

I Practice Farming While the Rest Cultivates

13 Chapter 12 Sword Grass_1

Returning home, Lu Xuan carefully examined the almost withered spiritual seed he had taken from his bosom.

The dried up seed was long and slender like a sword, grey-black in color. Perhaps due to much of its vitality having evaporated, its form was slightly shriveled.

Although Xu Wan had told Lu Xuan that she and Zhang Hong had once attempted to plant another similar spiritual seed without success, Lu Xuan felt highly confident about his own endeavor.

After all, if he successfully planted this withered spiritual seed, he would be able to understand the seed's subtle needs through its immediate status and correct any deficiencies, possibly leading to a successful cultivation.

Deciding to act, Lu Xuan found a small empty plot within his Spirit Field, activated the Earth Pulling Technique and a tiny fissure appeared in the Spirit Soil, just enough to accommodate the withered spiritual seed.

Having buried the dried-up seed, Lu Xuan further invoked the Earth Pulling Technique, gathering the faint spiritual energy within the Spirit Field towards the seed.

The Earth Pulling Technique, having absorbed several experience packages, had already undergone a profound transformation. It could not only alter the terrain within a localized range, but also slightly manipulate the flow of spiritual energy within the Spirit Field.

Once the minute spiritual energy in the Spirit Soil was absorbed by the spiritual seed, Lu Xuan with a bit of trepidation, focused his spiritual sense on the withered seed.

A thought flashed through his mind.

Sword Grass, Second-Level Spirit Plant. Upon maturity, it becomes sharp and tough as a sword, a natural material for forging a flying sword.

Feeling as though it's about to dry up, let's give it a hearty soak with a torrent of spiritual energy."

After digesting this thought, Lu Xuan's heart filled with joy.

As expected, he not only understood the corresponding spirit plant information after planting this withered spiritual seed, but he also clearly understood the detailed needs of the seed.

He immediately circulated the spiritual energy within his body. Above the withered spiritual seed, a mist of water vapor appeared instantly, followed by a rain of spiritual energy droplets that fell and seeped into the soil.

Like the rain after a long drought, the Sword Grass seed greedily absorbed the Spirit Rain.

Following the first round of Spirit Rain, Lu Xuan used his spiritual sense to check the Sword Grass Spirit Seed, only to find that it was still in a withered state.

I still want more, more water the better.”

Just a measly second-grade spirit seed, unable to be satisfied by my Third Level Qi Cultivation?”

Lu Xuan chuckled. He who had already mastered the Spirit Rain Technique, almost instantaneously conjured another round of Spirit Rain.

I want more, I want more!”

Lu Xuan coldly snorted, Just you wait and see, I’ll drench you till you burst!”

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After seventeen rounds of the Spirit Rain Technique, Lu Xuan gritted his teeth and once again mobilized the spiritual energy within his body.

Above the Sword Grass Spirit Seed, the spiritual energy fluctuated for a moment but then quickly vanished, not a single drop of Spirit Rain fell.

It’s gone, truly, not a single drop is left.”

Feeling dizzy and seeing stars, he staggered and rose to his feet.

This was the effect of overusing spiritual energy.

Although his cultivation had already stabilized at the Third Level of Qi Cultivation and was much deeper than before, even a lot of spiritual energy could not withstand such continuous usage.

His spiritual sense focuses on the Sword Grass Spirit Seed.

I still want more, I want more...”

Lu Xuan shivered and hurriedly moved away.

But the numerous carefully executed Spirit Rain Techniques were not ineffective. He could sense that the Sword Grass Seed in the soil was much more plump, appearing lively and full of vitality.

Two days later, after basic care to the other spirit plants, Lu Xuan focused his attention on the second-grade Sword Grass Spirit Seed.

After countless rounds of Spirit Rain Techniques, the seed’s immediate status finally changed..

Sword Grass, Second-Level Spirit Plant; during cultivation, it requires a certain amount of spiritual energy. In addition, it occasionally needs the nurturing of Sword Qi to stimulate growth.”

The need for Sword Qi nurturing, as expected of a Second-Level Soul Plant, the requirements are clearly on a different level. It’s highly probable that Brother Zhang and the others failed mainly because of this. After all, spiritual seeds are usually delicate, who would think to stimulate it with Sword Qi?”

Lu Xuan had an epiphany and figured out the reason for Zhang Hong’s failure in their cultivation attempt. He felt even more fortunate for being able to constantly grasp the immediate status of the Spirit Plant.

As for Sword Qi, he possessed his own Golden Sword Technique.

With spiritual energy circulating within his body and under Lu Xuan’s mental control, a faint golden Sword Qi sprung up from his finger, passed through the Spirit Field soil, and struck the Sword Grass Spirit Seed.

In an instant, Lu Xuan thought he heard a weak sword cry from the soil, following which, the golden Sword Qi seeped into the seed, leaving a faint golden mark on the gray-black seed.

Doing as he had done previously, he summoned three more golden Sword Qi, leaving marks on the Sword Grass seed. Only after understanding that the Sword Qi was sufficient did he stop.

Only after the golden marks on the seed had faded could a new Sword Qi is used to nourish the Sword Grass Spirit Seed.

Finally, successful planting has been accomplished, and the growth phase has begun.”

I wonder what kind of Light Cluster rewards a Second-Level Spirit Plant can bring...”

Through his Spiritual Sense, Lu Xuan sensed the subtle changes in the Sword Grass Spirit Seed and heaved a sigh of relief.

He found the importance of mastering the immediate state of Spirit Plants is increasingly apparent.

Perhaps, it would be possible to go to local markets or find some on the stalls of Loose Cultivators to acquire some unknown spiritual seeds?”

Although the appearance of wild Spirit Plant Seeds is rare, it’s not completely absent.”

Naturally matured Spirit Plants have a certain probability of producing spiritual seeds, which can also be obtained from other cultivators or demon beasts, not to mention those weird Secret Lands where anything can occur.”

Perhaps other cultivators have some unknown spiritual seeds. For them, if the species of spiritual seed is unknown, it’s hard to evaluate its value and it’s hard to cultivate successfully.”

But I am different, I can know the planting conditions of spiritual seeds. As long as the conditions can be met, the possibility of successful cultivation is huge, and I can also get the Light Cluster rewards.”

The more Lu Xuan thought about it, the more feasible this method seemed. But remembering the few remaining spirit stones he had, he quickly cooled down.

Purchasing unknown spiritual seeds is ultimately a gamble. Although my chances of winning are higher, it’s not a sure win. More importantly, I don’t have enough spirit stones to enter the game.”

After all, once you acquire wild spiritual seeds, you cannot guarantee whether it can be cultivated. Secondly, you do not know its rank. Buying a first or second grade is fine, but if you end up with an ungraded seed, it may even result in a loss.”

We can wait until Brother Zhang and their group of cultivators who are exploring the Secret Land return. The quality of the spiritual seed produced in the Secret Land is more guaranteed, and the quantity and variety of offerings will be greater.”

From Lu Xuan’s memory, there were few stands selling wild spiritual seeds when he strolled in the market during normal days. Even if there were, they were mostly familiar varieties. Unknown spiritual seeds were almost invisible.”

He decided to let things take their course and accumulate more knowledge of Spirit Plants in his spare time, pay more attention in the marketplace, and if he encounters unknown spiritual seeds and has enough spirit stones, try to bargain for them.”

What’s more important is his own courtyard’s Spirit Plants.

The twenty Spirit Firefly Grasses were growing very well, the leaves were lazily stretching under the nourishment of the Spirit Rain, and tiny glints of light reflected under the sunlight, resembling twinkling stars.

The Red Cloud Pine had grown another two inches or so, the fine red needles on the tree were denser, stimulated by the Fireball Technique, it looked like a porcupine covered in red spikes.

The Moon Erosion Fruit, on the other hand, had entered a rapid maturation phase.

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The newly matured Moon Erosion Fruits were double the amount of the first batch, a total of eight.

All eight Moon Erosion Fruits were of good quality. Lu Xuan carefully placed them into specific containers and expectantly picked up the eight white light clusters that appeared.

“Harvested one Moon Erosion Fruit and obtained a Fragment of First Grade Artifact, Silver Rift Blade.”*5

“Harvested one Moon Erosion Fruit, obtained a First Grade Sword Qi Talisman.”

“Harvested one Moon Erosion Fruit; obtained a First Grade Qi Cultivation Pill.”

“Harvested one Moon Erosion Fruit; obtained a First Grade Explosive Talisman”

Out of the eight light cluster rewards, five were fragments of the Silver Rift Blade, two were First Grade talisman and one was a First Grade pill.

“Yuan Cultivating Pill, a First Grade Pill, can quickly supplement spiritual power after a cultivator ingests it.”

Lu Xuan carefully stored this First Grade Yuan Cultivating Pill.

He has heard of this kind of pill before, but it’s the first time he’s owned one. It’s very useful for lower level and middle level Qi cultivation, and worth quite a few Spirit Stones.

“This Silver Split Blade fragment is getting more and more. I already have eight pieces.”

Lu Xuan looked at the eight thin silver-white fragments flying around him, somewhat helpless.

Suddenly, he had a thought and the eight fragments instantly combined together, their edges tightly fitting to form a peculiar object.

“Why does it feel like a silver blade, just with many gaps.”

The more Lu Xuan looked, the more he felt this object resembled a sword blade.

“If it is a blade, during a fusion, it could act as a single magical weapon. In a fight, it can confuse the opponent by suddenly splitting into many thin pieces.”

The more he thought about it, the more he felt this was a great possibility, anticipating the moment all fragments were collected.

There were still thirty Moon Erosion Fruits and considering the appearance rate of fragments and the size of the gaps in the fragment blade, there should be no problem.

But when he thought of the gacha experiences from his past life, he couldn't help but be pessimistic.

“Young Uncle Lu, do you need some Spirit Stones?”

Just as Lu Xuan was feeling worried, he heard the familiar teasing voice of Zhang Xiu Yuan coming from outside the courtyard.

Lu Xuan quickly opened the courtyard door.

“What's up? This young man, do you have some Spirit Stones to give me?”

“I don't have Spirit Stones to give you, but I have an opportunity that can help you earn some.”

The chubby Zhang Xiu Yuan chuckled, a hint of cunning flashing in his eyes.

“Oh, let's hear it.”

Looking at Zhang Xiu Yuan tightly hugging the Grass Puppet, Lu Xuan felt a trace of curiosity.

“You helped solve the bug problem in my house a few days ago, right? Today, I overheard Cai Bin saying they have the same strange bugs in their house. I told him you are very capable, so he quickly rushed home to tell his parents and asked me to bring you over to help.”

“His dad is anxious about this and is willing to use a lot of Spirit Stones to solve it!”

“Cai Bin?”

In his memories, he was like a scrawny, monkey-like child who often played with Zhang Xiu Yuan. His home was two or three miles away from Lu Xuan’s yard.

Lu Xuan had seen his father Cai Hai before, a Third Layer of Qi Cultivation loose cultivator. They knew each other, but kept a distance.

“Should I go take a look?”

He hesitated, wondering whether or not to go earn these Spirit Stones.

The risk? Mainly dealing with the Black Bud Worm, which can easily be handled by his increasingly skilled Golden Sword Technique, along with various talismans, Silver Split Blade fragments, and his Third Layer Qi Cultivation. He basically could handle all kinds of unexpected situations.

The benefit? The Fourth Layer Qi practitioner, Qin Ming, charged seven spirit stones for dealing with a Black Bud Worm larva. Although he only showed the cultivation level of the Second Layer of Qi, charging five Spirit Stones did not seem excessive, right?

The main thing was, he was too poor now!

He has a large demand for Spirit Stones.

The Spirit Field was too small; after planting these Spirit Plants, there were no gaps left. Lu Xuan very much wanted to have another larger Spirit Field.

He also wanted to buy a storage bag; as the number of treasures in his hand increased, it was unrealistic to carry them all the time.

Purchasing unknown spiritual seeds also required a large amount of Spirit Stones.

Thinking of this, Lu Xuan didn’t hesitate anymore, in the expectant gaze of Zhang Xiu Yuan, he gently nodded his head.

“Lead the way.”

“Okay!”

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Cai’s Courtyard.

Cai Hai's wife, Mrs. Li, was scolding her son.

"What were you thinking, inviting a teenage loose cultivator to solve our bug problem? Do you think this is child's play?!"

The six or seven-year-old Cai Bin's face turned red from his mother's scolding, he gathered his courage and replied:

"But, Xiu Yuan said his Uncle Lu is very powerful, with extraordinary swordsmanship, and he managed to kill all those demon insects in an instant!"

"Are you going to believe everything he says? Don't you think with your pig brain, how impressive can a second layer Qi Cultivator be?!"

Mrs. Li turned her head, speaking to her husband, Cai Hai, who was staring at the ground:

"My dear, I think we should just call my younger brother over. He has some connections and knows a middle-stage Qi practitioner who can solve the pest problem, certainly more reliable than that second layer Qi Cultivator from the brat's mouth."

"Heh, that so-called young brother-in-law who asks for ten Spirit Stones right off the bat?"

The skinny Cai Hai sarcastically responded with a cold smile.

"He dares to rip off his own brother-in-law. What, are you going to provide the ten Spirit Stones?"

Mrs. Li mumbled a few words: "I'm just worried about our Spirit Plants."

"Ah..."

Cai Hai released a long sigh.

"Now, we can only give that young Loose Cultivator a try."

"I just asked around, Zhang Hong's family did have a pest problem before, and it was apparently solved by a teenager, probably the person Cai Bin talked about."

Cai Hai squatted down, looking at the Spirit Plants tightly wrapped in black threads, concern flashing in his eyes.

Other cultivators who could solve the problem all asked for high prices, a massive burden for him at the moment.

His only hope now lay with Lu Xuan, a second layer Qi Cultivist.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

Despite hearing the argument from outside, Lu Xuan figured that since he had come this far, and there were Spirit Stones to be made, he asked Zhang Xiu Yuan to knock on the door.

The door opened.

Cai Hai forced a smile on his thin face and went out to welcome the guests.

“Friend Lu, I appreciate your effort in coming. I’ve heard you have some unique skills in dealing with pests. I’ll have to trouble you later to have a look at our Spirit Plants.”

“Unique skill is a bit much, I’ve simply just made some advancements in a particular method recently that happens to counter those Black Bud Worm Larvae.”

Lu Xuan explained briefly before continuing.

“I’ll do my best to help you tackle the pest problem. But there’s one thing I must mention before I proceed. My service fee is five Spirit Stones, no negotiation.”

“A fourth level Qi Cultivist only asks for seven Spirit Stones, so why are you, a second layer Qi Cultivist, asking for five?”

From the side, Mrs. Li interrupted.

“If we’re both addressing the same issue, why not ask the middle-stage cultivator instead?” responded Lu Xuan coldly.

Unwilling to do so, Mrs. Li hesitated and said,

“Five Spirit Stones is not a problem, but what if you fail to solve the pest problem?”

“Get back in the house!”

Cai Hai shouted at Mrs. Li in a low voice.

“What a shrew, sorry for such a scene, Friend Lu.”

He turned around with a bitter smile on his face.

“Whether Friend Lu can solve the pest problem or not, five Spirit Stones will be offered. All we hope is that you do your best, after all, as a Spirit Plant master yourself, you know that Spirit Plants are everything to us.”

“Of course.”

Lu Xuan responded solemnly.

As for the remarks made by Mrs. Li, he didn't take them to heart at all. As long as he could get the Spirit Stones, it didn't matter.

He approached the infested Spirit Plants, focusing his mind, and a thin golden sword Qi elegantly emerged, charging with unparalleled sword intent towards the Black Bud Worm Larvae.

After a few breaths, all the larvae were severed by the golden sword Qi and fell to the ground in pieces.

“Mission accomplished.”

He stood up and said to the tense-looking Cai Hai.

Behind him, Zhang Xiu Yuan secretly raised an eyebrow at his friends.

“See how powerful my Little Uncle Lu is?”

“Thank you, Friend Lu, thank you!”

Cai Hai looked relieved.

Not far away, a window from the house suddenly closed, and soft sobs could be faintly heard.

Lu Xuan collected the payment from Cai Hai and left with Zhang Xiu Yuan.

He weighed the Spirit Stones in his hand, enjoying their hefty feel, and suddenly asked.

“Little Yuan, what do you say we partner up? You look for cultivators in the area dealing with pest problems, and I will be the one to solve them. Each time, I'll give you thirty Broken Spirits, how about it?”

“Uncle Lu, you helped my family so much last time, I can just help you find the cultivators. No need for Broken Spirits.”

Replied Zhang Xiu Yuan naively.

“No, that won't do. I can't have you working for nothing. It's settled then!”