

I Practice Farming While the Rest Cultivates

4 Chapter 3 Frost Armor Technique_1

After Zhang Hong had left, Lu Xuan, without wasting any time, prepared to take all his belongings with him to look for a way to deal with the Black Bud Worm Larvae.

Before leaving, he took out a small stone, the size of a fingernail, and approached the Grass Puppet.

The small stone was pure white and emitted faint fluctuations of spiritual power. It was a small piece of Broken Spirit, divided from a Low-grade Spirit Stone and widely used by Lower Rank Qi Cultivating Monks like Lu Xuan.

“Eat your fill and guard the house well!” he said.

He inserted the small piece of Broken Spirit into a gray grass lump on the head of the Grass Puppet, instructing it seriously.

With the supplementation of the spiritual power from the Broken Spirit, a very faint spiritual light emanated from the Grass Puppet, seemingly reinvigorated.

Though he was not entirely confident in this slow-reacting housekeeper puppet, Lu Xuan had no other options. He could only hope that the spirit plants in the courtyard would remain safe during his absence.

After leaving his house, Lu Xuan quickly treaded along the bluestone road.

His courtyard was located in the North District of Linyang Market, an area mostly crowded with Lower Rank Qi Cultivating Monks like him, harboring dreams of breaking their limits and changing their fate.

As for the market center, it was the preserve of the great families and major powers. Lu Xuan rarely visited it.

Having not left his house for a while, he felt a little out of sorts, seeing everything as familiar but also peculiar.

A Deep Yellow Paper Bird, about half a foot in length, slowly flew past at low altitude, carrying a cultivator. The bird had inconsistent long and short spines on its body, having clearly been used for a long time.

Next, a Multi-legged Mechanism Beast flew over Lu Xuan's head, carrying about twenty or thirty cultivators.

The Multi-legged Mechanism Beast was a common mode of transportation within the market. With just a few dozen Broken Spirits, one could reach the center of the Market in a short time.

There was no aerial prohibition formation on the outskirts of the Market, so spirit beasts and flying artifacts similar to these were abundant. Occasionally, a streak of Sword Light would fleetingly speed across the higher altitudes.

The Sword Light represented a cultivator controlling a flying sword, which implied at least a High-tier Qi Cultivator – a presence that felt unreachable for Lu Xuan at his current level.

Lu Xuan couldn't help but display a hint of envy. The ability to control a flying sword, roam the heavens and earth, was a distant dream for him, in both his past and present lives.

Collecting himself and quickening his pace, he arrived at a gathering place of cultivators in the North District after a short while.

The gathering place was full of shops and stalls. Even though they didn't compare with those in the central district, it was more than sufficient for Lower Rank Qi Cultivating Monks like himself.

Lu Xuan wove through the crowd, soon finding a middle-aged cultivator in a corner.

The man, like Lu Xuan, was a Qi Cultivation Second Layer cultivator. He had a thin frame, a gaunt face, and high cheekbones due to his lack of flesh.

A pair of mustaches perched on his upper lip as his eyes darted around, swiftly scanning the cultivators passing by.

Lu Xuan knew his surname was Huang, and he lived not far from his courtyard. Always loitering in the gathering places, Huang was well-informed about every aspect of the North District.

However, if you wanted to inquire about anything, you had to pay a certain fee.

Upon sensing Lu Xuan's gaze, the whiskers on Huang's upper lip curled up slightly as he squeezed out a smile, welcoming Lu Xuan.

"Little Friend Lu, it's been a while. Is there something I can assist you with?" he asked.

Lu Xuan responded with a smile.

"I indeed have a matter in need of Brother Huang's advice."

“I heard that Brother Huang has a wide network and knows cultivators at various stages in the North District. Could you introduce me to a few?”

“I have a few requirements. First, they should be at the Qi Cultivation Fourth Layer. Secondly, they should have strong offensive abilities and be able to precisely control their spells or similar artifacts.”

“Lastly, they should be in the vicinity of the North District and able to be found immediately.”

Lu Xuan said to the middle-aged cultivator surnamed Huang, while handing him a handful of Broken Spirit Stones.

He wasn't expecting to find a more advanced cultivator. Although they could potentially resolve the issue of the Black Bud Worm Larvae more quickly, hiring a Qi Practicing Fifth Level would cost him more than double the fees than if he hired a Fourth Level cultivator.

Moreover, the Spirit Firefly Grass had already been significantly damaged by the infestation. If he couldn't resolve this soon, he could lose not just one or more of the Spirit Firefly Grass plants but also those unknown rewards encapsulated in the white light came with the maturation of the spirit grass.

That's why the ordinarily frugal Lu Xuan was willing to pay so many Broken Spirits. He was asking a fourth-level Qi cultivator to be found immediately, all in order to deal with the Black Bud Worm Larvae as soon as possible.

The middle-aged cultivator received the broken spirit from Lu Xuan, his smile obviously warmer and more genuine.

“There are quite a few cultivators at the Qi Cultivation Fourth Layer in the North District, but, there are very few who can meet your other conditions, Little Friend Lu.”

“To my knowledge, there are only three nearby.”

“One is Lingyun Fairy, whose cultivation level is quite high. She possesses a set of Red Cloud Needle Artifacts, which she uses masterfully, fulfilling the conditions of strong offensive power and delicate control.”

“The other is Friend Qin Ming, who has a deep understanding of ice system techniques. While his offensive power may be slightly lacking, his control is unrivaled.”

“Lastly, there is Friend Li Xu, who is obsessed with the Sword Dao. He has the ability to turn sword qi into silk, which also meets your requirements.”

He gave Lu Xuan the addresses of the three cultivators at the Qi Cultivation Fourth Layer. Seeing that he remembered, he said with a smile:

“How about I accompany you, Little Friend Lu, on your visits to these three fellow practitioners?”

“I appreciate your kindness, Brother Huang, but I don’t want to trouble you further.”

Lu Xuan, with the knowledge that it would cost him even more, thanked him with a fist and palm salute, then turned and left.

He was not worried about the middle-aged cultivator cheating him. After all, this was his livelihood and he wouldn’t sabotage it.

...

In the courtyard.

On the back of the Spirit Firefly Grass invaded by the black filament, a thin layer of frost, filled with bone-chilling cold, spreads rapidly.

The Black Bud Worm Larvae felt the rapid approach of the freezing cold, and the thin black filaments tried to struggle out of the leaves.

However, their struggling speed could not keep up with the spreading frost and the black filaments were frozen within the thin layer of frost.

Like snowflakes, the frost instantly hardened, and with a crack, a thin layer of ice shattered, falling along with the Black Bud Worm Larvae.

A white, tender palm reached out to catch all the shattered pieces of ice.

“Wow, Brother Qin really lives up to his name, his mastery of the Frost Armor Technique is amazing. I am in awe,” Lu Xuan said, half in truth, half in jest, as he looked at the Spirit Firefly Grass leaves, unharmed under the frost.

The owner of the white, tender palm was a plump, white cultivator, who cheerfully tucked the shattered pieces of ice into his bosom.

“I didn’t disgrace myself. I solved the problem of the Black Bud Worm Larvae without freezing the Spirit Plant leaves.”

“I checked the nearby Spirit Firefly Grass for you and found no sign of Black Bud Worm Larvae. You can be worry-free for a while.”

“However, as I looked around the courtyard, I noticed that the protective force around your small Spirit Field seems a little weak. If this persists, similar incidents could likely occur in future.”

The plump white cultivator reminded Lu Xuan.

Lu Xuan waved his hand.

“Let’s deal with the future when it comes. This time, the reward is...?”

“Six Spirit Stones and fifty Broken Spirit, as we previously agreed.”

A single Spirit Firefly Grass is worth far less than six Spirit Stones. The reason for such a high reward is primarily to deal with the pest problem in the Spirit Field, but also because of Qin Ming’s mid-stage Qi cultivation.

The plump white cultivator’s face bore an innocuous smile.

Lu Xuan took out fifty Broken Spirit, counted it twice, then, one by one, pulled six Spirit Stones from his waist, turned his head, and handed it to the plump cultivator.

“Thank you, Friend Lu.”

The plump cultivator, Qin Ming, took the Spirit Stones and left the courtyard.

Sensing the spiritual stones getting further and further from him, Lu Xuan felt a pang of pain in his heart and couldn’t help but spit in secret.

“Swindler!”

5 Chapter 4 ‘Jingold Sword Art’_1

After learning the information of the three cultivators at the Fourth Layer of Qi Cultivation from the cultivator surnamed Huang, Lu Xuan made haste to visit each one. In the end, he chose Qin Ming, who was skilled in the Ice System Technique.

For no other reason than that he was the cheapest.

Among the three people, Lingyun Fairy had the highest asking price, starting at ten Spirit Stones, which scared Lu Xuan away. Next was Li Xu, who was skilled in Sword Qi into Silk, asking for nine Spirit Stones. The cheapest was Qin Ming, who only required seven Spirit Stones.

Lu Xuan naturally did not hesitate and chose Qin Ming first. He spent considerable effort along the way haggling and managed to reduce Qin Ming’s reward by fifty Broken Spirits, saving half a Spirit Stone.

This was cheap only relative to the other two cultivators. You should know that Lu Xuan rented this courtyard with a Spirit Field, and the monthly rent was five Spirit Stones.

In such a short time, he'd spent more than a month's worth of expenses. How could Lu Xuan not feel pained!

Fortunately, the problem with the Black Bud Worm Larvae was solved successfully. He could only hope that the recovering Spirit Firefly Grass and its white light cluster could bring substantial rewards.

His mental power focused on the Spirit Firefly Grass that had been corroded by the black fine lines, a thought flashed across his mind.

"I suddenly shook, feeling so empty, as if something had disappeared from my body, urgently requiring nutritional supplements."

What the hell was this state?

Lu Xuan complained to himself, his spiritual energy within his body surged, and threads of Spirit Rain fell on the green leaves of the Spirit Firefly Grass, seeping into them.

After three consecutive uses of the Spirit Rain Technique, the life-deficient Spirit Firefly Grass had mostly recovered.

Lu Xuan then made a round to inspect the small courtyard, understanding the current state of the remaining Spirit Firefly Grass and the two Moon Erosion Trees. After confirming there were no issues, he relievedly entered the room.

The next day.

Early in the morning, Lu Xuan hastily made his way to the Spirit Firefly Grass without even having time to wash up. He pinched the leaf and turned it over to look at the back.

The persistent black fine lines that had been present for the past few days were finally gone.

He let out a long sigh of relief, a slight smile involuntarily appeared on his face.

After a round of Spirit Rain technique, Lu Xuan carefully assessed the Spirit Plants in the field, found three more Spirit Firefly Grass progress bars that were fully filled.

His mental power converged on it.

"Ordinary Quality Spirit Firefly Grass *2."

"Good Quality Spirit Firefly Grass."

“Huh? Good Quality Spirit Firefly Grass?”

Lu Xuan noticed the subtle differences between the three Spirit Firefly Grasses.

The planting plugin didn't appear until he harvested the first Spirit Firefly Grass, so he wasn't aware of the quality of the first Spirit Firefly Grass when it matured.

He carefully picked the Spirit Firefly Grass full of faint luminescence, and three white light clusters silently appeared on the spot, flickering faintly as if enticing Lu Xuan to pick them up.

“Harvested a Spirit Firefly Grass, gained Three Months Cultivation.”

“Harvested a Spirit Firefly Grass, gained Three Months Cultivation.”

“Harvested a Spirit Firefly Grass, gained Earth Pulling Technique Spell.”

The moment he picked up the light cluster, Lu Xuan felt a sudden surge in his spiritual energy.

The rushing spiritual power wreaked havoc in his meridians. After calming down, Lu Xuan realized his cultivation had smoothly progressed to the breakthrough of the Third Layer of Qi Cultivation.

After cultivating diligently for many days, with a little help from the three white light clusters, he finally broke through to the Third Layer of Qi Cultivation successfully.

Lu Xuan was pleased to think so.

At the same time as his spiritual power surged, a formula method known as the Earth Pulling Technique appeared in his sea of consciousness.

He had an understanding in his heart, and knew a lot about the Earth Pulling Technique.

Earth Pulling Technique, like the Spirit Rain Technique, is one of the few low-level formula methods that a Spirit Plant Master must know. After successful cultivation, it can drive and control the structure of the soil, change the concentration of spiritual power in the soil, and make Spirit Plants grow better.

To the current Lu Xuan, it was quite practical.

He activated the formula method, and under the control of his spiritual power, the gray-black soil in the Spirit Field rose slightly, changing the root position of the remaining Spirit Firefly Grass in subtle places, making their distribution more reasonable. No longer leaving a large open spot or piled together.

“I originally thought all Spirit Firefly Grass would bring a white light cluster that would be Three Months Cultivation. Now it seems that the same variety of Spirit Plants can bring different light cluster rewards.

That mature Spirit Firefly Grass with Good Quality brought the Earth Pulling Technique.”

“It seems that the remaining twenty or so Spirit Firefly Grass, and the two Moon Erosion Trees, all need to be taken care of more carefully. Improving their quality when they mature also improves the reward of the white light cluster.”

Lu Xuan thought to himself.

The courtyard wasn't big. The two Moon Erosion Trees occupied half of the area, and the remaining area was planted with a total of twenty-four Spirit Firefly Grass. After two harvests, a total of four were harvested, leaving twenty to mature.

Although the Spirit Firefly Grass occupied very little land, the range of the roots in the soil was very wide. Even if only more than twenty were planted, it was already maximizing the use of the Spirit Field soil.

Looking at the rewards brought by the Spirit Firefly Grass with Good Quality, raising Spirit Plants is best to try to improve their appearance when they mature.

This way, not only can more Spirit Stones be sold, but also better light cluster rewards can be obtained. It's a win-win situation.

Now that he can know the real-time status of the Spirit Plants, and have the assistance of Earth Pulling Technique and Spirit Rain Technique, Lu Xuan was full of confidence.

He planned to change his usual planting methods.

In the past, he would use the Spirit Rain Technique after an interval every day to nourish the Spirit Plants. In his cultivation breaks, he would check the Spirit Field from time to time to check for any Strange Worm invasions.

For him, a low-level Spirit Plant Master, this was already a relatively reasonable cultivation method.

With the ability to now understand the real-time status of the Spirit Plants, he planned to change large-scale Spirit Rain Technique to local and detailed application. Whenever he noticed the needs of the Spirit Firefly Grass, he would satisfy them, striving to cultivate the best quality Spirit Plants.

Thinking, he acted immediately. According to the subtle differences in the needs of each Spirit Firefly Grass, he used the Spirit Rain Technique and Earth Pulling Technique over and over again until his internal spiritual power was exhausted.

Looking at each of the green and shiny Spirit Firefly Grass in the Spirit Field, the exhausted Lu Xuan revealed a satisfied smile.

As for not having time to cultivate during the day? He believed that it was no longer important, all he wanted now was peace and quiet for planting.

After two days of hard work, five mature Spirit Firefly Grass were laid in front of Lu Xuan.

However, perhaps due to the long planting time, a few days of intensive cultivation could not bring qualitative changes.

Among the five Spirit Firefly Grass, three were of Ordinary Quality, and two were of Good Quality.

The three Ordinary Quality Spirit Firefly Grass brought to Lu Xuan spiritual energy equivalent to nine months of his daily cultivation.

As for the other two Spirit Firefly Grass of Good Quality, one was also the Earth Pulling Technique.

After Lu Xuan absorbed it, he felt that he had a deeper understanding of this Formula Method. The time to activate the Formula Method was shorter and the control over soil change was more precise.

“It seems that if the reward for the light clusters is the same Formula Method, absorbing it will increase the understanding of it, which is similar to an experience bar.”

Lu Xuan began to ponder, and then a reward from the Good Quality Spirit Firefly Grass in his sea of knowledge appeared.

“Jingold Sword Art!”