daoist Closed Mountain was rather unnerved by Han Li's silence, and he thought that Han Li was hesitating about whether to take his life. Thus, the longer the silence continued, the more fearful he became, and finally, he gritted his teeth as he made a decision.

"Senior Han, your power is unmatched. From this day forth, I wish you to follow you as my master. I can give you all of my pills and cultivation resources, and the entire Origin Realm Temple will also be yours to do with as you see fit."

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this, following which he remarked with an amused expression, "You sure are adaptable."

Given Han Li's personality, he had no plans to spare Daoist Closed Mountain, but before he even had a chance to perform a soul search, Daoist Closed Mountain had already told him everything and had pledged his subordination to him, thereby saving him a lot of trouble.

After all, he had no intention of stirring up too much trouble in the Spirit Domain Realm.

Back in the Spirit Realm, he had encountered many Grand Ascension Stage beings, but never had he met one like Daoist Closed Mountain, and he couldn't help but think of a certain Sun Ergou. [1]

Daoist Closed Mountain could see that Han Li didn't seem opposed to the idea, and he immediately said in a respectful voice, "Thank you for sparing my life, Senior Han!"

"I have no interest in taking over your Origin Realm Temple. All you need to do is follow my orders and do some things for me. However, before that, I have to apply some restrictions onto you," Han Li said.

He raised a hand as he spoke, then chanted an incantation, and the tips of the five fingers on the hand lit up in unison. A series of thin translucent threads then emerged from his fingertips, swaying from side to side like seaweed in the current.

Han Li curled his fingers ever so slightly, and the translucent threads instantly became as straight as needles.

Daoist Closed Mountain shuddered slightly upon seeing this, and his face also turned quite pale, but he still displayed no intention of putting up any resistance.

A pleased look appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this, and as he reached forward with his hand, the five translucent threads instantly shot into Daoist Closed Mountain's head.

In the instant that the translucent threads pierced into his body, Daoist Closed Mountain felt a sharp pain spear through his consciousness, and he couldn't help but let loose an agonized groan as his face paled even further.

However, he was still putting up no resistance whatsoever, allowing Han Li to do as he pleased.

Han Li swept a hand through the air to dispel the fiery silver rope around Daoist Closed Mountain's body, then said, "Those threads are formed by my spiritual sense, and they've already been planted deep into your soul. If you

dare to go against me, I can destroy your soul from the inside with just a single thought, understood?"

"Yes, Senior Han. I'll be sure to serve you with the utmost loyalty and sincerity!" Daoist Closed Mountain replied with his head lowered in a respectful manner.

"There's no need to declare your loyalty to me. Instead, why don't you tell me where the array that you use to communicate with the Immortal Realm is?" Han Li asked.

"There are two such arrays, one on the Heaven Worship Peak, and the other on the Illustrious Mountain Peak. I'll take you to them right away, Senior Han," Daoist Closed Mountain replied without any hesitation.

Shortly thereafter, two streaks of light flew away into the distance.

At this point, peace and quiet had already returned to the Origin Realm Temple, but not long after that, two rumbling booms suddenly rang out one after another, separated by no more than 15 minutes.

Many of the elders and disciples who had only just returned to the temple were still feeling quite spooked, and they were greatly alarmed to hear this, but they were relieved to see that nothing more came out of the situation.

It had been an extremely tumultuous night, during which close to a third of the entire Origin Realm Temple had been reduced to ruins. In addition to that, the supreme elder was nowhere to be found, and everyone was wondering if the nightmare had truly ended.

A round an hour later, two figures flew over to a certain mountain deep in the Origin Realm Temple from afar, then entered a hall on the mountain.

At the very center of the hall was a white jade platform, upon which were engraved circles of complex runes to form a teleportation array.

"This is the teleportation array that leads to the Heavenly Ghost Sect?" Han Li asked as he inspected the array before him.

"That's right. This array is connected to the Heavenly Ghost Sect's Black Nether Peak, and even though it can't take us directly into the sect's core

area, it'll allow us to bypass their sect's protective array," Daoist Closed Mountain immediately replied.

"Good. Come with me," Han Li replied with a smile.

"Yes, Senior Han!"

Thus, the two of them stepped into the array, and a burst of dazzling white light rose up from the ground to instantly engulf the two of them.

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On the Serene Offering Peak of the Heavenly Ghost Sect.

On the main seat in a spacious hall sat a middle-aged man in a red silken robe. He had a pair of gentle eyes, and the lines and contours of his face were quite soft. There was also a slightly sickly white pallor to his skin, and overall, those traits culminated in a slightly feminine appearance.magic

At the moment, the man had an extremely grim look on his face, and he was gripping tightly onto the armrests of his chair as he said in a solemn voice, "Half a day ago, the soul badges of our sect's two supreme elders shattered in unison. Since then, we've tried to contact them using various secret techniques, but have received no response. What do you all think of this?"

There were around a dozen people seated on either side of the hall, all of whom were at the Body Integration Stage, and they were all silent with grim looks on their faces.

Thus, the entire hall fell into a tense and uncomfortable silence.

After a long while, a man with a thick beard was finally unable to bear the silence any longer, and he rose to his feet as he said, "Those soul badges must've malfunctioned somehow, Sect Master. Elder Tong is the number cultivator of the Spirit Domain Realm, who could possibly have killed him in this realm?"

"Exactly! Something must've gone wrong," someone in the hall immediately chimed in in agreement.

A beautiful woman in a red dress stood with tightly furrowed brows as she countered, "Soul badges are refined using a special secret technique with a

cultivator's blood essence and a wisp of their soul acting as the medium. Has there ever been a case of a soul badge malfunctioning in the past?"

The bearded man opened his mouth to rebuke her, but he had no counterargument.

"There's no way the soul badges could've malfunctioned, but at the same time, it's extremely unlikely that our supreme elders could've both perished in such a short time. Is it possible that they've been trapped within some type of special array that's severed their connection to their soul badges?" another elder suggested.

A middle-aged man with a square face and a short purple beard rose to his feet as he said, "Regardless of what happened, the fact of the matter is that the two supreme elders went to the Origin Realm Temple, and now, we're unable to get into contact with them. What we should be doing is activating all of our sect's defensive arrays and contacting our patriarchs in the Immortal Realm as soon as possible."

The sect master was gently massaging his own glabella as he replied, "I agree. Elder Lu, you can take care of activating all of the arrays. As for contacting our patriarchs, I'll..."

Before he had a chance to finish, a burst of loud rumbling rang out, and the entire hall began to tremble violently.

"What's going on?"

Everyone immediately flew out of the hall at once, then arrived on the plaza outside.

There was a black light barrier hanging in the sky above the hall. The light barrier encompassed an area with a radius of several hundred kilometers, and it was none other than the Heavenly Ghost Sect's main protective array.

The dozens of mountains encompassed beneath the light barrier comprised the core area of the entire Heavenly Ghost Sect, and almost all of the sect's most important locations were situated on those mountains.

At this moment, the black light barrier was flashing incessantly with runes surging all over its surface, appearing to be in an extremely unstable state.

Outside the light barrier was a giant golden ape that was several hundred feet tall, and its arms were raised high above its head, seemingly preparing to land another blow on the already wavering black light barrier.

1. For more information on Sun Ergou, please refer to RMJI Chapter 100: Jia Yuan City. 📖

Chapter 73: Erasing a Sect

Two resounding booms rang out as the giant golden ape's fists came crashing down. The black light barrier ripped as two deep indentations appeared on the sections that were struck.

"Where did this thing come from? Its strength is incredible!"

"This thing seems to be rather similar to the legendary true spirit, the Giant Mountain Ape! Could it be..."

"In any case, we can't just allow this neanderthal to do as it pleases! We must capture it and execute it for challenging the authority of our sect!"

All of the Body Integration Stage elders initially faltered slightly at the sight of the giant golden ape, following which they briefly speculated about its origins, then summoned their treasures before flying up to oppose the giant ape.

Elder Lu was just about to join them when a hint of recognition flashed through his eyes, and he immediately stopped cold in his tracks. He wasn't the only one who was hanging behind. Aside from the sect master, there was also a hunch-backed elderly man, a beautiful woman, and a one-eyed man who were also refraining from joining the others.

These four were the same elders who had joined forces to attack Han Li in the Devilish Flame Valley during Han Li's previous visit to the Heavenly Ghost Sect, and all of them exchanged a glance with one another to find their own astonishment mirrored in each other's eyes.

At the same time, countless streaks of light emerged from all over the Heavenly Ghost Sect as virtually all of the elders and disciples flew out before landing on the nearby mountain peaks or plazas, then directed their attention upward with perplexed looks on their faces.

The giant golden ape paid no heed to the oncoming assailants, and not only did it not stop what it was doing, it let loose a thunderous roar instead as it rained a barrage of punches down upon the black light barrier.

An earth-shattering boom rang out, and the black light barrier trembled violently before warping significantly, then shattering into countless pieces.

The giant ape passed through the shattered section of the array before crashing down onto a mountain. At this point, the Body Integration Stage elders who had charged over from the Serene Offering Peak were already on the scene.

The elder charging at the forefront of the group let loose a loud roar as crimson mist surged out of his body, completely enveloping him in the blink of an eye, and he quickly transformed into a giant crimson-armored ghost that was around 500 to 600 feet tall.

The giant ghost was wielding a huge bloodstained ax, which it swung down toward the golden ape's head.

As the sharp edge of the giant ax descended through the air, a pair of crimson vortexes appeared out of thin air on either side of it, releasing bursts of powerful suction force that threatened to draw everything nearby into the path of the falling ax.

Close behind the giant crimson ax were several ghostly treasures of different forms and colors that were releasing clouds of black mist or rivers of blood, concealing the entire sky as they surged toward the giant golden ape with unstoppable might.

Gusts of Yin wind were howling ferociously through the sky like the shrieks and wails of countless ghosts, and the air temperature in the area was plummeting rapidly.

The giant golden ape gave a cold harrumph upon seeing this, and it didn't slow down in the slightest in its descent as it raised an arm up high before swatting an enormous palm at the river of blood and ghostly mist down below.

An indescribably powerful blast of energy immediately came crashing down like an impenetrable wall, descending with devastating force.

The crimson-armored giant was leading the way from the front, and the huge crimson ax crashed violently into the energy blast, only to be instantly shattered without being able to put up any resistance.

Immediately thereafter, half of the giant's body caved in as if it had crashed into a massive rock, following which its entire body exploded into a ball of crimson light.

As for the Yin clouds and blood mist behind the crimson giant, even before they came into contact with the energy blast, most of them were already dispelled by the tremendous force released by the energy blast. All of the treasures concealed within were instantly revealed, then exploded amid a string of loud bangs.

A string of agonized cries rang out as several figures threw up mouthfuls of blood as a result of suffering backlash from having their bonded treasures destroyed, then plummeted out of the sky.

Everyone else was greatly alarmed by this turn of events, and they hurriedly staged a retreat.

In the next instant, the giant golden ape came crashing heavily down onto a mountain like an asteroid, and the surrounding earth trembled violently as half of the mountain instantly collapsed, sending a huge cloud of dust and shrapnel flying up into the sky.

Cries of alarm rang out incessantly near the mountain as several hundred streaks of light rose up into the air before dispersing in all directions in a panicked frenzy.

Right at this moment, a nascent soul that was several inches tall suddenly emerged from the chaotic scene. The nascent soul was extremely similar in appearance to the elder who had transformed into the crimson-armored giant, and it wore a horrified expression as it turned to flee into the distance.

However, before it was able to get anywhere, a portly figure appeared silently beside it. It was none other than Daoist Closed Mountain.

He swung his palm down in an expressionless manner, and the nascent soul immediately felt the air constrict around it. Before it even had a chance to cry out, it had already exploded into a ball of crimson light.

On the Serene Offering Peak, the sect master of the Heavenly Ghost Sect was already astonished upon seeing the giant golden ape crushing all of the Body Integration Stage elders at once on its own, and his expression instantly darkened significantly at the sight of Daoist Closed Mountain's sudden arrival.

He forced himself to remain calm as he asked, "What is the meaning of this, Senior Closed Mountain?"

Daoist Closed Mountain cast his gaze toward the giant golden ape in the distance, then turned back before shaking his head as he replied, "Allow me to enlighten you, Sect Master Shi. Both of your sect's Grand Ascension Stage supreme elders have already fallen at the hands of Senior Han. It's over for the Heavenly Ghost Sect."

His voice wasn't very loud, but it was akin to a deafening thunderclap for the sect master and the Body Integration Stage elders of the Heavenly Ghost Sect.

In particular, the four elders who had teamed up against Han Li in the Devilish Flame Valley were completely distraught.

Earlier, they had already sensed a familiar aura from the giant golden ape, and now that they had received confirmation from Daoist Closed Mountain that the Giant Mountain Ape was indeed none other than Han Li, they knew that Daoist Closed Mountain was telling the truth about the demise of their sect's supreme elders.

Elder Lu took a deep breath, then communicated something to Sect Master Shi through voice transmission.

A conflicted look appeared on Sect Master Shi's face, but in the end, he gritted his teeth as he extended a respectful salute toward Daoist Closed Mountain, then said, "Senior Closed Mountain, if our Heavenly Ghost Sect is doomed to fall, then we would rather surrender and serve Senior Han from now on rather than throw away our lives for no good cause."

"Hehe, my Origin Realm Temple alone is sufficient to serve Senior Han and cater to his needs. As for all of you, I'm afraid you'll have to bear Senior Han's wrath," Daoist Closed Mountain chuckled as a cold look appeared on his face.

As soon as his voice trailed off, he swept a sleeve through the air to release an antiquated peach wood sword, which rose up into the air before rapidly

expanding, transforming into an enormous sword of light that was over 100 feet in length. Countless profound runes were surging over the surface of the sword, and it was also radiating dazzling golden light.

Immediately thereafter, the giant sword swept directly toward Sect Master Shi and his group.

The surrounding space shuddered as a long and pitch-black rift was sliced open.

Sect Master Shi and the others were greatly alarmed by this turn of events, and they all flew back in different directions while frantically taking defensive measures to protect themselves from the attack.

While this conversation was taking place, the giant golden ape leaped over to a huge mountain, then let loose a thunderous roar as it raised both of its fists up high before slamming them down onto the mountain with tremendous force.

Immediately thereafter, the entire mountain shuddered violently before collapsing in a gigantic heap, sending massive plumes of dust rising up into the sky.

Moments later, Han Li emerged from the dust before hovering in mid-air, having reverted back to his human form.

He quickly swept his gaze over the surrounding area to see countless streaks of light dispersing in all directions. Virtually all of the Heavenly Ghost Sect's elders and disciples were fleeing the scene.

Far away on the Serene Offering Peak, light was flashing incessantly amid strings of loud explosions, and it seemed that Daoist Closed Mountain was locked in a fierce battle against the sect master of the Heavenly Ghost Sect and several of its Body Integration Stage elders.

Han Li's eyes narrowed slightly as he quickly chanted an incantation, then abruptly opened his mouth to release a silver fireball, which instantly transformed into a silver fire raven that was around a foot in size.

He then made a hand seal before pointing a finger at the fire raven, which threw its head back and let loose a clear cry, following which its body began to swell rapidly at an incredible speed.

In the blink of an eye, it had swelled to the size of a small mountain, and it spread its wings before swooping down toward a dense cluster of buildings down below.

An earth-shattering boom rang out as the giant fire raven crashed directly into the center of the cluster of buildings, then exploded into a sea of fire that engulfed everything.

Instead of lingering on the scene, Han Li suddenly turned and flew toward another mountain that was several hundred kilometers away.

He had already learned from Daoist Closed Mountain that the name of the mountain was the Serene Treasure Peak, and it was one of the most important places in the Heavenly Ghost Sect, home to its scripture library and pill and treasure storage facilities.

.....

Several days later.

In a courtyard in the purple bamboo forest on the Holy Fire Peak.

Sima Jingming was holding a communication plate as he paced back and forth in the room with an elated look on his face.

Given the countless years he had spent cultivating and honing his mental state, he shouldn't have been displaying such clear emotions, but he was unable to suppress his joy.

All of a sudden, the scroll hanging on the wall in front of him suddenly lit up, and Patriarch Cold Flame emerged from within.

"Patriarch Cold Flame!" Sima Jingming hurriedly stopped in his tracks before extending a respectful bow.

"So? Has there been an outcome?" Patriarch Cold Flame asked in an indifferent voice.

"Yes, Patriarch, I have brilliant news to share with you!" Sima Jingming immediately replied with elation glowing in his eyes.

Patriarch Cold Flame's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, and he didn't say anything in response.

Sima Jingming immediately realized that he had lost his composure, and he hurriedly apologized before continuing in a more self-restrained manner, "I was informed by Senior Han earlier today that the Heavenly Ghost Sect has already been wiped from the face of the Spirit Domain Realm, and he told me to take over some of the nations and sects previously controlled by the Heavenly Ghost Sect as compensation for the scriptures of our sect that he destroyed."

Patriarch Cold Flame's expression remained unchanged despite the good news. "He's only granting us some of the nations and sects previously under the Heavenly Ghost Sect's jurisdiction? What about the Origin Realm Temple?"

"Senior Han didn't mention anything about the Origin Realm Temple to me, but according to what I've heard, the Origin Realm Temple has been dealt a heavy blow, but it hasn't been completely eradicated like the Heavenly Ghost Sect," Sima Jingming replied.

Patriarch Cold Flame's brows furrowed slightly upon hearing this, and only after a long while did he heave a faint sigh. "I had thought that he would be able to inflict heavy damage onto both sects at the cost of his life, but I didn't think that he would be able to wipe out the Heavenly Ghost Sect and live to tell the tale. Looks like I've still managed to underestimate him."

"Patriarch Cold Flame, after all of this, our Cold Flame Sect will be sure to become the number one sect in the Spirit Domain Realm!" Sima Jingming said.

"Don't get complacent. Make sure to keep a close eye on the Origin Realm Temple. Also, I recall that Han Li has a younger sister who's staying in our sect. Make sure to look after her well and ensure her safety at all times. In addition to that, allocate extra resources to everyone in the sect who has any ties with him," Patriarch Cold Flame instructed.

Chapter 74: Bad News

In a cave abode on the Cloudrise Peak.

In the darkness of the night, the cold moonlight was spilling into a room through a window, shining upon a beautiful young woman in a palatial dress with skin as fair as snow.

At this moment, she was seated on the edge of her bed in the room with a faint smile on her face, but there were tears flowing silently down her delicate cheeks.

"Father, Big Brothers, the Heavenly Ghost Sect has been eradicated by Senior... by Brother Han. The Prosperous Nation has also returned to the jurisdiction of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, and our family has been avenged. Everyone is about to return to the Prosperous Nation and build a new life there. You can all rest easy in the heavens now," the young woman murmured as she wiped the tears from her face.

This young woman was naturally none other than Yu Menghan, and at this moment, she was crying tears of joy, but her heart was filled with countless emotions as the image of Han Li lingered stubbornly in her mind, refusing to be banished.

.....

Close to half a month later, Han Li was standing on the Nine Palace Peak of the Origin Realm Temple, and he was in the process of inserting a final Starwash Stone into the ground.

A faint crack rang out, and the entire Star Gathering Platform instantly lit up.

A vast expanse of hazy silver light shone down from the heavens, enshrouding the entire platform like a fine mist.

In this instant, all of the star diagrams on the platform were illuminated.

Han Li raised his head to look up at the starry night sky, then slowly made his way up the staircase of the Star Gathering Platform with a calm expression.

.....

In the Immortal Realm.

Next to a vast and nameless sea was a massive cliff that was over 10,000 feet tall, and it was hanging over the surface of the sea like the sharp beak of an eagle.

At the top of the cliff stood an enormous and majestic city.

The outer walls of the city were over 1,000 feet tall, and they were entirely constructed from some type of black rock material, allowing them to completely blend into the mountain.

The wall that was closest to the sea was riddled with marks and signs of erosion, which had been left behind by the countless waves that it had been struck by over the course of many years.

Inside the city were four straight and wide main roads, as well as many narrower roads that branched off these main roads, with countless shops and buildings interspersed throughout.

The city seemed to hold quite a large population, presenting a lively and bustling scene of activity.

In the southwestern area of the city was a narrow bluestone street that was complete with all types of shops, restaurants, and accommodation. The street was lined with different types of flags and bustling with activity, presenting a slightly noisy and rambunctious scene.

Beside a willow tree at the end of the bluestone street was a completely unremarkable-looking three-story building. It was an octagonal brick building with an azure flag hanging outside, bearing the word "medicine", and it could easily be missed on such a busy street.

Several employees were busy at work in the hall of the building, serving the customers who were there to purchase spirit medicines. Many of the customers were being led to the second floor by the shopkeeper.

At the top of the staircase on the second floor was an azure wooden door, sealing off the third floor.

There was a guest hall on the third floor, inside of which was a small rug. A purple tea table was placed on the rug, and the fragrance of sandalwood was wafting through the air from the tea table.

Two figures were seated on either side of the tea table across from one another, and each of them was holding a cup of tea.

One of the two was a handsome young man wearing a tight-fitting black robe with a set of defined facial features. It was none other than Fang Ban.

The other person was a slightly portly middle-aged man who appeared to be around 40 to 50 years of age. He was wearing a silken robe that was embroidered with golden threads, giving him the appearance of a wealthy merchant, and there was a benevolent smile on his face.

Fang Ban examined the room around him to find that there was a faint golden restriction light barrier enshrouding the surrounding area, and he remarked, "As the saying goes, the best place to hide something is in plain sight. It's an interesting idea for your Ubiquitous Pavilion to set up its branches in these cities inhabited by ordinary people."

"Our Ubiquitous Pavilion can't compare with all of those powerful sects out there. All we do is pass on information, so we naturally can't establish our branches in prestigious locations," the middle-aged man chuckled in response.

"You sent me a message earlier, telling me that you have news on that man. Is that true?" Fang Ban asked, quickly changing the subject.

"Of course. We asked you to come here for this sole purpose," the middle-aged man replied with a smile.

Fang Ban immediately flipped a hand over upon hearing this, producing a bulging azure storage bag that he placed onto the table.

The middle-aged man picked up the storage bag before briefly inspecting its contents with his spiritual sense, and the smile on his face grew even more pronounced as he revealed, "The man you are looking for is currently in the Spirit Domain Realm."

He swept a hand through the air as he spoke, and a round purplish-golden bowl that was filled with clear water appeared on the tea table.

He then reached out with a finger before gently tapping the edge of the bowl, and the water within the bowl instantly rippled as a burst of azure light flashed past.

Immediately thereafter, an image depicting a fierce battle between a massive ape and a golden giant appeared in the water.

Fang Ban's expression stiffened slightly at the sight of the mountainous golden ape, and a hint of ferocious killing intent appeared in his eyes.

The middle-aged man's expression remained completely unchanged upon seeing this, still maintaining a warm smile.

Moments later, he gently brushed a hand over the purplish-golden bowl, and the light within the bowl instantly faded, as did the image it was displaying.

"At the moment, that man is in a sect in the Spirit Domain Realm by the name of the Origin Realm Temple, and he most likely won't be leaving there anytime soon," the middle-aged man replied.

"Thank you for your efforts," Fang Ban replied in a rather absentminded manner, already pondering how he was going to travel to the Spirit Domain Realm.

"There's no need to thank me, I was simply providing a paid service. If you require my services at any later point, don't forget to visit again," the middle-aged man replied as he cupped his fist in a salute.

Right as Fang Ban was about to say something else, a burst of golden light suddenly appeared on his waist, and it was pulsing insistently.

The middle-aged man immediately rose to his feet upon seeing this, then said in a respectful voice, "The restrictions that we've set up here are definitely reliable, so you can take a rest here if you like. I'll leave you to yourself now."magic

He then extended a parting salute before exiting the room.

Following the middle-aged man's departure, Fang Ban brushed a hand over his waist, and an extremely beautiful golden badge appeared in his grasp.

He looked at the golden light flashing from the badge, and after a moment of hesitation, he closed his eyes before injecting his spiritual sense into it.

In the next instant, he found himself standing in a resplendent hall. There were barely any furnishings in the hall, but its walls were riddled with intricate engravings depicting all types of flora and fauna.

Directly in front of the hall stood a woman in a palatial dress with a thin white veil over her face, and as soon as she caught sight of Fang Ban, she immediately said, "Recently, a tide of Veil Beasts of extremely massive proportions has erupted in the Driftcloud Realm. Hundreds of cities in the

realm have already been slaughtered, and dozens of sects have been destroyed. You have been ordered to go to the Driftcloud Realm to take care of this matter."

Fang Ban's expression stiffened slightly upon hearing this, and after a brief hesitation, he replied, "Esteemed Immortal Envoy, it's going to take at least several years to completely quell such a massive Veil Beast tide. I still have some urgent matters that I need to attend to right away. Would it be possible to have someone else carry out this mission instead?"

"Everyone else is currently busy with other missions. You are the only one who hasn't accepted a new mission after completing your previous one," the woman in white replied with a shake of her head.

"But..."

Fang Ban still wanted to say something, but he was immediately cut off by the woman. "Fang Ban, have you forgotten your duties and the rules of the Immortal Palace?"

"I wouldn't dare. I accept this mission," Fang Ban replied in a resigned manner despite his extreme reluctance to do so.

After withdrawing his spiritual sense from the badge, a dark look appeared on his face as he spat through gritted teeth, "Lucky bastard! Looks like you'll get to live a few more years."

.....

Three years later, at the Origin Realm Temple.

It was nighttime, but the Nine Palace Peak was illuminated by such radiant silver light that it was as bright as day.

The entire Star Gathering Platform was enshrouded within seven extraordinarily thick pillars of silver light, and a massive tornado formed by starpower was raging around the pillars of light, forming what appeared to be an impregnable fortress.

At this moment, Han Li was seated with his legs crossed at the center of the platform, and his entire body seemed to have been filled with starlight, making him so bright that appeared to almost be transparent.

Six dazzling specks of blue light were glowing on his chest and abdomen, giving off scintillating radiance. The seventh speck of blue light at the tip of his spine was still a little hazy, but it was also clearly visible.

Right at this moment, Han Li's eyelashes fluttered slightly, and his eyes suddenly sprang open as he withdrew his hand seal. The seven pillars of light around the Star Gathering Platform instantly dimmed before gradually fading away.

Seven streaks of black light then descended from the sky, reverting back into seven Starmoon Mirrors before falling into Han Li's grasp.

He had detonated the original set of mirrors in order to escape from the domain that he had been trapped in, but he was able to refine a new set of seven Starmoon Mirrors after acquiring a large quantity of Yin Dawn Stones from the Heavenly Ghost Sect.

A faint smile appeared on his face as he murmured to himself, "I'm finally about to manifest my seventh profound aperture."

In reality, he didn't have much of a concept of Profound Immortals in the past. However, his battle against the golden giant three years ago and the insights that he had gleaned from cultivating the Big Dipper Origin Arts had given him a clearer understanding of the concept.

He was confident that once he attained a True Extreme Body, he wouldn't have to use his Holy Nirvana Physique against the likes of the golden giant. Instead, he would be able to defeat an opponent of that caliber with the power of his physical body alone.

With that in mind, a thought suddenly occurred to him, and he flipped a hand over to produce a walnut-sized yellow bean.

It was the exact same bean that he had pulled out of the golden giant's chest.

Ever since learning about the reward being offered for his capture in the Immortal Realm, he had been busy at work, cultivating to enhance his own powers, so he had never had the chance to examine the bean closely.

He held the bean in the palm of his hand, and after some careful examination, he discovered that there was nothing remarkable about it aside from the fact that it was several times larger than the soybean.

However, as he injected his spiritual sense into the bean, he was immediately stunned by what he felt.

The bean was filled with a burst of rich azure light, and if Han Li didn't know any better, he would think that he had been teleported into a vast forest that was filled with stunning exuberance and vitality.

"It's extraordinary that a bean of this size could hold such enormous life energy," Han Li couldn't help but praise after opening his eyes.

He had only seen this bean be used to give rise to the golden giant, but he had no idea how to use it. However, looking at the vitality imbued within the bean, perhaps it was going to come in very useful in the future.

After a moment of contemplation, he stowed the bean away with a flick of his wrist, then rose to his feet before making his way down the stone staircase on the side of the Star Gathering Platform.

Right at this moment, a large streak of light suddenly appeared in the night sky, then rapidly approached Han Li before landing beside him.

Daoist Closed Mountain was revealed from the streak of light with an urgent look on his face, and he hurriedly extended a respectful salute toward Han Li, then said, "Senior Han, I have bad news!"

Chapter 75: Inquiry

"What happened?" Han Li asked as his brows furrowed slightly.

"I just received news from Fellow Daoist Sima of the Cold Flame Sect that... that Young Mistress Liu was abducted," Daoist Closed Mountain stuttered.

"Tell me what happened," Han Li urged as his expression darkened slightly.

Daoist Closed Mountain hurriedly explained, "Last night, a woman in white suddenly broke through the restrictions around the Spirit Flame Mountain Range, then went straight to the Cloudrise Peak before taking Young Mistress Liu away."

"And the Cold Flame Sect just allowed it to happen without doing anything?" Han Li asked.

"Fellow Daoist Sima claims that he tried to step in, but his attacks were dispelled by the woman with ease, and all it took was a casual sweep of her sleeve to send him flying, so he was completely powerless to stop her. However, the woman seemed to have no intention of harming anyone. She said that she belonged to the same race as Young Mistress Liu, then took her away," Daoist Closed Mountain replied as he extended a respectful bow.

Han Li faltered slightly upon hearing this. "You're telling me that she sent Sima Jingming flying with just a sweep of her sleeve?"

"That's what I was told by Fellow Daoist Sima. Would you like me to send out some disciples of our Origin Realm Temple to search for Young Mistress Liu? When it comes to searching for people, our Origin Realm Temple is..."

Before Daoist Closed Mountain had a chance to finish, Han Li cut him off as he asked, "Do you know of anyone in this realm capable of sending a Grand Ascension cultivator flying with just a sweep of their hand?"

"N... No," Daoist Closed Mountain replied in an uneasy voice.

"Alright, you can go now," Han Li replied.

Daoist Closed Mountain extended another respectful bow, then departed from the Star Gathering Platform.

Han Li looked on as Daoist Closed Mountain flew away into the distance, then suddenly swept a hand through the air after a brief silence to conjure up a silver light barrier that enshrouded the entire Star Gathering Platform.

.....

The next morning.

Daoist Closed Mountain's portly figure appeared in front of the Nine Palace Peak once again, and he extended a respectful bow toward the Star Gathering Platform as he declared, "Junior Closed Mountain pays his respects to Senior Han."

During the past three years, he showed up at this time every single day without fail to report all of the noteworthy pieces of news that had arisen in the Spirit Domain Realm to Han Li. Occasionally, he would also act as a

messenger bird between Han Li and the Cold Flame Sect, and his diligence to the task was truly commendable.

Most of the time, Han Li was cultivating in seclusion, in which case Daoist Closed Mountain would respectfully announce his arrival, then wait patiently for around two hours before departing after respectfully taking his leave. He displayed no agitation or impatience throughout this entire process, and his attitude was impeccable.

As a result, during the past three years, all of the disciples of the Origin Realm Temple gradually came to realize that their Grand Ascension Stage supreme elder, who was normally extremely rarely seen, had become a relatively common sight in the temple. Even though they could only see him from afar, this was already enough to fill many of the disciples with giddy excitement.

Of course, all of the Body Integration and some of the Spatial Tempering Stage elders of the temple were naturally aware of the circumstances involved. However, they all chose to refrain from speaking on the matter, as if there were some type of unspoken agreement between them.

Daoist Closed Mountain stood in mid-air around 1,000 feet away from the Nine Palace Peak with a respectful look on his face, but he was feeling a little perplexed as he looked at the silver light barrier around the Star Gathering Platform.

Normally, during Han Li's cultivation, the entire surrounding area would be teeming with turbulent starpower, but there was no sign of that at all on this day.

Despite his befuddlement, he didn't dare to intrude. Perhaps Han Li was undergoing some other type of cultivation. With that in mind, he continued to wait obediently off to the side, then took his leave once again two hours later.

Time passed by one day after another, and he still made his routine daily visits, but there still seemed to be nothing happening on the Star Gathering Platform.

Close to three months flew by in the blink of an eye, and Daoist Closed Mountain was gradually running out of patience.

On this day, he waited for half a day, but there was still no change whatsoever on the Star Gathering Platform.

He took a deep breath, then declared, "Senior Han, I've found some more leads pertaining to Young Mistress Liu's abduction. Would you happen to have some time to speak to me?"

There was no response at all.

"Senior Han!" Daoist Closed Mountain called out once again, but yet again, there was no response.

"Could it be..." His expression changed slightly as a thought occurred to him, and he swept a hand through the air, releasing a burst of golden light that fell upon the silver light barrier.

The silver light barrier was instantly shattered, revealing a completely deserted Star Gathering Platform.

However, there was a white jade slip sitting on the center of the platform.

Daoist Closed Mountain picked up the jade slip before injecting his spiritual sense into it, following which an excited look appeared on his face, and his flabby rolls began to tremble with elation.

The jade slip contained the method to remove the restriction that Han Li had placed in his body. magic

"Thank you, Senior Han!"

He withdrew his gaze before turning toward the distant sky, and he didn't know if Han Li could hear him, but he still loudly expressed his gratitude.

.....

In the Spirit Flame Mountain Range.

Inside a certain hall, Sima Jingming was holding a discussion with the sect master and several Body Integration Stage elders of the sect. Following their discussion, everyone departed, leaving only Sima Jingming remaining in the hall.

He let out a long breath, and he was looking rather weary.

In the blink of an eye, the former number one sect of the Spirit Domain Realm, the Heavenly Ghost Sect, had been erased from existence, and all of the

other major powers had been constantly competing with one another for the former territory of the Heavenly Ghost Sect during the past few years. As the only one of the former three top sects to have emerged completely unscathed from the incident, the Cold Flame Sect had been particularly busy.

As a result, he was constantly having to attend to different duties and matters and had no time for cultivation.

For a very long time, he had been focused solely on secluded cultivation and very rarely addressed the matters of the sect, so this was a very jarring change for him.

Of course, another reason why he was doing this was because of the current state of the Origin Realm Temple. He had thought that the Origin Realm Temple had been dealt a heavy blow, but not only was that not the case, it had also benefited immensely from the fall of the Heavenly Ghost Sect.

As for why this was the case, he was naturally aware of the underlying reasons, but he didn't dare to say anything.

However, Patriarch Cold Flame had been extremely pleased with the expansion of the Cold Flame Sect, and had already sent down several rewards.

With these rewards, Sima Jingchi was confident that he would be able to take another stride in his cultivation once everything settled down and he had a chance to go into seclusion.

At this rate, the prospect of ascending into the Immortal Realm no longer seemed to be completely out of reach.

With that in mind, Sima Jingming was feeling very pleased, and he rose to his feet, yet right as he was about to depart from the hall, a familiar voice suddenly rang out.

"Fellow Daoist Sima."

Sima Jingming's expression changed slightly upon hearing this voice, and in the next instant, Han Li appeared in the hall amid a flash of azure light.

In one of his hands, which was concealed up his sleeve, he was holding a purple talisman that was flashing with silver light.

Sima Jingming's pupils contracted slightly at the sight of Han Li, and he instantly put on a warm smile as he cupped his fist in a salute. "Long time no see, Senior Han. You've become even more powerful since we last met several years ago! Congratulations!"

"You're far too kind, Fellow Daoist Sima," Han Li replied in a rather aloof voice.

"Please take a seat, Senior Han."

Sima Jingming's heart jolted slightly at the sight of Han Li's cold demeanor, and he hurriedly invited Han Li to take a seat before sitting down beside him.

"I came here today to inquire about Sister Liu. Is it true that she was abducted from the Cold Flame Sect?" Han Li immediately asked after taking a seat.

"It's true. I was unable to protect her, but her abductor was someone truly formidable, and..." Sima Jingming replied in an uneasy manner.

Han Li cut him off in an expressionless manner as he asked, "Do you have any leads on her abductor, Fellow Daoist Sima? Did she say anything to you that day?"

"The person who abducted Liu Le'er was a young woman in white, and she claimed to be from the same race as her. She asked me to thank you for looking after Le'er. I'm certain that I've never seen this woman before, and since the incident, I've sent out many of our sect's disciples to investigate her, but to no avail. Hence, I've developed a theory about her origins..." Sima Jingming's voice trailed off at the end, and a slightly hesitant look appeared on his face.

"Go on," Han Li prompted as he raised an eyebrow.

"My theory is that she isn't from the Spirit Domain Realm. She was so powerful that I was unable to withstand even a single attack from her, which leads me to believe that she's a True Immortal from the Immortal Realm."

Han Li had already guessed this to be the case, so he wasn't surprised to hear this theory being proposed by Sima Jingming. Instead, his brows furrowed slightly in contemplation.

According to his knowledge, the Cloud Fox Race that Liu Le'er belonged to was a branch of the Fox Race that had fallen well into decline. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been wiped out by the Blood Sword Sect. With that in mind, he couldn't help but wonder how such a race had managed to produce a True Immortal.

Perhaps an ancestor of the race had ascended to the Immortal Realm many years ago and just so happened to have returned to the Spirit Domain Realm recently, or perhaps Liu Le'er had been keeping some secrets from him...

"You've already done everything in your power, so I can't blame you for this. Fortunately, Le'er seems to have been taken by one of her brethren, so she shouldn't be in any danger," Han Li sighed.

Sima Jingming heaved an internal sigh of relief upon hearing this, and only then did he realize that his back was already drenched in cold sweat.

"By the way, I came here because there was another thing that I wanted you to enlighten me on, Fellow Daoist Sima," Han Li suddenly continued after a brief silence.

"I wouldn't dare to claim to be able to enlighten you, Senior Han! Please, ask me anything, and I'll tell you everything that I know," Sima Jingming hurriedly replied.

"Has Fellow Daoist Cold Flame ever spoken to you about his ascension to the Immortal Realm? Also, is there anything I have to be mindful of if I wish to attempt an ascension into the Immortal Realm from the Spirit Domain Realm?" Han Li asked.

Sima Jingming faltered slightly upon hearing this, and he took a deep breath, then replied in a respectful manner, "Senior Han, seeing as you're pursuing the path of body cultivation, once you attain a True Extreme Body, your physical body will automatically be rejected by the power of this realm. If you wish to ascend, then you'll have to break through the interrealm barrier with your physical strength."

"I see," Han Li replied with an enlightened expression.

It was no wonder that the closer he came to fully mastering the Big Dipper Origin Arts, the more he felt suppressed by some type of inexplicable force, to the point that even his flight was slightly hampered.

"The Spirit Domain Realm is very close to the Northern Glacial Immortal Region, so ascending to the Immortal Realm from here will take you to a random Ascension Platform in the Northern Glacial Immortal Region.

"Due to how sparse spiritual power in the lower realms is compared to in the Immortal Realm, all those who can successfully ascend possess exceptional aptitude and resolute wills, so they'll be generally held in very high regard in the Immortal Realm," Sima Jingming replied, revealing everything that he knew.

Han Li's expression remained completely unchanged, but he was quickly processing the information that he had just been given.

The Immortal Realm's attitude toward ascended immortals had always been the same, regardless of whether it was in the Spirit Domain Realm or back in the Spirit Realm. It was clear that he was currently being targeted by a certain power or person in the Immortal Realm, and the last thing that he wanted was to attract attention to himself.

Chapter 76: Legend

After a period of silence, a thought suddenly occurred to Sima Jingming, and he added, "By the way, aside from the Ascension Platforms I just mentioned, there's another type of smuggling method in our Spirit Domain Realm that can allow one to ascend to the Immortal Realm in secret and avoid the Ascension Platforms altogether."

Han Li's heart stirred slightly upon hearing this, but he feigned a nonchalant expression as he prompted, "Oh? Tell me about that."

"The concept of this method is quite simple. All that needs to be done is to find a brittle spatial node between the Spirit Domain Realm and the Immortal Realm, then forcibly break through it using spatial-attribute arrays or some other method, thereby taking one into the space between the two realms, which they can then travel through to reach the Immortal Realm," Sima Jingming explained.

"That sounds like it would be a lot more difficult to accomplish than the legitimate method of ascension," Han Li said.

This was the exact same method that he had employed to ascend from the Human Realm to the Spirit Realm.

It was likely the case that this type of method could only be used in realms like the Spirit Domain Realm, which were very close to the Immortal Realm.

"Indeed, Senior Han. This is an extremely risky method. The space between realms is extremely perilous, and even if one manages to complete the journey, there's a very good chance that they'll arrive in a very dangerous location in the Immortal Realm. After all, generally speaking, most places in the Immortal Realm where space is quite brittle are not good places to be.

"In addition to that, using this method of ascension will prevent one from being able to enjoy the various benefits of ascending through legitimate avenues, such as getting to refine one's physical body in an immortal pond or receiving an immortal badge for identification purposes. As a result, it's very likely that one would find themselves in some trouble even if they manage to get to the Immortal Realm," Sima Jingming explained.

Han Li nodded in response, and his expression remained unchanged, but he was feeling quite excited.

Ascending to the Immortal Realm had always been quite a troublesome predicament in his mind, but he had finally found a solution.

As for the dangers that Sima Jingming spoke of, with his current powers, those dangers most likely weren't going to be a concern as long as he was sufficiently prepared, so he wasn't particularly concerned.

"Thank you, Fellow Daoist Sima," Han Li said with a grateful nod.

"Please don't thank me, Senior Han. You've singlehandedly elevated our sect to unprecedented heights. Patriarch Cold Flame told me to offer you his sincerest gratitude on his behalf," Sima Jingming replied in an earnest voice.

"Is that so? I didn't think that Fellow Daoist Cold Flame would still remember me," Han Li said as a meaningful look appeared on his face.

Sima Jingming's heart jolted slightly upon hearing this, and he hurriedly said, "Surely you jest, Senior Han. Patriarch..."

"I'll be taking my leave now, Fellow Daoist Sima." Before he had a chance to finish, Han Li abruptly cut him off, then flew out of the hall as a streak of azure light.

Sima Jingming looked on as the streak of azure light vanished into the distant sky, and he couldn't help but heave a long sigh of relief.

.....magic

Following Han Li's departure from the Cold Flame Sect, he made no further appearances in the Spirit Domain Realm, and it was as if he had disappeared from the face of the realm.

However, some exaggerated accounts of his feats gradually began to spread throughout the realm, painting him into an almighty yet enigmatic legend.

The cultivation world of the Spirit Domain Realm had already reached a certain equilibrium, but that equilibrium had been completely shattered in just a few years due to his arrival.

Some said that he was an almighty figure who was always in seclusion and isolated himself from the rest of the realm, while others proclaimed that he was actually a descended immortal. There were even some who speculated that he was a descendant of a true spirit who had lived for countless years.

Everyone's opinion of him also varied drastically over a wide spectrum. Some saw him as a bloodthirsty fiend who killed without discrimination, while others regarded him as a saint who had eradicated the largest menace in the realm in the form of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, thereby restoring peace to the Spirit Domain Realm.

In any case, there were all types of things being said about him.

The chaos that arose in the wake of the fall of the Heavenly Ghost Sect lasted several centuries. After countless battles between all of the major sects and powers and the demise of countless cultivators, a new landscape began to arise before gradually reaching stability, but of course, that was a story for another time.

On a bright and sunny day several months after the disappearance of Liu Le'er.

There was a certain vast sea located in the northern region of the Spirit Domain Realm. Dense black mist that completely concealed the heavens would often rise up from the sea, and as a result, it was named the Black Mist Sea.

The spiritual power in this area of the sea was quite abundant, so there were many sea beasts dwelling here. In addition to that, there were also several types of precious spirit ingredients that could only be found here and nowhere else, so the area was rife with cultivators who were on adventures to seek out treasures and slay sea beasts.

Near a deserted island deep in the Black Mist Sea, a burst of rumbling rang out, sweeping up turbulent waves on the surface of the sea within a radius of several dozen kilometers. The waves rose up to several dozen feet in height before sweeping in all directions, and even the dense black mist above the sea began to revolve under the influence of some type of invisible force, forming a gigantic vortex.

At the center of the vortex was a green-robed young woman, a black-robed elderly man, and a middle-aged daoist priest, all of whom were locked in a fierce battle against a manatee-like sea beast.

All three of them were at the early-Deity Transformation Stage, and even though they were all using different cultivation arts, it was clear from their seamless teamwork that this wasn't their first time working together.

Their treasures were connected together to form a large circle that surrounded the sea beast, delivering one wave of ferocious attacks after another.

The sea beast was entirely blue in color with two black stripes on its back, extending all the way from its forehead to the tip of its tail, presenting a rather peculiar sight to behold.

The sea beast was roaring incessantly as blue light flashed over its body, and a series of balls of blue lightning appeared around it to ward off the oncoming barrages of attacks. At the same time, it was releasing a series of thick pillars of blue light out of its mouth to retaliate against its three assailants.

Its cultivation base was at the mid-Deity Transformation Stage, so it was slightly superior to its three assailants in that regard, but its offensive repertoire was very limited, and it was gradually being suppressed by the trio of cultivators.

The battle raged on for almost another hour before the protective spiritual light around the sea beast was finally broken, and a large hole was punched into its head by a burst of rapidly revolving black swordlight that had been unleashed by the black-robed elderly man.

The sea beast let loose an agonized wail, then thrashed violently a few times before quickly falling still.

"Your Soul Devouring Heart Drilling Sword is still as formidable as ever, Fellow Daoist Qin. Adult Black-striped Blue Manatees are renowned for their defensive prowess, yet even it couldn't withstand a single blow from your sword," the middle-aged daoist priest praised.

"You're far too kind, Fellow Daoist Dead Wood."

A hint of pride flashed through the black-robed elderly man's eyes as he drew the burst of black swordlight back to himself, revealing it to be a strange-looking longsword that resembled a pair of vipers intertwined together. The sword was giving off a cold black light, and the elderly man carefully stowed it away, clearly holding it in very high regard.

He had spent the majority of his life's savings to craft this treasure, and its powers were comparable to the average spirit treasure. In addition to that, it possessed certain armor-piercing properties that made it the perfect weapon against defensively adept sea beasts.

The three of them quickly dissected the carcass of the sea beast, and all of them received appreciable returns.

"If you ask me, even if the three of us encounter a late-Deity Transformation Stage sea beast, we should be able to at least ensure a safe retreat even if we can't defeat it, so how about we advance a little further?" the green-robed young woman suggested as she cast her gaze toward the sea up ahead.

The middle-aged daoist priest's eyes lit up slightly upon hearing this, and he seemed to also be tempted by this proposal.

"That would be a terrible idea. The two of you have only recently arrived in the Black Mist Sea, so allow me to enlighten you. Not far ahead of this point is the extremely dreaded core region of the Black Mist Sea. There are many formidable sea beasts residing in that area, including even Spatial Tempering and Body Integration Stage sea beasts!

"In fact, there are even stories claiming that a Grand Ascension Stage Five-clawed Black Dragon is residing in the deepest part of the core region. Those sea beasts generally only stay in the core region and very rarely venture out

of it, but no one dares to enter the core region unless they're at least at the Body Integration Stage.

"Truth be told, we've already taken a huge risk by pursuing that Black-striped Blue Manatee all the way to this point. If you ask me, the best course of action would be to retreat as quickly as possible," the black-robed elderly man hurriedly said with a grim expression.

"A Grand Ascension Stage sea beast? How is that possible?" The middle-aged daoist priest was astonished to hear this.

An incredulous look had also appeared on the green-robed young woman's face.

"That's only a legend. Apparently, that Five-clawed Black Dragon has already been residing here for over 100,000 years, and the last time it appeared was several thousand years ago. At the time, it was already at the peak of the Body Integration Stage.

"Perhaps it's already reached the end of its lifespan since then, but even so, this is an extremely dangerous place, and it would be wise to leave this area as soon as possible," the black-robed elderly man said in a slightly urgent voice.

The middle-aged daoist priest and the green-robed young woman hurriedly nodded in response, yet right as they were about to depart, an earth-shattering boom suddenly rang out up ahead.

The sound was coming from somewhere extremely far away, but it was still able to reach them with startling clarity, and it was accompanied by a burst of violent tremors that ran through the entire area.

The expressions of the trio changed slightly upon hearing this, yet before they had a chance to do anything, another burst of violent rumbling rang out up ahead.

At the same time, a burst of enormous yet chaotic spiritual pressure came sweeping violently toward them, sending gusts of incredibly ferocious wind blowing their way.

The trio was extremely alarmed, and they immediately turned to flee, but it was already too late. Before they were able to get away from the area, they

were swept up by the gusts of fierce wind and were blown around unsteadily like a trio of leaves in a stiff gale.

Thankfully, the gusts of wind began to wane after traveling for a short distance, and the three of them hurriedly stabilized themselves, but by then, their faces were already deathly pale with fear.

Right at this moment, another earth-shattering boom rang out, and the surface of the sea dozens of kilometers up ahead abruptly erupted.

A gargantuan black figure flew out from within, and after flying for some distance, it crashed down heavily onto that deserted island not far away from the trio of cultivators. The entire island trembled violently, and the shockwaves released by the impact swept up a series of massive waves in the surrounding sea.

The black figure was an enormous black wyrm that was around 2,000 to 3,000 feet in length. Its entire body was covered in gleaming, inky-black scales, and there were a pair of translucent, coral-like long horns on its head.

The gigantic wyrm had two pairs of massive claws, and every single claw had five toes that resembled giant black swords that were giving off a cold, menacing light.

An indescribably enormous aura was emanating from the black wyrm's body, and at this point, the trio of cultivators was already on the verge of passing out from fear.

Among them, the black-robed elderly man was particularly petrified. He wasn't a vagrant cultivator. Instead, he was an inner court disciple of a large sect, which was overseen by a Body Integration Stage patriarch.

However, the aura being released by this black wyrm was far beyond that of the Body Integration Stage patriarch of his sect!

Could it be that the legends are all true stories?

An astonishing thought occurred to the elderly man as his heart jolted violently.

The gargantuan black wyrm flipped itself over violently, causing the island to tremble and quake once again.

The trio of cultivators were extremely alarmed, and they hurriedly retreated to over 1,000 feet away. Upon refocusing their gaze on the black wyrm, they discovered that there was a massive hole on its chest, out of which blood was pouring incessantly, quickly staining most of the island red.

All of a sudden, an azure humanoid figure flew out of the sea. The figure was so fast that it was impossible to track with the naked eye, and it flew past the black wyrm like a dazzling harbinger of death.

The black wyrm's entire body stiffened, following which its gigantic head suddenly flew up into the sky, accompanied by an incredibly thick fountain of blood. It was as if a storm of blood were falling upon the entire island, and a nauseating odor was permeating through the air.

The enormous wyrm collapsed to the ground with a violent thump, then spasmed a few times before falling still.

Right at this moment, a streak of black light flew out of the giant wyrm's head. Inside the streak of black light was a miniature black wyrm that was only several inches in size, and it immediately tried to flee into the distance in a panicked manner.

However, the azure figure was already prepared, and he appeared in front of the miniature black wyrm in a flash, then opened his mouth to release a burst of azure light to envelop it before casually stuffing it into a jade vial.

The trio of cultivators was completely rooted to the spot upon seeing this, with their jaws dropping straight onto the ocean floor down below.

At this point, the azure figure had already been revealed to be an azure-robed young man who appeared to be around 25 to 26 years of age, with a set of unremarkable facial features and a slightly dark complexion.

Chapter 77: Two Powerful Treasures

The azure-robed young man completely ignored the trio as he calmly made his way over to the massive head of the black wyrm, then reached out with one hand to make a grabbing motion.

A certain part of the wyrm's head instantly exploded, following which a translucent black core flew out from within. The object was riddled with a

series of profound black patterns, and it was none other than the black wyrm's demon core.

The young man examined the demon core momentarily in an expressionless manner, then stowed it away.

After that, he raised a hand before making a downward chopping motion, and the four giant claws of the black wyrm were all severed amid a string of loud cracks.

The young man stowed the claws away, then directed his gaze toward the neck of the giant wyrm.

His gaze settled on a light silver scale that was close to 10 feet in size, which was completely different in appearance from all of the black scales around it. There were also several light silver bone spikes around the scale that were giving off astonishing spiritual power fluctuations.

The scale and the bone spikes were also riddled with patterns that were similar to the ones on the demon core.

The young man carefully extracted the silver scale and the bone spikes, then took several more parts of the black wyrm's body, and only then did he cast his gaze toward the nearby trio of cultivators.

Even though there was no animosity in his eyes, the trio still immediately tensed up, at a complete loss for what to do as they sweated profusely.

Thankfully for them, the azure-robed young man quickly withdrew his gaze before flying away into the distance as a streak of azure light.

Only after he had completely disappeared into the distance did the trio dare to heave a collective sigh of relief.

"Could that wyrm have been the Five-clawed Black Dragon that we were just talking about?" the middle-aged daoist priest asked as he looked down at the carcass of the black wyrm.

The black-robed elderly man took a moment to compose himself, then nodded in response. "It looks like it. Judging from what we just saw, there's a very good chance that this wyrm had already reached the Grand Ascension Stage!"

Both the green-robed young woman and the middle-aged daoist priest drew a sharp breath upon hearing this.

The green-robed young woman still had some lingering fear in her heart, and she mused with a perplexed expression, "Not only was that senior able to slay that wyrm without using any treasures, it didn't seem to have taken him much effort at all.

"Could it be that he was also a Grand Ascension cultivator? I've seen portraits of both Senior Sima of the Cold Flame Sect and Senior Closed Mountain of the Origin Realm Temple, but he didn't seem to be either of them."

"Could it be that that was one of them in disguise?" the middle-aged daoist priest speculated.

"I don't think so. Judging from the wounds sustained by the black wyrm, it seems that that senior from just now is a pure body cultivator, so I don't think he's one of those two seniors," the black-robed elderly man said with a shake of his head.

"If it's not those two, then are there other Grand Ascension Stage beings in the Spirit Domain Realm?" the green-robed young woman asked as her brows furrowed slightly.

"There's one more... Have you forgotten that Senior Han Li, who destroyed the Heavenly Ghost Sect in one night? He was precisely a body cultivator!" the black-robed elderly man exclaimed.

The green-robed young woman's eyes lit up slightly upon hearing this. "Ah, now that you mention it, that Senior Han was purported to have an extremely youthful appearance. Was that really him just now?"

"Apparently, Senior Han is a descended immortal from the Immortal Realm, so he's an actual immortal!" The middle-aged daoist priest was also getting quite excited.magic

While the three of them were conversing with one another, their attention quickly turned to the carcass of the Five-clawed Black Dragon, and the excitement in their eyes only became more pronounced.

Han Li had abandoned the carcass, but for a trio of Deity Transformation cultivators like them, if they could take back even a small piece of the wyrm's flesh, that would be enough to create a massive stir.

After all, this was the flesh of a Grand Ascension Stage demon beast!

.....

The Heavenly Crystal Sect was a sect that had a history of 200,000 to 300,000 years. It couldn't compare with the superpower sects like the Cold Flame Sect and the Origin Realm Temple, but it had several Body Integration cultivators among its ranks, and it was certainly not to be looked down on.

However, the sect had always kept a low profile, so it wasn't very renowned in the Spirit Domain Realm.

At this moment, a burst of blinding golden light was erupting on a drill ground in the sect, and it was accompanied by a thunderous boom.

A silver-robed elderly man was sent flying like a ragdoll before crashing into the restriction around the drill ground, upon which he threw up a mouthful of blood before tumbling to the ground.

A light golden bowl also clattered onto the ground not far away from him, and the spiritual light radiating from its surface had dimmed significantly.

Standing in mid-air across from the elderly man was an azure-robed cultivator whose face was concealed behind a film of azure light, and he was in the process of slowly retracting his extended right hand.

There were three other Body Integration cultivators gathered around the drill ground, and they were stunned by what they saw. They hurriedly withdrew the restriction around the drill ground, then rushed over to the silver-robed elderly man's side before turning to the azure-robed cultivator with wary expressions.

"Are you alright, Supreme Elder?"

"I'm fine. That fellow daoist held back at the last moment," the silver-robed elderly man replied as he pulled out a yellow pill before taking it, and only then did his complexion gradually begin to improve.

The other three Body Integration cultivators were stunned to hear this.

"Your powers are truly extraordinary, Fellow Daoist. I am ashamed to concede that I'm unable to take even a single attack from you," the silver-robed elderly man said with a wry smile as he cupped his fist in a salute toward the azure-robed cultivator.

"If you concede, then according to our agreement, it's time for you to hand over your Exquisite Eight Treasures Jade," the azure-robed cultivator said in an indifferent voice, and he sounded quite young.

The silver-robed elderly man turned to a burly man next to him with a resigned expression before issuing an instruction, and despite his reluctance, the burly man still did as he was told.

Shortly thereafter, he returned with a white jade box that was several feet long and around half a foot wide in his hands, then handed it over to the silver-robed elderly man.

The elderly man stroked the jade box with a wistful expression, then tossed it toward the azure-robed cultivator, where it hovered in front of him, enveloped within a ball of golden light.

The azure-robed cultivator caught the jade box, then tapped it with a fingertip that was glowing with azure light.

A faint crack rang out, and the white jade box slowly opened on its own, revealing several pieces of white jade of different sizes. They appeared to be quite unremarkable, but there was eight-colored spiritual light surging incessantly over their surfaces, presenting quite a mesmerizing sight to behold.

The azure-robed cultivator nodded with a pleased expression, then placed the lid back onto the box before stowing it away.

"It's taken us tens of thousands of years to accumulate these pieces of premium Exquisite Eight Treasures Jade from our sect's jade mines. I hope you can put them to good use," the silver-robed elderly man sighed.

"Rest assured, I won't let these precious treasures go to waste," the azure-robed cultivator promised, then swept a hand through the air to send a burst of white light containing a storage bracelet flying over to the silver-robed elderly man.

"I won't take these pieces of jade for free. The items in that storage bracelet should be sufficient compensation," the azure-robed cultivator said in an indifferent voice, then flew away as a streak of azure light, disappearing into the distant sky in the blink of an eye.

The silver-robed elderly man injected his spiritual sense into the storage bracelet, and a stunned look immediately appeared on his face.

The bracelet contained a vast number of spirit stones, as well as some extremely precious spirit medicines and demon beast ingredients.

In terms of overall value, these items were indeed not inferior to the Exquisite Eight Treasures Jade. In fact, they were of an even superior value.

.....

Within the span of just a few short months, a string of strange events took place in the Spirit Domain Realm one after another.

Many sects had their precious materials, or secret techniques, cultivation arts, or scriptures taken away by a mysterious figure.

No one knew who this person was, but he was extremely powerful. However, he was also quite a reasonable man, and all of the sects that had had their treasures taken received handsome compensation. As a result, there was no public outrage arising from these events. Instead, this became a hot topic of discussion for many vagrant cultivators and disciples of other sects.

After several months of activity, the mysterious figure suddenly vanished, and no one ever saw him again.

Close to a year passed by in the blink of an eye.

There was an enormous crimson mountain range in the southeastern region of the Spirit Domain Realm. The mountain range was known as the Fire Cloud Mountain Range, and it extended for hundreds of thousands of kilometers.

The mountain range was filled with countless connected volcanoes that were constantly spewing scorching lava up into the air, filling the entire area with incredible heat and the acrid stench of sulfur.

All of the mountains in this mountain range were a dark red color, resembling red-hot rocks, and even the clouds above the mountain range were always tinted with a crimson hue, thereby giving the mountain range its name.

This was the largest fire spiritual area in the Spirit Domain Realm and also one of the most perilous regions in the entire realm. Even among advanced cultivators, very few had the courage to venture deep into this mountain range.

Deep in the Fire Cloud Mountain Range was an enormous abyss, at the deepest part of which was a river of molten lava, which rumbled loudly as it flowed incessantly.

The river was glowing with red light, as if there were countless flames burning on its surface.

The temperatures here were so high that the air was extremely warped, severely impacting visibility.

On a cliff face no more than 1,000 feet away from the river of lava, a massive cave had been hollowed out, and there were lights of all types of different colors flashing within it, accompanied by occasional loud noises.

On this day, a draconic roar rang out from within the cave, following which an incredibly thick pillar of white light erupted out from within before hurtling directly up toward the heavens.

Within the pillar of light, projections of two wyrms and a massive suit of bone armor could be seen, and those projections lingered in the air for a long time before slowly fading away.

Inside the cave was an azure-robed man seated with his legs crossed.

It was none other than Han Li, and there was an elated look on his face.

There were two treasures that were shimmering with spiritual light hovering in front of him, one of which was a suit of white bone armor with a rather antiquated design. Its surface was riddled with engravings of different images depicting items such as shields and umbrellas.

The other treasure was a pair of silver gloves with a series of silver bone spikes on them, giving them the appearance of a pair of wyrm heads.

Both of the treasures were giving off astonishing spiritual power fluctuations, and a pleased look flashed through Han Li's eyes as his gaze roamed over the pair of treasures.

The suit of bone armor was known as the Exquisite Eight Treasures Bone Armor, while the gloves were known as the Heaven Piercing Gauntlets.

He had found the refinement methods for both of these treasures in the scriptures of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, and these treasures were perfect for him as they required the user to possess extremely formidable physical strength in order to unleash their full potential.

Sima Jingming had told him that this alternative method of ascension was very dangerous, so as a safety precaution, he had gone out of his way to gather countless precious materials in order to refine these two treasures.

Han Li opened his mouth to release a burst of azure light that stowed the pair of treasures away, then flipped a hand over to produce an azure jade slip, which contained a detailed map of the Spirit Domain Realm.

There were several locations that had already been annotated on the map, and they marked the brittle spatial nodes that he had found from the scriptures that he had read in various sects, but he hadn't yet verified those spatial nodes in person.

After a brief moment of contemplation, his gaze fell upon an annotated point on the southeastern part of the map, and a thoughtful look appeared in his eyes.

Moments later, a streak of azure light flew out of the valley before hurtling away into the distance.

Chapter 78: Big Dipper Phenomenon

On a giant snowy mountain that was over 100,000 feet tall in the Spirit Domain Realm.

There was a layer of extremely dense dark clouds in the sky, within which thunderclaps were rumbling incessantly, and the occasional flash of dark blue lightning could also be seen.

Down below, gusts of fierce wind were howling incessantly, stirring the countless snowflakes in the sky into a frenzy.

Close to 100 kilometers away from this mountain was a peaceful area with clear skies and a bright moon, creating a stark contrast with the snowy mountain.

The peak of the snowy mountain had already been sliced off, turning it into an enormous plateau that was over 1,000 feet in size.

On the plateau were dozens of black stone pillars that were each over 100 feet tall. The pillars seemed to have been arranged in a random and haphazard manner, but in reality, they were positioned in a way that they formed a giant ring-shaped formation that consisted of two circles, one outside the other.

There were a series of complex spirit patterns engraved onto the ground at the center of the array, while pieces of spirit stones with extremely abundant spiritual power were embedded onto the tops of the surrounding stone pillars.

At this moment, there was a tall figure seated with his legs crossed at the center of the array amid the wind and the snow.

He was wearing a thin azure robe, and he had a set of unremarkable yet well-defined facial features. His eyes were as bright as stars, and it was none other than Han Li.

He gently closed his eyes while making a rapid series of hand seals and chanting an incantation in a low voice, activating his Big Dipper Origin Arts.

All of a sudden, a burst of dazzling light appeared on the mountain peak.

Boundless silver starlight pierced through the dark clouds, projecting down from the heavens, forming seven incredibly thick pillars of silver light that enshrouded the entire mountain.

All of the swirling snow that fell into the pillars of silver light instantly vanished, having been evaporated into vapor.

Han Li continued to make a series of hand seals while raising his hands up to the sky, and a burst of black light flashed from his waist, following which the

seven Starmoon Mirrors flew out, with each of them flying into one of the pillars of light before giving off dazzling radiance.

At the same time, a strange vortex suddenly appeared above Han Li, drawing the seven mirrors toward itself.

As the vortex grew larger and larger, the suction force that it was releasing also became more and more pronounced, and all seven of the mirrors began to converge involuntarily toward its center.

The seven massive pillars of light were also influenced, beginning to tilt and angle themselves toward the center of the vortex.

A rumbling boom akin to a thunderclap rang out, and the seven pillars of silver light finally fused as one, forming a gigantic pillar of light that was over 1,000 feet in diameter.

The pillar of light seemed to be connecting heaven and earth and encompassed the entire mountain.

At the same time, a startling change was also taking place in the Big Dipper constellation in the sky.

The seven stars of the Big Dipper began to glow with purplish-silver light one after another, and at the same time, they were also shifting in position, first forming a straight line, then arranging themselves into a circle.

Immediately thereafter, an incredibly thick pillar of purplish-silver light surged out of the ring, piercing through the night sky before shining down directly upon Han Li.

In the instant the purplish-silver light came into contact with Han Li, his clothes were instantly incinerated into ashes.

At the same time, his body turned completely transparent and took on a bright silver hue.

It could even be seen through his skin that changes were beginning to take place in the muscles and bones in his body. In the past, they had only been enveloped by a layer of faint silver light, but now, it was as if they had been encased by liquid silver.

A burst of loud buzzing rang out on the snowy mountain as countless fragments of silver light fell from the sky, replacing the falling snow.

The fragments of light formed an enormous spherical light barrier that encompassed the entire mountain, and there were extremely fearsome spiritual powerful fluctuations emanating from within it.

As these fluctuations became stronger and stronger, the entire mountain began to sway and tremble violently, and soon, the entire mountain range was plunged into a state of unrest.

The ground in a radius of close to 1,000 kilometers was quaking incessantly, and countless long and winding fissures had opened up. Some of them were even causing shifts in the nearby riverbeds, resulting in a restructuring of the rivers.

Plumes of dust began to rise up from all over the lush primitive forest nearby, and countless wild beasts were galloping through the forest while roaring in panic.

In the sky above the forest, countless birds and flying beasts were soaring through the air, forming a dark blanket that concealed most of the sky.

Several hundred kilometers away, a tall volcano that had already laid dormant for over 10,000 years erupted once again under the effects of these violent and persistent tremors.

Large volumes of dark red lava were spewing out of the volcano amid plumes of dense black smoke, rising up high into the sky.

Countless rocks that had been scorched bright red were hurled up into the air, then came crashing back down like a meteor shower, leaving long fiery tails behind them in the night sky. The falling rocks passed through the permeating layers of volcanic ash, then crashed down onto the forest below.

Large sections of the forest were instantly set alight, illuminating the night sky in a bright red hue amid the dense smoke.

Immediately thereafter, around a dozen streaks of light flew out of different parts of the mountain range, and all of them drew to a halt in the air dozens of kilometers away from the silver ball of light.

There were people of all types of descriptions gathered at the scene, and most of them were alone, with only a few rare groups interspersed among their ranks.magic

They were all vagrant cultivators who were lurking in this mountain range, and their cultivation bases varied drastically, with the weakest ones only at the late-Core Formation Stage, while the strongest ones were at the mid-Spatial Tempering Stage.

Aside from them, there were also some strange-looking humanoid figures. Some of them had horns growing on their heads, some had vibrant stripes on their bodies, some were covered in a coat of fur, and some even had beastly heads rather than human heads. It was clear that these were demonic cultivators.

However, regardless of what race these cultivators belonged to, all of them were currently looking up toward the top of the snowy mountain with stunned and fearful expressions, and not a single one of them dared to approach the scene to investigate.

"Could it be that there's a Grand Ascension cultivator about to transcend an ascension tribulation here?" a white-robed young man asked in a bewildered voice as he stared at the phenomena unfolding on the snowy mountain.

The young man was accompanied by a thin elderly man, who shook his head as he said, "I don't think so. There's no sign of any tribulation lightning falling. Instead, it seems more like someone is practicing an extremely profound cultivation art, and these phenomena are a sign that they're about to reach full mastery of that cultivation art."

"This is all because someone's practicing a cultivation art? How is that possible?"

The white-robed young man drew a sharp breath upon hearing this, unable to wrap his head around such a staggering concept.

Right at this moment, a thunderous roar erupted from the mountain peak, and an incredibly powerful energy blast swept through the air in all directions from the mountaintop.

Everyone was already quite far away from the mountain peak, but they still immediately flew back in retreat as streaks of light. One of the weaker

demonic cultivators wasn't able to get sufficiently far away in time, and they were struck by the energy blast. As a result, they instantly sustained extremely severe injuries and came within a hair's breadth of being killed on the spot.

Only after retreating a further 100 kilometers or so did everyone draw to a halt before turning back to the mountain peak with lingering fear in their eyes.

The spherical light barrier encompassing the entire snowy mountain had expanded to about twice its original size, thereby encompassing an even larger area. As a result, the entire snowy mountain was reduced to a blur, and only an extremely faint outline could just barely be made out.

.....

At the same time.

On the Nine Palace Peak of the Origin Realm Temple, Daoist Closed Mountain was standing on the Star Gathering Platform, looking up at the altered Big Dipper constellation in the night sky with a complex look on his face.

He had been pressured by Han Li into destroying the arrays that facilitated communication between the temple and the Immortal Realm, so he had completely betrayed Daoist Clear Bright.

Now that Han Li seemed to be about to leave, Daoist Closed Mountain was considering what he was going to do if Daoist Clear Bright decided to try and punish him for this transgression.

In addition to that, the Cold Flame Sect had been developing rapidly these past few years, absorbing many smaller powers and sects, and at this point, the Cold Flame Sect and the Origin Realm Temple were roughly evenly matched. With Han Li's departure, the Spirit Domain Realm was most likely going to be plunged into conflict and unrest.

With that in mind, Daoist Closed Mountain couldn't help but heave a forlorn sigh.

.....

On a plaza at the top of the Cold Flame Sect's Holy Fire Peak.

Sima Jingming was clutching the white jade railing before him with both hands, and he was also looking up at the night sky with a complex look in his eyes.

After some time, he heaved a long sigh, then murmured to himself in a relieved voice, "You're finally leaving, Senior Han..."

Even though the Cold Flame Sect had become significantly more powerful in the wake of the Heavenly Ghost Sect's demise, Han Li's existence had constantly been weighing on his heart like a mountain.

Even though the Cold Flame Sect was on rather good terms with Han Li, that still didn't change the fact Han Li was someone who was capable of wiping out the entire Cold Flame Sect on a whim if he so pleased. Hence, his very existence posed a constant threat to what was otherwise supposed to be a dominant powerhouse of the Spirit Domain Realm, so it was no wonder that Sima Jingming was feeling so apprehensive.

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Meanwhile, in a secluded cave abode on the Cloudrise Peak.

Gu Yunyue and Yu Menghan were seated beside the stone table in the courtyard of the cave abode.

The latter had her chin resting in her hands as she looked up at the ring-shaped Big Dipper in the sky, as well as that pillar of purplish-silver light, and her eyes were a little out of focus.

A gentle smile appeared on Gu Yunyue's face at the sight of her forlorn display, and she said in a slightly teasing voice, "I must say, Elder Han has been very good to you. Not only has he left this cave abode to you, he also left you so many treasures and pills. In total, these resources rival what one would expect to find in an entire small sect, and they'll be more than enough to support you to the Deity Transformation Stage."

Yu Menghan faltered slightly upon hearing this, then replied, "Elder Han is most likely only giving me this preferential treatment because I was the one who took him and Sister Le'er back to our Yu Manor. Come to think of it, he's already repaid that favor long ago. I owe him far more than he owes me."

Gu Yunyue smiled and offered no response to this.

Thus, both of them fell silent, and peace and quiet returned to the courtyard.

.....

In a cave abode halfway up the Cloudrise Peak, Daoist White Stone was seated with his legs crossed in a secret chamber.

Placed in front of him was an old book that was slightly yellow with age, and its cover bore the title "Profound Water Cultivation Journal" in bold and primitive text.

This was a top-tier ghostly cultivation art of the Heavenly Ghost Sect, and in the past, it was an extremely important resource that would've never been given to anyone outside of the sect, which was why Daoist White Stone had been astonished when Han Li suddenly paid him a visit and bestowed this cultivation art upon him.

As soon as he obtained the cultivation art, he immediately began to study it in earnest, and at this point, he had already reached the second level. As a result, the early-Core Formation Stage bottleneck that had stumped him for years was finally beginning to loosen a little.

This was naturally an extremely encouraging turn of events, and not only was Daoist White Stone elated by this progress, he was also feeling extremely fortunate that he had been able to follow Han Li, albeit only for a short time.

Chapter 79: Shattering Space

In the dark night sky, the stars were looking strangely dim, with the exception of the ring-shaped Big Dipper, which was glowing radiantly like a purplish-silver sun.

All of a sudden, the enormous pillar of purplish-silver light that it was projecting downward vanished without any warning.

A burst of rumbling rang out, and the spherical light barrier that encompassed the entire mountain exploded violently, scattering into countless specks of silver light that danced through the air like a sparkle of fireflies.

From afar, it looked as if a beautiful galaxy of stars were descending into this world.

However, this glorious scenery didn't linger for very long before the silver specks of light abruptly converged rapidly toward the peak of the snowy mountain as if they had been summoned there, then vanished into the body of a young man, whose entire body was radiating bright silver light.

The young man was none other than Han Li, and even though waves upon waves of silver light were surging into his body in a frenzy, he remained completely still with his eyes tightly shut.

After an indeterminate period of time, his eyelashes fluttered slightly, and his eyes abruptly sprang open. Blue light was flashing within his eyes, which were incredibly clear and reflecting all of the stars in the sky like a pair of mirrors.

In the next instant, he let loose a low cry, and a cloud of glowing silver mist surged out of his mouth, then gradually faded into the night.

Seven specks of blue light were glowing radiantly from his chest and his abdomen.

He had finally manifested the seventh profound aperture!

The silver light radiating from his body was also gradually fading, but a thin, semi-transparent film was taking shape over his skin, and there were wisps of silver light flowing incessantly over the surface of the thin film.

"This is a True Extreme Membrane, the sign of a True Extreme Body! As expected, full mastery of the Big Dipper Origin Arts really does instantly result in the attainment of a True Extreme Body!"

Han Li was ecstatic as he raised his arm to examine the thin film that enveloped his entire body. He discovered that the film required no magic power expenditure to maintain, and that it was slightly cold to the touch. In addition to that, it didn't feel foreign at all, as if it were a part of his body.

With a single thought, he was able to compress the film so that it adhered to his skin, then vanished into his body after a flash of starry light.

He then summoned the film again, and it instantly appeared over his body at his behest. magic

After experimenting with this sequence a few times, Han Li's elation only continued to grow. Not only was he honing his mastery over the True Extreme

Membrane, he also discovered during the process that his spiritual sense had made a full recovery.

In terms of spiritual sense alone, he was already far ahead of the average True Immortal, and that was undoubtedly a piece of fantastic news for Han Li, who was about to return to the Immortal Realm.

Only at this point did the phenomena taking place in the area gradually subside, and even the erupting volcano slowly settled down again.

However, it was going to take some more time before the fire sweeping through the forest burned itself out.

Hundreds of kilometers away, all of the vagrant cultivators hovering in mid-air were looking up with awe-struck expressions, at a complete loss for what to do.

The white-robed young man's back was already drenched in cold sweat, and he murmured in a bewildered voice, "Is... Is it over?"

"Perhaps..." the thin elderly man replied with a rather hesitant expression.

Standing atop the snowy mountain, there was no hint of elation on Han Li's face. Instead, he wore a rather solemn expression, as if he were preparing for an ordeal.

Only he knew that the true test had only just begun.

In the instant that he had attained a True Extreme Body, the rejection from this realm had already begun to act upon him, applying immense pressure to try and banish him from this realm.

At this moment, he felt as if even the air circulation around him had become extremely sluggish, and even his breathing was slightly hampered, as if he had fallen into a swamp.

This force of rejection wasn't unfamiliar to him. Back when he was ascending to the Immortal Realm in the Spirit Realm, he had briefly felt the same thing, but at the time, he was too busy dealing with the lightning tribulation to bask in the sensation.

He took a deep breath as he made a hand seal, then began to chant an incantation.

A faint buzzing sound rang out as dozens of bursts of light appeared around him in unison. Bursts of rich spiritual power surged out of the spirit stones embedded into the tops of the surrounding stone pillars, then flowed into the array along the patterns on the pillars.

The runes that were engraved onto the ground and the stone pillars instantly lit up, quickly forming an extremely intricate and complex array that was glowing with silver radiance.

This array was known as the Spatial Spirit Pattern Array, and it was a spatial array that he had found in an ancient array tome in the Origin Realm Temple's scripture library.

Even though the array wasn't capable of directly shattering space, it could clear away part of the spatial resistance that he was going to encounter, and that was going to be very helpful to him.

Dozens of pillars of silver light erupted into the heavens from the snowy mountain in unison, piercing straight into the dark clouds up above.

In the instant that the pillars of light erupted into the dark clouds, they instantly transformed into a giant vortex that revolved rapidly around the pillars of light, and the surrounding wind and snow were also swept up into a frenzy.

Thick bolts of lightning began to twist and churn incessantly around the pillars of light like a series of dark blue wyrms while releasing bursts of dull rumbling.

The vagrant cultivators who were watching from afar were greatly alarmed to see this, and they immediately retreated even further away for fear of any further perilous phenomena arising from the scene that they were witnessing. This time, they retreated all the way back to close to 1,000 kilometers away, and only then did they draw to a halt.

Right at this moment, Han Li stood up within the array, then released dozens of streaks of black light out of his sleeve with a flick of his wrist. This was a batch of close to 100 Starmoon Mirrors, and all of them flew toward the surrounding pillars of light.

These Starmoon Mirrors possessed spatial power, and in order to refine them, not only had he exhausted the Heavenly Ghost Sect's entire supply of Yin Dawn Stones, he had even used up all of the Yin Dawn Stones that he had acquired from Tong Ren'e's storage bag.

Upon flying into the pillars of light, the Starmoon Mirrors rose directly upward before vanishing into the dark clouds.

Han Li made a string of hand seals while chanting an incantation, and all of a sudden, blue light flashed within his eyes as he let loose an explosive cry.

A string of earth-shattering booms instantly rang out in rapid succession, and boundless silver starlight exploded in the heavens, forming a silver screen of light that opened up a vast area of silver radiance within the vortex of dark clouds.

Right at this moment, Han Li's entire body began to glow, and he sprang up into the air, flying directly upward toward that glowing silver area.

Inside the vortex was a vast expanse of chaos, and gray mist filled the entire area. Thousands of gray spatial rifts of different shapes and lengths were scattered haphazardly throughout the glowing silver area, presenting an extremely unstable sight to behold.

Han Li swept his gaze over the area to find that small blades of gray light would occasionally fly out of these spatial rifts.

As soon as the surrounding dark clouds came into contact with these blades of light, they would be instantly shredded, and even a bolt of lightning that was struck by one of the blades of light was instantly sliced into two.

As more and more of these blades of gray light appeared, the glowing silver area that had been opened up by boundless starlight was also being eroded, and it was shrinking rapidly at a rate that was discernible even to the naked eye.

The dark clouds were beginning to swallow up the vast expanse of silver radiance, and Han Li didn't hesitate any longer upon seeing this. He immediately let loose a low roar, and dazzling golden light erupted from his body as he rapidly swelled in size, transforming into a giant golden ape that was several hundred feet tall in the blink of an eye.

The giant ape took a deep breath, and a gash appeared on its glabella, out of which a cloud of black qi surged forth, and an inky-black eye abruptly appeared.

Black light flashed deep within the pupil of the eye, and a thin thread of black light was released.

As soon as the thread of black light emerged, it immediately transformed into a thick pillar of black light, which vanished into thin air in a flash.

However, in the next instant, a burst of rumbling suddenly rang out from deep within the vortex of dark clouds.

Immediately thereafter, the entire sky suddenly fell still. It was as if this entire space had been frozen in time, and even the swirling dark clouds and the surrounding wind and snow had become completely stationary.

Deep within the vortex, an indistinct wall of gray light that was around 100 feet in size and extremely irregular in shape emerged within the dark clouds.

Blue light flashed within the giant ape's eyes, and it raised its arms, upon which two bursts of dazzling silver light appeared on its enormous fists. A pair of gauntlets that were tipped with a series of white bone spikes emerged, enveloping both of its fists.

The giant ape then let loose a thunderous roar before drawing upon its reserves of magic power, and countless threads of golden light instantly emerged from its body before flowing into the silver gauntlets along its arms.

The gauntlets instantly began to glow with bright silver light, and they expanded to around twice their original size.

At the same time, seven radiant balls of blue light appeared on the giant ape's chest and abdomen, and the muscles all over its entire body bulged even further, while its arms abruptly thickened considerably.

Immediately thereafter, it raised a fist before throwing a vicious punch at the gray wall of light.

A burst of silver light erupted out of its fist, then rapidly expanded as it surged through the air, transforming into a projection of a silver wyrm's head that was around the size of a house before plunging deep into the vortex.

A resounding boom rang out, and the entire sky trembled violently. A string of loud cracks akin to the sound of a shattering mirror rang out from the gray wall of light deep within the vortex, and a series of cracks appeared at its center before quickly spreading over its entire surface.

Even so, the gray wall of light still didn't shatter. Instead, the glowing gray area that was being supported by starlight crumbled amid the violent tremors.

The dark clouds that had fallen still began to churn ferociously once again, and the countless gray spatial rifts gradually expanded as they converged toward the giant ape.

The giant ape immediately picked up the pace upon seeing this, rushing over to the gray wall of light after just a few flashes in a wraith-like manner.

It then drew upon its magic power once again, and golden light surged over its arms as a layer of golden scales emerged from beneath its fur. At the same time, its muscles quickly bulged even further, and the seven profound apertures on its chest and abdomen also began to glow brightly, as did its Heaven Piercing Gauntlets.

A silver dragon's head projection appeared on the gauntlet, and it was accompanied by a low draconic roar.

The giant golden ape let loose a thunderous roar as it slammed its fist into the gray wall of light, and a resounding boom rang out as the bone spikes on its right gauntlets instantly shattered upon impact, while the projection of the draconic head and the gauntlet itself exploded in unison.

A scintillating silver sun abruptly appeared in the night sky, releasing blinding light that engulfed virtually the entire wall of gray light.

Immediately thereafter, a crisp crack rang out, and an opening that was around 10 feet in length finally appeared on the wall of gray light, revealing a murky gray space beyond it.

At the same time, the rift released a burst of extraordinarily powerful spatial fluctuations, the ferocity of which Han Li had never felt before.

Golden light flashed over the giant ape's body as it quickly reverted back into its human form, then flew into the opening in a flash.

As soon as Han Li entered through the opening, the dozen or so spatial rifts and the dark clouds behind him devoured the wall of gray light.

Several seconds later, the silver pillars of light on the snowy mountain peak gradually faded, and the vortex of dark clouds in the sky also dissipated, while the spatial rifts that had been left behind slowly sealed over again.

The storm of wind and snow resumed, and aside from the howling of the wind, everything was peaceful and quiet again.

Chapter 80: Strange Bubbles

Streams of light of different colors were surging throughout the area in a violent and chaotic fashion, forming enormous waves that were constantly crashing into one another amid deafening booms.

Occasionally, a series of white spatial rifts would emerge within the waves of light, releasing astonishing suction force and a high-pitched droning sound.

Even almighty Grand Ascension cultivators or high-grade demon beasts with near indestructible physical bodies had to exercise the utmost caution when traversing through this space. Even the slightest lapse in concentration could result complete destruction of one's body and soul, not only putting an end to one's life, but also robbing them of a chance at reincarnation.

This was the interrealm gap!

At this moment, Han Li was like a non-swimmer who had suddenly been thrown into a raging and turbulent sea.

He had already anticipated that the interrealm gap was going to be an extremely perilous place that would be exceedingly difficult to traverse through, but this was still quite an astonishing sight to him.

The spatial storm that was raging throughout the surrounding area was countless times more powerful than the one he had endured during his ascension from the Human Realm to the Spirit Realm.

If it weren't for the fact that he had already attained a True Extreme Body and taken countless pills, as well as practiced countless cultivation arts that enhanced his physical constitution, he would've most likely been completely pulverized in the instant that he entered this space.

His entire body was already encased within a suit of antiquated white bone armor. It was the Exquisite Eight Treasures Bone Armor that he had refined using countless precious treasures from the Spirit Domain Realm, but even so, he was swaying unsteadily under the influence of the enormous suction force acting upon him from all directions.magic

He took a deep breath, and dazzling white light erupted from the suit of bone armor as all of the umbrellas, shields, and other images on its surface lit up in unison. At the same time, a sharp screeching sound rang out, and all of the images projected themselves before revolving around Han Li.

These projections revolved around him momentarily before fusing as one to form an extremely substantial protective barrier that encompassed his entire body. The protective barrier was giving off radiant white light, and it was keeping out some of the violent spatial fluctuations in the surrounding area.

Only then was Han Li able to steady himself, and he gave a pleased nod as he inspected his suit of bone armor.

This suit of Exquisite Eight Treasures Bone Armor had been refined specifically to deal with the spatial storm in the interrealm gap, and he had carefully selected all of the materials used. Several of the main materials, such as the Exquisite Eight Treasures Jade, all possessed spatial attributes, and the suit of armor was certainly living up to his expectations thus far.

Blue light flashed several times within his eyes, following which he proceeded forward as a streak of light.

The surrounding spatial storm surged toward him in waves, only to be kept out by the suit of Exquisite Eight Treasures Bone Armor.

However, around 15 minutes later, his brows furrowed slightly with concern once again.

Even though he was well protected by the suit of bone armor, the progress that he was making through the spatial storm was agonizingly slow. At this point, he estimated that he had only advanced around 50 kilometers.

Under normal circumstances, this wouldn't have been a cause for concern in itself. After all, this was a brittle spatial node between the two realms, and even if progress were slow, he would eventually reach the Immortal Realm so long as he continued to advance. However, he could clearly sense that the

spiritual power imbued within the suit of bone armor was being rapidly exhausted as it withstood the spatial storm.

"I wanted to save some energy to deal with any potential unforeseen circumstances, but it looks like I can't hold back any longer," Han Li murmured to himself after a moment of contemplation.

In the next instant, dazzling rainbow light that was as bright as the sun erupted from his entire body.

A clear phoenix cry rose directly up into the heavens as he transformed into a giant bird that was several hundred feet in length.

This was none other than the Heavenly Phoenix form in his 12 Awakening Transformations.

The Exquisite Eight Treasures Bone Armor disassembled itself, transforming into a series of bone plates that adhered to various parts of the Heavenly Phoenix's body, but the white light barrier wasn't affected at all.

The Heavenly Phoenix spread its wings and transformed into a rainbow-colored shadow that sped directly forward at a speed that was countless times faster than before.

The spatial storm continued to converge from all directions, but as soon as it came into contact with the Heavenly Phoenix, a burst of rainbow light would instantly erupt from its body to divert the spatial storm away.

The Heavenly Phoenix possessed the ability to manipulate space, so it was like a fish in water in this spatial storm.

A hint of excitement appeared in the Heavenly Phoenix's eyes, and it let loose a long cry before accelerating even further, traversing rapidly through the boundless spatial storm up ahead.

Time slowly passed by. There were no days or nights in the interrealm gap, but by Han Li's estimates, roughly a day had already passed by.

During this day, he had encountered many close calls, and it felt longer and more arduous than even an entire year.

Not only were there spatial storms in the interrealm gap, there were also other unforeseen dangers lurking in the shadows, including even a type of strange living being that inhabited the area and had attacked him on several occasions.

Thankfully, he was able to spot these dangers in advance with his Brightsight Spirit Eyes, and that, coupled with the spatial manipulation abilities of the Heavenly Phoenix, allowed him to escape unscathed every time.

At this point, the rainbow light around the Heavenly Phoenix's body had already become significantly dimmer than before, and there was also a hint of weariness in its eyes.

Maintaining this form for an extended period of time was very physically taxing for Han Li, but what was even more concerning to him was the suit of bone armor that he was wearing.

A series of cracks had already appeared on the armor's surface, and all that remained of the white protective barrier around him was only a thin layer that was less than a third as potent as it had been at its peak.

"If I had known this would happen, I would've spent some more time to refine another treasure," Han Li murmured to himself with a wry smile, but he quickly banished that thought from his mind.

At this point, it was already too late to turn back, so there was no point in crying over spilled milk.

He took a deep breath, and the rainbow light around his body brightened as he accelerated once again.

Shortly thereafter, his eyes suddenly lit up as he caught sight of a speck of white light amid the spatial storm up ahead.

It was only a very faint speck of light, but it stood like an unyielding beacon amid a storm of chaos and murky grayness.

Could it be...

A possibility sprang into Han Li's mind, and he reflexively accelerated even further, flying rapidly toward the speck of white light.

The more he advanced, the brighter the speck of white light became, and an inexplicable yet regal aura was emanating from within, as if an extremely sacred place laid beyond it.

This was an aura that Han Li had felt before. It was the aura of the Immortal Realm!

"Finally..." Han Li heaved a long sigh of relief and excitement.

Thankfully, his luck wasn't too terrible. Otherwise, if this suit of Exquisite Eight Treasures Bone Armor were to be shattered, he wouldn't have been able to withstand the spatial storms within the interrealm gap with his physical body alone.

Even though he was already feeling quite exhausted, he was reinvigorated by the sight that greeted him up ahead.

As long as he could return to the Immortal Realm, he would be able to find the organization that was offering a reward for his capture, and it would only be a matter of time before he uncovered the events that led to his amnesia and the severe injuries that he had sustained.

After flying forward for a while longer, Han Li suddenly began to slow down as a befuddled look appeared in his eyes.

A massive yellow object that was several hundred kilometers in size was hovering amid the spatial turbulence not far up ahead, and it bore the appearance of an enormous bubble.

The turbulent spatial storm was instantly repelled as soon as it came into contact with the giant bubble, unable to harm it in the slightest.

Furthermore, Han Li could just barely make out something residing within the mysterious bubble, and a layer of blue light emerged within his eyes as he focused his gaze on the bubble, but his brows then quickly furrowed slightly.

There was some type of peculiar force that was obstructing his view, and even his Brightsight Spirit Eyes were unable to see through the bubble.

A hint of curiosity welled up in Han Li's heart, but he immediately shook his head.

The bubble was a very strange entity, and he was far from peak condition right now, so it was best to stay out of trouble as much as possible and prioritize getting to the Immortal Realm.

With that in mind, the Heavenly Phoenix spread its wings, then altered its flight trajectory so that it could skirt around the yellow bubble.

Right at this moment, the spatial storm around him began to churn violently.

All of a sudden, a burst of enormous force sprang out of the spatial storm before crashing viciously into the Heavenly Phoenix.

What was that?

The power imbued within the burst of force was not inferior to that of an all-out attack from him.

The Heavenly Phoenix was instantly sent careening to the side before crashing involuntarily into the yellow bubble.

The yellow bubble was able to repel the surrounding spatial storm with ease, but not only was the Heavenly Phoenix not repelled, it sank into the bubble without any resistance.

Han Li felt as if the world were spinning all around him, and only after flapping his wings vigorously several times was he able to just barely steady himself.

The burst of force that had crashed into him had been extremely powerful, but it wasn't enough to harm him in his current state.

After stabilizing himself, he quickly inspected his surroundings, and he was quite surprised by what he saw.

This was an extremely peaceful yellow world. The violent spatial turbulence outside had completely vanished, and yellow light was permeating through the air. Down below was a landmass that was several hundred kilometers in size, resembling an island.

The world's origin qi within this yellow space was extremely abundant, hundreds of times more so than even the best spirit regions in the Spirit Domain Realm. The island was riddled with lush forestry, and all of the trees growing on the island looked to be at least 1,000 years old.

There were also many spirit ingredients interspersed throughout the forest, all of which were at least several thousand years old. There were also many spirit medicines that were in excess of 10,000 years of age, and most of them were species that he didn't recognize.

This was an island that was riddled with treasures!

After a brief moment of contemplation, Han Li returned to his human form amid a flash of rainbow light, then flipped a hand to summon a blue pill that he promptly swallowed.

This pill was called the Heavenly Star Pill, and it was a secret pill of the Origin Realm Temple that was refined using several types of spirit medicines capable of absorbing starpower. For someone like him, who had cultivated the Big Dipper Origin Arts, it was the ideal recovery pill.

The Heavenly Star Pill quickly dissolved into a surge of warmth that flowed throughout his entire body, filling his exhausted body with a burst of vitality that facilitated rapid recovery.

Instead of immediately descending to the ground, Han Li activated his Brightsight Spirit Eyes and began to carefully inspect his surroundings.

He couldn't shake the feeling that someone or something had intentionally launched that burst of force at him to propel him into the yellow bubble.

Right at this moment, an earth-shattering roar rang out from down below.

The entire island trembled violently as a gargantuan yellow cloud rose up from the forest before flying toward Han Li like lightning, reaching him in the blink of an eye.

A massive figure that seemed to belong to a giant could just barely be made out within the yellow cloud.

An enormous yellow fist was launched out of the yellow cloud. The skin on the fist was yellow and withered like extremely coarse tree roots.

As soon as the fist emerged, it crashed directly toward Han Li with incredibly fearsome power, and even before the fist reached Han Li, the space around him was already beginning to ripple violently.

Han Li's pupils contracted slightly as he let loose a low roar, and seven specks of blue light emerged on his chest and abdomen as he activated his Big Dipper Origin Arts to its fullest extent.

Faint starlight began to emanate from his entire body, and seven thick bands of starlight wrapped themselves around him as he retaliated with a punch of his own.

The surrounding space exploded violently, sending shockwaves that were visible to the naked eye surging through the air.

After achieving full mastery of the Big Dipper Origin Arts, this punch from Han Li was able to rival the golden giant in power even without taking on his Giant Mountain Ape form.

The two fists collided with an earth-shattering boom, and the surrounding space warped violently as bursts of devastating shockwaves swept through the air, proliferating outward as gusts of ferocious wind.

Han Li was sent flying back by the impact and flew all the way back for several thousand feet before just barely managing to steady himself.

Inside the yellow cloud, the giant was also stopped cold in its tracks and forced to stumble back a couple of steps to absorb the force of the impact.

Immediately thereafter, the yellow cloud around the giant was blown apart by the gusts of fierce wind, thereby revealing the creature inside.