

I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot

Chapter 41: The Rare Nine-Tailed Fox

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After loosening up the soil, Li Nianfan suddenly called out as if remembering something, “Xiao Bai, Blackie, come here and help me out!”

“My dearest master, I’m coming.” Xiao Bai ran to him from the inner court.

“Woof woof woof!” Blackie ran over upon hearing his name, tail wagging.

Li Nianfan nodded in satisfaction. He almost forgot that he had two free laborers at home. It would be more efficient with their help.

The Holy Emperor had gifted him a lot of elixirs. Each elixir looked different from one another, yet equally as good. Once he was done planting them, this plot of land would become a mini-elixir garden.

Li Nianfan prepared sixteen flower beds for the elixirs and Spiritual Herbs given by Lin Qingyun. He had even mapped out where to plant each of them, ensuring his visitors would be captured by the sight of it upon entering.

The key to it all was the special seed.

After contemplating for a long time, he had decided to plant the seed by the pond. The soil around that area was fertilized. With no other plants around, there was sufficient water which made it the best location in his backyard. With his careful attention, he believed that there was no way it would not sprout!

Three days had passed.

Li Nianfan's life had turned cozier than ever. He spent his days gardening, playing chess, and talking to the lady of the house. The cultivators like Bai Wuzhen would drop by from time to time with wild meat. Perhaps this was the highly coveted 'unpretentious life of luxury', or so it was called in his previous realm.

However, the news of a monster-transformation had not passed yet. In fact, it was still causing an uproar. News had spread that the transformation was of a nine-tailed fox!

Many people visited the town due to this.

Nine-tailed foxes were a rare species. One could say that its body was filled with treasure. They came from a bloodline that was far more superior than many of the ordinary monsters. A normal fox turning into a nine-tailed fox was more difficult than a mortal man turning into an immortal!

For the past thousand years or so, people heard less of the nine-tailed fox. Many even thought that the nine-tailed fox had gone extinct. Little did they know that they would hear about the nine-tailed fox again.

Rumor had it that drinking just a drop of a nine-tailed fox's blood would be able to wash out one's essence and marrow, like a renewal and rebirth. Additionally, cultivating beside a nine-tailed fox would enable one to hear the Basics of Wisdom.

Who asked God to favor the nine-tailed fox more than anything?

Many people would not even think of hunting them down since their powers undoubtedly exceeded the power of most cultivators. It could be said that they were almost as powerful as the immortals. However, this nine-tailed fox...has transformed!

It was seen as a timeless treasure—a treasure with no owner. Whoever found it would be able to own it!

The greatest opportunity was suddenly made available. How could the cultivators remain calm?

Up in the sky above the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, sparks of light could be seen flashing across the sky as cultivators patrolled the mountains. If it were not for Bai Wuchen and the others who kept protecting Li Nianfan, his peaceful life would have ended sooner or later.

The Holy Emperor was the most stressed of them all. He had difficulty sleeping due to this. “If any fool were to bump into the expert and cause him to leave, it’d be the greatest loss for my Dynasty!” he said anxiously.

Meanwhile, a huge boat appeared, floating in the cloudless sky. It blocked the daylight as it sailed high in the sky while exuding a bright glow and vibration. Even the cultivators flying nearby were blinded by its glow. Hurriedly, they all stopped flying and landed on the ground. They did not dare to fly alongside the boat.

“It’s the flying boat of the Linxian Palace!”

“The nine-tailed fox has attracted the attention of the Linxian Palace? If they’re here, there’s no more hope for the others.”

“Look at the front of the flying boat. Is that beautiful lady an Immortal?”

“Tzz... A Yuan Ying cultivator!?”

The cultivators looked at the young lady with shock and respect. Even the Holy Emperor was shocked. Even the people from the Linxian Palace came? Without further ado, he hurriedly brought along Luo Shiyu to the entrance, waiting to greet her.

The flying boat halted to a stop. The young lady was like a goddess from above, surrounded by a thin layer of mist. Her expression was cold and arrogant while her beautiful eyes were simple and all-knowing. She descended from the boat, floating to the ground looking like a beautiful fountain from above.

The Holy Emperor walked toward her and greeted, “Welcome to the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, Miss Qin.”

He was slightly bitter about the fact that she was already a Yuan Ying at such a young age. It was no surprise that she was the Saintess of Linxian Palace, and with her abilities, she could easily start her own sect in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty!

The reason why the Linxian Palace named themselves ‘Linxian’ [TN] was not out of arrogance. It was because they were just one step away from being Immortals. In other words, they were one of the most powerful groups in the Cultivation world!

Luo Shiyu stood beside her father and greeted, “Greetings to Sister Manyun.”

Qin Manyun smiled at Luo Shiyu, slightly surprised. “It’s only been a while since I last saw you but Sister Shiyu’s already had a breakthrough to the later stage of the Foundation Building! You’re indeed a genius.”

She was genuinely surprised. As Ganlong Immortal Dynasty was located at the poorer part of the Cultivation to Immortality Realm, being able to reach the late stage of Foundation Building at such a young age meant that Luo Shiyu had a limitless future. She was almost tempted to invite Luo Shiyu to join the Linxian Palace.

Luo Shiyu smiled without speaking. Only she knew that this was all because of Li Nianfan. Just by spending so much time with an expert like him, even a pig could become an Immortal!

Of course, she would not reveal such a huge secret.

The Holy Emperor invited Qin Manyu to enter the Dynasty, attending to her with the highest respect. He asked Zhong Xiu to make them some tea.

After she was seated in the lobby, the Holy Emperor asked, “May I ask, what brought Miss Qin here?”

Qin Manyun smiled. “I’m sure Luo Emperor already guessed it. I’m here for the nine-tailed fox!”

The Holy Emperor smiled bitterly. It was just as he assumed.

The nine-tailed fox was too tempting to be missed. Even he was surprised when he heard of the nine-tailed fox’s transformation. It all made sense later on, though. Of course, the monster that the expert was interested in was nothing but ordinary. If it was an ordinary monster, he would not have saved her.

However...even the Linxian Palace was interested in the nine-tailed fox now! Emperor Luo thought that this was equivalent to looking for trouble. He wanted to warn her, but he did not want to expose Li Nianfan's existence. Sigh. So difficult.

The Holy Emperor could only persuade her indirectly. "We haven't seen a nine-tailed fox for almost a thousand years, so it could be a rumor and nothing substantial."

"I've asked around. It was the Silver Moon Demon King who spread the news so it should be true," Qin Manyun shook her head. She then looked at the Holy Emperor with a suspicious look. "Didn't you consider looking for the nine-tailed fox at all?"

"Ah...yes. I did send my men to look for it in the mountains, just to try my luck," the Holy Emperor said hastily.

Meanwhile, he was cursing the Silver Moon Demon King in his heart. This creature had no idea what kind of crime it had committed! It was not far from its death! He could not help but recall the two Monsters that were going up to Li Nianfan's gate. They must have been sent there by the Silver Moon Demon King. Those monsters were transformed back into their basic forms by the scholar and there was an 80 percent chance that they had turned into feces by now.

They should consider themselves lucky to be able to become the feces of the expert!

Chapter 42: A Cup of tea, An Enlightenment

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Qin Manyun looked at the Holy Emperor. “Luo Emperor, this is your territory after all. I came here on behalf of my master in hopes that you’ll help us look for the nine-tailed fox. The Linxian Palace would thank you sincerely.”

The Holy Emperor was caught off guard!

Thank your mom!

‘I have not wronged you. Why are you pushing me into the fire pit?’

Stealing the nine-tailed fox from the expert? He did not dare to even think about it!

“Could you tell me why you’re looking for the nine-tailed fox?” the Holy Emperor could not help asking.

After a moment of thought, Qin Manyun said, “Don’t worry, Luo Emperor. We don’t have any ill intent toward the nine-tailed fox nor do we intend on hurting her. The nine-tailed fox is a very rare species. Now that it has transformed into a human, it has a huge potential in becoming an Immortal. We only wish to invite her to join our Linxian Palace. We’re willing to train and support her with all of our resources in hopes that she’ll be able to cultivate immortality.”

“Phew...”

The Holy Emperor let out a sigh. If Qin Manyun came with ill intentions, he would have asked her to leave right away. He did not even care if that would offend the Linxian Palace! Now that Daji belonged to the expert, the Holy Emperor would not hesitate to make anyone that came with ill intentions the enemy of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, even if it was the most powerful man!

Right now, the Holy Emperor only wanted to be a loyal dog.

Seeing that the Holy Emperor did not speak, Qin Manyun continued, “Luo Emperor, it’s difficult becoming an Immortal. Now that the bridge between mortal and immortal has been broken, no one in our entire Cultivation Realm has managed to become an Immortal for a thousand years. The appearance of this nine-tailed fox is the most important key for us!”

Her tone was sincere and eager.

“Don’t worry, Miss Qin. I’ll do my best,” the Holy Emperor nodded to agree.

‘The bridge between mortal and immortal has been broken? No way! A powerful bigshot is residing in my Ganlong Immortal Dynasty! More amazing than the Immortals!’

‘And the nine-tailed fox is right by his side. If I told you, would you dare go after it?’ the Holy Emperor was complaining in his heart.

Qin Manyun frowned slightly. She felt like the Holy Emperor was acting strange.

Why was that? It was a nine-tailed fox. Why did he seem uninterested? Was he refusing to help the Linxian Palace?

She continued to persuade him. “Luo Emperor, the Silver Moon Demon King is looking for the nine-tailed fox as well. If they find her first, they might ingest her core. Then, the nine-tailed fox would really go extinct. We have to take fast action.”

“Don’t worry, Miss Qin. I’ll make sure that the nine-tailed fox is safe,” the Holy Emperor said with a serious tone.

Meanwhile, he was laughing inside his heart. What was there to be afraid of? Li Nianfan would easily crush this Silver Moon Demon King without breaking a sweat!

Meanwhile, Zhong Xiu was looking around in the deeper end of the Treasure Vault. She frowned at the empty vault. This was supposed to be where all the elixirs and spiritual herbs were kept. Although she knew that they had given all the best elixirs to Li Nianfan, she still was not used to looking at the empty vault.

‘I hope Mr. Li will give us some blessings and turn the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty prosperous,’ Zhong Xiu said in her heart.

For a bigshot like him, even a speck of dust from the gap between his fingers would be a great opportunity to all the cultivators.

After sighing for a while, she started looking for tea leaves. Linxian Palace was among the top forces and had good relations with the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty. They would have to treat them with the greatest respect.

Normally, the Holy Emperor would keep the precious tea leaves here. While Zhong Xiu glanced around, she unintentionally came across a bag that was hidden away in a corner.

“Huh? Why have I not seen this before? Could this be new?” Zhong Xiu halted slightly. She picked up the bag to have a look.

The bag was not big and it seemed normal. Though the packaging was different from the other ones they had, it seemed rather original.

“If Luo Emperor left it here, this must be something extraordinary. I’ll use this to make the tea today, then.”

...

At the lobby, the Holy Emperor, Qin Manyun, and Luo Shiyu were chatting. Qin Manyun seemed rather absent-minded.

Click, click, click—

Meanwhile, footsteps were heard. Zhong Xiu walked over to them, carrying a tray with a teapot.

The Holy Emperor smiled. “Miss Qin, it’d take more than a day to locate the nine-tailed fox anyway, so there’s no point in hurrying. Let’s have some tea.”

Qin Manyun shook her head. “No need. I want to go to the place of the transformation to have a look.”

She could tell that the Holy Emperor was not in a hurry, and although tea might be a treasure in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, they were not as tempting to her.

“Sister Manyun, why don’t you take a sip before you leave? It won’t take up too much time anyway,” Luo Shiyu tried to convince her.

The Holy Emperor added on, “That’s right, Miss Qin. Although our Ganlong is nothing like your Linxian, these tea leaves are extraordinary. It’s rarer than a normal elixir!”

Qin Manyun could not decline. Her eyes landed on the teapot.

Huh?

She squinted slightly. The tea appeared different from any tea she had seen in her life. The leaves sank to the bottom without any impurities and the color of the tea was a light shade of brown—clear and calm—looking like refined amber from afar.

“The tea...is different!”

She was knowledgeable and particular when it came to tea. Although she had tasted all kinds of quality tea before, she was instantly drawn to it when she saw it!

A proud smile appeared on the Holy Emperor’s face. His tea collection was indeed extraordinary. Even Qin Manyun was impressed!

He raised his cup to examine it. With just a look, he was shocked.

Hmph?

‘What tea is this? I don’t remember my tea looking like this whenever I serve them to my guests? Where did Zhong Xiu get it from?’ he thought to himself.

Meanwhile, Qin Manyun already picked up the cup. The fragrance of the tea made her feel refreshed. Good tea!

She took a sip.

The bittersweet liquid entered her mouth, wrapping around the tip of her tongue. She could not help letting out a moan of pleasure, gently closing her eyes.

She did not swallow the tea and was tasting it in her mouth instead.

The taste of the tea became more bitter than it was initially, but her mind became clearer than it was before. Her memories surfaced from within and all the puzzling thoughts and incomprehensible problems she had were resolved instantly.

As the tea flowed down her throat, all her troubles vanished. A single tear escaped from the corner of her eye involuntarily. She did not mind it and took another sip.

Humm!

Suddenly, the Basics of Wisdom resonated in her ears. Her mind went blank and her body relaxed. The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu started tasting the tea as well and entered a similar state.

It was merely a cup of tea. Yet, it allowed them to enter the enlightenment state!

After one whole minute, Qin Manyun gradually opened her eyes, a hint of understanding and emotion in her eyes. When she looked at the cup, it was already empty.

What kind of tea was this?

Even the best tea leaves in Linxian Palace was nothing in comparison to this! They were definitely not on the same level!

That cup of tea was an opportunity for enlightenment. Even though she was in the Yuan Ying stage, it was still very beneficial to her.

Chapter 43: Prodigal Wife!

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The most important thing for cultivators was not Spiritual roots nor Spiritual talent. It was enlightenment!

Dao was the foundation of cultivation. Only when one's understanding of Dao was deep enough could one have a breakthrough. For some people, they usually had great Spiritual roots and resources but a shallow understanding of Dao, thus, being stuck in one stage forever! Hence, breaking through was the most important part of the cultivation!

As for many cultivators, this bottleneck could represent their entire life, and those who forced their breakthrough without an adequate understanding of Dao were considered to be on the crooked path. They could easily be possessed and end up in a worse state.

Therefore, enlightenment was considered a precious occasion for the cultivators. It was something that they could only come across by chance—a great opportunity that could not be missed!

Yet, one cup of tea was able to induce enlightenment?!

Even though Qin Manyun came from the Linxian Palace and had extended knowledge, she felt like it was all a dream. She could not believe what just happened.

Humm!

The Spiritual Qi in the lobby became chaotic as if the Spiritual Qi outside was drawn to something that was inside the lobby, causing a rush of energy to swarm into the lobby.

The Holy Emperor and Qin Manyun turned to look at Luo Shiyu who still had her eyes closed.

She was having...a breakthrough!

Rays of gold light exuded from Luo Shiyu. Instantly, the light condensed into a golden flame—the flame of the Golden Core!

The limitless Spiritual Qi seemed to fuel this golden flame, making the flame grow stronger and wilder.

Swiftly, the entire lobby turned to gold, illuminated by the flame. Hastily, the Holy Emperor raised his hand and gestured, isolating the lobby from the outside world.

During a breakthrough, one should not be disturbed by the outside world. Normally, people would go into isolation beforehand, unlike Luo Shiyu who decided to have a breakthrough out of the blue.

Perhaps Luo Shiyu herself did not expect to gain a breakthrough from drinking the tea.

It was the Golden Core realm! It was considered as the threshold of becoming an official cultivator! This was a stage that many people would fail to reach even after cultivating for their entire lives!

However, the Holy Emperor and Qin Manyun seemed confused. They were not too surprised. In fact, they felt rather sorry. The Basics of Wisdom contained in the tea was so concentrated that they, too, entered an enlightenment stage and received great benefits, let alone Luo Shiyu who was merely in the Foundation Building realm.

A top-grade tea like this was given to a Foundation Building cultivator? What a waste!

After a moment, the golden flame jolted around Luo Shiyu before they all condensed into Luo Shiyu's energy field like migratory birds.

Ding!

As if a bell just rang, a golden Dan appeared in Luo Shiyu's energy field, rotating slowly.

Golden Core—completed!

Luo Shiyu opened her eyes gradually in slight disbelief.

When she first met Li Nianfan, she was not even at the Foundation Building stage, but in around a month, she had reached the Golden Core! The speed of breaking through was even faster than anyone could ever imagine. Nobody would believe it even if she said it out loud. A hidden expert secretly residing in the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty was indeed the Dynasty's greatest blessing!

Luo Shiyu suddenly thought of a possibility. She looked at the Holy Emperor and stuttered, "Dad, the tea...is it..."

Bam!

The Holy Emperor staggered and fell into his chair. His face was pale from shock. Thinking about it, he felt as if his mind was about to explode!

"Zhong Xiu...this...the...the tea leaves, where did you get them from?" the Holy Emperor asked as if he was about to cry, his fingers trembling.

Zhong Xiu's heart sank a little. "I found it in the deeper end of the Treasure Vault. I saw that you kept it in a corner, so..."

"You're such a prodigal wife!" the Holy Emperor pointed at Zhong Xiu, his agonized face changing shape as he growled. "This was given by Mr. Li! I'm not even willing to drink them myself! This is a priceless treasure! This is my life!"

There was only one pound worth of leaves. Now that three cups were down, how was he supposed to live?! Qin Manyun was lucky to have tasted the tea thanks to fate! Other than those with holes in their brains, nobody would serve this kind of tea to their guests!

The more he thought about it, the more wronged he felt. He almost broke down in tears.

Qin Manyun stood by the side awkwardly. She could not help but ask, “Luo Emperor, could you give me some of the tea leaves? I know they’re precious, so I’ll bring some items from the Linxian Palace in exchange.”

“Exchange? Can you afford it? You drank my precious leaves! Go! Go away! I don’t want to see you again!” the Holy Emperor was furious, like a bomb ready to explode anytime.

Qin Manyun was speechless. A tea that could induce enlightenment was indeed priceless. Even though the Linxian Palace had some treasures of the same level, there was no way she could exchange them.

Luo Shiyu pulled on Qin Manyun and whispered after sticking out her tongue, “Sister Manyun, let’s go for now. My dad is about to explode, let’s get out of here.”

Qin Manyun followed Luo Shiyu to her room. Her beautiful face turned serious as she looked at Luo Shiyu with her beautiful eyes, “Shiyu, tell me. Where did you get the tea leaves from?”

Luo Shiyu had already prepared her speech on the way. She said, “We got it from a secret place fifty years ago. My dad’s never been willing to drink it so he can’t believe my mum used it by accident.”

“Shiyu, do I look like someone who can be easily fooled?” Qin Manyun smiled and shook her head. “I did hear the words ‘Mr. Li’. Who is he?”

Luo Shiyu panicked and tried to change the subject. “Ah, you must’ve been mistaken. Didn’t you want to look for the nine-tailed fox? I’ll go with you.”

She was ready to leave but she was pulled back by Qin Manyun.

“Shiyu, you know you can’t hide this from me. I’ll stay here for as long as you won’t tell me. I’ll find out eventually.” Qin Manyun looked straight into Luo Shiyu’s eyes. She had a feeling that this was a big secret!

Luo Shiyu frowned, seemingly perplexed.

Finally, she let out a sigh. Not only did they waste the tea leaves, but she was also about to expose Li Nianfan’s existence to yet another person!

After taking a deep breath, she started with a serious tone, “Sister Manyun, to be honest... This is about a very important figure.”

“A very important figure?” Qin Manyun’s heart jumped a little. She did not know why but her hair stood on their ends involuntarily.

If this was in the past, she would simply think that Luo Shiyu had yet to see anything outside the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty and was just exaggerating. However, after tasting the tea that contained the Basics of Wisdom, she knew that Luo Shiyu was not exaggerating at all!

“Also, you don’t have to look for the nine-tailed fox anymore. She was saved by this important figure and is being kept by his side.” As she mentioned the nine-tailed fox, Luo Shiyu could not hide the hint of envy in her eyes. Being able to stay by Li Nianfan’s side would be so fortunate

“Saving the nine-tailed fox from natural tribulation?” Qin Manyun stared at her with disbelief. “How could it be? What kind of important figure is he? Unless he’s an Immortal?”

Luo Shiyu shook her head. She said softly, “Not an Immortal, he...he’s way above an Immortal!”

Chapter 44: To The West, To Preach

“Tzz...”

Qin Manyun took in a cold breath. What Luo Shiyu said was too shocking!

She said with a serious look, “Shiyu, this is an important matter. Don’t make things up! Way above an Immortal? That’s absurd!”

“Sister Manyun, I didn’t make this up. To be frank, that remark doesn’t even do him justice!” Luo Shiyu’s eyes were serious and deep with awe. If she did not see it with her own eyes, she would never have believed that there was this kind of bigshot in the world.

“You...this...” Qin Manyun was confused. She did not know what to say. She knew she should not believe this, but deep in her heart, a voice was telling her that this was true!

Above an Immortal? What logic was that?

Luo Shiyu’s realm was not high enough. Perhaps she did not know the value of those three words. But in reality, she did!

Nobody had been able to cultivate into Immortality for over a thousand years in this realm. According to the source, the bridge between the mortal and immortal had been broken, so the difficulty of becoming an Immortal became way harder than before.

The realm's countless outstanding cultivators had been trying every way to cultivate Immortality with no result. Many of the old cultivators realized that the path to Immortality was no longer in sight. Hence, they all decided to shut themselves out, prolonging their cruel death.

Yet...who would have thought that an 'above Immortal' bigshot resided here!?

Qin Manyun could only feel her breathing become rapid as her mind blanked. Was it real or not?

After a long time, she finally came out of her thoughts. If this was real, this would definitely cause an uproar in the realm! It would not take long to realize the implications of having an Immortal appearing in the realm when everyone thought the bridge between the mortal and immortal was broken.

Qin Manyun regained her composure. She looked directly at Luo Shiyu. Suddenly, she bowed low sincerely. "Shiyu, I'm begging you on behalf of the entire Linxian Palace. Please, introduce me to the expert."

"Sister Manyun, you don't have to do this." Luo Shiyu panicked. She wanted to help her up but soon realized she could not move her at all.

This was the Saintess of the Linxian Palace! Upon hearing the news of the expert, she was willing to do this! Luo Shiyu did not know what to do.

Finally, she let out a sigh. “Sister Manyun, I promise.”

Qin Manyun said sincerely, “Shiyu, thank you. I’ll take full responsibility if the expert is angered because of this.”

Luo Shiyu warned, “Sister Manyun, since the expert wants to stay hidden, he doesn’t want to be disturbed. So, please, don’t let the secret out.”

“Don’t worry, I know,” Qin Manyun nodded. Of course, she knew. When she first heard of this news, she had already regarded it as the deepest secret she would ever keep.

Luo Shiyu thought for a moment. She pursed her lips and said, “Sister Manyun, the tea leaves were given to us by the expert not long ago. I don’t want to disturb him too frequently. Why don’t I bring you to meet the expert’s apprentice?”

“Yes, I understand. We can’t annoy the expert in any way,” Qin Manyun nodded in agreement. She then asked, “Who’s this apprentice?”

“This apprentice...” Luo Shiyu could not help recalling the scene when Meng Junliang pointed his finger at the two Yuan Ying realm Monsters and turned them back into their basic forms. A glint of fear appeared in her eyes. “...is very powerful. Very terrifying! I can’t describe it so I’ll bring you over. Then, you’ll know.”

Qin Manyun followed Luo Shiyu out of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty. They turned into light and traveled west toward a village.

This village was ten miles away from the Fallen Town. Not as flourished as the Fallen Town, but it had an ordinary-sized market.

Since the last time Luo Shiyu saw Meng Liangjun, she had been keeping track of his doings. It turned out he really did imitate the Journey to the West, using the Fallen Town as his starting point and walking toward the west.

Unlike the cultivators, he walked bare feet, one step at a time, across the mountains and rivers. Sometimes, monsters would block his way but they were undoubtedly inducing their own deaths!

There seemed to be nothing that could block his way.

Meng Liangjun’s first stop was at this village. It was here where Luo Shiyu finally listened to the ‘Journey to the West’. She was instantly stunned. Following that, she would be there on time every day to listen to him.

This was the teaching of Wisdom, greater than any luck!

Today, he was at the part where Wukong was about to cause a scene at the Heavenly Temple. So exciting!

Qin Manyun looked around the mortal architecture curiously. She could not help but ask, “What’s the expert’s apprentice doing here?”

Luo Shiyu pronounced the words with a serious and sincere face, “To preach!”

“Preach?” Qin Manyun’s tiny lips parted slightly in awe.

This word should not be used lightly. In every sect, only when the Master got out of isolated cultivation would they use the word ‘preach’ to describe their teachings.

Luo Shiyu warned with a serious tone, “After entering the tavern, you have to keep quiet and listen to the scholar’s storytelling.”

“Storytelling? A story for ordinary men?” Qin Manyun frowned slightly. She looked at the ordinary men all over the tavern suspiciously.

She felt rather uneasy. Luo Shiyu and herself were the one-in-a-million kind of gorgeous women, naturally attracting the gaze of the people around them. The lingering eyes made her feel uneasy, as if thousands of ants were crawling all over her.

She was the lady of the sky, the Saintess of the Linxian palace, a Yuan Ying realm cultivator. Her ranking was high and above most of the cultivators around. Even the handsome young men of her level could only look at her secretly with respect.

Yet in this place, the ordinary men were looking at her directly. Of course, she did not feel comfortable. Usually, she would either walk away or turn into a fairy, flying high above them all so that these ordinary people would not dare to look at her. However, since Luo Shiyu did warn her to stay quiet, she had no choice but to put up with it.

“Shiyu, what does the storytelling have anything to do with the preaching?” Qin Manyun asked.

Just as Luo Shiyu was about to speak, she saw a figure coming in from the entrance and swallowed back in her words. “The scholar’s here. Remember, don’t make a sound and interrupt him from his storytelling!”

Qin Manyun turned her gaze to the scholar. All she saw was his green long robe, typically dressed like a poor scholar and exuding an air of a classic ordinary man from head to toe.

The only unordinary thing about him was that he walked barefoot. His feet were covered in soil.

This was the apprentice of the expert?

Qin Manyun took a look at Luo Shiyu who was by her side and saw that her face was slightly flushed. Her eyes were filled with anticipation and excitement, along with a hint of respect.

The look on her face was genuine.

What kind of apprentice could make Luo Shiyu behave this way?

Meanwhile, she saw a ray of light rushing over from a short distance away, stopping at the entrance of the tavern. This person was in a hurry. He only let out a sigh of relief when he saw that the story had not started. He smiled.

Qin Manyun stared at him, wide-eyed. “Luo... Luo Emperor!?”

Chapter 45: A Massive World

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Qin Manyun rubbed her eyes. She thought she was hallucinating. After taking another look, she saw that the Holy Emperor was not alone. Zhong Xiu was by his side.

What were they doing here? To listen to the story?

It made sense for Luo Shiyu to come here due to her young age, but they had lived a few hundred years! It did not make sense for them to come here for the story! Also, the Holy Emperor was still furious moments ago, so furious his face even changed its shape out of rage. The incident happened not too long ago, but he hurried here just to listen to the story? Looking at the impatient look on the Holy Emperor's face, it appeared that he really was there to listen to the story.

The Holy Emperor arrived late and all the front seats were already taken. He did not insist on sitting. Instead, he stood at the back of the crowd with a serious and focused look on his face.

At the same time, he saw Luo Shiyu and Qin Manyun in the crowd. He transmitted his voice, "Shiyu, you're so rude! You didn't save your father a seat even though you came early!"

Luo Shiyu rolled her eyes and did not bother answering.

Qin Manyun was surprised by what just happened. It seemed that they were regulars here! What story was it that it could even catch the attention of the Holy Emperor!

She felt that something was up. Her face became serious and was ready to listen carefully.

Meng Junliang sat in the center of the tavern. He gradually rolled open the scroll and said flatly. “I followed the Saint’s will, using the Fallen Town as my starting point all the way to the west and preaching to the mortal world. By fate, those who’re interested are welcome to join me as my followers.

“Continuing from where we left off. Wukong was appointed by the Emperor to be in charge of the Flat Peach Garden. After spending some time playing and watching the garden, he asked the Land...

“How many plants are there?”

“The Land replied, “There are three thousand and six hundred plants. There are one thousand and two hundred plants in the front row. Their flowers and fruits are smaller. They take three thousand years to ripen. A mortal man will have good health after eating them. The middle row has a thousand and two hundred plants with layers of sweet fruits that ripen every six thousand years. It enables men to fly upon eating it without getting old. The last row consists of a thousand and two hundred plants which are slightly purple. They ripen every nine thousand years. Once eaten, men would live as long as the sky, like the sun and the moon.”

“Wukong was delighted upon hearing...”

The audience was captivated by the story. They wondered what the flat peaches looked like. Even Qin Manyun who came here without expecting much was surprised to find the opening of the story so interesting. Her small lips were slightly parted and her eyes displayed a hint of awe.

Flat peach? How could they even exist in the world? And eating one of them would make one an Immortal? Then, what was the whole point of cultivating? This was the first time she had ever heard of an Immortal Fruit. Before this, she would never even have the guts to think about it!

“Shiyu, what the scholar’s saying... Is it real?” she could not help asking.

Luo Shiyu was concentrating on the story, hence, she was rather annoyed when Qin Manyun talked to her. She was the Saintess of the Linxian Palace. Why was she making a big deal out of it?

She still explained softly, “Of course. The story must be something that happened in the Immortal Land. It’s most likely something the expert experienced.”

“Tzz...” Qin Manyun took in a cold breath. She felt her scalp itching and she had goosebumps all over.

So, this expert had seen the Flat Peach Garden?

So scary! Unbelievable!

Meng Junliang did not stop telling the story. “The Heavenly Emperor was furious. Even without the help of the Four Heavenly Kings, they still had Heaven King Li, along with Prince Nezha. Twenty-Eight Nights, Nine Star Palace, Twelve Yuan Chen, Five Elements, Four Valued Power, East West Stars, Gods of South and North, Five Mountains Gods, and All Stars. A total of one hundred thousand Heavenly Soldiers deployed eighteen Heavenly Nets over the mortal realm, trapping the Huaguo Hill which would surely capture the monkey for punishment...”

The ordinary men were all captivated by the story, while cultivators like the Holy Emperor were stunned, their minds ringing with a loud hum.

Everything in the story was affecting their worldviews. The Flat Peach Garden was already astonishing, yet there was the Immortal Dan from the Old Laojun, as well as the Golden Jelly drank by the Heavenly Court—every item could induce longevity!

Their faces were complicated. Who would have thought that the longevity the cultivators sought after their entire lives was such an effortless thing to the Immortals? It was something that could be achieved by simply eating a flat peach!

When she heard that Wukong was eating all the flat peaches in the garden by himself, Qin Manyun could not help but gasp. She cried out in her heart, ‘Give me one! I don’t care if it’s not ripe yet!’

Following that, Wukong stole all of Old Laojun’s Immortal Dan and finished all of the Immortal Wine. Qin Manyun and the cultivators listened as their eyes reddened with envy and jealousy!

What a waste of Heavenly resources! What a waste!

Even though Wukong was the main character of the story, they could not help but criticize Wukong for wasting the resources!

Waa...so jealous!

Following that, when they heard that the Heavenly Court was approaching the Huaguo Hill, they could not help but hold their breaths, sweating on behalf of Wukong.

Qin Manyun's doubts had all vanished and were replaced with deep astonishment.

Luo Shiyu was not wrong at all! This is not story-telling, this is preaching!" Qin Manyun took a deep breath. She felt as if a whole new world was unfolding in front of her like a scroll unveiling a painting. She did not dare breathe loudly, looking at Meng Junliang intently to avoid missing out on a word.

A hundred thousand Heavenly Soldiers surrounded Huaguo Hill.

Even the thought of it made one anxious. Their heartbeats quickened, sending chills all over them. A hundred thousand Heavenly Soldiers—that was a hundred thousand Immortals! To the people in this Cultivating Realm, the existence of even one Immortal was something other-worldly!

That was so shocking! Unbelievable!

The entire tavern was silent. There was not even the sound of breathing.

Of course, the fighting scene did not disappoint the audience. The different Gods fought with their different Immortal Moves, moving the mountains and seas, the stars and the clouds, controlling the thunder and lightning, manipulating the sky and the ground.

Seventy-two changes, the match of intelligence and courage.

Wukong showcased his Clairvoyance Eyes, Downwind Ears, and Golden Eyes one after another. So stunning! What a Godly Immortal!

In comparison, the skills of the cultivators were like kids playing with toys when compared to these Immortals. Almost embarrassing!

So this was the world of the Immortals?

Qin Manyun used to be proud of herself for being the Saintess of the Linxian Palace. Now, she felt how insignificant she was.

Suddenly, she seemed to understand something.

‘No wonder the scholar chose to preach in this mortal space. He’s trying to train my perseverance! When I first came, I was annoyed by the gaze of ordinary men, thinking that I was above them. Yet, in the eyes of the Immortals, I’m just like an ant to them!’

No matter if it was this scholar or the expert Luo Shiyu talked about, they had acquired all the knowledge in the world and still decided to stay hidden in the shells of ordinary men. One would only treat everything with an unperturbed heart after realizing the vastness of the world. If one kept on thinking of oneself highly, one might have no chance of becoming an Immortal!

Qin Manyun suddenly understood this!

Luo Shiyu, who was by her side, halted slightly. She glanced at Qin Manyun as she felt that Qin Manyun appeared slightly different than before. Although they had been as close as sisters in the past, she always felt a distance between them due to their status. However, she could now feel the distance disappearing. Instantly, Qin Manyun seemed way friendlier than before.

Chapter 46: Why Did The Path To Immortality Break?

Chapter 46: Why Did The Path To Immortality Break?

Time flew by and the sun was setting.

However, the audience in the tavern did not feel the time passing. They remained focused, listening intently.

Meng Junliang's tone remained unchanged. He spoke casually.

“The Buddha flipped his palm and threw Wukong out of the West Gate. He turned his five fingers into five mountains consisting of gold, wood, water, fire, and earth. He called this the ‘Five Elements Mountains’ and gently pressed Wukong down with his palm. The Thunder Gods clasped their hands together and said, “Goodness! Goodness!”

“He was determined to learn, to live, and to cultivate the Truth of Dao. He had overcome all kinds of adversities without losing his faith. He even dared to take over the Heavenly Court and cause a scene in Heaven. Now that he was punished for his wrongdoings, what would happen next? If you want to find out, stay tuned for the next session.”

That... was it?

The audience only snapped back to reality after Meng Junliang slammed the table. Even though every single one of them was dying to find out what happened next, they did not pester him. Instead, they all stood up in unison and bowed at Meng Junliang like students bowing at their teacher.

Even Qin Manyun stood up and bowed to him. She looked at the scholar with a confused gaze as he walked out of the tavern with his bare feet.

Luo Shiyu let out a sigh of relief, then said wistfully, “If only we could see the Immortal Land!”

Qin Manyun shook her head with a bitter smile. “Shiyu, you won’t be able to see what he told us about in the Immortal Land.”

“Huh? Sister Manyun thinks that the story’s fake?” Luo Shiyu looked at Qin Manyun, feeling confused.

“Of course not.” Qin Manyun continued shaking her head.

Luo Shiyu did not understand what she meant. Meanwhile, the Holy Emperor walked over and said as he smiled, “Miss Qin is right. What he was talking about was the Heavenly Temple, not the Immortal Land! Your understanding is too shallow!”

It was not until then when Luo Shiyu finally understood!

Compared to the Immortal Land, the Heavenly Temple was of a much higher level. No wonder there existed a hundred thousand Heavenly Soldiers, a Flat Peach Garden, and an Immortal Dan.

Qin Manyun sighed. “My ancestors of the Linxian Palace had become Immortals. They preached about the Immortal Land, so I do know a thing or two. pared to the realm in the story, it was like a small witch meeting an old witch!”

The Immortal Land was not always perfect, they also had war and poverty.

“Sister Manyun, does the Linxian Palace have any record of the Heavenly Palace?” Luo Shiyu asked curiously.

“No.” Qin Manyun shook her head. “This kind of realm is way beyond our imagination.”

Even though her ancestor became an Immortal, he was probably not even as powerful as the tiniest soldier from the hundred thousand Heavenly Soldiers. She was not being disrespectful—this was the harsh truth!

It seemed that the ranking of the expert Luo Shiyu mentioned was shockingly high!

Suddenly, Zhong Xiu had a realization. “I can’t believe that even Wukong, with such impressive skills, was tamed by the Buddha! What kind of spiritual cultivation could that possibly be!”

“Stop talking about it! These things aren’t for us to discuss!” the Holy Emperor stopped her from speaking with a tone filled with fear and respect. “Only big figures like Mr. Li are allowed to speak of these other-worldly figures in the form of a story!”

Not only the Buddha, the other figures from the story, like Prince Nezha or God Jiro, were not something they should discuss! All they could do was remember them silently with the utmost respect.

“Dad, do you think Mr. Li has flat peaches?” Luo Shiyu asked curiously.

“No way...” the Holy Emperor shook his head without hesitation. However, he jolted suddenly, squinting his eyes into a line.

It seemed likely!

Who was Mr. Li, after all? He seemed more powerful than the Buddha in the story. So, how strange would it be for him to have flat peaches?

The Holy Emperor did not speak, but Luo Shiyu nodded and said with a low voice, “Very likely!”

“Sister Manyun, do you know what we’ve been through?” Luo Shiyu recalled, “When I first met Mr. Li, he let me eat some of his watermelon, just a very ordinary-looking

watermelon. But, upon eating it, I instantly had a breakthrough to the Foundation Building realm! Can you imagine that? The watermelon contained insights!

“Mr. Li had a Spiritual Machine which he calls the Air Purifier. It takes in the air and blows out Spiritual Air! Unlimited Spiritual Air! And he had another Spiritual Machine named the Water Purifier. It takes ordinary water and pours out Spiritual Water! I gifted him an ordinary jade pendant. He made a slight amendment to it and it was transformed into a Phoenix Spirit! He wrote a couplet which contained the Insights of Longevity! He invited us for a hotpot and the pot contained the Insights of Yin and Yang. Even the vegetables contained Insights!

“Also, the tea we had today...”

Even Luo Shiyu was stunned for speaking these things out loud. She had not fully realized before but now that she recalled everything, it was apparent that there was nothing ordinary about Mr. Li from head to toe!

“Tzz...”

Through every item Luo Shiyu described, Qin Manyun held her breath. By the end of it, she almost fainted from the lack of oxygen!

Terrifying! It made her scalp numb!

Even the air Mr. Li inhaled was an Immortal item! It would only make sense for an important figure like him to have the flat peaches!

Flat peaches! One flat peach could induce longevity, allowing one to soar high up in the sky and to live as long as the sky and ground! This was the ultimate dream of many of the cultivators!

“Cough! Cough!” the Holy Emperor coughed. “Perhaps to Mr. Li, the flat peaches are something ordinary. However, they’re not for us to ask for! Get rid of these unrealistic thoughts before we anger Mr. Li!”

Luo Shiyu and Qin Manyun nodded in unison, getting rid of those extravagant thoughts! All they could wish for was for Mr. Li to sprinkle some of the dust off his fingertips. Those would benefit them greatly for the rest of their lives!

Qin Manyun’s heartbeat was unable to calm down for a very long time. What happened today was too shocking. Her brain was attacked from time to time! Her trip to the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty happened to be a shockingly huge opportunity!

She walked out of the tavern eventually. Not far from her, the scholar sat cross-legged under a willow tree by the lake. He was facing the lake with his eyes shut.

The sky had darkened by then. The faint moonlight poured down from the sky, engulfing the scholar as if covering him with a silver cloak.

The scholar still seemed like a normal weak and poor scholar, but after watching him closely, Qin Manyun realized that his figure became ethereal and illusory. He seemed to merge into his surroundings.

After a moment of hesitation, she decided to approach the scholar.

Qin Manyun said with respect, "Greetings to Senior, my name is Qin Manyun."

Meng Junliang gradually opened his eyes. He said calmly, "I'm merely an ordinary scholar while you're a cultivator. Calling me Senior is inappropriate!"

"A teacher is a Senior. This is the law," Qin Manyun said humbly. "A question has troubled me for a very long time. Please, forgive me for asking."

Meng Junliang looked at her. "What problem?"

Qin Manyun took a deep breath. She bit her lip and asked, "Please, forgive me for asking. May I know how the path to Immortality was broken?"

Chapter 47: Sister Has Gone Crazy After Transformation

Chapter 47: Sister Has Gone Crazy After Transformation

Meng Liangjun looked at Qin Manyun with a calm look, almost as if he could see through everything. He replied calmly, “Take a look at the ordinary men. They work from sunrise to sunset just to live for a hundred ordinary years while cultivators have lived lavishly for thousands of years! They’d also want to know why they can’t become cultivators themselves. Would you tell them?”

Qin Manyun’s body jolted as if she was drugged. She remained transfixed in her spot.

She already had an answer in her heart. It was...qualification!

One needed to possess the qualifications to obtain answers to some questions!

Just like these ordinary men. Those who wanted to become cultivators and who were qualified would be accepted as disciples, but those who did not qualify would be sent away for not having enough Spiritual roots.

They would surely ask, what did they lack? However, nobody would tell them. Qin Manyun knew well enough that she would not bother answering such a boring question!

She bit her lip and bowed at the scholar again, “I beg Senior to reveal to me the answer.”

The scholar thought for a moment before speaking. “Heaven and Earth operate with their own sets of rules. I can only have a glimpse of one or two of them. Perhaps only those who set the rules know the exact answers.”

He looked up and gazed toward the sky. His eyes remained calm, looking into an unknown direction.

“Those who set the rules?” Qin Manyun’s eyes widened. She trembled as her blood flushed and a chill went up her spine toward the sky.

Taking into account the story she just heard, who else could set the rules other than the Heavenly Temple!?!

Her mind went blank. She did not dare pursue the thought further.

Meng Junliang said, “If you want to know the reasons, do come by to listen to the ‘Journey to the West’. With adequate understanding, you might be able to find the answer.”

“Thank you.” Qin Manyun bowed deeply and left without disturbing him further.

By then, the sky was dark and the four-part architecture appeared extraordinarily peaceful. Inside, only a room was lit up.

Li Nianfan was drawing and writing on a blank piece of paper. He seemed focused, as if designing something. On the table laid a knife, a bamboo branch, an ox horn, and a few beef tendons.

He was preparing to make a bow and arrow!

This idea was inspired by the cow that the Holy Emperor and the rest brought to him. He did not know what breed this was. It was strongly built, seemingly stronger than ordinary cows. Its horns were big and its tendons were tough—the perfect materials. These gave him a spontaneous idea to make a bow and arrow out of it!

Ox horn bows were the pinnacle of Li Nianfan's creations in his previous realm. He would use materials like ox horn, bamboo branch, tendons, and animal glue. Going through hundreds of procedures, it was a true test of skill and technique. Undoubtedly, this was not a challenge to Li Nianfan at all.

“In the past, I had to rely on Blackie to go hunting. Sometimes, I even relied solely on luck, and would only manage to hunt something after much effort! How foolish am I to only think of making a bow and arrow now,” Li Nianfan shook his head as he mumbled to himself.

Once he finished making the bow and arrow, it would be more convenient to hunt for wild meat!

Li Nianfan stopped drafting and looked at his design with a satisfactory nod. The design was complete. That was it for today. The work will start tomorrow!

He said to the Sword Immortal Jade in the center of the room, "Lightbulb, blow off."

Instantly, the holy light exuded by the Sword Immortal Jade dimmed and the room became dark again.

"This Immortal Realm's so nice. This Immortal Jade is not only a lightbulb, it can even be controlled with my voice! How convenient!" Li Nianfan stretched and went to bed.

On a tree branch not far from the four-part architecture, a Six-Tailed Fox swiftly jumped and climbed to the top of the tree. Its little eyes focused on the architecture cleverly, making creaking sounds from time to time.

It jumped up, anxiously but still very adorable. Its pure white fur glowed under the moonlight.

Creak!

The main gate of the four-part architecture gradually opened. Daji took a peek from behind it before walking out slowly.

“Sister!” The Six-Tailed Fox’s face lit up with delight after seeing Daji. Its little buttock wiggled as it launched toward Daji.

“Sister, did that douche bully you?” she burst out asking, her eyes filled with rage. If her sister was being bullied, she could finally destroy that man!

Daji hugged the Six-Tailed Fox in her arms, rubbing her. “My master treats me very well. Don’t you ever think of doing bad things to him. It’s dangerous.”

Mr. Li’s cultivation was way beyond this realm. Even the cultivation of the Six-Tailed Fox was just like a baby in front of him.

“Master?” The Six-Tailed Fox stared at her. Her tiny eyes had gone huge with disbelief. “Sister, you actually call him ‘master’?”

Her sister was arrogant and dignified. As a sky fox, she could actually call this ordinary man ‘master’?

Did she not want to return him the favor? Marrying him would be better than calling him ‘master’, right?!

Where had her dignity gone!

Yet Daji nodded with a happy grin on her face. “Mr. Li is way above an Immortal. He’s shown so much kindness to me. Having him as my master is the biggest blessing in my entire life!”

“Sister, you...you...you...” The Six-Tailed Fox’s mind had gone blank. It was filled with question marks.

It scratched its little head with its paw, trying to make sense of it.

“Look, I brought you something special!” Daji took out an apple.

The Six-Tailed Fox was filled with anticipation before it realized that it was just an apple. It stared at Daji with a look of disbelief.

Just an apple?

How was this ‘something special’?

Its tiny nose sniffed the apple. The scent was yummy, but it was still an apple! What happened to its sister? Treating apples as ‘something special’?

The Six-Tailed Fox did not understand it. Perhaps its sister had suffered some brain damage after the transformation?

Perhaps the lightning affected her IQ?

The Six-Tailed Fox had tears in her eyes. It sobbed, “Sister, I also brought you something good. Please, eat them.”

White light appeared on the Six-Tailed Fox. Three different elixirs and herbs appeared in front of them.

Bam!

Daji instantly read the Six-Tailed Fox’s intentions. She said as she flicked the fox’s head, “Don’t think too much! Just taste this apple!”

The Six-Tailed Fox rubbed on its little head pitifully as it sized up the apple suspiciously. The apple was bright red as if glowing in red light. Its shape was round, looking good.

Unless this thing contained a mystery?

It opened its mouth and took a bite.

Munch!

The crisp sound was especially obvious in the night. Some apple juice dripped out of her mouth, but most of them went down the throat of the Six-Tailed Fox.

Hmph?

The Six-Tailed Fox was first stunned. Following that, its tiny mouth started moving rapidly as it started munching away.

Munch! Munch! Munch!

Chapter 48: Is He Hinting At Us?

Chapter 48: Is He Hinting At Us?

The apple juice oozed out of the corner of its lips. The crisp sounds of its chewing triggered one's hunger easily!

“What apple is this? So yummy!” The ears of the Six-Tailed Fox perked up. It had no time to inquire further as it continued munching on the apple.

The apple was crisp with lots of juice inside. Just a bite would make one feel satisfied. The slight sourness contained so much sweetness, it filled up one’s empty mouth instantly. Especially when one drank the apple juice, the taste of satisfaction sent shivers down the Six-Tailed Fox’s spine!

So satisfying!

It never would have thought that an apple could be so yummy! This was not an ordinary apple. This must have been an Immortal Fruit!

‘I should’ve guessed it. Why would my sister treat an apple as a treasure?’

Much! Munch! Munch!

Within a few breaths, the Six-Tailed Fox had finished the apple, even swallowing the apple’s core!

It rubbed its tiny tummy and licked its mouth with satisfaction. “Yummy! This is the most delicious fruit I’ve ever eaten!”

Daji could not help reminding her “Don’t rest just yet!”

The Six-Tailed Fox jolted slightly. Suddenly, it felt a burning sensation in its stomach as if it just ate an elixir!

Furthermore, waves of Wisdom started resonating inside its head. It trembled from head to toe and jumped up instantly. Its mind blanked, deeply overwhelmed by the Basics of Wisdom!

After a moment, its eyes opened wide and clear. There was a sensation in its head, as if its potential had been awakened. The puzzling problems she faced seemed to have been resolved.

The Six-Tailed Fox exclaimed, hair standing on its ends, “Sister, this apple contains Insights!”

“You’re not that stupid after all! Good thing we didn’t waste this apple!” Daji smiled.

Daji saved the apple from dinner earlier.

The Six-Tailed Fox had too many questions. “Sister, what’s this all about? How did you get a hold of this apple?”

Even with all of the elixirs it brought combined, they were not even a tenth of this apple. No wonder Daji was its big sister. Awesome!

“My master planted these apples. My master is all-knowing but he likes to live his life as an ordinary man. Therefore, when you meet him in the future, you cannot offend him, alright?” Daji warned.

“He’s a hidden bigshot!?” The Six-Tailed Fox gasped, covering its mouth. Its six tails stood up all at once.

So terrifying! There were so many instances when it thought of teaching him a lesson! Luckily it did not do anything. Perhaps it would have been skinned by now.

The Six-Tailed Fox looked at Daji with anticipation. “Sister, was he able to heal your wound?”

“Master has started to heal me. It’s much better now.” Daji nodded.

“That’s awesome!” The Six-Tailed Fox flashed a delighted grin. It ran into Daji’s arms, tails dancing in the air.

Daji ruffled its fur. “I should go back now. Do take good care of yourself. Come find me when you miss me.”

The Six-Tailed Fox nodded, “Yes, hurry up and go back. Don’t offend the expert!”

After parting with the Six-Tailed Fox, Daji headed back into the four-part architecture. However, she saw a man standing by the gate, looking directly at her.

“Mr. Li,” Daji halted. She bit on her lip anxiously.

How foolish was she to think that she could keep this from Mr. Li? What would she do if he was angry?

Li Nianfan asked, “What’re you doing out there so late in the night?”

Daji lowered her head and said softly, “I’m sorry. I was feeding my sister an apple.”

“You have a sister?” Li Nianfan looked at Daji suspiciously.

Daji nodded. “Hmm. She’s a little fox.”

“No wonder I heard the call of a fox from outside,” Li Nianfan nodded. He found it amusing how women always liked to treat animals as their siblings. As for men, it was even more amusing. Men usually liked to treat small animals like their children.

“Mr. Li, you’re not mad?” Daji looked at Li Nianfan uneasily.

“What’s there to be mad about? Isn’t it just an apple? What’re you so nervous about.” Li Nianfan could not help shaking his head bitterly. Ancient women were all so prudent. Feudalism made one feel rather uptight.

“Right. What type of fox is it? Does it have six tails?” Li Nianfan asked nonchalantly.

Speaking of foxes, he could not help recalling the Six-Tailed Fox he saved three years ago. Back then, he saw that it had six tails and was severely wounded. He felt bad for it and so he decided to save it. He still remembered that after saving the fox, it used its six tails to brush on him and it was so soft and fluffy—very comforting. The fox then lingered for a while before leaving him, turning back to look at him all doe-eyed with every three steps it took.

Li Nianfan recalled the nostalgic memory. If it had six-tails, it was likely to have been a Monster Fox. He wondered how it was doing now.

He saved its life after all! Why hasn't it come back to return him a favor? Sigh!

Daji was shocked, though. It was apparent that no secret could be kept from Mr. Li. She nodded, "Mr. Li, my sister's indeed a Six-Tailed Fox."

"Hmph? Really?" Li Nianfan looked at Daji in shock, followed by a smile. "What a coincidence! When it comes again, do give it more fruits."

Even though this fox was a monster, it seemed that it was quite a weak one. The last time he saw the fox, it was severely injured. Now, it even returned to ask for food! How sad!

"Really?" Daji's face lit up.

'Any item in here would be considered a treasure to the outside world! Yet, Mr. Li was willing to let me give them away?'

When she secretly kept the apple, she had already braced herself to get told off by Mr. Li. Who would have thought that this would happen?

What was the coincidence that Mr. Li was talking about? Was he hinting at something?

Could it be possible that he wanted both of us to serve him together?

If this was the case, my sister would be so blessed!

“It’s late. Do get some rest.” Li Nianfan merely yawned and turned around to walk back to his room.

After coming to this realm, he had developed the habit of sleeping and rising early. His quality of sleep was unusually great, too great to be true! After a night’s sleep, he was always so energetic and ready to start the day.

The following day.

At dawn, Qin Manyun had already arrived at the tavern. Her face was serious, nervous, and full of anticipation. She could not sleep for the entire night after what Meng Junliang said to her and she had been looking forward to coming back the next day.

“The scholar asked me to come again today. He said that with enough understanding, I’d be able to comprehend a bit of the mysteries. What could it be? Was he testing me?”

Luo Shiyu sat beside her with dark circles around her eyes. She kept yawning. Just like Qin Manyun, she did not sleep for the entire night. However, it was because Qin Manyun had made her retell the earlier parts of ‘Journey to the West’. She was exhausted!

Chapter 49: Becoming A Pawn In The Chess Game

Chapter 49: Becoming A Pawn In The Chess Game

Finally, the highly-anticipated Meng Junliang casually walked into the tavern under Qin Manyun’s eager gaze.

The entire tavern turned silent with only Meng Junliang’s voice ringing in the air.

“The Emperor gave an order to the Gods, grouping them accordingly. Three Qing, Four Wei, Five Lao, Six Si, Seven Yuan, Eight Ji, Nine Yao, and Ten Du.

“Thousands of Saints attended the gala to thank the Buddha. These included the Four Sky Guardians, the Nine Fairies, The Golden Gate, the Taixuan Gem Palace, and the Dongyang Jade Palace. They invited the Buddha to sit on the Seven Gem Pedestal. With the rest sitting in their seats, they were served Dragon Liver and Phoenix Marrow, Jade-sauced Flat Peach...”

An extravagant gala unfolded in the minds of the audience. Although it was merely a story, none of them dared to make a sound!

The names and titles of the attendees of the gala made them rather confused and numb, almost losing their ability to think properly. The Dragon Liver and Phoenix Marrow served were beyond imagination!

They were dragons and phoenixes! These Godly Beasts were born as Immortals. To the cultivators, they were not to be offended and should be worshipped. Who would have thought of eating them?

Yet, in the Heavenly Temple, Dragon Liver and Phoenix Marrow were merely some dishes...

Terrifying! Terrifying!

Though Qin Manyun was shocked, she did not forget to link any information to its possible deeper meanings. Since the scholar said that she would be tested today, she had to be mindful!

She frowned, holding her breath.

The Heavenly Temple was celebrating Wukong's suspension. It was similar to how the cultivators of this realm would celebrate after defeating their enemies! The losers would be trapped in the bottom pit, unable to turn around. The winners stayed at the top, feasting and celebrating.

As for the Dragons and Phoenixes, the Immortals treated them like how the cultivators treated ordinary monsters. It seemed that other than their extraordinary powers, the Immortals were not that different from the cultivators.

What was he hinting at?

Qin Manyun continued to listen. The scholar remained at a steady pace as he continued telling the story.

Many people treated this as a story, though some people had started frowning in contemplation. It seemed that there was a hidden and shocking secret behind all of these.

The story of how Wukong was being confined began to touch a little bit on Buddhism.

“When the disciples heard about this, they put their hands together and asked, ‘Do you have the Tripitaka Sutras?’

“Buddha answered, ‘I have the Dharma and Tibetan. One talks about Heaven, and the other discusses Tibet, Earth, and Ghosts. There are a total of thirty-five volumes, fifteen thousand and one hundred forty-four scrolls. They consist of the Path, the gate of righteousness...

“I’m sending them to the East Soil with good faith. To teach one how to travel through thousands of mountains and rivers. To come to me for the Truth, spreading them to the East Soil, teaching the others how to become sentient beings. The mountains remain as a great land of blessings, with the deep sea as its pride. Who’s willing to come?”

This, this, this...

Qin Manyun stared at Meng Junliang, wide-eyed.

As the ‘Journey’ was about to begin, a loud humming resonated inside Qin Manyun’s head. Buddhism was about crossing over to the east, to look for disciples to seek the truth from the west. Meng Junliang was appointed by the expert to walk toward the west. The difference was that one was seeking the truth from the West while the other was preaching to the west!

Buddhism was about preaching its teachings to the world. So, why did the expert choose to preach to the west? What was its deeper implication?

When the scholar reached the part of the story where Wukong was recruited to protect the Tang Seng in their pursuit of truth in the west, Qin Manyun’s breathing quickened. Wukong was unruly and powerful. Why would he be willing to protect the Tang Seng after being confined in the mountain for five hundred years?

Meng Junliang glanced at Qin Manyun. He spoke more than he usually would today. He only stopped once he reached the part where the tightening hoop was placed on Wukong’s head.

“Wukong listened to Tang Seng’s teaching intently. Since he could not move, he had to repent as he knelt and pleaded.

““Master! Please, let me protect you in the west! I won’t mess with them anymore! Please, forgive me and punish me at your will! I’m willing to protect you with no regret!’

““Tang Sang said, ‘If so, help me to my horse.’

“Wukong succumbed to his heart and spirit. He tied a knot on the cotton bag, buckled the horse, packed his luggage, and was ready to start the journey. Who would’ve known what laid before them? Stay tuned for the next session.”

The scholar stood up to leave. Qin Manyun’s face remained confused as she sat transfixed in her seat. Her expression kept changing, sometimes furious, sometimes hopeless and pale.

She understood!

She understood what the expert was hinting at her!

However, after learning the truth, she felt more listless than before. The bigshots liked to use the sky and ground as their chessboards, playing with the fates of the mortals. It seemed that these were all true!

The Buddha asked them to seek the Truth from the west. Was that not all but an arrangement? The so-called Tang Seng and Wukong—were they not merely his pre-arranged chess pieces? So what if Wukong had supernatural powers? Was he not conquered and subdued in the end, like a dog whose fate was determined by its master?

The bridge from mortal to immortality had been broken—was that not equivalent to the ‘tightening hoop’ placed on the cultivators here?

Could it be possible that this was all set up by some unknown forces? If they wanted to treat the beings here like dogs, what else could they do?

Luo Shiyu saw her trembling and could not help asking, “Sister Manyun, are you alright?”

Qin Manyun bit her lip. Her face was unusually grim and bitter. “I think I know the reason why the bridge between mortal and immortality was broken.”

“The bridge is broken?” Luo Shiyu halted.

“Yeah,” Qin Manyun nodded. “Cultivators like us strive for Immortality, but once you’ve reached the end of the cultivation journey, you’d realize that becoming Immortal is

impossible! In the past thousands of years, there haven't been any successful occurrences."

Luo Shiyu asked in disbelief, "What? How could it be? Haven't there been a lot of legends who have cultivated immortality?"

"Well, that was in the past, but not anymore," Qin Manyun said with a low voice. "The Linxian Palace even tried to contact our ancestors from the Above Immortal Realm, only to be told about the broken bridge. Nobody knows the reason behind it."

"Tzz..." Luo Shiyu took in a cold breath. This news was too shocking that her mind temporarily lost its ability to think. This may as well be the greatest secret in this realm! No wonder she had not heard news of cultivators becoming Immortals in a very long time. Not to mention, she had not met any Immortal from above in a long time as well.

The bridge between mortal and immortality was...broken?

Wow!

Qin Manyun stood up and marched out of the tavern. She walked toward Meng Junliang.

Meng Junliang sat under the willow tree just like the day before. Seeing that Qin Manyun was approaching him, he gradually opened his eyes.

“You understood?”

Qin Manyun bowed deeply. “I have.”

Meng Junliang smiled. “Tell me more.”

“The world is the chessboard and the beings in it are the chess pieces. With my lack of talent, I’m willing to become a chess piece in the hands of the expert,” Qin Manyun declared solemnly.

Meng Junliang seemed pleased. “It seems that your understanding isn’t too bad.

“However, not everyone will be qualified to be a chess piece in the hands of the expert,” Meng Junliang continued. “The rules of the world were re-written by someone. Mr. Li’s appearance at such a time makes it apparent that he’s in a game with another unknown existence! His every move contains deeper implications. Although I was nothing in the eyes of Mr. Li, I’m willing to become a small pawn on his chessboard, doing anything he wants me to do!”

Chapter 50: The All-Knowing Mr. Li

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After parting with the scholar, Qin Manyun's face was full of awe. The more she thought about it, the more terrified she was. Perhaps, the ending of the 'Journey to the West' was prefixed. It was all but a trap from the beginning, merely showcasing the matches and fights of the characters.

Since the beginning, Wukong appeared as the awesome monkey, with his head glowing with celestial lights and celebrated by the world. He was the main character of the world. Yet, the truth had proven that the so-called 'main character of the world' was nothing but a joke! There was no 'main character' in the world, only those who controlled the chess pieces from behind the scenes!

No matter if it was the scholar or Luo Shiyu, they referred to this expert as 'Mr. Li'. Obviously, he was one of the bigshots who controlled the game. This Immortal Realm could merely be a small, insignificant corner on his chessboard.

Qin Manyun's brows tightened into a firm gaze. It was rare for such a bigshot to arrive in this ordinary realm. If she did not seize this opportunity, she definitely deserved to have no luck with Immortality! So what if she died because Mr. Li did not like her? The entire goal of cultivating was all for that faint gleam of life anyway!

"Shiyu, I've decided to visit Mr. Li tomorrow!" Qin Manyun said solemnly. She bowed at Luo Shiyu. "Please, introduce me to him."

Disturbing a godly figure like Li Nianfan out of the blue might end up offending him. Having someone's referral could increase the impression score somehow.

“Al—alright, then,” Luo Shiyu hesitated for a while before nodding. She had not visited Mr. Li for a while now. When she had the breakthrough to Golden Core, she did not know why but the first person she was hoping to tell was Mr. Li. She was just afraid to disturb him, so she held herself back from visiting him until now.

The following day, Luo Shiyu brought Qin Manyun to the foot of the hill before climbing up on foot.

Although there were no restrictions, to show their respect to Mr. Li, they would all instinctively climb up the hill by foot, regardless if it was Bai Wuchen or the Holy Emperor.

They could not afford to offend the expert!

With that, Qin Manyun agreed wholeheartedly.

“Sister Manyun, please, remember that the expert lives with the identity of a completely ordinary man. Please, remain calm. Mr. Li doesn’t like it when his guests are shocked or startled by his doings, especially about the cultivation of immortality,” Luo Shiyu kept repeating on the way up.

Qin Manyun nodded seriously. “I know.”

Not long after, an ancient-looking four-part architecture appeared in front of their eyes. Qin Manyun's beautiful eyes narrowed. Her body froze as she remained transfixed.

She stared blankly at the couplet hung on the door, as if she had seen an Immortal right in front of her eyes. A faint wave of Insights crashed over her, suffocating her.

"Hey! Sister Manyun! Wake up!" Luo Shiyu called out. "You can't go in like this! You have to pretend to be unimpressed, alright? Just pretend you're at an ordinary man's house."

Qin Manyun regained her composure and nodded with difficulty.

"Th—this couplet was written by Mr. Li?" she stuttered.

"That's right," Luo Shiyu said with a hint of nostalgia. "I still remember. Mr. Li said that he's been receiving more visitors lately, so he decided to write a couplet for his door to act as a façade."

A façade?

Qin Manyun's scalp was itching. This couplet could be the greatest treasure of any sect placed in any spot! Yet, this was merely a façade in the eyes of the expert?

Was this the world of a bigshot?

No way!

There was a deeper purpose to this. The expert did everything with deeper implications!

Qin Manyun's heart was moved and she fell deep in thought.

The expert said that he was getting more and more visitors. Perhaps he had figured that there would be many people visiting him from that day onward!

Why did he write this couplet as his façade, though? Was he trying to scare off the less-adequate cultivators? Surely, if his guests were not qualified and spoke foolishly, they would easily affect his mood. Therefore, he wrote this couplet intentionally to warn his visitors not to be disrespectful!

A true bigshot indeed!

Qin Manyun became more respectful than before. She bowed at the couplet.

Meanwhile, Li Nianfan was playing chess with Daji. To be precise, he was teaching her how to play! One had to admit that Daji's chess skills were really bad! She needed advice on almost every move! Or else, the game could have ended as soon as it started.

Daji took a glimpse of Li Nianfan. She held a white piece in her hand and asked cautiously, "Hmm...can I...put it...here?"

"Sigh..." Li Nianfan shook his head as he sighed. "Then, I'll move my piece here and this game will be over."

Daji bit on her lip and lowered her head in embarrassment.

The expert must be so disappointed by her. He had been teaching her for a good few days now, but whenever she was caught up in the game, she would lose very soon. Her heart was overwhelmed with fear and terror. Would he kick her out due to her lack of understanding?

Li Nianfan took back the piece in his hand, pondering.

Daji was like a kid who had done something wrong, waiting for punishment. She did not even dare to take another breath.

There was too big of a gap between Li Nianfan's chess skills and Daji's. Though he could improve her skills through playing the game, when the gap between opponents was too big, it would cause more harm than good.

Li Nianfan came up with an idea. He smiled, "What about this. I'll set up a chess game for you to practice your solving process. I think it might be quite helpful."

"Hmm! Thank you, Mr. Li. I'll try my best," Daji nodded anxiously as her eyes reddened. As long as he did not kick her out, she would work as hard as she could. If she did not have enough understanding, she would break a sweat to learn it to avoid disappointing him.

Li Nianfan looked at the cautious look on her face, feeling rather hurt. He did not mean to stress her out, but since only the two of them lived here—a man and a woman—they would eventually be bored if they did not have something to occupy their time with. He could only watch this little girl suffer for now.

Meanwhile, a respectful voice called out from outside the door. "May I know if Mr. Li's home?"

Li Nianfan paused slightly. He said, "Xiao Bai, go and open the door!"

Xiao Bai rushed to the door.

Click!

The door was opened.

Xiao bai greeted the visitors like a gentleman, “Greetings to my two beautiful ladies.”

“Hello, Xiao Bai,” Luo Shiyu greeted Xiao Bai with a smile.

Qin Manyun forcefully controlled the look on her face, trying to force a more natural smile.

Spiritual Robot!

An actual Spiritual Robot!

It was even put in a human-shaped machine. If one were to put a layer of human skin on it, it would probably have no difference from an actual human!

This kind of Spiritual Robot was definitely the greatest of its kind!

Although she had heard Luo Shiyu mentioning this before, she was still unable to control her emotions upon seeing it with her own eyes!

Luo Shiyu led Qin Manyun inside. Then, she introduced, “Mr, Li, Miss Daji, this is my friend, Qin Manyun.”

“Greetings to Mr. Li. Greetings to Miss Daji,” Qin Manyun instantly greeted them with respect.

Glancing at the chessboard, her heart sank vigorously. She just had a discussion of how Li Nianfan treated the world as a chess game with the scholar yesterday, and now she walked into him doing exactly that! How could this be a mere coincidence!

Impossible!

He must have calculated all these. He must have even expected her arrival. He was obviously making fun of her!

With another look at the chessboard, she saw the word ‘Answer’ written boldly on the board.

Bam!

Qin Manyun's mind went blank instantly, overwhelmed by a soaring chill that was sent up from her spine to the sky!

As expected, the expert was indeed treating the world as his chess game!