

I Practice Farming While the Rest Cultivates

29 Chapter 28 New Neighbor_1

Inside the house.

Lu Xuan sat cross-legged on a wooden bed, operating his cultivation technique, his spiritual power flowing within his body.

After a full cycle, he exhaled a turbid breath slowly.

Although his many days of intense cultivation couldn't compare to the cultivation reward brought by a single Spirit Firefly Grass, Lu Xuan still continued to diligently cultivate.

His focus is mainly on tending and cultivating spirit plants and spirit beasts, while practicing cultivation techniques and formula methods is of secondary importance.

It's been half a month since he moved to the new courtyard. During this time, he rarely goes out and concentrates on cultivating spirit plants.

There have been noticeable changes in his Spirit Field.

The Three-Tailed Red Whisker Carp in the Spiritual Spring has grown by about two inches and its fine long, red whiskers have grown more than half a foot. When it shoots out to catch insects from the water, it can instantly extend to more than half a foot.

The hundred Spirit Firefly Grass plants have grown a lot taller, points of luminescence have begun to appear on their fine, emerald-green leaves. In the deep night, countless light points blink like myriad tiny stars in the sky.

The Blood Jade Ginseng has protruded above the Spirit Soil, looking as transparent as freshly mined jade.

The movement of the Spirit Ginseng has sped up considerably after they had started to grow, either clustering together or venturing into the region where the Spirit Firefly Grass resided, requiring Lu Xuan's constant attention.

The Red Cloud Pine has discreetly produced five small pine nuts which just peep out of the fine red pine leaves.

The Sword Grass has grown to the size of a Slivered Silver Blade, and its demand for sword qi is greater. Lu Xuan has to release a Golden Sword Technique for it every two hours.

Occasionally, there are fine cracks in the spirit soil next to it – a result of the sword intent leaking from the Sword Grass.

As for Dark Marrow Mushroom, numerous dark red mycelium have tightly wound around the decayed spiritual wood, leaving practically no gap.

“The decayed wood has almost been completely absorbed by the dark red mycelium. It seems that I need to find a few more pieces as replacements, otherwise, the growth of the Dark Marrow Mushroom will be affected,”

Lu Xuan muttered to himself.

“It’s just right. I might as well take the opportunity to stroll through the market while I am out, maybe I can find some interesting spirit beasts or unknown spiritual seeds.”

He walked out of the courtyard, the strong light made him squint his eyes.

“Fellow Daoist Lu Xuan, you’ve finally come out of your yard today. Such a rare sight.”

A voice sounded from the courtyard across the way.

Lu Xuan looked over upon hearing the voice. A middle-aged cultivator was lying on a wooden chair. Seeing Lu Xuan come out, he got up and came over.

“Hello, Fellow Daoist Wang.”

Lu Xuan greeted him.

The middle-aged cultivator’s name was Wang Shan, who lived next door to Lu Xuan. He had come over to pay a visit after Lu moved in.

Wang Shan was a Qi Practising Fifth Level cultivator, a small leader among the patrol guards of the market, and liked to relax in the pleasure house in his spare time.

“Fellow Daoist Lu Xuan, you can’t always stay at home. One day I’ll take you outside to have fun and see the world.”

Wang Shan teased Lu Xuan.

Lu Xuan timely exhibited an embarrassed expression and waved his hands in refusal.

“Thank you for your kindness, Fellow Daoist Wang, but with my low cultivation level, entering the pleasure house would lead to me being completely devoured, leaving not even a bone behind?”

Shortly after moving in, Lu Xuan controlled his concealment technique to display the Third Layer of Qi Cultivation.

After all, there were quite a few Middle-Stage Qi Practitioners living in the vicinity. If he remained at the Qi Cultivation Second Layer, he would actually attract attention.

Third Layer of Qi Cultivation, while still low, looked at least somewhat regular now.

As for the Pleasure House, his words were not wrong. The female cultivators in there knew various enchanting techniques and how to please customers, but they would likely be unconsciously drained of their spiritual power and essence blood.

The most important thing was, it would be fine if one only wanted to listen to some music, but if one wanted deeper exchanges, the amount of Spirit Stones spent would not be small.

“You’re such a bore. We cultivate to gain greater power, isn’t it for the sake of enjoying life?”

Wang Shan smacked his lips, his enthusiasm suddenly gone.

“Fellow Daoist is profound in cultivation and can deal with those demonesses, which is a good thing.”

“As for me, I prefer the company of spirit plants and beasts over the pleasures of the flesh. To each their own, right?”

“Alright, I won’t force you. If you change your mind someday, let me know. I’ll take you for a ride, and the spirit stones are on me.”

With that, they parted ways, and Wang Shan staggered back to his courtyard.

Lu Xuan continued forward. When he passed another courtyard, a rich aroma of wine wafted out.

The owner of the courtyard was a Fourth Layer Qi Cultivator. He couldn’t do without wine for a single day and had also mastered the art of brewing spiritual wine. Once he found out that Lu Xuan was a Spirit Plant Master, he excitedly asked if Lu Xuan knew of any spirit plants suitable for brewing spiritual wine, but he gave up upon Lu Xuan’s denial.

When Lu Xuan first moved into the courtyard, he attracted the curiosity and peeping of a few cultivators nearby. It wasn’t until they discovered his lower-level Qi Cultivation and that he was merely an Ordinary Spirit Plant Master that these gazes gradually disappeared.

Not too far from the new courtyard was the Loose Cultivator Market. In less than a quarter of an hour, Lu Xuan was already in the market.

The market was bustling, with the occasional shouts from stall owners.

“Passing by don’t miss out. We have a variety of top-notch artifacts, which you won’t find anywhere else.”

“Fresh demon beast meat, just hunted from the wilderness, the blood hasn’t even dried. Get a catty or two, it’s worth half a month’s cultivation!”

“High prices for second-hand magic artifacts, second-hand formations, remnant charms, and also purchase of all kinds of rare treasures and unknown materials.”

Lu Xuan strolled leisurely through the market, constantly shaking his head and observing the goods on each stall.

Most stalls had the main cultivation resources of the cultivation world, such as magic artifacts, demon beast materials, spiritual medicine and spiritual grass, charms and elixirs, etc.

Unknown spiritual seeds, spirit beast eggs or young beasts like Lu Xuan needed were extremely rare. When seen occasionally, they were only sold incidentally and almost never exclusively at a stall.

Suddenly, he stopped by a stall.

The stall owner was a young girl at the Second Layer Qi Cultivation. She had average looks and healthy oatmeal-colored skin. Seeing Lu Xuan staring in interest at the goods on her stall, she hurriedly greeted him.

“Dear fellow daoist, I have various types of demon bird feathers here, and specially made demon bird eggs. They contain dense spiritual power and taste very good. Would you like to try some?”

Lu Xuan shook his head, pointing to a black cage in the corner of the stall.

“How do you sell these young demon birds?”

In the cage, several colorfully feathered young birds with rich and dense plumage stood out, revealing a pair of black and white patterned bird claws.

“Oh, these Colorful Chickens? I found a nest and took them from a mountain. They can be tamed and bred, and when mature, they might lay spirit eggs. If not, you could eat them as their meat is very tender.”

The girl introduced the birds to Lu Xuan.

“How long does it typically take for a Colorful Chicken to reach maturity when breeding?”

“Two and a half years.”

30 Chapter 29: Invitation_1

In the end, Lu Xuan did not buy the few young colorful chickens.

Though he felt a strange sense of connection, the maturity period of two and a half years made him engulfed in hesitation and finally abandon the idea.

The main purpose of him raising spirit beasts was to get the white light group. Two and a half years was enough to mature a First Class or even a Second-Class spirit beast.

Using this time to raise these chicks seemed somewhat wasteful.

He left the stall and continued to wander around.

And finally, he made quite a significant discovery.

On one of the stalls, he found a very rare first-class spirit seed, the Pure Snow Lotus.

The Pure Snow Lotus, although it is of the First Class, is extremely rare, and it is widely acknowledged among the Spirit Plant Masters that its cultivation conditions are strict.

After maturity, the lotus seeds produced can maintain the mental clarity of the cultivator for a certain period of time, avoid being eroded by demon envoys, and is also a main ingredient for the second-class elixir, Spirit Bearing Elixir. The spirit-inspiring elixir refined from it can slightly enhance the spiritual sense of Qi-Cultivator.

Lu Xuan negotiated, and finally got the spirit seed, as white as jade, for the price of seven spirit stones.

The price for the same class of spiritual seeds is much more expensive than Red Cloud Pine and Blood Jade Ginseng, which shows the value of the Pure Snow Lotus.

Returning to his courtyard, he put the Pure Snow Lotus spirit seed into the Spiritual Spring Pool and operated his spiritual power. The Earth Pulling Technique, which had already reached the mastery realm, was used to incorporate the snow-white spirit seed into the spirit soil without changing the structure of the spring.

After successfully cultivating it, Lu Xuan focused on the spirit seed in the shallow layer of the spirit soil.

A thought flashed in his mind.

“Cold icy rain rhythmically hits the lotus...”

The reason why it is difficult to successfully cultivate Pure Snow Lotus is that, in addition to needing an environment similar to a spiritual spring, it also needs to be nourished by spirit rain carrying a chill. Only then can it grow smoothly.

Lu Xuan's Spirit Rain Technique, after having been cast countless times, had already reached a perfectly proficient level.

Yet imbibing it with a chill, was still somewhat difficult for him.

He had learned the Ice-Based Basic Technique when he first started cultivating. But, due to his average talent, he gradually gave up, mainly concentrating on practicing the Spirit Rain Technique and the Fireball Technique.

Later, he got the Earth Pulling Technique and the Golden Sword Technique from the white light group, but there was no Ice System Technique experience pack.

He conducted several experiments and finally managed to release a Spirit Rain Technique that carried a wisp of chill, which was sprinkled on the Pure Snow Lotus spirit seed.

Only after a few days of continuous practice did the success rate of casting the technique increase a bit. His spiritual sense sensed that the snow-white spirit seed in the Spiritual Spring Pool was undergoing subtle changes.

One day while Lu Xuan was cultivating his Spirit Plant, a semi-familiar voice came from outside his courtyard.

“Friend Lu, are you home?”

Lu Xuan racked his brain to recall only then did he remember the owner of the voice.

After reaching an independent cooperation agreement with ‘Bai Cao Tang’, he had visited it twice. Once to sell the remaining Spirit Firefly Grass, and another time to report on the growth status of his Spirit Plant.

During this time, he met with several Spirit Plant Masters, one of whom was the owner of the voice, Lei Fei, who was at the Third Layer of Qi Cultivation. Since they lived fairly close to each other, they had spoken a few more words.

Lu Xuan opened the door and greeted them.

Upon seeing Lei Fei and another cultivator, whose disposition seemed somewhat gloomy, behind him.

“Hello Friend Lu, this person here is Li Qing, a good friend of mine for many years.”

“This is Daoist Lu Xuan, who has excellent talent in planting spirit plants, and has established a cooperation relationship with ‘Bai Cao Tang’ at a young age.”

Lei Fei introduced both of them to each other.

After greeting them, Lu Xuan invited both of them into the house.

“Friend Lu Xuan, the reason why we came is because we have a proposal for you. Both Li Qing and I want to invite you to the Southern Secret Realm together to look for Spiritual Medicines.”

After a few polite exchanges, Lei Fei got straight to the point.

“Entering the Secret Land? With our cultivation level at the third layer of Qi cultivation, wouldn’t that be very dangerous?”

Lu Xuan asked straight away.

Secret lands can either form naturally or be a legacy of the ancient times. They often contain various treasures, including spiritual medicines, cultivation techniques, and magic artifacts, but they often come with considerable risks, like mysterious and eerie evil spirits, terrifying demon beasts, and so forth.

Most spirit plants and spirit beasts need to grow in a pure or special spiritual energy environment, so it’s rare to see them in ordinary fields.

Those secret lands left from the ancient times, every time they open, many rare treasures appear. This is why so many cultivators, like moths to a flame, ceaselessly rush into various secret lands to seek a slight chance.

For example, the newly discovered secret land has attracted many powers of various sizes in Linyang Market, as well as thousands of loose cultivators, all in search of an elusive chance.

The great sects of the cultivation world usually occupy their cave heavens, even generating small worlds. They don’t need to fight to the death over minor cultivation resources like ordinary cultivators.

Seeing Lu Xuan worried about safety, Lei Fei explained.

“The danger in the Southern Secret Realm has been mostly cleaned up over the hundreds of years since its discovery. It’s rare to encounter any.”

“Moreover, we only plan to explore the outskirts of the secret land, not delve deep into it. We can’t guarantee absolute safety, but usually, there won’t be any problem.”

“Although we are both spirit plant masters, we can’t just settle for mediocrity. We should strive for what we can.”

He tried to persuade Lu Xuan.

Lu Xuan pondered for a moment, then asked further.

“Then this trip to the secret land would take up quite a bit of time, both on the road and inside the secret land, wouldn’t that delay the cultivation of the spirit plants?”

“We have a flying boat magical tool for the journey, so it takes only one or two days to go back and forth. We may stay longer in the secret land as we may not necessarily be able to pick spiritual medicines in time.”

“As for delaying the growth of the spirit plants, how significant could the impact be during this short period of time? You can continue planting when you come back.”

Lu Xuan kept silent, but in his heart, he snickered quietly.

“It may not have a big impact on your spirit plants, but it might not be the case for mine.”

“After being away for a few days, while the spirit plants may seem to grow normally, it is probably hard to get good quality or even superior quality spirit plants.”

“I’m hoping to grow a spirit plant of perfect grade and see what kind of light cluster reward there will be!”

Lei Fei answered truthfully.

“I apologize, Thunder Fellow Daoist, I have always focused my energy on cultivating spiritual plants. I am not good at fighting, I don’t carry magical talismans, and even my current cultivation level at the third layer of Qi cultivation is also piled up through consuming elixirs.”

“So, for safety reasons, I will not go with the two of you to explore the Southern Secret Realm.”

Lu Xuan declined politely.

“Alright, we respect your choice, Friend Lu.”

Lei Fei, having been turned down, said despondently.

The two of them didn't stay long. They left the courtyard, planning to invite other cultivators.

"This Lu Xuan, he is too timid and cautious. He's at the third layer of Qi cultivation, but he's still worried about the dangers of going to a secret realm that's been developed for hundreds of years."

"Besides, what would delay his cultivation of spirit plants? He's just growing Spirit Firefly Grass, what could be delayed?"

As soon as he stepped out of the door, Lei Fei couldn't help but complain.

He originally thought that inviting a cultivator at the third layer of Qi cultivation would be almost certain, he didn't expect to be rejected by Lu Xuan, hence, he couldn't help but feel annoyed.

"Alright, if he doesn't want to go, he doesn't want to go. Let's invite other people."

"Although he is cautious, he is overly cautious. With his way of doing things, it's hard to get chances."

"He will only be an ordinary spirit plant master at the mercy of others for the rest of his life."

Li Qing glanced back at the courtyard where Lu Xuan lived, there was a hint of disdain in his tone.