Clan Cultivation: I Transmigrated With My Smartphone Chapter 26 - The Old Daoist Came for Revenge!

Chapter 26: The Old Daoist Came for Revenge!

"Is what he said true?" In the cave abode, Ye Feixue asked.

She seemed to have an uneasiness in her heart.

Lu Xuanji could say that this old man was spouting nonsense and slandering.

However, the moment he opened his mouth, he said, "It's true!"

"I don't want to deceive you. What he said is true. The Lu Clan has done many dirty and despicable things, similar to evil demons," Lu Xuanji said. "As long as there are more people, there will be more conflicts. There are more than 1,000 people, and there are all kinds of people. There are good people and bad people."

"At first, it was fine. As long as the clan was upright and the Clan Leader was strict in enforcing the law, they could still suppress the evil in people's hearts. They could still maintain a healthy order in the clan."

"Unfortunately, the Patriarch himself was not upright. How could he expect the people below to be honest and clean? The clan's ethos was completely ruined."

This was also the disadvantage of the clan's Immortal cultivation.

The Patriarch, Lu Fuming, was the first to stand upright. More than ten years ago, during that meeting, he seemed to have put justice before the clan, directly killing three Foundation Establishment cultivators.

He could be considered ruthless.

However, he was actually deceiving everyone. On the surface, he killed these wrongdoers, but in the dark, he let them go.

On the one hand, he seemed to intimidate his clansmen, and on the other hand, he was righteous.

However, there was no such thing as having the best of both worlds. This only served to fuel the unhealthy tendencies within the clan.

The clan's ethos had been destroyed, leading to the destruction of the entire clan.

In this world, there were only 10,000-year-old cultivation sects, but there were no 10,000-year-old cultivation clans. They relied on their bloodlines and their relatives to support them, and in the end, they did not last long.

In his previous life, some of his relatives had fought over an inheritance. In order to support the elders, they had caused endless conflicts, creating enemies within the family. Now, this was happening in the cultivation clan.

"Little Xue, you are still young. Naturally, you have no power to change all of this... When you become a Zifu disciple, a Golden Core, and the patriarch of the Lu Clan, you can try to change all of this," Lu Xuanji consoled her.

"Right. If I were the patriarch, I would definitely change the wicked ways of the Lu Clan, establishing strict sect rules." As Ye Feixue spoke, her eyes lit up.

Constantly becoming stronger and changing the clan. She could do this.

Looking at the hot-blooded little girl, Lu Xuanji was filled with envy.

People say that a dragon slayer will eventually become an evil dragon. Live long enough as a hero, you will eventually become the villain.

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Ye Feixue, may you stay young forever. May you remain as hot-blooded, even after a thousand years. May the fire in your heart burn forevermore.

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Boom boom boom...

The great battle continued. The Flaming Sun Skyfire was attacking. The flames engulfed everything and drowned everything.

After an hour of continuous attacks, the gray-robed Daoist was somewhat tired. He repeatedly stopped and consumed medicinal pills.

"Fellow Daoist, give up," Clan Leader Lu Tianming said, "Mount Ziyang has a Grade 3 formation. Even fellow Daoist's Zifu level cultivation base is unable to break through it. Also, the reinforcements from the Ye clan, the Wu clan, and the Dan Yang Sect are already on their way. In four hours at most, the reinforcements will arrive. At that time, this will be the place where fellow Daoist will die."

The Dan Yang Sect was particular about rules. Not to mention Zifu disciples, even Golden Core stage cultivators had to abide by the rules.

Every year, the Lu Clan would pay a tribute to the Dan Yang Sect. When the Lu Clan was attacked, the Dan Yang Sect would also help the Lu Clan.

The Lu Clan, the Ye Clan, and the Wu Clan were all allied by marriage. On one side, they competed with each other for some spirit mines, talented people, and some spirit veins. They often fought with their swords, but at the same time, they were allies. They had been fighting against the pillaging of the Dan Yang Sect and the invasion of foreign forces.

The reinforcements were on the way, and time stood on the Lu Clan's side.

"Give up? It's impossible to give up... the Lu Clan is almost finished. My probing is over. Fellow Daoist, I have found the flaws in the protective formation."

The gray-robed Daoist looked at the cultivator beside him. This cultivator was only at the sixth-level of the Foundation Establishment stage. He wore a mask on his face, and he was extremely ordinary among the cultivators.

"The formations of Mount Ziyang are truly sturdy. There are no flaws in them. Even Golden Core stage cultivators need to forcibly attack for six hours before they can break through the formation. As for Zifu disciples, there's no way to break through at all." The masked cultivator spoke out, his voice was hoarse, as though he was trying to hide his identity.

"There are no flaws in the formation. The ones with flaws are humans."

"If there's a Zifu disciple guarding it, or ten Foundation Establishment cultivators guarding it, or a tier-3 Formation Master guarding it, there's no way for us to break through at all. However, the Lu Clan doesn't have one... Let's do it!"

As the cultivator spoke, he took out formation flags and handed them out to the 20 Foundation Establishment cultivators.

Under the command of this tier-3 Formation Master, the 20 Foundation Establishment cultivators stood in different corners at the foot of Mount Ziyang. They operated the formation flags, using each other as a formation, drawing upon the power of the formation.

The formation flags in different locations began to resonate, a buzzing sound rang out.

As the formation flags resonated, one rune after another rose up, mixing together and charging towards Mount Ziyang's protective formation.

"Not good." Clan Leader Lu Tianming was worried.

Formation Masters were more terrifying than Alchemists, Artifact Masters, and Talisman Masters. Formations were also harder to learn. When one reached a profound level, their every move had great power.

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At the foot of Mount Ziyang, the Formation Master made his move. He wanted to use the flag formation to break the mountain's protective formation.

Boom boom boom!

The formation of Mount Ziyang collided with the formation formed by 20 Foundation Establishment cultivators. The formation on Mount Ziyang easily crushed the temporary formation formed by 20 Foundation Establishment cultivators.

One formation relied on the spirit vein, while the other relied on the Foundation Establishment cultivators to set up the array formation. The difference between the two was enormous.

The array Formation Master's expression did not change. He continued to command the Foundation Establishment cultivators to charge at the Great Protective Formation of Mount Ziyang.

Failure.

Failure.

Failure.

He failed seven or eight times in a row, but each time, the duration of each failure continued.

As time went by, the array Formation Master was also looking for flaws in Mount Ziyang.

At the 28th time, the array formation formed by 20 Foundation Establishment cultivators was activated. It collided with Mount Ziyang's protective array formation once again, and it was as if the mountains and rivers were shaking.

At this moment, the originally fierce protective array formation suddenly came to a halt. There was a slight flaw in the operation of the array formation, and the earth began to tremble. The gray-robed Daoist's eyes lit up, and he activated the pill furnace. The Flaming Sun Skyfire turned into a ten-meter-long flame that swept out and collided with the array formation.

The flame appeared smaller, but its power actually increased by several times.

Bang!

The flame collided with the formation, creating a hole in the formation.

"Charge! Kill!"

The gray-robed Daoist shouted and charged in through the hole.

At the same time, two Foundation Establishment cultivators also charged in.

"Not good." Right at this moment, the Clan Leader felt uneasy and terrified.

He took the initiative to attack, blocking the gray-robed Daoist.

Swish swish.

The Clan Leader sent forth his flying swords.

The gray-robed Daoist pointed with his finger, and the flying swords changed direction, flying back to the Clan Leader.

The Clan Leader spat out a mouthful of blood.

The difference between the ninth level of the Foundation Establishment stage and the third level of the Zifu stage was simply too great. There was no way to resist.

Whoosh!

Right at this moment, another flying sword attacked. Another Foundation Establishment cultivator of the Lu Clan attacked.

Swish swish!

On Mount Ziyang, eight Foundation establishment cultivators of the Lu Clan attacked, surrounding and attacking the gray-robed Daoist.

Zifu realm cultivators were too powerful. Foundation Establishment cultivators could not compete at all.

If one wanted to resist a Zifu stage cultivator, one had to have ten, or even more Foundation Establishment cultivators.

When quality was lacking, they could only make up for it with quantity. The eight Foundation Establishment cultivators of the Lu Clan joined forces to attack, and they had a tacit understanding and great synergy with each other. For a time, the gray-robed Daoist was unable to take down the Foundation Establishment cultivators.

At the same time, the two Foundation Establishment cultivators who had charged into Mount Ziyang also attacked various parts of the Lu Clan.

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Chapter 27: Breaking Through Mount Ziyang

"Sword formation, surround, and attack."

A cultivator of the ninth level of Qi Refinement stage of the Lu Clan called out and began to surround and attack the two Foundation Establishment cultivators.

Each Foundation Establishment cultivator had to face the siege of eight or nine cultivators of the late stage of Qi Refinement stage.

Bang bang.

Boom boom boom.

Under the siege of a large number of cultivators, the two Foundation Establishment cultivators were quickly injured.

Regardless of whether it was the gray-clothed Daoist or the two Foundation Establishment cultivators, they quickly fell into a disadvantageous position. If this continued for a period of time, the gray-robed Daoist and the two Foundation Establishment cultivators might fall under the siege.

However, at this moment, as a large number of cultivators from the Lu Clan joined the siege, the number of cultivators operating the Grand Ziyang Formation greatly decreased, and the power of the mountain-protecting formation fell again and again.

Under the command of the array master, under the continuous attacks, another hole appeared in the Grand Ziyang Formation.

Another five Foundation Establishment cultivators seized the opportunity and charged into Mount Ziyang.

With the addition of the new force, the Lu Clan cultivators were at a disadvantage.

The cultivators who charged in attacked Mount Ziyang continuously, destroying the terrain and the structure of the mountain range. With the destruction of some array bases, the Grand Ziyang Formation shook and completely failed.

Charge!

The remaining cultivators charged into Mount Ziyang.

"Run!" A trace of despair flashed across Clan Leader Lu Tianming's face as he shouted sternly. "Lu clan members, run for your lives."

Actually, he did not need to say anything. Some of the clan members were already running.

"This is my punishment from the Heavens. I am guilty."

"I am the Clan Leader, and the Lu Clan suffered a catastrophe. I've let down our ancestors."

As he spoke, a trace of madness flashed across his face.

"I will fight with my life!" He took out a pill and consumed it.

This pill was known as the Skyfiend Disintegration Pill.

After consuming this pill, Lu Tianming's Foundation Establishment ninth-level cultivation continued to rise, stepping into the Zifu stage.

However, at the same time, his Blood Qi, True Qi, and soul were all burning intensely.

He would only be able to last for 30 seconds at most before his Blood Qi was exhausted and he would die.

The other Foundation Establishment elders also consumed the Skyfiend Disintegration Pill. Their cultivations slowly increased, and they entered a desperate state.

First Elder Lu Tianyi smiled. He was about to consume the Skyfiend Disintegration Pill to fight for his life.

However, the Clan Leader's sword struck his hand, and the pill fell to the ground. "Seventh Brother, you can't die. Break out of the encirclement." Charge!

A trace of madness flashed through Lu Tianming's eyes as he charged toward the grayrobed Daoist.

Kill!

The other Foundation Establishment Elders also went mad as they charged towards the opposing cultivators.

At the moment when the Lu Clan was annihilated, the Lu Clan Elders all erupted, burning their lives to resist the enemy and buy time for the clansmen to escape.

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"Run!"

With a Flash, Lu Xuanji and Ye Feixue fled for their lives, heading off into the distance.

Not long ago, the Lu Clan was still the overlord of Qingshui Prefecture. With the Zifu Patriarch of the clan overseeing it, no one could challenge the clan.

However, now, it was the Lu Clan that was about to be destroyed. The clan was about to be reduced to nothingness.

The Lu Clan cultivators all scattered and broke out of the encirclement, starting to run in different directions.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Activating the Wind Escape Technique, Lu Xuanji borrowed the power of the fierce wind and continued to run.

At this moment, he was already three miles away. There was a great fire burning on Mount Ziyang. The slaughter continued, destroying everything.

Sigh...

Sighing, Lu Xuanji and Ye Feixue began their escape. Speed was of utmost importance.

The cultivators who attacked Mount Ziyang were mainly Foundation Establishment and Zifu disciples. There were only 31 of them.

As for the cultivators on Mount Ziyang, there were about 1,000 of them.

If they split up and ran, there was a high chance that they would escape.

These 1,000 people were distracting the enemy and giving Lu Xuanji a chance to escape.

Just thinking about the destruction of the Lu Clan was depressing.

If the Lu Clan was destroyed, many cultivators of the Lu Clan would be reduced to itinerant cultivators.

Many cultivators had poor survival abilities and had lost the protection of their clan. They might become some other peoples' pawns or die at the mouth of Demon Beasts. The outcome was mostly bad.

The lives of itinerant cultivators were not stable, and the death rate was too high.

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Half an hour later, the battle ended.

On Mount Ziyang, the protective formation had completely collapsed. The foundations of some important positions had already been destroyed, and some buildings were severely damaged.

Corpses were scattered on the ground. These were all cultivators from the Lu Clan. Many of the corpses were incomplete.

The gray-robed Daoist stood on the mountain peak, panting slightly. There was a wound on his chest, and there was blood on his Daoist robe. His aura fluctuated, giving off a weak feeling.

The other cultivators and bandits were also walking around, continuously attacking.

Many severely injured cultivators of the Lu Clan were killed one after another.

"Big Brother, we killed 532 cultivators of the Lu Clan, including seven Foundation Establishment cultivators, 125 cultivators of the ninth level, and 72 cultivators of the eighth level of Qi Refinement. Some of our cultivators were seriously injured, and three died in battle," a cultivator reported.

There were about 1,500 Lu Clan cultivators, and more than 1,000 cultivators stationed on Mount Ziyang. More than 500 cultivators were killed in this battle. However, these 500 people were the elites of the Lu Clan. Most of them were Foundation Establishment cultivators, and there were also late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators.

In this battle, the elites of the Lu cCan were all killed, and the clan's vitality was greatly damaged.

"How was the harvest?" the gray-robed Daoist asked.

"The medicinal garden of the Lu Clan was not destroyed. The spirit rice in the spirit field, the medicinal pills and Magic Tools in the residence treasury, and so on, are still in good condition," said the cultivator. "These spirit medicines, spirit pills, and other things are worth at least 1.2 million spirit stones."

"It's only a little over 1 million spirit stones, not a lot," the gray-robed Daoist said.

"The cultivators of the Lu Clan are not the rich landlords of the countryside. The Lu Clan makes a lot of money, but they also spend a lot of money."

The cultivators were all from the Moonlight Clan, and they did not have many spirit stones. Similarly, the Lu Clan would not store too many spirit stones.

"However, the Lu Clan is really rich. In the Lu Clan's treasury, there are 30 million tons of White Yang Rice and 30 Jade Marrow Ganoderma. They have already matured, and there are other spiritual herbs," the cultivator said, his eyes were filled with joy.

Food was everything to cultivators.

White Yang Rice was high-grade spirit rice, and only cultivators could grow it. The output per acre was only 200 tonnes.

Qi Refinement cultivators had to eat at least ten tonnes of White Yang Rice every day.

This also meant that Qi Refinement cultivators had to grow at least 20 acres of spirit rice every year to provide for a year's worth of food.

White Yang Rice was a consumable item, and it will always be needed.

As for the Jade Marrow Ganoderma, it was the main material used to refine Foundation Establishment Pills. One Jade Marrow Ganoderma was the main material, and with the addition of other medicinal materials, it could be refined into three to nine Foundation Establishment Pills.

The cultivator bandit said, "The Jade Marrow Ganoderma is the main material for Foundation Establishment Pills, but it's difficult to take care of it. If it's not properly taken care of, it might die. Only those large clans have the ability to cultivate high-grade spirit planters and grow large-scale Jade Marrow Ganoderma."

"According to the number and maturity time of the Jade Marrow Ganoderma, the Lu Clan can activate the furnace once every 20 years and refine two batches of Foundation Establishment Pills. One for the clan cultivators and the other for outsiders."

The gray-clothed Daoist asked, "Can we transplant it?"

"No, once the Jade Marrow Ganoderma takes root somewhere, it can not be transplanted. Once it is transplanted, it will die. It won't be able to adapt to the soil and water," said the cultivator.

"The Lu Clan is very shrewd. They left us the White Sun Rice and the Jade Marrow Ganoderma." The gray-robed Daoist sighed.

During the fierce battle, the cultivators subconsciously avoided some medicinal gardens and treasuries to avoid losing their property during the battle

However, the cultivators of the Lu Clan were very shrewd. They did not go forward to destroy the medicinal garden or the spirit rice. They deliberately left it for the attacking cultivators.

It was not that the Lu Clan cultivators did not know to destroy these things. Instead, they wanted to use these treasures to attract the attention of the cultivators and give the clan cultivators a chance to escape with their lives.

When the mountain gate was breached, some of the attacking cultivators had to focus on fighting the Lu Clan's Foundation Establishment and late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators. Meanwhile, some of the attackers had to take control of the medicinal garden, the warehouse, the library, and other areas.

This gave the escaping Lu Clan cultivators some time to run away.

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Chapter 28: The Destruction of the Lu Clan

Many cultivators were looting and taking away all kinds of valuable things. They looked at the unripened Jade Marrow Ganoderma. A bandit cultivator wanted to chop them up.

If he could not take them away, he should not leave them with anyone else.

However, the gray-clothed Daoist stopped him and said, "Don't destroy them. Leave them where they are."

"Senior, why?" The bandit cultivator did not understand.

"Don't understand? It's actually very easy to understand," the gray-bored Daoist said. "The reason why the cultivators of the Lu Clan didn't destroy these medicinal gardens and spirit fields is to use these treasures to delay us and give the disciples of the Lu Clan a chance to escape. Similarly, we can't destroy the spiritual veins or spirit fields. We also have to use these treasures to delay the reinforcements of the Lu Clan."

"How long before the reinforcements arrive?"

"Roughly two hours," a certain cultivator replied.

"With these treasures, they can only buy us at least an hour and a half," the gray-robed Daoist said. "Even if the Dan yang Sect's reinforcements recover these lost lands, will they still return them to the Lu Clan?"

Everyone came to a sudden understanding. Returning them to the Lu Clan? That was impossible.

If the Lu Clan was at its peak, with a Zifu disciple overseeing it... The reinforcements of the Dan yang Sect would accept a few gifts and then leave.

However, after this battle, the Lu Clan had suffered heavy losses. There were less than four Foundation Establishment cultivators left, and the majority of the remaining cultivators were low-level cultivators. After the Dan Yang Sect recovered the lost lands, would they still give these lands back to the Lu Clan?

Impossible.

Even if the Dan yang Sect had an outstanding character and cared about morals and they returned Mount Ziyang to the Lu Clan... With the Lu Clan's current power, would they dare to accept it?

No, nor would they accept it.

Having money was not a crime, but having money without power was a great crime.

A moment later, the cultivators left. Before they left, they quickly divided the spoils according to their previous agreement and left.

Before participating in this operation, everyone wore masks. When they were robbing the Lu Clan, a fierce-looking person was like a bandit. However, when they took off their masks, they were all well-dressed cultivators on the righteous path.

After dividing up a portion of their spoils, the gray-robed Daoist left.

Four hours later, the Ye Clan's reinforcements arrived. The Flying Bird warship landed on Mount Ziyang, carrying the Ye Clan's Patriarch, Ye Liuyun.

The Patriarch of the Ye Clan was at the third level of the Zifu stage. Back then, he was able to enter the Zifu stage thanks to the assistance of the Lu Clan.

When he received the news that Mount Ziyang had been besieged, he immediately set off personally, bringing along six Foundation Establishment cultivators from the clan to rescue the Lu Clan. However, in the end, he was still a step too late.

The entire Lu Clan had been annihilated. Only their corpses lay on Mount Ziyang.

"What a pity for the Lu Clan." Ye Liuyun's heart was filled with both sadness and joy.

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The sad part was that after the Lu Clan's Patriarch passed away, the Lu Clan was besieged by powerful enemies. The clan that had lasted for 1,000 years was on the verge of destruction. In the years to come, when he passed away, the Ye Clan could also be on the verge of destruction. As the saying goes, the fox mourns the death of the hare. They needed each other in the end.

The joyful part was that with the rise of the Ye Clan, there were conflicts between the Ye Clan and the Lu Clan in some spirit veins, spirit mines, and other areas. In the end, most of the conflicts were resolved through coordination. However, these conflicts would never disappear completely.

Now, the Lu Clan was destroyed, leaving behind a large share of the pie for the Ye Clan.

Four hours later, the warship of the Dan Yang Sect appeared.

The Zifu Patriarch of the Dan Yang Sect said, "Unfortunately, we were still too late."

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Four and a half hours later, the warship of the Wu Clan appeared.

"On Mount Ziyang, the Lu Clan was destroyed, but there are still some cultivators stationed outside. Those cultivators happened to be rebuilding the Lu Clan," Ye Liuyun said.

"Of course," the cultivator from the Dan Yang Sect said.

"The Lu Clan should be rebuilt," the cultivator from the Wu Clan also said.

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However, only God knew how sincere he really was.

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After walking for a hundred miles, the gray-robed Daoist took off his mask, took off his gray robe, and changed into a red Daoist robe.

After walking for a while, they arrived at a small mountain village. At the back of the small mountain village, there was a tomb with a tombstone on it that read: The Tomb of the late wife Ling 'Er.

He took out a pot of wine and poured some in front of the tomb.

The Daoist Priest drank another mouthful of wine, and he said, "Ling 'Er, I took revenge for you. Not long ago, I exterminated the Lu Clan. All 500 cultivators of the Lu Clan had been exterminated. Haha, wasn't that Lu Clan cultivator arrogant back then? Not only did he want to kill me, but he also wanted to abduct you and make you his female slave."

"He's as pitiful as he was arrogant back then."

"I killed so many. The feeling of killing an enemy is really refreshing. However, it's still not enough."

"There are still cultivators of the Lu Clan stationed in some spirit veins, mines, or marketplaces. There are also five Foundation Establishment cultivators who happened to not be on Mount Ziyang, so they escaped a calamity."

"However, how could I leave these scourges behind to bring the Lu Clan back to life? I want to kill the remaining Foundation Establishment cultivators of the Lu Clan, as well as most of the Qi Refinement stage cultivators... As for the two million mortals under the jurisdiction of the Lu Clan, I can only forget about them."

A hint of dejection flashed through the Daoist's eyes.

By annihilating the Lu Clan, at most, the Dan Yang Sect would hunt him down.

The worst that could happen was that the Lu Clan would leave Chu Country and head to another cultivation country. They would still be free and unfettered.

He might not belong here any longer, but he will belong somewhere else. However, if he were to massacre a large number of mortals, he would be branded as a demonic cultivator. No one in Heaven or Earth would be able to tolerate him.

"Lu Clan." The Daoist Priest's figure flashed as he headed toward a market of the Lu Clan.

There was a Lu Clan Foundation Establishment cultivator guarding that marketplace.

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Huff huff huff...

Lu Xuanji and Ye Feixue were on the run. They ran through the mountains, deeply afraid that the enemy would catch up to them.

Behind them, miserable screams could be heard. They could hear Lu Clan cultivators being killed behind them.

Lu Xuanji did not stop. He did not look behind him. All he did was run.

In many instances, he did not need to run faster than the enemy. He just needed to run faster than his fellow clansmen.

There were Foundation Establishment cultivators chasing after him. Lu Xuanji could not outrun these cultivators, but he could run faster than his fellow clansmen, and that was enough.

The escaping Lu Clan cultivators scattered and ran like sparrows.

Foundation Establishment cultivators were very powerful. Their flying swords flashed as they chased after them. However, after chasing them for 30 miles, they gave up and returned to Mount Ziyang.

They did not gain much from chasing these ants, and they also spent a lot of time. There, they would be able to plunder some treasure troves from Mount Ziyang or benefit from the medicinal herb garden.

Lu Xuanji continued to run. When the energy of the Flying Talisman was exhausted, he finally stopped.

Looking behind him, there was no one else. There were no Foundation Establishment cultivators chasing after him, nor were there any cultivators from the Lu Clan.

"We survived..." Lu Xuanji said, letting out a sigh of relief. He lay on the ground in a very disgraceful manner, as if he did not care about his clothes being stained with dirt.

"Big Brother, the Lu Clan is finished," Ye Feixue said, as if she was dreaming.

Just yesterday, the Lu Clan was still the overlord of Qingshui Prefecture, with a Zifu master and more than ten Foundation Establishment cultivators. However, today, Mount Ziyang had been breached, and most of the Lu Clan cultivators had been killed.

"Yes, the Lu Clan is finished, but we have to live," Lu Xuanji said.

"Tell me, what should we do next?" He seemed to be asking Ye Feixue, but he was also asking himself.

There were only three paths for cultivators. One was to join a cultivation sect (work), one was to establish a cultivation clan (self-employed), and one was to become an independent cultivator (self-employed).

Joining the Dan Yang Sect was pretty good. However, back then, he had already missed the quota.

As for establishing a cultivation clan, one had to be at least in the Foundation Establishment stage. Without a Foundation Establishment stage, one simply did not have the qualifications to establish a cultivation clan.

The only choice left was to become an independent cultivator.

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Chapter 29: The Tyranny of the Zifu Patriarch

It was not easy to be an unaffiliated or independent cultivator. Independent cultivators were often killed and robbed of their treasures outside. They often faced various problems such as lack of resources, insufficient Cultivation Methods, insufficient spirit stones, and so on. There were many itinerant cultivators who died outside.

There were two main types of unaffiliated cultivators who lived a comfortable life in the cultivation world. One type had a top-tier Immortal Artifact, which could make up for the lack of resources. The other type was like a certain cultivator who had a top-tier Grotto at the beginning of their cultivation. A day in the outside world would be a year within the Grotto. They relied on the Grotto to cultivate spiritual herbs, so they did not lack resources.

Otherwise, the other unaffiliated cultivators would have a pretty miserable life.

A few unaffiliated cultivators would dare to fight and seize good opportunities to become Foundation Establishment cultivators.

After becoming a Foundation Establishment cultivator, the unaffiliated cultivator would think of a way to get rid of the identity of an unaffiliated cultivator and establish a cultivation clan. With the collective strength and power of the clan, they could survive in the world of cultivators.

Being an unaffiliated cultivator had no future. It was like being a bandit with no future.

"The spiritual energy in the mountains outside is very thin. It's only one-tenth of the spiritual vein of the clan. Cultivating in the wild is too slow," Lu Xuanji analyzed.

The spiritual energy that seemed free and easy to come by in the past was now the most precious thing.

Cultivators cultivated the Dao, Wealth, Partner, Spells, and Land.

Wealth was denominated not only with spiritual stones, but also spiritual pills, Magic Treasures, and arrays.

Partners were not just Dao Companions. There were also disciples, teachers, clan members, friends, and so on. Only by relying on each other could they go far.

Spells were the Cultivation Methods and cultivation techniques. There were also pill formulas, array formations, and talismans.

The land was the spiritual mountain, the blessed land, and so on. Without spiritual veins, one could not cultivate.

When the Lu Clan existed, there was no lack of wealth, partners, and land. As long as one entered the Qi Refinement stage, the clan would give them free cave abodes, and they could plant spirit fields at the foot of the mountain in peace. At that time, they complained that they had to be farmers after cultivating. However, now, that life seemed so sweet and happy.

Now that they were reduced to unaffiliated cultivators, if they tried to start a spirit field and plant spirit rice, it was likely that they would get robbed by other cultivators.

On Mount Ziyang, there was a tier-3 spiritual vein for cultivation. With the aid of the spirit vein, cultivators can advance one level every four years. In the outside world, it would take 20 years to advance one level by absorbing the wandering spiritual energy from the outside world.

In the past, while they were on Mount Ziyang, they had taken the spirit vein for granted because it was within reach.

Now that the Lu Clan had been destroyed, they missed their old life.

No wonder after the establishment of those large forces, the first thing they did was to establish the spirit vein.

"Big Brother, the Lu Clan has some businesses outside, and there are some Foundation Establishment cultivators overseeing them... We can rely on those uncles," Ye Feixue said.

"When a wall falls, everyone pushes it down. When the Lu Clan was strong, those businesses would be a safe haven. Now that the Lu family has been destroyed, those businesses will be taken over by some forces. Some of these forces would not show mercy at all."

"Those businesses may be attacked soon... The only lucky thing is that father and mother are guarding the market outside, and they avoided this disaster," Lu Xuanji said.

On Mount Ziyang, the cultivators of the Lu Clan had suffered a devastating blow.

If it was a Qi Refinement stage cultivator, they might have escaped, but if it was a Foundation Establishment cultivator who was targeted, the chances of survival were almost zero.

The first thing to do was to go to the Lu Clan marketplace and find the other clansmen.

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After confirming their target, they walked toward the Lu Clan's marketplace.

On the way, the two of them kept an extremely low profile. Two days later, they arrived at one of the Lu Clan's marketplace.

The once-bustling bazaar was now nothing more than a pile of rubble. There were also blazing flames. The collapsed buildings, as well as the charred corpses, all displayed the cruelty of this place.

"Not good. The Lu Clan's marketplace was attacked by that Zifu disciple. It's completely destroyed." Lu Xuanji's expression was rather gloomy.

This market city of the Lu Clan was usually mainly used by itinerant cultivators. Here, there were shops, spirit fields, Immortal Caves, and so on. The Lu Clan had spent a large amount of energy to construct this market city.

Beneath this market city, there was a tier-2 spirit vein. Here, there was a formation protecting this market city.

Even if seven or eight Foundation Establishment cultivators joined forces, they might not be able to break through this market city. It could be said that the defense was powerful and impregnable.

However, when the Zifu disciple made his move, no one was able to stop him.

When the Zifu disciple Patriarch came, he relied on his tyrannical power to break through the formation. He destroyed this marketplace and killed the Lu Clan cultivators here.

"Let's go." Lu Xuanji continued to walk towards the other properties of the Lu Clan.

They arrived at a spirit mine. There were spirit stones buried underground, which needed to be dug out by cultivators. Every year, the Lu Clan would be able to mine more than 20,000 spirit stones. However, when they arrived here, an enormous palm print appeared above the mine, causing the mine to collapse. The Lu Clan cultivators were buried within it.

They arrived at another copper mine, where the production of copper was one of the main materials used in artifact refinement. However, it was also destroyed and headed towards destruction.

They also arrived at several other properties of the Lu Clan, all of which were destroyed. All of the cultivators there were killed.

After walking for a month, they discovered that all the cultivators within Lu Clan properties had been killed.

According to some calculations, these cases happened on the same day.

In other words, the Zifu disciple had been traveling in all directions with his sword. In a short period of time, he had killed all the cultivators of the Lu Clan.

"I wonder if any Foundation Establishment cultivators of the Lu Clan are still alive..." Lu Xuanji sighed.

The Lu Clan had more than 1,500 cultivators, but there were only about 20 Foundation Establishment cultivators.

These 20 or so Foundation Establishment cultivators were the foundation of the Lu Clan. Once all of the Lu Clan's Foundation Establishment cultivators died, the Lu Clan would be disqualified from being a cultivator clan. The remaining 500 or so Lu Clan cultivators would become itinerant cultivators and die in battle.

That Daoist hated the Lu Clan so much...

If it were not for the fact that he was worried about the Dan Yang Sect and did not have enough time, he would have killed all the Qi Refinement stage cultivators one by one.

Not only that, with the Lu Clan's experts being killed, some of the Lu Clan's spirit mines, spirit fields, spirit veins, and other real estate were also occupied by other cultivation clans.

It could be said that the Lu Clan had fallen, and many people had come to eat their fill.

Lu Xuanji and Ye Feixue looked at each other, and a hint of bitterness flashed through their eyes. They steeled themselves and headed north, away from the Lu Clan.

Now that the situation was unclear, it was best to lie low for a period of time and hide one's cultivation.

Huff huff.

In a cave, Lu Xuanji hesitated slightly, but he still took out a spirit stone and began to absorb the spirit energy in the spirit stone.

Not only that, he also handed Ye Feixue ten spirit stones, allowing her to absorb the spirit stones and raise her cultivation.

"Big Brother, using spirit stones to cultivate is too extravagant," Ye Feixue said.

"It's a little extravagant, but this is the best method to digest spirit stones," Lu Xuanji said. "Spirit stones are only money if you spend them. Spirit stones that aren't spent are only stones. They are resources nonetheless."

Ye Feixue's heart ached a little, but she still took out the spirit stones and began to absorb the spiritual energy, raising her cultivation.

In the world of cultivation, spirit stones were used as currency, and this currency was valuable.

There were two main sources of spirit stones. One was from underground, which had been formed naturally after a long time of precipitation. The other was from cultivators who compressed the spiritual energy, turning it from a gaseous state to a solid state. This was a man-made spiritual stone.

A one-inch cubic spiritual stone could be considered a standard spiritual stone.

A spiritual stone might not seem big, but the spiritual energy contained within was enough for a Foundation Establishment cultivator to cultivate for a day. Of course, no cultivator would be so extravagant as to directly use spiritual stones to cultivate. Spiritual stones were not just a currency for trading. They could also be used to set up formations, nurture spirit veins, and quickly replenish True Qi during battle.

Without the spirit veins of Mount Ziyang, it would take ten years for Lu Xuanji to raise his cultivation level by just absorbing the spiritual energy from the outside world. He could not afford to wait that long.

He had no choice but to absorb the spiritual energy from the spirit stones to increase his cultivation speed.

It was a little wasteful, but his cultivation speed had increased.

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Chapter 30: Wu Clan Market

Just like that, the two of them temporarily settled down in a cave. They began to absorb spirit stones to increase their cultivation.

A single spirit stone could sustain a Foundation Establishment cultivator's cultivation for a day. It could be seen how much spiritual energy was contained within.

Three days later, the spiritual energy within a single spirit stone was completely sucked dry.

The spiritual energy was refined within the body. After circulating through the meridians once, it entered the seventh Vortex and continued to settle.

Lu Xuanji was surprised to find that the cultivation speed had increased a little.

The spiritual energy contained within the spirit stone was purer. It could be directly absorbed and converted into True Qi. However, the spiritual energy in the outside world had impurities. After absorption, it had to be continuously refined to remove the impurities before it could be converted into True Qi.

In terms of cultivation speed, it was three times faster than before.

On Mount Ziyang, it would take four years to raise one level, but it would only take three years if he absorbed spirit stones.

Although was a little faster, it would be a waste. Using up 120 spirit stones every year was too much of a waste of money.

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Lu Xuanji's cultivation was only at the seventh level of the Qi Refinement stage, and his annual salary was only 50 spirit stones.

If not for the 10,000 spirit stones he had plundered from the Patriarch, he might not have been able to support such a 'waste'.

He felt some heartache, but he quickly made up his mind and continued to squander the spirit stones.

I am a rich man.

As for using these spirit stones to buy some resources to increase cultivation, he might as well forget about it. He would not be able to buy much, and it would not be very useful.

He also had limited space in this storage bag. If he bought a little more, he might draw attention to himself, and it would be easy to be targeted. He might even end up getting himself killed.

It was fine just living like this. He did not want to do this until he was invincible. He only wanted to reach the ninth level of the Qi Refinement stage.

One year later, Ye Feixue encountered a bottleneck and was stuck at the peak of the fifth level of the Qi Refinement stage. It was very difficult for her to enter the sixth level of the Qi Refinement stage.

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"That's not right. Didn't the Heavenly Spirit Root have no bottlenecks before reaching the Nascent Soul stage? Why did a bottleneck appear when she was only at the peak of the fifth level of the Qi Refinement stage?"

Lu Xuanji felt that something was wrong. After carefully examining Ye Feixue's body, he quickly discovered that the True Qi in her Dantian had weakened.

"The True Qi has weakened," Lu Xuanji said uneasily, He used his phone to search for the answer.

[Ding Dong. According to a certain book, the spiritual energy in spirit stones is pure. There is no need to refine or purify it before it could be directly absorbed to raise one's cultivation. However, due to the lack of refinement and purification, the refinement of one's meridians will be relatively weak. The lack of sharpness of one's True Qi makes it relatively weak.]

[Consuming pills can increase one's cultivation speed, but pill poison can enter one's body. Absorbing spirit stones can increase one's cultivation speed, and it can cause one's True Qi to be relatively weak. Any shortcuts will result in a price that has to be paid.]

Lu Xuanji's phone rang, and he received the answer.

He was slightly taken aback. He swiped the page, and there was indeed a book that contained the answer he was looking for.

There were 100,000 books stored in his phone.

Lu Xuanji had only read a portion of these 100,000 books. After all, if he were to read them one by one, he might not even be able to finish reading them in a hundred years.

On one of the books, there was a record of the shortcomings of absorbing spirit stones to cultivate. The spiritual energy within the spirit stones was too pure.

If the water was too pure, there would be no fish.

Just like on Earth in his previous life, living in a sterile environment was not good. Drinking pure water every day was also not good for the human body. The human body had appropriate bacteria and viruses, which were beneficial to the human body's health, as long as there was not an excessive amount.

There were impurities in the spiritual Qi in the outside world, which needed to be constantly refined and purified before it could be absorbed. Although the speed was a little slower, the meridians were also refined.

It achieved a necessary balance.

"Little Xue, this is the price of taking a shortcut... but we can fix this. As long as you keep refining your True Qi and using True Qi to refine your meridians, you only need three months to break through the bottleneck," Lu Xuanji said, he said some opinions.

Ye Feixue nodded.

She began to polish her True Qi and temper her meridians, no longer deliberately pursuing a breakthrough.

After about three months, the bottleneck was broken, and she naturally stepped into the sixth level of the Qi Refinement stage.

In terms of time, she had saved nine months.

"Congratulations, you've stepped into the sixth level of the Qi Refinement stage," Lu Xuanji said, but in his heart, he was mumbling.

This stinky girl, the speed of her cultivation was so fast.

According to this pace, she would soon catch up to him, or even surpass him.

"Brother, I don't want to cultivate anymore... I want to go out and look for the elders and other cultivators of the Lu Clan," Ye Feixue said.

"No, we have to cultivate to the ninth level of the Qi Refinement stage at least. We're too weak. We might encounter some rogue cultivators hunting outside, and the cultivators of other clans will besiege us. Without the foundation of the ninth level of the Qi Refinement stage, we won't be safe," Lu Xuanji said.

"My heart is impatient, and I won't be able to cultivate in peace." As Ye Feixue said this, she felt a little bored.

Lu Xuanji also fell silent.

In fact, Lu Xuanji was also getting impatient, and he was unable to cultivate in peace.

The inner demons were growing. There was danger in cultivating in seclusion. Many cultivators died from inner demons, driving themselves mad from isolation while cultivating in seclusion for a long time.

Some cultivators would end their cultivation and enter the mortal world to gain experience. They would either participate in battles or cultivate their bodies and temperaments.

However, haste makes waste. The more eager one is to achieve success, the easier it is for one to go astray.

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The original plan was to cultivate in seclusion for five years and reach the ninth level of the Qi Refinement stage in one fell swoop.

At the start, things were going smoothly. However, now, it was getting difficult to cultivate.

Both of them were getting impatient and had a lot of distracting thoughts. If they were to continue to cultivate in seclusion, they might go mad.

"Alright, then we'll go out. Remember to keep a low profile. This is the Thunder God Talisman, this is the Teleportation Talisman, and this is the Vajra Talisman. Remember to take it. If you can't defeat the enemy, run away. It's not shameful to run away. You must live to fight another day."

Before going down the mountain, lu Xuanji handed over three talismans and instructed Ye Feixue.

In short, keeping a low profile was the most important. In keeping a low profile, it was also the most important thing to protect one's life.

Of the 36 strategies, running away was the most important.

When faced with a life-or-death battle, the best option was to leave if possible.

Just like that, the two left the cave and walked towards the nearby towns.

Qingshui County was located near a plain. The climate here was warm, the sunlight was abundant, and there was fertile land, which was suitable for the people to live in. There were a lot of towns here, and mortals lived in the towns. Occasionally, Qi Refinement stage cultivators would appear in mortal villages and towns, buying some stuff for their daily lives.

In the county town, there was a tier-1 spirit vein, and some mid-stage Qi Refinement stage cultivators were serving as county magistrates.

Around the plain, there were spirit mountains scattered around Qingshui County.

Some of these spirit mountains belonged to cultivation clans, and some belonged to cultivation marketplaces. All of them were guarded by cultivators.

They scattered around like fortresses, protecting the mortals of Qingshui County from being eaten by Demon Beasts or invaded by demonic cultivators.

The Lu Clan's Mount Ziyang was the strongest among the surrounding spirit mountains. It stood tall and proud in front of 100,000 mountains and was one of the main strongholds to resist the Beast Tide.

Lu Xuanji and Ye Feixue passed through a large number of mortal cities and towns, heading south.

After about a month, they went around in many circles.

Finally, at the edge of Qingshui Prefecture, a cultivation market appeared. This cultivation market was called the Wu Clan Market.

This was a market of the Wu Clan. The Wu Clan was a large clan of Qingshui Prefecture. Within the clan, the highest was only at the ninth level of the Foundation Establishment stage. However, they had a Zifu disciple that was currently working with the Dan Yang Sect.

The Wu Clan was also a large clan second only to the Lu Clan. The Wu Clan had spirit mountains and business not only in Qingshui Prefecture but also in the nearby Yong'an Prefecture and Ping'an Prefecture.