

I. Family 1031

Chapter 1031: Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror, Insect Nest Bag!_3 To be honest, he wasn't too keen on making an enemy of Bi Lake Mountain now; he just wanted to reclaim White Tiger Mountain for his own family.

“Let's wait regarding the matter of White Tiger Mountain...”

Ancestor of Jin Family said calmly.

He was more wary of Bi Lake Mountain and the circumstances of Lu Changsheng and his wife than many others in his family.

Initially, he wanted to use another's hand to kill, elevating Bi Lake Mountain, so that Beast Taming Xu Family would take notice of Lu Clan's couple.

Who would have expected that Beast Taming Xu Family would have such a catastrophe, resulting in the death of a False Core Patriarch.

This caused the Third Ancestor of Xu Family to have no leisure to concern themselves with Lu Changsheng.

Otherwise, if Lu Changsheng were to die, Bi Lake Mountain would no longer be a concern.

“Yes, Patriarch.”

Patriarch of Jin Family responded respectfully.

As the Patriarch of Jin Family, he knew that the Great Elder, because of the previous incident with Bi Lake Mountain, had given up trying for Core Formation and was preparing to condense a False Core.

Although the False Core was far from comparable to Nascent Soul Immortals,

With the preparations made by the family over the years, the Great Elder had at least a fifty percent certainty of condensing a False Core.

Once he condensed the False Core, it would be enough to break the current deadlock in the family, and take another step forward.

“Continue to observe the situation of Bi Lake Mountain, or use White Tiger Mountain to probe them.”

“These years, Bi Lake Mountain, Lu Clan couple has been too calm; this Lu Changsheng does not seem like someone who is content...”

“This time, their moving businesses to White Tiger Mountain might have some hidden purpose.”

Ancestor of Jin Family spoke.

Back then, he went to Bi Lake Mountain with Jin Zan to present gifts and apologize, raising Bi Lake Mountain’s status.

Since then, Bi Lake Mountain seemed to realize being too high-profile and has been very low-key these years.

The occupation of White Tiger Mountain had been in a semi-abandoned state until now they began to operate, arousing his suspicions.

“Yes, Patriarch.”

Patriarch of Jin Family immediately replied.

He came to see the Patriarch this time to report this matter, suspecting that Bi Lake Mountain had some kind of intention.

Early on, once Lu Changsheng had taken over Bi Lake Mountain, he would stir up trouble every few years.

But these years, not only has there been no movement, but even marrying and having children had slowed down.

Like with Lu Qingshan, Xia Zhaoyang, and Xiao Xiyue, if he hadn't been paying attention to Bi Lake Mountain and Lu Changsheng, he wouldn't have known about these matters at all.

Therefore, he suspected that Bi Lake Mountain, like his own family, was secretly plotting and accumulating strength, not wanting to draw attention to themselves.

“Patriarch, Cheng Yun takes his leave.”

Then, Patriarch of Jin Family took his leave.

He prepared to probe Bi Lake Mountain through White Tiger Mountain.

To see what Lu Changsheng was really scheming.

...

Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

Changsheng Hall.

Lu Changsheng was refining the ‘Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror’.

Suddenly, he sensed a pure surge of mana entering his Qi Ocean Core.

He knew one of his children had broken through to the Ninth Level Energy Refinement.

As for his children's breakthrough to the Ninth Level Energy Refinement, he was still quite concerning.

After all, the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement meant they needed to prepare for Foundation Establishment, and he, as their father, would have to prepare the Foundation Establishment Elixir.

“Wangshu?”

Lu Changsheng first thought of his daughter Lu Wangshu and glanced at the system interface.

[Name: Lu Wangshu]

[Life Span: 26/119]

[Talent: Fourth Grade Spiritual Root, Blood Talisman Spiritual Body (Superior Spirit Body)]

[Cultivation Level: Eighth Level Energy Refinement]

[Talent: Talisman Path Compatibility (89%)]

“Hm? Not Wangshu?”

Lu Changsheng was surprised; he hadn’t expected it wasn’t his daughter Lu Wangshu who broke through to the Ninth Level Energy Refinement.

He continued looking at other children of his who were cultivating quickly.

[Name: Nangong Yaoyao]

[Life Span: 20/141]

[Talent: Second-Grade Spiritual Root, Flawless Heavenly Fragrance Body (Top Level Spiritual Body)]

[Cultivation Level: Ninth Level Energy Refinement]

[Talent: Charm Technique Compatibility (89%)]

“Yaoyao has reached the Ninth Level Energy Refinement, huh...”

Lu Changsheng looked at the system panel before him, somewhat surprised and reflective.

Unbeknownst to him, this daughter he had not yet met had reached the Ninth Level Energy Refinement.

And judging by the cultivation talent of this daughter, she could probably break through Foundation Establishment in two to three years.

Such cultivation talent was the fastest among all his children.

He anticipated that only Lu Lingxiao in the future might be comparable to her.

However, Nangong Yaoyao's speed in cultivation, aside from her astonishing talent, probably had a lot to do with Nangong Mili's nurturing.

“Sigh.”

Lu Changsheng had thought about visiting Jin Kingdom to meet this daughter after forming his core.

But at his current pace, reaching Core Formation would probably take another decade or so.

By that time, the daughter would have already broken through Foundation Establishment and her personality set.

“Sigh.”

Lu Changsheng sighed again and closed his eyes to continue refining his Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror.

...

Two months later.

Lu Changsheng observed the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror floating before his eyes.

After more than three months, he had finally succeeded in refining the magical treasure.

“Whoosh!”

Lu Changsheng forced out a drop of essence blood, which flew towards the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror.

“Hum!”

As the treasure mirror swallowed the drop of essence blood, radiant light flowed like a pure and sacred five-colored lotus beginning to bloom.

Immediately, an outline of a human body slowly emerged on the mirror’s surface.

Like a 3D human model, lacking specific facial features.

It displayed the skin, muscles, blood flow, veins, mana, dantian, and acupoints in different colors, clearly visible to the observer.

“So this is my body’s condition? Flawless skin and muscles, robust blood flow like rivers, strong mana, but in the Qi Ocean Core there are two different kinds of mana, showing that the Seven Luminaries Mana is transitioning into Yin Yang Magic Power.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the situation inside the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror and could tell his physique and body were perfect without any blemishes or hidden injuries.

Then, he attempted to circulate the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture.

In the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror, a stream of Seven Luminaries Mana flowed through his inner veins and acupoints.

Chapter 1032: Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror, Insect Nest Bag!_4 The process was incredibly smooth, seamless, and without the slightest delay or pause,

indicating his mana and physical body were in perfect harmony, and his cultivation had no issues.

“Tsk, tsk, tsk, it’s just like me.”

Lu Changsheng’s face revealed a hint of a smile.

Then, with his fingers together, he executed the Seven Luminaries Sword Qi.

In the reflection of the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror, a stream of mana traveled from the dantian through the meridians and instantly condensed into a sharp sword qi at his fingertips.

This process was also exceptionally smooth and flowing.

However, when Lu Changsheng switched to a technique that he had not obtained through the system but had studied previously, his mana became significantly stiffer and not as practiced and smooth as before.

“This magical treasure truly is a treasure for transmitting teachings!”

Lu Changsheng nodded in appreciation.

Afterward, he wanted to try to activate the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror to deduce the state of his cultivation technique.

But when mana surged into the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror, it was like a stone sinking into the sea: it merely nudged the magical treasure without being able to activate this effect.

This made Lu Changsheng realize that even though he had broken through to Core Formation, using the treasure mirror to correct others' cultivation techniques was not easy and required a substantial amount of mana.

The other effect of the treasure mirror, the ability to guide others in their cultivation through the Mirror Disciple, likewise required great magical power to sustain.

Without delay, Lu Changsheng left the Changsheng Hall and found his wife, Lu Miaoyun.

He asked her to notify all the Lu family disciples who had begun their cultivation to come; he wanted to inspect their cultivation status.

Lu Miaoyun, although not knowing why Lu Changsheng had suddenly taken such an interest, did not ask more questions and immediately had their son, Lu Yun, gather the family disciples.

Before long, thirty-seven Lu family disciples lined up in a queue, excluding the twenty-eight children who were out, all looking at Lu Changsheng, their father and grandfather, with a mix of nervousness and trepidation.

After all, Lu Changsheng had never conducted such a surprise inspection of their cultivation status.

Usually, he would only take an interest and ask about it at family banquets, or under certain circumstances.

Many concubines, hearing the news, came to watch, wanting to know what was happening.

They worried that if their children's cultivation was poor, or performance lacking, it would displease Lu Changsheng.

"Yun'er, let's start with you," said Lu Changsheng, looking at his son, Lu Yun.

Now that Lu Ping'an, Lu Xianzhi, Lu Quanzhen, Lu Ruyi, and others were all out, Lu Yun was the eldest among these children.

“Yes, Father,” Lu Yun walked up to Lu Changsheng.

Lu Changsheng did not use the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror right away.

Instead, he shrunk it to the size of a palm and held it in his hand, asking Lu Yun to drop a drop of essence blood on it.

Lu Yun did not hesitate; a magical sword appeared in his hand, he cut his finger and let a drop of essence blood fall onto the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror.

Instantly, Lu Changsheng activated the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror and saw an image of his son.

He could clearly see every detail of his son’s body, meridians, dantian, and mana.

Lu Yun’s image was not as flawless and radiant with golden light as his own.

It had several small red spots, indicating areas of concern.

They might have originated from issues during cultivation, fighting techniques, childhood bumps and bruises, or even daily habits.

“Run your cultivation technique,” Lu Changsheng said to Lu Yun.

As expected, as Lu Yun operated his cultivation technique, the flow of mana would clearly slow down a bit at the red spots, not flowing as smoothly as it should.

Lu Yun himself might not have noticed these nuances in his daily practice.

But under the reflection of the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror, Lu Changsheng could see everything clearly.

“Your spiritual energy at the Celestial Spring acupoint and the Extreme Spring acupoint is somewhat uncomfortable. Later, go to the Medical Pavilion for treatment and nourishment.

During your daily sitting cultivation, let spiritual power linger a bit longer, about three breaths at these few spots..." Lu Changsheng spoke up, offering guidance on his son's current situation.

The issues were there, but they were not severe.

After all, with guidance from Hong Lian, he occasionally paid attention to the cultivation status of his children.

If the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror had detected a pile of problems, he and Hong Lian might as well have gone and banged their heads against tofu.

Now, for him and Hong Lian, the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror served to identify and fix deficiencies.

It made their children's cultivation as close to perfect as possible!

Once he broke through to Core Formation, he would be able to use the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror to transmit teachings and allow their cultivation techniques to adapt accordingly, reaching true perfection!

"Celestial Spring acupoint, Extreme Spring acupoint?" Lu Yun was unaware of the issues in these areas.

However, he trusted his father's words completely, without any doubt, and respectfully responded, "Yes, Father!"

Immediately, the next son stepped forward.

Lu Changsheng instructed him to do as Lu Yun did, then said, "You should consume a Breakthrough Elixir for the realm you're attempting to break through, right?"

"Your foundation is still somewhat shaky; you need to solidify your foundation well in the coming time. Then, during sitting cultivation and while running your cultivation technique, linger a bit longer at the Shoulder Center Shu, Fanning Wind... at several points. Wait until you are at the peak of the Seventh Level before rushing to break through. Exchange for a Three Suns Elixir from the family, then continue your cultivation."

After checking his son's condition, Lu Changsheng quickly offered pinpoint advice.

Not only was he proficient in a multitude of cultivation techniques, but as a Second-Order Alchemist, he also had a basic understanding of pharmacology.

“Thank you, Father.”

The son exhaled in relief and nodded in agreement.

Thus, one by one, the children lined up and approached, Lu Changsheng gave them advice on their physical condition and some issues in their cultivation.

All the wives and Lu Family disciples were surprised, they all looked at their father, their grandfather, with astonishment and doubt.

Lu Miaoyun, seeing this situation, guessed that her husband must have obtained some treasure or had cultivated some new technique and magical powers.

Otherwise, her husband wouldn't have possessed such an astonishing capability before.

This time, their son Lu Lingxiao also came to line up.

Lu Changsheng checked his condition through the Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror.

The son's body had no problems at all.

Even his eyes and left hand shimmered with golden specks.

Indicating that his cultivation of eye and left hand techniques and magical powers was extraordinary.

It took a whole day for Lu Changsheng to examine all his children's conditions.

They all had no major problems, at most some minor ones.

It showed that Hong Lian was truly exceptional.

There was no need for a detailed check on each person's condition.

By resolving some issues they encountered during their daily cultivation practice, he could solve most of their problems.

This check-up also allowed Lu Changsheng to gain a detailed understanding of the cultivation progress of all his family's disciples.

For example, his son Lu Qingxuan was progressing slightly faster in his cultivation than his daughter Lu Wangshu.

It was estimated that he would be able to break through to the Ninth Level of Qi Refinement in another two months.

But this was normal.

This son, with a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root, was much more diligent and hardworking than Lu Wangshu in cultivation and didn't need to be distracted by other things.

Immediately after, Lu Changsheng told Lu Miaoyun that from now on, every six months when instructing cultivation, she should inform him.

He would examine and guide the Lu family disciples' cultivation progress with Hong Lian.

...

Three months later.

[Congratulations, Host. Five of your children have broken through to the Ninth Level of Qi Refinement, granting you one lottery draw opportunity!]

“Hmm? Five and there’s Child Money already?”

“Could this be related to the number of times Qi is channeled into the body?”

Lu Changsheng’s eyebrows rose as he heard the system’s prompt.

He guessed it must be his son Lu Qingxuan who had broken through to the Ninth Level of Qi Refinement.

Upon checking the system interface, it was indeed the case.

Although this son had only just made a breakthrough, Lu Changsheng planned to refine the second batch of Foundation Establishment Elixirs after some time.

Over the years, the family had already gathered all the auxiliary ingredients for the Foundation Establishment Elixir, ready to start alchemy at any time.

“System, draw a prize!”

Having obtained a Cave Mystique Treasure Mirror not long ago, Lu Changsheng was now very interested in magical treasures.

He was thinking about getting another treasure like the Illusion Heart Platform from Qingyun Sect, a soul-searching magical treasure.

Or another kind of magical treasure that could nurture and temper the family’s disciples.

[Ding! Congratulations to the Host for obtaining an Exotic Treasure: Insect Nest Bag!]

[Reward has been issued to the System Space. Host can check it at any time]

A silver-gray bag with a fierce pattern emerged from the roulette wheel, accompanied by a system notification sound.

“An Exotic Treasure?”

Lu Changsheng raised his eyebrows upon seeing this reward.

He was quite fond of exotic treasures.

Because exotic treasures had no usage restrictions, and most of their effects were quite good.

It was just that this particular exotic treasure seemed a bit unorthodox.

With a slight stir in his mind, Lu Changsheng looked towards the System Space.

[Exotic Treasure: Insect Nest Bag]

[Grade: Third Rank]

[Description: Suitable for the survival of most Spiritual Insects. If Demon Beast flesh and blood are thrown in, the Insect Nest Bag will automatically refine it, forming Flesh and Blood Bug Pellets that can accelerate the propagation and growth of Spiritual Insects.]

“It’s a bit lackluster...”

Lu Changsheng shook his head after reading the introduction to this exotic treasure.

In his early years, due to Meng Xiaochan’s influence, he had taken an interest in Insect Control.

But gradually, he lost this interest.

Also, possessing the Ancient Beast Taming Charm, if he really wanted to raise Spiritual Insects, he could completely let Hong Lian help with the breeding.

After all, the effect of the Insect Nest Bag was not only similar, but the Ancient Beast Taming Charm was many times better!

So in his view, although the Insect Nest Bag was nice, it was a rather superfluous treasure.

“And the family doesn’t seem to have any Insect Control inheritance, nor does anyone seem to have a talent for it.”

Lu Changsheng let out a sigh.

However, the next moment, his eyes narrowed slightly as he suddenly thought of one of his sons.

Chapter 1033: The Path of Insect Control, Fourth Elder’s Joyful Tragedy! Bihu Lake Mountain, Lu Family Academy.

“The Cultivation World is full of killing and danger. One misstep and you could perish, your path to immortality cut short. How should we respond, how to avoid danger? Lu Chensha, you speak first.”

The lecturer looked at an eleven or twelve-year-old boy, with rosy lips, white teeth, and a handsome face.

“First, we should avoid getting involved in trouble or entangled with strange people and situations, and the best way is simply to stay at home and not go out.”

Lu Chensha stood up and said so.

“Hahaha...”

“Never leave home for a lifetime.”

“If you want to cultivate, unless you have the rumored Heavenly Spiritual Root, without an opportunity or a stroke of fortune, how can you succeed in cultivation?”

Youngsters of the same age in the academy laughed.

“Second, it is the trump cards, the methods. The Cultivation World is so dangerous; one must have sufficient trump cards, methods unknown to others, so that we can solve the dangers and troubles we may encounter with those of the same realm.”

“Third, always be ready to run away, even if you must go out seeking opportunities, don’t risk your life.”

Lu Chensha, unconcerned by the look in others’ eyes, said so.

This question was one he had once asked his father, and it was the answer his father had given him.

“Hmm...”

Upon hearing this, the lecturer fell silent for a moment before speaking, “Lu Chensha makes a good point. While cultivation requires a spirit of enterprise, one’s own safety must always come first...”

After class ended, Lu Chensha came to the Lu family’s library alone.

Because Lu Changsheng had liked to read in his earlier years, learning about the Cultivation World, he believed all his children should read widely.

Therefore, he had moved all the common, marketplace-available books on cultivation back to his home, placing them in the library.

It could be said that the collection in the Lu Family’s library was more complete than most marketplaces’ bookstores.

Lu Chensha liked to come to the library and read whenever he had spare time.

Not that he truly enjoyed reading.

On one hand, his personality was somewhat reclusive, with not many friends, preferring to be alone.

On the other hand, it was his somewhat unfamiliar memory of his mother telling him to listen to his father and try his best to gain his father's favor. He wanted to perform well in front of his father, to be noticed by him.

“Foundation Establishment, Core Formation, Nascent Soul... these Divine Skills are indeed profound. It's just a pity that I'm only in the Qi Refinement Realm, just getting a glimpse of the path. Well, these old topics aren't very interesting to look at anyway.”

Lu Chensha casually read books, came across a manual recording the realms of cultivation, shook his head, and mused under his breath.

He had already channeled Qi into his body and naturally knew about the major realms of cultivation.

But he was also aware that those who could cultivate to the Foundation Establishment Stage were rare.

Even with his Fifth Grade Spiritual Root and good talent, he did not dare to say that he could establish his foundation in the future.

“Path of the Insect Control, myriad insects gathering, in the thousands and millions, able to destroy cities and pull down strongholds, invincible in all directions... A million fierce insects could even shake the heavens...”

“Iron Fire Ants, a gregarious, fierce insect that devours metals and nature's spiritual energy, extremely vicious, immune to water and fire, likes to cluster in spherical forms...”

“Nine Yin Venom Bee, born in the Nine Yin lands, an ancient mutant bee that gathers in swarms, can spray purple poison gas, and whoever is stung by its nine-tailed bee sting will die instantly...”

“Hui Shen Worm, a parasitic and peculiar insect, feeds on the spirits and souls of others, and as soon as it suffers a Divine Sense Attack, it immediately releases a special poison attacking the source...”

“Sky Devouring Locust, Blood Jade Spider, Iron Fire Ant, Red Flame Scorpion... Eh, my Thousand Legged Centipede is also in this book?”

Lu Chensha found this unknown manual of rare insects quite interesting.

His Cultivation Technique was called the “Beast Technique,” and he was going to pursue the path of Beast Taming.

Insect Control was very close to Beast Taming, and could even be considered as a branch of Beast Taming.

Moreover, when he began his cultivation, his mother had given him a Thousand Legged Centipede with Earth Grade Bloodline.

It was also for this reason that he realized his often absent mother was extraordinary.

After all, a demon beast with Earth Grade Bloodline, most people did not have the capability and wealth to acquire one.

“If only my Thousand Legged Centipede were a gregarious fierce insect, then according to this book, a Qi Refinement Cultivator with hundreds or thousands of fierce insects could also assassinate a Foundation Building Great Cultivator.”

After finishing the book, Lu Chensha sighed to himself.

“Chensha.”

Just then, suddenly a gentle voice sounded at Lu Chensha’s ear.

He turned abruptly, looking to see a handsome young man dressed in a Green Robe standing not too far away.

He immediately shook, saluted with clasped hands and said, “Your son pays his respects to Father.”

“Are you interested in the Way of Insect Control?”

Lu Changsheng asked his son.

This son of his had a Fifth Grade Spiritual Root, inheriting some of Xu Ruyin’s talent for Beast Taming.

Thus, when Hong Lian taught the Lu family’s disciples to cultivate, she expressed that this child had a good talent for Beast Taming.

And Xu Ruyin also sent her son a Thousand Legged Centipede with a Mid-grade Earth Level bloodline.

“I just happened across it and was getting to know it a little.”

Lu Chensha did not know what his father had come to see him for and was quite constrained.

“If you are interested in the Way of Insect Control, you can delve into it.”

Lu Zhang smiled warmly and produced a silver-grey bag emblazoned with layers of ferocious patterns, bound with red strings.

“This bag is called an Insect Nest Bag and is very suitable for housing Spiritual Insects. Normally, when feeding the insects, just put the flesh and blood of demon beasts into the bag, and it will automatically form Flesh and Blood Bug Pellets, accelerating the growth and reproduction of the Spiritual Insects.”

“If you’re interested, and perform well in the path of Insect Control, then this bag will be yours.”

Lu Zhang tossed the bag to his son and said this.

Insect Control could be considered a branch of Beast Taming.

If his son showed good talent on the path of Insect Control, Lu Zhang thought of giving the Insect Nest Bag to him.

Chapter 1034: The Way of Insect Control, Fourth Elder's Joyous Bereavement!_2 After all, the Insect Nest Bag reminded him of the Ancient Beast Taming Charm and of Xu Ruyin.

Xu Ruyin had been with the Beast Taming Xu Family all these years, unable to be by Lu Chensha's side. Naturally, as a father, he had to show some concern.

Moreover, his son was capable of mastering the Beast Technique, which made him worthy of focused cultivation.

"Insect Nest Bag, the path of Insect Control."

Although Lu Chensha did not know why his father suddenly mentioned the path of Insect Control,

observing the silver-grey bag in his hand, he did not hesitate and immediately cupped his hands, saying, "Thank you, father. Your son will certainly not disappoint you."

"Um."

Lu Changsheng nodded, then checked on this son's cultivation and life matters.

He asked him to seek Lu Yun's help to purchase insect eggs and also allocated an extra fifty Spirit Stones each month for him to nurture the insects.

After making these arrangements, Lu Changsheng returned to Blue Lake Mountain.

For him, this matter was just something done in passing.

Whether this son could make something of himself depended on his own efforts.

...

A year later.

Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven, Changsheng Hall.

A powerful Mana force emanated from the Cave Mansion, intangible Spiritual Pressure already surpassing the Foundation Establishment level, akin to that of a False Core Immortal.

“As expected, at this rate, without even fully converting the Yin Yang Creation Scripture, the realm could achieve a breakthrough to the Ninth Level Foundation Establishment through my children.”

Lu Changsheng opened his eyes; his gaze was piercing, as if it were two intimidating swords.

Over the years, he had spent most of his time converting the Yin Yang Creation Scripture.

Still, relying on the added cultivation from his children and the gradual improvement of Sun Moon Samsara Technique, his progress could still be considered incredibly fast.

He quietly sensed the Mana within his body.

With the enhancement from the Profound Origin Bead, his Mana was now indistinguishable from that of a False Core Immortal.

It was even more robust than some inept practitioners with False Core Power.

But now, his Profound Origin Bead had also reached its limit.

Even if he continued to improve, this bead could no longer provide any enhancement.

“Being able to amplify to this extent is already quite impressive.”

“If I break through to Core Formation, this Profound Origin Bead would likely only serve as an ordinary boosting Magical Treasure.”

Lu Changsheng exhaled deeply, planning to pass down this bead through his family lineage after his breakthrough to Core Formation.

After all, for Foundation Establishment Cultivators, this bead was truly a top-tier treasure!

Promptly, Lu Changsheng continued to meditate, stabilizing the Mana he had just broken through.

Five days later, Lu Changsheng exited the cave mansion and looked at the ‘Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus’ in the Spiritual Spring.

Besides the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus, there were also three Heavenly Origin Precious Lotuses.

These were additional ones that Xiao Xiyue had delivered two years ago.

However, Lu Changsheng was focusing all his efforts on cultivating the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus, so these three lotuses showed little change.

“It seems like the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus might not advance to Tianyuan Lotus before I break through Core Formation.”

“How about I use the ‘Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus’ for now and swap it out once the ‘Tianyuan Lotus’ is cultivated?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus in front of him, rubbed his chin, and pondered.

Although advancing it to Tianyuan Lotus could not be better,

the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus was sufficient for his current stage of use.

“Let’s nurture it for three more years, then I’ll harvest and cultivate the next one.”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself, walked out of Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven, and visited the Lu Family Mansion to see Xia Zhizue.

Three months ago, the first child after Xia Zhizue’s Foundation Establishment was born.

Unfortunately, this child only had a Fifth Grade Spiritual Root.

This made the hopeful Lu Changsheng sigh slightly.

However, considering the Spirit Nurturing Physique was just an ordinary spiritual body,

being able to give all children Spiritual Roots and enhance their quality was already remarkable.

How could one expect a High-Quality Spiritual Root in just one birth.

It had already been very fortunate to have Lu Xingchen born years ago.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng planned to have more children with Xia Zhizue after his breakthrough to Core Formation.

On one hand, the children born then would surely have better talents.

On the other hand, Xia Zhizue had already given birth to five children.

He couldn’t possibly let her keep bearing children endlessly just because of her unique physique.

Besides, giving birth after Core Formation would also be strenuous for Xia Zhizue, requiring proper recuperation.

...

Qingzhu Mountain.

Ever since Lu Changsheng established Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, Qingzhu Mountain had also been prospering.

Although the family only had Lu Yuanzhong and Lu Muping, two Foundation Establishment Cultivators, stationed there,

after so many years of development, fresh blood and a core force had been replenished in the family.

Moreover, with the Foundation Establishment Elixirs given by Lu Changsheng, half-sold, half-donated five years ago, Qingzhu Mountain could cultivate a third Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator any time it wished!

However, Lu Yuanzhong was very cautious about the selection of the family's third Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Now, with him and Lu Muping stationed there, a hundred years of peace was assured.

Thus, he believed the third Foundation Establishment Cultivator had to be a tiger-like and wolf-like aggressive leader, not another conservative one!

Only in this way could their Qingzhu Mountain step further in the future, and not just rely on Blue Lake Mountain.

In Qingzhu Valley, a small courtyard full of Qing Ling bamboo,

The Fourth Elder was basking in the sun on a reclining chair.

She was now one hundred and twenty-four years old.

Though Energy Refining Cultivators could live to one hundred and twenty, very few actually reached this age.

If not for the Second Rank Lifespan Extension Pill given by Lu Changsheng, considering the effort she put into researching and drawing talismans in her youth, it would have been hard to reach this age.

Now, regardless of age or status, she was truly an elder in Qingzhu Mountain.

“I miss Changsheng, Yun’er...”

The old lady basking on the reclining chair squinted her cloudy eyes, feeling her sight blur slightly, and suddenly murmured softly.

“Great Ancestor, what did you say?”

The younger generation of the Lu Family immediately came closer to inquire, attending by her side.

Chapter 1035: The Way of Insect Control, Fourth Elder’s Joyous Bereavement!_3 The Fourth Elder slightly turned his head to look at the younger generation beside him, his voice louder by a few degrees, feeble and exhausted, he said, “I miss Changsheng and Yun’er... I want to see Changsheng and Yun’er...”

Lu Xuanya, upon hearing the words of her great-grandmother, immediately understood that she was referring to her own grandfather and grandmother.

Her grandfather usually stayed indoors and only occasionally ventured out to visit Qingzhu Mountain.

As for her grandmother, for some reason, she had not come to Qingzhu Mountain for almost twenty years.

If it were not for the enduring good relations between the two families, she would have suspected that her grandmother had some dispute with Qingzhu Mountain, which was why she never came.

She was just about to say that her grandparents and the others were not at Qingzhu Mountain and it might take some days before they could come.

But seeing the Fourth Elder's withered and gaunt face flushing slightly, her cloudy and dim eyes brightened a bit, as if imploringly gazing at her, her heart abruptly missed a beat.

Her father Lu Yun had told her and her siblings to frequently visit Qingzhu Mountain to keep their ancestor company, having informed them that the Fourth Elder had not much time left.

Now, seeing the ancestor in such a state, she immediately thought of the phenomenon known as rallying before death.

"Ancestor, please wait, I will go right away to inform Grandfather and Grandmother to come."

The girl's heart quivered, her eyes reddened, and she spoke with pursed lips.

Then, she hastily conveyed the message to Lu Yuanding and others at Qingzhu Mountain, and sent a message to her father.

...

Bi Lake Mountain.

Lu Changsheng was engaged in alchemy when his son Lu Yun came to report.

A message had arrived from Qingzhu Mountain, the Fourth Elder's light was nearly out, the end was near.

"Has your mother received the message...?"

Lu Changsheng, after a moment of silence, asked.

Birth, aging, illness, and death are the norm in life.

He had consistently visited the Fourth Elder on Qingzhu Mountain over the years.

He could clearly see that her lifespan was coming to an end.

Now, the day had inevitably come.

“I haven’t informed Mother yet...”

Lu Yun said, his face heavy with sorrow.

He knew his mother could not leave Bi Lake Mountain because of the cultivation technique she practiced.

If his grandmother were to learn of her own great-grandmother’s impending death and be unable to visit her for the last time, her heart would surely be overcome with grief.

“I’ll go ahead.”

Lu Changsheng took a deep breath and said.

He prepared to rush to Qingzhu Mountain to see the Fourth Elder for the last time and bring her to Bi Lake Mountain.

His wife Lu Miaoyun was raised by the Fourth Elder from a young age, and they shared a deep bond.

If she could not even see the elder for one last time, there would be an indelible pain and bitterness in her heart, and it might even lead to the emergence of a heart demon.

“Yes, Father.”

Lu Yun understood his father’s intent.

The next moment, he saw his father step directly out of the alchemy chamber, then transform into an escape light and leave Bi Lake Mountain.

“Sigh.”

Lu Yun watched his father’s departing figure, heaving a deep sigh, his heart filled with an inexplicable bitterness.

Cultivation, in the end, nobody can escape the pain of parting by life and death.

“The stronger the cultivator, the more they must endure and face.”

“But I suppose, in the future, I will likely go ahead of my parents...”

Lu Yun gazed at the azure sky, feeling a wave of sadness.

The life of a cultivator is not only about facing countless life-and-death battles but also about enduring the partings and deaths of loved ones and friends.

It is for this very reason, as cultivators grow older, their demeanor often becomes more detached.

It is not because they are naturally indifferent.

It’s because they have experienced too much.

...

An hour later.

Lu Changsheng arrived at Qingzhu Mountain, riding on the Starlight Plate.

“Uncle, Grandfather!”

At this time, quite a few people were already waiting at the mountain gate.

Upon seeing Lu Changsheng, they stepped forward and respectfully paid their respects.

“Um.”

Lu Changsheng did not engage in much small talk with them, simply acknowledging their greeting before going straight to Qingzhu Valley, to the Fourth Elder’s courtyard.

“Changsheng, uncle.”

“Changsheng, you’ve come.”

Lu Yuanding and others were somewhat surprised by his speed when they saw Lu Changsheng had hurried over.

At this time, Lu Miaoge had also rushed over from Red Leaf Valley Marketplace, and was using Taiyi True Water to nourish the Fourth Elder’s physical body.

But at this moment, the Fourth Elder’s visage was gaunt, her body not only exuded an atmosphere of deep twilight but also a dense aura of death.

This was the end of her lifespan, unless there was a top-tier treasure capable of prolonging life, there was no reversing her fate.

“Changsheng...”

The Fourth Elder, seeing the young man who resembled an orchid and pine inside, her cloudy eyes gleaming faintly, said with a hoarse and aged voice, tremblingly stretching forth her withered arm.

“Grandmother, I’m here.”

Lu Changsheng's heart felt heavy as he stepped forward to take the Fourth Elder's hand.

Even though he had long known of this day, this moment, and had been mentally prepared,

The sight of the old lady on her deathbed still caused an unspeakable sadness in his heart.

"Changsheng, don't be sad, Grandmother is content and happy to have lived to see you and Miaoyun, to see the family like this..."

The Fourth Elder, her eyes cloudy, her mouth opening and closing, kept saying, "You and Miaoyun, Miaoge, must take good care of yourselves... It's a pity Grandmother won't see the day you both become great cultivators... Little Yun has a sincere nature, you as a father must take good care of him..."

"If Qingzhu Mountain ever encounters trouble in the future, if you... can help, then do lend them a hand..."

Although she lived only to be one hundred and twenty-four years old,

by that age, she had already experienced many, many things.

She not only witnessed the rise and fall of her family but also watched her children, family elders, and peers of her age pass away one by one.

Now, in all of Qingzhu Mountain, there was no longer anyone of her generation left.

Hence, the only concerns and attachments left in her heart were for Lu Changsheng, Lu Miaoyun, and the family that had raised and cared for her.

"Grandmother, rest assured, I will certainly take good care of Miaoyun, Sister Miaoge, and Little Yun."

"As long as I, Lu Changsheng, am alive, Qingzhu Mountain will always stand!"

Chapter 1036: The Way of Insect Control, Fourth Elder's Joyous Bereavement!_4 Lu Changsheng clasped the old man's hand, speaking in a solemn voice and making a formal promise.

Beside him, Lu Yuanding, Lu Yuanzhong, and others listened to these words with heavy hearts, silently lamenting.

At this moment, the elder still couldn't forget his family.

Although with Lu Changsheng's character, and the connection through Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaoge, and Lu Miaohuan, the relationship between the two families could be maintained.

Yet the elder still clung to his decaying body, leaving his last words at the moment of death.

"Yun'er... Yun'er..."

As he spoke, the Fourth Elder suddenly looked up, searching for his granddaughter Lu Miaoyun.

She knew that Lu Miaoyun practiced the Heavenly Longevity Technique and couldn't leave.

But at this time, she was no longer fully coherent, merely wishing to see her granddaughter one last time before dying.

"Grandma, I will take you to see Yun'er right now."

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng took a deep breath, glanced toward Lu Yuanding and Lu Yuanzhong, and said, "Yun'er cannot come because of the Heavenly Longevity Technique, so I will now take grandma to meet Yun'er for their farewell."

After speaking, he looked at Lu Miaoge next to him and said, "Sister Miaoge, stabilize grandma's life force; we'll go there now."

"Alright."

Although the Fourth Elder's condition didn't allow for much time, and it was not advisable to trouble her.

But they all knew about the matter of the Heavenly Longevity Technique, and that Lu Miaoyun could not leave Bihu Lake Mountain.

If the Fourth Elder and Lu Miaoyun were to part in life and death without a final meeting, it would leave a deep regret in their hearts, difficult to reconcile.

“Grandma, let's go see Yun'er now.”

The Starlight Plate appeared beneath Lu Changsheng's feet, then he had Lu Miaoge hold the Fourth Elder, and the three of them turned into a streak of starlight and shot off.

“This, what kind of Magic Artifact is under Changsheng's feet, such astonishing speed.”

“Such speed...”

Lu Yuanzhong, Lu Yuanding, Lu Muping, and others watched as Lu Changsheng flew with such speed, exchanging glances in surprise.

Because this flying speed had surpassed their understanding.

However, they did not guess too much and immediately after some discussion, Lu Yuanding took some people to Bihu Lake Mountain, while Lu Muping went to sit in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

The Red Leaf Valley Market had been attacked by a Demon Cultivator before, and Lu Yuanzhong was seriously injured. Therefore, they were concerned that Robber Cultivators might learn that there was no Foundation Establishment Cultivator in charge of the Red Leaf Valley Market and come to loot.

...

Bihu Lake Mountain.

“Grandma...”

Upon seeing the Fourth Elder, Lu Miaoyun was overwhelmed with grief, crying inconsolably.

The elder was the person she was closest to.

In these years, she couldn't go out to visit Qingzhu Mountain, only asking her children to visit the elder on her behalf.

And as the elder grew older, he didn't like to travel much, making infrequent visits to Bihu Lake Mountain, so in these years, the two didn't meet often.

Now that they met again, it was a parting in life and death.

“Yun'er...”

The Fourth Elder held her granddaughter's hand, softly muttering words of care and concern, and did the same for the siblings Lu Yun and Lu Yu.

She had no more attachments, only unwillingness to let go of her concerns for the family and the younger generation.

As night approached.

“Hum!”

Lu Changsheng saw the elder's face become peaceful as her eyes closed, the last bit of life force dissipating; he sighed.

He took a few steps back and bowed deeply.

“Grandma!”

Lu Miaoyun and the others, seeing this scene, turned red-eyed, weeping loudly, and crying tears.

Afterward, they followed the Fourth Elder's last wish, taking her remains to Qingzhu Mountain's ancestral hall, holding an extravagant mourning ceremony.

The funeral was conducted with great pomp.

It did not seem like the death of an Energy Refining Cultivator.

Not only did Bihu Lake Mountain wear white mourning clothes, but many Foundation Establishment Families from the surrounding area also came to offer incense and pay their respects.

Chapter 1037: There are 3 million Sword Cultivators in the world, all must lower their brows upon seeing me. Bihu Mountain was as pure as Qingzhu Mountain, and the death of an Energy Refining Cultivator had piqued the curiosity of many Loose Cultivators and young Cultivators. Why was it treated with such solemnity?

When they learned that the old man was a senior relative of the Main Mother and Mountain Lord of Bihu Mountain,

they couldn't help but sigh and take Lu Changsheng as an example to strive for.

They fantasized about rising like Lu Changsheng.

After all, the story of Lu Changsheng's rise was both inspiring and enviable to countless Cultivators at the bottom.

White Tiger Mountain continued to operate normally during this time, unaffected by the Fourth Elder's passing.

With the relocation of Bihu Mountain's Puppet Workshop, White Tiger Mountain could now be considered the industrial park beneath Bihu Mountain.

Not only did the Puppet Workshop expand, but under Lu Changsheng's guidance and arrangements, the Artifact Refining Workshop also expanded orderly and integrated Artifact Refining with Puppetry.

This night.

Outside White Tiger Mountain.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!”

A torrential and surging wave of Mana continually closed in on White Tiger Mountain.

The patrolling Cultivators of White Tiger Mountain immediately sent out an alert.

Shortly after, a vigorous and resolute young man, around twenty-eight or twenty-nine years old, hurried over.

“What's going on?”

Lu Qingsong had been in charge of White Tiger Mountain for years, serving as the Mountain Master. To appear sufficiently authoritative, he had given up his youthful appearance and grown a pair of dense, inky mustaches.

“Mountain Master, it seems to be a stand-off between Foundation Establishment Great Cultivators.”

One of the stationed Cultivators immediately reported.

“Foundation Establishment Cultivators fighting?”

Lu Qingsong, upon hearing this, looked towards the source of the Mana fluctuations and furrowed his brows.

Fighting so close to their gate was a grave offense.

It could not only damage their wood and mineral veins but also bring unnecessary trouble.

“Daoists of White Tiger Mountain, my surname is Shi, and I am the head of the Tianwei Escort Agency. I have been ambushed by Robber Cultivators on my way. Please lend aid, there will be a generous reward afterward!”

Before long, Lu Qingsong could see a tall Foundation Establishment Cultivator being pursued by two Foundation Establishment Cultivators wearing conical hats.

The pursued Cultivator looked extremely disheveled; he could only defend while being chased, shouting for help towards White Tiger Mountain.

“The Tianwei Escort Agency?”

Lu Qingsong squinted his eyes slightly.

This was a large, chain escort business operating extensively.

Ordinary Cultivators, as long as they had a clean background and some strength, could register as Escort Guards at the Tianwei Escort Agency and accept escort missions.

Places like Bihu Mountain and White Tiger Mountain, due to business needs, had many dealings with the Tianwei Escort Agency.

“Hmph, this matter doesn’t concern you White Tiger Mountain dwellers. Don’t unnecessary trouble for yourselves!”

One of the conical-hatted Foundation Establishment Cultivators coldly snorted.

“Please, daoist, lend a hand; I have a commission to fulfill. If you can help, there will be a generous reward from our Tianwei Escort Agency!”

The pursued tall Cultivator continued to shout, his voice urgent and desperate, with a plea for help.

“I don’t care who you are or where you’re from; this place is within the bounds of White Tiger Mountain. Leave at once, or you will bear the consequences!”

Lu Qingsong, facing the situation, spoke with a chilling expression, uttering a stern command.

He seemed to realize that, being merely an Energy Refining Cultivator, such words might not be deterrent enough.

At that moment, the entire Mountain Protection Array of White Tiger Mountain fully activated, and in the sky above, it appeared as if a fierce tiger was crouching, fierce and majestic, roaring at the three men with overwhelming presence.

“Our Tianwei Escort Agency has quite a bit of business with your White Tiger Mountain and Bihu Mountain. In such circumstances, you would stand by and let Robber Cultivators do as they please?”

Upon hearing this, the pursued Foundation Establishment Cultivator immediately cried out in rage and despair.

However, Lu Qingsong remained indifferent to such words and continued with an icy tone: “I’ll say it again, leave the vicinity of White Tiger Mountain immediately; otherwise, bear the consequences!”

During his words, a ghostly light emerged from the depths of White Tiger Mountain, roaring towards the sky.

It was the Nine Netherhound that guarded White Tiger Mountain.

In past years, every time minor mischief occurred at White Tiger Mountain, Lu Qingsong and the Nine Netherhound would take care of it.

Thus, surrounding families were well aware that White Tiger Mountain had a Second Order Spiritual Beast as its guardian.

Seeing this situation, the pursued Foundation Establishment Cultivator could only maneuver his Magic Artifact with an ugly expression and escape towards the mountain range along the edge of White Tiger Mountain.

Moments later, after seeing the three men leave, Lu Qingsong spoke to the patrolling Cultivators: “Be extra vigilant during this time; at the first sign of anything amiss, activate the Great Formation.”

In previous years, during Demon Subjugation Orders, Lu Qingsong had heard of Family Forces being infiltrated by robbers allying with Cultivators and using disguises to breach through internal defenses to pillage.

After all, Cultivation Families were protected by Great Formations, and unless there were internal issues, they were hard to break through in a short amount of time.

And Robber Cultivators typically value speed in their battles and do not dare to engage with other Family Forces for too long.

If unable to break through the Great Formation, they would retreat immediately.

“We understand.”

The patrolling stationed Cultivators nodded in agreement.

They all knew the Cultivation World had not been very stable these years.

Meanwhile.

The three Foundation Establishment Cultivators who had just engaged in battle halted their fight upon entering a dense forest.

“It seems White Tiger Mountain is still guarded only by a Second Order Monster Beast.”

“Not bad, our probing has shown that no Foundation Establishment Cultivators from White Tiger Mountain appeared; it seems the situation is the same as before.”

“Now that this is settled, shall we proceed with the next step?”

The three looked at each other and spoke.

Their recent actions were naturally a probe against White Tiger Mountain.

To see if White Tiger Mountain was indeed only guarded by a Second Order Spiritual Beast as their intel suggested.

If it truly was only the Beast, they would not hesitate to make their move.

Moreover, if they managed to infiltrate White Tiger Mountain with a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, they could easily breach the Mountain Protection Array from within and without.

Chapter 1038: 3,000,000 Sword Cultivators in the World, Must Lower Their Eyes When They See Me._2 ...

Lu Qingsong returned to White Tiger Peak.

A young man with a firm and robust appearance approached him, asking, “Qing Song, what’s the situation?”

“Big brother.”

As soon as he saw the young man, Lu Qingsong called out and then said, “It should just be a passing Foundation Establishment Cultivator, but we can’t rule out the possibility of a disguise by a Robber Cultivator.”

“Mm, let me know immediately if there’s anything.”

Lu Ping’an nodded.

White Tiger Mountain is guarded by the Nine Netherhound, and whenever there's trouble, it's Lu Qingsong who handles it with the Nine Netherhound. Thus, no one yet knows his true strength.

Having just witnessed this, knowing that Lu Qingsong could handle it, he simply observed from the sidelines without intervening immediately.

“Don't worry, big brother.”

Lu Qingsong smiled, aware of his big brother's generous nature.

He had been devoted to cultivation at White Tiger Mountain for years and never involved himself in affairs.

However, he always expressed concern at the first sign of trouble, asking if help was needed.

“Boom boom boom!”

As the two chatted, just as they were preparing to return and rest, they suddenly heard a series of loud booms.

They saw the Second Order Great Formation of White Tiger Mountain surge with spiritual light, flickering uncertainly in the night.

“Hm? This magic aura, it's those three from earlier!”

Lu Ping'an looked towards the mountain gate and sensed through the magic aura that it was those three.

“It appears those three are unquestionably Robber Cultivators!”

Lu Qingsong's expression chilled as he gravely surmised what was happening.

The three had pretended to be actors, undoubtedly aiming to infiltrate White Tiger Mountain or to test its defenses.

Confirming that the mountain was guarded only by a Second Order Spiritual Beast, they now took aggressive action.

After all, although a Second Order Spiritual Beast is powerful, it cannot control the Great Formation.

Without a Foundation Establishment Cultivator to control it, the formation's offensive and defensive capabilities are both reduced by a grade.

Over these years, the reason other family forces haven't interfered with White Tiger Mountain, besides the Nine Netherhound, is entirely because of the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family.

Should White Tiger Mountain face danger, not only the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family but also nearby forces like Tie Mulim Mo Family and Xishan Ning Family could immediately come to aid.

The brothers hurried towards the mountain gate.

But they saw those three Robber Cultivators currently attacking the White Tiger Mountain Array.

The three were clearly well-prepared.

Not only did they have a prohibition-breaking artifact as large as a hill bombarding White Tiger Mountain, but they also had prepared a Prohibition-Breaking Talisman.

Under such an attack, the array's mist dissipated and its spiritual light dimmed.

"Big brother, it seems you need to take action now."

Seeing this scene, Lu Qingsong's expression became grave, aware that these people were well-prepared and that defeating them wouldn't be so simple.

Thus, he planned to have Lu Ping'an act with the Nine Netherhound.

“Okay, leave it to me.”

Lu Ping'an responded gravely, his energy slowly revitalizing within him.

“Big brother, be careful, I will use the formation to support you.”

Lu Qingsong continued.

He knew that his big brother had already broken through the Foundation.

However, he was unsure of his exact combat strength.

So, he thought of having his big brother lead the Nine Netherhound while he controlled the formation to make the three retreat.

“No need for that.”

Lu Ping'an shook his head, swiftly moving to a courtyard where a dark golden great bow appeared in his hands.

He then focused his gaze outside the formation at the Foundation Establishment Cultivator controlling the Great Mountain Magical Artifact, raising his hand, pulling the bowstring.

“Big brother?”

Lu Qingsong, seeing this, didn't understand what his big brother intended to do.

Was he really planning to shoot the Foundation from here?

How is that possible?

But in the next moment, he was startled by the overwhelming spiritual pressure emanating from his big brother.

Lu Ping'an seemed to become one with the dark golden great bow, like the womb of a bow.

His heart pumped like the drumbeat of a god or demon, 'thumping' rhythmically and bursting with boundless vital energy, slowly forming a golden divine arrow crackling with thunder and lightning on the bowstring without an arrow.

"Buzz buzz buzz!!!"

As the golden divine arrow formed, Lu Ping'an's right arm seemed to thunder and lightning with intense disturbances.

"Qing Song, at a direction of sixty-three degrees to the southeast of the formation, slightly open a gap in the great array."

Holding the dark golden great bow, Lu Ping'an, striking as a blazing sun, spoke solemnly.

"Okay."

Hearing this, Lu Qingsong, looking at Lu Ping'an before him, swallowed nervously, brought out the Array Plate and called out, "Big brother, ready!"

"Open!"

"Buzz!"

Instantly, with a surge of wind and thunder, a rainbow-like golden lightning streak pierced through the void, shooting out rapidly.

"Eh? Not good!"

"Be careful!"

Outside the mountain gate, the three Foundation Establishment Cultivators attacking the array saw a golden arrow burst through White Tiger Mountain, all of them shocked, feeling a palpable chill.

“Boom boom boom!”

The cultivator controlling the Great Mountain Magical Artifact saw the rolling thunder and golden feathered arrow directly targeting him, immediately cried out in horror, quickly retreating as layers of protective aura formed around him.

But the layers of protective aura shattered in an instant, and his entire head exploded like a watermelon under the golden thunderous arrow.

“This!?”

Lu Qingsong, seeing this, was completely stunned, totally baffled.

He actually shot and killed the Foundation Cultivator?

And with a single arrow.

His big brother had just broken through Foundation Establishment a few years ago, hadn't he?

How did he possess such formidable power?

He was utterly baffled, feeling as if in a dreamlike state.

Not just him, the patrolling cultivators of White Tiger Mountain, the two Robber Cultivators outside the gate, all wore expressions of shock and amazement, wondering what was happening.

How did an arrow suddenly appear and kill a Foundation Cultivator?

Was it a Talisman, a Talisman Treasure, or some Exotic Treasure?

“Second!”

“Magic, this is the magic aura! White Tiger Mountain has a great cultivator of the Foundation Establishment Late Stage! Go, let’s leave now!”

Chapter 1039: There are 3,000,000 Sword Cultivators in the world, but they must all lower their brows when they see me._3 The remaining two Foundation Establishment Cultivators, seeing this, dared not hesitate and quickly transformed into escape lights to flee, fearing another golden arrow would be shot at them.

Although they had a purpose for this trip,

their main goal was still wealth, and they couldn’t possibly sacrifice their lives here.

Seeing the remaining two in a panic-stricken flight, Lu Ping’an let out a long breath and put away the Dark Gold Bow.

The arrow he had just shot had been the condensation of the ‘Thunderstorm Ring’ Technique and Magical Powers mastered from Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family.

It endowed his attack with the force of wind and lightning!

This was his first time using it in real combat, and its power proved quite effective.

Not only could he fend off the enemy, but he also didn’t need to reveal his own strength.

“Big brother?”

Lu Qingsong was still dumbfounded as he looked at his elder brother.

To be within White Tiger Mountain, yet a single arrow shot from such a distance had killed a Foundation Establishment Cultivator!

He simply couldn't comprehend such strength.

"Before my breakthrough to Foundation Establishment, I encountered some serendipity; my Body Refinement has already broken through to the Second Level, so my strength is a bit stronger than an average Foundation Establishment Cultivator,"

Lu Ping'an said gently to his younger brother as he smiled and explained.

"Second Level Body Refinement?"

"Stronger than an average Foundation Establishment Cultivator by several points?"

Lu Qingsong, upon hearing such words, didn't know what to say for a moment.

He understood Second Level Body Refinement.

But he couldn't grasp how one arrow could kill a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

After all, being only slightly stronger than another Cultivator, it would be quite difficult to kill them, let alone instantly.

Even though his older brother's arrow just now had an element of surprise, such strength couldn't simply be explained by being "several points stronger."

Lu Qingsong didn't continue to press Lu Ping'an for details but took a deep breath, nodded and said, "Good, with you, big brother, holding down White Tiger Mountain, I can rest easy in the future."

At this moment, he understood why their father had assigned his older brother to hold down White Tiger Mountain.

Because their father had always been clear about Lu Ping'an's strength, with him there, White Tiger Mountain could indeed rest easy!

“Big brother, I’ll go handle the situation.”

Lu Qingsong continued, quickly stepping forward to manage the situation at the mountain gate.

He didn’t explain whether it was him or someone else who had acted just now.

The unknown is fearsome, incalculable might!

Often, the unknown methods are more daunting.

He had the Nine Netherhound bring back the outside bodies of the Foundation Establishment Cultivators, took their magic artifacts and Storage Bags, then with a cold and authoritative air, ordered one person, “Hang this corpse outside the mountain gate, and tell others that if any Robber Cultivator dares to attack White Tiger Mountain, they will meet the same fate!”

“Yes, Mountain Master!”

White Tiger Mountain had not only the Cultivators from the Zhao Family of yesteryears, but also those from Tie Mulim Mo Family and the Ning Family of Xi Mountain.

The incident just now had filled them all with dread.

The two Foundation Establishment Robber Cultivators had been able to sense a trace of Foundation Establishment Mana from the arrow.

These people were merely Energy Refining Cultivators.

They couldn’t be certain whether it was someone’s direct action or some treasure involved.

And with no Foundation Establishment Cultivator sitting in White Tiger Mountain, with Mountain Master Lu Qingsong having just disappeared, they speculated that Lu Qingsong must possess some Exotic Treasure.

After all, Lu Qingsong’s father, Lu Changsheng, was considered a legendary figure.

He dared to have a son in the Qi Refinement Realm hold down and control White Tiger Mountain, how could he possibly not provide him with an ace up his sleeve!

...

News of the events at White Tiger Mountain spread to the surrounding Family Forces the next day.

Everyone who heard this news was utterly shocked.

Indeed, to kill a Foundation Establishment Cultivator with a single arrow was terrifying!

Who wouldn't be fearful upon hearing of such means!

Several families friendly with Bi Lake Mountain and White Tiger Mountain even sent people under the guise of a visit to check the situation at White Tiger Mountain.

When they saw the headless corpse hanging outside the mountain gate and confirmed it was a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, they were all internally shaken.

They conjectured wildly about what sort of methods Lu Changsheng had hidden in White Tiger Mountain.

Meanwhile, at Jinlong Ridge Jin Family,

“Quite the White Tiger Mountain, quite the Lu Changsheng, truly well hidden!”

The Patriarch of Jin Family looked at the information in his hand, his expression slightly condensed.

Those three Robber Cultivators that appeared on White Tiger Mountain last night obviously didn't go there for no reason to plunder.

It was he who wanted to test Bi Lake Mountain, had someone issue a bounty task, provided Prohibition-Breaking Talismans and Forbidden Technique Artifacts, that resulted in three Robber Cultivators willing to make a move against White Tiger Mountain.

Otherwise, under normal circumstances, Robber Cultivators wouldn't expend great cost to forcefully attack a certain family.

Unless that family possessed some kind of fortuitous treasure, and lacked a Foundation Establishment Cultivator in charge.

The Patriarch of Jin Family didn't hesitate and went straight to report this news to the Elder Ancestor of his family.

...

At Bi Lake Mountain,

"Three Robber Cultivators, killed by a single arrow."

Lu Changsheng looked at the information coming from White Tiger Mountain and chuckled.

Others might not know what happened, but he as the father was crystal clear.

After all, the means Lu Ping'an used were all given to him by his father.

"With Ping'an holding down White Tiger Mountain, unless a False Core took action, there shouldn't be any danger."

Lu Changsheng exhaled softly.

However, even though that was what he said, after such an incident at White Tiger Mountain, he still made a trip outside to check on the situation.

Moreover, this sudden attack by three Robber Cultivators also made him speculate whether it had something to do with other powers.

Especially since the Demon Subjugation Order had just concluded, it would be unlikely for any Robber Cultivators to show up and cause trouble at this time.

...

In Yue Country, Jinyang Sect,

“Qing Shan, how confident are you in this journey to Heavenly Sword Sect to ask for a sword duel?”

Tianyuan True Immortal, dressed in a grand red robe, her figure voluptuous and charming, took a delicate sip from the wine gourd in her hand, her face slightly flushed and lazily said.

Back when the Purple Shadow Secret Realm ended, Lu Qingshan promised Yujian Zhenren of the Heavenly Sword Sect to visit for a sword duel within ten years.

Now, with only one year left of the decade-long promise, she was preparing to send Lu Qingshan to the Heavenly Sword Sect for the duel.

Lu Qingshan, with a handsome face and piercing eyes, listened to his master’s words, his expression serene and confidently said, “Among the three million sword cultivators in the world, all must lower their gazes upon seeing me.”

“...”

Tianyuan True Immortal was speechless upon hearing her disciple’s words.

After a while, she finally spoke, “Say these words in front of me if you like, but if you speak them at the Heavenly Sword Sect, I won’t be able to protect you.”

“Heh Heh, isn’t this just showing that I’m confident and assured?”

Lu Qingshan smiled and replied.

“While it’s a sword duel, Yujian Zhenren intends to use you to hone his sect’s disciples. When we get to the Heavenly Sword Sect, keep the actual dueling separate and remember to be somewhat mindful...”

Tianyuan True Immortal spoke earnestly, revealing a bit of a serious expression as she instructed her disciple.

This trip to the Heavenly Sword Sect was a great chance for her disciple to be tempered.

But she knew well the nature of her disciple—reckless to the extreme.

And the sword cultivators of the Heavenly Sword Sect wouldn’t be much different.

If this disciple gave no face to the Heavenly Sword Sect’s disciples during the duels, it could easily cause trouble.

“Don’t worry, Master. I understand. Friendship first, dueling second.”

Lu Qingshan might be proud, but he wasn’t foolish and comprehended what was at stake.

His trip to the Heavenly Sword Sect was primarily for sparring and exchange, so of course, he had to keep the host’s dignity in mind.

If the sparring ended up insulting the hosts, it would be tantamount to slapping the face of the Heavenly Sword Sect, and things wouldn’t end well after.

Even if the Heavenly Sword Sect didn’t say anything outright, it would still be like making a formidable enemy.

“Since you understand, I won’t say much more.”

Tianyuan True Immortal nodded, instructing Lu Qingshan to say his goodbyes to Lu Qingzhu before heading to the Heavenly Sword Sect.

However, Lu Qingshan suggested that since his sister was bored alone in the sect, it would be better to go together to broaden her horizons.

Hearing this, Tianyuan True Immortal said it was fine as long as Lu Qingzhu was willing and subsequently took the siblings to the Heavenly Sword Sect.

Chapter 1040: Questioning the Sword at Heavenly Sword Sect! Lu Changsheng arrived at White Tiger Mountain and saw the headless corpse hanging at the mountain gate.

He thought to himself, his son's actions were truly domineering and aggressive.

Foundation Establishment Cultivators are prominent figures wherever they go, akin to the old ancestors of a region.

Such figures were now hanging as bodies on display, serving as a form of intimidation.

However, although this act was inconsistent with his usual behavior, he wouldn't say anything about it.

"Father."

Hearing of Lu Changsheng's arrival, Lu Qingsong immediately notified his older brother Lu Ping'an, seventh brother Lu Xianzhi, and others to come to greet him.

"Mm."

Lu Changsheng looked at his children and gave a slight nod, briefly inquiring about the events of the previous night and the matters regarding the Robber Cultivators.

Learning that the three Robber Cultivators had come prepared but were unlike the local Family Forces' Foundation Establishment Cultivators and had no suspicious items on them, Lu Changsheng did not probe further.

He merely instructed them to be more careful and vigilant in their daily routines.

Afterward, he checked on the well-being of his other children and accompanied Lu Xianzhi and a few others to visit the Puppet Workshop and the Artifact Refining Workshop.

Seeing that there were no issues, Lu Changsheng then returned to Bi Lake Mountain.

At this time, the news from White Tiger Mountain had also reached the ears of his wives and children at home.

Like Lu Miaohuan, because her son Lu Qingsong was in charge at White Tiger Mountain, even knowing that there was no trouble, she sought out Lu Changsheng at the first opportunity to ask about the situation.

“Hehe...”

Lu Changsheng embraced his wife’s slender waist, indicating that their son Lu Qingsong was fine.

He also praised his son for his excellent performance, managing White Tiger Mountain in perfect order.

It might be the pressure from his brother Lu Qingshan, or perhaps the desire to make his mother proud, but Lu Qingsong had indeed worked hard and performed well over the years.

Otherwise, if he had not been capable, despite the connections through Lu Miaoge and Lu Miaohuan, Lu Changsheng would have replaced him at White Tiger Mountain long ago.

“Dad, what is this treasure that can kill a Foundation Establishment with a single arrow? Give me one.”

Lu Wangshu, upon hearing the news, thought it might be some Talisman or treasure and pleaded with her father with a flattering face.

Her own father was incredibly wealthy, often able to produce some treasures she had never seen before.

And she could never have too many treasures.

“This is something your big brother achieved through his own true skill.”

Lu Changsheng glanced at his daughter and spoke.

“Ping’an?”

“Ping’an has only recently broken through to Foundation Establishment, so how could he kill a Foundation Establishment with a single arrow?”

Lu Miaohuan and the others were surprised to hear this.

Their main impression of Lu Ping’an was still from the years when he had just broken through to Foundation Establishment.

They had not expected that Lu Ping’an, soon after his breakthrough, would be capable of killing a Foundation Establishment Cultivator – this was quite astonishing.

“Ping’an has several Magic Artifacts from me; his combat power is above average for Foundation Establishment Cultivators.”

Lu Changsheng didn’t want to explain his spoilt son’s actions and Lu Ping’an’s fortuitous encounters, so he kept it simple.

After speaking, he looked at his daughter Lu Wangshu and said, “Train diligently, and when you break through to Foundation Establishment, your father has also prepared something for you.”

Lu Wangshu had broken through to the Ninth Level Energy Refinement half a year ago.

She was estimated to be able to attempt Foundation Establishment in another four to five years.

“Dad, rest assured, I will strive to achieve Foundation Establishment as soon as possible.”

Lu Wangshu had taken the Preserving Youth Pill and still looked to be seventeen or eighteen years old, with a bright, pure face.

Hearing this, Lu Miaohuan and the others did not continue to ask further questions.

After all, their husband’s treasures were indeed too numerous.

With the means provided by Lu Changsheng, killing a Foundation Establishment with a single arrow was conceivable.

Like Lu Miaohuan, she also gave the Vermilion Bird Ring, a Talisman Treasure given to her by Lu Changsheng, for her son Lu Qingsong to carry with him.

“Husband, when Qingshan said he would visit Heavenly Sword Sect to challenge their swordsmanship after Foundation Establishment, why haven’t we heard any news about this for so many years?”

At this moment, Lu Miaohuan thought of her eldest son Lu Qingshan and asked Lu Changsheng.

“Qingshan may be busy with other matters; I have had people pay attention to news from the Heavenly Sword Sect.”

“As long as Qingshan goes to the Heavenly Sword Sect for a sword contest, making a disturbance, news will come back.”

Lu Changsheng responded in a gentle voice.

He had previously heard from Lu Qingshan that not only did he intend to participate in the Five Sects competition for Jinyang Sect in Yue Country, but he also planned to enter the Qingming Secret Realm.

So many years had passed, and his son must have completed those activities.

However, judging by Lu Qingshan's Cultivation Level, having only reached the Second Level of Foundation Establishment, Lu Changsheng guessed his son hadn't obtained any significant opportunities.

Of course, it's also possible that after Lu Qingshan's Foundation Establishment, he spent much of his time on Techniques or other aspects.

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Heavenly Sword Sect.

As the overlord of Jiang Country, the only Nascent Soul Level Power, with a Fourth-order Spirit Vein, the Heavenly Sword Sect naturally exuded an imposing grandeur.

Among the continuous majestic mountains stood peaks as straight and tall as swords reaching for the skies.

Some of these mountain peaks were lush with greenery and full of Spiritual Medicine, some were shrouded in mist with pavilions and palaces built upon them, and some had waterfalls flowing like silver dragons, magnificent and awe-inspiring.

In the central position stood a peak like a Divine Sword, seeming to pierce through the heavens, invoking fear in onlookers and making them feel their own insignificance.

"Whoosh!"

A Divine Rainbow with tremendous Spiritual Pressure descended outside the Heavenly Sword Sect.

As the rosy light faded, a giant gourd appeared with a woman in her thirties, stunningly beautiful and dressed in a luxurious red gown, standing on it.

Next to her was a young man with sword-shaped eyebrows and starry eyes with handsome features, along with a gentle and elegant young lady.

“Is this the Heavenly Sword Sect?”

The three people on the gourd were none other than Tianyuan True Immortal, who had come to challenge the Heavenly Sword Sect, along with Lu Qingshan and Lu Qingzhu.

Lu Qingshan looked at Heavenly Sword Sect before him, his eyes bright with a warlike spirit.

He was naturally well-aware of the big name of the Heavenly Sword Sect.

Even as a child, he had once dreamed of joining the Heavenly Sword Sect.

“Heavenly Sword Sect...”

Lu Qingzhu also observed Jiang Country’s number one Immortal Sect, continually assessing it.

“May I know what brings the True Immortal here today?”