

I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot

Chapter 11: Sword Demon Is Here!

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The disciples of the Wanjian Immortal Sect looked up at the strange vision in the sky and exclaimed excitedly.

“Sect Master’s had a breakthrough!”

“He has reached the Out of Aperture realm! There are lower chances of us losing when fighting the Sword Demon tomorrow!”

“A breakthrough the night before the duel! God bless us!”

From the lowest to highest, the different realms of cultivation were Qi Refining, Foundation Building, Golden Core, Yuan Ying, Out of Aperture, Distraction, Combination, Cross Tribulation, and Mahayana.

Only a cultivator at the realm of Yuan Ying and above would be considered strong and powerful enough to lead a sect. Most that ranked above Yuan Ying were monsters that rarely came out.

Throughout the night, an oppressive air lingered above the Wanjian Immortal Sect, making it difficult to breathe. The elderly man stood stationary, transfixed in the same spot with his body upright, looking like a longsword from afar.

At the first ray of sunlight, a black shadow descended from the sky.

“A last-minute breakthrough! Interesting! Wanjian Immortal Sect, Bai Wuchen, your name’s worthy to be remembered by Deity.”

The Sword Demon...had arrived!

Sizz!

It was as if the black sword in the ground had been summoned. It rose into the sky and lingered at the feet of the Sword Demon.

With a solemn expression, Bai Wuchen raised his hand to unsheathe the longsword from his back and flew into the sky toward his opponent. He did not seem confident. Though he had a last-minute breakthrough, his chances of winning were still slim.

“Imperial Flying Sword, Moon Style!”

Bai Wuchen stood on the longsword with his feet. Instantly, he was transformed into an arch, exuding strong Sword Qi. It was as if the sky was a big white sheet, powerfully split by Bai Wuchen launching toward the Sword Demon.

A glint of excitement flashed through the Sword Demon’s eyes. He used his fingers as a sword and pointed toward the sky. Following his gesture, a gigantic phantom sword appeared behind him, exuding a destructive aura that pierced through the air. Even the disciples who watched from afar could feel the sharp pain on their cheeks.

“Cut the air!”

The two opposing Sword Intent crashed into one another, swirling the Qi in the air and blasting like a clap of muffled thunder.

The disciples that watched the duel could not keep up with their speedy movements. All they could see was constant flashing in the sky with countless Sword Intents piercing through the air, damaging the surrounding trees and mountains.

The fight did not last for long. Loud laughter was heard coming from the Sword Demon, as the Fallen Demon Sword under his feet emitted a layer of black smoke, viciously engulfing and dominating Bai Wuchen.

Sizz!

The Autumn Water Sword in his hand broke into two and a scar appeared on his chest. The wound was turning black...

“Argh!”

Bai Wuchen spat out a mouthful of blood. His body fell from mid-air. As he was falling, a paper scroll fell out from his pocket, free-falling with him.

“Hahaha! My swordsmanship is truly undefeatable! I’ll destroy the Wanjian Immortal Sect today!” the Sword Demon declared proudly.

Bai Wuchen’s face turned pale. He looked at the scroll and said bitterly, “What a shame. If only I had three more days to study this drawing, I could’ve attained a tenth of the Sword Intent from the drawing and I wouldn’t have been defeated.”

“What’re you saying?” the Sword Demon scoffed. “Nobody in the world has better swordsmanship than I do! Nobody!”

The Sword Demon followed his gaze and his eyes landed on the drawing. In an instant, it was as if he was struck by lightning. A wild wave of Sword Intent exuded from him, cutting the trees around him into halves.

“What in the world is this Sword Intent? How could there be such a strong Sword Intent!? It’s not real, it’s a fake!” The Sword Demon’s face darkened. He picked up the drawing, which instantly vanished into powder.

“What did you do!” Bai Wuchen cried out in agony, panting heavily. Watching the drawing being destroyed felt much worse than being killed by the Sword Demon!

The Sword Demon glared at all the disciples with his red, murderous eyes. “The Sword Intent in this drawing is crooked! My Sword Intent is unbeatable! Who’s the painter? I’m going to kill him!” His cold and murderous tone froze everyone with terror.

Bai Luoshuang’s face turned pale instantly. The image of a gentleman appeared in her mind. Biting her lip, she walked forward and said coldly, “You’re the crooked one! To me, you’re nothing close to the person who drew this! He’ll destroy you with a finger!”

“What’re you saying?” The Sword Demon raised his hand, and instantly, Bai Luoshuang’s body floated mid-air, strangled by an invisible force. “Do you know where he is? Bring me there, I’m going to kill him.”

“Fine,” Bai Luoshuang said through her gritted teeth.

She was not concerned about the safety of Li Nianfan. To her, the Sword Demon was no match, not even to Blackie. She was only afraid that the expert might blame her for bringing the demon over. However, she had no choice now. If the expert was upset by her, she would not hesitate to kill herself as an apology.

It was funny... If Li Nianfan had any idea who Bai Luoshuang was about to bring to him, he would have cursed loudly and ran away at once!

...

The Sword Demon held Bai Luoshuang captive as they flew over to the mountain where Li Nianfan resided while Bai Wuchen and his wife followed swiftly behind. The pace they traveled at was way faster than the pace Bai Luoshuang and her two Seniors traveled at yesterday. They arrived at the four-part architecture in less than an hour.

The Sword Demon declared with a deadly glow in his eyes, "I, the Sword Demon is here. Get out of your house and face me!"

However, he was answered by prolonged silence.

Bai Luoshuang's heart sank and her pretty face turned pale in fear. She had run through many possibilities, including one where the expert decided not to help them at all. However, the one possibility she did not come across was the possibility that he was not at home!

She called out, “Mr. Li, are you home?”

No response.

He was not home indeed.

They knew well enough that the Sword Demon would start killing violently in the next instance. Both Bai Luoshuang and Bai Wuzhen felt a sense of sadness and sombreness.

“Hahaha! So this is the so-called expert you were talking about? It seems that he saw me coming and ran away in fear!” the Sword Demon laughed arrogantly.

“Since the coward ran away, I’ll destroy his residence!” He scoffed coldly as he held the Fallen Demon Sword in his hand. In an instant, the Spiritual Qi between the sky and the ground converged out of thin air, forming a long black beam of light. The sword light tilted slightly and was just about to fall upon the four-part architecture, slicing it into halves!

“Please, stop!” Bai Luoshuang cried out in panic, her tears almost rolling down her cheeks.

She was already guilty for bringing the Sword Demon here. If he destroyed the building, she could never face Li Nianfan ever again...

Shriek!

Right as the sword light was about to touch the architecture, a loud bird cry resonated in the air. The jade pendant hanging at the front porch of the house emitted a crimson light, glaring brightly against the black light emitted by the sword!

Instantly, the black light vanished into thin air, like snow melting by a raging fire. Yet, the red light emitted by the jade pendant did not dissipate. Instead, a pair of huge wings appeared out from the jade. As its wings stretched out, a gigantic bird rose majestically from burning flames and into the sky. Its golden feathers and the raging fire around it made it difficult for one to look directly at it. Wherever it flew, it left a trail of flames in its path.

“This, this is...a phoenix?!”

Chapter 12: I Am A Demon Sword

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As soon as the flaming phoenix appeared, the temperature rose significantly as the sky was covered in flames.

Everyone was awestruck by its majestic appearance, unable to move.

“Argh! I’ll kill you!” the Sword Demon roared, his demonic Qi boiling in flames. However, compared to the phoenix, it was like comparing a candle’s flame to a bright moon. The phoenix spread its wings without even looking at the Sword Demon and with one casual sweep of its tail, a monstrous flame engulfed the Sword Demon. In an instant, the Sword Demon vanished into thin air.

Tada!

The Fallen Demon Sword fell from the sky as the Sword Demon dissipated into vapor. The phoenix returned to the jade pendant and things returned to their normal state as if it was all just a dream.

Szzzzz...

Bai Wuchen and the other two stared at the scene with their eyes wide like saucers, beads of sweat dripping uncontrollably. They were extremely frightened.

“Sword Demon...is dead?” the woman stuttered as she licked her dry lips.

Who would have thought that the Sword Demon who slaughtered thousands of people would die just like this? And that he was silently defeated in this unknown mountain and gone without a trace!

“Expert! A peerless expert!” Bai Wuchen mused, his voice trembling. “Luoshuang, you’re right. It’s fate that we get to meet an expert like this! But it’s a pity that the drawing he gave you was destroyed. I hope he’s not mad at us,” Bai Wuzhen said worriedly.

If the expert was offended, a simple blow of his breath could easily destroy the entire Wanjian Immortal Sect.

Bai Luoshuang recovered from the shock. She could not fathom a world with the existence of such an expert. It was the Sword Demon! And he did not even have to be here to defeat it!

A terrifying bigshot.

“Dad, I doubt so. The drawing was just a draft he sketched. He gave it to us without a second thought,” Bai Luoshuang reasoned.

“A draft?” Bai Wuchen halted slightly and reasoned bitterly. “Right, the drawing was like the utmost treasure to us, but to an expert like him, it’s probably nothing. Perhaps he was just doodling.”

Both Bai Wuzhen and his wife were in awe of this expert and they respected him indefinitely. To them, he was either an Immortal from above or a powerful reincarnation. Either way, they could not afford to offend him and must try their best to please him

As the Fallen Demon Sword landed on the ground, Bai Luoshuang sized up the sword in curiosity.

“Don’t touch it!” Bai Wuzhen called out anxiously. “The Fallen Demon Sword is demonic. Although it can improve the strength of its user, it will drive its user crazy and turn him into a murderous creature!”

Recalling the demented look on the Sword Demon, she retracted her hand instinctively.

The woman added, “Luoshuang, the Sword Demon was killed by the expert here, so this sword is his trophy. We cannot touch it without his permission.”

Bai Wuchen agreed, “That’s right!”

“But, will Mr. Li be affected by this sword?” Bai Luoshuang asked, concerned.

“Hahaha! Who do you think he is? How would a mere Fallen Demon Sword have any effect on him?” Bai Wuchen laughed. “When the expert returns, we’ll have to thank him sincerely.”

The woman pondered for a moment. “Senior, the fact that we came without an invitation might offend him. It doesn’t seem right to stay here. Perhaps we should go home and come back again with a gift to thank him.”

“You’re right,” Bai Wuchen nodded in agreement.

Their hearts were overwhelmed with fear and respect for this expert. They could not afford to do anything that might offend him. Today was indeed not the best time.

With that, they did not dare to linger any longer and immediately flew away with swords under their feet.

Moments later, Li Nianfan and Blackie walked out of the forest. Li Nianfan had a wild rabbit in his hand while Blackie carried a sika deer in his mouth. With a pile of firewood tied on his back, the man and his dog returned home triumphantly.

“Huh?”

When Li Nianfan returned, he saw a black sword lying by the gate.

‘Why’s there a black sword here? Did someone come?’ Li Nianfan picked up the sword and checked it out. The sword had a black body with a modern cut. It gave off a quaint vibe.

“Good sword!” LI Nianfan nodded in delight. “It’s sharp and pointy. I’ll use it to cut wood in the future!”

His axe had aged and he was just about to go downtown to buy a new one. This sword came just at the right time!

With that, he walked inside, sword in hand. Suddenly, the longsword in his hand emitted a burst of black light. Demonic energy rushed into his palm.

“Eh?”

Li Nianfan looked at the longsword in surprise as he felt a sense of warmth in his palm.

‘A weapon that heats up? Perhaps this is the so-called Spiritual Treasure in the Immortal Realm!’ Li Nianfan smiled happily, thinking he had just found a valuable piece of treasure!

He completely missed the black energy coming from the body of the Fallen Demon Sword, gradually turning into the shape of a skeleton. However, the skull looked just as confused, its face filled with questions.

‘What’s the matter? I’m sure someone held on to me... Why wasn’t he affected by my demonic power?’

“Young man, do you want to be undefeatable and stand on top of the world?

“Young man, do you want endless wealth and all the beautiful women in the world?

“Young man, do you want to take revenge and walk over the people who have wronged you?”

“...”

‘What!? The three deadly chants did not work? This can’t be! Is he even alive?’ the skull thought in confusion. It seemed to have just encountered the greatest challenge it had ever faced.

In the next moment, it felt itself being picked up by someone and then left in a corner.

“Ah! An ordinary man is leaving me in a corner? Ignorant fool!” the skull scoffed as it slowly transformed into a bigger form. The skull wanted to teach this ordinary man a

lesson with the Fallen Demon Sword, to make society hate him which would then lead him to hold a grudge and eventually, embark on the path of pursuing power.

However, before the skull could do anything, a white ray of light blazed at it.

“Argh!” the skull dissipated.

Long after, it finally reformed again, but this time, much weaker than before.

“What just happened?” It looked at its surroundings in panic before its gaze fixated on a brush lying on top of a desk.

“This, this is...”

A tremor from its soul suddenly surged all over its body. The skull trembled uncontrollably.

‘This brush is countless ranks higher than me!

‘How is that possible?

‘Could it be a Spiritual Machine?’

‘But why would a ruined house like this have a Spiritual Machine? Owned by an ordinary man?’

The skull’s brain buzzed with questions and confusion. However, it quickly adjusted its mentality and was ready to continue its plan.

“All I have to do is to go round this brush!” The skull was more determined this time. Controlling the Fallen Demon Sword, it tried to move around the brush.

“I’m a Sword Demon. I don’t have feelings. I don’t believe I can’t control an ordinary man.”

However, another white light blazed at him.

“Argh!”

The skull disappeared yet again.

Chapter 13: The Holy Emperor Is Impressed

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Slowly, the skull condensed into a faint layer, lingering on the sword's body. It could vanish anytime.

"What's the matter!?" The skull was disappointed. It looked around in a daze.

"This, this is...a checkerboard?

"No, this isn't an ordinary checkerboard. Could this be another Immortal Machine?

"Damn it!"

The skull called out in rage, "Is he really an ordinary man? I don't care anymore. Once I gain control of this ordinary man, these will all belong to me!"

Though it had just suffered two consecutive blows, the skull was still confident at controlling this ordinary man. It cautiously went around the checkerboard. The door was not far from it.

One step at a time, the skull was getting closer and closer to the door.

Suddenly, a gold ray of light glared at him, forcing it back like an enchantment.

“What now?”

The skull knew it would not be easy to get through that door. It took a closer look and saw a bookshelf beside it with a yellowish book. Printed on it were two words in bold—Ranga Sutra.

Rays of gold light emitted from the surface of the book, its divine glow trapping the skull from leaving.

“This is...” The skull looked at the sutra in a daze. It seemed like an ordinary book!

However, the golden light transformed into the shape of a bald monk. When the monk saw the skull, his expression changed and he clasped his hands together. With a tone full of pity, he said, “Amitabha, the benefactor is too devilish. Why not put down your knife and take refuge in Buddha?”

“Who’re you kidding! I want to kill you!” The skull raised its hand and a ray of Sword Qi lashed at the monk’s head.

The monk’s expression changed again. He said coldly, “You’re making a fool of yourself! Heavenly Dragon, Blessed Jizo, Prajna Buddha, Prajba Makong!”

Instantly, the gold rays spread across the space. It sounded as if countless monks were chanting the scripture that drowned the Sword Demon completely. The golden rays lashed toward it, penetrating the Fallen Demon Sword. It did not take long before everything returned to normal.

Squeak!

Li Nianfan pushed the door open. “I’m sure I heard something coming from in here.” He glanced around the room and saw the Fallen Demon Sword leaning by the door. He halted slightly and mumbled, “Hmm, I remember putting it in the corner. Why’s it here now? What a treasure, it can even move!”

Li Nianfan smiled and placed the sword back in the corner once again.

“Treasure your arse! I’m rubbish compared to what you have in this room. Please, let me go!” the Demon Sword called out. However damned it might be, it already figured by now that Li Nianfan was not an ordinary man. He was likely some supernatural bigshot that came out to roleplay as an ordinary man.

“I was told that bigshots love using the world as their chessboard to play around. Have I become his chosen chess piece?” The Demon Sword trembled. “I don’t want to be your chess piece! Please, let me go! Also, get me out of here! These monks are driving me crazy with their chanting!”

Unfortunately, the sword was sealed by the monk so that it could not speak anymore.

Of course, Li Nianfan did not hear the cries of the Demon Sword. He was busy thinking about how the inner court lacked vitality. He thought he could plant something, but sadly, he did not manage to find a suitable plant when he was wandering around the forest earlier in the afternoon. Perhaps he could find an opportunity to ask Luo Shiyu. Since she was a cultivator, she should be able to bring some bonsai plants over. After all, he did make her dinner and gave her an amazing strategy, a bonsai plant was not too much to ask for, right? She seemed nice anyway. He hoped she would not reject.

Little did he know that meanwhile, at the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, the Holy Emperor was in his study room frowning furiously.

Smack!

He tossed the notice and slammed on his desk angrily. “Outrageous! This is outrageous! Am I the Holy Emperor, or he is the Holy Emperor?!”

The surrounding eunuchs bowed with their heads down. None of them dared to breathe nor make a sound.

Cluck, cluck, cluck.

A eunuch walked toward the study room in a rush. “Your Holy Emperor, the Princess and the Empress would like to meet you.”

“What’re they doing here?” the Holy Emperor halted. “Let them in.”

Luo Shiyu and Zhong Xiu walked in hastily. They greeted in unison, “Your Holy Emperor.”

“Shiyu, why did the two of you come?” the Holy Emperor asked. His brows relaxed a little as he looked at Luo Shiyu with a glint of love and guilt. She was his first daughter and also his favorite. All he wanted was for her to live a happy life, yet he had no authority to do so even as the Holy Emperor.

“Your Holy Emperor, we heard your agitation from outside. What happened?” Zhong Xiu asked.

“Duan Muzhen had the guts to mention the marriage of his son to Shiyu. Is he forcing me to marry off my daughter? How outrageous!” The Holy Emperor growled in a low voice.

Zhong Xiu and Luo Shiyu exchanged a look and let out a sigh simultaneously. They did not expect Duan Muzhen to be so rampant. Luckily, they were advised by the expert, or else the situation would have been bad.

Zhong Xiu smiled. “Your Holy Emperor shouldn’t worry too much. It might not be a bad thing that Duan Muzhen seems impatient.”

“Care to share your thoughts?” The Holy Emperor was slightly stunned.

For the sake of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, he had no choice but to agree to the Nation Master’s proposal of the marriage between Luo Shiyu and his son. For this reason, Luo Shiyu argued with him when she found out. Zhong Xiu did not seem pleased about this arrangement either, but they had no choice.

What changed their minds?

Surprisingly, Luo Shiyu smiled at him. “Father Emperor, you can relax now and agree to Duan Muzhen’s proposal.”

“You’re asking me to relax?” the Holy Emperor asked in shock and disbelief. “Have you fallen for Duan Muzhen’s son?”

Luo Shiyu scoffed instinctively. “Ew, I’d rather die than marry that douche!”

“Then, what are you doing?” The Holy Emperor was confused.

Luo Shiyu exclaimed with a sparkle in her eye, “Father Emperor, I have a solution.”

“Really?” The Holy Emperor was delighted, but after a second thought, he frowned. “If you have a solution, why’d you ask me to accept his proposal, then?”

“Father Emperor, we could...”

Luo Shiyu explained to him the solution that Li Nianfan proposed.

“Brilliant. This is brilliant!” the Holy Emperor exclaimed. He felt as if the dark clouds had lifted, leaving nothing but clear blue skies. With this strategy, not only would the opposing powers wear themselves out, but he could also use this opportunity to strengthen his power! This was a brilliant idea!

The Holy Emperor looked at Luo Shiyu lovingly. “Well, this is such a humbling task for you.”

The task not only required the Holy Emperor to allow his daughter to marry the son of Duan Muzhen, but Luo Shiyu also had to seduce the son of the Prime Minister. This was quite a humbling task.

“I’ll be fine. Both of them are douches anyway. It’d actually be fun to teach them a lesson!” Luo Shiyu smirked playfully.

She was confident with herself. Be it the son of the Nation Master or the son of the Prime Minister, the way they looked at her was pretty obvious. She was confident they would be eating out the palm of her hand!

This feeling was awesome!

“Hahaha! Shiyu, I’m always so fond of you. Look at you, you’ve just solved my problem!” The Holy Emperor laughed in joy. He was very pleased.

Luo Shiyu smiled awkwardly. “Father Emperor, to be honest, this wasn’t my idea. An expert was the one who told me the solution.”

“An expert? What a talented man! Very talented indeed. He must be called upon to the Immortal Dynasty right away. I’ll reward him handsomely!” the Holy Emperor said eagerly.

However, Luo Shiyu smiled bitterly. “Father Emperor, I’m afraid he might not be impressed.”

The Holy Emperor frowned in anger. “What arrogance! Does he think he’s an Immortal?”

Luo Shiyu could not help recall the disdainful smile on Li Nianfan’s face. He even looked down on the Immortals!

Zhong Xiu could not help adding in, “Your Holy Emperor, this man is a hidden expert. I’m afraid that...he might actually be an Immortal!”

“What?!” The Holy Emperor jumped up in shock. He knew the Empress would not joke around with these things, so if she said so, then it was very likely to be true.

“Father Emperor, this expert is ingenious!” Luo Shiyu exclaimed, her eyes glowing with respect and adoration. She could not help retelling the story of her first and second encounter with Li Nianfan.

“So...and...then...he...”

After listening to Luo Shiyu’s description, even the Holy Emperor’s heart thumped heavily.

A watermelon that was comparable to Spiritual Fruits? Extremely delicious food? A simple remark that could solve their problem and save the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty?

This was what an Immortal would do. This man was likely to be an Immortal!

“An expert who resides in my territory! I can’t believe this expert’s living in my Ganlong Immortal Dynasty!” the Holy Emperor exclaimed in awe.

At this moment, he was thinking way more than Luo Shiyu. He knew that experts like Li Nianfan were skilled at thinking and planning. One could easily stir things and people. He could easily resolve the Dynasty’s problem, so he could also destroy the entire Dynasty without much effort. Furthermore, he did not even have to show up in person. All he had to do was to say a few words behind the scenes and that would be enough to control the world.

“We cannot offend him. We cannot afford to offend him!” The Holy Emperor concluded with terror. “It’s a blessing to come across an expert like this. We have to do our best to please him.”

Luo Shiyu reassured, “Father Emperor, mum and I are aware of this. The first time I met the expert, I gave him the jade pendant you gave me.”

“You did the right thing,” the Holy Emperor said with approval. “He must’ve been moved by your sincerity during the first meeting and decided to help us out.”

“It was just a jade pendant. It must be nothing to an expert like him. We have to show him more sincerity.”

The Holy Emperor had decided in his mind. However, before he could meet the expert, he had to do some planning.

‘Nation Master and Prime Minister, now that the expert is on my side, you won’t stand a chance!’

Chapter 14: Saving Someone

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He had no visitors in the past few days. Li Nianfan’s life resumed its peace like before.

After filling up his stomach, he went out to the backyard with a fishing rod. The tortoise was laying on a giant stone by the pond, squinting at the sunlight. Watching the seemingly relaxed tortoise, it was apparent that there was no monster in the pond. So where did all the fish go?

Li Nianfan did not give in yet. He was about to give it another try while observing the tortoise. The tortoise was a young one, only half as old as Li Nianfan himself. It opened its eyes slightly, looking up at him before lazily shutting them again.

Li Nianfan smiled and cast his line into the pond.

Smack!

The rod bent into a perfect curve in the air before it landed in the center of the pond precisely. The surface of the pond rippled with waves while the rod sank deeper. The water in the pond was clear like glass. However, if one was inside the pond, one would realize right away that there was not a single fish in there. Even the krill he had just put in had all disappeared. Beneath the water, a huge phantom gradually opened its eyes and glanced at the fish hook floating in front of it. It wiggled its tail before swimming toward the deeper end of the pond, leaving a trail of gold murk along its way.

Half an hour later, Li Nianfan took the fishing rod out of the water. Looking at the empty hook, he seemed unperturbed. He expected this to happen anyway.

“Strange, this is so strange,” Li Nianfan shook his head and mumbled to himself as he looked at the tortoise. “Old tortoise, if only you could speak and tell me what’s going on inside the pond.”

Unfortunately, the tortoise was asleep. It did not even flinch.

Hopelessly, Li Nianfan dusted off the dirt from his pants and left the pond. He had already made up his mind by then. He would never fish from this pond again. If he ever wanted to eat fish, he might as well buy it from the Fallen Immortal Town.

He placed the fishing rod back where it belonged and closed the door. “Blackie, let’s go to town.”

The Fallen Immortal Town was busy as usual. Auntie Zhang was walking around holding Nanan in her hand. She called out when she saw Li Nianfan, “Nanan, Mr. Li is here. Hurry up and thank him for saving you.”

A girl with braided pigtails turned around and looked at Li Nianfan blankly. She did not speak as if she had lost her soul.

Li Nianfan was shocked. “Auntie Zhang, Nanan...”

“Sigh, after being caught by the monster the other day, she’s been behaving like this ever since she woke up. She must have been too terrified that she lost her soul,” Auntie Zhang sighed.

Li Nianfan frowned. He felt a knot in his chest when he recalled the cheerful look that was once on Nanan’s face.

“Auntie Zhang, is there a way to help her?” Li Nianfan asked.

“I’ve asked a few traveling cultivators, but all they said was to accompany and talk to her more. There’s still hope in getting her soul back.” Auntie Zhang hesitated for a while before she pleaded, “Mr. Li, you’re an intellectual. Could you spend some time accompanying Nanan? It might help!”

“I will,” Li Nianfan nodded solemnly. He was determined to help her out.

Auntie Zhang had a basket of eggs in her arm. “Mr. Li, you went away too soon the other day. I wasn’t able to thank you. Please, keep this.”

Li Nianfan shook his head bitterly. “Auntie Zhang, I can’t take this. I really didn’t do much the other day.”

“Mr. Li, you’re too humble. Even the three cultivators spoke highly of you. Since they’re cultivators, they probably won’t appreciate these eggs, but I hope you don’t mind.” With that, Auntie Zhang pushed the basket to him and insisted Li Nianfan keep them.

Li Nianfan had no other choice but to keep them with a bitter smile. After saying farewell to Auntie Zhang and Nanan, he made his way to the fish stall again.

“Sir, can I have two big carps?”

“Hey, Mr. Li,” the owner greeted enthusiastically. “Not buying more krill?”

Li Nianfan shook his head. "I don't know what's wrong with the pond. All the krill went in and never came out."

"What about the tortoise?" the stall owner frowned.

"The tortoise is fine. It comes out every day for sunlight," Li Nianfan answered.

"That's strange," the owner said, sounding confused.

The tortoise was fine, but where did the krill go?

Li Nianfan said nonchalantly, "I'm not going to grow the fish anymore. I'll just buy fish from you in the future."

"Mr. Li, you're right to have come here. I get up early every morning to go fishing at the lake. I can assure you that all my fish here are fresh and delicious!" the owner laughed. "Even the officers from the Immortal Dynasty come here to fight for my fish!"

Li Nianfan was in awe. "Really?"

“Why would I lie to you! Yesterday, the Princess came shopping when she passed by my stall. She said she loves eating fish. The sons of the Prime Minister and Nation Master almost fought in the street because of my fish! All because they were trying to impress the Princess,” the owner said with pride. “They’re all cultivators, yet they like my fish!”

Li Nianfan paused. He knew that Luo Shiyu did that on purpose. No wonder she had not visited him for a while. It seemed that the plan had begun. He was just impressed by how quickly she managed to control the situation. The sons of the Nation Master and Prime Minister seemed rather weak!

Li Nianfan smiled and left the stall. On his way back, he saw that the door to a house that was usually shut was suddenly wide open. A row of maids came out. The sound of someone wailing came from inside the house and everyone had a somber look on their faces. Not long after, the sound of suona was heard on the other side of the road as a horse-cart pulled up. A few men rushed into the house with a coffin. Everyone helped to carry a woman out of the house. She was about to be put into the coffin.

“It seems that Chen Yuanwai’s wife didn’t make it.”

“A body and two lives! So tragic.”

“Chen Yuanwai and his wife are good people. What a pity.”

The crowd shook their heads with sighs. Things like this happened way too frequently. The healthcare standards in the Immortal Realm was not too far off from those in Ancient times, especially during labor. Unless a cultivator was helping out, it was very likely for the labor process to go wrong.

Li Nianfan watched them with a solemn heart. He saw that the woman had her eyes shut. She was barely breathing but she was still perspiring.

Just one look, he could tell that the woman was not dead. She had only fainted.

“Wait up! She’s not dead!” Seeing that they were about to shut the coffin, he rushed forward.

A middle-aged man with a hoarse voice looked at him with his reddened eyes. “Mr. Li, what’re you doing?”

It was a tragic event. If it were not for Li Nianfan’s good reputation, he would have turned his back on him.

“Your wife and son are not dead yet. I can save them!” Li Nianfan said.

“Mr. Li, are you kidding?” the middle-aged man asked.

The midwife beside him looked at Li Nianfan in disbelief, too.

“I’m very sure!” Li Nianfan urged. “Disperse the crowd and find someone to prepare a gauze and oil lamp. I’ll save them now. Time’s running out.”

Due to the critical timing, he had to operate on her while she was still inside the coffin.

Chapter 15: Back To Basics

Chapter 15: Back To Basics

Li Nianfan was feeling lucky that even though the System had left him, the System Space was still available for use, with all the operation tools still inside.

Not far from the house, two ladies and a gentleman were having lunch at the balcony. They were no other than Luo Shiyu, the Nation Master’s son, and the Prime Minister’s son. Another lady was a guest of Lin Qingyun, the Saintess of Lingyun Immortal Court.

The sons of the Nation Master and Prime Minister were trying their best to impress Luo Shiyu, flirting with her from time to time like two dogs fighting for one owner. The Holy

Emperor had appointed his daughter to the Nation Master's son. However, Luo Shiyu recently seemed to get along better with the Prime Minister's son. This weird love triangle had caused tensions to rise between the Nation Master and the Prime Minister.

However hard the son of the Nation Master tried to please Luo Shiyu, she tended to prefer the son of the Prime Minister, which encouraged the Prime Minister to take action. Apparently, the Prime Minister had even announced that his son was more suited to the Princess and requested the Holy Emperor to cancel the arranged wedding and to allow his son to marry the Princess instead. This undoubtedly increased the tension between the two and caused a lot of conflicts.

Seeing that Li Nianfan's plan was working well as expected, Luo Shiyu felt very thankful to him. As she ate, she looked down from the balcony. Suddenly, her body jolted slightly when she saw a familiar silhouette below.

What an expert. He could walk along the street in a completely ordinary body without showing a trace of his immortality. It was as if he actually believed he was an ordinary man. This state of mind was way too noble for a cultivator like herself.

Lin Qinyun, who was sitting beside her, noticed the changes in Luo Shiyu's demeanor. She looked over and laid eyes on Li Nianfan.

Huh?

She was confused at the sight.

Was he not just an ordinary man? Why did Luo Shiyu seem so caught up by him?

Li Nianfan's movements caught her attention. It was not too difficult for the cultivators to help the ordinary woman in labor. However, Li Nianfan was merely an ordinary man. How could he save the woman and her baby?

Meanwhile, the materials had been prepared. Li Nianfan put his hand into his pocket and pretended to look for something. In truth, he had put his hand into the System Space to pick out a scalpel. He sanitized the knife by burning it with the oil lamp and started swiftly. In just a moment, he gently cut open the woman's belly with a steady hand.

"Ah!"

The crowd let out a cry in fear. Lin Qingyun's eyebrows twitched in terror.

Opening the belly would cause serious harm even to the cultivators. As for ordinary people, it would be deadly. If it was not for Li Nianfan's good reputation, they would have stopped him.

"Midwife, be prepared to cut the umbilical cord!" Li Ninfan ordered. His face was serious with beads of sweat on his forehead.

The midwife had turned pale a long time ago, trembling in fear. Soon, she saw Li Nianfan taking a baby out of the woman's belly which had been cut open.

Due to the lack of oxygen, the baby's face had turned dark purple. Li Nianfan anticipated this, which was why he ordered the crowd to disperse. This was for the oxygen to circulate.

A silver needle appeared in his hand and he inserted it into a few key acupoints of the baby. Then, he gently smacked the baby's buttocks.

Smack!

Waa... Waa...

The baby opened his mouth and started crying loudly.

"He's alive! The baby survived!"

"How's this possible! Mr. Li is godly!"

The crowd was stunned in awe.

“Thank you, Mr. Li! Thank you, Mr. Li!” Chen Yuanwai expressed his gratitude to Li Nianfan with tears in his eyes.

From a joyful event to a tragic one, then back to a joyful one. It was unforgettable for him.

Meanwhile, the people around started shutting the coffin again.

Seeing this, Li Nianfan called out in shock, “What’re you guys doing? The woman isn’t dead!”

“Mr. Li, you can save my wife, too?” Chen Yuanwai asked in delight.

The crowd stared at him with wide eyes. Her belly was cut open. Could she still be saved?

“Yes,” Li Nianfan nodded as he sighed disapprovingly.

The healthcare system here was really backward. Things like this happened all the time, taking many innocent lives away.

Li Nianfan took out another needle and started stitching her up. Fortunately, the woman had already fainted so she could not feel the pain. By the time he finished sewing, his forehead was dripping with sweat. "It's done now. Treat your wife nicely and make sure she gets adequate rest."

"Yes, I will. Thank you, Mr. Li." Chen Yuanwai suddenly dropped to his knees and knelt in front of Li Nianfan.

"A man does not kneel! Don't thank me. Thank your wife!" Li Nianfan hastily helped him up.

Li Nianfan had turned the tragedy into a joyful event. Once again, the people of the Fallen Immortal Town witnessed his extraordinary skills, and his good reputation circulated again.

On the balcony, Luo Shiyu watched the entire process with awe and adoration in her eyes. As a cultivator, she could feel that the cells of the woman below were recovering speedily, which was uncommon. She had watched the entire thing from the beginning until the end and she was sure that Li Nianfan did not use even a hint of Spiritual Qi. He had done this impossible task with his ordinary body.

Expert! An ingenious expert!

It was not surprising that Li Nianfan could save the woman and her baby. What perturbed her was that he clearly had an Immortal skill and would have been able to save their lives easily. Why did he dismiss his Spiritual Qi throughout the process and insisted on using an ordinary man's skill to save them?

What realm and skill was this? Who could beat this noble act? Perhaps this was what they meant by ‘returning to basics.’ When countless men were finding ways to cultivate Immortality, the true experts had already made a turn and returned to the ordinary, concealing themselves and living an ordinary life.

A daring thought occurred to her, making her scratch her head. However, her eyes dimmed as the faint delusion in her heart was suppressed. An expert like him was rare. How could a normal person like her ever be with him?

If not for the sons of the Nation Master and Prime Minister, Luo Shiyu would have ran downstairs to meet him right away. Lin Qingyun saw the change in Luo Shiyu’s eyes. The man’s status instantly went up in her heart, and she could not help but feel curious about this man.

Finally, the meal ended and Luo Shiyu found an excuse to leave the restaurant. Lin Qingyun caught up with her not long after.

“Shiyu, are you not going to introduce me to that man from downstairs?” Lin Qingyun asked directly.

Luo Shiyu’s pupils dilated, but she recovered swiftly and smiled, “I don’t know what you’re talking about. I’m surprised that the man was able to save the woman and the baby but I don’t know him.”

“Oh, really?” Lin Qingyun’s eyes sparkled. She smiled and asked, “Then who was it that proposed the strategy of making the Prime Minister and the Nation Master fight against one another?”

Chapter 16: My Most Impressive Discovery

Chapter 16: My Most Impressive Discovery

“I don’t know what you’re talking about! We came up with this idea on our own.” Luo Shiyu remained calm and pretended to look confused.

She regretted asking Lin Qingyun to come along. She was very observant and not easily fooled. Most importantly, Luo Shiyu did not expect to come across Li Nianfan today, revealing his identity to Lin Qingyun. She had initially decided that she would never reveal anything about this expert to her.

“Shiyu, we’re like sisters, so don’t you hide things from me.” Lin Qingyun’s eyes sparkled as she smiled. “If you were the one who came up with this strategy, you wouldn’t have asked for my help at the Lingyun Immortal Court. I rushed over right away after hearing from you, but now that you’ve found another solution, you’ve decided to ditch me?”

She could tell right away what Luo Shiyu was trying to do. It was obvious that the Nation Master and the Prime Minister would fight against one another, weakening both their forces. This strategy was very impressive. She was certain that Luo Shiyu had the help of a genius.

“You offered your help in exchange for the Dragon Fire Pearl of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty,” Luo Shiyu said calmly.

“The Dragon Fire Pearl is the treasure of the dynasty. Why would I want it? All I wanted was to borrow it for a while. Some of our disciples from the Lingyun Immortal Court needed it to break through the realm of Golden Core.”

To progress from the realm of Foundation Building to Golden Core, one needed to condense fire into the Golden Core first. The Ganlong Immortal Dynasty’s Dragon Fire Pearl was able to induce the fire and flame that could help one elevate into the Golden Core realm. This treasure could produce batches of Golden Core cultivators, which was what founded the Ganglong Immortal Dynasty.

“Well, sorry to have troubled you. I’ve already found a solution and no longer require your help.” Luo Shiyu shook her head.

Without the help of Li Nianfan, Luo Shiyu would have no choice but to lend the Dragon Fire Pearl to Lin Qingyun. Once the item was given up, it would be very difficult for her to get it back. Of course, she would not lend it to her now.

“Well, forget about the Dragon Fire Pearl. Just tell me if the man just now was the expert who provided you with this strategy. You wouldn’t want me to have come all the way here for nothing, right?” Lin Qingyun said pitifully while studying Luo Shiyu’s face.

“No!” Luo Shiyu shook her head and looked at Lin Qingyun frankly, or so it appeared.

“Alright, I understand.” Lin Qingyun nodded and bid farewell to Luo Shiyu. Her lips curled up slightly as she gazed at a mountain not far from the town, which was the direction Li Nianfan walked toward.

“Luo Shiyu, you thought you concealed it well didn’t you? But the calmer you appeared, the more troubled you seemed! That man seems interesting. I must check him out!”

The next morning, Lin Qingyun made her way to the mountain Li Nianfan resided in. Although he seemed like an ordinary man, Lin Qingyun saw the look of adoration on Luo Shiyu’s face. She did not dare to neglect this visit so she dressed up nicely.

Could an ordinary man save a woman from death? And could a random piece of advice from him save the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty from danger? What kind of expert was he? Was he really an ordinary man?

Lin Qingyun was not a fool. In fact, she was a smart woman. She had a feeling that this discovery might turn out to be the most impressive discovery she had ever made.

At the foot of the mountain, she saw mists and clouds hovering above. She felt strangely tensed as if the man she was about to visit was not an ordinary man but a hidden bigshot!

As she was about to climb the mountain, three shadows flew by with swords under their feet. They landed steadily at the foot of the mountain.

They were no other than Bai Luoshuang and her parents. To show their respect to this expert, they landed at the foot of the mountain and prepared to climb up the mountain by foot.

Lin Qingyun froze as she saw Bai Luoshuang. “Junior Luoshuang?”

“Senior Lin? What brings you here?” Bai Luoshuang was equally as shocked and looked at her strangely.

Lin Qingyun looked at her with a slight thump in her heart. “I’m here to visit a friend, you too?”

“Yeah, my parents and I came here to visit an expert,” Bai Luoshuang nodded.

“Your parents came in person?” Lin Qingyun glanced over in shock. She saw a middle-aged couple and she quickly greeted them, “Nice to meet you, Sect Master Bai, Senior Su.” Her heart was thumping quicker than usual. Although the Wanjian Immortal Sect was not as powerful as her Lingyun Immortal Court, this man standing in front of her was the Sect Master of Wanjian Immortal Sect. He was a Yuan Ying ranking cultivator, and he paid the visit in person!

Who was residing in this mountain? Why did they all seem so serious?

Meanwhile, Lin Qingyun was feeling confused looking at the man. She had heard that the Wanjian Immortal Sect was challenged by the Sword Demon. Her Master told her that Bai Wuchen was no match for the Sword Demon, but why did he still seem perfectly fine?

She had so many questions but she did not know where to start.

Bai Wuchen waved his hand and smiled. “You’re the last disciple of Boss Yun, aren’t you? A young woman like you who has already reached the later stage of Foundation Building, not bad at all. You have a bright future ahead of you.”

“Sect Master Bai, you...you...” Lin Qingyun’s face changed as she stared at him with a look of disbelief!

Usually, Bai Wuchen would refer to her master as Senior Yun, but now he called him Boss Yun. This could only mean that they were now in the same realm...

There was only one explanation.

“That’s right, I’ve ascended to Out of Aperture.” Bai Wuchen smiled.

This...

After the confirmation, Lin Qingyun was even more stunned. She knew that Yuan Ying and Out of Aperture were two completely different concepts! With Bai Wuchen's breakthrough, the Wanjian Immortal Sect's position would rise and it would no longer be a small sect.

How did this happen? Since when did a breakthrough from Yuan Ying to Out of Aperture become so easy?

"Don't think too much. I've been helped by an expert. It's pure luck," Bai Wuchen said with a hint of remorse in his eyes.

It was a pity that the drawing was destroyed by the Sword Demon, or else he would have improved further. With that in mind, his heart sank a little.

"Helped by an expert, unless..." Lin Qingyun thought of a possibility but did not have the guts to think in that direction.

Bai Luoshuang said she was here to visit an expert. Taking into account Bai Wuchen's attitude, she felt as if her brain was about to explode.

The man was able to help a Yuan Ying cultivator have a breakthrough into Out of Aperture? This man was at least an Immortal!

“There aren’t many people living here. What friend are you visiting? Could we be visiting the same person?” Bai Wuzhen asked cautiously. If Lin Qingyun was a friend of the expert, he should not appear arrogant in front of her even though he had broken through.

“Actually, I came out of curiosity...” Lin Qingyun had always thought she was calm and smart. However, at this instant, she dared not to keep any secret from them. Thus, she told them what she saw yesterday.

“Saving a woman from death with the hands of an ordinary man? He truly is an expert!” Bai Wuchen exclaimed. “He wanted to prove that even in the shell of an ordinary man, one could still make the impossible possible! His realm is way beyond our imagination.”

Bai Luoshuang was stunned with adoration, though she focused on a different point from Bai Wuchen. “The expert is not only of a high realm, but he pays so much respect to women. He’s truly noble.”

While Lin Qingyun finally revealed the fact that the ordinary man she was about to visit was the expert that Bai Wuchen was talking about, all she could feel was her scalp turning itchy and her blood almost freezing.

She could not believe that her curiosity had led her into this impressive discovery and that Luo Shiyu even tried to hide this from her! No way!

‘This is my biggest discovery and blessing! I’ll have to be cautious and try to leave a good impression.’

Chapter 17: Is This Not A Bowl of White Congee?

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The four of them hiked up the mountain, and not long after, they had reached the mountainside. Behind the mountainside, a vague shadow of a house was hidden behind green trees with white clouds hovering above. If one did not look closely, it could have been easily overlooked, making this the best spot for one to retreat privately. As they walked closer, the view of a four-part architecture came into view. Within the mist, it exuded a mysterious and ethereal atmosphere.

‘This is where the Immortal lives!’

‘Only a place like this is good enough for an Immortal!’

The four of them could not help staring in awe as they approached the four-part architecture.

“Senior Lin, Mr. Li’s name is Li Nianfan, and he’s trying to pursue a mortal life! When you see him later, please don’t act in awe or shock. He wants to live as an ordinary man. Please, do remember to treat him as such, or else he might be offended,” Bai Luoshuang reminded her.

Lin Qingyun nodded. Hidden experts seemed to have their unique partiality.

Bai Luoshuang then called out in front of the door, “Mr. Li, are you home?”

Li Nianfan was enjoying his breakfast at the inner court. He paused while he was drinking his congee. He looked at the door strangely.

That voice was familiar.

Well, who else could it be? He did not have that many visitors anyway. He could tell right away who this voice belonged to.

Meanwhile, Bai Luoshuang and the other three waited nervously outside. Bai Wuchen did not seem like a Sect Master then, but more like a student awaiting to meet his teacher, not daring to even take a full breath.

Click!

The door swung open.

Li Nianfan had a surprised look on his face. There were four visitors, and all of them were standing politely outside his door. They even smiled at him sincerely upon seeing him.

‘The cultivators came in a group to meet an ordinary man like myself? With such a polite attitude?’

He looked at Bai Luoshuang and said, “It’s you! Welcome!”

“Mr. Li, these are my parents. The reason we came here today is to thank you for the drawing,” Bai Luoshuang greeted politely.

Meanwhile, Bai Wuchen and Su Ya nodded politely at Li Nianfan. Looking at their politeness, it was apparent why Bai Luoshuang had such a polite attitude.

“The drawing I gave you the other day was a defective draft. What’s there to thank for? Please, come in.” Li Nianfan smiled.

‘So they like my drawing. It seems that Bai Luoshuang’s parents are both art lovers. This explains why they’re visiting.’ Li Nianfan thought this was normal. He assumed that even

cultivators had some hobbies, too, and he knew his drawing skills had been approved by the System. After all, the title of Saint art was not for nothing. So, he was not too surprised that the cultivators liked his drawing.

“Sorry for disturbing you,” Bai Wuchen said apologetically.

“Mr. Li, I’m Lin Qingyun. I’m a friend of Luoshuang and I came along with them to visit you today,” Li Qingyun stuttered, appearing nervous and anxious.

Li Nianfan smiled. “Please, come in.”

‘Yet another gorgeous lady. I’ve been transmigrating here for five years without having met anyone. Now, there are suddenly so many pretty women coming to my house!’ Li Nianfan thought to himself.

“Welcome, my dearest guests,” Xiao Bai came out to greet the guests as the butcher of the house.

Bai Wuchen and Su Ya had been briefed by Bai Luoshuang, so they were able to restrain themselves from gasping at this shocking sight.

However, Lin Qingyun was caught off guard. She shivered and stared at Xiao Bai with her eyes wide like saucers. “Spiritual Machine!”

Li Nianfan was tired from explaining this over and over again. He did not want to care anymore. 'I can't keep explaining to every guest that this is advanced-technology, right? This is too tiring,' he thought to himself.

Bai Luoshuang quietly pulled on Li Qingyun's sleeves and warned softly, "Senior Lin, please, be calmer. Whatever you see here isn't strange or surprising, you have to treat it as an ordinary place and never mention anything about the cultivation of Immortality."

This made Lin Qingyun notice the change in Li Nianfan's face. She could not help but feel extremely guilty for behaving so rudely.

Li Nianfan sat back at the dining table. He had not finished his congee but felt awkward eating alone with four cultivators standing by the side.

He offered, "Why don't...you all have some, too?"

"No, thank you." Bai Wuchen rejected instantly. Although the congee smelled good, he could not be so shameless as to accept his offer. What if this offended him?

"Hmph, I'd like some," Bai Luoshuang stuttered softly, biting her lip. She was completely overwhelmed with embarrassment for asking.

The water purifier and the air humidifier had made such a memorable impression on her. She had a feeling that whatever the expert was eating must be exceptional. Of course, she had to try it!

“Luoshuang, didn’t you have breakfast at home?” Su Ya pulled on her daughter.

What was she thinking? Was it not just a bowl of congee? She could eat as much as she would like when they got home. How could she assume the expert was being genuine when offering us the congee?

“Luoshuang, don’t mess around,” Bai Wuchen scolded her, too.

Bai Luoshuang pouted her lips, thinking that her parents must have forgotten that even the water in here was made of Spiritual Water. They had no idea how badly she wanted to taste the congee.

“Hahaha! It’s just a bowl of congee. Why so polite?” Li Nianfan laughed. He found her embarrassment rather cute. “Xiao Bai, bring Miss Bai a bowl of congee.”

Bai Luoshuang stuck out her tongue and sat in front of Li Nianfan. After accepting the bowl from Xiao Bai, she could not help but examine the congee closely.

She realized that every grain of rice was coated richly in white-colored broth, reflecting the light and almost sparkling like the stars in the sky. Although it seemed like a bowl of ordinary congee, she knew this would not disappoint her anticipation.

She raised the bowl gently and took a sip. The broth lingered on her lips and trickled smoothly into her mouth. A rush of warmth overwhelmed her body instantly.

Yummy!

Such exquisite texture and unique taste. Bai Luoshuang's cheeks flushed pink. Meanwhile, she realized that the water used to make the congee was the Spiritual Water she drank the other day!

'How's this a congee! This is obviously the breakfast of an Immortal!'

After taking a sip, she tried her best to convince her parents to try some. "Dad, mom, come have some as well? The congee is very yummy. Very, very, yummy!" She dared not mention the Spiritual Water, so she could only vaguely hint it to them.

"You eat it yourself," Bai Wuchen scowled at her with his face flushing red.

'Why's she making a fool of herself in front of the expert? What if she leaves a bad impression?' Bai Wuchen thought, furious.

Bai Luoshuang had no choice but to continue drinking the congee alone.

“Usually, I’d have a light breakfast. The pickles go well with the white congee,” Li Nianfan smiled.

He planted some vegetables in his backyard and fermented them himself. These could not be found in this Immortal Realm!

“Pickles? What’s that?” Bai Luoshuang looked at the small dish on the table curiously. She followed what he did, picking some up and eating it with the congee.

The pleasure of having the plain congee paired with the pickles was an experience she never had before.

“Yummy, very yummy!” Her eyes sparkled in delight as if a new realm was suddenly made available to her.

The combination of congee and pickles was simple, but the deliciousness far exceeded any delicacy she had ever eaten in her life! Her movement fastened instantly, she immediately picked more pickles and mixed them with the congee. She did this repetitively without getting tired. By then, she had only one thought in her mind, ‘I need to eat it all!’

Bai Wuchen and Su Ya's faces had turned green with embarrassment. Was this really their daughter? Was this not just a bowl of congee? What was so delicious about this?

They had to admit that they started craving for some, too. The scent of the congee was not as strong in the beginning, but as time passed, its scent had penetrated so deep into their souls that they kept salivating with craving and desire arousing from within. Also, the look on Bai Luoshuang's face was so tempting that all they wanted to do was to rush forward for a few sips.

Even Lin Qingyun started gulping involuntarily looking at the sparkling congee.

Chapter 18: I Can Use This As A Torch

Chapter 18: I Can Use This As A Torch

This congee was tempting even to cultivators like the four of them. Was this really just an ordinary bowl of congee?

The other three were watching Bai Luoshuang in confusion. Meanwhile, she had finished her bowl of congee without leaving any remaining. She rubbed her belly with a satisfactory look on her face.

“Pheww...”

She let out a long sigh of relief. Just as she was about to thank Li Nianfan for the congee, she felt a wave of heat overwhelming her body. She could feel herself going out of control, bit by bit. In an instant, her mind went blank, replaced by a feeling of wonder and mystery.

“Buzzzz”

Suddenly, she could hear the Basics of Wisdom ringing in her ears. To the rest of them, she appeared almost delusional.

“She... She...”

Bai Wuchen and the other two stared at her with wide eyes.

Epiphany! This was a moment of epiphany!

Their breathing was quicker than usual and they even called out to her in shock.

Why did she have an epiphany?

Instantly, it all seemed to make sense. Their gazes fell on the big pot of congee on top of the stone table.

This was definitely not ordinary congee. This was not only delicious, but it also contained the Basics of Wisdom inside?!

Lin Qinyun clenched her fists as her face turned green with deep remorse burning in her heart. She wanted to slap herself. ‘Why am I so dumb! Of course, the congee eaten by the expert wouldn’t be ordinary! Anything that he treats as rubbish could turn out to be a treasure everyone desires! How did I miss out on the chance to taste his congee! Argh! Why am I so dumb!’

If she could go back in time, Lin Qinyun would taste it even if she had to kneel on the floor and lick it.

Bai Wuchen and Su Ya had similar looks on their faces. They suddenly recalled how their daughter was dropping hints. Why did they reject the congee? Argh! They had just missed out on a great opportunity!

They wondered if it was too late now to ask for a bowl...

Just as the three of them opened their mouths, preparing to ask for the congee shamelessly, Li Nianfan walked to the pot of congee and called out, “Blackie, it’s all yours!”

A black ordinary dog rushed over from the backyard. It threw its head right into the pot of congee.

Lick! Lick! Lick!

While the dog was indulging himself, the three of them stood there transfixed, staring at the dog with their reddened eyes. They, too, were gulping their saliva helplessly.

‘That was congee with the Basics of Wisdom! How could he give it to a dog!? No!’

They were crying in their heart, anger rising within them. The dog seemed to have sensed their hateful gazes on him. He halted and looked up at them for a moment before turning his back on them to continue his delicious meal. He looked as if he was afraid that the three humans wanted to share his meal.

“I...” Bai Wuchen stuttered as the three of them stared at him with flushed faces.

Li Nianfan saw the strange looks on their faces. He asked curiously, “What’s the matter?”

“No-nothing?” Bai Wuchen answered bitterly, his lips twitching upward slightly.

Their hearts were bleeding, and all they could do was to look around to distract themselves from the fact that the dog ate the congee they wanted!

However, a sword in the corner caught their eyes. Their eyes widened as their gazes rested on the black longsword.

Fallen Demon Sword. It was the Fallen Demon Sword!

Bai Wuchen was very sure of it. This was the very same Fallen Demon Sword that had gone through countless bloody fights. Yet, it was now being tossed in the corner like rubbish. Although it was a demonic sword, it still contained endless power and was considered one of the most sought after treasures in the world.

Lin Qingyun asked weakly, “Mr. Li, this sword...”

“I don’t know why but this sword appeared outside my door. I saw that it was sharp, so I decided to keep it for cutting wood,” Li Nianfan said nonchalantly.

Somehow appeared?

Cutting wood?

Bai Wuchen smiled bitterly in his heart. Of course, he knew exactly how this sword appeared on his doorstep. What the expert was trying to say was that this Demon Sword was like air to him, so he 'decided to keep it.' However, they were not surprised that the Fallen Demon Sword was being used to cut wood. It almost seemed like a privilege for the sword.

By then, Lin Qingyun had no words to describe her feelings. She had never been more awestruck than today, even if she were to add up all the times she had been shocked throughout her entire life.

'So this is the world of a bigshot?'

"Hah..." Bai Luoshuang opened her eyes, feeling a little dazzled at first, which was then followed by shock.

Mid-Foundation Building!

All she had was a bowl of congee, and she managed to break through from Early-Foundation Building to Mid-Foundation Building!

She realized that the congee was not only made with Spiritual Water, even the rice and the fermented vegetables were no ordinary food. These things were just like the expert—seemingly ordinary but were all too far from being ordinary!

Bai Luoshuang had indeed taken a huge advantage out of this visit. She stood up hastily and cried out, “Thank you, thank you so much, Mr. Li!”

“It’s just a bowl of congee. What’s there to thank?” Li Nianfan shook his head, thinking that this young lady was too easily impressed. It was merely a bowl of congee. Why was she so excited about it?

Meanwhile, Bai Wuchen took out a wooden box and said, “Mr. Li, my daughter took a drawing of yours the other way and it helped us tremendously. Here’s a little something to repay your kindness. I hope you don’t dislike it.”

“You’re all too polite!” Li Nianfan was surprised that they came with a gift!

It seemed that they were true art-lovers! He opened the box without hesitation and saw a sword-shaped jade stone.

He wondered what this jade stone was made of as it glowed like a source of light, emitting a white bright light that seemed rather mysterious.

Lin Qingyun covered her mouth with her hand. She stared at Bai Wuchen with a look of disbelief as her heart thumped quickly.

The Sword Immortal Jade—this was the most precious treasure of the Wanjian Immortal Sect. A piece of treasure that could turn Sword Intent into Sword Immortal! And Bai Wuchen was going to give this to Li Nianfan?

To any swordsman, this jade was a priceless treasure. Though Bai Wuchen remained calm, he had his reasons. The Wanjian Immortal Sect was saved by Li Nianfan. A simple draft drawn by Li Nianfan was worth way more than the Sword Immortal Jade.

Furthermore, the Sword Immortal Jade was no longer useful for a cultivator of the Yuan Yang realm. However, a drawing from Li Nianfan could be useful, not just for the cultivators in Yuan Yang, but also Out of Aperture, Cross Tribulation, and perhaps even the Immortals! If the jade could assure the survival of the Wanjian Immortal Sect for another ten thousand years, then a drawing from Li Nianfan could help it strive for another ten million years!

‘So, why would I need this jade for?’ thought Bai Wuchen.

Li Nianfan held the jade in his hand and looked at it closely. The jade felt cold in his hand. He nodded and smiled, “This is not bad at all, I can use it as a torch to guide my way at night.”

What an expert he was. Using the Sword Immortal Jade as a torch? But when they thought about how he used the Fallen Demon Sword to cut wood, it seemed to make perfect sense.

Chapter 19: The Answer

Seeing that Li Nianfan accepted the Sword Immortal Jade, a smile appeared on Bai Wuchen's face.

This was a good beginning.

“Oh yeah, if a person has been frightened, possibly to the point of insanity, do you know if there's any cure for that?” Li Nianfan asked as he thought of Nanan's situation, thinking that the cultivators might have some ideas.

Hearing that Li Nianfan was asking them for help, the four of them did not dare to lose any second. They instantly gathered to brainstorm ideas, frowning in seriousness.

Lin Qingyun said, “Insanity is usually caused by the soul being hurt. I do know some medication for curing the soul. May I know what condition this person is in?”

“She's a little girl who got terrified after being kidnapped by a monster,” Li Nianfan said.

“A little girl and an ordinary person.” Lin Qingyun shook her head. “If this is the case, it seems rather difficult. Her soul is too weak and isn’t suitable for this medication. If she were to take it, it might only worsen the situation.”

Bai Wuchen added, “This is likely to be caused by her inner state. Medication can only do little help working from the outside.”

They sighed inwardly. It was rare for the expert to ask them for help, yet they were not able to provide suitable solutions.

Lin Qingyun’s eyes sparkled a little. “I’ve got a Soul Curing Jade which could cure the soul if one wears it for a long time.”

“How long does it usually take?” Li Nianfan looked at her with anticipation.

Lin Qingyun explained, “Insanity is the hardest to cure. The shortest time would be about ten years, and the longest would be about twenty years.”

“Too slow,” Li Nianfan sighed. Ten years was way too long for a little girl.

“It seems that I’ll have to try it my way, though I’m not sure if it’s going to work,” he mumbled to himself.

The four of them trembled a little. Was the expert about to cure the girl himself?

It was not a surprise that an expert like him could cure a small problem like this. He simply did not bother to do it himself earlier.

“Mr. Li, I wonder if it’s alright for us to watch you while you cure her?” Lin Qingyun asked him with an anticipated look.

The three of them waited for his response, sharing the same look. Being able to observe the expert in action would be the greatest fortune one could ever get. If they could learn a little from him while watching, it would be adequate knowledge for a lifetime!

“You want to watch me helping the girl?” Li Nianfan paused before he smiled bitterly. “I’m just going to help her through ordinary means. Are you sure you want to watch?”

What? He could even cure insanity while he was in his ‘ordinary’ body? The four of them were even more stunned by what he just said, and they became even more determined to observe him.

“Alright, then. I was just about to go to town anyway,” Li Nianfan nodded hopelessly. He thought to himself, ‘The cultivators here in the Immortal Realm are not only friendly, but they also seem to be so bored that they’d follow an ordinary man like me around.’

Holding on to that thought, he called out, “Blackie, let’s go.” With that, Li Nianfan went down to the Fallen Immortal Town accompanied by the four of them.

When they arrived, Auntie Zhang and Nanan were hanging by the town’s entrance aimlessly. Auntie Zhang seemed depressed, wiping off her tears secretly while Nanan remained beside her with a blank expression. Quite a few children were surrounding her who were trying to speak to her and keep her company to help her get back to normal.

“Mr. Li,” Auntie Zhang called out as if she had seen her savior. “Please, help me save Nanan.”

Li Nianfan replied with a serious face, “Don’t worry, Auntie Zhang, I’ll try my best.” He turned to the children and smiled, “Hey, children, it might not be the best for Nanan when you’re all surrounding her. You might make her feel insecure. Please, spread out a little, alright?”

When the crowd dispersed slightly, his face turned serious. To be honest, he was not entirely sure if his method was going to work, but he thought the chances of it working were high anyway.

Bai Wuchen and the other three became nervous as well. They were excited that they were about to witness the expert in action.

Li Nianfan found a spot and sat down. Then, he invited Nanan to sit beside him. Smiling, he said to her, “Nanan, Brother Li is now going to tell you a story. You have to listen carefully, alright?”

“The title of the story is called... Journey to The West!”

Since Nanan’s insanity was caused by the monster, Li Nianfan thought of using the story-telling technique to neutralize the trauma the monster had caused her. Since most children liked to listen to stories anyway, this technique would work better than the others.

“Story! I want to listen to a story!”

“Brother Nianfan, can we listen, too?”

The children surrounding gathered in a circle, they all looked at him in anticipation.

“Of course, you may!” Li Nianfan nodded.

Bai Wuchen and the three of them froze. They did not expect Li Nianfan to cure her in this way. Would this work?

However, they did not leave. They stood there, waiting curiously.

Li Nianfan composed his thoughts and started telling the story.

“Chaos is everywhere, yet nobody sees it.

Since Pangu broke Hongmeng, so was an enlightening quest,

To the hive minds and students, inventing all the goodness from within.

If one is to be enlightened, one should read the Journey to the West!

“There’s a rule of numbers governing the world. One hundred twenty-nine thousand and six hundred years equals one Yuan. One Yuan can then be divided into twelve Hui—Naizi, Chou, Yin, Mao, Chen, Si, Wu, Wei, Shen, You, Xu, and Hai. Every Hui lasts eighteen hundred years. These elements are present throughout the day. For example, Naizi is when the sky is dark, and Chou is when the chicken’s cluck. In other words, Naizi is pitch dark, while Chou is the first shine of sunlight.”

Although this introduction to the story seemed rather dry and boring to the children, the four cultivators had shivers all over them, their eyes glowing with shock.

‘This... This is The Answer!’

Since ancient times, nobody had ever been able to put The Answer into words, yet Li Nianfan had just casually said it out loud in the form of story-telling!

Was he telling the children The Answer to how the world was made?

Or the evolution of all the living things in the world?

Listening to Li Nianfan’s story, it sounded like the Basics of Wisdom ringing in their ears. Although there were many things they did not understand, they still learned a lot!

Coming with Li Nianfan was indeed a wise choice!

They held their breaths and listened attentively, not wanting to miss out on a single word.

After a long introduction, the story finally started.

“There was a country overseas named Pride to The Country. This country was situated near the sea, where there was a mountain in the sea. The mountain was called Hua Guo

Mountain. This mountain lived through the coming and going of ten continents, hosted three dragon eras, and had existed since the beginning of...”

When Li Nianfan got to the part where the stone monkey jumped out of the stone, all the children were captivated. Even Nanan turned her gaze toward Li Nianfan.

Seeing that it was working on Nanan, he continued the story with more passion.

“The stone monkey was the leader of a bunch of happy monkeys who lived carefreely on Hua Guo Mountain. However, this stone monkey wanted to pursue longevity so he made a boat out of bamboo and went on a journey to find the Masters to teach this to him.”

With Li Nianfan’s story-telling, a magnificent prehistoric world gradually unfolded in front of everyone, arousing their awe and surprise from time to time. By then, his audience was not just children, but nearby stall owners and passers-by had stopped their work and gathered around as well. Of course, the four cultivators were even more amused. They could feel their scalps itching and goosebumps all over their skins.

The pursuit of longevity. Was that not the ultimate goal of all the cultivators?

Perhaps the expert was not telling a story, but instead, he was telling them his personal experience?

Chapter 20: An Idealist Scholar

Bai Wuchen and the rest of them felt as if they had discovered a big secret. There was a loud buzz in their ears and they felt an unusual excitement they had never felt before.

‘This must be the story of an Immortal. Who knows, perhaps there might even be the secret of longevity in the story!’

They listened attentively, not daring to even make a sound.

Li Nianfan continued telling the story. Soon after, he reached the part where the stone monkey went to the Bodhi Cave.

Anyone who passed by stopped what they were doing instantly and joined the growing crowd of listeners surrounding Li Nianfan. This Immortal Realm was a realm where Immortals and ordinaries co-existed. It was not a surprise that the ordinary people enjoyed listening to stories of the Immortals, especially when Li Nianfan’s story was nothing close to ordinary. Even ordinary folk could tell that the realm Li Nianfan was talking about was way more advanced than the realm they were in.

Meanwhile, a scholar dressed in shabby blue clothes walked through the entrance of the Fallen Immortal Town. His eyes were dull, as if he had lost his purpose in life or he was thinking of some problem. He was muttering to himself. The massive crowd by the

entrance did not attract his attention, as well. It seemed as though he was lost in his own world, detached from the outside world.

Suddenly, a voice penetrated his ears.

“Teacher Zhu said... There are three hundred and sixty branches in Taoism and each branch would lead to success. Which branch would you like to learn?

“Wukong then said... I’ll learn whatever teacher recommends to me.

“Teacher Zhu then suggested... I’ll teach you the Shu branch. What do you think?

“Wukong asked curiously... What will I learn from this?

“To which, Teacher Zhu replied... His teaching includes stories of people seeking advice from the Immortals, and teaches one how to obtain good luck and great fortune.

“Wukong then asked... Will I be able to pursue longevity through this branch?

“Teacher Zhu then huffed... No way! No way!

“Wukong then said... No way? No way I’m learning this, then...”

The absent-minded scholar had a little sparkle in his eyes upon hearing Li Nianfan’s story-telling. He froze in his steps and joined the listening crowd.

Following that, Teacher Bodhi Zhu suggested a few more branches to Wukong, but when he learned that they could not help in his pursuit of longevity, he refused them all.

Li Nianfan could sense his audience breathing rapidly. Some people even had red eyes by then, especially Bai Wuchen and the other three!

They were crying out in their minds, ‘The monkey was offered to learn the Supreme Avenue! Yet, this stupid monkey rejected them all! Stupid monkey, foolish monkey! Learning simply one of them would make him as good as an Immortal. No, to be exact, he’d be more powerful than the Immortals!’

Meanwhile, they were overwhelmed with curiosity. Who was this Teacher Zhu? How was he able to teach so many branches of Tao? This was terrifying!

What was more terrifying was that Li Nianfan was able to recite the entire thing out loud. How powerful was he?

Bai Wuchen dared not to think further, he was afraid that his fragile mind could not take it anymore.

When Teacher Bodhi Zhu left the monkey, the audience inhaled sharply, almost as if they had just lost the opportunity to learn the Supreme Avenue. However, as the story went on and Wukong went to meet the teacher at midnight, everyone started breathing again.

Li Nianfan fully captivated the attention and appetites of his audience. He smiled.
“Alright, that’s it for today. We will continue the story another day.”

“Please, don’t! Mr. Li, please, tell us more!”

“Argh! It’s been an hour! My wife’s going to yell at me!”

“Mr. Li, will you be here again tomorrow? I’ll come!”

Everyone looked at him with anticipation, even Nanan appeared interested.

Li Nianfan ruffled her hair and said, “Don’t worry. I’ll be here tomorrow at the same time.”

“Mr. Li, thank you! Thank you!” Auntie Zhang saw the change in Nanan’s eyes and she was very grateful. She kept bowing to Li Nianfan.

“Auntie Zhang, don’t be. Thank me when Nanan’s fully recovered,” Li Nianfan said.

Bai Wuchen and the other three walked toward Li Nianfan. They appeared like four nervous students looking at their teacher. Their hearts were filled with questions and wonder. Did Wukong manage to pursue longevity? What was longevity like?

As cultivators, immortality was their ultimate goal. However, they did not dare to hurry Li Nianfan. Being able to listen to him teach was already the greatest blessing any of them could ever get. Who would have thought that Li Nianfan would say all these just to save an ordinary little girl? He was indeed a bigshot!

Bai Wuchen looked at Li Nianfan with anticipation. Cautiously, he asked, “Mr. Li, can we come here tomorrow to hear the rest of the story?” He was afraid to ask because it was likely that Li Nianfan was telling the story of a certain bigshot or Immortal from another realm! This story was probably beyond the scope for a small cultivator like himself to listen to.

“It’s just a story, why not?” Li Nianfan smiled as he thought to himself, “There are so many rules in this Immortal Realm. They even needed to ask for permission to listen to a story? They’re so friendly, though. So friendly!”

The four of them were overwhelmed with joy. They were grateful that they had Li Nianfan’s approval!

Bai Wuchen bowed at Li Nianfan and said, “Mr. Li, sorry for bothering you today. Goodbye for now.”

Lin Qingyun also said in a low voice, “Mr. Li, goodbye for now. I’ll come to listen to your teaching tomorrow.”

“Goodbye.” Li Nianfan waved at them casually. He looked at the time and marched toward the entrance.

However, he was stopped by a scholar. This scholar seemed to be a bookworm. The term ‘weak scholar’ seemed like a term tailor-made just for him. He introduced himself politely, “Greetings to you, sir. My name is Meng Junliang.”

“Greetings to you, Mr. Meng. My name’s Li Nianfan.” Li Nianfan looked at him dubiously. “May I help you?”

Meng Junliang looked at Li Nianfan with a sparkle in his eyes. “I’d like to ask, sir, if longevity actually exists?”

Li Nianfan looked at the scholar in front of him and his eyebrow twitched slightly. He never would have expected this scholar to ask him that. This scholar seemed like a bookworm, and he appeared to be different from all the other cultivators Li Nianfan had encountered. He guessed that this scholar was an ordinary man.

‘Of course, it makes sense for ordinary men to want to pursue longevity, but this isn’t reliable. Hah! To be honest, I’d love to pursue it myself if I could,’ Li Nianfan thought to himself as he tried to get rid of this scholar’s obsession with longevity.

“There are reincarnations, which makes longevity impossible,” Li Nianfan said.

“But I’ve read in books that Immortals can pursue longevity.” He continued obsessively, “Why can the Immortals pursue it, but not ordinary men? I’ve read through all the books, looking for the secret to longevity. I had no luck finding it until I heard your story. You must know the way. Please, teach it to me!”

This scholar was likely to have gone insane from reading, living in his own idealistic world.

Li Nianfan shook his head and said, “Immortals can maintain their bodies through cultivation, something ordinary men are not able to do. Do you understand ordinary beings?”

The scholar was shocked. He was an ordinary man himself, but he knew nothing about being ordinary. He had always been caught up in the world of books, living in his world of written words and knowledge which was all based on theory and mostly imagination.

He knew a lot of things, but at the same time, he knew nothing!

In the words of Li Nianfan's past realm, this scholar was an idealist. 'As long as he did not want to die, he would not die'.