

I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot

Chapter 71: Television, Another Voice-Controlled Device

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The Preaching Pearl.

Any disciples of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion knew about it. It was recorded as one of the magical powers of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion!

It was a showstopper—the symbol of supreme authority.

The Preaching Pearl was a unique treasure. It did not attack or defend. Its only function was to preach!

Sorcery and Dao skills could be transferred into the Preaching Pearl. It would transform it into visual images that could be viewed by others. It was a device to share experiences for others to learn.

Generations of knowledge could be passed down with the Preaching Pearl. It was convenient for the disciples to learn. They could see and sense what was passed down to them. They could not directly learn from it, but it was still very effective.

The recorded content was the essence of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion ancestors! The ancestors were self-taught Immortals who transcended into the Immortal Realm.

They left their Dao teachings in the Preaching Pearl. The disciples learned cultivation more effectively with it. Therefore, the Preaching Pearl was the ultimate treasure of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion.

Although Lin Qingyun was shocked, Lin Mufeng was not. Somehow, he was more worried that the expert would not accept his gift.

The Linxian Palace gave away their Thousand-Year Black Ice. Naturally, he had to bring the Preaching Pearl!

He was glad that he made that decision. If he came here and brought a lousy gift, it would have left a bad impression. What was the point of owning all the Preaching Pearls in the world if the expert disliked him?

Li Nianfan saw the visuals in the crystal-ball-type relic. He asked intriguingly, “Television?”

‘How interesting. The Immortal Realm doesn’t have electricity, but they have a lot of relics similar to electrical items from the Mortal Realm. It’s nice to be friends with Immortal cultivators. How else would I be able to collect so many interesting relics? These things are probably useless to the cultivators, but as an ordinary mortal, I want them. I wouldn’t be able to get my hands on them without their help,’ Li Nianfan thought to himself.

Lin Qingyun had to ask. “Mr. Li, what’s...television?”

“Oh, just a small thing from where I came from,” said Li Nianfan. He smiled reminiscently. “They would play the most interesting shows in it and the most amazing content. You can pick and choose your favorite programs, too. I remember my favorite genre is martial arts.”

Sigh, there was no proper entertainment ever since he got here. How boring.

The crystal-ball-type relic was not on the same level as a television. The playtime was short and repetitive and the visual effects were not that impressive either.

Even the Firefinch CGI was miles behind what television could do.

His words blew their minds. Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun were thunderstruck by what he said. They had chills, and it made their skin crawl.

They instantly imagined it.

Where the expert came from must be Heaven. Television must be an item far superior to the Preaching Pearl! It must be an item that could save up countless sorceries and martial arts. Plus, you could pick and choose what teachings to watch! There must be all sorts of visual markings in there!

The expert loved to watch martial arts!

He was probably a battle master. He probably fought and defeated all sorts of opponents. He probably felt lonely so he chose to come down to this realm and live life as an ordinary man.

Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun felt respect towards him. They would be worshipping Li Nianfan if it were not one of his pet-peeves.

Li Nianfan shook his head and said disappointingly, “This is an interesting item, but too bad the shows are boring. Is it okay if I change it?”

Was he belittling the clan’s treasure? Was he indeed too good for the Preaching Pearl?

Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun slightly bowed. They did not dare to breathe.

Then, the crystal-ball-type relic shined and the visuals were gone, erasing all the recorded content!

What? What was going on?

Lin Mufeng was petrified. He felt his blood go cold.

The ancestors did not tell them that the recorded content could be erased!

He started to tear up. He felt miserable because all the precious visuals left from their ancestors were gone.

However... If their ancestors were here, they would have understood.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Haha, it does have a delete function! And it’s a voice-controlled device.”

Lin Mufeng twitched and said awkwardly, “Ha, yes.”

Li Nianfan asked, “How do you make visuals appear on it?”

“Mr. Li, you just have to imagine and recall the visuals and it’ll create visual markings for you automatically.”

“Interesting,” said Li Nianfan while holding the crystal-ball-type relic.

‘We should give it a try.’

He closed his eyes slowly and thought about visuals in his mind.

The crystal-ball-type relic shined and a thick layer of white clouds appeared in it.

Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun stared attentively at the Preaching Pearl. They were curious about what Li Nianfan would think of.

Dong!

They did not know whether they imagined it, but they heard a bell toll.

Suddenly, golden lights covered the white clouds!

There were white clouds everywhere, hovering over the entire sky. Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun saw a humongous gold Buddha appear.

The Buddha was made of gold, saluting with a Namaste gesture. The Buddha looked kind and merciful.

The humongous Buddha went through the clouds which were like silk belts on the Buddha.

Vroom!

Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun breathed heavily. They felt enormous pressure from that.

How powerful and scary!

The entire realm seemed to be in the hands of the Buddha. Endless Insights were transformed into musical hums, humming in the presence of the Buddha.

They went blank like ants looking upon their ultimate maker. They felt overwhelmed by their own insignificance.

How was that possible?

How could a powerful being like that exist?

Was it at the same level as the expert?

It was not over yet.

They saw the Buddha's palms unfold. There was an unruly monkey at the center of the palm.

The monkey was wearing full gold armor and was holding a long stick. The monkey looked arrogant.

The monkey was like an ant in comparison to the Buddha—it was tiny. Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun were extremely anxious upon the sight of the monkey. Their skin crawled and their limbs were trembling!

This, this...

Lin Qingyun was shaking and had goosebumps all over.

This scene was all too familiar. She dreamt about this countless times but she did not expect it to be this majestic.

Who would have known...that she would be able to witness it!

Chapter 72: Ew, How Embarrassing!

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Journey to the West!

Gautama Buddha!

Five Finger Mountain!

Lin Qingyun thought of these words and was extremely excited.

No wonder it was so powerful. It was these two bigshots!

‘Journey to the West’ was a story she heard from the beginning to the end, recited by Li Nianfan. She was respectful towards the ‘Journey to the West’ universe. The two bigshot characters were her favorite, so she was excited like a fangirl meeting her idol.

Awesome, the expert imagined the scene. That must mean he experienced ‘Journey to the West’!

It was probably Heaven from a faraway era!

Also... He could replicate the Insights of Gautama Buddha. Does that mean he was at a higher level than the Buddha?

Horrifying!

Suddenly, the Gautama Buddha pressed his palms against the ground. Everything was affected by the powerful force.

Wukong was underneath the palm. He was a strong and powerful being but he could not escape the five Buddha fingers.

Lin Mufeng was standing still like a statue. He stared at the Preaching Pearl and felt an

However, he looked excited.

He learned from the Preaching Pearl so he knew what this meant.

The expert must be a being more powerful beyond his comprehension. He was simply recalling this scene, but it was already more amazing than the knowledge of his ancestors!

Suddenly, he did not feel sorry for the loss of generational knowledge.

What they were looking at was a pure treasure!

He realized he had the greatest pleasure of being involved!

Luck!

He felt lucky!

Li Nianfan must be pleased with the so-called television, that was why he blessed him with this opportunity!

Awesome! Even if he did not understand anything, this was an experience of a lifetime!

Boom!

Gold light was shining from the Buddha's palm. Then, it transformed into the Five Finger Mountain. Wukong was eventually trapped underneath it!

The end!

Li Nianfan opened his eyes and checked the visuals on the Preaching Pearl. He instantly smiled.

Good item!

He would no longer be bored with this item.

Although it was television shows from his imagination, it was still better than having no television at all.

Li Nianfan did not try to be courteous. He said, “I’ll accept this television. Thank you so much.”

“You’re welcome, Mr. Li. It was just a little token from us,” Lin Mufeng said smilingly.

He was thrilled because this seemed like a good start.

Li Nianfan nodded and invited them, “It’s getting late, why don’t you both stay for a meal?”

Lin Mufeng was about to courteously reject him, but Lin Qingyun took on his offer instantly. “Thank you for the trouble, Mr. Li.”

Li Nianfan laughed. “It’s not troubling. Good timing because coincidentally, I hunted a big eagle yesterday. We’re serving mushroom eagle soup today, so you’re in luck for a treat.”

“Master, it’s almost ready,” said Xiaobai.

Xiaobai carried a black clay pot out. All the ingredients were in the pot, and the mushrooms and side dishes were ready, too.

Li Nianfan smiled. “Perfect timing. Please, wait while I go check on the food.”

Lin Qingyun whispered at Lin Mufeng, “Father, you almost missed out on something good!”

“What do you mean?” Lin Mufeng was confused. He frowned and said, “You’re being rude for instantly accepting his offer like that. Where are your manners? Be careful not to displease the expert!”

“Father, did you forget when I told you about the Bai Luoshang incident?” Lin Qingyun said, exasperated. “The expert won’t be eating ordinary stuff, right? This is our lucky chance!”

Lin Mufeng looked like he realized something.

He still shook his head and scolded her. “You have no manners! Even if it’s an opportunity, it doesn’t mean we should do that! It belongs to experts like Mr. Li. We should be grateful when he chooses to bless us, but we cannot shamelessly beg for it. We should’ve been more considerate before accepting his offer just now. How could you be so impolite?! Next time, think before you act. Got it?”

Lin Qingyun stuck her tongue out. She got worried and said carefully, “Father, I was wrong. Do you think Mr. Li’s angry at us?”

Lin Mufeng sighed softly. “Who knows what’s going on inside the mind of experts? Let’s go help him out. Maybe we can redeem ourselves.”

They carefully walked towards Li Nianfan and courteously asked, “Mr. Li, is there anything we can help you with?”

Li Nianfan looked at the pyre, then shook his head while smiling. “You’re my guests. Just sit and wait.”

“We can’t do that. We can’t shamelessly eat a free meal.”

Lin Mufeng already got it. He stepped towards the pyre and rolled up his sleeves. “Mr. Li, I’ll handle splitting the firewood!”

Li Nianfan did not say anything since Lin Mufeng was enthusiastic. He thought to himself, 'All these cultivators are so nice!'

"Maybe it's because I'm a charmer? I'm just an ordinary man, but since I have royal attributes, the people I meet will all be nice to me? I can live a worry-free life?" Li Nianfan thought to himself.

A charmer, how nice.

Li Nianfan suddenly smiled.

Lin Mufeng sat next to the pyre and looked around. He grabbed the Fallen Demon Sword next to the pyre.

He had a conflicted gaze as he thought to himself, 'The famous Fallen Demon Sword. Countless demons were terrified of this legendary sword. Rumor had it that owning this sword means having the blessing of the Demon Realm. I guess nobody knew it would end up as an ax to split firewood.'

Before this, Lin Mufeng would have been scared of the Fallen Demon Sword.

‘What happened to your demonic powers, huh? Aren’t you supposed to be cool and awesome?’ Lin Mufeng mocked the Fallen Demon Sword and thought about his Preaching Pearl. ‘You guys are usually so awesome, but in the eyes of the expert, you guys are nothing. Ew, how embarrassing!’

Okay, enough with the jokes. Lin Mufeng had to hurry up with the task and impress the expert.

Lin Mufeng placed a block of wood and held the Fallen Demon Sword to chop it!

Bam!

The Fallen Demon Sword only went in three inches.

Lin Mufeng was stumped.

What was going on?

The block of wood was supposed to be chopped clean in half.

Chapter 73: The Expert Must Be Punishing Me

Maybe the Fallen Demon Sword was not good enough?

It could not be!

Lin Mufeng took a look at the Fallen Demon Sword, then looked at the wood.

Yikes—

He almost jumped.

Spirit... Spirit wood?!

What was I doing? I chopped a Spirit wood!

Spirit wood was high-end material to make the best premium items. It was hard to get!

No wonder the Fallen Demon Sword was used as an ax.

Also, was the expert using Spirit wood as firewood?

This, this...

Was this the outrageous world of a bigshot?

He could not help but steal glances at the fire.

Lin Qingyun was helping the expert start the fire. She was carrying out her task dutifully and putting wood into the fire from time to time. She was blowing on the fire, too.

That flame...

The flames of the Dragon Fire Peal!

How horrifying and shocking!

It sent a shiver down his spine. He had a spontaneous idea.

'I no longer want to be the Sect Master of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion. I want to be a woodsman here!

'Unfortunately, the expert probably would not want me.

'Sigh, how miserable.'

He took a deep breath and cleared his mind. He looked at the block of wood again. He wanted to try his best at being the woodsman of the day.

He held the Fallen Demon Sword up high and focused. He transferred his powers into the Fallen Demon Sword.

Then, he swung the sword!

Crack!

The wood was chopped in half!

At the same time, a huge vibration reverberated through the sword. He hummed in pain and his hand was shaky.

Li Mufeng thought to himself, 'So, it's true. Spirit wood does indeed have reverse-attack properties!'

He did not delay his task. He took another block of wood and picked up the Fallen Demon Sword again.

Crack!

He split the wood again.

He felt the same reverse vibration from the sword and his hand went numb.

Even cultivators could be hurt from splitting firewood!

Lin Mufeng focused and counted his blessings.

'I get it!

'The expert must be punishing me!

'My daughter was impolite and it offended him. This is to teach me a lesson!'

He figured it out but did not feel uneasy. Instead, he sighed in relief.

It was a good thing that the expert punished them this way! At least they could redeem themselves!

He was determined to properly split the firewood and impress the expert!

He did not dare to rest. So, he picked up the sword and continued.

Crack!

Crack!

More and more Spirit wood was chopped as Lin Mufeng started to sweat.

He was hurting himself but he felt better, thinking the expert might forgive them if he was genuine and hardworking.

After a while, his hands started to tremble as he slowly used up all his energy. It was more exhausting than fighting a big battle.

Apart from physical exhaustion, his heart was trembling, too.

The wood he was splitting was Spirit wood. He never thought he would be axing Spirit wood like this...not even in his wildest dreams!

It was almost unreal.

'Who dares to show off in front of me next time? I'm a man who split Spirit wood!'

Li Nianfan was not far away. Unintentionally, he saw Lin Mufeng and his pale, sweaty demeanor. He was slightly taken aback.

What was going on? It was just splitting firewood. Was that necessary?

Maybe the old man fought someone before and had injuries?

Li Nianfan hurriedly said, "Brother Lin, that's enough, come on over here and stop splitting."

"Okay, sure." Lin Mufeng was overjoyed. It seemed like the expert was not angry anymore.

The hand that held the Fallen Demon Sword was bloody red and slightly injured. He was internally injured, too, harming his Insights.

He kept a straight face and pretended nothing was wrong. Suddenly, he smelled a rich and tasty scent coming from the clay pot when he walked over to the dining table.

Gulp.

Lin Mufeng could not help but gulp at the delicious scent. He was salivating.

Nice!

The food must be good if it smelled this nice!

This was the first time he felt a desire for food as a cultivator.

He gazed at the clay pot.

The clay pot had a lid on it with a small hole. Steam seeped out of the hole as it simmered.

The flame was burning underneath the clay pot. The Spirit wood was charred from burning.

Lin Mufeng had never witnessed anything this luxurious. The corner of his mouth twitched.

Lin Qingyun squatted at the side and blinked at the clay pot with her pretty eyes. She could not stop salivating and would gulp from time to time.

Daji always had delicious food, but she stared at the clay pot hungrily, too.

After a short while, the steam coming from inside the clay pot increased, and the lid of the clay pot was starting to make ‘flip-flop’ noises.

“Almost done.” Li Nianfan smiled and uncovered the lid.

Suddenly, a heap of white steam rushed out from the clay pot. They could not see the food.

Then, they smelled the intoxicating delicious scent.

The smell was heavenly, inviting their palettes to have a taste. They were suddenly feeling hungry.

Slurp!

Daji, Lin Qingyun, and Lin Mufeng simultaneously swallowed their drool as they stared at the clay pot.

The steam went away, revealing a golden liquid. They looked closely and realized it was a layer of oil on top of a milky white soup.

The clay pot was hot and kept the soup boiling and gurgling. They also saw eagle meat in it.

Lin Qingyun was salivating uncontrollably. She wanted to start eating but her last remnants of rationality refrained her from doing so.

Lin Mufeng was not better than her either. He was controlling his urges, too.

He was curious about what was in the clay pot. How could it smell so good?

He knew Spiritual Water was used for the soup.

On top of the soup, there were some mushrooms, spring onions, and some weird-looking herbs.

Hey? They looked somewhat familiar.

These were... Spiritual Herb?!

Lin Mufeng stared in disbelief at the herbs.

He was thunderstruck as if he had discovered a whole new world.

Spiritual Herbs could be used for soup?!

It seemed like the expert was not just planting the Spiritual Herbs as decoration, but he also used it for cooking, too!

Of course, these Spiritual Herbs were rare, but in his eyes, they were no different from a normal herb.

Lin Mufeng calmed down and looked at the main ingredient—the big eagle!

He could tell the eagle was not small in size. The eagle rested in peace. The flesh was fully cooked through.

The beak of the eagle was eye-catching. It was silver in color.

Holy Mother of God!

Silver Moon Demon King?!

Chapter 74: The Peak of Eagle Life After Death

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Lin Mufeng took a closer look. The beak of the eagle was indeed silver!

Everyone knew that it was a unique trait of the Silver Moon Demon King!

If any unfortunate eagle demon had the same silver beak, the Demon King would chop it off or kill them!

He thought about the drastic changes of the mountain demons.

It was confirmed. This eagle in the clay pot was the Silver Moon Demon King!

Lin Mufeng felt like someone was choking him. It was hard to breathe.

The Silver Moon Demon King was a famous bigshot, but he ended up in a pot of soup!

Horrifying and astounding!

He was unsure of what the Demon King did to offend the expert. What a tragic ending. He needed to be careful from now on and try his best not to displease the expert.

Lin Qingyun saw the floating herbs, too, and had a shocked expression on her cute face. She asked, “Mr. Li, that’s... the Spiritual Herbs?”

“Yeah.” Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Daji’s no longer hurt, so I have no use for these herbs. However, it seems like they’re good for making medicinal soups.”

Truthfully, he thought that the Spiritual Herbs given by the Holy Emperor and Lin Qingyun were normal medicinal herbs. They did not give him the premium healing herbs since Daji and himself were ordinary.

Since the Spiritual Herbs were pretty normal, their medical properties would be mild. That was how he got the idea of making medicinal soup.

The herbs were nicely grown and he did not need much of it. It was exactly like chives. He could throw in a heap of herbs into his cooking anytime—it was perfect.

Lin Qingyun was stunned.

No use for Spiritual Herbs?

She laughed wryly inside.

Of course, why would Spiritual Herbs be of any use for an expert like him? It was a mere decoration to him.

Her father was right. The expert was totally testing their sincerity last time.

Lin Qingyun and Lin Mufeng breathed in at the same time and tried to calm their racing hearts.

Bark!

Blackie came out of the room and ran to Li Nianfan, snuggling against his legs.

“Blackie, stop it. You’ll have yours!” Li Nianfan held Blackie down and frowned. “I feel like something’s missing.”

He thought about it and had an idea. He went over to the rockery. “Buddy, give me five drops of jello.”

Drip drop!

Five drops of jello dripped out fast.

Li Nianfan took the five drops of jello and put them into the clay pot without hesitation. He smiled and thought to himself, ‘That’s more like it. My taste in delicious food is flawless.’

Li Nianfan came to the Immortal Realm alone and he was an ordinary man. Therefore, good food became his biggest joy. He would do anything to cook his food to perfection.

Lin Qingyun and Lin Mufeng on the other hand were gobsmacked by his actions. Their minds stopped working and their mouths were O-shaped.

Li Nianfan looked at them and felt proud of himself.

‘Haha, they’ve been enslaved by my fantastic food.’

Immortals still had desires. One of the biggest desires in life that everyone was born with was the desire to eat!

Immortals might practice inedia, but clearly, they could not resist the temptation of good food.

His tasty cooking tempted Immortals, too.

Li Nianfan was pleased with himself. Mortals were the envy of the Gods above!

“Let’s dig in.”

A simple phrase brought Lin Qingyun and Lin Mufeng back to reality.

They shut their jaws. Nobody had time to be shocked. They were busy wanting to eat good food.

Heavenly soup!

This was heavenly soup for sure!

Spirit wood as firewood, Dragon Fire Pearl for the fire, Spiritual Water for the soup, a touch of Spiritual Herbs, some Thousand-Year Black Ice, and a slow-simmered Silver Moon Demon King!

If anyone knew about this, they would lose their minds.

Lin Mufeng looked at the Silver Moon Demon King that rested in peace. He had a complex feeling and thought to himself, 'Bro, you'd never expect this but you reached your peak after your death.'

Xiao Bai scooped a serving of soup for everyone including Blackie.

Blackie rushed towards his dog bowl and dug in.

Slurp!

Blackie slurped the mushroom eagle soup and wagged his tail from left to right at a fast pace.

Li Nianfan shook his head and smiled. “Slow down and be careful, it’s hot!”

Lin Qingyun and Lin Mufeng looked at Blackie who was chomping down on the soup. They both gulped.

They were already hungry. Seeing Blackie enjoying the soup was like teasing a kitten. They could not help themselves.

‘Stay calm, we must stay calm! Nothing’s happening. We must protect our integrity and image in front of the expert.’ They kept thinking to themselves. They purposefully stayed elegant as they picked up their bowls.

Lin Mufeng was trembling while holding the bowl carefully.

The bowl was a small, delicate Chinese ceramic bowl. The bottom of the bowl was as white as jade. The green lines on the bowl were like smoke and water—a wonderful layered design. Beautiful!

He blew on the soup gently. The golden oil was blown away, revealing the milky white soup. It smelled delicious and intoxicating.

He could not bear it any longer. He took a sip and was blown away.

The soup moved in between his teeth and lips and the taste was indescribable. His mouth was filled with a lasting aroma.

The soup went down his throat.

He felt cozy and warm once he swallowed the soup. He could not forget about the lasting aroma. It was a special concoction—an aroma of Spiritual Herbs and eagle meat. He enjoyed it very much.

Delicious!

It was so delicious!

Not only was the soup luxurious, but it was also super tasty!

Lin Mufeng was so moved, he wanted to cry.

‘Sniff, sniff. Never in my life did I think I’d have the honor to taste rare food like this. I can die happy with no regrets!

‘Mr. Li’s my noble savior. He’s so kind to me.’

At a moment like this, he felt lucky. Even if the soup was not luxurious and was just a normal bowl of soup, he would still feel blessed by how amazing it tasted! This experience was priceless!

Lin Mufeng could no longer suppress his desires. He wanted to press the bowl against his face.

Gulp.

He chugged down the soup in one go like a glass of fine wine. He licked his lips and enjoyed the sweet aftertaste.

He held his empty bowl and stared at the remaining soup in the pot. He was about to shamelessly ask for another serving but he suddenly felt like he was burning up.

Bam!

His mind was blown wide open before he gave it a second thought. He felt something pouring in like crazy. He was suddenly malfunctioning.

Chapter 75: Refrigerator, the Expert's Hint!

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Splash!

Insights flowed into his head like waves.

At the same time, he could feel his core upgrading and filling his limbs with Insights.

This was too much!

‘Steady, I have to hold on!’

He tried to absorb the Insights while telling himself not to cause a ruckus in front of the expert. He did not want to upset the expert.

Lin Qingyun on the other hand, was looking at her bowl of soup like a worshipper. She could not control her excitement because it was a pot of soup made from the rarest ingredients.

Was this the bigshot lifestyle? This was a once in a lifetime soup.

She slowly scooped the soup with her spoon and drank it.

The texture of the soup was smooth and silky. The deliciousness took over her senses as it surrounded her tongue. She felt as if her every cell were cheering in enjoyment.

Gulp.

The delicious soup went down her throat, leaving a trail of everlasting aroma.

“Wow—” Lin Qingyun whimpered and closed her eyes, she was enjoying the time of her life.

There was some eagle meat in her mouth. She chewed on it and was surprised by the texture.

The eagle meat had been simmering in the clay pot and it was cooked thoroughly until it had a tender texture. The meat was not too hard to chew but it was not too mushy either. It was just right and it was incredibly juicy.

Delicious!

She did not know how else to describe the soup apart from the word ‘delicious’. This was the first time in her life that she was at a loss for words.

She wanted to take another sip, but she started blushing.

Her mind went blank and she felt her powers vibrating.

Lin Mufeng came back to his senses after a long time. He stared at the pot of soup in agony.

What was going on?

He understood that he might level up after drinking the soup since there were so many rare ingredients in it, but...why was he gaining Insights?!

The Insights were not as strong as the tea leaves from last time. However, there was a full pot of soup in front of them!

This was incredibly scary!

Were Insights worthless to experts?

He stared at the pot of eagle soup and tried to find the source of the Insights.

It was not the mountain eagle, not the Spiritual Herbs, and not the Thousand-Year Black Ice. He doubted that it was the Spiritual Water. Therefore, it must be the mushrooms and the touch of spring onions!

Yikes—

His theory made his hair stand on end.

He forced himself to calm down and carefully scooped another bowl. Intentionally, he scooped some mushrooms for himself, too.

This time, he no longer dared to drink it in one go. Instead, he took a small sip and ate a piece of mushroom.

The mushroom was soft and drenched in flavor. It was amazing but the soup tasted better.

Lin Mufeng did not care much about how it tasted. He bit down on a mushroom.

Splurt—

The mushroom was split apart. A special, mystical feeling came over Lin Mufeng. He suddenly understood.

These...

These mushrooms contained Insights!

He was baffled. He thought the most ordinary ingredients in the soup were the mushrooms and spring onions. However, that was far from it.

The mushrooms and spring onions were Insight-filled ingredients.

He had never seen or heard anything like this!

Damn, he was not at that level yet. He should have known the expert would not be planting ordinary vegetables.

“Brother Lin, Lady Lin, what are you guys doing? You’re eating at such a slow pace,” said Li Nianfan. He asked curiously, “Is the eagle soup not to your taste?”

He was confused about what they were thinking. Lin Mufeng drank a bowl and went blank for a long while. Lin Qingyun was worse, she only took a small sip and sat still.

Lin Mufeng jumped, almost scared to death. He quickly replied, “Of course not! This eagle soup is definitely the best thing I’ve ever tasted in my entire life! I’m enjoying it! Yes, because it’s too delicious, I can’t help but savor the aftertaste.”

Lin Qingyun continuously nodded, too. “Yeah, Mr. Li, we’re enjoying the aftertaste. It’s super tasty so we can’t help it.”

“I’m glad you like it, but perhaps you all should actually eat it before savoring the aftertaste,” laughed Li Nianfan.

Manner freaks.

They were eating meals as if they were tea-tasting. They needed time to enjoy the aftertaste after each sip.

However, it showed their respect toward the art of food. What a bunch of mannered people.

Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun looked troubled after hearing what the expert said.

It was disrespectful to eat slowly, but they could not handle it if they were to eat quickly!

Screw it! They could not displease the expert!

They clenched their jaws and ate faster.

They could barely handle it. They could feel Insights rushing into their bodies which were starting to burn up. They also could not hear anything. They felt extremely full.

However, they did not dare to show it. They just endured it with all their might.

They were at their limit and were sweating bullets, panting and blushing while feeling dizzy.

They were acting strange but Li Nianfan ignored it because it was not unusual to sweat while drinking warm soup.

Li Nianfan felt warm and cozy, too. He looked at the remaining pot of soup, then frowned and mumbled, “I have a television, but too bad I don’t have a refrigerator. I’ll have to pour away the remaining soup.”

The refrigerator?

Hint!

That was a hint!

It was our time to shine!

Lin Mufeng breathed heavily. He took one big breath to push down the Insights within him. Then, he said with a hoarse voice, “Mr. Li, may I ask what’s a refrigerator?”

Li Nianfan replied, “It was a thing used to store food. It could freeze food, thereby, preserve it.”

“I see.”

Lin Mufeng nodded. He had a few ice-type items in mind.

However, he shook his head and removed those items as options.

The items he was thinking of were probably of too poor quality for the expert. He could not present him with trash items.

The expert would never give obvious hints. It was not that simple. He had to put some thought into it.

Refrigerator, refrigerator...

He remembered the word and prioritized it. He did not dare to delay a mission assigned by the expert.

Chapter 76: A Penetrating Danger

Chapter 76: A Penetrating Danger

Li Nianfan reminisced about the refrigerator.

He gazed far away into a distance and felt nostalgic.

Actually, he did not want to preserve his food. He disliked vegetables that were frozen. He just wanted a refrigerator so he could have some cold drinks!

Cold drinks and cold watermelon were the bomb!

He finished his meal. It would be great if he could have a can of icy soda.

Lin Mufeng saw how Li Nianfan looked.

He noted that the refrigerator was important to the expert. He had to carry out his assigned task for sure!

Then, he was perplexed.

He saw Li Nianfan pick up the clay pot and walk to the backyard.

He was going to throw the soup away...

Lin Mufeng's eyes widened in shock!

It was torturous for him to watch Li Nianfan pour away the Heavenly soup.

Li Nianfan was about to walk to the backyard so he had to act quickly. He spontaneously said, "Mr. Li, please, wait."

“Huh?” Li Nianfan looked at Lin Mufeng.

Lin Mufeng went stiff. Terrified, he said, “Mr. Li, are you going to throw away the soup?”

Li Nianfan nodded. “Yeah, I can’t preserve it anyway.”

“That... It would be a waste to throw away a soup so delicious. I was wondering if... I can take it away?” Lin Mufeng felt his throat going dry. It took all his might to say that, but he did not dare to look at Li Nianfan.

He tried to look normal but in reality, he almost pissed himself.

“You want soup takeaway?”

Li Nianfan suddenly had a great impression of Lin Mufeng.

Well-mannered people!

They did not want to waste food!

At the same time, he was feeling proud. Even cultivators wanted to take away his food. He thought to himself, 'It's obvious they've been enslaved by my awesome cooking!'

"Yeah," Lin Mufeng nodded before he quickly added on, "It's fine if it isn't okay."

"Of course, it's okay. Don't worry about it." Li Nianfan chuckled.

Meanwhile, countless roots had grown out from the ground somewhere and were waving like crazy.

Lin Mufeng shivered suddenly. He felt a penetrating danger like they were being stared at by powerful forces.

He looked around confusedly. He felt uneasy. What was going on?

He should not have enemies because he was always careful and low-key.

Maybe it was just his imagination?

He ignored it and focused on Li Nianfan.

Li Nianfan took out a rectangular translucent container. Then, he poured the remaining soup into the box.

Splash.

Li Nianfan closed the lid and handed it over to Lin Mufeng. He smiled and said, “Don’t fret, this is a takeaway container. It was made for takeaways.”

He did not expect to use the takeaway container. He had a bunch of containers in the System Space. Li Nianfan felt like it was the most useless item he had.

“Then, I’ll take it. Thank you so much, Mr. Li,” said Lin Mufeng courteously. He took the container with both hands and said, “Mr. Li, we’ve disturbed you for long enough. We should go now.”

Lin Qingyun also stood up to bow at him. “Mr. Li, thank you for today.”

Li Nianfan waved and said, “No problem, see you later.”

...

They walked out of the four-part architecture. Lin Mufeng looked serious when he asked, “Qingyun, have you figured out what’s a refrigerator?”

“Father, how would I know if you don’t?” Lin Qingyun shook her head and groaned. After a while, she said, “But I’m sure it’s not an ordinary item. It must be a treasure!”

“I thought so, too. It’s probably something more valuable than the Preaching Pearl!” Lin Mufeng said in a serious tone. “The expert didn’t say it, but he gave us an obvious hint. We have to do our best to find a refrigerator. We need to repay him for his blessings today, and we can’t let him down!”

They did not realize it but his right arm glowed with a black light. Then, it silently disappeared.

Meanwhile, in a dark corner a million miles away, a dark shadow moved and opened his eyes!

Whoosh!

Waves of evil aura surrounded him. He looked agitated.

“The scent of the Fallen Demon Sword!” he said in a hoarse voice. He glared at the sky.

Ever since the Sword Demon disappeared into thin air, the Fallen Demon Sword went missing, too. It finally appeared again!

“Follow the scent. Send the others to retrieve it!”

...

Lin Mufeng shivered during his discussion with Lin Qingyun. He felt the same sense of danger again and frowned.

What was going on?

Was he being targeted?

Or was something bad about to happen?

He worriedly held onto the eagle soup and said, “Qingyun, we’re carrying such a precious box of eagle soup. We should hurry home just in case!”

Lin Qingyun agreed.

They rushed back to the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion in a flash.

Li Nianfan let Xiao Bai clean up the mess while he played chess with Daji in the four-part architecture.

“Huh?”

Li Nianfan looked at the chessboard. He smiled. “You cracked my chess strategy?”

“Yeah, I coincidentally detected the strategy,” said Daji with a nod. Daji looked at Li Nianfan with her pretty eyes, almost as if she was waiting for a compliment.

“Haha, nice. You’ve improved. You’re quite clever, but this is just a beginner’s strategy.”

Li Nianfan laughed and poked her button nose. He added, “I should fulfill my promises. I said I’d reward you with a gift if you cracked my strategy.”

He walked to the door and retrieved a smooth Jade. He gave it to Daji and said, “I mostly have guy things here. Only this Jade would suit you.”

This Jade was given to him by Luo Shiyu. The Jade was top-notch, plus it was worked on by Li Nianfan. It was a perfect Jade and it would have been extremely pricey in the past realm.

It was also a feminine object. He had been planning on giving it to Daji for a while now.

“Thank you!” Daji accepted the Jade happily. She caressed it lovingly and said, “You’re so nice to me. If you need anything in the future, just tell me.”

Li Nianfan was taken aback. “Cough, I told you, you don’t have to be so courteous.”

Chapter 77: We’re in Luck Over an Eagle Soup?

Chapter 77: We’re in Luck Over an Eagle Soup?

Two hours later.

At the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion.

Two figures rushed past the gates without stopping.

“Elders, come out here this instant!”

Lin Mufeng yelled before even reaching the gates. He was red from excitement.

The disciples of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion all greeted him and bowed.

They knew their Sect Master too well. The Sect Master found something and was here to present it!

They glanced at the rectangular box in his hands. The box was translucent and it seemed like it contained something.

Was that it?

What kind of item was that?

The three elders were used to Lin Mufeng acting like this. They all rushed to the hall without delay. They asked excitedly, “What? What’s going on? You brought back something good?”

Lin Mufeng grabbed his long beard and laughed mysteriously. “I visited the expert today and benefited from it a lot. I brought back an unexpected treasure!”

Unexpected treasure?

Wow!

The three elders started breathing heavily as they stared at him.

“Really?” asked the Big Elder with a trembling voice.

The Second Elder had an impatient temper. He chimed in, “What is it? Hurry up and show us!”

“Come on, stop teasing us!” rushed the Third Elder.

Lin Mufeng blushed and smiled. He raised the takeaway container in his hand and said excitedly, “Tadaa! This is it!”

The three elders stopped breathing and stared at the takeaway box.

Then, they all froze.

They expected a shiny treasure, but got a seemingly ordinary box with...soup in it?

The Big Elder was confused and unsure. He asked, “Is this a box of...chicken soup?”

“No, it’s eagle soup!”

Lin Mufeng corrected, “This is the eagle soup I begged from the expert!”

Eagle soup?

Was there a difference?

The smiles on their faces went away. They did not know what type of reaction their Sect Master expected.

They all looked at each other and shook their heads.

Maybe the Sect Master ran into an enemy and someone knocked his head. Perhaps he lost his mind?

“Snort, haha—”

Suddenly, someone in the hall burst out laughing. “Old Man Lin, have you lost your mind? Did you really bring back a box of eagle soup as a treasure? Is the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion that poor? If you guys are facing trouble, I could donate some bread or meat—anything!”

Lin Mufeng went stiff. He then saw an old man with green clothes behind the three elders. The old man had tanned skin and a wrinkly face. He did not look like a cultivator. He looked like a countryside farmer instead.

“Old Man Sun? Why are you here?” Lin Mufeng was taken aback.

“You should feel lucky that I’m here!” Old Man Sun chuckled and mocked him, “It’s much more valuable than your eagle soup anyway.”

“Brother Lin, come on. You’re a thousand years old. Stop acting childish and put down the eagle soup.”

“I should feel lucky?” Lin Mufeng sneered. “Nothing’s better than this eagle soup! You’re just here to mock me!”

“Old Man Lin, have you lost your mind? I wouldn’t take a second look at ambrosia if it was right in front of me. You think I care about your takeaway soup?” Old Man Sun asked angrily.

That was insulting!

“Ha, you’re a toad in a well. You wouldn’t understand how extraordinary this eagle soup is.”

Lin Mufeng judgmentally glanced at everyone. Then, he carefully opened the container, afraid to spill any soup out.

The takeaway container was specially designed. It kept the soup warm.

The expert was extraordinary, even his takeaway box was superior.

Clack.

The lid was uncovered. An amazing scent wafted out from the container like lava in a volcano.

Old Man Sun was about to continue mocking him but the aroma left him speechless.

The three elders were baffled, too. Their noses twitched as they stared at the eagle soup in disbelief.

Nice.

What a nice aroma!

Gulp.

They all simultaneously gulped like they were thirsty.

“Sect Master, this soup is milky white and shiny like a Jade. It smells incredible. I think it’s a one-of-a-kind soup. Maybe we need to reevaluate,” said the Big Elder. He immediately rushed to the kitchen and came back with bowls and chopsticks.

“The Big Elder’s always right,” nodded the Second Elder. He also rushed to the kitchen.

“Makes sense, I agree,” said the Third Elder.

Old Man Sun stared at the soup. He stubbornly said, “Hmph. Even if it’s nice, it’s still just an ordinary eagle soup, right?”

Suddenly, the Big Elder jolted. “Huh? This beak... Silver Moon Demon King?!”

Gasp—

Everyone looked over and gasped in shock.

Silver Moon Demon King!

It was the Silver Moon Demon King!

“So fussy!” Lin Mufeng grinned and said casually, “It’s just the Silver Moon Demon King, a small mountain eagle, pay no attention to it.”

Just a small mountain eagle?

The three elders looked at Lin Mufeng weirdly.

Their Sect Master went out and came back a different person. When was he so arrogant?

They remembered that the Silver Moon Demon King was able to defeat him.

“So what if it’s the Silver Moon Demon King? Demon meat is still just meat. What’s so special about it?” Old Man Sun continued to be stubborn.

Everyone snapped out of it, wiped away their saliva, and scooped a bowl of eagle soup.

Huh?

‘Why does the root in the soup look like the roots of the Nine Ginseng?’

‘And this herb right here, it looks like Neon Grass?’

‘This petal seems to be Chalcedony?’

They were thunderstruck by the ingredients in their bowl and they could not believe their eyes.

“This, this is...” Big Elder looked at Lin Mufeng in disbelief.

“Yeah, correct, it is.”

Lin Mufeng laughed and nodded. “Drink it while it’s hot. I told you, you’re in luck!”

Chapter 78: Mr. Li Was Truly the Chosen One

Chapter 78: Mr. Li Was Truly the Chosen One

Old Man Sun and the three elders jolted. They stared at the eagle soup.

Then, they hurriedly took a sip.

Slurp!

They slurped the soup into their mouths.

Suddenly, they experienced deliciousness!

The four of them smacked their lips and hummed in satisfaction.

Then, they swallowed their soup in one go.

Gulp.

The entire hall was filled with sounds of them devouring the soup.

Some of them drank it too fast as soup was dripping from the corners of their mouths onto their beards. They stopped it with their fingers before it reached their beards and pushed it back to their mouths.

Yummy, delicious!

They seemed to have forgotten everything else in the world. They only had one thing in their minds which was to eat the soup.

Soon, they sighed in relief after finishing.

Oh, to be able to drink this soup...worth their lives!

The Big Elder looked at Lin Mufeng and said, "Sect Master, this soup..."

Lin Mufeng raised his hand to stop him and smiled. “Don’t talk, just take in the experience.”

The four of them were confused. Then, their eyes were wide open.

They felt their powers vibrating hard and their minds were clear. They heard the hums of Dao!

Insights!

The soup contained Insights?!

Incredible!

Unbelievable!

They felt their hearts race as their bodies burned up.

It was too late to be shocked by it. They all slowly closed their eyes and enjoyed the Insights pouring into their bodies.

After a while, the Big Elder woke up. He ran towards the takeaway box at the fastest speed possible to scoop another bowl of soup.

“Big Elder, rude! Everyone should get their share of soup, right?”

The Second Elder rushed to scoop a bowl of soup, too.

Old Man Sun and the Third Elder woke up, too, and were making a fuss.

They were not at the same level as the Big Elder, so they would be drinking less than him.

They made the rash decision to drink it anyway. It did not matter if they could not handle it!

Slurp!

The four of them were drinking with their heads held high.

“Slow down, save some for me!”

Old Man Sun was tearing up. He yelled, “What are you guys doing? I’m the guest here! How dare you fight with me! Put down the soup!”

The Second Elder said while drinking, “Yeah, you’re the guest! So, beat it. You’re not welcome here!”

“True. Put down the eagle soup now! It’s not for you!” the Third Elder agreed.

Old Man Sun was pissed. “Don’t blame me for taking it by force!”

...

The box of soup was quickly finished by the four old men. They almost fought for the last few mouthfuls of soup.

“Oh, nice. I haven’t felt this good in a while now.”

The four of them smiled in contentment. They would not trade this for anything.

The Big Elder raised his eyebrow at the takeaway container. “This box...is extraordinary!”

The rest of them looked at the box bafflingly.

The Second Elder took a deep breath and said, “It kept the soup warm, and also saved the Insights. You can’t find a container like this anywhere else.”

“Sect Master, the expert gave you this box too?” asked the Third Elder.

Lin Mufeng only realized at this moment that the takeaway container was special. He laughed exasperatingly, “Yeah, the expert simply gave it to me, he seems to...hate it.”

Hate it?

Of course, this was the expert they were talking about. The box might be special to others, but it was trash to him.

Bigshot!

Legendary bigshot!

Who knew their Sect Master would bring back so many treasures on his first visit? They were initially a bit sad that their Sect Master wanted to give away their Preaching Pearl, but their Sect Master was smart to do so.

His efforts resulted in kind treatment from the expert. They felt stupid in comparison to their Sect Master!

“Old Man Lin, where did you get this luxurious eagle soup?” Old Man Sun looked at Lin Mufeng and asked. “What expert are you guys talking about?”

Lin Mufeng smiled and shook his head. “Can’t tell you.”

He would not expose the expert’s information without his consent.

Old Man Sun understood so he did not probe further. He sighed in envy. “You’re so lucky to know an expert like that. What I came here to share with you means nothing now.”

Lin Mufeng was curious. “Why are you here exactly? What is it?”

“A secret border opened at the Izumo Mountains. I came here to invite you to explore our luck there. Maybe we’ll find something valuable,” said Old Man Sun.

He did not try to be mysterious and he was straightforward about it. Plus, he already drank their eagle soup shamelessly!

“Izumo Mountains? Secret border?” Lin Mufeng smiled and said, “Thanks for thinking of me. That was nice of you.”

Most people would keep this a secret because secret borders were rare and hard to detect. Only a few nearby cultivators would be able to sense a secret border if they were lucky. Secret borders had limited treasure, too.

Nobody knew why secret borders existed or why they would open. The popular theory was that secret borders were retreats or homes of ancient bigshots.

Old Man Sun said, “You know an expert now, so a secret border is probably trash to you. Thank you for the eagle soup. I appreciate it. Goodbye.”

A secret border was a goldmine, but it usually contained traps and tests. You had to fight with others for the treasure, too. It was extremely dangerous and inappropriate for someone like Lin Mufeng to test the waters.

“Izumo Mountains, Izumo Mountains...” He kept mumbling as if he got something.

Old Man Sun was about to leave when he quickly stopped him. “Old Man Sun, where are the Izumo Mountains?”

Old Man Sun pointed in the northwest direction. “It’s just right over there. Why? Are you interested?”

Lin Mufeng had an epiphany.

Got it!

I got it!

Northwest was the direction the expert was gazing at when he mentioned the refrigerator.

That was the clue he gave!

Haha, God bless Old Man Sun!

‘It seems like the expert already knew this would happen. The secret border opening is probably related to him, too. Mr. Li wants me to look for the refrigerator in the secret border!’

‘Mr. Li is truly The Chosen One!’

‘I need to complete this assigned task!’

Chapter 79: The Beloved Mr. Li

Chapter 79: The Beloved Mr. Li

Lin Mufeng said without hesitation, “Old Man Sun, I’m going with you to the secret border!”

“You’re going to the secret border?” Old Man Sun was slightly taken aback.

“You don’t understand. It’s an assignment from the expert.”

Lin Mufeng looked serious and continued, “The secret border opening might be because of the expert. He mentioned an item that is most likely at the secret border. I have to retrieve it and present it to the expert!”

“For real?”

Old Man Sun frowned and said with disbelief, “The expert knows what’s inside?”

Lin Mufeng smiled and said, “I promise you, this expert’s level is unmatched! How would a mere secret border be beyond his abilities? He just doesn’t want to retrieve the item himself!”

He would never promise something so far-fetched, but after visiting Li Nianfan, he knew it was possible. He was seeing the world in a whole new light.

Unmatched level?

Old Man Sun stared at him shockingly and asked, “You...are you sure you aren’t joking?”

“Ha, think about it. Do you think someone ordinary would drink that eagle soup? Do you have any idea how it was made?”

Lin Mufeng smiled and said, "Let's depart. I'll tell you on the way."

"Sect Master, please, wait!" the Big Elder called out to Lin Mufeng.

"Huh?" Lin Mufeng frowned and looked at the Big Elder.

"Sect Master, maybe I should go instead!" the Big Elder said sincerely. "The secret border would be dangerous. You're the only one who has visited the expert and you're the most important person in the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion. We can't let anything happen to you, so it'd be best if I go."

The Second Elder and the Third Elder nodded in agreement.

Lin Mufeng shook his head and said, "You're wrong. The expert's hint was for me. Therefore, I need to be the one to complete it! Plus, it would only be sincere if I put myself in danger to retrieve the item! There's no negotiation in this, I have to retrieve the item on my own!"

The three elders sighed. "In that case, Sect Master, please be careful! Stay safe!"

Lin Mufeng told Old Man Sun everything on their way to the secret border.

Old Man Sun's expression kept changing. He even stopped breathing at one point.

Finally, he gasped at the end of the story.

Yikes—

The tea incident, the Fallen Demon Sword as an ax to split wood, the Spirit wood as firewood, the Thousand-Year Black Ice as seasoning, the mushrooms and spring onions with Insights!

Horrifying, how horrifying!

What type of Godly bigshot was that?

If it were not for him knowing Lin Mufeng well and the fact that he tasted the amazing eagle soup, he would have thought Lin Mufeng was reciting fairytales.

“Who would've thought a bigshot like that is living in our realm in secrecy?” said Old Man Sun.

Lin Mufeng sighed deeply and said, “Yeah, it still feels like a dream to me. It’s unbelievable.”

Old Man Sun went quiet. Then, he said in a serious tone, “You can’t be careless around a Godly expert like that. Are you sure you understood what he hinted?”

Usually, an expert would bless those who cracked their code. However, if they misunderstood the message, there would be huge consequences!

Lin Mufeng groaned softly. Then, he said, “I think so. I always carefully deduce the hints, and I won’t do anything irrational without reason.”

Then, he told Old Man Sun his theory on why the item was in the secret border.

“I see, truly The Chosen One!” Old Man Sun exclaimed. “It looks like he did open the secret border. Your theory should be right. We have to go to the border and finish the task as soon as possible.”

Lin Mufeng looked at Old Man Sun and smiled. “You’re going to help me?”

“Of course! I’m in. But don’t be mistaken, I’m not doing this for you. I’m doing this to get on the expert’s good side. This is better than anything else!” Old Man Sun replied without thinking.

Lin Mufeng said, “Let’s hurry up and go. We’re still far away from the Izumo Mountains. The Lunar New Year is upon us, so we have to retrieve the item before the Lunar New Year ends!”

...

The next day.

Li Nianfan saw Daji brushing her teeth with toothpaste early in the morning. He smiled as he watched.

He taught her how to brush her teeth for a few days but she was still clumsy.

Daji was brushing her teeth very carefully now. Women truly loved beauty. It was in their nature. He felt like if he were to manufacture toothbrushes in this realm, he would be rich in no time.

But of course, it was just a thought. Li Nianfan did not want to be a business owner. It was awesome living a simple life, right?

Moreover, Li Nianfan could not manufacture a huge amount on his own. He was barely making enough toothpaste for his own use.

The packaging of the toothpaste was as good as the past realm. However, the effect of the toothpaste was greater.

It was easy to achieve fresh breath and clean, white teeth.

Daji blushed when she saw Li Nianfan smiling. “You’re making fun of me again.”

“No, I’m not. I went through professional training to not make fun of people.”

Li Nianfan joked in a serious tone. Then, he said, “It’s been a while since we went to the Fallen Town. Maybe we should go check it out after breakfast.”

Daji nodded. “Okay, sure.”

Breakfast was ordinary as usual.

Salted vegetables with white porridge and a piece of steamed bread.

‘Time to shop for groceries.’

Li Nianfan thought to himself, ‘I feel like where I’m living isn’t okay. I only went hunting one time and the woods were already sent into an unpeaceful frenzy. I don’t think I’ll be able to hunt for a while.’

The two of them ate breakfast and headed out to the Fallen Town.

He saw the crowd of the Fallen Town from afar. It was bustling with chatter.

So crowded?

Li Nianfan could not help but fasten his pace.

He then noticed the two red lanterns hanging on the side of the gates. Red ribbons were wrapped around the town gates, too.

There were a lot more people than usual. Everyone was chatting with smiles on their faces.

Li Nianfan was in a festive mood, too. Every citizen in the Fallen Town had their red decorations up for the Lunar New Year.

Children were playing and chasing each other on the streets and you could hear their innocent laughter.

“This lantern’s crooked. Move it to the right.”

Auntie Zhang was being helpful. She yelled, “Yes, a bit more to the right.”

She turned and saw Li Nianfan and instantly walked over with a big smile. “Mr. Li, it’s been a while since you came to the Fallen Town.”

Li Nianfan nodded and smiled. “Yeah, I’ve been having quite a few guests recently, so I haven’t gone out much.”

“I see, no wonder I don’t see you around anymore. I always take notice of these things.” Auntie Zhang looked at Daji and said, “This must be your wife. She looks so fine, much prettier than the pretty ladies I know!”

The pretty ladies she meant were the cultivators.

Li Nianfan smirked inside. He explained with a straight face, “Auntie Zhang, you’re mistaken. She’s my friend.”

“I see, gotcha.”

Auntie Zhang threw Li Nianfan an ‘understanding’ look. Then, she said, “Wait here for a while, I’ll go get Nanan.”

She then quickly walked toward her house.

“Mr. Li, you’re so popular,” said Daji. She looked at him adoringly.

She felt like her master blended into the lives of the ordinary people. He lived as an ordinary man and was beloved by common folks. This might be the true cultivation, no one would be able to do it as effortlessly as he did.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “The folks here are honest people. You’ll be treated the same way if you’re kind and down-to-earth, too.”

The other folks noticed Li Nianfan, too, and they all greeted him.

“Mr. Li, long time no see.”

“Mr. Li, do you have any more new stories? My kids are restless ever since you finished ‘Journey to the West’.”

“True, my kid wanted to go on a cultivation journey, too.”

A lot of people noticed Daji next to Li Nianfan and they teased, “Mr. Li, when’s the honeymoon?”

Then, a bunch of kids ran toward him and tugged on his trousers while yelling, “Brother Nianfan!”

A young boy asked in a baby voice, “Brother Nianfan, we want to hear your stories.”

Li Nianfan patted his head and smiled. “I’ll tell you stories next time when I have the chance.”

This was a white lie for the children.

However, the innocent kids were cheering.

“Mr. Li.”

Auntie Zhang jogged over with Nanan and a basket of eggs.

“Mr. Li, you cured Nanan. I always wanted to thank you but I don’t know where you live. Please, take this basket of eggs.”

Auntie Zhang gave him the basket of eggs without waiting for his response.

“Auntie Zhang, this...” Li Nianfan wanted to be courteous.

“Brother Nianfan, please accept it,” said Nanan. She tugged on his shirt and looked at him with stars in her eyes.

Li Nianfan smiled. “Alright, I’ll take it.”

He held the basket and asked, “Auntie Zhang, why is it so crowded in the Fallen Town?”

Auntie Zhang replied, “Mr. Li, it’s almost the Lunar New Year. Everyone’s getting ready for the festive holiday.”

“Lunar New Year?”

Li Nianfan was baffled. “This year’s Lunar New Year is so early?”

Li Nianfan was here for five years. He was not unfamiliar with Lunar New Year.

Lunar New Year was more or less the same in his past realm. It was the biggest annual festive season. Even cultivators would participate in celebrating.

However, the celebration period was different in the past realm. Lunar New Year was held before Autumn, meant for praying to the Gods to bless them with good harvests during the coming Autumn season.

Auntie Zhang said, “Mr. Li, you have to come by. This year’s Lunar New Year is going to be big. I heard that the Cultivating Sect will be here to take in recruits. Nanan’s going to try her luck!”

Chapter 80: Was It a Coincidence?

Chapter 80: Was It a Coincidence?

Li Nianfan looked at Nanan and exclaimed, “Nanan’s going to be a cultivator?”

“Yeah.”

Nanan nodded and clenched her tiny fist. “I want to go fight monsters! To protect everybody!”

“Haha, you’re ambitious! I’ll get you a gift if you got into the Sect,” laughed Li Nianfan.

This brat clearly remembered being captured by a monster.

“Really?” Nanan asked excitedly. She nodded and put out her pinky finger. “Pinky promise.”

Li Nianfan laughed. “Okay, pinky promise.”

“Brother Nianfan, I want to be a cultivator, too.”

“Me, too! I want to go!”

The other children all yelled.

“Oh? Why’s that?” asked Li Nianfan.

“I want to see Wukong!”

“I want to fly.”

“I want to cause havoc in the Heavenly Temple!”

The children all talked nonsensically, but it was funny.

Li Nianfan laughed. It seemed like his ‘Journey to the West’ story left a huge impression on the children. The children all became fans of cultivators.

It reminded him of Martial Arts novel fans in the past realm. Every reader had a martial arts dream.

However, those dreams came with big obstacles and challenges. Not a lot of people held out in the end.

Li Nianfan smiled and said, “Then you guys need to work hard! Get into the Cultivating Sect early and become cultivators!”

Li Nianfan said goodbye to everyone and headed to the market. He went to the fishmonger that he was familiar with.

“Mr. Li,” greeted the fishmonger. “It’s been a while since you came here to buy fish.”

Li Nianfan said, “I’ve been hunting recently. Been eating wildlife for a while.”

“Nice!”

The fishmonger gave him a thumbs up. Then, he said, “Mr. Li, see any fish you like?”

“Your fishes are not what they used to be.” Li Nianfan shook his head. “The fishes are smaller and there’s less variety.”

“Damn, don’t even mention it.”

The fishmonger sighed, “A demon has been disrupting the Clear Moon Lake, so I can only go fishing somewhere else. The quality is naturally worse than that of the Clear Moon Lake.”

Li Nianfan asked out of curiosity, “Is no one going to deal with the demon disruption?”

“Nope, there have been too many demons recently. It’s a mess. Troubled times lay ahead.” The fishmonger sighed. He looked like he was worried for the world.

Li Nianfan thought about the disruption in the mountains, too.

“When can we regain peace again? The situation recently sure is uneasy,” sighed Li Nianfan.

The only downside to living in the Immortal Realm was the constant presence of demons and monsters.

It was not easy being an ordinary man!

Daji took notice and thought to herself, 'Seems like I'll have to rush my sister. Master wouldn't worry so much if peace is restored.'

Li Nianfan let the fishmonger pick a few big fishes. He planned to prep them into meals for the next few days. He decided to stay indoors before the Lunar New Year.

There were a lot of demons and monsters on the loose. They should stay inside until the coast was clear. Better safe than sorry.

...

The Izumo Mountains were huge.

There were a lot of cliffs and wild grass everywhere but not a lot of trees. That was why not a lot of people hung around the Izumo Mountains. Usually, only mountain demons could be seen here.

However, the Izumo Mountain was rather crowded today.

People were flying toward the Izumo Mountains.

They were clearly after the same thing. They all landed on the same spot.

The cliff hole was weird. The ground was shaped like an ocean wave, connected to multiple cliff edges. The mountain rocks inside were uneven and pointy. It looked like the mouth of a huge monster that was going to devour something.

There was a spot inside the cliff hole that stood out.

A stone wall was exposed. It was shiny, smooth, and glimmering. Anyone could tell there was something special there.

An ordinary man would not be able to cross over, but it was a piece of cake for cultivators.

They jumped in and levitated. Then, they observed the stone wall.

Old Man Sun and Lin Mufeng joined in, too.

“This must be a door!” guessed Old Man Sun.

“You’re right. It must be the entrance to the secret border.” Lin Mufeng nodded and scouted the area.

Although the news of the secret border was not made public, there were still around ten cultivators here. They seemed strong.

An old cultivator with white hair spoke up. “Everybody, it’s not easy being on the cultivation journey. We should let luck decide our experience in the secret border and we should keep it civil. What do you all think?”

“I agree!”

“Agree!”

Everyone agreed to that statement.

Old Man Sun told Lin Mufeng, “He’s the Qingyang Elder, a masterful predictor. He’s quite famous around here. He was the one who discovered the secret border in the first place.”

Lin Mufeng nodded. “If that’s true, this trip would be more convenient.”

The Qingyang Elder nodded at everyone. Then, he performed hand seals with both of his hands. He pointed at the stone wall.

Boom!

The stone wall was shining in neon lights. Then, it started vibrating. Everyone stared in surprise.

The light was brighter but it did not open. Instead, a bizarre pattern appeared on the stone wall. It had lines that were crisscrossed with stars and dots on it. It looked like a chess game.

Everyone stared at it with a questioning look.

Lin Mufeng was reacting normally at first. However, he lost it when he saw the pattern.

He stared at the chess game hysterically and felt a shiver crawling up his spine!

This, this, this...

The chess game in the expert's yard?!

He almost lost control as he felt his skin crawl.

But... How could this be?!

He stared at the chess pattern in disbelief.

So, the chess game he saw was not a coincidence. The expert showed it to him on purpose!

Scary!

Incredible!

So, the expert planned this all along!

He felt relieved.

He was glad that he decoded the hints and followed Old Man Sun to this secret border. Otherwise, he would have disappointed the expert. He did not want to fail this opportunity of a lifetime!

A cultivator chuckled and looked at the Qingyang Elder. He sarcastically said, “Qingyang Elder, no wonder you told everyone about this place. You wanted us to help you crack the code of this chess puzzle, right?”

“Truth be told, that was indeed the case,” answered Qingyang Elder casually. He nodded and admitted, “I tried to decipher the puzzle to no avail. This chess game is set up by someone far superior in Chinese chess. It’s an astounding puzzle.”

Since he was being honest about it, nobody had anything to say. They put themselves in his shoes, then asked themselves what they would have done in this situation, too.

Everyone studied the chess puzzle.

Even the Qingyang Elder thought it was unfathomable.

Lin Mufeng snapped out of his shock. He stood at the side calmly and was being observant.

The Qingyang Elder did not seem as trustworthy as he looked. The cultivators here were inferior to him!

Was it coincidental? Doubt it!