

Dragon King 331

Chapter 331: If Third Lord Was Here...

Silently, Premier Xia walked Hao Ren to the main gate of the dragon palace while different emotions surged in his heart.

After Hao Ren brought back large quantities of godly elixir pills from the Nine Dragons Palace, all the elders got their share, and Hao Ren was allocated only one bottle. However, the Fuma didn't have any complaints.

Now that the East Ocean was in a crisis, the first thought they had was to sacrifice the "outsider"—the Fuma. Premier Xia sighed a little. But as the head manager of the internal affairs of the dragon palace, he wasn't one of the decision makers of the dragon palace. Comparatively, those purple-robed elders' words weighed more than his.

"Well... If Third Lord were here, such a thing would never happen. Although Third Lord doesn't quite like the Fuma, he is honorable and fierce; he would never abandon the Fuma."

Nurturing these thoughts, Premier Xia found they had arrived at the main gate of the dragon palace without noticing.

"Premier Xia, please go back in. I'll head back now," Hao Ren turned to him and said in a low voice.

"Ok! Take care, Gongzi Hao," Premier Xia took Hao Ren's hand in his and said sincerely.

He was reluctant to leave Hao Ren and the words "take care" were not just out of politeness.

As the East Ocean Fuma, Hao Ren was now under the protection of the East Ocean. But if the East Ocean Dragon Palace abandoned him, then the things Hao Ren had done for the East Ocean Dragon Palace would get him in big trouble.

The troubles included the West Ocean Dragon Palace's revenge, the grudge of the Inspector Qin Shaoyang and the minor forces previously suppressed by the East Ocean Dragon Palace..."Let's go!" Hao Ren took out Little White and patted its rump. Splitting the water, he took off swiftly.

Standing at the gate, Premier Xia looked after Hao Ren's retreating back and heaved a heavy sigh. Then he turned and walked back through the huge gate of the dragon palace.

Sitting on Little White, Hao Ren traveled across the night sky over East Ocean City and returned to East Ocean University in the blink of an eye.

The dorm was noisy. With Zhao Jiayi's victorious return, room 302 was going crazy.

"Zhao Jiayi, you are awesome! This is the sixth victory in a row!"

"I heard that the cheerleader captain sent you a love letter. Is that true?"

"It's awesome that you can skip classes and tour around while having matches!"

"Treat us to a meal after you become the champion! No! After entering the semi-finals!"

In the dorm of only five square meters, the guys surrounded Zhao Jiayi like a hero, shouting cheerfully.

Zhao Jiayi was baffled that he had played better and better in the matches while his physical strength improved as time went on. The last time when he had a fitness test, he had reached the standards of national athletes and was almost enlisted by the national team.

He didn't know that the Essence Replenishment Pill Lu Linlin and Lu Lili mixed in the cake they ate had cleansing effects on their meridians. Since he had been active in sports, he had absorbed part of the pill, and the results were showing.

Besides, he slept under Hao Ren's upper berth. While Hao Ren cultivated during the night and absorbed nature essence, part of the essence that couldn't be transformed traveled down along the bed frame and was absorbed by Zhao Jiayi in his sleep.

In fact, Zhao Jiayi had now reached the realm of an ordinary martial arts master, and it was no wonder he could sweep across the basketball court in matches.

"Hao Ren, why are you so late? Come and have a drink with us!" Seeing Hao Ren at the door, Zhao Jiayi immediately beckoned to him. Although he had become a celebrity in the school, he didn't forget Hao Ren, his good buddy.

With the East Ocean University entering the national quarterfinals, the dorm was having a small celebration.

After the experience of the drinking competition, no one dared to try Hao Ren again. When he walked into the room, Huang Jianfeng and others all offered their seats to him.

After drinking and eating, they went to the school public bathhouse together. After receiving cold treatment from the East Ocean Dragon Palace, Hao Ren enjoyed this happy time with his buddies very much.

It was about eight o'clock in the evening; the peak time of the school public bathhouse. Wearing an undershirt and a pair of flip-flops, he went to the bathhouse with Zhao Jiayi and the other four buddies.

The bathhouse for the guys was on the first floor while the one for girls was on the second floor.

Zhou Liren and Zhao Jiayi were red-faced from drinking; even gentle Cao Ronghua was walking on clouds.

"Hao Ren!"

They were paying for admittance when they spotted Xie Yujia and Ma Lina at the ticket window with wash basins in their hands. Xie Yujia was wearing a white long-sleeved T-shirt with cartoon characters on it, a knee-length skirt, and a pair of pale green flip-flops.

No doubt, they were there to take showers.

At the sight of Xie Yujia's white, long, and slender legs, Zhou Liren froze in a daze.

"Are you here to take a shower?" Since Ma Lina had called out his name, Hao Ren had to say something.

“Of course we’re here to shower. Do you think we came here for dinner?” Ma Lina retorted with a snicker.

Xie Yujia tugged at her, signaling her to enter the girls’ bathhouse instead of chatting with the guys.

“I say, why haven’t you gone out with Yujia these days? She’s bored to death in the evenings,” Ma Lina stared at Hao Ren and complained.

At Ma Lina’s words, Zhao Jiayi and others suddenly woke from their sluggishness.

“Hao Ren hasn’t been spending his nights in the dorm recently, and he has not been with Xie Yujia. Is it possible...” They looked at Hao Ren with complicated expressions and suddenly remembered that besides the great beauty Xie Yujia, he had the twin sisters...

“Since you are Yujia’s boyfriend, you must act like one!” Ma Lina added.

“Ma Lina, let’s go in!” Xie Yujia dragged Ma Lina into the bathhouse for girls.

“Hiss...” After Xie Yujia and Ma Lina entered the girls’ bathhouse, Zhou Liren inhaled sharply and stared at Hao Ren. “Brother Ren, you are awesome! How many girls are you seeing at once?”

“Go!” Hao Ren bumped Zhou Liren’s butt with his knee and pushed him into the guys’ bathhouse. Together, they entered the change room.

Recently, he had been busy with cultivation and tutoring Zhao Yanzi in the evenings. Thus, when it was late, he would spend the night in Zhao Yanzi’s home. That was why he hadn’t come to the bathhouse with Cao Ronghua and others for a long while.

Zhou Liren took off his clothes quickly and rushed into the shower room to get spots. Since it was peak time, it was hard to find several free shower booths together.

The public bathhouse in East Ocean University was different from the ones outside of the school because it had no bath pool. Instead, it had only shower booths. However, if they could have several booths next to each other, they could talk to each other while showering.

“This way! This way!” Zhou Liren who was the first one to rush into the shower section called out to them.

Hao Ren, Zhao Jiayi, and the others were walking in the direction of his voice when they suddenly heard another voice, “Sorry, we’ll take this place!”

“I came here first!” Zhou Liren retorted. With his six feet height, he was the tallest in Hao Ren’s dorm, enough to frighten some guys off.

Hearing the argument, Hao Ren and the others rushed over and saw six or seven guys surround Zhou Liren, and the leader was no other than Huang Xujie.

In this section, a group of students had just finished showering and left seven booths empty. Zhou Liren went and took the booths when Huang Xujie came over with his club members after the club activity.

It was the peak time of the bathhouse, and it was impossible to find another section of free booths.

Wearing a pair of briefs, six-foot-tall Huang Xujie saw Hao Ren and his buddies walking over. He chuckled, "Well, we meet again."

Standing beside Hao Ren, Zhao Jiayi was not tall, but he was as solid as a thick brick.

Huang Xujie certainly recognized the popular new captain of the school basketball team. However, he didn't think Zhao Jiayi, who had no strong background, was worthy of his attention.

"My friend was here first. Go find another section," Hao Ren took two steps forward and said.

Involuntarily, Zhou Liren turned to look at Hao Ren and was startled at the sight.

In his impression, Hao Ren had strong legs since he had been a long-distance runner when he was in the middle school, but his upper body was not robust, and thus Hao Ren had never been his match in arm-wrestling.

However, this Hao Ren he saw right now was totally different from the one in his memory. Although Hao Ren didn't have the bulging muscles like those fitness models on TV, his firm back, thick arms, broad chest and perfect inverted triangle figure were very impressive.

"When did this guy turn into a fitness guy?" Zhou Liren was amazed.

He didn't know that each morning and night Hao Ren practiced several times of the fundamental boxing techniques he learned from the East Ocean Dragon Palace. This set of military boxing movements used by Dragon Palace soldiers were very useful in keeping fit.

Besides Zhou Liren, even Zhao Jiayi who was very confident with his own body proportions was surprised when he saw Hao Ren's body after he took off his jacket. After all, Zhao Jiayi had spent hours training in the gym, and he wondered how Hao Ren found the time to keep fit.

Seeing the two groups in confrontation, the students in the bathhouse came over to watch.

With more students coming over to watch them, rows of booths were now empty, but Hao Ren and his buddies didn't want to leave their original spot, and Huang Xujie didn't want to back off and lose face. So, the two groups continued to face each other in a deadlock.

"Is that guy the captain of the school basketball team, Zhao Jiayi?"

"And the guy standing beside him is Hao Ren who defeated Huang Xujie with one attack at the bus stop."

"Oh, I remember. The arm-wrestling match."

All kinds of comments floated around the bathhouse.

In the hot steam, the running water splashed on the tile floor. With gritted teeth, Huang Xujie took a step forward and stared at Hao Ren. "I'll take this place!"

Now he couldn't back off to find another section to shower. Otherwise, he would lose face!

"We were here first," Hao Ren answered him coolly.

Huang Xujie clenched his fists.

After Hao Zhonghua's inauguration ceremony, he knew from his father, the deputy mayor, that Hao Ren was, in fact, the son of Hao Zhonghua whom even his father couldn't afford to mess with.

Because of the incident during the ceremony, he was scolded severely and almost got a beating. His father warned him repeatedly not to mess with this 'Gongzi Hao', or his father would break his leg! If he offended the son of Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang, it would put his father's career in danger!

Hao Zhonghua had a personal relationship the provincial governor!

"Forget it! Let's move to another section!" Huang Xujie said suddenly.

The guys watching including the members of the Rock Climbing Club thought they had heard wrong.

"Huang Xujie backed off at this moment?"

Everyone could see that Huang Xujie had admitted defeat during the confrontation! Huang Xujie, the son of the deputy mayor and the famous bully at school, had backed off! After a few seconds of hesitation, the guys booed at him.

With a livid face, Huang Xujie led the members of the Rock Climbing Clubs out of the section. They didn't move to another shower section. Instead, they walked in the direction of the change room!

They were in no mood to shower.

With the end of the confrontation, the naked guys scattered. Undoubtedly, this incident would soon spread all around the school.

Huang Xujie was defeated by Hao Ren three times now. He had lost in the rock climbing competition, the arm-wrestling match and now he backed off from the confrontation in the public bathhouse!

"Your presence was magnificent!" After Hao Ren forced back the group of the Rock Climbing Club, Zhou Liren walked over and said to Hao Ren.

The aura Hao Ren emitted was so powerful that it even chilled Zhou Liren who watched the confrontation on one side. After all, they were standing in a bathhouse full of hot steam!

"Take your shower!" Hao Ren turned to bonk Zhou Liren on his head with a wash basin before walking over to turn on the shower.

Zhao Jiayi was also secretly admiring Hao Ren's aura, which was rare even in top-tier basketball players. With this aura, he believed Hao Ren would have downed six to seven of Huang Xujie's guys if they had broken into a fight.

"I say, Xie Yujia was really beautiful in a short skirt." Zhou Liren changed the subject while showering. "Ren, I finally understand why she's attracted to you."

"Why?" Hao Ren asked casually.

"Your body! You attracted her with your body. You two must have..."

Hua... Hao Ren tossed a basin of water toward him, knowing nothing good would come out of his mouth.

Zhao Jiayi and the others laughed.

The buddies chatted in the shower. When they came out, half an hour had passed.

"I need to go out. You head back first," Hao Ren pushed his wash basin into Zhou Liren's hands and said.

"Got it. Got it." Zhou Liren winked at him.

He thought Hao Ren would wait at the entrance of the bathhouse for Xie Yujia and they would go to the Hongji Square for a date.

Hao Ren didn't explain. Watching them walk to the dorm area outside the campus, he turned and walked toward the small forest in the school.

At this time of day, many students came to take a shower. While he walked to the small forest close to the girls' residential area, he didn't notice someone was following him.

Walking into the forest, he took out Little White and put up an energy sphere. With a gust, he flew up into the sky in the protection of the energy sphere.

Huang Xujie had been following him from a distance. But when he rushed into the forest, he saw no trace of Hao Ren.

Chapter 332: This Is My Territory

Every time Hao Ren went up to Fifth Heaven for the night, he would take the opportunity to patrol the sky over East Ocean City. He drove Little White swiftly around the boundaries of First and Second Heaven.

Second, Third, and Fourth Heavens were the middle territories between the dragon cultivators and the human cultivators. The human cultivators were allowed to leave the Fifth Heaven and patrol these territories. However, last time when the two cultivators from White Sand Sect scouted below the First Heaven, they were trespassing, and the dragon cultivators on land had the right to kill them.

It was about eight o'clock in the evening, and the sky had darkened. Hao Ren closed his eyes and tried to feel the nature essence fluctuations around him using his spiritual sense.

He was not very familiar with the use of spiritual sense and could barely cover an area with a diameter of a hundred meters. If he had not been in the clouds, it would have been better to watch with his eyes. However, for the masters in Qian-level and Kun-level such as Su Han, they could sense every movement in an area with a diameter of one kilometer.

He was about to end his patrol when two cultivators' presence broke into the range of his senses.

Obviously, the two cultivators had sensed Hao Ren's presence before he sensed their presence since they were fleeing. However, Little White was too fast for them.

According to their experience, the dragon cultivators patrolling the boundaries in First Heaven were usually inspectors who were the elites of the Dragon Clan. Most of the inspectors were the equivalent to Nascent Soul Realm cultivators and thus were more powerful than them.

That was why they split up and fled the moment they sensed the cultivator flying up from below First Heaven.

However, Hao Ren wouldn't let them go. Two of his fingers flicked out two sets of sword energies; each set contained a basic sword array consisted of 16 sword energies, shooting toward the two fleeing cultivators.

The sword array was simple, but its power was great.

Two sheets of light, one white and the other yellow, shot onto their backs.

Pu! Pu!

They stumbled forward about six meters and were severely wounded. Desperately, they sped up and shot up toward Third Heaven, so fearful that they didn't even glance back at their attacker.

If they had known that the attacker was only a cultivator of the Zhen-level which was equivalent to low-tier Core Formation Realm, they would have regretted their decision to flee.

Withdrawing the 32 sword energies, Hao Ren patted Little White's rump and continued to patrol. These two cultivators were stronger than those two who had been captured by him last time. If they hadn't fled in panic, Hao Ren probably would not have been their match.

But it didn't matter to Hao Ren since he could flee on Little White whose traveling speed was equivalent to that of the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators, and they couldn't catch up with it. In fact, it was Little White's horrifying speed that shocked the two cultivators and convinced them that they had encountered a Dragon Tribe inspector of Qian-level or Kun-level.

Sensing the two cultivators had escaped to the territory on and above Fifth Heaven, Hao Ren patted Little White's head, and it flew up to swiftly to Fifth Heaven.

The Ethereal Summit was as peaceful as before. Little White carried Hao Ren through the thick fog into the cave abode.

In the cave abode, the table and chair were the same as he had left them.

However, he noticed some messy footprints on the ground of the cave. As a precaution, before he left the cave in the morning, he had spread a very thin layer of dust on the ground with the sucking and releasing power of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

The footprints showed that someone had come in when he was not there. Since it was on Fifth Heaven, he was sure the intruders were cultivators from some nearby sect.

Hao Ren had been wondering why no cultivators had built a cave abode in this valley full of essence. Thinking it was a forbidden rear mountain of some sect, he had borrowed a set of array formations from Zhen Smart and was about to build it there.

But it seemed that someone had discovered his cave abode.

The cultivators had been cautious about the array formations in and out of the cave abode and thus had concealed their nature essence fluctuations. They didn't realize that the owner had used a simple anti-thief method of the mortal world.

From the shallow footprints, Hao Ren couldn't determine the exact number of the intruders, but he was sure there had been more than three of them.

"Little White, guard me well tonight!" Hao Ren said to Little White.

Little White looked at him and barked; Hao Ren didn't know if it had understood his order or not.

He must speed up his cultivation process and thus didn't want to desert this perfect cultivation spot or waste his time finding another mountain with abundant essence. After all, it was night time, and he would probably stumble into an array formation of some sect... Brushing the dust off the stone bed, he closed his eyes and began to cultivate.

Lying on the entrance of the cave, Little White looked around cautiously. With its acute sense of smell, it had sniffed the scents of strangers in the cave abode. Even cats and dogs didn't like strangers trespassing their territory, let alone a spirit beast.

Outside the valley, two beautiful figures flew in the night.

"Sister, Gongzi has a great figure."

"Sis... Did you peek at Gongzi when he was showering?"

"Haha! What do you think?"

"Liar! But I hope I can serve him in the shower and help him change one day..."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Two dark light beams instantly shot past.

The moon rose and then descended slowly.

When dawn came to Fifth Heaven, Hao Ren slowly exhaled a turbid breath, feeling three new openings had been unlocked in his fast spinning dragon core.

Seventy openings!

The nature essence stored in his body had increased exponentially!

For the dragon cultivators, the higher the cultivation realm, the more difficult it would be to unlock openings. That was why they would have to find a mystic crystal to help them reach Qian-level or Kun Level. The so-called mystic crystals were like transfer stations of the essence; they could store enough essence for the cultivators to achieve breakthroughs.

Hao Ren had never imagined that he would be able to unlock five openings in two days. He was convinced that this valley was his lucky place, and he would never give it up to anyone!

Kicking hard on the ground, he rushed out of the cave abode while a white energy sword appeared under his feet carrying him to patrol around the valley.

Flying on an energy sword consumed a lot of nature essence.

But Hao Ren had just gained a breakthrough, and the essence intensity in his blood was very high; thus, he didn't care about the essence he wasted on the energy sword.

The valley had an oval shape with a U-shaped vertical dissection surface. Like an eggshell with one opening, this valley would have been a perfect place for defending in ancient times.

However, in Fifth Heaven, all the cultivators could fly, and this feature of the valley was not an advantage here. The upside was that its funnel shape could accumulate essence in the fog, making the essence intensity much greater than outside.

With the features of the valley in mind, Hao Ren took out the set of array formation he got from Zhen Smart and placed the compass, that looked like a plate and was the eye of the array, in the cave abode before planting 72 array flags evenly on the edge of the valley.

The instructions for building the array formation was written on the inner side of the box lid. All Hao Ren needed to do was follow the steps in the instruction.

The 72 array flags corresponded with the number of 72 Nether Evils. If the array was properly operated, it could transform into 72 array formations such as wind, fog, rain, water, light, flow, and stones...

But what Hao Ren built was the basic application which used the original The Big Dipper Constellation of the 72 Nether Evils; it could automatically transform from time to time without his control.

Except for the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators who could break the array with pure force, ordinary cultivators, flying or walking, couldn't enter the valley.

With the last array flag planted into the soil, the fog in the valley got even thicker, and the visibility of the valley decreased by almost five times.

Hao Ren flew out of the valley and tried to enter it. However, when he rushed in on the energy sword, he looked up and found himself on the other side of the valley.

He turned around and tried again. The result was the same: he rushed into the fog and ended up on the other side of the valley.

It seemed like the valley didn't exist at all!

Hao Ren wondered about the miraculous effects of the array formation and took out a tiny star which was the 'array heart' that was made of deep ocean crystal; it had a deep blue color.

He injected some nature essence into it, and the small crystal gave off a vague blueish green light. He flew into the fog on the energy sword, and this time he entered the heart of the valley!

"Excellent!" Hao Ren exclaimed in appreciation.

Zhen Congming was an overbearing kid, but his stuff was excellent. According to him, this array formation he gave Hao Ren was just an entry-level array.

When he went back to the cave abode, Little White looked at Hao Ren with bafflement.

Sitting in the center of the array formation, it had watched Hao Ren fly around outside of the valley.

The coffee-colored compass was on the stone table in the cave abode. It looked to be made of ancient wood, but when he shifted it in his hand, he found it was heavier than metal.

The compass was made of deep ocean crystal, too, and circles of runes were engraved on the surface.

Placing the tiny blue star into the small dent in the center of the compass, Hao Ren found they fit perfectly. With the array heart in the array eye, they could automatically control the array formation in the valley.

The outer and inner edges of the compass could turn, and the different positions they turned to signified different features of the array. Right now, Hao Ren used the basic feature by rotating the rings on the compass to their original positions.

He injected a little nature essence into the compass, and the thick fog in the valley immediately vanished. By doing this, he had temporarily withdrawn the array formation!

After turning the two rings of runes to random positions, he took the array heart from the compass. Plucking a golden fur from Little White's paw, he attached the array heart to the thread of hair and made them into a simple bracelet before pulling it onto his wrist.

When its fur was plucked off, Little White whimpered and looked at Hao Ren morosely.

Hao Ren just smiled at it. He used Little White's hair because it was harder than ordinary red thread and could resist the damages of water and fire; attached on the hair of Little White, the bracelet wouldn't break.

"Let's go back to school!" Patting Little White on its rump, Hao Ren got it up from the ground and walked to the entrance of the cave.

Little White wagged its tail and moved closer to his legs before turning into a snow lion with a Boom!

No one would break into the Ethereal Summit which was under the protection of the Big Dipper Constellation Array! Relaxed, Hao Ren smiled and got up on Little White's back, patting its big round head comfortingly.

Chapter 333: Match for Little Zi

Shortly after Hao Ren left Fifth Heaven on Little White, three figures flew to a small hill near the Ethereal Summit.

"Hello, Sect Master Song, Taoist Liu!" A middle-aged man wearing a blue robe cupped his hands at the other two.

The pretty woman who was referred to as Taoist Liu smiled at the middle-aged man. "Hello, Sect Master Han," she greeted.

They were masters of three cultivation sects near the Ethereal Summit. The man with the surname Han was the master of Seven Stars Sect, the man with the surname Song was the master of Qiong Hua Sect, and the woman with the surname Liu was the master of Qin Yin Sect.

The positions of the three sects formed a triangle, and Hao Ren's Ethereal Summit was in the center of this triangle. From the terrains of the mountains, the three sects all regarded this valley as part of their back mountain.

The three sects had argued about the ownership of the valley and finally decided to hold a competition every ten-year. During the competition, each sect would send three new Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators, and the winner would gain the right to use the valley for five years.

In the next five years, the valley would be left alone to recover its essence for the next winning sect. Of course, with this method, no sect could occupy this valley for ten consecutive years in which it could increase their power by so much that it would permanently occupy the valley.

However, to prepare for the next competition, some disciples went into the valley, and they found a cave abode in it.

The three masters were stunned by this discovery. They had abided by their agreement and nurtured the valley for five years. Now, it was occupied by an outsider!

This incident soon escalated. After some discussion, the three sects eliminated the possibility that one of the three sects had been secretly using the valley, and they sent a large group of young disciples and several elders to guard the valley.

However, two shadows appeared in the sky above the valley in the evening, and the elders and hundreds of disciples who were waiting for the intruder were beaten unconscious and tossed out of the valley.

During the whole process, none of the hundreds of cultivators saw the faces of the attackers!

Receiving the message, the three sects held an emergency meeting. They sent all the elders in the Core Formation Realm in the sects to the entrance of the valley, but they received the same treatment!

This time, dozens of elders were tossed out of the valley, and all their high-quality flying swords were confiscated!

With the failed night raid, the three sects didn't dare to make another move. After one uneasy night, the three sect masters decided to pay a visit to the valley during the daytime.

"Let's go!" The sect master of Seven Stars Sect took the lead and flew toward the valley on a red sword.

The sect masters of Qiong Hua Sect and Qin Yin Sect exchanged a look and followed him on their swords.

From the information they got yesterday and last night, the cultivator who occupied the valley only came there to cultivate in the night, and the cave abode was empty during the day.

That was why they thought it was safe to investigate it during the daytime.

As he came near the edge of the valley, Sect Master Han of the Seven Stars Sect slowed down, and Sect Master Song of the Jade Hua Sect and Sect Master Liu of the Qin Yin Sect didn't dare to break in either.

After all, they were still stunned by the fact that dozens of elders were instantly beaten unconscious and tossed out of the valley last night.

“Senior, Han Guang, the Sect Master of Seven Stars Sect, asks for permission to see you!” Standing on his flying sword at the entrance of the valley, Sect Master Han circulated his nature essence and spoke in a loud voice.

They waited for a long while, and no reply came from the valley.

Looking back at the other two sect masters, Sect Master Han hesitated for a few seconds and called out again, “If Senior is not in here, please forgive us for going into the valley!”

No sounds came from the valley; not even the chirping of birds.

The quieter the valley was, the more nervous they got.

Sect Master Han inhaled deeply and looked back at Sect Master Song and Sect Master Liu. “Let’s go in together!”

In fact, Sect Master Song and Sect Master Liu were nervous, but they couldn’t back off now. Besides, from the incidents of the last few nights, they knew that the senior living in the valley didn’t want to hurt anyone; he or she just wanted to keep people out.

Each equipped with a protective dharma treasure, they forced themselves to fly into the valley.

A wave of mist greeted them. When they regained their sense of orientation, they realized that they were outside the valley. Not wanting to admit defeat, they flew in from another direction. When the mist disappeared, they found themselves back at the entrance of the valley!

They dared not to try again. Standing on their flying swords, they looked at each other in puzzlement.

“Sect Master Han, will we just give the valley up to this outsider?” Sect Master Liu broke the silence and asked with a reluctant expression on her face.

To prepare for this competition, she had personally trained three disciples with the determination of getting control of the valley, and that was why she was unwilling to let go.

Sect Master Han thought for a moment and said, “I don’t think the senior is in the valley now, or he or she would have come out and dealt with us instead of letting us linger out here.”

“And the array formation...” Sect Master Song asked with bafflement.

“The array formation left in the Elixir King Valley should be a position shifting array. We can’t go in if we can’t break the array. In our Seven Stars Sect, we have a similar array formation, but this one is much more advanced than ours.” Sect Master Han paused for a few seconds before continuing, “Since the senior won’t be back until nighttime, we can just wait here.”

“The cave abode was reported to be very crude, and I think it must be a temporary resting place for the senior. We can leave him or her alone, and this senior will probably leave after a while,” Sect Master Song said after a moment of consideration.

The sects in Fifth Heaven knew the limit of their strengths. Sometimes, cultivators from Sixth Heaven would come to visit Fifth Heaven, and they couldn't afford to mess with these Sixth Heaven cultivators.

However, Sect Master Han shook his head. "The senior must be a cultivator from Sixth Heaven, and he or she is living here temporarily to recover from injuries or to hunt for treasures. From the way our cultivators were dealt with last night, this senior is not a murderous person. This may present an opportunity for us."

Hearing Sect Master Han's words, the eyes of the pretty Sect Master Liu lit up with understanding. With a master from Sixth Heaven living in the Elixir King Valley, it was both a threat and an opportunity for the three sects nearby.

"Even if we couldn't get any treasures or cultivation techniques from the senior, it would benefit the sects if the senior could give us a few tips on cultivation. Sect Master Han must have planned to ask the senior for tips, but he was afraid to do it alone, and that was why he wanted the three of us to act together," Sect Master Liu thought to herself.

"Then, we will wait here and hope that we can meet the senior today," Sect Master Song nodded and said.

Sect Master Song didn't hope to get cultivation tips from this senior. He only wanted the senior to return the flying swords that were confiscated last night. After all, the Qiong Hua Sect had sent out the largest number of cultivators last night and thus suffered the most significant loss of flying swords.

While the three sect masters waited respectfully near the valley, Hao Ren, the senior in their eyes, was back in the East Ocean University having classes.

With Lu Qing's special permission, Hao Ren could skip any class he wanted, but the teachers still couldn't let him pass the course if he did too poorly on the exam.

If he failed too many courses, Hao Ren couldn't explain it to his parents. More importantly, if he failed miserably on the exams, he would be too shameful to tutor Zhao Yanzi.

While Hao Ren was listening to the teacher attentively, Zhou Liren sitting next to him leaned toward him slowly to look at the item on his wrist. "This bracelet is so beautiful..."

Hao Ren was sitting in the back row close to the window. Under the sunlight shining through the window, the blue deep ocean crystal was dazzling, and the golden thread that was attaching the crystal to his wrist was also emitting light that was more dazzling than gold.

"Damn! Are you a girl or something?" Hao Ren bounced Zhou Liren's head off with the back of his fist.

"You have been wearing more accessories since you fell in love," Zhou Liren leaned toward him again and said, "Su Han once gave you two bracelets. Then, you got a necklace, a golden bell, some beads, and now you got this little star... They are all gifts from girls, right?"

"Ugh..." Hao Ren didn't know how to answer him.

"You are so lucky. No girl has ever given me gifts..." Zhou Liren sighed heavily.

"Ok! I'll give you a gift next time," Hao Ren said in exasperation.

“I’m not g*y. I don’t want your gift!” Zhou Liren replied.

“Damn!” Hao Ren shivered with disgust. Last time when he was at the Trading Convention on Fifth Heaven, he had bought some gems with some spirit stones. They would sell for about 20,000 yuan at any jewelry store, and he planned to give one to Zhou Liren.

However, at the latter’s refusal, he gave up on the idea.

After morning classes ended, Xie Yujia walked to Hao Ren’s side with a small bag on her back. “Hey! Let’s go and have lunch together!”

“A date with a beauty! I’m the forgotten friend...” Zhou Liren who had planned to go to lunch with Hao Ren walked out with a snicker.

Xie Yujia turned and looked at Zhou Liren before sticking out her tongue. Then, she turned back at Hao Ren. “What do you want to eat? Lunch is on me!”

“Why?” Hao Ren was baffled.

“I have good news!” She grabbed his hand and walked out of the classroom.

Her hand was soft and fresh while her black hair swayed against her white shirt, forming a distinct contrast of colors.

Bright and playful, Xie Yujia was in a good mood as she pulled Hao Ren to the stairs, attracting jealous glances from the nearby guys.

She was not dazzling, but her freshness was the most alluring part of her beauty.

Outside of the academic building, Xie Yujia unlocked her bicycle. Then, Hao Ren rode the bike with her sitting on the back seat.

“You haven’t told me the reason for your lunch invitation yet.” Riding the bicycle, Hao Ren noticed the guys on the roadside all glancing at the back seat of the bike.

“Didn’t you notice any changes in me?” Xie Yujia clutched onto his shirt and asked.

Hao Ren looked back at her and found that she was stunning in the sunshine. However, he couldn’t see any changes.

“What changes?” Hao Ren asked her.

“I’ve broken through to level 8 of the Qi Refinement Realm!” Xie Yujia slapped lightly on his back and said excitedly.

Last night when she was cultivating in the dorm, she suddenly felt a transforming change when surging essences entered her body, elevating her realm instantly to level 8 of the Qi Refinement Realm!

After cultivating for so long in bafflement, she finally experienced an epiphany moment!

She understood the changes in nature and the cycles of life and death. Just like studying for school, one couldn’t rely on memorization alone; instead, a comprehensive understanding was vital! The Life Note in

her left hand and the Death Note in her right hand were like positive and negative poles that suddenly connected, and the nature essence traveled smoothly all over her body.

This morning when she got up, her roommate Ma Lina almost couldn't recognize her because she looked so confident and so vivacious that all the worry and anxiousness disappeared from her face!

Ma Lina felt like she was looking at a little sun that was filled with abundant energy. Xie Yujia's aura was not less dazzling than those superstars who walked on the red carpet!

Her eyes were brighter, her skin was smoother, and even her breaths were fragrant... Xie Yujia finally understood the Heaven Dao!

Cleansed and healthy body; soft and shiny hair; white and solid teeth; controlled and free movements; clear and bright eyes... All these were the characteristics of becoming one with heaven!

Although she was only at level 8 of the Qi Refinement Realm, she had understood the Qi Refinement Scroll entirely!

"Really?" Hao Ren hesitated for a few seconds and looked back at her again.

Sure enough, she emitted an extraordinary radiance which was not the reflection of the sunlight on her smooth skin, but the brilliance of her self-confidence and beauty!

"Hey! Be careful!" Xie Yujia tugged on his shirt.

Thud! The wheel of the bicycle collided with the edge of the flower bed.

Engrossed in looking at Xie Yujia, he didn't notice the flower bed in front of him.

She bounced a little on the back seat before settling steadily back on it. With the sway of her black hair, she slipped her arms around Hao Ren's belly.

"You... have indeed broken through," Hao Ren froze for a few seconds and said.

It dawned on him that with the Beauty Pill, she would always look this beautiful in the future... Immediately, he rode the bicycle toward the Hongji Square.

Ma Lina thought Xie Yujia's anxiousness was due to Hao Ren's negligence of her as her boyfriend. That was why she reminded Hao Ren of his duty when she met him at the entrance of the public bathhouse. However, that was only one of the reasons for Xie Yujia's worries.

The other reason was that despite her hard work in cultivation, her progress had been very slow, and she was only able to use one ten-thousandth of the great power of the Life Note and the Death Note the old Grandma gave her.

"Hao Ren, I'll catch up to Little Zi!" sitting on the back seat and clutching Hao Ren's shirt, Xie Yujia vowed.

Chapter 334: Daughter's Concern

At the Hongji Square, Xie Yujia, who was in a good mood, decided to take Hao Ren out for a mini hotpot meal. This kind of two-person hotpot meal had become popular in recent years as it was perfect for couples or two to three friends.

After reaching level 8 of the Qi Refinement Realm, Xie Yujia was, in fact, really close to the Foundation Establishment Realm. The glow she radiated wasn't something a normal girl could possess even by dressing up carefully.

"This one, this one, and that one..." Xie Yujia was ordering the food off the menu, and the young waiter was getting nervous as she looked at him with her bright eyes.

Since this waiter had been working here for a while, he must have seen many beautiful girls. However, Xie Yujia was the first one who made him feel pressured.

Hao Ren's mood lightened up as he sensed Xie Yujia's joyful spirit. "Since you have understood the Qi Refinement Scroll thoroughly, it shouldn't be difficult for you to reach the peak of Qi Refinement Realm."

"Yeah!" Xie Yujia nodded happily, "One or two more weeks and I should be able to reach level 10!"

After reaching level 10, she could start breaking into the Foundation Establishment Realm, which would make her a qualified cultivator. Since she chose the same route as Hao Ren, she would not give up easily. That was also the promise she made to herself on the day she ate the Beauty Pill.

In addition, the sense of achievement gained from putting so much effort in cultivation and getting a breakthrough was more exciting than getting scholarships each year for her.

"How is Zi's studying going? Isn't the final exam season coming soon?" after sharing her joy, Xie Yujia changed the topic immediately.

"She is studying fine. She is comparatively bad in math, but she is learning quickly," Hao Ren said.

"If there are any subjects you aren't good at, I am able to help; I still remember everything I learned in middle school. I am going to visit the school in the next few days, and I wonder if I am going to see her or not," Xie Yujia smiled and said.

"Hoho, I can handle everything so far. She hasn't been at school these few days because she has been sick."

"Huh? Sick? Is it bad?" Xie Yujia widened her eyes and asked immediately.

"Nothing, nothing. She's only a bit sick," Hao Ren replied.

Xie Yujia really did treat Zhao Yanzi as her little sister and cared about her. Too bad that Zhao Yanzi was ungrateful about it.

"Oh yes, Fifth Heaven; you have been there once before, right?" Hao Ren asked Xie Yujia.

"Yes... I have been there with Old Grandma before." Xie Yujia's face turned slightly red as she remembered that 'dream'.

“That place is filled with nature essence, which is very beneficial for cultivation. Once you reach the Foundation Establishment Realm, I will take you there to cultivate,” Hao Ren said.

“Ok,” Xie Yujia replied immediately. She was touched since Hao Ren had always been looking after her.

Of course, she didn’t know that Hao Ren was thinking about taking Zhao Yanzi, Lu Linlin, and Lu Lili there as well...

“You have missed quite a few classes recently, and final exams are coming soon. I will give you a copy of my notes by exam time,” Xie Yujia offered.

If Zhou Liren saw her thoughtful ‘girlfriend’ act, he would start crying and screaming pathetically again.

Hao Ren calmly looked at Xie Yujia across the mini hotpot and nodded. “Thanks a lot.”

“Hmm...” Xie Yujia hummed softly, and her face was as beautiful as a peach blossom.

After the short date had ended, Hao Ren gave Xie Yujia a ride back to school.

“Hao Ren, you still have to go tutor Zi today, right?” Xie Yujia suddenly asked while sitting behind him.

“Yes, why?”

“If you have time, do you mind taking me to a place?” Xie Yujia asked.

“Sure, where do you want to go?” Hao Ren asked her immediately.

“Um... I want to see my parents,” Xie Yujia hesitated for a few seconds and said.

Hao Ren’s mind blanked out. “Now?”

“If you don’t mind...” Xie Yujia said quietly.

Hao Ren stopped the bicycle, turned his head, and looked at her. He thought for a moment and said, “Sure, I will take you there now!”

Xie Yujia stood on the road at the school as Hao Ren chained the bicycle to the side of the road. Then, he grabbed Xie Yujia and headed to the back of the administrative building.

Behind the administrative building was an abandoned bicycle shed. Many unidentified bikes were chained and lined up into different rows inside the shed.

“We will go and return quickly!” Hao Ren released Little White from the necklace and skillfully formed a red energy sphere.

Xie Yujia stood next to Hao Ren and climbed onto Little White’s back. It was going to be a long trip; one she had never experienced before. She also didn’t know whether it was appropriate or not to ask Hao Ren to do such things for her. However, she was greatly touched as Hao Ren agreed almost without any hesitation.

Inside the red energy sphere, a colorful trail appeared as Little White started flying toward the east.

“Thank you...” Xie Yujia said as she sat behind Hao Ren; her hands gently grabbed Hao Ren’s shoulders.

“It’s all good,” Hao Ren turned his head and comforted her.

However, since they were sitting really close to each other and Little White’s speed was extremely fast, all Hao Ren could see was Xie Yujia’s lips. Because of the momentum, he almost kissed her on her lips.

Luckily, Xie Yujia’s head leaned back slightly, and Hao Ren’s nose rubbed across her cheek. Xie Yujia’s face immediately turned red like a fire cloud in the sky.

Hao Ren thought that it was a huge misunderstanding. Right now, Xie Yujia could not get off midway even if she wanted to since they were in the sky. If she misunderstood his action as intentional, it would be difficult for him to explain himself.

“Little White, faster!” Hao Ren tapped Little White’s neck and yelled.

Shoo...

Little White left behind a white trail in the sky and created two-meter-tall splashes on the surface of the ocean.

The sky turned from white to grey, then from grey to black. The sea turned slowly from white to black as well.

Little White directly rushed into a new continent. Hao Ren looked down through dark clouds at the city below and realized that they had arrived in the United States.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia, who were riding on Little White, had become the ‘smugglers’ that the U.S. government could never be able to capture!

Mountains and plains disappeared behind them at high speed. Xie Yujia, who was extremely nervous, suddenly said, “Little White, you can slow down now!”

Hao Ren scratched Little White’s neck.

Little White, who was flying at high speed, suddenly slowed down before rushing downwards toward the city again.

With Little White’s speed, they went through half a globe and finally arrived in the United States’ biggest city, New York!

Although Little White had a set of flying dharma treasures, it was still so tired that it stuck out its tongue and breathed heavily.

It was night time in New York, but the lights made the city seem particularly prosperous. It was Hao Ren’s first time visiting New York. Therefore, he didn’t know which way to go.

“My dad’s main factory is located near the Brooklyn Bridge,” Xie Yujia said and pointed at the bridge that was sitting across a large river in the distance.

“Little White, go there!” Hao Ren directed Little White.

Little White flew slowly toward that direction.

Xie Yujia widened her eyes and said, “That’s it, right here!”

A few tall buildings surrounded a small factory.

The factory was closed. Yet, the lights in one of the offices were still on.

Little White carried Hao Ren and Xie Yujia and floated toward the factory. Through the window, Hao Ren saw a middle-aged man and woman inside.

The window was half open. Little White naughtily crawled onto the windowsill and grabbed onto the window frame with its two front paws.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia were leaning on each other and could clearly see the two people inside the office through the half-opened window.

"Today's account is settled. USD\$12,600 in sales, USD\$11,500 in expense; we made USD\$1,100 in total," the middle-aged woman closed the account book with a long sigh and said.

"Oh, that means we made USD\$1,100 today," the middle-aged man said with a gentle smile.

"That's not correct. Taxes haven't been included, and we still have to pay the employees at the end of the month..." the middle-aged woman rubbed the space between her eyebrows and put down the pencil.

"Qin, thank you for all your hard work," the middle-aged man looked at the women kindly and said, "After coming to the United States, I haven't bought you any nice cosmetic products."

"We are not here to have fun. If we make more money, our Yujia will have a more comfortable life in the future," the middle-aged woman shook her head and said with a smile.

"That's right. After working so hard our entire lives, all we want is to make her happy. Originally, we wanted her to come study here in the United States. But since she didn't want to, we will just let her be. A grown girl can't be kept at home. I guess she might not feel close to her dad because we are often apart from each other."

"Yujia has always been a sensible child since she was small, so you don't have to worry too much. Furthermore, she will definitely be fine since Hao Zhonghua's family is taking care of her."

"Hm. Zhonghua has been a friend of mine for so many years; I trust him. But, she is my only daughter. I can't help but think about her at the end of a busy day," the middle-aged man looked up at the clock and said, "It should be lunchtime over there; I thought Yujia was going to call me."

"Old man, if she is not calling you, you can call her instead! You keep saying that your back hurts every day, but it will stop hurting when you call your daughter!" the middle-aged woman said while she laughed and complained at the same time.

"Alright, I will call her. She wouldn't be on a date right now, would she?" the middle-aged man said while he grabbed his phone.

A few seconds later, Hao Ren felt the vibration of the phone inside Xie Yujia's pocket.

Hao Ren immediately pulled Little White away and flew a few meters higher.

Xie Yujia pulled out her phone from her pocket and answered anxiously, "Hello... Dad..."

As she was speaking disjointedly, Hao Ren turned around and realized that her face was covered in tears.

“Yujia, what’s wrong? Something sounds wrong,” Xie Yujia’s dad’s voice came out from the phone.

“Nothing... I got a cold today,” Xie Yujia covered the phone with her hands and said.

“I told you always to take care of your body. No matter how busy you are, don’t let it affect your health!” Xie Yujia’s dad’s tone suddenly became stern.

“I know, Dad...” Xie Yujia replied as tears rolled down her cheeks.

“Nothing much, I just wanted to hear my daughter’s voice. Are you busying studying today?” Xie Yujia’s dad continued.

“Um, not busy. I’m eating out with Hao Ren right now,” Xie Yujia tried to adjust her tone and pretended that everything was normal while she answered.

“Let dad give you some advice. Hao Ren is a good kid; you should seize the opportunity. I’m not saying that because he is the son of the great scientists Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang, nor because he is my best friend’s son. I just think he is a pretty good kid...” Xie Yujia’s dad said.

Since his voice was loud and clear, Hao Ren, who was sitting in front of Xie Yujia, heard everything.

Xie Yujia, who was weeping and wailing, suddenly started blushing. She hastily interrupted her dad’s words, “Dad! Alright!”

“Hahaha, I’m just saying...”

Xie Yujia’s dad’s voice came out of the window and the phone at the same time.

Xie Yujia’s parents never could’ve known that their beloved daughter was outside the window at the moment.

Yujia, summer is coming soon, but it’s still going to be chilly at night. When you are studying in your bedroom at night, pay attention to the temperature and don’t catch a cold, okay? Oh and, since you are a bit sick, remember to drink more water...” trailing behind was the voice of Xie Yujia’s mom.

“Mom, you and dad should also take care of your bodies too...”

“Don’t worry! Your dad and I are in good health! He walks around the workshops dozens of times every day, and he’s even more energetic than young people!” Xie Yujia’s mom said firmly on the phone.

“You guys should eat well and live well. Don’t stress yourselves out too much,” Xie Yujia continued on the phone.

“We can find everything in New York. Your dad and I are not stressed out at all! Right now, we are in our apartment and watching TV comfortably! Alright, we are going to sleep soon. Your afternoon classes are about to start, don’t be late.”

Xie Yujia’s mom said before she hung up the phone.

Hao Ren turned around and looked at Xie Yujia. He realized that Xie Yujia, who was putting her phone away, was holding her tears in, and her nose was even a little red.

Little White descended slowly back to the windowsill.

After the call, Xie Yujia's mom rubbing her temples and said, "My head hurts a bit today. I'm going to eat some ginger slice when we get home."

"You have been working too hard lately. Maybe we should go to the hospital tomorrow and get some medicine," Xie Yujia's dad looked at her worryingly and said.

"Visiting the hospitals in the United States is too expensive. It wasn't easy to earn this money, and we should spend less," Xie Yujia's mom locked the account book in the drawer and turned the office lights off. "Let's go. Let's finish checking the other warehouses and then go home."

"Okay. I will go and visit the factories in the suburbs tomorrow," Xie Yujia's father said as he walked out of the office with Xie Yujia's mom.

Shortly, their shadows appeared near the warehouse below.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia were hovering in mid-air. With the protection of the red energy sphere, Xie Yujia's parents would not be able to notice them.

As Xie Yujia saw her slightly exhausted parents checking the locks on the warehouses one-by-one, she sighed softly. "Let's head back."

Xie Yujia's dad owned a few large factories in the United States, but it was also stressful to manage them.

Since she saw her parents with her own eyes, she was satisfied.

How could she not miss her parents? How could she not wish to reunite with them? However, she was persistent about her Little Older Brother.

Once she could reach the realm where she could ride a flying sword, she would be able to see her parents more often. Once she could get better at making elixirs, she would be able to ensure her parents' good health...

The red energy sphere drew a red line in New York's night sky and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

"Speaking of which, the Mingri Group's New York division contacted me today and said that they want to discuss a large business project with me..." at the entrance of the factory's warehouse, Xie Yujia's dad suddenly remembered something before turning around and telling Xie Yujia's mom immediately.

Chapter 335: Longing

The vast ocean gradually turned from black to white. When Hao Ren and Xie Yujia saw land again, they already arrived at the port of East Ocean City.

The warm sunlight had dried Xie Yujia's tears. When Little White landed on the ground behind the administration building of East Ocean University, Hao Ren withdrew the red energy sphere.

It was one o'clock in the afternoon.

"Thank you, Hao Ren." Xie Yujia exhaled deeply.

If she had not elevated to level 8 of the Qi Refinement Realm and didn't miss her parents that much, she wouldn't have asked Hao Ren to travel so far with her.

"In the future, if you want to visit your parents, just tell me, and I'll bring you to them," Hao Ren said with a smile.

Sunlight shone through the holes in the ceiling of the deserted bicycle shed and onto Hao Ren's shiny hair. His smile also looked especially radiant under the sunshine.

"In the future, I'll go visit them myself. I'll cultivate hard to achieve this goal." Xie Yujia smiled as well.

Suddenly, she looked toward the roof of the academic building. "What's that?"

Hao Ren turned his head and looked in the direction of her gaze. Then, he felt like his lips were covered by something soft.

Xie Yujia placed her hands onto Hao Ren's shoulders and stood on her toes while her lips touched Hao Ren's.

Hao Ren tensed up immediately. Feeling her smooth lips, Hao Ren felt like his heart beat so fast as if it was going to jump out of his mouth.

His eyes widened, and he didn't know what to do next.

Sunlight reflected off Xie Yujia's fine hair, making Hao Ren feel warm and comfortable.

"I got to go now. I've missed one class already." Xie Yujia stepped back and jogged to her bicycle that was parked on the roadside.

Hao Ren looked after her in a daze. He then ran his tongue along his lips and tasted a trace of sweetness.

Xie Yujia rode her bike toward Academic Building A.

"Er-hem..." Hao Ren cleared his throat and touched his lips. Seeing no one was around, he inhaled deeply and patted his chest before walking around to the front of the administration building with forced calmness.

His class was in Academic Building C, and he could catch the second half of the class if he went there now.

When he was about 100 meters away from the administration building, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili sneaked out from the small back door.

"It could be done like this..." Touching her chin, Lu Linlin had a naughty smile on her face.

"Sister, Gongzi is back," Lu Lili pointed to her left.

Lu Linlin turned to that direction, and Lu Lili took the opportunity to peck Lu Linlin's lips. Then, she stepped back and covered her snicker with her hand.

"Well! You are a quicker learner, aren't you!" Lu Linlin reached out to pinch Lu Lili's little nose while the latter dodged with a shriek and fled.

Hao Ren went into the classroom in Academic Building C through the back door, but he still attracted many student's attention.

It was an elective course he had chosen together with Zhao Jiayi. Recently, Zhao Jiayi had been busy with training and matches, so he had to come to the class alone.

"He's Hao Ren, right?"

"Yeah. He forced Huang Xujie to back off yesterday in the public bathhouse."

"The guy who used to come to class with him is the current captain of the basketball team, right?"

"Huang Xujie is not afraid of the new captain of the basketball team, but he is afraid of this Hao Ren."

"His girlfriend is the sister of Xie Wanjun, the former captain of the basketball team..."

"Oh, I know her; she's beautiful. Who would expect that the brawny Xie Wanjun had such a pretty younger sister..."

The gossips began to simmer in the classroom with the arrival of Hao Ren.

Hao Ren pretended to have not heard their whispering comments. He took a seat in the last row and listened to the old professor talk about ancient Chinese poems.

However, he noticed some Zhen-level dragon cultivators in the classroom. They all looked back at Hao Ren and whispered to each other.

The word about the crisis of the East Ocean Dragon Clan had spread through the Dragon Tribe, and the young cultivators began to know that Hao Ren as the Fuma of the East Ocean Dragon Clan.

The clubs which had tried to recruit Hao Ren now all kept their distances. After all, the elders in their families were all trying to stay clear from the East Ocean.

Ignoring their whispering discussions, Hao Ren steadied his breathing and circulated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll in his body.

With peaceful body, heart, and mind, he circulated the five-elemental sword energies in his body, and the dragon core gradually grew.

Although there were no clear divisions in Zhen-level, with 70 openings unlocked, Hao Ren was somewhat in the mid-tier. However, with his current strength, he could defeat any Zhen-level cultivator with one hand. That was why he didn't care about the gossips of these weak dragon cultivators.

Time ticked away, and the afternoon classes ended in the blink of an eye. Hao Ren picked up his books and returned to the dorm before riding Little White, the express train, to visit the 'prisoner' in the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

As the Fuma of the dragon palace, he went into the palace and to the small building where Zhao Yanzi was locked in without incident.

Zhao Yanzi had been waiting for Hao Ren for the whole day. After hearing the knock on the door, she immediately pushed the book she had been reading under the pillow. “Who is it?”

“It’s me!” Hao Ren answered.

Zhao Yanzi felt sweet, but she said in a cool tone, “Come in! It’s annoying that you come to bother me every day!”

Hao Ren pushed open the door with a smile, knowing what Zhao Yanzi was really thinking. As a girl who loved to have fun, she was bored to death being locked in the small building. Zhao Guang was, in fact, trying to tame her a little by grounding her.

“What did you do today?” Hao Ren shut the door and walked over.

“Nothing! I just slept!” Zhao Yanzi answered him sulkily.

“Did you do some reviewing?” Hao Ren continued to ask.

“No! I just slept for the whole day!”

“Oh? What’s this then?” Hao Ren pulled out a math excise booklet from beneath her pillow. A corner of the book poked out of the pillow, and Hao Ren spotted it in one glance.

“The pillow is too low, and I used the book to raise it!” Zhao Yanzi pouted and said after hesitating for half a second.

“Did you eat?” Hao Ren put the book on the nearby desk and asked her.

When he entered the room, he saw an empty meal box at the entrance and knew that she had begun to eat today.

“Humph!” Zhao Yanzi didn’t answer his question, thinking he was like a nagging mom.

She had been hoping to see him the whole day, but now that he was here, she found him annoying with all the questions.

Hao Ren sat on the chair and opened the exercise booklet to look for some exercises for her to do.

Since Hao Ren stopped talking, Zhao Yanzi cleared her throat and asked him, “Did you do anything naughty behind my back?”

At her question, Hao Ren’s heart lurched since he had been unsettled by Xie Yujia’s act today. He felt uneasy due to Zhao Yanzi’s sudden question.

At Hao Ren’s silence, Zhao Yanzi snorted again. “You must have gone on a date with Xie Yujia, right?”

In fact, she didn’t dislike Xie Yujia. However, she felt inferior to Xie Yujia who was gentle, pretty, could do housework well, and was excellent in her studies.

The truth was, Xie Yujia also felt inferior to Zhao Yanzi who was vivacious, cute, and gifted in cultivation.

“Today, we will review physics, and I’ll teach you the concept of pinhole imaging and plane mirror imaging.” Hao Ren placed the exercise booklet before her.

“Humph! Humph! Humph!” Zhao Yanzi snorted three times before sitting up against the pillow and reading the exercises.

She indeed had some difficulty in understanding some of the points in the books. She didn’t want to fail the final exams because Zhao Hongyu had promised her an overseas vacation this summer if her ranking went up.

Hao Ren pulled the chair closer to the bed and explained to her how to solve such problems in detail.

Shoulder to shoulder, they looked quite intimate under the flickering candlelight.

After the two-hour session, Hao Ren closed the exercise booklet and stretched his shoulders before standing up.

Zhao Yanzi was a bit numb in her legs after a whole day of sitting, and she was a little reluctant to see Hao Ren leave.

“I’ll come over tomorrow to continue the tutoring session. Ten days will pass quickly,” Hao Ren comforted her.

With Zhao Guang’s character, it was impossible for him to release Zhao Yanzi before the time was over.

“Ok! Ok! Go! You are nagging me again!” Zhao Yanzi waved her arm impatiently.

“One more thing. Don’t get sluggish on cultivation. You can’t cultivate the formal techniques until you reach the Foundation Establishment Realm,” Hao Ren reminded her.

“Got it!” Zhao Yanzi furrowed her brows angrily.

Seeing the anger on her cute face, Hao Ren smiled before walking out of the room and shutting the door behind him.

Premier Xia was waiting outside.

Seeing Hao Ren walking out from the small building, he took two steps forward and asked, “Gongzi Hao, how is the princess today?”

“Zi’s appetite is good. You should increase her meal sizes,” Hao Ren answered.

After a moment of consideration, he asked, “How has Su Han been in the past couple of days?”

“I’m not sure. Elder Xingyue is taking care of Inspector Su,” Premier Xia answered cautiously.

“Ok.” Hao Ren nodded before taking out a small, exquisite wooden box. “Please give this to Elder Xingyue and ask her to give it to Su Han.”

“This is...” Premier Xia was baffled.

“These are the godly elixir pills from the Nine Dragon Palace; I got one of each kind. She hasn’t recovered after such a long time, so I hope these pills can help her. It’s late too late so I won’t visit her today,” Hao Ren said casually.

Taking the heavy box, Premier Xia was astonished as he thought, “The Fuma is indeed generous!”

Although Hao Ren took out quite a lot of godly elixir pills from the Nine Dragon Palace, each of them was priceless. Besides, the Nine Dragon Palace was now sealed, and it was impossible to get more pills from it, making these pills even more precious.

From Hao Ren’s perspective, the godly elixir pills were useless to him, and Su Han could take them with her high realm. Besides, she was not one of the core members of the East Ocean Dragon Palace, and thus she wouldn’t be given any precious godly elixir pills. That was why he gave her his share.

“That’s all. I’ll come to visit again tomorrow.” Hao Ren strode to the main gate of the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

Premier Xia watched Hao Ren leave swiftly on Little White’s back. After a moment of consideration, he hurried to Elder Xingyue’s palace.

He was a reliable man, and that was why Hao Ren asked him to run this errand for him. However, the godly elixir pills were precious, and Premier Xia didn’t want to keep them for long.

He hurried to Elder Xingyue’s residence to hand the box to her in person.

Elder Xingyue was also astonished when she took the box from Premier Xia. As a core elder in the East Ocean Dragon Clan, she had been allocated only two godly elixir pills which could only help her cultivate. But in the box was a set of the five godly elixir pills, and Hao Ren had given them all to Su Han.

Closing the lid of the wooden box which contained five radiant godly elixir pills, Elder Xingyue looked up at Premier Xia and asked, “How is Princess Zi recently?”

“She cultivates each day, and it seems like she has gained some progress,” Premier Xia answered.

Elder Xingyue considered for a moment and replied. “Well, I should give her some instructions on cultivation. However, she is cultivating the techniques of the human cultivators, and I’m not familiar with such techniques. In the dragon palace, all our cultivation techniques are dragon tribe techniques, right?”

“The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll seems to be a human cultivation technique, but I’m afraid Princess Zi doesn’t have the patience to cultivate it. None of the other cultivation techniques in our dragon palace will fit her.” Suddenly, Premier Xia changed the subject. “Third Lord has taken the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll to restart his cultivation since his damaged dragon core can take this opportunity to cultivate the five elemental essences simultaneously to build a solid foundation.”

“Why did you bring him up suddenly?” Elder Xingyue’s beautiful eyes glanced at Premier Xia.

A smile appeared on Premier Xia’s withered face. “Third Lord hasn’t sent back any messages after being out for so long. I miss him quite a lot.”

Wringing her hands, Elder Xingyue sighed lightly and said in a low voice, "He's a lucky man. He will be fine."

"Hehe, I hope so. I'm sorry to disturb your cultivation. I'd better go now." Premier Xia stood up and walked out of the living room.

Elder Xingyue sat in the armchair, deep in thought. Then, she exhaled deeply and touched the warm wooden box containing the godly elixir pills before walking out of the door.

Above the dragon palace, the blue waves were surging. She looked up at the layers of blue waves and was a bit emotional.

After a little pause, she crossed the small garden and walked toward Su Han's room.

"My disciple is luck. She is cold, but someone still cares for her. However, there's someone out there pursuing the Heavenly Dragon Realm and doesn't send any messages back even though it has already been more than half a month. Everyone says that I like to cultivation. But in fact, I am on a hard journey pursuing that magnificent figure before me," she thought.

In her fluttering robe, Elder Xingyue shook her head slightly and gently pushed open the door to Su Han's room.

Chapter 336: Am I a Senior?!

Hao Ren and Little White rushed out of the ocean and flew directly to Fifth Heaven. He told Zhao Jiayi and his other two roommates that he had things to do at home recently and had to go home every day. Since they were now used to him not living in the dorm, they didn't ask him too many questions.

In order to elevate to Gen-level and even charge at Dui-level as soon as possible, he had to spend most of his time in Fifth Heaven.

Little White shot toward the valley and drew out a line of white light.

Meanwhile, the three sect masters who had been waiting for him for a whole day all flew into the air at his appearance.

However, before they could get close, Hao Ren already rushed into the array formation in the valley.

After all, Little White was too fast for them.

Stopping at the entrance of the valley, they exchanged a look, wondering if this 'senior' didn't want to talk to them or didn't notice them at all.

"How about... sending a voice-transmission note into the valley?" Sect Master Liu of the Qin Yin Sect asked Sect Master Han carefully.

"His speed is the traveling speed of a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator, right?" Sect Master Han asked them hesitantly.

In Fifth Heaven, the Nascent Soul Realm cultivators were at the top of the pyramid. Even though these three sect masters had never seen one, they were sure that the speed they just witnessed didn't belong to a Core Formation Realm cultivator.

The three sect masters were all top-tier Core Formation Realm cultivators, and none of them could reach such a fast traveling speed.

"This senior seemed to be traveling on a mount instead of on a flying sword," Sect Master Song from the Qiong Hua Sect said after a moment of hesitation.

"Are you sure?" Sect Master Han asked immediately.

The three sects had been rivals over the ownership of the Herb King Valley, but now they were allies, depending on each other.

"I was the closest to the senior and thus had the clearest view. His mount is a white lion," Sect Master Song nodded gravely and said.

"White lion..." Sect Master Han thought for a moment and said, "Is it possible that he is a cultivator from the Sky Mountain Sect on Sixth Heaven?"

"I'm not sure if he's a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator. But if Sect Master Song is right about the mount, the snow lion should be a spirit beast above level 4, right?" Sect Master Liu looked at the other two sect masters and asked cautiously.

Sect Master Han and Sect Master Song exchanged a look; neither of them could answer the question. All they knew was that the Sky Mountain Sect from Sixth Heaven raised a lot of snow lions, and some high-level disciples had them as their mounts. As to what level this spirit beast was on, they had no clue. After all, the sects on Fifth Heaven had rarely seen spirit beasts.

However, they were sure that a spirit beast with such a great speed couldn't be at low level 1. Since the power of a level 1 spirit beast was equivalent to that of a Core Formation Realm cultivator, they estimated that this snow lion should be close to level 4.

"Anyway, with such a spirit beast as his mount, the senior must have a high ranking in his sect," Sect Master Song said.

Since snow lions were the symbolic spirit beasts of the Sky Mountain Sect, they all considered Hao Ren as one of the elite disciples of the Sky Mountain Sect. It must be noted that the small sects on Fifth Heaven all looked up at the sects on Sixth Heaven with respect, especially the Sky Mountain Sect which stood out from other sects on Sixth Heaven since it had connections with some sects on Seventh Heaven due to their skills in raising spirit beasts and growing herbs.

There were less than 20 sects on Sixth Heaven, and Sky Mountain Sect was one of the few that were well-known from on Fifth Heaven and Seventh Heaven.

At this thought, the three masters began to look hopeful.

"It is one thing if this 'senior' is only a hermit cultivator. However, he is obviously a high-ranking disciple of the Sky Mountain Sect, coming to Fifth Heaven to do business by himself. If we could befriend him..." they thought.

“I think we’d better pay a visit to this senior. After all, while he is temporarily living in our Herb King Valley, we must show him our hospitality as the local hosts,” Sect Master Liu of the Qin Yin Sect said as she pulled a streak of hair behind her ear

Compared with their determination to take back the Herb King Valley by force yesterday, their attitude had now taken a 180-degree turn.

“Sect Master Liu is right. I think we’d better return to our respective sects and prepare some gifts before paying a visit to this senior,” Sect Master Han agreed immediately.

After some consideration, Sect Master Song thought that the returning of dozens of flying swords was now a minor issue. If this senior disciple of the Sky Mountain Sect agreed to take his Qiong Hua Sect as a resting place on Fifth Heaven in the future, it would bring great benefits to his sect.

After their discussion, the three sect masters flew in three directions. They each had their own thoughts, but they were afraid to act alone. By working together, they could face any potential problems together.

Hao Ren didn’t know that there were three sects on three sides of the valley, nor did he know that the cave abode he built casually gave three sect masters two consecutive sleepless nights. He walked into his cave abode cheerfully and checked to make sure that no one had intruded into the cave before settling down to cultivate.

Thanks to the array formation Zhen Congming gave him, the essence in the valley seemed to have grown even more intense.

The Big Dipper Constellation Array not only prevented cultivators from breaking into the valley, but it could stop the essence from leaking out as well. Under the protection of the array formation, this valley wouldn’t be seen by the passing cultivators, and they would regard it as an ordinary valley that was filled by an area of intense white fog.

The array formation prevented the probing eyes of the three surrounding sects, but it also blocked Lu Linlin and Lu Lili from the valley.

“Sister, the array formation is annoying. Now, we don’t know what Gongzi is doing in the valley,” Lu Lili complained after flying around and finding no loopholes in the array formation.

“This array formation is fragile, but Gongzi built it; we shouldn’t break it,” Lu Linlin comforted Lu Lili helplessly. She was more impatient than Lu Lili, but the latter seemed to be more eager to see Hao Ren.

“What should we do?” Lu Lili looked at Lu Linlin, pouting.

“We will go back! After all, the cultivators in the Core Formation Realm can’t break this array formation, and Gongzi built it to keep his privacy,” Lu Linlin said with a smile.

“Ok...” Lu Lili agreed reluctantly.

During their patrol over the last two days and nights, they had sensed that Hao Ren was trying his best to absorb the essence in the valley, and he made significant progress. While they were happy to see his progress, they were worried that he might encounter dangers.

Cultivating in seclusion was a fast way to elevate realms, but the cultivators would receive great harm if they were attacked during seclusion.

“I’ll kill anyone who dares to hurt Gongzi!” Flying with Lu Linlin toward the boundary between Fifth and Fourth Heaven, Lu Lili mumbled.

Shaking her head with a smile, Lu Linlin took Lu Lili’s hand before shooting down from Fifth Heaven. Lu Lili had always mocked her sister for falling for Hao Ren, but it seemed like Lu Lili was the one who was in the real danger.

During the peaceful night, there was no wind in the valley.

After eight hours of cultivation, Hao Ren had successfully unlocked two more openings. It was indeed helpful to cultivate in a place full of essence.

Even Little White, who was absorbing the nature essence with its demon beast instinct, strived toward level 2. In fact, demon beasts had their own cultivation techniques. However, since Little White didn’t activate its intelligence, it could only launch basic attacks with the nature essence accumulated in its body and couldn’t circulate the nature essence in its body at will.

Since Hao Ren didn’t have any skills and experiences in raising spirit beasts, he didn’t know how to nurture it with his own nature essence. He could only communicate with Little White with simple gestures. Otherwise, Little White should have in level 2 or even level 3 with the amounts of elixir pills it had consumed.

Jumping out of the cave abode, Hao Ren practiced the fundamental boxing techniques three times before practicing the sword array formations several times. After that, he felt like his entire body was refreshed.

Little White was rolling in the fields of wildflowers. Since there were no other animals in the valley, it didn’t have to act like a dignified demon beast. It bit into the wildflowers and raced around.

It looked exactly like a typical dog in the villages.

The 160 sword energies entered Hao Ren’s body through the back of his neck. No sword was better than having a sword; it was so-called state of a sword god.

“Little White, stop playing! We need to head back!” With one hand, Hao Ren grabbed Little White that was covered in flower petals and tossed it into the air.

Little White rolled in the air and landed on the ground as a magnificent snow lion.

“Let’s go!” Hao Ren patted Little White’s rump, and they shot out of the valley!

After returning to their respective sects last night, the three sect masters carefully prepared gifts and placed three treasure boxes at the entrance of the valley. However, Hao Ren didn’t see them since he was in a hurry to go back to First Heaven.

About 50 kilometers from the valley, a golden lion roared suddenly, and the girl who was riding on its back was so startled that she almost jumped onto the nearby mountain summit.

“Luoja, what happened?” The girl hugged the golden lion’s neck and complained.

The golden lion called Luoja looked in the direction of Little White and shook its head with force.

Just a moment ago, it had felt the distinct aura of one of its kind.

“the Elder Senior Brother was sent by master to find a spirit stone mine in Fifth Heaven and hasn’t returned after three days. Luoja, use your senses and see if there are any traces of snow lions nearby.” The girl rubbed Luoja’s forehead and urged.

While she spoke, Little White carrying Hao Ren flew past her in a dash.

“Snow lion!” The girl yelled, then she found something was not right. “So fast! Is it Jitian of Grand Uncle-Master? But a level 6 spirit beast wouldn’t come here...”

While she hesitated, Little White and Hao Ren both disappeared from her sight in half a second.

Chapter 337: Coming Back Home!

Hao Ren dashed down Fifth Heaven and patrolled around before he went back to the East Ocean University for his classes.

Time flew by, and Hao Ren took Little White for a walk near the library at noon. During their afternoon class, Xie Yujia turned back and smiled cheerfully at him.

Hao Ren knew that Xie Yujia was both sensitive and logical. Sometimes she would even sacrifice herself to make other people happy. She wished that everyone around her was happy even if she was not standing in the center of the crowd.

Xie Yujia’s smile was her way of thanking Hao Ren for taking her to see her parents. However, a smile like hers made his heart ache a bit.

“It isn’t her wish to live at my home. She spent as much time as possible with Grandma and didn’t cause my parents any trouble. However, in her heart, she still misses her parents a lot.”

At this thought, Hao Ren felt like he should have treated her nicer.

All the Friday courses came to an end with the sound of the school bell.

Hao Ren packed up quickly and walked to the front of the classroom.

“Woah, you didn’t sit beside Yujia, and now you are in a rush to come over!” Ma Lina teased Hao Ren while sitting beside Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia patted Ma Lina with her hand and squeezed in front of her. Then, she smiled lightly at Hao Ren. “Let’s go!”

Hao Ren smiled back and walked to the door with Yujia.

Ma Lina was left stupefied in her seat. After a few seconds, she looked at the backs of the two and breathed in deeply... “When did Hao Ren’s smile get so charming?”

Hao Ren went back to his dorm to put a few things away. Then, he headed over to Xie Yujia's dorm building to pick her up before they went to the bus stop. Xie Yujia wasn't used to how detailed Hao Ren was today.

They got on the bus and arrived at the house by the beach by four in the afternoon.

Yue Yang was busy in the kitchen with a black and white sweater and white apron on. She came home earlier today on purpose to make a nice dinner for the family. Since she didn't cook much, she started to prepare at four in the afternoon.

When Xie Yujia saw Yue Yang busy with cooking in the kitchen, she dropped everything immediately to help.

Zhen Congming came home a long time ago. He sat in front of the TV on the couch, having a blast on the new PS3 Hao Zhonghua got him.

Grandma was in a good mood. She was drinking her tea and watching the exciting images on the screen, cheering for her second grandson, Zhen Congming.

"Brother!" Zhen Congming shouted out as soon as he saw Hao Ren.

His shout startled Hao Ren, and the latter took a few steps back. He pretended to be Zhen Congming's brother last time when they went to the West Ocean Dragon Palace, but he never thought about actually becoming this demon's big brother.

On top of that, Zhen Congming had always tried to act cool, so it surprised Hao Ren when this kid called him his brother on his own.

"Hehe..." grandma laughed out pleasantly when she heard this.

After greeting him, Zhen Congming turned around and refocused his attention on the exciting game. Grandma had promised him three more games as long as he called Hao Ren brother.

Between his dignity and the games, Zhen Congming decisively chose the latter.

"The more I look at Congming, the more I like him. So, I am taking him in as a second grandson. He will call you brother in the future, and you need to treat him like a little brother too," grandma said to Hao Ren, who was dumbfounded.

"Oh, Oh..." Hao Ren walked to the couch carefully and thought, "Grandma bribed a mighty demon into becoming her grandson with a PS3 that is only a few thousand yuan..."

Although he had no idea what Zhen Congming was as a demon beast, he knew that Zhen Congming had great potential due to his success in transforming into a human. Not to mention that he was also the disciple of Qiu Niu, one of the nine ancestors to all dragons.

"Why don't you play with Congming for a bit now that he is your little brother?" Grandma urged Hao Ren.

Hao Ren saw that Zhen Congming was having the time of his life. He picked up a controller and started playing with him casually. Zhen Congming shouted out loud during the game and didn't look like a demon beast at all. Little White was definitely similar to him.

"Time for dinner! Time for dinner!" Yue Yang called out as she came out of the kitchen.

Xie Yujia carried the dishes out with Yue Yang happily, and a few drops of sweat could be seen on her forehead. Hao Zhonghua, who had been working upstairs, also came into the dining room.

The family gathering cheered Grandma up as the elder. Yue Yang made an entire table of dishes today, and the sincerity was more than enough to change Grandma's impression of her.

To make the room livelier, Grandma turned the TV to the news channel and called out to everyone, "Let's eat! Let's eat!"

For her, work was not a priority. The most important thing was for the entire family to gather together and enjoy dinner happily.

"Ren...has there been any problems with Zi's dad's company?" Hao Zhonghua suddenly asked.

"No... no problems," Hao Ren answered uncertainly.

"Oh... I just heard some rumors about the mismanagement of Mingri Group. Their sales and profit had been declining lately, so I was a bit worried. That was why I asked," Hao Zhonghua said.

"Is that so?" Grandma frowned a little, "I haven't been watching the stock market a lot lately, but I did notice the stock price of Mingri Group declining."

"Um... it's normal for stocks to fluctuate," Hao Ren laughed and answered.

"No, I'm going to take another look!" Grandma suddenly left the table and went upstairs by holding the railing.

The family all put their chopsticks down and waited nervously for grandma to come back. Zhen Congming was the only one who had no idea what stocks were. He took this opportunity to snatch several good stew pork pieces into his bowl.

A few minutes later, grandma came back to the dining room from the stairs with a hunched back. She said seriously, "I took a look, and the Mingri Group's stock has been dropping to the limit for seven days straight."

Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang were both surprised at Grandma's words. They didn't know much about business, and that was why they didn't focus on the news about the Mingri Group when they heard rumors. However, the stock market had been doing great lately, and Grandma had been delighted with the money she was making. It was weird for the Mingri Group's stock to drop that much.

"Is there... anything we can do to help?" Yue Yang asked Hao Zhonghua, who was sitting across from her.

Hao Zhonghua frowned intensely as he didn't know what to say. The Mingri Group was a large business group in China, and the numbers on their financial reports were rounded to the nearest millions.

However, Hao Ren's parents were only scientists, and there wasn't much they could do.

"Zhonghua, make a phone call to Zi's family and ask them about it," Grandma said.

"That wouldn't be appropriate, Mom. Maybe Zi's dad is stressed out about it now. It's not a good time to call them and ask about it." Yue Yang stopped her hastily.

"Then tell them that even if they go bankrupt and fall in debts, I still want Zi," Grandma straightened her back and said stubbornly.

"And tell him not to worry about the business. I still have a saving of 800,000, and I can give it all to them to start again if they need it," Grandma continued.

Eight hundred thousand yuan a drop of water in the ocean compared to the amount of money Mingri Group was losing daily. Grandma probably didn't understand this, but her concern showed how much she cared.

"Rest assure, Mom. It's nothing more than the normal ups and downs of business." Hao Zhonghua comforted her after seeing how upset she was.

He was very worried as well. Even though he wasn't in the field of business, he knew that a seven-day-straight decline meant that the company was facing a tremendous crisis.

There was a moment of silence, and Hao Zhonghua regretted bringing up this topic. At this moment, the TV station began reporting a piece of news.

"The Mingri Group, China's leading business corporation, has fallen under a crisis. Rumors have it that the corporation is undergoing a large replacement of its high-level executives. This has caused a sharp drop in Mingri Group's stock. It has been declining for the past seven consecutive days, and the situation in Mingri Group in China is causing a chain reaction for its subsidiaries all over the world. According to experts' conservative estimate, Mingri Group sees a loss of at least 200 million yuan per day..."

This news completely crushed Zhao Zhonghua's comfort.

Grandma's face immediately darkened.

Hao Ren could imagine that a piece of news like this would result in a further decline in Mingri Group's stock price. The image of skyscrapers crashing down suddenly appeared in his head.

Of course, the news might not be 100% true. He knew that the reason for Mingri Group's crisis was because the business groups of the other dragon clans stopped doing business with Mingri Group.

Doing business was like the flow of water, and it would only be alive if there were transactions. The East Ocean Dragon Clan was the first one who tried to start a business on land. It got bigger and bigger, and the foundation it built was more and more stable. To avoid other dragon clans from claiming that East Ocean Dragon Clan was not sharing good things with others, they had been helping out a few other dragon clans' businesses in the past decades. But these dragon clans took this opportunity to turn around and work against the company, causing the Mingri Group to lose a few largest business partners it had. It was easy to foresee the challenge the Mingri Group was facing right now.

The powers had their territories, but businesses didn't. If the Mingri Group were to go bankrupt, the other companies could take the opportunity to grow stronger by splitting Mingri Groups' market. They could even open their subsidiaries in the East Ocean City.

Just when Hao Ren thought this through, the news continued, "The CEO of the foreign investment business of Mingri Group, Zhao Haoran, announced that he is returning to China. This would be his first time coming back after taking over Mingri Group's foreign investment branch 20 years ago..."

Hao Ren looked toward the TV.

"Zhao Haoran? Could that be the second uncle of Zhao Yanzi who had been in the States?"

He fixated his eyes on the TV, but all he could see was a picture of a round-eyed grey-hair old man with a cane in his hand. He was exuding a strong aura...

Chapter 338: One Big Family

The picture on the upper right corner of the TV screen was soon replaced by the next piece of news.

"This week, a resident found a rock in 1825 Art District. It has a square shape with a width of five centimeters as shown in the picture... Anyone who can provide us a clue to this nameless rock will be rewarded 10,000 yuan."

In the picture was a translucent green rock which looked like a precious stone.

Hao Ren found the rock in the picture quite familiar, then he recognized it as a low-tier spirit stone. He had confiscated two storage bags on top of a skyscraper in 1825 Art District, and he had dropped one of the spirit stones from one of the bags. The rock in the picture was most likely the one he dropped...

"I know something about this rock." Yue Yang took the opportunity to change the subject. "Someone picked up this rock and sent it to the antique market for appraisal, but no one recognized what kind of precious stone it was and couldn't give a price for it. Afraid that the rock had radioactivity rays, they sent it to the Mineral and Rock New Materials Research Center in East Ocean City. And the result..."

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia looked at Yue Yang nervously, waiting for her to finish.

"And the result showed that the rock is not a precious stone and has no radioactivity rays, nor is it harmful to human bodies. Besides, it's very brittle and can't be made into anything artistic. So, the Material Research Center bought the rock off that person with 500 yuan," Yue Yang continued.

Hao Ren was about to heave a sigh of relief when Yue Yang continued, "The incident ended for the public. However, the Material Research Center couldn't decide on the category of the rock and handed it to the provincial research center which in turn handed it to the National Special Mineral Materials Engineering Research Center. The National Center tested it with the most advanced devices and found that the rock is a new mineral with high-quality energy..."

Hao Zhonghua interrupted her by saying, "I know something about it as well. One of my friends works in the National Mineral Research Center, and he told me that this rock has drawn the attention of the

national science research institutes, and they are investigating the origins of this mineral rock. We wouldn't have known about it if we are not in this circle."

Hao Ren inhaled and nodded.

Spirit stones were the most common items for cultivators living on and above Fifth Heaven, and they were to cultivate and trade for other stuff. However, for the science institutes, they were a new kind of energy source which was both clean and efficient.

If one mastered the new source of energy, one mastered the direction of development of the world; no wonder the government was paying so much attention to it, and the local TV station even placed a reward of 10,000 yuan for the clues of the rock in an effort to dig out the origin of the rock.

"Don't talk about rocks." Grandma was angry since she was interrupted. "If Zi's family has any difficulties, we'll try our best to help them. Do you hear me?"

When she had fallen ill due to high blood pressure, Zi's family saved her life; Grandma always remembered it.

Now seeing the business of Zi's father in difficulty, Grandma was very anxious.

"Don't worry, Mom. I'll try my best! The Mingri Group and our Ocean Research Institute are working on the deep ocean oil project. Besides, Yujia's father's factories in the U. S. will start working with the New York subsidiary of Mingri Group."

Hearing the mentioning of her name, Xie Yujia looked up. When she heard information about her father's factories, her eyes lit up.

"We hope Zi's father's company will get over the difficulty. After all, we have a lot of joint projects together," Hao Zhonghua tried to calm Grandma down.

"Good! Zi's family and our family are one big family! You use your connections and see if any big businesses can give Zi's father a helping hand. Aren't you close with the provincial governor and the chief of the Energy Bureau? And you have former classmates working in the Agriculture Department and Business Department, right?" Grandma's words shot toward Hao Zhonghua like bullets.

"Ok! Ok! Don't worry, mom. I'll make some calls when I finish my meal." Hao Zhonghua nodded in exasperation.

"That's more like it!" Glancing at Hao Zhonghua, Grandma finally picked up her chopsticks.

Yue Yang smiled at Hao Zhonghua and was about to eat when Grandma said, "And Yue Yang, you can use your connections as well. Some of your former classmates are running big businesses abroad, and you must help Zi's father get some deals!"

"Ok, Mom," Yu Yang agreed immediately.

Hao Ren and Xie Yujia exchanged a look. Seeing the rare displeasure on Grandma's face, they busied themselves with eating.

Zhen Congming was eating a chicken leg leisurely. In fact, he was the wealthiest person around the table since the precious stones in his storage space could easily sell for billions of yuan, but he had nothing to do with the East Ocean Dragon Palace's business on land. Therefore, he didn't care to offer any help.

When dinner was over, Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang returned to their room on the second floor, and each used their cell phones to contact their former classmates, hoping to find some help for Mingri Group. With their international reputation in the science circle, they had a lot of connections in China, especially with their former classmates who had taken important positions. It wasn't hard for them to achieve certain things.

That was why the deputy mayor of East Ocean City didn't dare to offend these two figures, and Huang Xujie had been beaten hard by his father for messing with Hao Ren.

Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang had never asked for favors from anyone after graduation; they didn't even call their friends at the Education Bureau when Hao Ren was applying for university. However, now they began making phone calls to their friends and former classmates to help Mingri Group, and their requests got lots of attention.

"Yeah, yeah. Minister Cai, the exploration project of the Ocean Research Institute and Mingri Group is a major energy project spanning the next ten years in the East Ocean area, and I hope it will go smoothly with your help."

"Hi, Liu Xin, how's the weather in France recently? And your wine business? Oh, you acquired a new winery? I have a friend from Mingri Group. Yeah, their stock is not doing well recently... But they also do business on food supply. Do you want to talk to him? I'll give you his number..."

One on the balcony and the other in the room, Hao Zhonghua and Yue Yang kept making calls, urging all their connections to do business with Mingri Group.

With his acute hearing ability, Hao Ren listened to his parents' phone calls while cultivating. He didn't know that they had such broad connections, from government ministers to overseas wineries, from the shipping tycoon of Australia to Wallstreet investors, from senior management at GE to the Chief Editor of Times. They contacted every connection that had the potential to help Mingri Group's business or to improve its public image.

Hao Ren even thought that if his parents changed from science research to business, they would do great with their connections and brains.

Half an hour later, Zhao Guang, who was listening to Elder Sun's report, heard his cell phone ring.

"Hello. Who's speaking?" Zhao Guang answered the phone.

"Oh, I'm Liu Xin, the owner of Château Lafite Rothschild of Bordeaux. Are you Zhao Guang, the president of Mingri Group? My good friend Yue Yang told me that you plan to import wine. I can provide you with 500 boxes of 98' wine for a trial sale..."

Zhao Guang froze at the offer from the No.1 winery in the world which produced the much-coveted top-grade wine.

Ding... The phone on his desk rang. After asking Liu Xin to wait for him on his cell phone, he picked up the phone on his desk.

“Hello, Mr. Zhao. I’m Emerton, the executive director of Glory Shipping Co. in Australia. I called to ask if my company can work with the Australia subsidiary of your group. My good friend Hao Zhonghua asked me to call you tonight. We plan to build a new port at Melbourne, and if it’s convenient for you...” Smooth English floated from the phone.

Zhao Guang widened his eyes, surprised that another business opportunity was knocking on his door. Working with the biggest shipping company in Australia to build a new port was definitely good news that would push up Mingri Group’s stock prices...

“Mr. Zhao? Mr. Zhao?” The woman’s urging voice came from his cell phone.

Gritting his teeth, Zhao Guang glanced at Elder Sun standing before him and instructed calmly, “Go and summon Elder Lu, Elder Liu, and the others. Get some reliable assistants as well. We’ll be busy.”

The West Ocean Dragon Palace united the other two ocean dragon palaces and tried to cut off Mingri Group’s land business. Meanwhile, they launched smear campaigns, pushing down Mingri Group’s stock prices. Despite his elite team, Zhao Guang was overwhelmed by their sudden attacks.

The former boss of the group was now being forced to the edge of the cliff.

“The old dragon king means to rally after his return. Shall we organize a grand welcome party?” Elder Sun looked at Zhao Guang and asked.

Zhao Guang shook his head. “Ren’s parents are helping me, and I shouldn’t count on the old dragon king to pull this mess together. We must fight back before he comes back!”

Zhao Haoran was one generation older than Oldman Zeng of West Ocean. Zhao Guang could imagine the overwhelming pressure Oldman Zeng would face when his father, who had been absent for the last 20 years, returned.

The East Ocean Dragon Clan’s power had fallen to such a shabby state in Zhao Guang’s hands!

However, Zhao Guang felt like Zhao Haoren had more reasons behind his fury...

Chapter 339: Hao Ren Is a Bad Guy!

Saturday morning, Hao Ren got up early and jogged along the beach before practicing the fundamental boxing techniques, which didn’t need nature essence but was a test of physical strength, several times. Due to limited resources, the soldiers in the dragon palace couldn’t cultivate advanced techniques like the elders; they kept themselves fit and built array formations for defense and offense.

Hao Ren’s body had grown tough and manly after the constant practice of it. If he encountered hooligans on the street, Hao Ren could down five to six of them without the use of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

Each of his punch and kick was powerful. Besides speed and strength, the boxing practice was beneficial to his flexibility. Although his boxing skills were not excellent, his physical fitness had reached the realm of martial arts masters.

Of course, the other reason for his fitness was that the cultivation of the Spirit Concentration Scroll and the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

When he got back to the house for breakfast, he saw Xie Yujia cleaning the living room. With only the two of them in the living room, they looked at each other; Xie Yujia blushed while Hao Ren's cheeks warmed a little at the memory of her kiss.

"You went out last night, right?" Xie Yujia asked him while raising her hand to her face, pretending to rub her nose.

"I went to tutor Zi and then came back to sleep." Hao Ren walked over and poured water into a glass.

He was covered in sweat. At the moment, there were two drops of sweat on his temple. However, Xie Yujia found him full of manly attraction.

Feeling her heart begin to race, she inhaled slightly and steadied her heartbeat with the Qi Refinement Scroll before asking, "How's Zi doing?"

"Good." Not wanting to worry her, Hao Ren didn't tell her that Zhao Yanzi was grounded in the dragon palace.

Brushing her shoulder, Hao Ren put the glass back onto the table and glanced at Zhen Congming's room, asking, "Is Zhen Congming up?"

"Oh, not yet..." Xie Yujia answered immediately.

"What's wrong?" Sensing her more intense breathing, Hao Ren leaned over and asked her.

"Nothing." She didn't dare to meet his eyes and leaned her head away from him.

Hao Ren could keep calm using his nature essence, but she couldn't. If they were living on Fifth Heaven, weak Qi Refinement Realm cultivators such as her wouldn't dare to face a Core Formation Realm cultivator.

"Why are you so nervous?" Hao Ren stepped back and couldn't help smiling.

Xie Yujia's flushed face make her look like a shy girl. However, he didn't do anything to cause it, right?

"Go take a shower!" She pushed at Hao Ren's shoulder and rolled her bright eyes at him.

Hao Ren's shoulder was as hard as a rock. When her palm touched it, she felt a burning sensation on her hand.

"Ok. I'll take you to a place later!" Hao Ren strode to the stairs.

Xie Yujia picked up a cloth to clean the table and touched her cheek with the back of her hand. Remembering her impulsive kiss with Hao Ren, she was embarrassed.

“The positions of the first wife and the second wife would be based on strength,” dressed in a small mandarin jacket, Zhen Congming said as he walked out of his room.

“Ugh?” Xie Yujia looked back at him.

“Whoever has the greater cultivation strength will have the upper hand, which is a rule that applies to everything.” Zhen Congming turned to look at the stairs. “I guess he will take you to Fifth Heaven, and I plan to go there too. If you want to compete with Zhao Yanzi, your current strength is too weak.”

“I... didn’t say I want to compete with her.” Xie Yujia stared at him.

Zhen Congming snorted. “Even an idiot could see what you are thinking about. One of you will be the first wife. You are older than her, but your cultivation strength is weaker than hers. It’s ok if Zhao Yanzi regards you as an older sister; but if she dislikes you, you are in trouble.”

With the cloth in her hand, Xie Yujia remained silent. She knew Hao Ren cared for her and knew he also took care of Zhao Yanzi. Her cultivation experience with the old Grandma told her that whoever had the biggest fist was the winner in the world of cultivation.

If the old Grandma was still with her, she would be protected. However, the old Grandma went to handle some emergencies, and she could only count on herself.

“Your body type is inferior. It took great transformative power to unblock your meridians for cultivation. If you want to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm and even the Core Formation Realm, elixir making is the only way,” Zhen Congming continued.

“Elixir making...” Xie Yujia murmured to herself.

“Your technique is not a technique for demon beasts, and I can’t learn it. Your technique was derived from the Yin and Yang of nature, and the Death and Life Notes are indeed deep and mysterious. However, the master who planted the notes in you only taught you the ways to use them and didn’t teach you the whole cultivation technique. In other words, the more you use it, the less nature essence is left in them.”

Standing at the entrance, Zhen Congming told Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia was surprised that he had got it right. Recently, she could finally proficiently circulate the Qi Refinement Scroll, but it was because she had understood the Dao of Nature from the scroll. The old Grandma had used the Life-Death Notes to unblock the meridians for her. Although the Life Note could absorb the nature essence, the Death Note was consuming the essence quickly. Recently, she felt like the Life-Death Notes were no longer working as smoothly as before.

If the old Grandma was still here, she could continue to inject new Life-Death Notes into Xie Yujia and kept the notes functional. Now that Xie Yujia used the Life-Death Notes to break through to the level 8 and was about to charge at level 9 of the Qi Refinement Realm, almost 80% of the power of the notes had been consumed.

If it went on like this, she had no hope of reaching level 10 or the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Xie Yujia had been cheerful with her recent progress, but now she felt desperate.

“But it’s different with elixir making. Your cultivation technique can borrow the power of nature to make elixirs with very high efficiency and consume only a little bit of your own nature essence. I have dozens of elixirs to improve your body type. If you use up the power of the Life-Death Notes to force open the meridians, it’s a great waste!”

Rubbing his chin like an adult, Zhen Congming said to Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia thought for a moment and understood his words. In fact, the ordinary way of cultivation was to absorb the nature essence to cultivate the body which was like an elixir furnace. It was a simple and good way for those who had excellent talents. However, for those with poor body types, it was time and energy consuming. If she used the method of elixir making, she could keep doing it eight or ten times as long as her energy allowed her, and she didn’t have to worry the laborious process hurting her body. More importantly, the effects of the elixirs were soft and could slowly improve her body type while she digests the pills. In contrast, if she tried to absorb essences forcefully, the essence might run wild in her body if it couldn’t find a storing place.

“The elixir pills that are popular in the dragon palace are in fact impure elixirs, none of which surpasses level 3. Only the elixirs over level 4 can transform body types. If you want to win the competition with Zhao Yanzi, you must learn elixir making from me. I have thousands of recipes and formulas among which more than 1,000 are above level 4. There are even over 100 recipes for level 9 gold pills. If you can learn all of them, I’ll give all of them to you.”

Zhen Congming took out a pile of yellow paper from his sleeve and shook them at Xie Yujia.

Xie Yujia was tempted. With the old Grandma now gone and her Life-Death Notes growing weaker each day, she was worried that one day the notes would suddenly lose their power.

Thud! Thud... Hao Ren had changed into clean clothes and walked down the stairs.

Seeing the dark expression on Xie Yujia’s face, he asked immediately, “What’s wrong?”

“Oh. I was just chatting with Zhen Congming!” Xie Yujia gave him a radiant smile. Although Zhen Congming was a kid both in looks and character, his knowledge and experience far exceeded Hao Ren and herself.

“It’s still early. I’ll take you to Fifth Heaven.” Hao Ren grabbed her sleeve and pulled her to the balcony.

With a tumble, Little White rolled out of Hao Ren’s necklace. In a red energy sphere, they shot into the sky. Zhen Congming created an energy sphere and stepped onto the black disk before shooting into the high sky as well.

“I took over a small valley with great essence intensity. It will be beneficial to your cultivation,” Hao Ren sat behind Xie Yujia and said.

Xie Yujia felt a warmth in her heart. She knew her body type was weak, but as long as Hao Ren didn’t give up on her, she had no reason to give up herself.

Shortly, they reached the Ethereal Summit, and Xie Yujia liked the quiet valley very much.

“Here is the cave abode I built myself. It’s very simple.” Hao Ren led her into the cave abode and showed her around.

Xie Yujia smiled, feeling as if she had returned to the primitive world.

However, the intense essence here was far better than on land. She could indeed cultivate faster in there.

“When you have time, you can come and cultivate here. I’ll create a cave abode for you.” Hao Ren looked around.

“You choose a spot. The whole valley is ours.”

Hao Ren’s casual words brought great joy to Xie Yujia. She bit on her lip and looked around. “Just beside yours. Five or ten meters away from it.”

“Ok!” Hao Ren’s sword energies leaped out suddenly.

Boom!

The sword energies exploded an area and created a deeper cave abode. Since Hao Ren thought that she needed a warmer cave abode than his, he made it deeper into the center of the mountain.

While the sword energies flew around, a table, a chair, and a cup appeared in the cave abode one by one.

“We will cultivate here together...” Xie Yujia’s eyes curved as warmth filled her heart.

Boom...

Suddenly, Hao Ren’s sword energy opened another cave abode of the same size on the other side of the mountain.

“Is it... for Zhen Congming?” Sitting on the back of Little White, Xie Yujia glanced at Zhen Congming in the distance and asked Hao Ren in bafflement.

“No. This is for Zi.” Hao Ren smiled at her and said as he patted his hands and withdrew all the sword energies into his body.

“...” Xie Yujia.

Chapter 340: Farming! Elixir Making

“Zhao Yanzi is now at level 10 of the Qi Refinement Realm. If she cultivates here, she will reach the Foundation Establishment Realm sooner.” Hao Ren looked at Xie Yujia again and said, “Why don’t you go and try your cave abode?”

“Ok...” Xie Yujia’s excitement was now almost gone. Sitting on Little White’s back, she slowly flew to the new cave abode about eight meters away from Hao Ren’s.

This cave abode was bigger and deeper than Hao Ren’s, and he had considerably cut out a small bedroom with his sword energies.

Zhen Congming had pandered round the valley and checked out the array formation Hao Ren built. He flew into Xie Yujia's cave abode and looked around, tossing an object at her.

It was a decorative object with a gold base, and in it sat a night-illumination pearl that was as big as a fist. With this object in her hand, the bedroom that was hidden in one corner was instantly illuminated.

"So basic..." Zhen Congming muttered before flying out of the cave abode.

He had sensed the existence of some small sects around the valley. Since Hao Ren and Xie Yujia would stay here for a while, he decided to investigate the nearby area and try to steal something from the sects.

Even a mosquito has some meat on it. Zhen Congming would never 'disregard' small sects just because of their small sizes.

Holding the pearl Zhen Congming gave her, Xie Yujia smiled. The fist-sized pearl emitted mild light, neither blinding nor dim. The heavy gold base helped it stand steadily on the stone wall of the bedroom.

Zhen Congming was overbearing, but he was a kind kid.

This object would sell for an astronomical price in an auction on the land. Although Xie Yujia didn't know where he got it, she knew it showed his approval of her. After all, he was super stingy.

After placing the pearl on a ledge in the wall, she walked out and sat on a wide stone chair, closing her eyes to cultivate. Sure enough, the essence here was at least four times more intense than that on the land. She slightly circulated the Qi Refinement Scroll and felt it went smoother than it had in her dorm room.

Although the Life Note could activate the power of nature, after knowing the drawbacks, she didn't want to use it casually. She used the basic cultivation method documented in the Qi Refinement Scroll to absorb the traces of essence in the valley.

In the cave abode next to hers, Hao Ren was also busy cultivating. In the form of hundreds of sword energies, the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll encircled him at great speed. Like shadows, the sword energies moved against his skin and through his pores.

With 72 openings unlocked, his realm had significantly improved compared with the initial state of only 40 openings. Although the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll had slow cultivating speed, it solidified the cultivation foundation, and it wasn't too dangerous like other more aggressive techniques.

Now he could release as many as 160 sword energies. If one class had 40 students, Hao Ren's sword energies were equivalent to the number of students in four classes. If all the students from the four classes stood on the playground, they would occupy a big area. If he could control 320 sword energies, it would be the number of students in eight classes. If he could move to 640 sword energies...

The more sword energies he could control, the stronger the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll would be. In the end, he would be unrivaled in one-to-one combat.

In Zhao Kuo's Heavenly Tribulation, Hao Ren had witnessed the magnificent view of tens of thousands of soldiers blocking heaven lightning. The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll could eventually release a similar power.

Crack! In his dragon core, another opening was unlocked.

Dozens of tiny sword energies entered the new crevice on the dragon core, filling the new opening. Meanwhile, the silent dragon core began to spin at a great speed, and his body instantly absorbed the essence in the cave abode.

In one second, his body felt like it had expanded, but it was instantly pushed back by the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll around him.

After successively unlocking so many openings on the dragon core in Fifth Heaven, he was no longer surprised. Instead, he steadied his mind and nerves and allowed the essence outside of the cave abode to enter.

Xie Yujia sensed the fluctuation of the nearby essence, but she didn't know that Hao Ren made another small breakthrough.

"I'm back! I'm back!"

Outside of the cave abode, Zhen Congming shouted.

In his arms was a cloth bag. When he landed on the ground outside of the cave abode, he yelled, "Xie Yujia! Xie Yujia!"

Xie Yujia who had been cultivating in her cave abode walked to the entrance. "What is it?"

"The nearby sects are too poor, and they don't have any spiritual herbs over 200 years old. I only dug out some seedlings..." Zhen Congming muttered before raising his voice, "Hao Ren! Hao Ren!"

Hao Ren was busy solidifying his realm and ignored him. But Zhen Congming yelled again, "Big brother! Big brother!"

Since he was called big brother, Hao Ren had no choice but to walk to the entrance of the cave. "What?"

"I got some seedlings. You should straighten up the valley and grow some herbs so that it can be used as materials for Yujia's future's elixir making journey!" With the cloth bag in his arms, Zhen Congming looked up at Hao Ren who was standing at the cave entrance and shouted.

"You can't call Yujia by her name! Call her 'sister'!" Hao Ren frowned slightly.

He didn't like the fact that this kid was cold to everyone else but only favored a few people including Xie Yujia.

Since he had his big plan of elixir making, Zhen Congming didn't care about the superficial formalities. Like Little White, he could play cute as long as he could get the benefits.

Hearing Zhen Congming calling Xie Yujia 'big sister', Hao Ren was satisfied.

With his right hand, he abruptly released 16 earth-elemental sword energies.

The sword energies swept over the ground, and 16 deep ruts appeared in the ground. With a horizontal wave of his left hand, another 16 earth-elemental sword energies flew toward the flat ground in the valley.

Instantly, 225 neat squares of earth patches appeared. Wherever the sword energy went, the weeds and wildflowers were eliminated, and the brown soil was exposed to the air!

Hao Ren's clean and crisp movements earned secret admiration from Zhen Congming.

"One has the techniques of sword array formations, and the other possesses the note techniques. Both five-elemental and contains Yin and Yang; their cultivation techniques are unique and complementary to each other." Zhen Congming wondered as he leaned his head one way.

He then called out to Xie Yujia, "Big sister, the seedlings are here. You must put them in the ground, or they will die!"

Surprised that Hao Ren had opened the fields in two seconds, Xie Yujia rode Little White to the open ground in the valley.

The seedlings Zhen Congming carried back were plants she had never seen before. Some had triangle leaves, some were red and green fruits, and some had colorful buds...

"This is Bone-Healing Bamboo Shoots, this is Lantern Grass, this is Wind Blue, and this is Soul Reclaim Fragrance... They won't die if you grow them in a place with intense essence..." With great enthusiasm, Zhen Congming explained to Xie Yujia.

Then, he took out a trowel and planted the seedlings into the soil.

Xie Yujia listened to his explanations while helping him cover the roots with soil. Surprisingly, the withered seedlings instantly revived once they were planted in the ground, and their colors were brighter than before.

"My Big Dipper Constellation Array can accumulate essence, and all the spiritual herbs except the high-level ones can live as soon as you put them in the soil here..." Zhen Congming said smugly while planting the seedlings of the spiritual herbs to different patches according to their various properties.

If it had been before, he wouldn't have bothered with such troublesome tasks. He would have stolen some materials from Sixth and Seventh Heavens to make elixirs.

However, his master Qiu Niu was now in seclusion cultivation in the Nine Dragon Palace which was isolated from the rest of the world. Without the protection of his master, he didn't dare to mess with Sixth or Seventh Heaven. He could only mess around in Fifth Heaven with Hao Ren behind him.

After a demon beast transformed into a human, it had to cultivate the same way as a cultivator. Thus, Zhen Congming was now barely at Li-Level in the dragon's cultivation system. Qiu Niu didn't want him to cultivate too fast, so he didn't teach Zhen Congming any advanced cultivation techniques.

Li-level cultivators were at the bottom of the cultivation system, and this level was equivalent to the Foundation Establishment Realm for human cultivators. Although Zhen Congming had powerful dharma treasures, he needed more protection. If he didn't want to stay in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, he had to rely on Hao Ren's protection.

Of course, if he was in great danger, he could always turn into his original form as a demon beast, but it would be a great transformation and get too much attention.

While Zhen Congming and Xie Yujia planted the herbs cheerfully in the valley, the Seven Star Sect, Qiong Hua Sect, and Qin Yin Sect were in an uproar.

In one hour, the herb gardens of the three sects had their array formations broken, and spiritual herbs were stolen. All the seedlings were gone, no matter if they were ten years old or 200 years old!

Herb gardens were not forbidden places in the sects, but with all the herbs stolen, it became a big issue and was reported to the sect masters.

Although the three sects were rivals, they lived in one area, and the sizes of the sects were similar. Therefore, they had to work together on big issues. With all their herbs stolen, the three sect masters held an emergency meeting.

In his cave abode in the valley, Hao Ren continued to cultivate and didn't stop until he unlocked another two openings. Then, he walked to the entrance of the cave.

In the fields of the valley, herbs were planted into different sections. He estimated that there were at least 100 different kinds.

With mud-covered hands, Xie Yujia and Zhen Congming were planting the last herb seedling.

Looking at the fresh herbs, Hao Ren knew they must be stolen goods. Since the sects stole from each other each day, he didn't want to waste his time on scolding Zhen Congming.

Above the valley, dozens of cultivators were flying around and seemed like they were investigating something.

Knowing they couldn't come into the valley guarded by the array formation, he was about to fly to the foot of the mountain to see how Xie Yujia and Zhen Congming were doing when a voice transmission note flew in from outside the valley.

The array formation could block attacks and cultivators, but it couldn't block voice transmission notes which contained weak essence.

Standing where he was, Hao Ren pointed his finger at the voice transmission note and opened it.

"Senior in the valley, greetings from the Seven Stars Sect, Qiong Hua Sect, and Qin Yin Sect! We are cultivation sects around the Herb King Valley, and a thief has just stolen our herbs from our herb gardens. We're afraid that the herb thief is still around. If we are disturbing your cultivation, we apologize for it!"

Hao Ren thought for a moment and understood the hidden messages in the voice transmission note.

The first was that the three nearby sects took the excuse to seek acquaintance of the senior who was living in the valley; the second was that they wanted to test the water to see if he was related to the theft; the third was that if the thief broke into the valley, they hoped that the senior in the valley wouldn't blame it on them.

"Nonsense! Do you think I stole your herbs?" Hearing the content of the voice transmission note, Zhen Congming roared toward the entrance of the valley with a faked deep voice.

He was bluffing, but the three sect masters at the valley entrance were frightened. They didn't expect that the Senior was now in the valley, and the carefully worded message in the voice transmission note displeased this senior.

"From now on, no one is allowed to get close to this valley!" Zhen Congming shouted fiercely.

He was bluffing, but his voice through the array formation had a strong resonance in it, deafening the three sect masters.

The patrolling disciples near the valley immediately left the edges of the valley.

Hao Ren looked at Zhen Congming and smiled. This kid was a master at bluffing, and the results were quite good. Anyway, it was annoying to see the cultivators flying around the valley even though they couldn't get in.

"However, since you called me 'Senior' so respectfully, I'll reward you with some elixir pills. Come to the entrance of the valley in three days!" After a moment of consideration, Zhen Congming continued.

Outside of the valley, the three sect masters were about to leave. When they heard his words, they were exhilarated.

The Sky Mountain Sect from Sixth Heaven excelled not only in raising spirit beasts but at growing spiritual herbs and making elixir pills. Obviously, this 'senior' from the Sky Mountain could make elixirs.

They didn't know Zhen Congming's calculations. In fact, he knew that Xie Yujia would produce some low-level pills in her practice of elixir making, and he planned to give those to the sects. After all, even Little White didn't want to eat elixir pills lower than level 3.

If he frightened off these sects, he would have to travel very far to steal herbs. With these small sects around, they could run some errands for him in the future.

With the promise from the 'Senior' in the valley, the three sect masters left after thanking him effusively. The hard life the small sects on Fifth Heaven were beyond the imagination of Hao Ren who lived below = First Heaven.

The three sects always worked together despite their occasional bickering, and they lived in the remote mountains with a low profile. Otherwise, they would have long been destroyed by the distant prominent sects.

Even the White Sand Sect that Zhao Yanzi had tried to trick had a strength equivalent to the combined force of these three sects!

Meanwhile, Zhao Yanzi who was now grounded in the dragon palace was reading the physics textbook and wondering when she would be able to revisit Fifth Heaven and plunder the Technique Palace of the White Sand Sect!