

I. Family 1011

Chapter 1011: Nine Heavenly Winds, Divination Calculation!_3 Bu Suanzi's voice was hoarse as he spoke.

He had performed divinations for many people and knew that divination did not always yield results.

Even if there were results, they might be rather vague, offering only a general direction.

If the other party still wanted him to make a move, he was willing to comply.

However, he had to state in advance that even if he did not derive any useful information, it was not his responsibility, and the other party would still owe him a favor.

“Please make a move, my friend; regardless of success or failure, the Qingyun Sect will be grateful!”

The grey-robed elder understood and responded with a cupped fist salute.

The value of the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus alone was worth a favor.

Moreover, the sudden appearance of Black Crow Old Demon in the Tianyuan Secret Realm was one thing.

Now, another mysterious person had intercepted and killed Black Crow Old Demon, making him suspect that the matter was not simple.

He suspected that an invisible powerful force was scheming against his Qingyun Sect, particularly regarding the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

Thus, he needed to clarify this matter.

“Alright.”

Bu Suanzi nodded upon hearing this.

He took out a turtle shell and channeled the essence of spiritual energy from a white Treasure Bead into the shell.

Then, with one hand performing a gesture incantation and the other tossing several copper coins, he began the divination.

After a long while.

“Hmm?”

Bu Suanzi furrowed his brows, feeling an invisible resistance during the process of divination.

There were three possible explanations.

First, the target might be adept in divinatory skills, confusing the Heavenly Secrets, or someone might be concealing the Heavenly Secrets on their behalf.

Second, the target's fate could be extraordinary, and divining it might require a certain price.

Third, the target could possess some kind of treasure that blocked divinatory efforts.

With his hands still in a gesture incantation, he took out a bamboo tube from his storage bag, shook several bamboo slips to try deriving a vague direction.

Yet at this moment, not only did he fail to obtain any information, but a foreboding omen also rose in his heart.

He knew that continuing the divination would not only reduce his lifespan and fortune but could also entangle him in problematic karma.

As a diviner, the first rule was to remain uninvolved and not invite any karmic trouble!

He immediately ceased his efforts, his face pale and his breath weak, as he said hoarsely to the grey-robed elder: “Ancient Cloud, I’m powerless in this matter.”

“This...”

The grey-robed elder’s face turned visibly unpleasant upon hearing this.

He had not expected that the divination would yield no results at all.

“Ancient Cloud, during my divination just now, I immediately faced an invisible resistance.”

“I tried to probe further and even sensed an ominous omen, indicating that this person is no ordinary individual, either possessing remarkable strength or belonging to some major power.”

Bu Suanzi declared his inability to proceed.

“An ominous omen...”

Ancient Cloud Immortal pondered upon hearing this.

Yet seeing Bu Suanzi’s expression and weak aura, he knew these were not empty words.

He solemnly nodded and said with a cupped fist, “It must have been difficult for you, friend.”

At this point, he was almost certain of his guess.

The mysterious individual who had killed Black Crow Old Demon was well-prepared.

It seemed likely that this person had been targeting the Tianyuan Secret Realm and the Tianyuan Lotus for some time.

Even Black Crow Old Demon’s presence in the Tianyuan Secret Realm might be related to this person.

“Who exactly is this person, and from which power does he come?”

“It’s possible that he intentionally left behind flame and deathly aura to affect our judgement...”

Ancient Cloud Immortal speculated in his mind.

At this moment, he knew that the matters of the Tianyuan Secret Realm could not be monopolized by his Qingyun Sect.

They must expose this secret realm!

Otherwise, it could bring trouble to their Qingyun Sect!

...

In the Ninth Heavenly Gang Wind Layer.

Lu Changsheng was sorting through Black Crow True Immortal’s storage ring, unaware that he was currently being divined.

He looked at the shuttle in his hand, misty as a crow, and shook his head, “It seems this person was more seriously injured before than I had thought; not only is the True Elixir dim, but the magical treasures are also fundamentally damaged.”

Although such treasures were of no use to him.

A damaged treasure would be significantly less effective if used for his children.

After pondering for a moment, he took out a jade plate-sized lotus that looked like an immaculate gem.

The lotus, despite being plucked, emanated a vibrant life force.

The translucent petals shimmered with radiant lights, as if harboring divine energies, filled with an immensely pure spiritual energy.

Lu Changsheng, though unfamiliar with the lotus, could tell it was extraordinary.

“The roots are damaged, but its vitality is preserved by a freezing chill; if taken home sooner, it might have a chance to be revived and continue growing,” Lu Changsheng quietly thought.

Due to Zhao Qingqing and Lu Miaoyun being second-order spiritual planters.

In previous years, his son had brought back many spirit plants and spiritual medicines from the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.

Thus, he had garnered much knowledge about spirit plants.

Recognizing that the lotus must have been harvested by Black Crow True Immortal, who preserved its vitality.

“Daddy, what a beautiful lotus flower,” Lu Wangshu exclaimed upon seeing the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus, her eyes brimming with fascinating colors.

“Yes, it is indeed beautiful.”

Lu Changsheng glanced at his daughter, nodded, and tucked the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus back into the storage ring, planning to take his daughter out for a few days before heading home.

Later, he would ask Ling Zixiao and Hong Lian if they knew what this lotus was.

“This lotus is currently frozen, and its vitality hindered; it’s not suitable for handling now.”

Seeing his daughter puffing her cheeks while looking at him, Lu Changsheng poked her rosy cheeks and said with a smile.

Then, riding on the Starlight Plate, he dove down from the Ninth Heavenly Gang Wind.

Navigating the Starlight Plate in the Ninth Heavenly Gang Wind had also drained him substantially.

Chapter 1012: Nine Heavens Gang Wind, Divination Calculation!_4 Had it not been for the Profound Origin Bead by his side, his mana would have almost run out by now.

And for Lu Wangshu, the Ninth Heavenly Gang Wind Layer was vast and monotonous, extremely dull and boring.

Moments later, Lu Changsheng and his daughter arrived above a mountain range, where he took out a map to check their current location.

Just then, he heard some commotion a few miles away, where a ferocious demon tiger was pursuing two Energy Refining Cultivators.

“Swish!”

Seeing this, Lu Changsheng flicked his fingers as if they were a sword, and a sword Qi spell tore through the air, shooting out and piercing through the demon tiger’s head with a bloody hole, cause it’s agonized collapse to the ground.

“Thank you, senior!”

“Thank you for the rescue, senior!”

The two Energy Refining Cultivators were startled, then saw Lu Changsheng and Lu Wangshu in mid-air, and immediately knelt down and shouted.

“Daddy, now you’re just like the immortals in the storytellers’ books who slay demons, dispel evils, and save the world.”

Lu Wangshu flattered her own father.

“Heh,”

Lu Changsheng chuckled softly.

He might not consider himself a good person, but when encountering such matters, he was willing to help.

“Daddy, was that a sword technique you just used?”

“And what about that light and the flame you used when you saved me?”

Lu Wangshu asked.

Only today did she realize that she knew nothing about her father’s strength or methods.

“Why, you want to learn?”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow and replied when he saw his daughter’s curious look.

He knew his daughter’s curiosity.

“People just want to see, Daddy. When you made your entrance, you were surely handsome and imposing, dashing and extraordinary, but I missed it all and only saw a dazzling light and purple-red flame.”

Lu Wangshu said playfully, with an innocent and pleasing face.

“Well, I’ll show you.”

Lu Changsheng chuckled softly, lifting his palm slightly, and a purple-red flame with spark-like arcs appeared in his hand.

Inside it, a flood dragon, resembling both a snake and a dragon, flickered in and out of view, exuding a fierce and overpowering aura.

“Daddy, what spell is this? I want to learn!”

Lu Wangshu said immediately upon seeing the flame before her.

“This can only be learned by those with exceptional talent; you can’t learn it.”

Lu Changsheng had anticipated his daughter’s reaction and spoke directly.

“But Daddy, as your precious daughter, I must have exceptional talent, right? Look, I always come first in whatever I learn, so please teach me.”

Lu Wangshu coquettishly wrapped her arms around her father’s, pleading.

“This spell requires Foundation Establishment before you can learn it. Cultivate well, and once you’ve established your foundation, I’ll teach you.”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

“Dad, you’re not lying to me, are you?”

Lu Wangshu looked up at her father with a doubtful expression.

“Why would I lie to you? If one doesn’t have exceptional talent, they might not be able to master this spell even after Foundation Establishment, plus it requires many conditions.”

“But as long as you cultivate diligently, your father has prepared everything for you.”

Lu Changsheng declared confidently.

Then, with a wave of his hand, the flame in his palm, like a roaring flood dragon, shot toward a distant mountain peak, causing an explosive rumble and spreading fire.

“See, this spell’s power, is it ordinary?”

Lu Changsheng stood tall, speaking to his daughter.

“Mm-hmm, Daddy, how could I doubt you? I will definitely cultivate diligently and master this spell!”

Lu Wangshu nodded repeatedly after witnessing the spectacle.

Having narrowly escaped death, she was resolved to return home and cultivate earnestly.

Now, seeing the Thunder Gang Dragon Flame only strengthened her resolve.

“Daddy, and that light?”

Lu Wangshu continued to inquire.

“That belongs to a treasure, not a spell; it’s been used up, gone.”

Lu Changsheng replied directly.

He could procure another Heavenly Spiritual Fire for his daughter.

But he couldn’t very well dig out the Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone for her, could he?

“Sigh, when I saw you in danger, I was in such a panic that I threw all the treasures at the problem without a second thought.”

Lu Changsheng glanced at his daughter’s somewhat skeptical look and sighed.

Chapter

“Daddy, I’m sorry.”

Lu Wangshu’s lipped pursed and she looked down, upon hearing the words.

“It’s okay, as long as you’re safe, it’s all worth it.”

“Talisman Path is the invincible path, there’s no need to learn other techniques. Just cultivate well, make a breakthrough in Foundation Establishment, and condense your Life-bound Divine Talisman; no one in the Foundation Establishment Stage will be your match.”

Lu Changsheng rumbled his daughter’s hair as he spoke.

Once his daughter made a breakthrough in Foundation Establishment and condensed her Life-bound Divine Talisman, with a few hundred Talismans and mastery of Void Drawing of Talismans and Talisman Refinement Formation techniques, no average Foundation Establishment cultivator would be a match for her.

“Mm-hmm.”

Lu Wangshu nodded in agreement, determined to return home and cultivate well to break through to Foundation Establishment as soon as possible!

Chapter 1013: Yin Yang Primordial Elixir Method, Lu Miaohuan Breakthrough, Third Rank Artifact Refining! Bihu Lake Mountain.

Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

“The Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus? Like a Spiritual Spring, it can be used to refine a void Magical Treasure, serving as a Second Dantian...”

When Lu Changsheng heard Hong Lian’s words, his eyes slightly narrowed, gazing at the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus in his hands.

What is Yin and Yang?

Two begets three, that is Yin and Yang!

The cultivation technique he had been practicing, the “Yin Yang Creation Classic,” as a True Immortal Level Technique, was profoundly mysterious.

It emphasized the mutual generation of Yin and Yang, transforming all things with the effect of ‘coordinating all laws.’

Once he completed the transformation in his cultivation and achieved the “Yin Yang Creation Classic,” he could freely transform his own cultivation level into corresponding demonic, Buddhist, or Demon Race cultivation techniques by utilizing the arbitrary transformation rules of nature’s spiritual energy.

This was why Lu Changsheng believed this cultivation technique was highly suitable for him.

Because once he mastered this technique, there was no need to cultivate any Buddhist or demonic techniques; he could directly cultivate the “Brahma Demon True Saint Technique”!

However, to achieve this effect, one would need a treasure of the void as a foundation.

The Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus before him seemed quite promising.

It was only a Third Order.

But according to Hong Lian, the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus could grow through cultivation, advancing to the Fourth Rank ‘Tianyuan Lotus,’ even reaching the legendary ‘Heavenly Yuan Dao Lotus’!

The Heavenly Yuan Dao Lotus was too far a goal for him to consider currently.

But with the Myriad Spirits Bottle, the Fourth Rank ‘Tianyuan Lotus’ seemed somewhat hopeful.

Besides, the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus could also assist him in his Core Formation.

He was looking to achieve a Core Formation breakthrough but faced a problem.

Spirit Vein!

To attempt Core Formation, a continuous supply of Spiritual Energy from a Third-Level Spirit Vein Arena was necessary.

However, the Spirit Vein of Bihu Lake was only a Second-Order Superior.

The Spirit Vein of the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven was a Second-Order Inferior.

Even if Mount Sumeru intervened, absorbing all Spirit Energy from Bihu into the Cave Heaven and exhausting vast amounts of Spirit Stones, the Spiritual Energy could only be reluctantly improved to Third Order, insufficient for his Core Formation.

After all, with his current foundation, once he achieved Core Formation, it would surely be a Superior Gold Core!

The required Spiritual Energy was far beyond what other Nascent Soul Cultivators needed.

For this matter, Lu Changsheng had several preparations.

One of which was, after completing the “Yin Yang Creation Classic,” to cultivate a Nascent Soul Secret Technique “Yin Yang Primordial Elixir Method”!

The basic principle of this secret technique was, at the peak of Foundation Establishment, to compress part of the Mana continuously, fine refining it in the Qi Ocean Core into multiple Elemental Elixirs.

During the Core Formation attempt, all Elemental Elixirs could merge to form an Immortal Golden Core!

This not only made Core Formation much easier, eliminating bottlenecks but also reduced the necessity for nature’s Spiritual Energy during the breakthrough, enhancing the quality of Core Formation!

“According to the Yin Yang Creation Classic, if there is a Second Dantian to store Elemental Elixirs, then the upper limit of possible Elemental Elixirs significantly increases.”

“As long as enough Elemental Elixirs are aggregated, even if elevating the Spirit Energy of Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven to just Quasi-Third Order, theoretically it should be sufficient to attempt Core Formation.”

Lu Changsheng, looking at the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus in his hands, felt increasingly that this was suitable for him.

Although cultivating this lotus to Fourth Order to become a Tianyuan Lotus would also greatly enhance the Spiritual Energy of Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven, comparable to a Third-Order Spirit Vein,

even if he had the Myriad Spirits Bottle, cultivating it to Fourth Order would not be easy.

Moreover, in his view, even if he cultivated it to Fourth Order Tianyuan Lotus, it would still be better suited as a void Magical Treasure serving as a Second Dantian.

“What a pity there’s only one Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus; if there were a few more planted in the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven, that would be better.”

Lu Changsheng sighed with a tinge of regret.

Then, he took his wife, Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen, to the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

“Yun’er, Zhenzhen, give it your all and see if we can revive this Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus.”

Lu Changsheng informed the two ladies about the matters regarding the lotus, preparing to revive and plant this lotus in the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

“Rest assured, husband.”

The two women nodded and replied.

They were still in the Foundation Establishment Stage.

But because they cultivated the Heavenly Longevity Technique, they were exceptionally talented in cultivating Spirit Plants,

even able to expend their own life spans to extend the vitality of the Spirit Plants.

Seeing how their husband valued the lotus and asked for their help, both women took the matter very seriously.

“Okay.”

Lu Changsheng nodded, then carefully unfroze the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus’s roots and placed it into the Spiritual Spring.

Subsequently, he called out, “Yun’er, Zhenzhen, Mount Sumeru!”

In an instant, Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen made gesture incantations, their bodies surrounded by a rich vitality, green-blue Mana surged from their palms, enveloping the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus before them.

Simultaneously, Lu Changsheng took out the Myriad Spirits Bottle.

A drop of emerald, soybean-sized glistening liquid fell from the Myriad Spirits Bottle into the roots of the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus.

Suddenly, the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus gently swayed, emitting a thriving presence.

Lu Changsheng, observing through his Divine Sense, noticed that the damage on the roots of the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus slowly healed, seemingly replenished and restored.

After a while, thin, mist-like, richly pure Spiritual Energy spilled from the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus.

It was as if an additional small Spiritual Spring had appeared in the eyes of the present Spiritual Spring.

“Yun’er, Zhenzhen, that will do, you can rest for a while.”

Lu Changsheng, seeing his wife’s pale face, immediately spoke.

The Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus was already saved and maintaining its vitality.

With the Spiritual Spring, care from Mount Sumeru, it could continue to recover and begin growing anew.

Moreover, in three months’ time, the Myriad Spirits Bottle would condense another drop of Myriad Spirits Heaven Dew.

By then, this Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus could probably fully recover and start growing.

“Mhm.”

“Husband, is this sufficient?”

The two women, looking at the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus before them, asked

Chapter 1014: Yin Yang Primordial Elixir Method, Lu Miaohuan Breakthrough, Third Rank Artifact Refining!_2 They naturally could see that the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus had revived with new vigor.

But the damage to its rhizome seemed not yet healed, completely restored.

“It’s good enough, thank you for your hard work.”

Lu Changsheng held his wife’s hand and said in a gentle voice.

...

“The Supreme Sect has issued an order, today the Demonic Path is causing chaos, if you find any trace of Demonic Path information, report it immediately, if anyone hides it, they will be executed on the spot!”

Ten days later, the Qingyun Sect issued a Demon Subjugation Order to all family forces and marketplaces.

They didn’t specify what the matter was.

They merely indicated that there was chaos caused by the Demonic Path in Jiang Country, and everyone, including the family forces, only needed to report any trace of Demonic Path information to Qingyun Sect.

If it was verified to be true, Qingyun Sect would reward them.

Anyone who had ties with the Demonic Path and dared to hide it would be labeled as part of the Demonic Path!

“Could it be related to the Demonic Path cultivator who kidnapped Wangshu?”

Lu Changsheng speculated upon hearing this news.

After all, this incident happened immediately after the previous one, which forced him to make the connection.

However, after he had killed the elderly man, nothing had occurred during his seven days outside.

This indicated that the incident had not involved him.

Regarding the Demon Subjugation Order, Lu Changsheng merely instructed his children to avoid going out during this time.

If they were at the marketplace, they should try not to travel back and forth during this period and use messaging for any issues.

Although this Demon Subjugation Order might be a means to locate a specific Demonic Path information,

it could also lead to some Loose Cultivators who received Demonic inheritances, or Demonic Path cultivators hiding in Jiang Country, being noticed and driven to desperation.

...

Time flew by, and in the blink of an eye, three months had passed.

During these days, the Demon Subjugation Order from Qingyun Sect had become very heated.

Not only from Qingyun Sect, Lu Changsheng heard that Luoxia Sect, Spirit Taming Sect, and Heavenly Sword Sect had all issued similar orders.

The entire Jiang Country Cultivation Realm had begun a round of cleansing against the Demonic Path.

This reminded Lu Changsheng of the Demonic incident twenty years ago.

At that time, the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm also conducted a cleansing, and the Xiahou Clan was obliterated by Qingyun Sect.

“Although Jiang Country has no fertile ground for the Demonic Path, every few decades, some will always emerge...”

“But I wonder where Quanzhen is now, I hope he won’t be mistakenly hunted as part of the Demonic Path?”

Lu Changsheng muttered to himself, thinking of his son Lu Quanzhen.

His son had been out for over two years.

According to what Lu Quanzhen had said before, he should now be in Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

“Quanzhen’s cultivation technique is indeed a Demonic Cultivation Technique, but it’s not the kind that involves killing people for training, he wouldn’t do such things; hopefully he won’t be wrongfully labeled as Demonic Path.”

Lu Changsheng shook his head, thinking so in his mind.

At that moment, he remembered that the Myriad Spirits Heaven Dew in his Myriad Spirits Bottle should have condensed.

He immediately checked and, taking the Myriad Spirits Bottle, went to Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven, dropping the Myriad Spirits Heaven Dew onto the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus.

Indeed, with the drop of Myriad Spirits Heaven Dew, the damage on the rhizome of the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus finally healed, bringing a smile to Lu Changsheng’s eyes.

He thought to himself that without the Myriad Spirits Bottle, relying solely on his wife’s healing, it might have taken decades, even a hundred years of life span to heal such damage.

“By the way, Hong Lian, how many years will it approximately take for the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus to advance to the Tianyuan Treasure Emperor Lotus?”

It was then that Lu Changsheng thought of a question and asked Hong Lian.

With the Myriad Spirits Bottle, he was confident he could cultivate the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus to Fourth Rank.

But since the Myriad Spirits Bottle produced only one drop of Myriad Spirits Heaven Dew a year, he couldn’t possibly wait indefinitely for the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus to advance.

“I am not sure either, but this lotus is about seven inches broad, its petals crystalline, resembling jade, it should have advanced to Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus long ago. If it grows to nine inches, it will evolve towards the Tianyuan Treasure Emperor Lotus.”

Hong Lian’s voice echoed in Lu Changsheng’s mind.

Although she recognized the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus,

she only knew this much information on the matter.

“Alright.”

Lu Changsheng nodded.

In his view, it would be best for the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus to advance to Tianyuan Treasure Emperor Lotus.

If it was really impossible for it to advance to the Fourth Rank Emperor Lotus, this Third Rank King Lotus would suffice for the time being.

...

At the same time,

White Crane Mountain, Luo Family.

This was a Foundation Establishment Family with three Foundation Establishment Cultivators in residence, situated under the governance of Spirit Taming Sect, modestly famous.

But because two Foundation Establishment Ancestors in the family had simultaneously fallen a few months ago, it led to the family members being anxious and the family forces gradually retracting.

That day,

a young man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, with a clear and handsome face and narrow eyes, approached near White Crane Mountain.

“Luo Family.”

The young man, looking at White Crane Mountain enveloped by a great formation, sneered, his smile gradually widening, his narrow eyes filled with murderous intent.

Then he took out a set of Spirit Taming Sect disciple robes and put them on, driving a Spirit Boat to the Luo Family’s mountain gate.

“Greetings, senior!”

When the guarding disciples of the Luo Family saw Lu Quanzhen, they immediately bowed and saluted.

After all, the Foundation Establishment’s spiritual pressure and the Spirit Taming Sect disciple robes compelled them not to offend him.

“Summon your Luo Family’s person in charge!”

The young man, with an air of superiority, demanded coldly.

“Please wait a moment, senior!”

The Luo Family’s guarding disciple dared not delay and immediately sent a message to notify the family elders.

Shortly thereafter, several Cultivators hurried over.

“Our Sect received a report that your White Crane Mountain Luo Family has colluded with the Demonic Path, now all Foundation members, the Family Head, and elders, follow me back for investigation!”

The young man took out a token and declared loudly.

“What, colluding with the Demonic Path?”

Upon hearing this, the Luo Family members all looked at each other in dismay, their expressions drastically changing.

Colluding with the Demonic Path was a major crime!

Even if the Luo Family had not committed such an act, just cooperating with the investigation would cost them dearly.

Chapter 1015: Yin Yang Primordial Elixir Method, Lu Miaohuan Breakthrough, Third Rank Artifact Refining!_3 It might not go well, they might bleed a lot, and several people from the family might have to undergo a Soul Search, affecting their Soul Cultivation Level!

“Envoy, could there be some misunderstanding here?”

The Luo Family Ancestor bowed to Lu Quanzhen and spoke very politely.

“Are you defying orders?”

The youth immediately snorted coldly, his Foundation Establishment Spiritual Pressure emanating from him.

Although he was only at the First Layer of Foundation Establishment, still weaker than the Luo Family Ancestor standing before him,

his brow radiated a dominating aura, showing no regard for the other.

“This... does the envoy have a decree?”

Luo Family Ancestor looked at Lu Quanzhen before him and said in a low voice.

The more arrogant and domineering the other party was, the less likely he was to suspect him.

After all, the disciples of the Spirit Taming Sect were generally arrogant and proud, to the point of disregard for others.

“Hmph!”

The youth’s eyes were sharp as knives, giving the Luo Family Ancestor a cold stare.

Then, he took out a brocade box from his chest and threw it in front of the mountain gate, saying coldly, “Get out and receive the decree yourself!”

With a wry smile, Luo Family Ancestor immediately stepped out of the mountain gate and opened the brocade box before him.

However, as soon as the brocade box was opened, a golden light shot towards the Luo Family Ancestor’s forehead, exuding a ferocious and terrifying aura.

“Not good!”

The Luo Family Ancestor realized something was wrong and hastily formed a Protective Aura.

But in front of this golden light, his mana shield was as fragile as tofu and was broken through.

Then with a “pfft,” a bloody hole appeared on his forehead, his face showing an expression of dying without closing his eyes.

“Elder Ancestor!”

Seeing this, the Luo Family Cultivators from White Crane Mountain immediately cried out in horror.

“It’s you, you little bastard, you dare to impersonate a disciple of the Supreme Sect!”

One of the Luo Family elders saw the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm and recognized the youth's identity, shouting angrily.

"I said that if I were to exterminate the Luo Family, then I would wipe you all out."

This youth was Lu Quanzhen.

His eyes were narrow and vicious, and he gave a cold smile to the Luo Family Cultivators, chilling them to the bone, and even causing a few young members of the Luo Family to fall to the ground in fright.

"Activate the Great Formation!"

The Luo Family Head immediately shouted loudly, attempting to activate the family's Great Formation to kill Lu Quanzhen.

However, upon seeing this, Lu Quanzhen simply snatched up the corpse of the Luo Family Ancestor, and like a Peng Bird, he turned into an Escape Light, soaring into the heavens and vanishing without a trace.

Although the Luo Family no longer had a Foundation Establishment Cultivator to hold the fort,

with the protection of the family Great Formation, it was impossible for him to break through alone, so naturally, he wouldn't linger there.

Witnessing this scene, anger burned in the hearts of the Luo Family Cultivators, filled with immense fury.

But beyond anger, there was a deep sense of fear and helplessness!

Especially the high-ranking members of the Luo Family, who were cold from head to toe, their backs drenched in cold sweat.

They knew all too well that the two previously fallen Family Patriarchs had died at the hands of this scourge.

“What sins has my Luo Family committed to offend such a scourge!”

One of the Luo Family elders cried out loudly.

Then, overcome by a surge of emotion, he stumbled and fell to the ground.

The feud between the Luo Family and Lu Quanzhen started over a trivial matter at an auction, where a Direct Lineage member of the Luo Family and Lu Quanzhen contested over a vial of Demon Beast Essence Blood, followed by an ambush.

Just because of this minor incident, the situation continually escalated, leading ultimately to the deaths of two Foundation Establishment Family Patriarchs.

Now, with the last Foundation Establishment Ancestor who presided over the family also dead in the enemy’s hands,

even if the other party didn’t wipe out their Luo Family, their White Crane Mountain would become a juicy morsel for other Family Forces, continuously nibbled away...

...

Half a year later.

Bi Lake Mountain, Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

“Heavenly Longevity Technique, refine!”

Lu Miaohuan, in a black luxurious palace dress, her beauty cold yet dignified, her demeanor majestic, sat cross-legged in front of a sinister and beautiful dark red bloom.

She had started cultivating the Heavenly Longevity Technique alongside Qu Zhenzhen.

However, five years ago, Qu Zhenzhen had completed the cultivation of the Auspicious Tree and mastered the Heavenly Longevity Technique.

And, with the aid of two drops of Myriad Spirits Heaven Dew, she quickly broke through to Foundation Establishment, becoming a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Lu Miaohuan said nothing, but there was some dissatisfaction in her heart.

After all, among Lu Changsheng's wives, aside from Lu Lanshu, Lu Zi'er, Lu Qing'er who were unable to cultivate,

the others, Lu Miaoge, Lu Miaoyun, Qu Zhenzhen, Ling Zixiao, Zhao Qingqing, were all Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

She alone, now, was still at the Eighth Level of Energy Refinement.

How could the strong-willed second young lady feel at ease?

Thus, over the years, she had diligently refined the Abyssal Ghoulish Blossom, hoping to master the Heavenly Longevity Technique as soon as possible.

But the refinement process of the Abyssal Ghoulish Blossom was excruciatingly slow.

Entirely unlike what Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen had claimed, her progress just wouldn't increase.

Fortunately, the progress was slow, but it didn't come to a halt.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng had always comforted her, asserting that the Abyssal Ghoulish Blossom was a few notches more powerful than Lu Miaoyun's Luminous Treasure Tree and Qu Zhenzhen's Auspicious Tree.

After these years of continuous refinement, she also felt she was about to make this demonic plant her Life-bound Spiritual Root.

As Lu Miaohuan refined the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom, their energies mingled, and she became even more enchantingly beautiful.

Suddenly, out of nowhere,

“Boom!”

Lu Miaohuan felt her Spiritual Power uncontrollably pouring out, devoured by the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom.

In the face of this situation, Lu Miaohuan wasn't panicked at all.

Her mature and charming face, with the allure of a young matron, broke out into a smile, her lips slightly pursed, radiating charm.

She knew that she had finally refined the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom into her Life-bound Spiritual Root!

“Come, feast to your heart's content today!”

Lu Miaohuan patted her Storage Bag lightly with her palm.

Instantly, nine large, ice-bound horses appeared.

They were the Nine-Headed Wind-Thunder Steeds belonging to the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family.

These nine steeds were all Second Order Monster Beasts, and in Lu Changsheng's view, they were very suitable for nourishing the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom.

Chapter 1016: Yin Yang Primordial Elixir Method, Lu Miaohuan's Breakthrough, Third Rank Artifact Refining!_4 Lu Miaohuan's refinement of the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom was too slow.

During the process, if too much nourishment was provided, it would likely affect the speed of her refinement.

Thus, the Nine-Headed Wind-Thunder Steed remained frozen and stored in Lu Miaohuan's Storage Bag.

Having learned from the experiences of Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen, Lu Miaohuan knew that providing sufficient Spiritual Energy and nourishment to her Life-bound Spiritual Root during the moment of breakthrough would benefit both herself and the root.

“Rustle rustle rustle!”

The Abyssal Ghoul Blossom swayed, emitting a charming luster. Dark red thorny roots appeared, piercing through the ice and embedding into the flesh and blood of the Wind-Thunder Steed.

Then, the enchanting flower bud transformed into a terrifying, permeating sight, resembling an abyssal maw that enveloped and swallowed a Wind-Thunder Steed.

This step was repeated continuously.

Seeing the scene before her, Lu Miaohuan's expression remained beautifully cold and calm, unfazed.

After all, having tended to her flower for so many years, she had long since become accustomed to such sights.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh!”

As each Wind-Thunder Steed was devoured by the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom, surges of Spiritual Mechanism also emerged from the flower, enveloping and protecting Lu Miaohuan.

Inside Changsheng Hall, Lu Miaoge and Ling Zixiao heard the commotion, stepped out of the main hall, and looked towards the breakthrough occurring Lu Miaohuan.

Ling Zixiao watched Lu Miaohuan with a calm expression, eager to see the effect of her mastering the Heavenly Longevity Technique.

After all, she had long noticed that Lu Miaohuan's Abyssal Ghoul Blossom was unlike the Life-bound Spiritual Roots of Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen.

Watching her sister enveloped in an exotic, captivating beauty, with the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom next to her like a man-eating flower, devouring Wind-Thunder Steeds, Lu Miaoge pursed her lips and her beautiful eyes revealed a touch of concern.

Although she was aware of the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom's state,

the sight still caused her to inwardly sigh.

Not to mention, Jiang Country was currently purging the Demonic Path.

If someone saw her sister's appearance now, they would probably mistake her for a Heretic Cultivator, a Demonic Path Cultivator.

“Boom!”

It wasn't long before Lu Miaohuan's Cultivation Level directly broke through the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement.

Her aura was still climbing.

While the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom digested the Wind-Thunder Steeds and inhaled the dense nature's spiritual energy from Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven, it infused a surge of demonic power different from that of Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen into Lu Miaohuan's body.

During this time, Lu Changsheng heard the news and came to watch the situation alongside Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen.

“Sister Huanhuan should be about to directly break through Foundation Establishment.”

Lu Miaoyun softly said, watching Lu Miaohuan before her.

She could clearly see that Lu Miaohuan's aura was much more overwhelming and powerful than when she and Qu Zhenzhen had their breakthroughs.

Not at all inferior to the commotion she had caused at her own Foundation Establishment.

“Mhm.”

Lu Changsheng nodded.

He had previously suspected that Lu Miaohuan might breakthrough to Foundation Establishment in one go,

so he had arranged for the Mount Sumeru Tree King to transplant the Abyssal Ghoul Blossom from Lake Heart Island into the Cave Heaven,

just to avoid too much disturbance during the breakthrough.

After all, Bi Lake Mountain currently had five Foundation Establishment Cultivators outside: himself, Lu Miaoge, Ling Zixiao, Lu Miaoyun, and Zhao Qingqing.

If a new Foundation Establishment Cultivator were to appear every few years, it would be quite astonishing indeed.

Moreover, many had speculated that Lu Muping's Foundation Establishment breakthrough was related to Bi Lake Mountain.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng wasn't planning to hold any ceremony for the current breakthroughs at home, keeping a low-profile development approach.

Just like that, the disturbance continued.

Three days later, Lu Miaohuan began her Foundation Establishment breakthrough.

Ten days later, Lu Miaohuan successfully broke through Foundation Establishment!

However, what was surprising was that after her Foundation Establishment, the energy within her had not ceased.

It continued for half a month, elevating her Cultivation Level from the First Layer of Foundation Establishment directly to the Third Layer before calming down.

“Congratulations to my dear Huanhuan for mastering the Heavenly Longevity Technique, breaking through Foundation Establishment, becoming a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, and the prospect of achieving Golden Core Nascent Soul is just around the corner.”

Lu Changsheng had been closely monitoring his wife’s condition these days.

Now seeing her finally complete her breakthrough, he was the first to step forward, offering warm congratulations with a chuckle.

After her Foundation Establishment breakthrough, there was a significant change in Lu Miaohuan.

Not only did she look much younger and more beautiful, appearing as if she were in her late twenties, but her entire body also exuded an enigmatic allure.

Her dark hair was deeper and black, with strands reflecting bits of dark red luster, which complemented her pale jade-like skin nicely.

Her pupils also shone with a dark red beautiful luster, giving her a unique charm.

Her nose was high and defined, her lips bewitching, as if touched with fresh blood, vividly enticing.

This appearance made Lu Changsheng think she resembled a ‘darkly made-up’ female boss from TV shows.

All that was missing was some eyeshadow.

Even in Lu Changsheng's eyes, Lu Miaohuan's tall and slender graceful posture seemed even more enchanting, constantly radiating captivating charm.

"Huanhuan, congratulations."

"Congratulations, Sister Huanhuan, on breaking through Foundation Establishment!"

"Wow, Sister Huanhuan, you look so beautiful."

Lu Miaoge, Ling Zixiao, Lu Miaoyun, and Qu Zhenzhen all spoke up, congratulating Lu Miaohuan.

"Thank you, Husband, Sister, Sister Zi Xiao, Miaoyun, and Zhenzhen."

Lu Miaohuan stood up, her face bright with a joyous smile.

Her breakthrough to Foundation Establishment had swept away the gloom from her mind.

After a brief chat, Qu Zhenzhen asked Lu Miaohuan what abilities she had gained.

For example, after Lu Miaoyun's Foundation Establishment breakthrough, she had condensed a Tao Foundation Seed called the Luminous Eye, which could penetrate illusions and related techniques.

When Qu Zhenzhen broke through Foundation Establishment, her Tao Foundation Seed called Universal Illumination of Buddhist Chants could calm the spirit and suppress Heart Demons.

"My Tao Foundation Seed's ability is Blood Essence Extraction."

"It allows me to convert blood essence into Life Essence through the Abyssal Ghoulish Blossom, which is vitality... which means Life Span..."

Chapter 1017: Yin Yang Primordial Elixir Method, Lu Miaohuan Breakthrough, Third Rank Artifact Refining!_5 Lu Miaohuan paused, then softly shared the ability of her Dao Foundation Seed.

Although she always knew that the Abyssal Ghoulish Blossom wasn't considered an orthodox demonic plant,

this ability still made her feel it was a bit too... aligned with the Demon Path.

Using the Abyssal Ghoulish Blossom to devour living beings, thereby plundering the essence of their flesh and blood to transform into pure Life Essence, supplementing her own lifespan.

“Supplement lifespan with Blood Essence?”

Lu Changsheng and Ling Zixiao, among others, were surprised when they heard of this ability.

In the Cultivation World, the importance of lifespan goes without saying.

With lifespan comes a future, and moreover, ninety percent of Cultivators encounter life-threatening challenges throughout their journey such as combat, failure during breakthroughs, cultivating deviations, or casting life-shortening powerful techniques and magics that consume their own lifespan.

Take Energy Refining Cultivators, for instance, whose lifespan is typically about one hundred and twenty years.

However, apart from a very few who practice Nourishing Life Techniques, hardly anyone lives to that age.

The same principle applies to Foundation Establishment.

Therefore, Heavenly and Earthly Treasures and Elixir Medicines related to lifespan extension are exorbitantly priced and extremely rare.

Yet here was Lu Miaohuan with the ability to extend lifespan by devouring the life force of other beings, which was quite astonishing.

However, this lifespan supplementation could only restore what was specially depleted, not enhance the upper limit.

“This is still quite impressive; it’s like Huanhuan, you can practice life-shortening techniques with no consequence, being able to replenish it afterward.”

Ling Zixiao said this.

But after saying so, she thought about the side effects of the Heavenly Longevity Technique—being bound to Bi Lake Mountain, rejecting other cultivation methods, and instinctively shook her head.

After all, if one couldn’t leave Bi Lake Mountain and couldn’t practice life-shortening secret techniques, what good was the ability to replenish one’s lifespan?

“Hehe, no worries, abilities like that don’t matter.”

Lu Changsheng spoke out, seemingly unconcerned about this ability.

He had already realized with Lu Miaoyun’s Luminous Eye that no matter how beneficial the Tao Foundation Seed condensed by the Heavenly Longevity Technique appeared, if one’s freedom was restricted, the abilities would become useless.

However, he did think of his ‘Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates’, which had been collecting dust.

If needed in the future, he could let Lu Miaohuan use it.

After all, combined with the longevity of the Heavenly Longevity Technique and the ability to replenish lifespan, it’d be a perfect match!

The Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates, however, was a one-time-use exotic treasure; once used, it would be gone.

If he later acquired treasures that could curse without limits, those would indeed be quite suitable for Lu Miaohuan.

...

Thereafter, regarding Lu Miaohuan's breakthrough, Lu Changsheng hosted a family banquet to celebrate modestly with his household.

However, afterward, he instructed Lu Yun to go to Qingzhu Mountain and inform his father-in-law, Lu Yuanding.

After all, he felt it necessary to share such news, which would surely bring joy.

That night,

Lu Changsheng, together with Lu Miaoge and Lu Miaohuan, engaged in Dual Cultivation.

Throughout this process, he became increasingly motivated.

Knowing that this was due to Lu Miaohuan's Dao Foundation Seed's ability, replenishing his physical strength and Life Essence during their dual cultivation!

...

Two months later.

[Congratulations to the host, fifty offspring have completed Channeling Qi into the Body, stepping onto the Immortal Path, earning Bloodline Effect: Offspring's Comprehension increased by 3%, and one lottery draw!]

"Hmm, Comprehension increased?"

Upon hearing this system notification, Lu Changsheng's heart skipped a beat.

Initially, he gained the Bloodline Effect of increasing the probability of children's Spiritual Roots and pregnancy rates.

Previously, a Spiritual Body inheritance probability appeared, and now there was an increase in Comprehension.

In the Cultivation World, Comprehension is a broad and mysterious concept.

Whether it's Cultivation Techniques, magic, the Hundred Arts of Cultivation, or anything else, everything is linked with Comprehension.

"Anyway, any boost to Comprehension is a good thing."

"If Comprehension could be improved, then the kids at home would basically all be able to practice Top-Level Techniques."

Lu Changsheng murmured to himself.

Most of the current advanced techniques were entrusted to Lu Miaoyun to manage the Family's Transmission Pavilion.

Due to talent and Comprehension, most siblings at home are still practicing Exquisite Level Cultivation Techniques.

It wasn't that he, their father, was unwilling to teach them.

Unless one's Comprehension was truly exceptional and they could thoroughly understand and resonate with a technique,

Low Quality Spiritual Root bearers could scarcely proceed with Peripheral Sect Level or Orthodox Level Cultivation Techniques, which would make their practice laborious and ineffective compared to practicing an Advanced Level or Exquisite Level Technique.

“Birthrate, Comprehension, Spiritual Body inheritance; I wonder what other Bloodline Effects there might be...”

Lu Changsheng pondered, feeling that if this trend continued, his children would become increasingly exceptional.

However, thinking of this situation, somewhat like the younger children standing on the shoulders of the older ones, Lu Changsheng sighed.

He silently invoked in his mind: “System, lottery draw.”

Instantly, a spinning prize wheel appeared, glistening with golden light.

[Ding, congratulations to the host for obtaining a Third Order Artifact Refinement Skill!]

[The reward has been issued to the System Space; the host can check it at any time.]

A Talisman-shaped orb of light emerged from the prize wheel, accompanied by the sound of the system’s voice.

“What, Third Order Artifact Refinement!?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Artifact skill before him with a pleasant surprise.

Although the family had many Artifact Refiners, they were merely ordinary; not even a Second Rank Artifact Refiner was among them.

To create a Spiritual Artifact for Lu Ping’an, his father had to seek help from others.

Now, with the Third Order Artifact Refinement Skill, the family’s shortcoming in Artifact Refining would finally be addressed!

Lu Changsheng’s Mental Spirit stirred slightly as he turned his attention to the System Space.

[Third Order Artifact Refinement Skill: Upon use, directly comprehend Third Order maxed-out Artifact Refining Skills and a complete basic compendium of Magic Artifacts.]

Chapter 1018: Artifact Refining Concept, Another Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus! “Use it!”

Lu Changsheng activated the Third Order Artifact Refinement Skill from the System Space.

Instantly, knowledge about artifact refining flooded into his mind like a tide.

“Basics of Artifact Refining”

“Foundry Craftsmanship”

“Techniques, Divine Skills, Natural Qi and Materials”

“Principles of Design for Magic Artifacts, Spiritual Artifacts, and Magical Treasures”

...

After a long while.

“Artifact Refining...”

Lu Changsheng slowly opened his eyes, digesting the knowledge on artifact refining in his mind.

It had to be said that this Third Order Artifact Refinement Skill was quite profound.

It had not only provided him with a wealth of knowledge on artifact refining,

but also deepened his understanding of magic and spiritual artifacts, and magical treasures.

In the future, he could even deduce some potential weaknesses and flaws in an opponent's life-bound magic treasure based on its use, thereby devising targeted strategies.

Furthermore, when crafting his own life-bound magic treasure in the future, he could make adjustments based on the original design, incorporating many of his own concepts, making the magic treasure more suited to himself.

After all, whether it was cultivation techniques or magic treasures, they could be used by anyone.

But if something was custom-made and perfectly suited, the effect would inevitably be several times better.

“This path of artifact refining holds some similarities to puppet skills, with a touch of ingeniously shared wisdom between disparate branches...”

Lu Changsheng's eyes narrowed slightly, feeling that there were many similarities between the principles of artifact refining and puppet crafting.

If there was a distinction, it was that artifact refining leaned toward the control of mana, maximizing power and effect in a cultivator's hands.

On the other hand, puppets were more about functionality.

They didn't require much consideration of a cultivator's techniques or mana,

and the inscribing of runes on them was much more intricate and complex.

Now that he had acquired the Third Order Artifact Refining Skill, Lu Changsheng felt that if he could settle down and thoroughly study it, there might be hope of advancing his puppet skills to the third rank.

However, at the moment, Lu Changsheng wasn't greatly interested in Third-Order Puppet Skills.

Rather, his interest in industrialization had been rekindled, along with new ideas.

Years ago, after acquiring puppet skills, Lu Changsheng had the idea of a puppet factory with an assembly line.

Decades had passed, and the Puppet Workshop at Bi Lake Mountain had initially realized assembly line craftsmanship.

But this workshop was still far from his original vision.

In his initial concept, there was not only a manual assembly line but also puppet automation.

Some puppet components and parts would be crafted by puppets.

Even constructing several large-scale puppets, akin to CNC machine tools with artificial intelligence.

But as beautiful as the imagination was, reality was harsh.

The difficulty of construction was one thing,

but what really hindered Lu Changsheng was not a matter of craftsmanship,

but the cost of construction, daily consumption, and subsequent maintenance expenses.

Second Rank Puppets running for long periods required the consumption of Middle Grade Spirit Stones, or even Superior Grade Spirit Stones.

Naturally, their efficiency was slightly higher than that of Energy Refining Cultivators.

But in the Cultivation World, other things might be scarce, but there was no shortage of cultivators.

A puppet apprentice at Bi Lake Mountain earned less than ten Low-Quality Spirit Stones a month in wages.

Even due to the reputation and goodwill of Bi Lake Mountain, countless cultivators were willing to sign indenture contracts for the chance to learn a trade and have a backer, as long as they were provided with food and accommodation.

Under such circumstances, relying on puppet automation was simply a losing business.

The emergence of the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox, which required no daily consumption or subsequent maintenance, could potentially realize Lu Changsheng's idea of automation.

But he was currently unable to craft such Third-Order Puppets, and the cost was too high to consider.

After all, to make a profit from crafting puppets using the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox, it might take hundreds of years just to break even.

But now, having obtained the Third Order Artifact Refinement Skill, Lu Changsheng suddenly had many new ideas.

While full-scale industrialization might not be feasible,

partial industrialization was certainly possible.

For example, whether it was artifact refining, alchemy, talisman making, or puppets, there was one tedious step in common:

the processing of raw materials.

The materials for artifacts and puppets were mainly metal spirit ores,

which required cultivators to spend a great deal of time refining, purging them of impurities.

“The only issue in the process of refining spirit ores is the purging of impurities without losing the inherent spiritual essence.”

“If I could construct a Spiritual Power Furnace that automatically purges impurities and locks in the spiritual essence, I could omit the manual refining step entirely, saving a significant amount of time.”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed as he began to ponder and calculate in his mind to see if he could make this idea a reality.

After all, cost was always a concern.

If the Spiritual Power Furnace turned out to be too costly to operate, then it would be pointless.

“This Spiritual Power Furnace could operate like an Earthfire Array, tapping into Earth Fire, linking up with Spirit Veins, so that it wouldn’t rely on Spirit Stones for power, just the construction and maintenance costs of the magic furnace.”

“Right, I also need to consider the ease of operation because this kind of Spiritual Power Furnace must be controllable by an Energy Refining Cultivator.”

Lu Changsheng continued to think about the feasibility.

After some time, Lu Changsheng felt this idea was worth a try.

Not only for making money,

but also because he had felt for years that the purely manual production methods of the Cultivation World were incredibly inefficient.

As a transmigrator, he felt compelled to do something,

like initiate an industrial revolution.

By exploiting the price scissors effect, he could give the artisan still stuck in primitive workshops of the Cultivation World a little shock.

...

Three months later.

Puppet Workshop.

Lu Changsheng looked at the furnace in front of him, a full ten feet tall and clad in red copper with runes all over, and showed a satisfied expression.

Then he turned to Lu Xianzhi beside him and said, “Xianzhi, give it a try.”

“Yes, Father.”

Lu Xianzhi, in a loose long robe with a mustache on his lip corners and a calm face, nodded in response.

He stepped forward and embedded nine Middle Grade Spirit Stones into the Earth Fire mouth, then made the Gesture Incantations, igniting the Earth Fire Array connected with the furnace. The roaring Earth Fire began to burn.

Chapter 1019: Artifact Refining Concept, Another Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus!_2 “Woom woom woom!”

The Red Copper Melting Furnace began to tremble, its spiritual patterns gleaming with a red luster, their sound growing louder until they rumbled mightily.

“Open!”

Lu Xianzhi, continuing his Gesture Incantations, let out a light shout and opened the feed port of the furnace, unleashing a layer of rolling thermal waves.

He then slapped his Storage Bag and dozens of pieces of Kui Essence Ore flew into the Red Copper Melting Furnace.

“Bang!”

The lid of the feed port closed with a booming sound as the temperature within the furnace continued to rise.

Lu Changsheng observed the situation inside the furnace with his Divine Sense.

He could clearly see the Kui Essence Ore melting into molten iron, its impurities dissipating, while its spirit nature was burnt yet tightly locked within by the inscriptions of the furnace.

After a long while,

The furnace roared and flashed a golden spiritual light.

Seeing this, Lu Xianzhi quickly formed Gesture Incantations with both hands and cast a spell towards the furnace.

The discharge port of the Red Copper Melting Furnace swung open, and a wave of heat flooded out, raising the temperature of the grand hall.

Blob after blob of purified Kui Essence iron juice flowed out, exhibiting a dark, spiritual gleam, then rapidly solidified.

“Father, this Kui Essence has been refined very cleanly; it is just that some of the spiritual essence is not entirely even. If it is to be used for crafting Magic Artifacts or Puppet parts, it might require some additional processing,” Lu Xianzhi said after inspecting the solidified iron and speaking up.

“Alright, I think I know what the issue is,” Lu Changsheng nodded.

He had observed the entire process and had already spotted some issues.

“How do you find the performance of this Melting Spirit Furnace?” Lu Changsheng continued to inquire.

“The efficiency is very high, but it cannot separately melt different types of spirit ores,” Lu Xianzhi replied.

“Moreover, melting too little spirit ore and continually operating for extended periods would be a loss,” Lu Xianzhi added.

“Hmm,” Lu Changsheng nodded, also realizing these issues.

The Melting Spirit Furnace he had casted was approximately a top-grade spiritual tool.

Excluding his labor costs, just the material expenses amounted to over ten thousand Spirit Stones.

With so much time and effort invested and the high cost, the resulting efficiency was seen as quite a failure in Lu Changsheng’s eyes.

“Father, currently we have several stable spirit mines in White Tiger Mountain. As long as we transport these spirit ores here for unified melting, we will be able to significantly reduce the cost and greatly improve efficiency,” Lu Xianzhi continued.

“Moreover, once the scale of our family’s workshop expands further in the future, the effect of this Melting Spirit Furnace will also greatly enhance,” Lu Xianzhi added.

While Lu Xianzhi thought the furnace’s performance was mediocre, somewhat lacking in utility, he naturally didn’t want to dampen his father’s spirits since he had invested so much time and thought into it.

“Alright, when I have time later, I’ll work on improving it. You can see in the mean time if there are any other issues that need to be addressed,” said Lu Changsheng a bit listlessly as he exited the Puppet Workshop.

At this moment, he further understood how difficult it was to industrialize the Cultivation World.

Even as a Third-Order top-tier Artifact Refiner like himself, crafting a Melting Spirit Furnace for just First and Second Rank spirit ores was so troublesome.

To keep optimizing and improving while spending time and effort for a result that only increased efficiency and saved a bit in labor costs.

With the time and energy, whether in Alchemy, Artifact Refining, or Talisman Making, he would earn much more.

For Lu Changsheng, this could only be seen as a hobby of pure interest, not wholly measurable by profit.

“Yes, Father,” Lu Xianzhi nodded in agreement.

After watching Lu Changsheng leave, he stood silently, gazing at the Melting Spirit Furnace before him, unable to help but admire his father’s creativity and hands-on abilities.

“If the Puppet Workshop could increase its foundation tenfold from now and have a continual supply of spirit ores, then the efficiency of this Melting Spirit Furnace could probably be realized,” Lu Xianzhi murmured.

Although Bihu Lake Mountain’s Puppet Workshop was doing well, its reach was limited to the surrounding area without further expansion.

Consequently, the workshop hadn’t grown much in size over the years; it had mainly increased the variety of puppets and the production of advanced puppets.

But the demand for puppets was only so high.

Unless they could expand the business throughout the entire Qingyun Region and even the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm,

Only then could the effectiveness of a Melting Spirit Furnace like this truly come into play.

“To expand the family business across the entire Qingyun Region, the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm is not without hope. I just wonder if I will live to see that day...” Lu Xianzhi thought of his father, the several aunts at home, and his siblings, Lu Qingshan, Lu Quanzhen, and Lu Wangshu.

With them, the family would most likely advance further, eventually becoming a top-tier family in the Qingyun Region or even a Nascent Soul Great Clan!

However, with his Ninth Grade Spiritual Root, this life was destined to be without Foundation Establishment. He didn't know if he would witness that day.

"I may not see it, but Xuanyu will definitely witness it in the future," mused Lu Xianzhi, his face lighting up with a smile.

He had a total of four children.

His second son, Lu Xuanyu, although only possessing a Seventh Grade Spiritual Root, had much greater talent in puppetry than his father.

He had the potential to become a Second-Order Puppeteer and perhaps would see the family reach that milestone.

...

Time flew quickly, and in the blink of an eye, more than half a year passed.

After such persistent cultivation, Xia Zhiyue finally started her attempt at Foundation Establishment.

For Xia Zhiyue, Lu Changsheng had also taken her to the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven for her breakthrough.

After all, she had followed him for over thirty years, had only a younger brother outside, and he trusted her greatly.

"Hmm, is this about to fail?" Lu Changsheng looked at Xia Zhiyue, who was in the midst of her breakthrough, with a slight frown.

With so many in his household having undertaken Foundation Establishment, he was all too familiar with the process.

He keenly sensed that Xia Zhiyue was running out of steam and on the verge of failure.

Chapter 1020: Artifact Refining Concept, Another Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus!_3 However, when I think about it, Xia Zhiyue is only a Seventh Grade Spiritual Root and hasn't undergone much tempering. With an average disposition, it's normal for her to fail her breakthrough.

After all, consuming a Foundation Establishment Elixir only increases the probability of breakthrough, not guaranteeing it one hundred percent.

“Fortunately, I was prepared in advance.”

Naturally, Lu Changsheng would not allow Xia Zhiyue's breakthrough to fail.

He acted as her protector to prevent any mishaps during her breakthrough process.

He immediately stepped forward, took her in his arms, and whispered, “Zhiyue, calm your mind, I will help you with your Foundation Establishment...”

“Mmm~”

Xia Zhiyue, who was striving to break through to Foundation Establishment, felt her lips captured and her body softened with weakness, instinctively raising her jade arms to wrap around Lu Changsheng's neck upon hearing his words.

Soon after, with rustling sounds, two silhouettes merged, and soft, crisp cries filled the air.

As Lu Changsheng continued to cultivate the “Inverted Phoenix Reversal Technique,” he infused his mana and the Yin Yang Energies into Xia Zhiyue.

The Dao Foundation that initially lacked momentum for solidification continued to coalesce, slowly rising from Elixir Lake.

However, due to the forced solidification by external forces, one could see that the entire Dao Foundation was filled with dense cracks, resembling a shattered jade disk.

This was indeed the lowest tier of Dao Foundations, the Bedrock Shatter!

Yet, despite being a Bedrock Shatter, Xia Zhiyue successfully completed her Foundation Establishment under such circumstances.

“Thank you, my husband...”

After a while, Xia Zhiyue, with a flush on her face and charm in her eyes, spoke to Lu Changsheng, her voice trembling.

Other cultivators would be in an unprecedentedly good condition immediately after their Foundation Establishment, filled with strength.

But Xia Zhiyue’s breakout process was unlike ordinary people.

Not only did she have to endure the surge of nature’s spiritual energy, but she also had to withstand the impact from Lu Changsheng.

Moreover, during this process, she had to concentrate on solidifying her Dao Foundation in coordination with Lu Changsheng, leaving her completely exhausted in body and spirit, not wanting to move even a finger.

“It’s alright, you should rest well.”

Lu Changsheng spoke gently.

He found the sensation of Dual Cultivation during her Foundation Establishment to be quite unique.

“Mmm~”

Xia Zhiyue replied softly, quietly experiencing the transformation of breaking through her Dao Foundation.

Although it was only the solidification of the worst Bedrock Shatter, it was still a transformation that was both elevating and purifying.

At this moment, Xia Zhiyue felt as if she were dreaming.

She could not have imagined that one day, she would actually be able to succeed in Foundation Establishment.

“Dad, your daughter has broken through to Foundation Establishment...”

Xia Zhiyue softly murmured, thinking of her father.

She remembered how, since childhood, her father’s greatest wish was to break through to Foundation Establishment one day.

He hoped that both she and her brother would also be able to achieve Foundation Establishment to become esteemed Foundation Establishment Great Cultivators!

Back then, it was just a father’s wishful thinking, a wish for his children to succeed, almost impossible to fulfill.

But now, she seemed to have fulfilled her father’s dream.

Not long ago, her brother Xia Zhaoyang had written to her, saying he had gathered enough Foundation Establishment Elixirs and Foundation Establishment Spiritual Objects, and was preparing to attempt Foundation Establishment soon.

Unlike her, he had a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root and was a disciple of the Immortal Sects.

Moreover, over the years, he had managed to accumulate Foundation Establishment Elixirs and Spiritual Objects due to his own efforts, making it very likely for him to succeed in Foundation Establishment.

“I wonder what Xiaoyang’s expression would be if he knew I achieved Foundation Establishment before him.”

Xia Zhiyue thought of her brother Xia Zhaoyang, a hint of amusement appearing in her eyes.

...

Half a month later.

“Hmm, Xi Yue’s here?”

Lu Changsheng was instructing his daughter Lu Wangshu in her cultivation when he suddenly felt something and produced a Yin-Yang Sensing Talisman in his hand.

He knew that Xiao Xiyue had arrived at Bi Lake Mountain.

He immediately took his daughter Lu Wangshu to meet Xiao Xiyue.

When the three met, they shared joyful greetings and went straight back to Bi Yun Peak.

Lu Changsheng inquired about whether Xiao Xiyue’s trip was related to an end to the matters concerning Luoyun Mountain Range.

Years ago, when he took Lu Wangshu to the Luoyun Mountain Range, Xiao Xiyue had estimated that the Secret Realm would end in about half a year, yet she had only returned now.

“Mmm, something unexpected happened in the Secret Realm...”

Xiao Xiyue responded softly.

She explained that Demonic Path Cultivators had appeared in the Secret Realm, causing delays.

It was also because of this matter that Qingyun Sect issued a Demon Subjugation Order, and the ownership of the Secret Realm was shared with Heavenly Sword Sect, Luoxia Sect, and Spirit Taming Sect.

“Hmm? Demonic Path Cultivators appeared in the Secret Realm, and because of this, Qingyun Sect issued a Demon Subjugation Command?”

Lu Changsheng, upon hearing this, thought of the Demonic Path Nascent Soul he had blasted away and paused in contemplation.

“Mmm.”

Xiao Xiyue nodded lightly and took out several Jade Boxes from her Storage Bag for her daughter: “Wangshu, these are gifts from your mother.”

Then, she handed one Jade Box to Lu Changsheng: “Changsheng, I’ve also brought you a gift.”

“Oh, I have one too?”

Lu Changsheng’s eyebrows raised slightly; a hint of a smile appeared on his face.

He hadn’t expected Xiao Xiyue to have prepared gifts for both her daughter Lu Wangshu and him.

He opened the Jade Box.

Inside, there lay a three-inch-tall, crystalline blue-white lotus.

“The Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus!?”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed slightly in surprise upon seeing the lotus.

The lotus before him was about three inches wide, with crystal clear petals, tinted in blue and white.

Based on what Hong Lian had previously told him, he recognized it as the Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus!

“Eh?”

The nearby Lu Wangshu also found the Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus a bit familiar.

It somewhat resembled the lotus she had seen when her father had harvested it from the Nine Heavens Gang Wind Layer.

However, this particular lotus was nowhere near as large or as beautiful as the one her father had.

“Do you recognize it, Changsheng?”

Xiao Xiyue was somewhat taken aback.

With a soft gaze and a smile, she said, “I know you have been looking for Spiritual Spring objects and collecting Spiritual Origin Pearls.”

“This time in the Secret Realm, when I learned that planting this Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus would yield the effects of a Spiritual Origin Pearl, I exchanged for one.”

Xiao Xiyue said this.

“Xi Yue, come with me.”

Lu Changsheng let out a breath and spoke to Xiao Xiyue.

Based on her words and the appearance of the Heavenly Origin Precious Lotus, he had already surmised a rough idea about the affair with Black Crow True Immortal.

He even guessed what might have happened in the Secret Realm.