

Es. Benefits 1211

Chapter 1211: Resurrecting Empress Tianhong The Empress Tianhong no longer harbored any thoughts regarding Lu Chen reviving her.

If Lu Chen truly had the ability to revive her, he probably would've done so by now.

Now, she suspects that when Lu Chen mentioned resurrecting her on the Immortal Boat, it was merely a ploy to see if she possessed any autonomy.

At that time, her utter lack of reaction likely convinced Lu Chen that she did not possess self-awareness, and thus he lost interest in her, leaving the Feihong Immortal Boat discarded within his inner world ever since.

Well, if she couldn't revive herself with her own strength, how could others possibly do so?

She would continue to accumulate soul strength, hoping that one day she would find an opportunity to resurrect herself.

Lu Chen, with a contemplative expression, looked at the motionless Empress Tianhong and then said with a smile, "Honghong, I'm really sorry. I've been too busy these past few years, and although I said I would create a body for you, I ended up forgetting about it."

Upon hearing this, the Empress Tianhong showed no outward reaction, but inwardly she scoffed.

Busy?

After following Lu Chen for so many years, didn't she know what kind of person he was?

His so-called busyness probably meant being occupied with women.

After all, what's the point of getting angry at such a lecher? She now hoped that this fellow would spend more time cultivating so she might have a chance to recover her soul strength.

Whenever Lu Chen cultivated, it would create a strange domain around him, which also allowed her soul strength to increase.

Although she felt Lu Chen lacked the ability to revive her, the fact that he could help her restore her soul strength meant there were benefits to staying by his side.

However, this lecher spent all his time on those activities, giving her few chances to use the domains generated during his cultivation to restore her soul strength.

Empress Tianhong even considered revealing her autonomous consciousness to spur Lu Chen into active cultivation.

After much thought, Empress Tianhong decided against this idea; she simply had no fondness for this man.

At this moment, Lu Chen walked in front of Empress Tianhong, his eyes fixed on her stunningly beautiful face. However, there was no change in her expression; as usual, she appeared indifferent, like a cold and lifeless statue.

Lu Chen thought to himself that the Artifact Spirit seemed to be upset because he had neglected her in the inner world for so many years without any contact.

Without saying much more, Lu Chen took out a branch of the Dragon Phoenix Tree from the inner world; he had long prepared the materials needed to create Tianhong's body.

Then, Lu Chen sat down cross-legged and began to operate the Evergreen Longevity Technique. As the Life Force within him gradually entered the branch of the Dragon Phoenix Tree, the withered branch sprouted some new shoots.

In the next moment, Lu Chen felt as though all his power was being drained by the Dragon Phoenix Tree's branch. He realized instantly that resurrecting someone required a tremendous amount of Life Force and Spiritual Power.

As the branches of the Dragon Phoenix Tree absorbed a significant amount of Life Force, it grew into the shape of a human. At this point, Lu Chen was breaking out in cold sweat all over.

This was the first time Lu Chen used the Evergreen Longevity Technique to create a body for an Artifact Spirit, and he was not very adept at it. He thought to himself that this rate was no good; his Life Force was depleting too quickly.

Before his Life Force reached a critical point, he wasn't sure whether the body could be successfully created.

Soon, Lu Chen thought of something. Since Origin Power is the source of all powers, could it replace Life Force? If Origin Power is used to create a body, wouldn't it mean that there's no need for so much Life Force?

Although this might seem extravagant, he had already expended so much Life Force. If the creation of the body failed, wouldn't he suffer a great loss?

With this thought, Lu Chen immediately channeled a wisp of Origin Power into the body being shaped for Empress Tianhong. As this wisp of Origin Power entered the branches of the Dragon Phoenix Tree, it immediately began to emit strands of blue light.

The light flowed, and the original appearance of the Dragon Phoenix Tree gradually began to change, the dried bark on the outside slowly transformed into human skin.

Witnessing this scene, the always expressionless Empress Tianhong finally showed emotion. She had not expected this man to create a human body out of tree branches.

But then again, even if the body was created, it would need to be functional.

If the body were just a vessel, unable to merge with the soul, then this body would be nothing more than a dead object without any use.

However...

When Empress Tianhong saw the face of the body gradually take shape, her heart couldn't help but beat with excitement. The body looked exactly like her – perhaps this man could truly bring her back to life!!!

Right now, Empress Tianhong had no other thoughts, her only desire was resurrection. Only by being resurrected could she free herself from the constraints of the Feihong Immortal Boat, regain her strength, and take her vengeance on the battlefield beyond the realm.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Lu Chen finally shaped Empress Tianhong's body. However, shaping the body was only the first step. The most troublesome part was to merge the soul with the body.

If the body and the soul were not compatible, and the soul could not merge with the body, then creating the body would be pointless.

Lu Chen slowly rose to his feet, then walked to the body of Empress Tianhong.

At this moment, the body of Empress Tianhong stood still, eyes closed, resembling a finely sculpted porcelain artwork.

Looking at the body before him, Lu Chen's heartbeat suddenly began to quicken. This body was too perfect; although he had crafted it himself, he couldn't help but be moved by it.

Seeing Lu Chen staring intently at her body, Empress Tianhong's eyebrows furrowed. Even though she had not yet merged with this body, it still bore her exact appearance.

This lecherous man was staring at it so intently, and by the look in his eyes, he seemed to harbor thoughts about this body.

What a beast!

Lu Chen quickly circulated his Spiritual Power, adjusting his state to calm his inner turmoil.

Now, the most important thing was to merge the Artifact Spirit with the body.

Thinking of this, Lu Chen's gaze fell upon Empress Tianhong, "Honghong, enter this body now. I'll assist you in fusing your soul with the body."

Empress Tianhong hesitated for a moment. If she acted now, it would prove that she could understand Lu Chen's words and had her own consciousness, and that would mean revealing herself.

But Empress Tianhong quickly remembered that she had always shown the ability to understand Lu Chen's simple commands, like when Lu Chen instructed her to control the Immortal Boat and she did.

Now, she was just following Lu Chen's simple command; he probably wouldn't think too much about it.

With that thought, the Spiritual Body of Empress Tianhong emerged from the control Formation of the Immortal Boat and then entered the body.

Chapter 1212: The Shocked Empress Tianhong Empress Tianhong had just entered the body that Lu Chen had created for her when she immediately felt her spiritual body actively fuse with it, and the body's senses gradually connecting with her divine sense.

This...

Empress Tianhong was slightly startled; she hadn't expected it to be so easy. Logically, this wasn't her original body, and her soul should have needed some time to adapt to a man-made body.

Even with a clone created from her own lifeblood essence, she required time to control the clone, but now this body, made from Spirit Wood, required no adaptation!

Seeing Empress Tianhong's spiritual body enter the flesh, Lu Chen once again exercised the Evergreen Longevity Technique and then helped Empress Tianhong's soul to fuse faster into this body.

As Lu Chen's life force entered Empress Tianhong's body, her senses became more and more distinct; she felt her hands moving, spiritual power flowing within her body, seemingly able to hear sounds, and faint light appearing before her eyes.

Before long, a "thud thud" sound seemed to emerge in Empress Tianhong's mind, becoming increasingly clear.

Following that, she felt a surge of life force enter her body, speeding up the fusion of her soul and body.

After an unknown duration, Empress Tianhong still opened the eyes of the flesh body, staring intensely at the man before her.

It worked...

It actually really worked!!!

This lascivious man actually resurrected her so effortlessly!!!

Keep in mind he isn't even an Emperor now!

Even if he was an Emperor in his past life, his current strength does not equate to that of an Emperor, he possesses at most the soul power of Emperor level.

A non-Emperor managing to resurrect someone so easily!

Of course, many cultivators can revive the dead, even Huashen Realm cultivators can, as long as the soul has not dissipated.

But the difficulty of resurrection increases with the cultivation level the deceased had, the stronger the soul, the harder the resurrection; she was an Emperor before her death, and even an Emperor would face great difficulty in resurrecting her.

But this Returning Ruin Realm fellow did it!

For a moment, Empress Tianhong could hardly believe this was real, trapped inside the Feihong Immortal Boat for countless years.

She watched her soul gradually dissipate over time, believing she would truly die, never expecting that one day she could be resurrected so easily.

When she saw Empress Tianhong open her eyes, and even a hint of color returned to her lifeless skin, Lu Chen's blood began surging again.

Empress Tianhong's body was incredibly perfect, but most importantly, she was stark naked, standing so strikingly before Lu Chen.

It was impossible for Lu Chen to remain unmoved.

At this moment, Lu Chen asked with a hoarse voice: "Honghong, can you understand me?"

Empress Tianhong initially didn't want to pay attention to Lu Chen, but then she suddenly realized there was a thick thread of karma between her and Lu Chen.

Empress Tianhong felt somewhat helpless inside; she had guessed that once Lu Chen resurrected her, there would inevitably be deep karma between them, and cutting off this karma would probably have to wait until she ascended to be an Emperor.

Moreover, such a thick karmic debt is not so easily severed, even by becoming a Great Emperor.

Empress Tianhong felt conflicted within herself; she disapproved of this man, considering him a lost and irredeemable person, believing that even though he was a Great Emperor in his previous life, it would be difficult for him to regain the Emperor Cultivation in this lifetime.

Regardless, it was this man who resurrected her, so no matter how much she disliked him, she still had to remain by his side to repay the karma.

Considering this, Empress Tianhong expressionlessly stated, "Yes."

Hearing Empress Tianhong speak, Lu Chen's lips slightly curved upwards; now that the act was over, with a body now, let's see how she pretends.

At that moment, Lu Chen scrutinized Empress Tianhong's body once more; his gaze swept over her unabashedly, and seeming particularly intense, Empress Tianhong instantly discerned his thoughts.

Empress Tianhong waved her hand, and her physical body instantly dissipated on the spot.

Seeing this, Lu Chen was dumbstruck.

Could it be that the Xianzhou Spirit, after obtaining a body, immediately ran away?

Lu Chen hurriedly released his Spiritual Power, scanning the entire Immortal Boat; soon, he sensed Empress Tianhong's location.

At this time, Empress Tianhong was at the core of the Immortal Boat, sitting cross-legged in meditation, seemingly familiarizing herself with her new physical body, as it indeed required some time to accustom oneself to a newly gained body.

Lu Chen let go of his sinister thoughts. Although the Xianzhou Spirit had acquired a body, after all, it was an Artifact Spirit of the Immortal Boat; it was impossible for him to act upon the Artifact Spirit—that would be disgraceful if word got out.

Meanwhile, Empress Tianhong, after arriving at the core of the Immortal Boat, began to meditate cross-legged; she wanted to swiftly regain her strength and then push that lustful rascal above her to grow promptly, so she could repay the karma.

Her karmic bond with Lu Chen was too profound and difficult to sever; the best solution she could think of was to encourage the fallen Lu Chen to return to the right path and become a Great Emperor again.

Wouldn't helping a fallen Great Emperor regain his Cultivation be a way to repay karma?

As for what that man wanted to do to her, she would never agree. Although for someone of her caliber, matters of men and women weren't a big deal; however, having a man on top of her was an insult to a Great Emperor.

A Great Emperor must not be insulted, so the idea of that man seeking pleasure with her was pure folly, even if he was the creator of this body.

Empress Tianhong didn't think further; she focused entirely on her cultivation, and as she progressively entered the state of meditation, she found her Cultivation State rapidly improving.

Heavenly Human Realm... Genesis Realm... Yin-Yang Realm... Huashen Realm...

In just under a day, her Cultivation State directly broke through to the Returning Ruin Realm.

Empress Tianhong found it hard to believe; typically, for a Great Emperor to rejuvenate and recover their cultivation would take a long time, but she managed to cultivate to the Returning Ruin Realm in just one day.

Of course, after the Returning Ruin Realm her cultivation speed significantly slowed down, but this rate of recovery was unheard of in her past experience.

The critical factor was that this body was exceptionally suited for her, which was why her cultivation recovered at such an astonishing pace.

However, Empress Tianhong also sensed something wrong—a bit off about this body...

While cultivating, the image of Lu Chen intermittently surfaced in her mind, and scenes from the flower garden appeared in her consciousness.

Although this did not impact her cultivation, it indeed caused her some discomfort.

Empress Tianhong was puzzled, what was happening?

Chapter 1213: Entering the Imperial Mountain Star Domain Empress Tianhong only knew that Lu Chen used a kind of Spirit Wood to create his physical body, but didn't know what type of Spirit Wood it was.

The Spirit Wood Lu Chen used was a branch of the Dragon Phoenix Tree. After drinking Dragon and Phoenix Tea made from it, all his wives and concubines became heavily dependent on Lu Chen, let alone a physical body created using a branch of the Dragon Phoenix Tree.

However, Empress Tianhong was different from Lu Chen's wives and concubines; she was a soul of Emperor Level, and although she would be affected to some degree, her soul's strength allowed her some resistance.

Empress Tianhong's brows knitted together slightly as she thought, could this be the workings of the force of cause and effect?

The force of cause and effect is a special power. Although cultivators can sever the chains of cause and effect, no one can resist the force of cause and effect.

Of course, once the chains of cause and effect are severed, one does not need to bear its consequences and naturally will not be affected by its force.

Empress Tianhong didn't ponder too much; she couldn't sever cause and effect, and if she was affected by its force, there was nothing to be done; she could only let nature take its course.

Fortunately, her self-control was quite strong. After all, she was a soul of Emperor Level—she could take a more relaxed approach to such things. It's just a craving for a man's presence, nothing much.

In the following month, the Feihong Immortal Boat continued to fly towards the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region. As they were getting close to the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region, Lu Chen decided not to use the Feihong Immortal Boat any longer.

The Feihong Immortal Boat was too luxurious and too ostentatious. Once the Feihong Immortal Boat entered the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region, it would definitely attract attention from the local powers.

Lu Chen thought to himself, now that the Xianzhou Spirit has acquired a physical body, can she be considered alive? Does she still need to follow the Feihong Immortal Boat into the child world?

He wasn't sure if an Artifact Spirit with a physical body could separate from the Spiritual Artifact.

Then Lu Chen directly transmitted a message to Empress Tianhong and said, "Honghong, I plan to retract the Feihong Immortal Boat into the child world. Now that you have a physical body, you should be able to separate from the Immortal Boat, right?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, the next moment, the expressionless Empress Tianhong appeared before him.

When Empress Tianhong appeared, Lu Chen on the deck was slightly startled.

At this moment, Empress Tianhong was dressed in a red long dress, exuding a cold and regal aura. Her beauty that could overturn all living beings made it even harder for others to shift their gaze away.

Lu Chen also didn't expect that in just a month, there would be such a significant change in the Xianzhou Spirit.

Just then, Mu Qinglan, who was cultivating in a certain palace on the Immortal Boat, felt a powerful aura and hurriedly ended her seclusion to fly out.

The next moment, she appeared beside Lu Chen, and upon seeing the woman opposite Lu Chen, Mu Qinglan was taken aback.

From her appearance, that woman was the original Artifact Spirit of the Feihong Immortal Boat, but now, her state was no longer that of a Spiritual Body.

Mu Qinglan was puzzled, Artifact Spirits can have physical bodies too?

Moreover, this Artifact Spirit possessed the cultivation state of the Guixu Realm Eighth Layer.

Most importantly, the aura exuding from the Artifact Spirit was extremely powerful; despite only being at the Returning Ruin Realm, she managed to make Mu Qinglan, a Saint, feel oppressed.

In front of Empress Tianhong, Mu Qinglan recalled the feeling when she first met the Heavenly Emperor.

Seeing Empress Tianhong standing in front of Lu Chen without any malice, Mu Qinglan breathed a sigh of relief; she thought they were under attack by an enemy.

But now it seemed...

Seeing the icy and gorgeous face of Empress Tianhong, Mu Qinglan had an ominous premonition.

Could the Heavenly Emperor be planning to...

Although I don't know why this Artifact Spirit has acquired a flesh body, if it's the work of the Heavenly Emperor, then it's not surprising, for indeed the Heavenly Emperor possesses the ability to resurrect the dead, and she once witnessed the scene of the Heavenly Emperor bringing Skyfire Clan people back to life.

However, why would the Heavenly Emperor create a physical body for an Artifact Spirit, could it be for...

This Artifact Spirit's beauty is stunning, especially her noble and aloof demeanor—obviously the kind the Heavenly Emperor favors in this life...

The thought made Mu Qinglan's brow furrow slightly; the Heavenly Emperor is becoming more and more depraved. Not satisfied with his myriad of wives and concubines, he even stoops to creating beauties himself.

Wait a moment...

It quickly dawned on Mu Qinglan that the Heavenly Emperor had always been accompanied by women, yet for the past month, there were no other women by his side except herself.

Could it be because the Heavenly Emperor hasn't had...

And so he bestowed a gorgeous body upon the Artifact Spirit? To have the Immortal Boat Spirit serve him?

At this thought, Mu Qinglan felt an odd emotion stirring within her; would the Heavenly Emperor rather grant the Immortal Boat Spirit a body to attend to him than have her do it?

This realization brought a twinge of loss to Mu Qinglan's heart.

Lu Chen continued to speak to Empress Tianhong, "The Feihong Immortal Boat is too lavish; if we were to enter the Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region as is, it would easily attract attention. I plan to switch to a different Immortal Boat."

Lu Chen's Tianchen World was not limited to a single Immortal Boat. Ever since gaining access to Skyfire World resources, Tianchen World had constructed dozens of Immortal Boats. Lu Chen also carried two less impressive Immortal Boats with him to avoid drawing too much attention when leaving the Chaotic Star Sea.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Empress Tianhong did not reply but slowly raised her hand, then swept her sleeve. In the next moment, the Feihong Immortal Boat underwent a tremendous transformation.

The original palace, resplendent with gold, changed into a dilapidated wooden cabin; the entire Immortal Boat now appeared tattered, with holes everywhere.

Seeing this scene, both Lu Chen and Mu Qinglan were taken aback; they did not expect the Immortal Boat to be capable of altering its appearance.

After collecting his thoughts, Lu Chen said, "This works too."

"Alright, let's prepare to enter the Imperial Mountain Domain."

As Lu Chen's words fell, Empress Tianhong approached the control Formation center of the Immortal Boat, and in the next instant, the Feihong Immortal Boat hurtled towards the distant Star Domain, twinkling with countless points of light, with incredible speed.

While Empress Tianhong was maneuvering the Immortal Boat, both Lu Chen and Mu Qinglan's gazes involuntarily swept back and forth across her, though their thoughts at that moment were entirely different.

Lu Chen also distinctly sensed that Empress Tianhong's aura had grown stronger, which surprised him—could an Artifact Spirit, upon gaining a body, also cultivate like a Cultivator?

And to cultivate so quickly?

If his senses were not mistaken, this Immortal Boat Spirit had at least achieved a Cultivation State of the Returning Ruin Realm.

From having no cultivation to reaching the Returning Ruin Realm in just one month, and all of this on board the Immortal Boat in the void where, although the Spiritual Energy was more abundant than in the void itself, practicing cultivation was actually not favorable.

To break through to the Returning Ruin Realm under such conditions, wasn't the speed of cultivation growth a bit too fast?

Lu Chen subsequently used the system to identify Empress Tianhong, wanting to check if there was anything updated in her data.

[Name: Empress Tianhong]

[Identity: Reincarnated Empress; after perishing in the Outer Domain, her soul was sealed within an Immortal Boat by a mysterious entity, becoming the Artifact Spirit of the Immortal Boat. The flesh body shaped by the Host helped her successfully resurrect. To repay the cause and effect, she plans to continue staying by the Host's side.]

[Score: 100]

[Favorability: 30]

Chapter 1214: It Turns Out She Was an Empress in Her Previous Life Seeing the updated information about Empress Tianhong, Lu Chen was utterly stunned.

Empress?

The Artifact Spirit of the Feihong Immortal Boat is actually the Reincarnated Empress?

This...

He had always wondered why there was a particularly noble aura about her that seemed to look down upon all living beings, an aura that not even the likes of Nangong Yuehua could compare with.

It turns out her previous life was that of an Empress.

This made Lu Chen think of someone.

That woman he had encountered in the Lieyan Dynasty who was also a reincarnation of an Empress; she too had the same kind of noble aura.

However, compared to the Empress Tianhong before him, Lu Chen felt that the aura of that other Empress seemed much weaker.

Yet, because of her noble quality, it made Lu Chen all the more restless. Speechless, he prided himself on his prior self-control, but why did he have none in front of this woman?

It's not just her beauty that attracted him; something else about her must be stimulating him.

Lu Chen calmed his heart, trying hard not to overthink. Although Empress Tianhong's score reached a hundred, meeting the system's requirement...

But she was after all an Empress, and her strength was recovering too quickly. If he were to force his way, once Empress Tianhong regained her power, he was likely to be the one suffering.

Moreover, Empress Tianhong's Favorability towards him wasn't high to begin with. If it were high, he might try to probe.

Since Empress Tianhong planned to repay her karmic debt, she probably wouldn't leave him for now, so he didn't need to rush; he could take his time.

Familiarity breeds fondness; perhaps with more time together, Empress Tianhong would come to have Favorability towards him.

But then again...

Lu Chen took a hard look at his past actions, feeling that Empress Tianhong would probably not develop any Favorability towards him. After all, he seemed like a debauchee, spending all his days lying atop women.

So be it, he would take it one step at a time.

Lu Chen shifted his gaze away from Empress Tianhong, intending to pretend he didn't know her true identity, revealing it now wouldn't benefit him.

“Honghong, I'm off to practice, the control of the Immortal Boat is yours.”

As his words fell, Lu Chen turned back to the palace. Entering the Immortal Boat Palace, Lu Chen realized that despite the significant external transformation of the Feihong Immortal Boat, its interior was still resplendently golden.

The interior of the Feihong Immortal Boat must be an independent child world, unaffected by the changes outside.

Seeing Lu Chen return to the palace, Mu Qinglan's gaze also shifted away from Empress Tianhong. The cold and noble air of Empress Tianhong made her feel pressured, and she too decided to return to the palace to continue her practice.

Until arriving at the Imperial Mountain Star Domain, Lu Chen spent his time practicing within the Immortal Boat. Only when they reached the first Life World of the Imperial Mountain Star Domain did Lu Chen emerge from the Immortal Boat Palace.

The first Life World they encountered in the Imperial Mountain Star Domain was just a low-level world. Lu Chen simply stood on the deck of the Immortal Boat and glanced at that low-level world, without directly entering it.

Internally, Lu Chen wondered whether or not to enter the low-level world and take control of it, absorbing half of its Qi Fortune to help his wives conceive a child world.

However, he quickly abandoned that thought. If he acted now, he was very likely to be discovered. Should he catch the attention of that Quasi-Emperor, the risks would far outweigh the gains.

This time, his most important task in the Imperial Mountain Star Region was to establish a Transmission Array. It was best not to complicate matters unnecessarily.

With that in mind, Lu Chen did not leave the Immortal Boat, but instead stayed on board as the Immortal Boat continued on its way to the Skyfire World.

The Imperial Mountain Star Region was vast, spanning tens of millions of light-years. To avoid attracting attention, Lu Chen had the Empress Tianhong deliberately slow down the speed of the Immortal Boat, which resulted in a lengthy journey to the Skyfire World.

However, Lu Chen's method truly did not arouse the attention of the major forces within the Imperial Mountain Star Region. Those who passed by the Feihong Immortal Boat lost interest immediately upon seeing its dilapidated and slow appearance.

In this manner, the Feihong Immortal Boat smoothly arrived at the Skyfire World.

After entering the periphery of the Skyfire World, Lu Chen noticed a world floating nearby, similar to a satellite.

By this time, Mu Qinglan had finished her closed-door cultivation and came beside Lu Chen. Curious, he asked, "Is that world next to us also a Life World?"

Mu Qinglan replied, “Yes, that is a Life World brought over from other Star Domains by the Heavenly Emperor. You said you wanted to turn this world into a space port, where all Immortal Boats entering the Skyfire World must dock for inspection.”

Hearing this, Lu Chen was stunned for a moment.

Space port?

He knew about space ports in his life as the Heavenly Emperor? It sounded like a term from Earth. This world didn’t have space ports, could it be that his life as the Heavenly Emperor was actually the first life after being reincarnated from Earth to this world?

Lu Chen didn’t dwell on it and then said, “Okay, let’s dock then.”

As they approached, the Feihong Immortal Boat slowly advanced towards the space port. The inspection process at the space port was quite simple, just to check where the Immortal Boat came from and who was on board.

When the Feihong Immortal Boat entered the docking space port, two cultivators from the Returning Ruin Realm came to the front of the Immortal Boat.

Seeing the shabby Immortal Boat approaching, they thought it belonged to some down-on-their-luck force.

One of the inspecting cultivators saw Lu Chen on the Immortal Boat’s deck and said, “To enter the Skyfire World, you need to pay an entrance fee of twenty thousand top-grade spirit stones.”

Hearing this, Lu Chen was taken aback. It wasn't strange for the space port to charge a fee, as maintaining such a huge port indeed incurred significant expenses.

But twenty thousand top-grade spirit stones just to dock seemed rather exaggerated.

Mu Qinglan also frowned at this moment. She glanced at the two men; these were not from the Skyfire Clan.

Lu Chen did not immediately respond to the cultivator. He was curious to see if it was really necessary to pay that many top-grade spirit stones.

Then Lu Chen's gaze fell on Mu Qinglan's face, who had a very serious expression with tightly furrowed brows.

Although she rarely left home and spent most of her time in the Skyfire World in closed-door cultivation, as a Saint, she was well aware of every move in the Skyfire World. She wasn't entirely without common sense.

The space port did indeed charge a fee, but it was impossible to charge so many spirit stones. Mu Qinglan immediately guessed what these people were up to.

Thus, Mu Qinglan coldly said to the two cultivators, "Wasn't the docking fee at the space port only a thousand top-grade spirit stones before?"

Seeing that the people on the Immortal Boat actually knew the space port's docking fee, the two cultivators were stunned for a moment, but quickly recovered.

Then one cultivator said arrogantly, "If we tell you to pay, you pay. What's with the nonsense? A thousand top-grade spirit stones was the old price. Now it's twenty thousand."

Chapter 1215: The Furious Mu Qinglan Seeing the cultivator so arrogantly collecting the docking fee, Mu Qinglan's face darkened to its utmost extent.

Although she was aware that such incidents were unavoidable, it was still happening right before her eyes, especially in front of the Heavenly Emperor.

What would this make the Heavenly Emperor think of the Skyfire World?

The Heavenly Emperor brought their Skyfire Clan to the Skyfire World, only to find they had failed to manage the whole Skyfire World properly; they even had to confront extortion for Spirit Stones right in front of the Heavenly Emperor himself.

Even though these people were not from the Skyfire Clan, they were after all from the Skyfire Dynasty; it was impossible for the Skyfire Clan to claim that all this had nothing to do with them.

Seeing that Mu Qinglan remained silent, a cultivator bluntly said, "If you don't have Spirit Stones, then go back where you came from. The Skyfire World isn't a place for just any Tom, Dick, or Harry."

Hearing the words of these two cultivators, a fleeting murderous intent flashed through Mu Qinglan's eyes. However, she did not act upon it but instead coldly asked, "Is this how you normally conduct your affairs?"

Seeing that not only did Mu Qinglan not produce any Spirit Stones but instead spoke to them in an interrogative tone, the two cultivators immediately released the oppressive force of the Returning Ruin Realm, “It’s not your place to question how we do our work. Without Spirit Stones, just scam and don’t waste our time!”

Those two cultivators thought the opponent’s Immortal Boat was so shabby, so their strength couldn’t be much either. They believed just the pressure from the Returning Ruin Realm would be sufficient to scare the other away, especially since this was the Skyfire World where no one dared cause trouble.

The Skyfire Dynasty was considered a great power within the entire Imperial Mountain Star Region, with two Saints and three Semi-Saints, and more than a hundred cultivators of the Returning Ruin Realm serving as its backbone.

Although these two cultivators from the Returning Ruin Realm were not from the Skyfire Clan, their status within the Skyfire Dynasty was no less distinguished due to their strength.

It was quite displeasing for these cultivators to be questioned by someone from an impoverished force. In the Skyfire World, they had a certain status; how dare this woman speak to them in such a manner.

After hearing their words, Mu Qinglan showed a hint of murderous intent in her eyes, and immediately, she released the immense pressure of a Saint.

In the next moment, the two cultivators of the Returning Ruin Realm were pressed down in the void, as if the ground beneath their feet appeared out of nowhere to stop their fall.

The overwhelming pressure of the Saint Realm was utterly terrifying, causing both men to spew out blood instantly.

However, even so, they were not frightened. One cultivator still spoke under the pressure, “Who in the world are you to dare wreak havoc in the Skyfire Dynasty? Do you really think you’re invincible just because you’re a Saint?”

In this cultivator’s opinion, their Skyfire World had two Saints and three Semi-Saints; even if this person was a Saint, what of it?

As soon as they sensed the presence of this Saint, the Fire Emperor and the Royal Ancestor of the Skyfire Dynasty would certainly make their appearance, and then they would be safe as usual.

However, this time their wishful thinking was clearly not going to work out. Mu Qinglan sneered and directly took out a token representing royal identity from her Space Ring and threw it in front of the two cultivators.

When the two cultivators saw the token before them, their complexion changed drastically in an instant, becoming deathly pale, devoid of any color, all arrogance vanished from before.

These men were cultivators of the Returning Ruin Realm; they were obviously familiar with such identity tokens.

And the only ones who could possess a token representing the royal identity and had the strength of a Saint were two people: one was the Fire Emperor, and the other was the Royal Ancestor of the Skyfire Dynasty.

The Fire Emperor was a man, and the person before them was a woman, which naturally led to the revelation of her identity.

The two of them hastily kowtowed and pleaded for mercy, saying: “Senior, we were wrong!!!”

“Senior, spare our lives!!! In consideration of our diligent service for the Skyfire Dynasty, please forgive us this once, we promise never to do it again!”

...

In a moment, both of them were so frightened that their bodies trembled. They couldn't understand why would the Royal Ancestor of the Royal Family, who had always been in seclusion, appear here?

And with the status of a Royal Ancestor, they should at least be given a luxurious Immortal Boat,

For a Royal Ancestor to actually ride in such a dilapidated Immortal Boat.

At that time, it suddenly occurred to them that even though they had indeed offended the Royal Ancestor of the Skyfire Dynasty, they were after all Cultivators of the Returning Ruin Realm. The Skyfire Dynasty had only a little over a hundred Cultivators from the Returning Ruin Realm, each of whom was extremely precious to the Skyfire Dynasty.

Moreover, if the Royal Ancestor killed indiscriminately, once other Cultivators from the Returning Ruin Realm found out, especially those not of the Skyfire Clan, they would surely harbor discontent in their hearts.

Over the years, the Royal Family of the Skyfire Dynasty and the people who were not of the Skyfire Clan had always been in a state of political compromise, which is why they had been able to retain more powerful figures in the Skyfire Dynasty.

Now the Skyfire Dynasty was facing immense pressure from the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, and they were even less likely to kill arbitrarily. If there was internal chaos within the Skyfire Dynasty at this time, and the non-Skyfire Clan powerhouses collectively left the Skyfire Dynasty, the entire Skyfire Dynasty would quickly decline.

Thinking of this, the two Cultivators breathed a sigh of relief.

Furthermore, the fact that the Royal Ancestor did not immediately take action to kill them showed that she did not have the intention to kill. With a powerhouse of such level, there would be no hesitation to kill; any hesitation showed that she did not wish to kill.

Realizing Mu Qinglan still had reservations, one of them said: “Senior, after we return, we will voluntarily resign from this post and willingly accept punishment.”

Mu Qinglan did not speak again, nor did she take action; it seemed she was waiting for something.

Seeing Mu Qinglan remaining silent and not attacking them, they became even more convinced that Mu Qinglan did not dare to hurt them.

However, not long after, another wave of terrifying pressure appeared nearby. Sensing this pressure, the two were taken aback.

The Skyfire Dynasty had only two Saints, one was the Royal Ancestor of the Skyfire Dynasty's Royal Family, and the other was the Fire Emperor. Since the Royal Ancestor had been here just now, and now the pressure of a Saint emerged, this Saint could only be the Fire Emperor...

At this moment, they completely let out a sigh of relief. Compared to the Royal Ancestor, the Fire Emperor had always been very accommodating towards those not of the Skyfire Clan. Now that the Fire Emperor had arrived, even if the Royal Ancestor wanted to kill them, the Fire Emperor would definitely step in to protect them.

Mu Zhengqing arrived in the void, glanced at the two Returning Ruin Realm Cultivators lying there, frowned slightly; although he did not know what had happened, the look on Mu Qinglan's face told him it was nothing good.

Mu Zhengqing hastily approached Lu Chen's side. Just as he was about to bow to Lu Chen, he heard Mu Qinglan saying, "Mu Zhengqing, you really can be an Emperor, your subordinates have come to extort from me."

Hearing this, Mu Zhengqing was stunned, his gaze fell on Lu Chen, and then he realized, he glanced again at the two Cultivators.

Seeing that the two Cultivators were not of the Skyfire Clan, Mu Zhengqing did not bow to Lu Chen in front of them, but instead sent a message through a mental transmission to Lu Chen: "Greetings to the Heavenly Emperor Your Majesty!"

Chapter 1216: Setting Up a Saint Level Teleportation Array in the Skyfire Dynasty Lu Chen transmitted his voice to Mu Zhengqing, saying, "Do not concern yourself with me, take care of your matters first."

Hearing this, Mu Zhengqing's gaze fiercely fixed on the two Returning Ruin Realm cultivators. Perhaps sensing the killing intent in Mu Zhengqing's eyes, the two cultivators hastily said, "Your Majesty, spare us! We had no idea a senior was aboard this Immortal Boat!"

"We are willing to accept punishment and hope Your Majesty will give us a chance to redeem ourselves through meritorious deeds!"

Mu Zhengqing snorted coldly. It seemed he had been too lenient with them; not only were they arrogant and domineering on a typical day, but now they had the audacity to offend the Heavenly Emperor.

Even though they did not know Lu Chen was the Heavenly Emperor, their behavior had already sealed their fate—they should not remain alive.

Immediately thereafter, Mu Zhengqing raised his hand, and with a great slap, a gigantic handprint descended from the sky. Sensing something amiss, the two cultivators quickly mobilized all their Spiritual Power, attempting to block it.

But a Saint is a Saint, after all. As the golden handprint fell, the two cultivators' bodies instantaneously turned to dust.

However, the matter did not end there.

In two secret chambers within the Skyfire Dynasty, the two cultivators' clones suddenly opened their eyes. After sensing their clones had been destroyed, they did not hesitate; they got up and left the secret chambers, planning to flee the Skyfire Dynasty.

Since the Fire Emperor had already harbored a killing intent towards them, it would naturally not be as simple as just annihilating one of their clones.

Being a Saint, fully covering a High-Level Cultivation World with one's sensory powers was no great challenge, and finding the true forms of the two cultivators took merely a thought.

Very quickly, Mu Zhengqing spotted the true forms of the two cultivators trying to escape the Skyfire World. Without any hesitation, Mu Zhengqing used magic once again, striking the two cultivators from across the void.

When the people of the Skyfire World saw the two enormous golden handprints, they were all stupefied.

In the High-Level Cultivation World, the strength of cultivators is typically suppressed by the laws of the Heavenly Dao. Ordinary cultivator battles could not possibly cause such a commotion; only the power of Saints could manifest to such an extent.

Why would a Saint act so recklessly?

Who was the target?

It couldn't be that enemies were invading the Skyfire World, could it?

Considering their rather tense relationship with the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, many suspected that the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor had sent someone to the Skyfire World, casting the entire realm into panic.

However, when people realized that only two giant handprints had appeared and no further disturbances occurred, they gradually relaxed. If it had been a battle between Saints, there surely would have been more tumult.

Perhaps the ancestors of the Royal Family or the Fire Emperor had discovered an enemy and thus had acted to eliminate the threat.

Having dealt with the two cultivators, Mu Zhengqing promptly came before Lu Chen, “Junior pays respects to Heavenly Emperor Your Majesty! I have governed poorly, and my subordinates have offended Your Majesty—please impose Your Majesty’s punishment!”

Lu Chen said indifferently, “It’s of no concern, let it be.”

Mu Zhengqing quickly spoke, “Thank you, Your Majesty!”

Lu Chen continued, “Have you found a suitable place to construct the Formation?”

Mu Zhengqing replied, “I have. I believe that the Royal Mausoleum is the most suitable location.”

The Royal Mausoleum was always guarded, and ordinary people could not enter. Only members of the Royal Family and certain individuals from the Skyfire Clan had access, making it the most fitting place to set up the Transmission Array.

Lu Chen said, “Good, lead me there first.”

What was most important now was to construct the Transmission Array, so that in the event of any trouble, it would be possible to use the Transmission Array to quickly leave the Imperial Mountain Star Region.

Mu Zhengqing said, “Yes, Your Majesty, please follow this junior.”

Following that, Mu Zhengqing led Lu Chen and Mu Qinglan to the Royal Mausoleum. As soon as they entered, a powerful presence was released.

Then, an old man approached Mu Zhengqing and others, looking at Mu Zhengqing with confusion, he asked, “Ancestral elder, Your Majesty, what brings you here?”

Mu Chengwang was thinking to himself that Mu Qinglan had said she was leaving the Skyfire Dynasty to seek an opportunity for a breakthrough—how could she have returned so soon?

While Mu Chengwang was filled with puzzlement, his gaze fell upon Lu Chen. The moment he saw Lu Chen, he was completely dumbstruck.

“Heaven... Heavenly Emperor...”

After regaining his composure, Mu Chengwang hastily paid his respects, saying, “Junior pays respects to the Heavenly Emperor!!!”

Although he could sense that Lu Chen’s strength wasn’t very formidable, the probability was high that he was the Heavenly Emperor based on Lu Chen’s appearance.

Mu Chengwang had been in seclusion, taking over the entire Royal Mausoleum after Mu Qinglan left. He wasn’t particularly aware of the outside world and never expected to meet the Heavenly Emperor just after coming out of seclusion.

Lu Chen said, “Dispense with the formalities.”

Mu Chengwang looked at Lu Chen with immense excitement, “Your... Your Majesty, you... you have finally returned!”

The Skyfire Clan was extremely grateful to Lu Chen, especially the royal family of Skyfire, who were his absolute loyalists.

They had once believed that the Heavenly Emperor had abandoned the Skyfire Clan. Mu Chengwang had never imagined that one day he would see the Heavenly Emperor again.

Mu Zhengqing said, “Third Uncle, the Emperor is here to construct a Transmission Array.”

Mu Chengwang quickly stepped aside, saying, “Please, Your Majesty.”

Then, they arrived at a bamboo forest. Without wasting any time, Lu Chen took out Spirit Stones from his own small world and began setting up the Saint Level Teleportation Array.

Seeing the large quantity of Spirit Stones consumed by the Saint Level Teleportation Array, Mu Chengwang was somewhat stunned; he hadn't expected that a Transmission Array would need so many Spirit Stones.

The Skyfire Dynasty also had Transmission Arrays, but the creation of one did not consume nearly as many Spirit Stones as this one did.

As the Spirit Stones steadily piled up into a gate, Lu Chen breathed a sigh of relief and then said, "I will test this Transmission Array first."

The words had barely left his mouth when Lu Chen was preparing to enter the Transmission Array, and that's when Mu Qinglan suddenly spoke, "Your... Your Majesty, the first use of the Transmission Array might be unstable, so how about I accompany you over?"

At this point, Mu Qinglan recalled in her mind the previous occasion when she had held hands with Lu Chen passing through the transmission array, and thinking of this, a faint blush emerged on Mu Qinglan's cool face.

Lu Chen didn't refuse, "Okay."

As his voice fell, Lu Chen stretched out his hand, and Mu Qinglan hurriedly walked over, taking hold of Lu Chen's hand.

Seeing this scene, Mu Zhengqing and Mu Chengwang were both utterly dumbfounded. At this moment, Lu Chen slightly turned his head to the two of them and said, "We'll return shortly."

Having said that, the two of them stepped directly into the Transmission Gate.

Once they had entered the Transmission Gate, Mu Zhengqing and Mu Chengwang turned their heads to look at each other at the same time, both seeing the shock in each other's eyes.

It was common knowledge to them that Mu Qinglan had always been devoted to the Heavenly Emperor. Back in the day, Mu Qinglan had trained desperately wanting to stand by the side of the Heavenly Emperor. Although Mu Qinglan's natural talent was not considered outstanding, it was her inner longing that enabled her to breakthrough to the Saint Realm.

However, the identity of the Heavenly Emperor was so precious, and he had not taken Mu Qinglan with him when he left.

They never expected that one day Mu Qinglan could actually hold hands with the Heavenly Emperor!

Chapter 1217: Are You Coming to Accuse Me of Raising an Army? Mu Zhengqing was the first to come back to his senses, and he smiled at Mu Chengwang, saying, "Third Uncle, you must have realized by now the strength of the Heavenly Emperor."

Mu Zhengqing did not continue speaking, but Mu Chengwang instantly understood his meaning, and then said, "So that's how it is. I still don't know what dangers the Heavenly Emperor had encountered to reincarnate, and now he probably hasn't fully regained his memory."

Although everyone from the Skyfire Clan was saved by the Heavenly Emperor, it has to be acknowledged that the Heavenly Emperor is actually a rather indifferent person, especially when it comes to romantic relationships.

All his thoughts are focused on becoming stronger; probably only when the Heavenly Emperor doesn't regain his memories would he allow a woman to hold his hand.

Mu Zhengqing said, "Regardless, our ancestor has fulfilled her wish, and perhaps this will break the shackles on her cultivation state, making her cultivation speed increase even faster."

For cultivators, what's most important is clarity of mind. Mu Qinglan has always been stuck in her current realm, mostly because she has constantly been thinking about the Heavenly Emperor.

Her feelings for the Heavenly Emperor are well known to the people of the Skyfire Clan, who always thought Mu Qinglan was trapped by her love, fearing that she would forever be limited to the Saint Third Realm and unable to break through.

Unexpectedly, the Heavenly Emperor has returned, which is not only good for Mu Qinglan but also beneficial for the entire Skyfire Clan. After all, Mu Qinglan is an ancestor of the Skyfire Imperial Family; the stronger she becomes, the more powerful the Skyfire Clan will be.

Not long after Lu Chen and Mu Qinglan left, the transmission portal emitted a blue light, and in the next moment, Lu Chen and Mu Qinglan stepped out hand in hand.

When Mu Qinglan emerged from the portal, her cold white cheeks were already flushed with red.

After stepping out of the portal, Lu Chen released Mu Qinglan's hand, which made her feel somewhat disappointed.

At this time, Lu Chen spoke, "Alright, the transmission array has been set up; from now on, you can directly use this transmission array to go to the Chaotic Star Sea."

The Saint Level Transmission Array could directly transport users to the Tianchen World, but Lu Chen purposely did not grant this transmission array the access to Tianchen World. This transmission array could only transport to the Thousand Ren World.

Lu Chen did this for the security of the Tianchen World, in case the Skyfire World faced any dangers in the future and enemies discovered this transmission array, what if they used this transmission array to directly enter the Tianchen World?

Thus, such precautions were necessary.

Even if enemies discovered this transmission array in the future and used it to go directly to the Chaotic Star Sea, they would only arrive at the Thousand Ren World, giving him enough time to react.

Seeing Lu Chen return, Mu Zhengqing approached and asked, "May I know what arrangements Your Majesty has next?"

Since the Heavenly Emperor had come, he naturally wouldn't leave so quickly. Mu Zhengqing wanted to seize this opportunity to properly host the Heavenly Emperor, though

he understood that with the Heavenly Emperor's cultivation state from his previous life, he must have experienced everything.

But this life's Heavenly Emperor had only recently reincarnated and, before regaining his memories, there were presumably still many things that interested him.

Lu Chen responded indifferently, "Just let Lan'er show me around."

Hearing this, both Mu Zhengqing and Mu Chengwang were briefly startled, but they did not think much of it, and then Mu Zhengqing said, "Yes, Your Majesty."

Then Mu Zhengqing's gaze fell on Mu Qinglan, "Then we will trouble our ancestor."

Mu Qinglan simply responded expressionlessly with a "Hmm."

Just then, a telepathic message sounded in Mu Zhengqing's mind.

"Your Majesty, Guest Elder Li Keqing is looking for you, and he seems quite angry."

Upon hearing this, Mu Zhengqing's brows slightly furrowed, his expression turned a bit solemn.

Seeing that Mu Zhengqing's expression was a bit off, Lu Chen curiously asked, "Has something happened?"

Mu Zhengqing hurriedly said, "It's just a minor issue, junior..."

Before Mu Zhengqing could finish speaking, Lu Chen interrupted, "Since Your Majesty has nothing else to do, I might as well accompany you to take a look."

This...

After hesitating for a moment, Mu Zhengqing eventually agreed, "Alright, please follow me, Your Majesty."

As soon as Mu Zhengqing finished speaking, Lu Chen immediately used his Disguise Skills to alter his appearance to avoid being recognized by other members of the Skyfire Clan, since his identity should not yet be revealed.

Following that, Mu Zhengqing led them to a courtyard.

After they entered the courtyard, Mu Zhengqing respectfully said, "Your Majesty, please take a seat. I will take care of the matter now."

As his words fell, Mu Zhengqing directly sent a psychic message to the subordinate who had contacted him earlier. Before long, a streak of light rushed directly towards the courtyard where they were.

The next moment, a figure landed in the middle of the courtyard.

The visitor was an elderly man dressed in a white robe, exuding the aura of a learned immortal.

When the elder landed in the courtyard, his gaze did not fall on Lu Chen. Instead, he fixed his eyes on Mu Zhengqing and asked, “Your Majesty, why did you choose to kill those two cultivators from the Returning Ruin Realm today?”

Li Quan’s tone sounded as if he was here to reprimand someone. The two cultivators were originally brought to the Skyfire World by Li Quan, hence, they could be considered part of Li Quan’s lineage.

Moreover, it was unknown what had happened today, but they had been killed by Mu Zhengqing. Li Quan was unaware of the reasons, only knowing that his men witnessed Mu Zhengqing making the move at the airport.

Mu Zhengqing’s actions undoubtedly damaged Li Quan’s prestige. He led people to the Skyfire World, but to his surprise, the Skyfire World turned its back on him.

Being a Semi-Saint, Li Quan held no reverence toward Mu Zhengqing. In his view, although the Skyfire World had two Saints, in places like the Imperial Mountain Star Domain, Saints were not regarded highly.

Without these Semi-Saints siding with the Skyfire World, the overall strength of the Skyfire World would drastically decline, and the Semi-Saints were also needed to handle many matters.

Saints were the trump cards of a force, but they couldn’t be expected to handle everything themselves.

This was exactly why individuals like Li Quan, a Guest Elder, showed no reverence toward Mu Zhengqing. In fact, to win over these Semi-Saints, Mu Zhengqing indeed made many concessions, with each one causing the Semi-Saints to overstep even further.

Seeing that Li Quan dared to talk to him like this, especially in front of the Heavenly Emperor, Mu Zhengqing's face darkened instantly as he coldly asked, "Li Quan, are you here to question Your Majesty?"

Li Quan indifferently replied, "This humble Semi-Saint dares not accuse a Saint like Your Majesty."

Although Li Quan said it this way, his tone was filled with disdain for Mu Zhengqing.

Li Quan continued, "Those two were individuals brought to the Skyfire World by this humble one. Your Majesty killed them without seeking the reasons. What position does this put Your humble servant in?"

"If Your Majesty does not provide an explanation today, then this humble one will resign from the position of Guest Elder and leave the Skyfire World immediately."

Chapter 1218: It seems being the Emperor is not easy for you either. Hearing Li Quan's words, Mu Zhengqing's expression turned even uglier. As a Saint and the ruler of the Skyfire Dynasty, he was now being threatened by a Semi-Saint.

If this matter were to spread, where would his authority as the Emperor lie?

Li Quan still looked at Mu Zhengqing with disdain. In his eyes, although Mu Zhengqing was powerful, for the sake of the Skyfire Dynasty and the Skyfire Clan, he would inevitably make concessions in everything.

The prosperity of the Skyfire Dynasty today was to some extent a result of Mu Zhengqing's concessions. The Royal Family had relaxed control, there were fewer rules, and naturally, they had attracted more people to the Skyfire World.

However, those who were attracted were often unruly people like Li Quan. Even though he had become a Guest Elder of the Skyfire Imperial Family, he did not regard the Skyfire Imperial Family or Mu Zhengqing, the Emperor, highly.

Mu Zhengqing coldly said, "These two have taken bribes in abuse of their positions, even going so far as to collect money from the Royal Ancestor himself. If I do not execute them, where is the dignity of the Royal Family?"

"What now, you are favoring these two so much, could it be that the Spirit Stones they have skimmed have all been given to you?"

Li Quan's brow furrowed, and his face instantly turned ashen, "Your Majesty, what is the meaning of this? Framing me without any evidence, could it be that Your Majesty thinks that the Skyfire World no longer needs Guest Elders and wants to drive me away?"

Li Quan had indeed accepted those Spirit Stones from the Cultivators, but in his view, there was nothing wrong with it, it was all deserved.

He brought people who offered him Spirit Stones; what was wrong with that? As for where their Spirit Stones came from, that had nothing to do with him.

Li Quan never believed that Mu Zhengqing would dare to completely fall out with him. If he left, then certainly other Semi-Saints would leave because of his departure, given that the Royal Family's actions were so overbearing. Those Semi-Saints would definitely feel that staying in the Skyfire World was no longer as comfortable as before.

Once there was a first, there would quickly be a second, and a third.

The current situation of the Skyfire Dynasty was also not very good. There were continuous agents from Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor demanding fealty from the Skyfire Dynasty, and the Skyfire Dynasty had also been persistently resisting.

At such a critical juncture, if Mu Zhengqing drove away the Semi-Saints, the strength of the Skyfire Dynasty would further decline. If at this time other worlds came to attack the Skyfire Dynasty, then it would probably be left with nothing but extinction.

It was precisely because of this that Guest Elders of the Royal Family had the audacity to be so arrogant in front of Mu Zhengqing, a Saint.

Indeed, Mu Zhengqing was genuinely concerned that driving away a Guest Elder would cause worry among the other Semi-Saints, especially at times like this.

But now, Li Quan, a Semi-Saint, was being so arrogant in front of the Heavenly Emperor. If he did not show some firmness, what would the Heavenly Emperor think of him?

To kill Li Quan was definitely not an option. If Li Quan were killed, it would further ignite the conflict between the Semi-Saints and the Royal Family, and afterward, no one would come to rely on the Royal Family.

Immediately afterwards, Mu Zhengqing released the intimidating presence of the Saint Realm and coldly said, “Li Quan, do you really believe I do not dare to expel you from the Skyfire Dynasty?”

“From this moment on, you are no longer a Guest Elder of the Skyfire Dynasty. Leave the Skyfire World at once, or else do not blame me for being impolite.”

Feeling the pressure from Mu Zhengqing and hearing his words, Li Quan was completely stunned. He had always thought that Mu Zhengqing would not dare to do this, yet today Mu Zhengqing was actually going to drive him away.

What is happening?

Is Mu Zhengqing not afraid that other forces will attack the Skyfire Dynasty afterward?

After coming back to his senses, Li Quan coldly said, “Fire Emperor, I hope you will not regret your decision today!”

Li Quan clenched his teeth, turned around, and transformed into a streak of flowing light as he left the Skyfire World.

Seeing this, Lu Chen said with a laugh, “Fire Emperor, it seems that being an Emperor is not easy for you.”

Lu Chen naturally understood what Mu Zhengqing was worried about; he had already roughly grasped the situation of the Skyfire Dynasty.

Although the system indicated that the Skyfire Dynasty had only three Semi-Saints, in reality, the number of Semi-Saints in the Skyfire Dynasty had reached more than a dozen. However, aside from the three Semi-Saints mentioned by the system, the rest were not of the Skyfire Clan.

Those Semi-Saints had been recruited by Mu Zhengqing. Once they found out that Mu Zhengqing had driven away a Semi-Saint, they would definitely wonder if such a fate could befall them one day, and by then, probably, even more Semi-Saints would leave.

While Semi-Saints are not as noble as Saints, if a Semi-Saint wishes, they can simply find a middle-tier world to live in and have a decent life. Even without relying on the Skyfire Dynasty, there would be plenty of powers wanting to court them.

“If an elder does not wish to stay, there will always be a place that welcomes the elder.” Thus, they wouldn’t hang themselves on one tree, which is the Skyfire Dynasty. This is also the reason why Mu Zhengqing, a Saint, did not dare to deal with a Semi-Saint casually.

Nowadays, times are troubled, and with the Heavenly Emperor yet to recover his strength and memories, Mu Zhengqing certainly could not afford to deal with a Semi-Saint rashly at this time.

After regaining his composure, Mu Zhengqing hurriedly said to Lu Chen, “Your Majesty has seen the fool in me.”

Lu Chen spoke indifferently, “My strength has not recovered yet. Indeed, I need to keep a low profile. But once I regain my power one day, there will be no need for you all to do the same.”

Hearing this, Mu Zhengqing felt very excited. It seemed that the Heavenly Emperor intended to continue supporting the Skyfire Clan. With the help of the Heavenly Emperor, the Skyfire Clan would one day be able to revive the glory of their ancestors.

Lu Chen continued, “Alright, go deal with your affairs. Lan’er and I are going to take a stroll.”

As the voice fell, Lu Chen disappeared on the spot with Mu Qinglan.

“Farewell, Your Majesty!”

After Lu Chen had left, Mu Zhengqing sighed. He was actually a bit worried that showing such a weak side to the Heavenly Emperor might make him seem spineless and possibly cause the Heavenly Emperor to develop negative thoughts about the Skyfire Clan.

This put a lot of pressure on Mu Zhengqing, but from the Heavenly Emperor’s recent words, it seemed the Emperor understood his difficulties.

Over the following half-month, news that a Semi-Saint had been driven away by the Royal Family spread throughout the entire Skyfire World, and everyone found it incredibly astonishing.

The Fire Emperor had always been rather compromising, so why had he suddenly become so resolute?

Moreover, the situation in the Skyfire Dynasty was not looking optimistic. There were more and more forces sending spies to probe into the condition of the Skyfire World. It was clear that the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor intended to move against the Skyfire Dynasty.

At such a time, to drive away a Semi-Saint, wasn't the Fire Emperor afraid it would cause dissatisfaction among the other Semi-Saints? If those Semi-Saint powerhouses left, the strength of the Skyfire Dynasty would inevitably decline significantly.

As Mu Zhengqing had anticipated, after the news of the Semi-Saint being expelled by the Royal Family spread, two more Semi-Saints took it upon themselves to leave the Skyfire World.

Although the Skyfire World offered them favorable treatment, other powers could offer them the same.

Fortunately, Mu Zhengqing had not really acted against Li Quan. After the remaining Semi-Saints came to the Imperial City to inquire from Mu Zhengqing about why he had driven away Li Quan, they all felt that Li Quan indeed had gone too far.

Li Quan's subordinates had gone so far as to accept bribes even from the heads of the Royal Ancestors, displaying such an incredible lack of tact that it was no wonder Mu Zhengqing had expelled him.

The powerful individuals within the Skyfire Dynasty were mostly aware of the Royal Ancestor's attitude toward outsiders. Now that one of the Royal Ancestors was stopped

outside his own home, he was undoubtedly very angry. This was what pressured Mu Zhengqing into expelling Li Quan.

Chapter 1219: Pretending Loyalty to Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor Time passed day by day; a month later, the incident of Mu Zhengqing driving away the Semi-Saint gradually subsided, and people's debates returned to whether they should actively pledge allegiance to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor.

Naturally, members of the Skyfire Clan were unwilling to pledge allegiance to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor; the only one they were loyal to was the Heavenly Emperor.

After spending a month touring the Skyfire World, Lu Chen discovered the influence his past self had in this world, especially among the people of the Skyfire Clan; even young children who had just learned to speak knew of the Heavenly Emperor.

Furthermore, the people of the Skyfire Clan had erected statues of the Heavenly Emperor, and households burned incense for him.

Of course, besides the people of the Skyfire Clan, there were also many ordinary citizens of the Skyfire Dynasty who believed in the Heavenly Emperor, but comparatively, these citizens were not as sincere.

After all, these people had never had any direct interactions with the Heavenly Emperor; their belief was influenced by the Skyfire Clan.

Now, the Heavenly Emperor was not so much a faith for the entire Skyfire Dynasty, but more like a cultural element.

Having completed his tour of the entire Skyfire World, Lu Chen felt there was nothing else to do, so he returned to the Imperial Palace for some more time.

In the Imperial Palace of the Capital city of the Skyfire Dynasty.

Lu Chen sat cross-legged on a soft couch, cultivating, while Empress Tianhong stood by watching.

Empress Tianhong had expected that Lu Chen's cultivation might trigger another anomaly, which she could use to continue recovering her Divine Soul Power, but this time, there was no anomaly during Lu Chen's cultivation.

This puzzled Empress Tianhong; previously, anomalies appeared whenever Lu Chen cultivated in the Feihong Immortal Boat, so why not this time?

She had thought that whenever Lu Chen actively cultivated, anomalies would appear; could it be that such anomalies only occurred in the Feihong Immortal Boat?

Empress Tianhong did not ponder further; no anomaly meant no anomaly. She had now revived and could practice cultivation independently. Even without Lu Chen, she could restore her Divine Soul, though losing a faster method.

Just then, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something, opened his eyes, and thought that if he absorbed half of the Qi Fortune of the Skyfire World, it would help one of his consorts conceive a child world.

Upon entering the Skyfire World, Lu Chen had felt a strong affinity from the Heavenly Dao of the Skyfire World, and thought that asking it for half of its Qi Fortune would be feasible.

However...

Lu Chen quickly realized that absorbing half of the Qi Fortune of the Skyfire World at such a critical moment would not bode well for the Skyfire World.

The Skyfire World was already in a precarious state, and with Qi Fortune diminished, it would encounter even more troubles.

Thinking this, Lu Chen dismissed the idea.

If that was the case, there was no need for him to stay in the Skyfire World; it was time to return.

Thus, Lu Chen telepathically said to Mu Qinglan, "Lan'er, I'm planning to go back. Inform the Fire Emperor and the others."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's message, Mu Qinglan immediately relayed the news to Mu Zhengqing. Before long, Mu Zhengqing and Mu Chengwang, along with some elders of the Royal Family, appeared in the courtyard.

In recent days, Mu Zhengqing had informed the important members of the Royal Family about the reincarnation of the Heavenly Emperor. After all, the Royal Family had been dissatisfied with Mu Zhengqing for bringing outsiders into the Skyfire World, fearing that he intended to ally with the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor.

The stability of the Royal Family was crucial, and as Mu Zhengqing had anticipated, after these members heard that the Heavenly Emperor was still alive, none of them contradicted Mu Zhengqing any further.

Feeling the presence of people in the courtyard, Lu Chen spoke indifferently, “Come in, everyone.”

As his voice fell, the palace doors opened, and Mu Zhengqing, accompanied by various members of the Royal Family, entered the grand hall.

Upon entering the grand hall, everyone simultaneously exclaimed: “Greetings to the Heavenly Emperor!!!”

Lu Chen nodded, “Dispense with the formalities.”

Lu Chen glanced over everyone and then said, “I plan to leave the Skyfire World, if anything comes up later, you can send someone directly to the Chaotic Star Sea.”

Upon hearing this, Mu Zhengqing sighed inwardly. The Heavenly Emperor had only been here for just over a month and was already planning to leave. He had hoped that the Heavenly Emperor would stay for a longer period, as it would help him stabilize the members of the Royal Family.

However, Mu Zhengqing was not too depressed, with that Transmission Array in the Imperial Mausoleum, it would be very easy to go to the Chaotic Star Sea in the future, and the Heavenly Emperor could also use it to come to the Skyfire World anytime.

With the Transmission Array, the Heavenly Emperor's visits to the Skyfire World would certainly increase.

As he said this, Lu Chen thought of something and then turned to Mu Zhengqing, saying, "The situation in the Skyfire World is not good. You can send someone to show some loyalty to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor's vassal forces."

Hearing this, Mu Zhengqing was startled for a moment. He had also thought of feigning loyalty to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, but the people of the Skyfire Clan would definitely not agree, and the first to object would naturally be the members of the Royal Family.

If he really did so, what would await the Skyfire Dynasty was likely only division. But now it was different, as the Heavenly Emperor himself had spoken. Even if he did so, the members of the Royal Family present couldn't say much anymore.

The Heavenly Emperor had just reincarnated and indeed needed to lay low. Only when the Heavenly Emperor regained his strength, would they have the means to contend with the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor.

At this point, Lu Chen got up from the couch, "Alright, let it be so, I will return to the Chaotic Star Sea first."

Mu Zhengqing hurriedly led the etiquette, saying, "We see off the Heavenly Emperor!"

Following that, the figures of Lu Chen and Empress Tianhong disappeared on the spot, arriving in front of the Transmission Array at the Imperial Mausoleum, where Empress Tianhong was already waiting.

When Lu Chen left, the members of the Royal Family couldn't help but sigh.

“If only the strength of the Skyfire Dynasty was stronger!”

“If we were more powerful, we could support His Majesty more and wouldn't have to embarrassingly feign loyalty to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor.”

“If this gets out, it will surely cause dissatisfaction among our clan members.”

“Alas, now we can only hope that His Majesty quickly recovers his cultivation state.”

Hearing the voices from the grand hall, Mu Zhengqing spoke, “You all need not worry too much. Even if the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor gains the chance to break through to Great Emperor, without a few thousand years, it is difficult to become an Emperor. Considering the speed of His Majesty's recovery, maybe he would regain his cultivation state before the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor becomes a Great Emperor.”

“We just need to wait for the Heavenly Emperor to recover his cultivation state.”

Mu Zhengqing had already thought it through. For the entire Imperial Mountain Star Region, pledging loyalty to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor and becoming his vassal force was the inevitable trend.

The Skyfire Dynasty just needs to release some news about pledging loyalty to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, and the forces in the Imperial Mountain Star Region would think that the Skyfire Dynasty could no longer withstand the pressure and chose to pledge loyalty.

After all, once the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor breaks through, he will be the only Great Emperor in the Imperial Mountain Star Region, no one or force there would dare to defy him.

This way, those vassal forces of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor wouldn't do anything to the Skyfire World.

Of course, this might be hard for the people of the Skyfire Clan to endure, but as long as the Imperial Court doesn't directly decree loyalty to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor and maintains a vague stance, pacifying the people of the Skyfire Clan won't be too problematic, and everything else can wait until the Heavenly Emperor recovers his cultivation state.

Chapter 1220: I must say, you Skyfire Dynasty are really lucky After Lu Chen left the Skyfire World, Mu Zhengqing immediately secretly sent a large number of gifts to visit the Dragon-Riding Sect, a vassal force of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor.

Although the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor has many vassal forces, so far, he has not established a dynasty, and his vassal forces are not under unified management.

It seems that as far as the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor is concerned, as long as the forces in the Imperial Mountain Star Domain submit to him and offer him cultivation resources for his use, they can do whatever they want, and he does not bother to manage them.

Dragon-Riding Sect.

Inside the great hall, there are several chained Jiao dragons whose fierce and terrifying appearances contrast their current obedient behavior as they quietly lie on the ground like domesticated pets.

Above the great hall, there is a huge throne adorned with several giant Golden Dragon sculptures.

Though the throne is grand and domineering, the person sitting on it appears to be a refined and amiable elderly man.

The scene of the Jiao dragons in the great hall and the refined elderly man on the throne is somewhat incongruous.

On one side of the great hall sits another elderly man, whose smile appears somewhat ingratiating.

The elderly man on the throne speaks with a smile, "It's quite rare for the Skyfire Dynasty to send someone here."

"I thought the faith of the Skyfire Dynasty was firm, always waiting for that so-called Heavenly Emperor to return."

Leader Wu of the Dragon-Riding Sect is very familiar with the affairs of the Skyfire Dynasty.

Of course, Wu Peng does not believe that the deity worshipped by the Skyfire Dynasty is some kind of Heavenly Emperor; even if it was the real Heavenly Emperor, that's all in the past now.

The Skyfire Dynasty is just a minor force; how could they be protected by a figure like the Heavenly Emperor? Wu Peng believes that the Skyfire Dynasty's reluctance to submit to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor is primarily because they do not want to offer tributes or serve the Quasi-Emperor.

He had long ago sent people to Mu Zhengqing, advising him to see the situation clearly, but each time Mu Zhengqing used the Skyfire Dynasty's worship of the Heavenly Emperor as an excuse to brush off his men.

Wu Peng continues to say, "Why isn't the Skyfire Dynasty afraid of your Heavenly Emperor sending down punishment now?"

Hearing this, Mu Jingshan in the great hall replies with a smile, "Leader Wu jokes. It is our honor and a natural course of action to submit to the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor. We can clearly see the situation."

Wu Peng chuckles, then says, "In my view, you are afraid that once the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor breaks through, he will settle the score with you."

Here, Wu Peng's mouth curves into a slight smile, "Actually, your Skyfire Dynasty really doesn't need to worry about the Quasi-Emperor settling scores with you."

"I must say, the Skyfire Dynasty is quite lucky. If it were another force that defied the Quasi-Emperor like this, he probably would have had that force annihilated long ago."

Mu Jingshan, puzzled, asks, "May I ask, Leader Wu, what do you mean by this?"

Wu Peng directly states, “The Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor has given orders that no force is to act against the Skyfire Dynasty until his seclusion has ended.”

“Do you think the Skyfire Dynasty, a force that worships another Heavenly Emperor, could still exist up till now if it wasn’t for this decree from the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor?”

The Imperial Mountain Star Domain is basically the domain of the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, yet there are forces within his domain that worship other Great Emperors.

Normally, any Quasi-Emperor wouldn’t tolerate this; even if the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor does not care, his vassal forces would eliminate those disrespectful powers before the Quasi-Emperor even asks.

This is an excellent opportunity to show loyalty; naturally, there are forces willing to do so, especially since the Skyfire Dynasty only has two Saints and is not particularly strong.

The reason why no powers have acted against the Skyfire Dynasty until now primarily stems from the order issued by the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor to his subordinate forces before he entered seclusion, commanding them not to touch the Skyfire Dynasty.

Hearing Wu Peng’s words, Mu Jingshan was stunned once again; this was his first time hearing about this matter.

For a moment, he felt utterly perplexed. Why would the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor forbid his subordinate forces from taking action against the Skyfire Dynasty? Could it be that there exists someone within the Skyfire Dynasty whom the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor fears?

Could it be that the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor knew of the real existence of the Heavenly Emperor, thus he didn't dare to move against the Skyfire Dynasty?

Mu Jingshan then directly asked, "May I inquire why the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor would issue such an order?"

Wu Peng said with a smile, "It's because the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor took a liking to an old ancestor of your Skyfire Imperial Family. He plans to marry that ancestor after he breaks through to become a Great Emperor."

"That's why I said your Skyfire Dynasty is truly fortunate. Other forces struggle desperately and might not even catch the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor's attention, yet your dynasty receives his protection because of one person."

Mu Jingshan was somewhat dumbfounded; he hadn't expected the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor to have taken a fancy to Mu Qinglan, especially since their old ancestor seemed to have no connections with the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor at all.

Their ancestor spent most of her time in secluded cultivation within the Royal Mausoleum, hardly leaving the Skyfire World, not to mention scarcely ever leaving the Imperial City.

It was only after Mu Qinglan became aware that the Heavenly Emperor had reincarnated that she left the Skyfire World for a considerably long period.

Wu Peng then continued, "Exactly, when you go back, you can convey this message to your old ancestor, so she can prepare early."

Wu Peng believed that with the Skyfire Clan and the old ancestor of the Skyfire Imperial Family as hostages, it's unlikely that she could escape.

After regaining his composure, Mu Jingshan once again showed a flattering smile, "Thank you, Leader Wu, for informing me about this. If my old ancestor truly marries the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, our Skyfire Dynasty will surely be deeply grateful."

Wu Peng responded with a smile, "It's nothing, that will be all for today."

Mu Jingshan promptly got up and bowed, "Then I shall take my leave."

"Alright."

Then Mu Jingshan turned and left the grand hall. Watching his departing figure, Wu Peng muttered to himself, "I wonder what the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor sees in that woman. Could it be simply because she is a Female Saint?"

In the entire Imperial Mountain Domain Star Region, Mu Qinglan is currently the only female Saint. If the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor's standards for a Daoist couple are high, it indeed might be because of her Cultivation State.

...

After leaving the Dragon-Riding Sect, Mu Jingshan hurriedly returned to the Skyfire World and relayed the message to Mu Zhengqing.

When Mu Zhengqing heard that the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor wanted to marry their old ancestor, he was completely stunned.

He then understood why the various forces of the Imperial Mountain Star Domain had been so restless, wanting to make moves against the Skyfire World but never actually acted. It turns out this was the reason.

However...

Mu Zhengqing was just as curious as Mu Jingshan about when exactly Mu Qinglan had intersected with the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor; they probably had never even met, right?

Could it really be just because their old ancestor is the only Female Saint in the Imperial Mountain Star Domain, and the Imperial Mountain Quasi-Emperor, having no other options, decided to marry her?

However it may be, this news must definitely be reported to the Heavenly Emperor.

Soon, Mu Zhengqing arranged for this message to be delivered to Lu Chen.