

Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family

Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family #Chapter 1231: 427: Waylaid, Lingxi Xie Family!_2 - Read Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family Chapter 1231: 427: Waylaid, Lingxi Xie Family!_2

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Xie Ying sized up Lu Ping'an before him and said aloud,

Originally, the Xie Family did not wish to interfere with the affairs of the Lu Family Commerce Association.

But upon hearing about the incident at Red Leaf Valley Market, they realized that Bi Lake Mountain was not to be underestimated.

Therefore, they came to test the strength of Bi Lake Mountain.

If, besides the couple comparable to False Core Immortals, Lu Changsheng, and Lu Wangshu, comparable to the peak of Foundation Establishment, there were other top-tier combatants, then Bi Lake Mountain possessed the strength of a False Core level force.

In such a case, since their Lingxi Lake was far from Bi Lake Mountain, there was no need to create enmities but rather they could cooperate deeply.

"I wonder how Daoist Xie wishes to be enlightened?"

Lu Ping'an, with his tall and majestic stature, took a step forward and replied.

The direct approach of the other party showed their intentions, which he did not resist.

After all, open attacks are easy to dodge, but hidden ones hard to guard against.

Compared to openly honest combat, it's much better than those who strike from the shadows.

"I heard that this trade convoy is led by Daoist Lu and the noble Lady of the Lu Family, right?"

"No need for others, as long as you all can overcome three of us, that is sufficient,"

said Xie Ying aloud.

He had already thoroughly investigated the strength of Lu Ping'an.

At the initial stage of Foundation Establishment, but due to his Second Order Body Refining, his combat power was among the top of the Mid-Stage of Foundation Establishment.

With the aid of a Spiritual Artifact, he could even be comparable to some in the Late Foundation Establishment.

As for the strength of Ling Zixiao, he was not sure,

but with the incident at the Red Leaf Valley Market, the Xie Family believed that Lu Changsheng dared to send two people to lead this first trade trip, suspecting that they were not as simple as they appeared.

“My aunt dislikes fighting, so it will be I...”

Lu Ping'an spoke out, intending to express his willingness to fight three against one.

However, Lu Ruyi immediately interjects: “Big brother.”

“Let my brother and I experience Daoist Xie's expertise,”

Lu Ping'an, knowing his sister was also here for experience, quickly changed his words.

“Of course,”

Xie Ying glanced at Lu Ruyi, smiled and nodded.

He had just noticed Lu Ruyi.

He did not remember any Foundation Establishment Cultivator like her mentioned in the information about Bi Lake Mountain.

“Three Foundation Establishment Cultivators, no wonder they are so confident.”

“It seems that Bi Lake Mountain has hidden quite a few Foundation Establishment Cultivators over the years and now unable to sustain, hence the urgency in establishing a commerce association and auctioning Foundation Establishment Elixirs,”

thought Xie Ying internally.

At that moment, siblings Lu Lingxiao and Lu Linghe stepped out of the carriage, observing the situation ahead.

Were it not for his mother speaking up, Lu Lingxiao would have liked to fight.

“Big Pot, Sister Ruyi, good luck!”

Lu Linghe, clad in a red martial outfit and standing on Wind-Fire Wheels, cheered, helping to lighten the somewhat tense atmosphere.

“Okay,”

Lu Ping’an smiled at Lu Linghe,

then sent a sound transmission to Lu Lingxiao, “Lingxiao, watch over things here.”

Although they were openly and squarely facing each other, who knows if any tricks might be played, so it was better to be a bit cautious.

“Don’t worry, big brother,”

Lu Lingxiao nodded.

Ling Zixiao remained elegantly dignified sitting in the carriage, quietly observing the outside situation.

She did not plan to get involved in the fight this time.

Partly because her cultivation level wasn’t high, only at the Fourth Layer of Foundation Establishment.

Furthermore, her cultivation technique, “Twelve Capital Demon Divine Technique” would require killing to silence if she exerted full effort.

Of course, it was also because Lu Changsheng had told her about Lu Ping’an’s combat ability, and there was no need for her involvement.

A moment later, Lu Ping’an’s Black Dragon Power circulated, and his tall and imposing body suited up in a glinting Silver Armor, with a pitch-black Black Dragon Halberd appearing in his hands.

Beside him, Lu Ruyi’s tall body also donned a Golden Armor, shining brilliantly with flowing radiance, as she wielded a golden small sword.

“Brother, dad said that when you come home, you will have similar armor, and you would look really good in it,”

Lu Linghe eagerly said to Lu Lingxiao as she admired Lu Ping’an and Lu Ruyi’s armor.

She really liked this type of armor,

but dad said she didn't need it yet and could not use it until her cultivation level was higher, only then would they forge one tailored for her.

"Yes,"

Lu Lingxiao nodded slightly.

He wasn't particularly looking forward to such armor,

but was rather more eager for the attack Spiritual Artifacts father mentioned.

"Daoist Xie, please,"

Lu Ping'an called out to the three individuals, his silver armor-clad body holding a Black Dragon Halberd, stature as upright as a mountain, exuding a heroic and imposing aura.

"Daoist Lu, please,"

Xie Ying eyed the impressive Lu Ping'an, his eyes narrowing slightly before he glanced at the two beside him; all brandished their Magic Artifacts and soared into the sky.

"Roar!"

As Xie Ying performed a Gesture Incantation, a surge of misty vapor rapidly filled the air, forming a fierce Flood Dragon hurtling towards Lu Ping'an.

One of his companions, wielding a small drum, created successive water thunderbolts with each strike, which headed toward the pair.

During flight, these water thunderbolts slowly merged with the vapor Flood Dragon, enhancing its might incrementally.

The two were cultivating similar techniques; therefore, their combined attack was more powerful than ordinary.

The last person drove a blue Flying Sword towards them.

"Ruyi, take the rear and handle the formation!"

Lu Ping'an faced such an offensive, his robust figure stepping forward,

"Boom!"

His formidable demon-beast-like powerful aura enveloped the area, making the air itself seem heavier.

His Black Dragon Halberd instantly unleashed a dazzling light and swung forward,

Although externally he was a Middle Stage Second Order Body Refiner,

for this trade mission, clearly he could no longer afford to hide his true abilities.

Father had also instructed that there was no need to be overly modest.

Therefore, Lu Ping'an's strike utilized the Seventh Layer of Body Refinement.

As for the Eighth Layer, the Quasi Third-tier Body Refining, which was too shockingly extraordinary, he still knew restraint.

“Boom!”

The slash of the Black Dragon Halberd seemed to split heaven and earth, directly cleaving the vapor-steamed Flood Dragon in two.

Immediately after, the Great Halberd, wrapped in a force of wind and thunder, horizontally slashed, crushing the approaching water thunderbolts and Flying Sword.

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“Such physical prowess!?”

Xie Ying's eyelids twitched violently at the sight of the explosive physical strength that Lu Ping'an displayed.

He immediately gestured an incantation, causing the shattered vapors to steam up and gather like a silver dragon waterfall, aiming to entangle Lu Ping'an's Black Dragon Halberd.

“Buzz——”

Lu Ping'an tightly grasped the Black Dragon Halberd and abruptly twisted it, making the Great Halberd tremble wildly, sounding like metal clashing, scattering the silver dragon.

Subsequently, the qi-blood in his body burst forth like a breached river, an angry dragon emerging from the abyss, casting a faint golden treasure-light under the silver armor over his strong muscles.

“Thump thump thump——”

Wind and thunder raged around Lu Ping'an, with upsurging qi-blood above his head like beacon smoke reaching for the clouds, charging towards Xie Ying and the other two like a horde of thousands of horses and soldiers.

"This...."

Lu Ruyi, witnessing this scene and wielding her Flying Sword, appeared somewhat dazed.

Where am I, and what am I supposed to do?

Big brother has broken through the attacks of three people by himself, how can I plunder their formation?

It would be more like Big Brother plundering for me.

But Big Brother is also too impressive...

"Wow, Big Brother is so awesome!"

Lu Linghe clapped excitedly as she watched Lu Ping'an in action.

It's just a bit strange, why doesn't Big Brother use his fists and simply punch directly through them?

"Is this the power of the Eighth Level Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art? I wonder if Sister Wangshu's Talismans can break through Big Brother's physical body..."

Lu Lingxiao stared at the majestic silhouette of his big brother, his pupils reflecting a hint of gold as he pondered.

"Big Brother is so powerful!"

"Hiss, this must be Second-tier Top Level Body Refinement, right!?"

"Uncle Ping'an's strength..."

The other disciples from Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family and Qingzhu Mountain Lu Family were also shocked by the scene, followed by surges of excited delight in their hearts.

Knowing that Lu Ping'an was there to support them, the business trip was essentially secure.

"Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, quite a formidable Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, no wonder they dared to establish a merchant association at this time!"

Xie Ying's expression changed slightly as he saw the overwhelming momentum of Lu Ping'an, filled with serious solemnity.

He gestured an incantation, and his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact ‘Han Tan Pearl’ flew out, radiating with frosty rosy light.

This cold energy combined with the vapors from his hand incantation to spiral and form ice-cold Flood Dragons charging towards Lu Ping’an.

“Boom boom boom——”

Lu Ping’an’s expression remained calm as he swung the Black Dragon Halberd. Each strike was as heavy as a mountain, as though collapsing the void, shattering the ice-cold Flood Dragons into a sky full of ice and vapor.

Seeing the domineering Lu Ping’an, godlike and demon-like, bearing down upon him, Xie Ying immediately spoke out, “Daoist Lu, I concede!”

He had realized that it would not be easy for the three of them to defeat Lu Ping’an unless they fought with all their might.

But as there was no enmity between the two families, there was no need to go to war over such a trivial matter.

Furthermore, his objective for this trip was to gauge the strength of Blue Lake Mountain.

Now, Lu Ping’an had proven with his strength that Blue Lake Mountain was as formidable as a False Core Family.

Apart from Lu Changsheng and his wife Lu Miaoge, who were on par with False Core Immortals.

There were also genuine Body Refining Cultivators like Lu Ping’an with the combat ability of the Foundation Establishment Late Stage!

Not like Lu Wangshu, who relied on Talismans and external items as a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Moreover, considering Blue Lake Mountain probably had about ten Foundation Establishment individuals, it was not to be looked down upon and was worthy of acknowledgment from the Xie Family.

“Daoist Xie, I am honored.”

Seeing this, Lu Ping’an revealed a gentle smile on his upright martial face.

“Daoist Lu, I apologize for the offense today. This is a small token of my Xie Family’s sincerity, please accept it.”

Xie Ying took out several brocade boxes from his Storage Bag and handed them to Lu Ping'an as he spoke.

"Daoist Xie is being too courteous."

Lu Ping'an knew that accepting the gift would mean leaving the past grievances behind, so he reached out to take the gift box.

"Lu Daoist, if the nobility has any business cooperation needs, feel free to visit the Xie Family at Lingxi Lake at any time."

"This is the token of Lingxi Lake. Your people can come to Lingxi Lake with it."

Xie Ying continued, offering a token.

"Alright, thank you Daoist Xie."

Lu Ping'an nodded, accepted the token, and glanced at it.

One side bore the word 'Lingxi,' and on the other, the character for 'Xie'.

"I heard that Lu Daoist has not yet established a household? All the women of the Xie Clan are graceful and dignified, virtuous and well-mannered. If Lu Daoist is interested, I can make the arrangements..."

Xie Ying looked at Lu Ping'an in front of him and suddenly spoke.

He had seen some basic information about Blue Lake Mountain before.

He remembered that this firstborn son of the Lu Family was not old, seemingly only in his sixties.

At that age, being in the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment is rather ordinary.

However, being in the Late Second Rank of Body Refinement at that age is quite astonishing!

One must know, Body Refinement is even more difficult than Qi Refinement and takes a lot of time and effort.

Lu Ping'an before him possesses such Body Refinement strength, surely due to some great fortune.

Perhaps it's possible that in the future, he could break through to False Core, leveraging his Body Refinement prowess!

If our two families could arrange a marriage early on, it would be a great boon for my Xie Family.

“Uhh... I, Lu Someone, am currently devoted to cultivation and have not yet considered marriage.”

Lu Ping'an's face twitched slightly, not expecting such a swift change of topic from Xie Ying in front of him.

“Alright then, if Lu Daoist ever finds the time, feel free to visit the Xie Family; our families should interact more,”

Xie Ying looked somewhat regretful but remained extremely polite.

He hinted that there might be other family forces targeting Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, and Lu Ping'an should be cautious.

He even subtly suggested that the incident at Red Leaf Valley Market might be related to the Sima Family.

After chatting for a while, Xie Ying went forward to make polite conversation with Lu Ruyi, greeted Ling Zixiao, and then took his leave.

“Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, the eldest son, Lu Ping'an.”

“This couple from Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family are comparable to True Pill Masters, and even Lu Changsheng's Talisman Formation could threaten and even suppress an average True Pill Master.”

“Now there's also Lu Ping'an, with such formidable Body Refinement combat power; the rise of Blue Lake Mountain is becoming unstoppable.”

Standing on the Spirit Boat, Xie Ying was filled with emotion, and the more he thought about it, the more he felt that there was something extraordinary about Blue Lake Mountain.

He even suspected that there might be more to Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge than meets the eye.

After all, Lu Changsheng's daughter, Lu Wangshu, relying on the heritage of the Talisman Path, wields such astonishing combat power.

It might be true, as the early rumors suggested, that Lu Changsheng could threaten and even kill True Pill Masters with Talisman Formations.

“Don't spread word of this matter.”

At this moment, Xie Ying looked towards his nephew and the visiting noble servant, speaking out.

While he wished to maintain friendly ties with Blue Lake Mountain and hoped for cooperation between their families, he also would not mind seeing Blue Lake Mountain clash with the other major powers.

Especially with the Sima and Yuan Families.

As old False Core families, they have always acted aggressively and do not wish to see new False Core families emerge.

Having suffered a setback at Red Leaf Valley Market, they are likely to take ruthless measures this time.

If Blue Lake Mountain clashes with these two families and a fierce battle ensues, the Xie Family could also benefit from it.

“I didn’t use my full strength just now, and it’s likely that Lu Ping’an didn’t either.”

“Moreover, the Lady of the Lu Family has not made a move since the year Lu Changsheng seized Bi Lake Mountain from the Yu Family, yet she came to oversee the caravan this time; definitely not a simple matter.”

Xie Ying secretly mused, even looking forward to the encounters of the Lu Family Caravan with the other forces.

If both sides lash out and fight fiercely, causing flares of anger, that would be interesting indeed.

Chapter 1233: Chapter 428: Yuan Family, Sima Family!

After Xie Ying and others left, Lu Ruyi stared at her older brother in a daze and said, “Big brother, your strength...”

She had been stationed at Flower Fruit Mountain in her early years, often seeking advice from Lu Ping’an, and the two had sparred together many times, knowing that her brother’s strength was extraordinary.

But she never imagined that her own brother’s strength would be so astonishing.

She had previously seen some information about the six major False Core Families and knew that the recent Xie Ying had the strength of the seventh or eighth level of Foundation Establishment.

Even if it was just a probe and he didn't go all out, the fact that her brother gained the upper hand in just a moment also showed that her brother had the strength of the late Foundation Establishment, or even the peak of Foundation Establishment.

Doesn't this mean that big brother's strength has surpassed that of father!?

That's not right, Wangshu is that powerful, and father, when using the Talisman Formation, might actually be able to suppress a False Core Immortal, just like the rumors say.

"I made a little breakthrough in Body Refinement a while ago,"

Lu Ping'an said with a slight smile, not giving too much explanation.

After speaking, he added, "Such battles are unpredictable. It's best to end the fight quickly. Later, if we encounter an ordinary Foundation Establishment cultivator, big brother will clear the way for you."

"Ruyi understands."

Lu Ruyi nodded in acknowledgment, knowing she would have had difficulty intervening in the just fight, and might even have held her brother back.

"Big Pot, Big Pot, why didn't you use the 'Mountain Shaking Fist'?"

Lu Linghe, riding on the Wind-Fire Wheels, came to her big brother's side and asked curiously.

She had always followed Lu Ping'an in practicing boxing and had been looking forward to seeing this set of boxing techniques in real combat.

"Xiaohe wants to see the boxing technique, next time big brother will use it,"

Lu Ping'an said with a smile as he put away the Black Dragon Halberd.

Then he came to a luxurious carriage, handing over the token given by the Xie Family to Ling Zixiao.

"Lingxi Xie Family, good. As for the matter with the Xie Family, I will write back later and have the family handle it,"

Ling Zixiao took the token, looked at it for a few moments with a light smile, graceful and dignified.

Then she turned to her son Lu Lingxiao and instructed, "Xiao'er, you too have cultivated the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, if you have any doubts about Body Refinement, you can ask your big brother for more advice."

Although she knew of Lu Ping'an's strength, she had never witnessed it before.

Even after the engagement, she was still somewhat surprised.

"Ping'an has been cultivating so far, it has only been about forty years, right?"

Ling Zixiao still remembered that when Lu Ping'an was young, he did not manifest a Spiritual Root, and when he first returned to Qingzhu Mountain, Lu Changsheng even asked her to instruct him in cultivating the "Purple True Solar Scripture."

Unknowingly, the other had grown to such an extent, which was quite astonishing.

"Mother, your child understands."

Lu Lingxiao nodded seriously.

He was aware that while he possessed a strong physical body from his Body Refinement practice, he lacked the means to utilize his strength properly.

When it came to cultivation issues, Lu Ping'an never held back advice, voicing guidance to his brothers and sisters.

In addition to guiding Lu Ruyi and Lu Lingxiao, Lu Ping'an also often cared for other brothers and sisters from Qingzhu Mountain, as well as Lu Family disciples without a Spiritual Root.

Once the trade caravan arrives at its current destination, it stops outside the entrance of the other party's mountain gate to conduct trade.

Besides selling goods, the caravan also inquires if there's anything the other party wishes to sell, engaging in purchases.

It's quite easy to pick up bargains during this process.

Picking up a bargain doesn't mean one must find something exceedingly precious.

Even things worth a few dozen or a hundred Spirit Stones that are treated like junk and bought for just a few Spirit Stones count as a bargain.

Originally, the commerce association would also make Spirit Stones by offering rides along the way.

But this time, the Lu Family Caravan is mainly aiming to establish reputation and open up trade routes, not purely for profit, hence they didn't take any passengers.

On the journey, besides Demon Beasts, they occasionally face bandits and mountain hijackers occupying the hills.

In such cases, usually a bribe of some Spirit Stones as a toll is enough.

If there is a Foundation Establishment Cultivator presiding, merely leaking out the Foundation Establishment Spiritual Pressure can resolve the situation.

As for killing, that's not usually done.

Doing business is all about making money amicably.

Moreover, many of these bandits are actions of the small Family Forces nearby.

If every one of these bandits were to be killed, it would be an endless task and only bring trouble to one's own family.

...

Seven days later.

The trade caravan encountered another attack.

This time there were three Foundation Establishment Cultivators, one at the late stage of Foundation Establishment, and two at the initial stages.

Unlike the previous encounter with the Lingxi Xie Family, these enemies didn't bother with idle talk and struck to kill immediately.

If not for Lu Ping'an's vigilance, even Lu Family disciples might have been in trouble.

Faced with this situation, Lu Ping'an didn't bother with pleasantries, directly confronting the attack.

Lu Ruyi and Lu Lingxiao also took action without delay, each facing off against a cultivator at the initial stage of Foundation Establishment.

This commercial expedition was for Lu Lingxiao to gain experience and improve; encountering action, he naturally took part.

"The Lu Family Commerce Association actually has three, no... four Foundation Establishment Cultivators, but where is the lady of the Lu Family?"

The elder at the late stage of Foundation Establishment was shocked.

He hadn't expected that not long after the event at Red Leaf Valley Market and the emergence of a Foundation Establishment Stage Lu Wangshu from Bi Lake Mountain, now two unknown Foundation Establishment Cultivators appeared.

But what shocked him the most was Lu Ping'an's combat ability.

Seeing that the rumors weren't true, he immediately wanted to flee and report this information back to his clan.

But Lu Ping'an wouldn't let him go so easily, entangling him in the fight.

Meanwhile, Lu Ruyi and Lu Lingxiao were each engaged with a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, constantly exchanging blows.

Both these Foundation Establishment Cultivators were not simple, possessing the cultivation of the third level of Foundation Establishment, belonging to veteran fighters with rich experience in combat techniques.

Lu Lingxiao, who had just broken through to Foundation Establishment not long ago, barely managed to learn the Foundation Establishment spells and lacked a suitable Spiritual Artifact, relying solely on his foundational mana, Devastation Flame, and Second Order Body Refining to match his opponent evenly.

However, his powerful Pupil Skill was amazing, his eyes gleaming with golden light, continuously discerning the opponent's weaknesses and seeking opportunities, gradually gaining the upper hand.

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As for Lu Ruyi, she had no advantage.

Even as the combat between both sides progressed, she gradually fell into a disadvantage, barely hanging on with the aid of a spiritual artifact.

"We can't keep this up, let's go!"

After exchanging a few rounds of battle with Lu Ping'an, this late-stage Foundation Establishment elder gave up on the other two and activated a talisman, preparing to escape alone.

"Trying to leave!?"

Seeing this, Lu Ping'an said to his sister, who was riding Wind-Fire Wheels in the distance:
"Xiaohe, watch carefully."

"Earthshake!"

Lu Ping'an clenched his fist, and complex patterns spread across his robust physique like chains, resembling dragons and snakes moving about, bringing boundless mighty force.

The endless surge of Qi-Blood erupted like a volcanic explosion, making the air heavy, as if a mountain had fallen, pressing down on the old man in front, causing his entire body to sink sharply.

The vertebrae moved like rising dragons, throwing out a fist that gathered infinite force.

“Bang bang bang—”

The massive sound waves and fist force burst the air layer by layer, then struck the old man trying to flee.

The terrible force instantly shattered the old man’s defensive magic artifact, violently blasting his physical body into a mist of blood.

“Hmm...”

Seeing the blood mist before him, Lu Ping’an suddenly realized that this scene of battle might seem a bit brutal for his sister.

Immediately, with a clench of his hand, as if grasping the air from all directions, he made all the blood mist dissipate.

“This this this...”

The other two initial-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators had been observing the situation between the old man and Lu Ping’an, thinking about when to retreat. Seeing this, they were instantly frightened out of their wits.

What in the world!

Their leader had just been killed with a single punch.

In a flash, the two felt as if they had fallen into a cold chasm and lost all will to fight.

Lu Lingxiao took advantage of this moment, and his Devastation Flame transformed into a black firebird, fiercely launching it to incinerate the old man before him.

“Spare my life, esteemed Daoists, spare my life!”

The man fighting with Lu Ruyi quickly shouted out loud, begging for mercy, knowing that continuing the fight would only lead to a dead end.

“Ping’an, ask them where they are from?”

The voice of Ling Zixiao rang in Lu Ping’an’s mind.

“Yes, aunt.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Ping'an suppressed the man with a gesture, questioning him for information.

Facing such a situation, the man dared not hide anything and divulged all of the information.

He revealed that he was merely a loose cultivator named Zhou Datong, who heard about this job opportunity which promised, successful or not, a Second Order Breaking Stage Pill afterward, hence he took up the task.

The earlier elder likely hailed from Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family.

“One of the six major False Core families, Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family.”

“Loose cultivator.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Ping'an, Lu Ruyi, and the others immediately understood what the Yuan Family's intentions were.

They deliberately sent two loose cultivators to probe, knowing that the elder would abandon them and escape alone should any mishaps occur.

Even if the two were captured and accused the Yuan Family of the deed, such testimonial evidence would hardly be credible.

Moreover, the Yuan Family didn't believe that Blue Lake Mountain would dare to trouble them.

“Fellow Daoists, I truly know little about this matter, have no intention of offending nobles, here is all my wealth, I am willing to offer it as compensation.”

Zhou Datong pleaded, regretting so much that his guts turned green.

“If you want to save your life, that's possible. My Lu Family Commerce Association is newly established and short-staffed.”

“As long as you sign a contract and serve as an escort guard for my Blue Lake Mountain for twenty years, you'll be given your freedom afterward.”

Just then, a graceful and elegant voice sounded.

Ling Zixiao, clad in a lake-blue skirt, her appearance dignified and gracious, stepped out from the carriage, looking at Zhou Datong with a calm and indifferent expression, giving off an indescribable aura of majesty and nobility.

Though Blue Lake Mountain currently has quite a few Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

Establishing a commerce association still requires manpower.

If they paid to invite Visiting Noble Servants, with the current reputation of Blue Lake Mountain, indeed, some could be invited.

But the expenses involved in hiring escort guards would be too great, and currently not worthwhile.

Since there are Foundation Establishment Cultivators being served up on a platter, Ling Zixiao naturally would not hold back.

“Escort guard, twenty years...”

Upon hearing this, Zhou Datong’s expression changed slightly.

For a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, twenty years is not very long.

But the issue is not about the twenty years, but the role of the escort guard!

It’s known that escort guards escort merchant caravans and goods, traveling outside year-round, which is a dangerous job.

Especially now that Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family is in the limelight being targeted by many powers, you never know when an accident might occur.

“You have no choice now, either die or serve Blue Lake Mountain for twenty years.”

Ling Zixiao’s beautiful eyes were bright, like autumn water, as she calmly and indifferently looked at Zhou Datong, exuding an ineffable nobility.

“I am willing...”

Zhou Datong knew he had no other choice, and his entire demeanor deflated as he agreed.

Right then, Ling Zixiao signed a Spiritual Contract with him and took out a Blood Covenant.

For a loose cultivator like Zhou Datong, whose cultivation level would hardly progress further, choosing to give up cultivation and paying some price, a second-order Spiritual Contract would not truly bind him.

But a Blood Covenant is different.

This type of Blood Covenant is extremely tyrannical; if the other party dares to betray and tears the Blood Covenant, it can directly cause the adversary’s Dao Foundation to collapse.

Besides the Blood Covenant, Ling Zixiao also planned to go back and have Li Xingruo, her husband, research if there are Poison Elixirs that could be solved once every one or two years.

Such multiple guarantees would provide more stability.

“Blood Covenant...”

Zhou Datong looked at the Blood Covenant before him, his face turning pale.

Knowing that once he signed the Blood Covenant before him, his life would be completely controlled by another.

But under the current circumstances, he had no other choice, and ultimately squeezed out Essence Blood to sign the Blood Covenant.

“As long as you serve Blue Lake Mountain well, it is not impossible to grant your freedom ahead of time.”

“If you achieve merits, not to mention a Second Order Breaking Stage Pill, even a Second-Order High-Grade Breakthrough Pill, my Blue Lake Mountain also has them.”

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Ling Zixiao carefully put away the Spiritual Contract and the Blood Covenant before nonchalantly adding a sentence.

Then she gracefully returned to the carriage.

Zhou Datong, although aware that her words were just pie in the sky, still harbored some hope and began to comfort himself.

Thinking that the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family was so extraordinary, apart from Mr. and Mrs. Lu, there was such a top-tier cultivator; if he truly devoted himself, perhaps he could really reap some benefits...

“Big Pot, next time you should probably not use your fists; you’re punching people to death.”

At this moment, Lu Linghe said to his big brother, feeling that the punch just now was too fierce.

“Alright.”

Lu Ping’an smiled awkwardly.

Lu Ruyi, who was standing next to them, looked at Lu Lingxiao in silence.

It was one thing for the eldest brother to kill a Foundation Establishment cultivator with a single punch.

This younger brother of his, who had only recently broken through to Foundation Establishment, managed to kill a Foundation Establishment Cultivator without even using a Spiritual Artifact.

And as for herself...

As the caravan continued moving forward, Ling Zixiao then instructed her son, Lu Lingxiao, "Xiao'er, in the future, you will be in charge of family affairs. You must remember the four words 'both kindness and might'."

"As for how to bestow kindness and how to exert might, that is something you will have to grasp on your own."

"Although Zhou Datong signed the Blood Covenant, he has not yet fully pledged allegiance and lacks loyalty. Along the way, you can try applying both kindness and might to win him over."

"This might, you can exert it yourself, or through your big brother..."

Ling Zixiao's eyes gleamed brightly as if she could see through the carriage to Lu Ping'an and Zhou Datong.

Although her son was not interested in family affairs,

In her view, a lack of interest and a lack of understanding were two different concepts.

"Both kindness and might."

Lu Lingxiao, hearing his mother's words, glanced at Zhou Datong on top of the pack animal, nodded his head, and a memory surfaced in his mind of his mother's demeanor towards Zhou Datong just moments ago.

He suddenly realized that he had never seen this side of his mother at home before.

...

Meanwhile,

At Great Ape Mountain,

"Family Head, bad news, the Fourth Elder's Soul Plate has shattered!"

The Yuan Family elder, who was guarding the ancestral hall, came rushing with a look of urgency to report.

“What? The Fourth Elder’s Soul Plate is shattered? How is this possible?”

The Yuan Family Head’s eyes bulged with disbelief upon hearing this news.

Their Fourth Elder possessed the cultivation of the Foundation Establishment Seventh Layer and his combat strength was extraordinary; even a cultivator at the peak of Foundation Establishment would find it difficult to kill him.

This excursion was merely to probe the strength and situation of the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family Caravan; how could he have died out there.

“The Lu Family only has two Foundation Establishment cultivators. Even if they had some hidden depth, it would only add up to three Foundation Establishment Cultivators at most. How could they possibly kill the Fourth Elder!”

“Moreover, the Fourth Elder had invited two Foundation Establishment Cultivators to accompany him on this outing.”

The head of the Yuan Family still couldn’t believe the news.

But once he arrived at the ancestral hall and saw that the Fourth Elder’s Soul Plate was indeed shattered, he immediately notified the family and then sent people to investigate the matter.

...

Nine days later,

The Lu Family Caravan was moving along the road.

“Hm!?”

From inside the carriage behind a pack beast, Ling Zixiao’s eyes suddenly opened wide as she looked at a compass in her hand.

This Formation Compass was not meant to set up formations, but to sense them.

After all, during the journey of commerce, one could encounter bandits who had arranged formations in advance, setting up an ambush.

If one entered a formation set by others, even with a cultivation level one rank higher, it was very dangerous and would put one at a disadvantage.

“Ping’an, Ruyi, Ling Xiao, be on your guard!”

Ling Zixiao called out to halt the caravan.

“Hoo hoo hoo——”

Just then, a strong wind suddenly arose in the forest, howling ominously.

“Buzz!”

Suddenly, within the sky dome, a stream of earthy yellow brilliance flowed, and a gigantic Xuanhuang (mystic yellow) miniature mountain descended swiftly from the air, its might extremely terrifying.

“Not good!”

Lu Ping'an was the first to react, his Qi-Blood surging turbulently as his tall and burly figure skyrocketed towards the miniature mountain in the air, pushing upwards against it.

“Woo woo woo——”

In that instant, a protective light screen formed around the beasts of burden and the carriages.

Yet, facing this oppressive aura, the beasts of burden all started to whine and cry tragically.

“Swoosh!”

The moment Lu Ping'an took action, a golden arrow shot towards him furiously, its aura sharp and aggressive.

Even though she knew her elder brother's Body Refinement was astonishing, Lu Ruyi still activated a Second Rank Golden Light Insignia for him without hesitation.

“Clang!”

The sound of gold striking metal rang out from his body, as the golden arrow slammed into the Golden Light Insignia with a deafening impact, shattering it instantly.

“Boom!”

Lu Ping'an directly flipped the earthy yellow miniature mountain above his head, and then his palm, as large as a millstone, violently slapped away the arrow that had broken the Golden Light Insignia.

“Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, what an impressive Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family; truly extraordinary!”

“Eldest son of the Lu Family, Lu Ping'an, it was rumored that you were at the Second Rank Middle Stage of Body Refinement. Now it seems that the rumor was not only inaccurate but greatly mistaken. Your Body Refinement has already reached the Second Rank Late Stage.”

“Tsk tsk tsk, the Lu Family really knows how to keep a low profile.”

“I thought Lu Wangshu was the main pillar of the Lu Family, but now it turns out, you, Lu Ping’an, are the true main pillar of the Lu Family. No wonder Lu Changsheng dared to trust you leading the caravan.”

At this moment, four figures stepped forward, standing side by side.

One had a miniature earthy yellow mountain floating above their head, one held a bow and arrow, another wielded a Feather Fan, and another held a Formation Compass.

They all appeared quite young and had an extraordinary demeanor.

Lu Ruyi, Lu Lingxiao, and Zhou Datong immediately came to Lu Ping’an’s side, looking at the four people before them.

“Hmm? Three Foundation Establishment cultivators?”

“Interesting, more and more interesting. No wonder your Lu Family had the confidence to start a trade association and create such a commotion.”

The young man holding the Feather Fan paused, and then chuckled aloud.

“Xuanwu Ridge Sima Family, the Sima Sijie (Four Heroes)!”

Lu Ruyi recognized the identities and backgrounds of the four individuals in front of them.

Not only did the four hail from the Sima Family, but they were also siblings born of the same mother.

For four brothers, all born of the same mother to each possess a Spiritual Root and have exceptional talent enough to break through to Foundation Establishment is indeed quite rare in the Cultivation World.

And all four of them had their own fair share of fortunate encounters, each possessing not ordinary strength, having once killed a Great Cultivator in the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

They were not only famous in the Qingyun Region but also had considerable notoriety throughout the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm.

Lu Ruyi did not expect that the Sima Family would be so brazen in making a move on their family caravan.

Unlike the Xie Family who had come previously just for a probe.

If the family had enough strength, even offering an apology or discussing cooperation was considered.

The Yuan Family, though directly murderous, still concealed their identities.

But the Sima Family in front of them had no disguise at all, openly assassinating their caravan. This was completely disregarding their Lu Family, with no concern for face.

“I heard the Sima Family has some relations with the Jin Family. Now that our family is involved with the Jin Family, it makes sense that the Sima Family would take direct action.”

Lu Ruyi contemplated and immediately communicated the intel on the Sima Sijie to her elder brother, Lu Lingxiao.

She then proceeded to tell Zhou Datong the situation of the four individuals as well.

Chapter 1236: Chapter 429: So What If the Lu Family Produces Several Great Fate Bearers?

“Since you know of our brothers’ reputation, we’ll give you a chance now. Roll back to Blue Lake Mountain immediately. Matters of the trade association are not for the Lu Family to meddle in!”

The youth holding the feather fan spoke coldly, with a swirl of green nether energy whirling around his feather fan.

Although the four of them were overconfident, a brief exchange just now had shown them that Lu Ping’an was no ordinary opponent, and they did not have full confidence in killing him.

After all, the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family was famous for their Talisman Path.

No one knew how many talismans the Lu Family disciples had on hand, so they were still being somewhat cautious and prudent.

Therefore, driving the Lu Family back to their patch on Blue Lake Mountain was sufficient for this trip.

In their eyes, the Lu Family of Blue Lake Mountain had been secretly accumulating strength and nurturing so many Foundation Establishment Cultivators in recent years that they had already exhausted their foundation.

As long as the family could no longer support these Foundation Establishment Cultivators, it would not be long before their prosperity turned to decline.

“The Sima Family surely is overbearing!”

“Damn it, if we were to retreat now, the trade association business would be utterly untenable.”

The Lu Family disciples standing beside the caravan, upon hearing this, were all infuriated, feeling that the Sima Family was too domineering. Then, they looked toward the towering figure of Lu Ping'an.

Now, their only hope was that their own elder brother, uncle, could repel the four of them.

“Ruyi, Ling Xiao, Zhou Daoist, be cautious.”

Lu Ping'an didn't say much, the Black Dragon Halberd appeared in his hand, and his robust and majestic body took large strides forward, charging at the four before him.

“How dare you!”

“Arrogant!”

“Simply seeking death!”

The Sima Sijie saw Lu Ping'an actually facing the four of them alone, their faces turned cold, with a chill expression.

In their view, Lu Ping'an indeed had extraordinary strength.

But for him to face the four of them alone was a blatant disregard.

They did not take the four brothers seriously at all.

“Buzz!”

Sima Bo let out a cold hum, and the earthy-yellow mini mountain above his head instantly enlarged, spanning like the Xuan Huang Mountains between heaven and earth, pressing down on Lu Ping'an.

“Boom!”

The Xuan Huang Mountains made it seem as though the heavens and earth themselves became heavier.

An invisible pressure, thread by thread, enveloped the entire area, causing nearby Lu Lingxiao, Lu Ruyi, and Zhou Datong to feel somewhat unstable.

The caravan's beasts of burden, Lu Family disciples, and warriors also turned pale under this intangible pressure, their Qi-Blood roiling and found it hard to breathe.

“Buzz, buzz, buzz—”

Just at that moment, streams of light burst forth from the cargo boxes of the caravan, converging into an invisible light barrier enveloping the entire caravan.

“Array master.”

Sima Shu, holding the Array Plate, looked towards one of the carriages, squinting his eyes.

“The Lady of the Lu Family from Blue Lake Mountain, Ling Zixiao, is precisely an Array Master.”

“Third brother, it seems the formation you’ve arranged has been detected by this lady.”

“Lady Lu hasn’t shown up yet. Is there something shameful?”

Sima Zhong and Sima Ji also looked toward the carriage, seemingly trying to see through it to glimpse Ling Zixiao inside.

“Ping’an, no need to waste time with them. Make it quick.”

At that moment, an elegant and pleasant voice came from inside the carriage.

The voice was very calm, yet it clearly reached everyone’s ears.

No need to waste time?

Quick resolution?

“Is everyone from your Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family this arrogant?”

“Even if Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge were here, they would not dare to speak to us brothers like this!”

The Sima Sijie’s expressions turned icy, and the eldest Sima Bo, with roiling Qi-Blood like that of a Demon Beast, spoke with a heavy voice.

He was also truly a Body Cultivator.

“You are not fit to mention my father, my aunt by name!”

When Lu Ping’an heard this, a cold light flashed in his eyes as well.

The four before him were too arrogant.

Not only had they tried to lay deadly hands upon meeting and nearly kill his caravan's disciples, but now they even spoke insultingly of his own father and aunt.

His stature was imposing, dressed in silver Armor, his eyes swirling with wind and thunder. Each movement was charged with the stirring of wind and thunder, like a thunderous war god.

“Wind and Thunder—Mountain Opener!”

Lu Ping'an thrust the Black Dragon Halberd, his right arm lifted with Qi-Blood surging, gathering boundless wind and thunder, forming a colossal axe above his head.

“Since you ask for death, us four brothers will grant it to you!”

Sima Bo's burly body shimmered with Xuan Huang light, giving off a presence as heavy as a mountain, his actions merging with the Xuan Huang Mountains that spanned between heaven and earth.

He was indeed extraordinary, his Body Refinement having already reached the Second Rank Late Stage, and he possessed Foundation Establishment Sixth Layer Cultivation Level.

If Lu Ping'an's Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art had not broken through to the Eight Level, he might not be able to suppress him.

Facing the four brothers, he would certainly be at a disadvantage.

But at this moment, Lu Ping'an held nothing back, directly unleashing his Quasi-Third Order physique.

“Boom—”

The wind and thunder-wreathed colossal axe collided fiercely with the Xuan Huang Mountains, immediately unleashing a terrifying might that shook the earth and sky.

The explosion of divine power was brutal and violent, as if to obliterate everything in its path, causing the Xuan Huang Mountains that spanned the sky dome to constantly tremble, nearly cracking.

“Not good! Third brother, fourth brother, take action!”

The feather fan-wielding Sima Zhong's face changed, immediately realizing something was amiss.

Their eldest brother's punch was actually inferior to Lu Ping'an's.

It was being pushed back continuously under Lu Ping'an's fist.

He did not dare to hesitate, the feather fan in his hand violently fanned out, the green nether wind instantly sweeping towards Lu Ping'an.

“Clang, clang, clang—”

This green nether wind was a potent wind, striking against Lu Ping'an's body like steel blades, resounding with the sound of metal on metal.

“Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh—”

The bow-wielding Sima Ji pulled the bowstring, and sharp golden arrows shot out, piercing the void, aimed murderously at Lu Ping'an with killing intent.

Meanwhile, Sima Shu, with the compass, squinted at the caravan below, offering up a magic pearl, attempting to break through Ling Zixiao's formation.

Chapter 1237: Chapter 429: So What If the Lu Family Produces Several Great Fate Bearers?_2

As an Array Master, he knew that the Merchant Convoy's Formation was solely supported by Spirit Stones. Its power was limited and it could not be sustained for long.

Since he had taken action, he naturally would not hold back anymore.

These four brothers were all exceptionally strong, each with their own strengths, ordinary Peak Foundation Establishment cultivators would perish at their hands.

“Big brother!”

Lu Lingxiao and Lu Ruyi, witnessing this scene, did not shrink back.

Although it was difficult for them to be of any help with their strength.

In this situation, they could not simply watch their eldest brother being ganged up on by four people.

“Screech!”

Lu Lingxiao performed a Gesture Incantation, and the Devastation Flame blazed in front of him, transforming into Black Firebirds that charged toward the golden arrows.

Lu Ruyi then sacrificed her Flying Sword and attacked Sima Shu, who was holding an Array Plate.

As the opponent was an Array Master, she had to interfere if she wanted to break the formation.

Zhou Datong, seeing this scene, was utterly dumbfounded.

He did not expect that just after signing a Blood Covenant with the Lu Family, he would encounter the famous Foundation Establishment Cultivators, Sima Sijie.

He felt like acting and not acting in the current situation were both wrong.

After all, if he took action, he might end up being beaten or killed by Sima Sijie later.

But if he didn't take action, his own Blood Covenant was still in the hands of Ling Zixiao.

"Damn, what greedy thoughts did I have earlier!"

Zhou Datong inwardly cursed but still chose to act, sacrificing his own Flying Sword, which shone brilliantly, and attacked Sima Ji.

"A few small fries also dare to interfere!"

Sima Zhong looked at the three coldly, the Five-Colored Feather Fan in his hand flowed with Five-colored Radiance, generating waves of Five-colored Qi-Winds that tore through the air and directly attacked the three of them.

To Lu Ruyi, Lu Lingxiao, and Zhou Datong, as Peak Foundation Establishment Cultivators, they were completely disregarded by Sima Sijie.

Usually, they were just little cultivators who could be killed on a whim.

Ping'an, don't be distracted, focus on killing the person in front of you first.

At that moment, in the carriage where Ling Zixiao was, besides him and Lu Linghe, there was another woman who looked exactly like Ling Zixiao.

However, this woman, compared to Ling Zixiao, seemed to have a few more traces of allure in her eyebrows and eyes.

The words had just been spoken.

"Ah!!!"

Sima Bo, who was vehemently contending with Lu Ping'an, suddenly felt an intense pain in his divine consciousness, causing a spell of dizziness.

"Crack!"

The vast Xuan Huang Mountains suddenly appeared cracked at this moment.

And immediately after.

“Boom!!!”

The punch from Lu Ping'an was like a divine axe that splits heaven and earth, breaking through the Qi-Wind.

“Ah!!!”

Accompanied by a tragic scream, the robust physique of Sima Bo, resembling that of a Demon Beast, exploded under this punch.

“Big brother!”

The other three, seeing this scene, were shocked and did not understand what just happened.

How their own big brother could be defeated in an instant.

“Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, this is a Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, be careful!”

“Ling Zixiao!”

Sima Sijie, able to have such a renowned reputation, were naturally extraordinary.

They instantly realized what had happened.

Their big brother must have been secretly attacked by a Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, which caused him to be distracted, leading to his defeat.

Otherwise, even if Lu Ping'an in front of them was incredibly powerful and domineering, he would not be able to kill their eldest brother in one punch amidst their combined assault.

“Let's go, let's get out of here quickly, there's a big problem with Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family!”

The three brothers, although heartbroken, also realized at this moment that with Lu Ping'an's physical body combined with Ling Zixiao's Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, it would be difficult for the brothers to withstand.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh—”

Sima Zhong continuously waved the Five-Colored Feather Fan in his hand, sweeping up Qi-Winds like a vast ocean, covering the area to buy time for their escape.

“There’s a Formation ahead, Ping’an, strike down the person holding the Array Plate.”

In the carriage, Ling Zixiao’s calm and indifferent voice sounded, noticing that the three were going to utilize the formation to escape.

“Buzz buzz buzz—”

Sima Shu, holding the Array Plate, upon hearing this, immediately felt horrified.

Immediately after, a small bell in his mind started frantically ringing, indicating that a Divine Sense Attack was targeting his soul.

“Nascent Soul Divine Sense, how... how is this possible!”

Sima Shu’s face was filled with terror.

The small bell in his mind was a Divine Sense Secret Treasure designed to defend his Mental Spirit and fend off Divine Sense Attacks.

But at this moment, this Divine Sense had already surpassed the limits his secret treasure could handle.

Instantly, Sima Shu’s mind was in severe pain, and his Mental Spirit was in a trance.

“Spurt!”

Lu Ping’an stood majestic, aura radiating with golden treasure light, directly ignoring Sima Zhong’s Five-colored Qi-Wind, standing firmly and punching directly at Sima Shu, whose body exploded into a mass of blood and mud.

Even though Sima Shu was wearing a Magical Robe and had a Spiritual Artifact automatically protecting him, all defenses and Body-Protecting Qi Barriers broke down under Lu Ping’an’s golden fist.

“Third brother, third brother!”

Sima Zhong and Sima Ji, witnessing this scene, were utterly heartbroken and incredulous.

But at this moment, the two were terrified out of their wits and had no desire to fight any longer; the brothers chose to escape separately.

Because they knew that if they escaped together at this time, it might be even more dangerous.

“Ping’an, the person holding the Feather Fan.”

“Xiao’er, the person holding the bow and arrows.”

In the carriage, Ling Zixiao continued to speak.

Both, having already transformed into Escape Lights, stiffened suddenly as their Divine Sense was damaged.

“Spurt!”

Lu Ping’an swiftly soared out, his fist flowing with golden treasure light, blasting Sima Zhong’s body into pieces.

Lu Lingxiao then drove the Devastation Flame towards Sima Ji.

But even though Sima Ji’s Divine Sense was in intense pain and his Mental Spirit was in a trance, his body still formed a Body-Protecting Qi Barrier, resisting Lu Lingxiao’s Devastation Flame.

“Boom!”

Lu Lingxiao, imitating his elder brother, mobilized his Qi-Blood. His physique glowed as he fiercely punched out.

Yet, this punch merely threw Sima Ji backwards, smashing him to the ground as he spat blood, but it did not kill him.

Chapter 1238: Chapter 429: So What If the Lu Family Produces Several Great Fate Bearers?_3

Sima Ji also regained some clarity from the severe pain in his divine sense due to the attack, his face twisted ferociously as he looked at Lu Lingxiao.

But the next moment.

“Pfft!”

Lu Ping’an hurled the Black Dragon Halberd over, like a ferocious black dragon descending from the sky, piercing straight through Sima Ji’s chest, nailing him dead.

“Lingxiao, you can ask father more about how to fuse your Heavenly Spiritual Fire with the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art.”

Lu Ping’an turned to his younger brother and patted his shoulder.

He still clearly remembered, after the end of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family came to hunt him and his brother Lu Quanzhen.

In the face of the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family, their father burned his body with a purplish-red Heavenly Spiritual Fire and then vanquished the adversary with a punch.

The Heavenly Spiritual Fire of his brother Lu Lingxiao, though not as astonishing as their father's.

But so long as he was given time to grow, it is not impossible to achieve the same.

“Yes, big brother.”

Through their time together these days, Lu Lingxiao had come to admire his elder brother profoundly.

He also recognized the dominance of body cultivation and the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art from him.

Ordinary cultivators, when facing the techniques of the same level, would have to defend against the onslaught with magical robes and magic artifacts.

Yet his elder brother just now directly ignored the other's Gang wind with his physical body and even resisted the spiritual artifact arrows with his flesh.

This kind of fierce fighting method, unless cultivators of the same rank collaborate in a group attack or possess some exotic treasure, they would have no way to counter it.

“This this this....”

Zhou Datong, watching Lu Ping'an who seemed like a god or demon, was simply dry-throated and trembling in his spirit.

To know, an existence like the Sima Sijie was someone he could only look up to in ordinary days.

But such a renowned figure was now effortlessly suppressed and killed by this eldest son of the Lu family.

Once this news spreads out, it's likely to shock the entire Jiang Country Cultivation Realm!

Because this is no longer the fighting strength of a Foundation Establishment cultivator!

“This Eldest Young Master of the Lu Family is quite approachable on regular days; he's in charge of the Lu Family Commerce Association. If I do my duties well, I might actually gain my freedom, and perhaps even a Second Order Breaking Stage Pill.”

At this moment, Zhou Datong fostered some thoughts of allegiance, thinking that serving the Lu family might not be so bad.

“So this is big brother’s strength!”

“With big brother here, what is there to fear on the journey ahead!”

The other Lu Family Disciples escorting the convoy also pulled themselves out of their recent fears, each one excited beyond measure.

Although they had never heard of any Sima Sijie.

But the spiritual pressure just now was the most terrifying they had ever seen.

Merely a breath of air made their qi-blood churn and breathing difficult.

Yet such beings were all blasted to their death by their own big brother, Uncle’s punch by punch; what could there possibly be to fear on the rest of their journey.

“Ping’an, thank you for your hard work.”

At this moment, Ling Zixiao glanced at the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox beside her, and as her daughter Lu Linghe stepped out of the carriage, she addressed the eldest son of the Lu Family.

Even though she was well aware of the capabilities of the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox, the effect just now was still beyond her expectations.

“Thanks to Auntie Ling.”

Lu Ping’an knew that Ling Zixiao had taken action just now.

Otherwise, even if he could win, he wouldn’t have been able to kill all four.

It could be said that these four were the strongest opponents he had faced since he set out on his path.

Each of them had profound strength, and their techniques complemented each other.

“Now that the beasts of burden have been frightened, we can no longer continue on our journey. Ping’an, you should also rest well, recover your condition, and wait for the upcoming battle.”

Ling Zixiao, dressed in a lake blue palace dress, her figure dignified and elegant, said with a light smile.

“The upcoming battle?”

Lu Lingxiao and Lu Ruyi beside her were both startled and somewhat surprised when they heard this.

“These four were the seeds of the Sima Family’s current generation.”

“Rumors have it that the four had acquired an opportunity for inheritance, and their cultivation methods are enhanced when practiced together, not to say necessarily achieving Core Formation simultaneously, but they are also likely to reach False Core.”

“Now that the four are dead, the Patriarch of the Sima Family will certainly not sit still and will come to seek vengeance.”

With a slight smile and an offhanded manner, Ling Zixiao said.

“The False Core Patriarch!”

“The False Core Immortal!”

Everyone nearby was shocked upon hearing this.

Even Lu Ping’an’s heart skipped a beat.

Although he had advanced to the eighth layer of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, he had just made the breakthrough recently and had not yet developed divine skills.

If he encounters a False Core Immortal, the outcome may be difficult to predict.

“Rest assured, unless the Sima Family sends two of their False Core real people, or invites their Mysterious Turtle, there’s no need to worry.”

“This battle also serves to establish the might of our Blue Lake Mountain, deterring others from constantly seeking trouble with us.”

Ling Zixiao said softly.

Even though she usually doesn’t concern herself with family affairs, she had spent time understanding the power dynamics of the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, especially the family forces of the Qingyun Region.

After speaking, she turned to look at Lu Ping’an and continued, “After this battle, every move you make will be watched by others.”

“Ping’an will follow Auntie Ling’s arrangements.”

Lu Ping’an said with his hands clasped in salute.

His father had instructed him, if he was uncertain about anything during this trade mission, he could consult Auntie Ling.

Therefore, upon hearing the other party, he did not raise any questions and chose to trust.

“Mother, wouldn’t this be too dangerous? Didn’t father say that harmony is precious?”

Lu Lingxiao spoke up.

Although he had faith in his mother.

Yet, this was essentially a confrontation with a False Core Immortal, which seemed too risky in his eyes.

Ling Zixiao glanced at her son and spoke, “It’s true that harmony is precious, but excessive concession only makes us seem weak and susceptible to bullying, leading others to push us even further.”

“Our family must now show some toughness to secure a footing for the Commerce Association.”

“Besides, now that a fight has happened, even if we return to Blue Lake Mountain, the Sima Family will still come looking for us.”

“In that case, it’s better to settle the grudges here directly.”

“This battle will also signal to other forces that we at Blue Lake Mountain do not provoke trouble, yet we do not fear it either. Should anyone dare to trouble our family, they better weigh their options carefully.”

“Moreover, the six False Core families have always been fighting overtly and covertly. The Jin Family already has a bad relationship with us; if we also antagonize the Sima Family, the other families will surely be more than happy to forge good relations with us.”

“Some of the family forces around the Sima Family will also take the initiative to reach out and cooperate with us.”

Ling Zixiao patiently explained to her son, “As for the wrath of the Sima Family... there’s no need to care about it.”

Although she approved of her husband’s principles,

She believed that sometimes it was necessary to be more assertive.

While it may attract trouble and unwanted attention, it also prevents a lot of hassles.

Furthermore, the events at the Red Leaf Valley Market, along with the continuous Foundation Establishment breakthroughs of the children at home, meant that the family’s situation couldn’t be concealed after all.

Instead of hiding and pretending, it's better to frankly reveal some information to others.

If Lu Ping'an shows False Core strength, then our family would be completely regarded as a False Core family.

Isn't it quite normal for the family to have a few more Foundation Establishment Cultivators then?

As for the fact that Lu Ping'an is so young yet has the power of a Quasi-Third Order Body Refining and False Core level... although this matter is exaggerated and astonishing,

It's not so shocking in the eyes of Core Formation Cultivators and Nascent Soul True Lords throughout the Cultivation World.

After all, the Cultivation World is filled with countless opportunities and miracles.

Why couldn't our Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family produce a few individuals of great fortune?

It's precisely because Lu Ping'an has encountered great opportunities and fortune that he has such Body Refining strength at a young age.

It's also because of such miraculous encounters that our Blue Lake Mountain has seen a surge of Foundation Establishment Cultivators!

As long as we don't draw the attention of Nascent Soul True Lords, these False Core families, and even Core Formation noble families, are nothing but whetstones for my children's growth."

"The child understands..."

Lu Lingxiao nodded thoughtfully.

In his younger years, his mother had taught him many life lessons.

But having always been in Blue Lake Mountain, he felt that many of his mother's words clashed with what he had heard elsewhere.

Only now, during this trip, did he start to grasp the meaning of some of her words.

"This trip has been rewarding. Xiaohe, go with your elder brother and sister Ruyi to sort things out."

Ling Zixiao smiled at her daughter.

The battle was bloody and brutal, and she didn't want her daughter to get too involved.

But her daughter loved sorting through their battle spoils.

Even if she did not get much herself, just being involved in the tally could make her happy for quite a while.

“Big Pot!”

Lu Linghe immediately looked at Lu Ping’an with bright and sparkling eyes.

“Xiaohe, you and Ruyi will do just fine sorting things out, big brother needs to rest for a bit.”

Lu Ping’an patted her little head and grinned.

He was preparing to restore himself to peak condition as soon as possible since he would soon face a False Core real person.

Although the previous battle only lasted a few exchanges, it was not small in consumption.

Seeing her daughter happily calculating their gains with Lu Ruyi, Ling Zixiao also took her son, Lu Lingxiao, to set up formations around them and taught him about formation knowledge.

While she downplayed this battle, she was also making preparations to ensure everything was foolproof, to avoid any accidents.

Chapter 1239: Chapter 430: Spirit Vein Promotion, Two Branch Veins!

Profound Martial Ridge.

Sima Family Ancestral Hall.

“How is this possible!”

The Sima Family Head saw the four shattered Soul Plates in front of him, his entire body shivering uncontrollably, his face deathly pale.

Not only was he afraid of the death of his four uncles.

He also feared the wrath of the family patriarch after his uncles’ deaths.

After all, these four uncles were the hope of this generation for the Sima Family, with future prospects of reaching Core Formation.

Now, they had all fallen unexpectedly.

“My uncles were just going to deal with the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family Caravan. How could they possibly fall in the outside world?”

“Could it be that some other family’s False Core Patriarch ambushed and killed them on the way?”

The Sima Family Head’s body trembled continuously, muttering to himself, unwilling to believe this fact.

“No, this is absolutely unthinkable. If other False Cores dared to commit such a taboo act, it would lead to an all-out fatal rupture with our Sima Family. They definitely wouldn’t dare to do so.”

“Moreover, my uncles were extraordinary, even a True Pill Master would find it difficult to kill them all.”

The Sima Family Head’s throat was dry, his mental spirit quivering, suspecting that his four uncles might have encountered other dangers on the road.

Not daring to think further, he hurriedly flew towards the top of Profound Martial Peak, arriving in front of a cave mansion, he knelt down and shouted, “Patriarch, there’s a great disaster!”

“What issue needs such screaming and shouting?”

A deep, heavy voice filled with authority came from the cave mansion.

“Patriarch...”

The Sima Family Head knelt in front of the cave mansion, his face deathly pale, his forehead dripping with sweat, his voice hoarse as he said, “Sima Bo, Sima Zhong, Sima Shu, Sima Ji, the Soul Plates of the four uncles... have shattered.”

“What!”

An overwhelming magic aura billowed out from the cave mansion, hitting the Sima Family Head who knelt outside so hard that his whole body sank, his Qi-Blood tumbling violently, leaving him with a heavy feeling in his chest.

He didn’t dare to move, prostrating on the ground, and with a trembling voice said, “Not long ago, upon hearing about the matters at Blue Lake Mountain, the four uncles went to intercept the Lu Family Caravan, saying they wanted to cut them down a notch...”

“Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family Caravan? How could a mere Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family kill the pride of my Sima Family!”

An old man with grey hair, a rugged face, dressed in black brocade robes, walked out of the cave mansion, his eyes round and fearsome, looking at the Sima Family Head in front of him, radiating an intense oppressive aura.

“Patriarch, I am also at a loss...”

The Sima Family Head trembled as he spoke.

He knew well that their family patriarch was not someone with a good temper.

It was only after breaking through to False Core that he began to cultivate his disposition, becoming much more amiable.

“The Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family, I remember that young lad Lu Changsheng and his wife cultivated a Dual Cultivation Technique, their battle power comparable to a False Core, also possessing a superior Talisman Formation art.”

The Family Patriarch spoke with an authoritative and domineering voice, his eyes sharp and penetrating, continuing to ask, “Could this Lu Family Caravan be personally overseen by Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge?”

“This Lu Family Caravan was presided over by the Lu Family’s eldest son, Lu Ping’an, and Lu Changsheng’s Dao Companion, Ling Zixiao...”

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After finishing, he added, “A month ago, under Blue Lake Mountain’s Red Leaf Valley Market held a Foundation Establishment Elixir auction... During this event, Lu Changsheng did not show up, so it’s not ruled out that Lu Changsheng was hiding within the caravan.”

Although he did not think that Lu Changsheng had the strength to kill his four uncles, he suspected that these four uncles could have encountered dangers elsewhere.

But with the family patriarch in a fury, he would certainly pour out his rage.

If he were to analyze the situation further, causing the patriarch’s anger to have no outlet, it might fall on his own head.

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The Patriarch Sima was enraged beyond measure, but still maintained his rationale.

“Patriarch, recently at the Red Leaf Valley Market, the daughter of Lu Changsheng, Lu Wangshu, alone with her Talisman Formation killed five Foundation Establishment Cultivators, indicating that Lu Changsheng’s Talisman inheritance is extraordinary, a top-tier legacy.”

“Early in his years, just after breaking through to Foundation Establishment, Lu Changsheng relied on his Talisman Formation to kill three Foundation Establishment Cultivators from the Yu Family, thereby taking over Bi Lake Mountain.”

“After so many years, nobody knows how advanced Lu Changsheng’s Talisman skills have become. If the four uncles were careless and fell into his Talisman Formation, it’s possible that...”

The Sima Family Head was speaking when suddenly, he felt it made much sense; it was quite possible.

Immediately lifting his head, he looked at his family patriarch with a grieving expression and said, “Otherwise, with the four uncles’ strength, even a True Pill Master in a confrontational fight couldn’t have killed them all.”

“I heard from the Nineteenth Uncle that the Soul Plates of the four uncles shattered almost simultaneously, which is similar to Lu Changsheng’s Talisman Formation technique.”

“Patriarch, you must seek justice for the four uncles!”

The Sima Family Head cried out loud, a wave of sadness welling up in his heart.

But as soon as the words left his mouth, his heart sank sharply.

If Lu Changsheng could kill his own four uncles, if their own patriarch went, could he really kill him?

“Lu Changsheng, what a Lu Changsheng, daring to kill the pride of my Sima Family, this old patriarch will annihilate your Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family!”

Upon hearing this, Patriarch Sima was burning with rage.

It should be noted that the four brothers Sima Bo acquired a great fortune back then, cultivating an unparalleled secret technique.

When one of them aimed to breakthrough to Core Formation, the other three could sacrifice their life’s Origin Source to assist, improving the breakthrougher’s chances of Core Formation by twenty to thirty percent.

With the Sima Family’s background, coupled with this secret technique, perhaps they could achieve a breakthrough to Core Formation for one person, catapulting their Sima Family into a Nascent Soul Noble Family.

But now, with the fall of the four Sima brothers, their Great Clan dream was directly shattered.

How could he not be enraged by this situation!

“Third and Fourth, are they at home? Notify them to come and see me!”

Patriarch Sima was beyond furious, his False Core power permeating his surroundings, making the adjacent Sima Family Head feel suffocated, struggling to breathe.

Chapter 1237: Chapter 429: So What If the Lu Family Produces Several Great Fate Bearers?_2

As an Array Master, he knew that the Merchant Convoy's Formation was solely supported by Spirit Stones. Its power was limited and it could not be sustained for long.

Since he had taken action, he naturally would not hold back anymore.

These four brothers were all exceptionally strong, each with their own strengths, ordinary Peak Foundation Establishment cultivators would perish at their hands.

"Big brother!"

Lu Lingxiao and Lu Ruyi, witnessing this scene, did not shrink back.

Although it was difficult for them to be of any help with their strength.

In this situation, they could not simply watch their eldest brother being ganged up on by four people.

"Screech!"

Lu Lingxiao performed a Gesture Incantation, and the Devastation Flame blazed in front of him, transforming into Black Firebirds that charged toward the golden arrows.

Lu Ruyi then sacrificed her Flying Sword and attacked Sima Shu, who was holding an Array Plate.

As the opponent was an Array Master, she had to interfere if she wanted to break the formation.

Zhou Datong, seeing this scene, was utterly dumbfounded.

He did not expect that just after signing a Blood Covenant with the Lu Family, he would encounter the famous Foundation Establishment Cultivators, Sima Sijie.

He felt like acting and not acting in the current situation were both wrong.

After all, if he took action, he might end up being beaten or killed by Sima Sijie later.

But if he didn't take action, his own Blood Covenant was still in the hands of Ling Zixiao.

"Damn, what greedy thoughts did I have earlier!"

Zhou Datong inwardly cursed but still chose to act, sacrificing his own Flying Sword, which shone brilliantly, and attacked Sima Ji.

"A few small fries also dare to interfere!"

Sima Zhong looked at the three coldly, the Five-Colored Feather Fan in his hand flowed with Five-colored Radiance, generating waves of Five-colored Qi-Winds that tore through the air and directly attacked the three of them.

To Lu Ruyi, Lu Lingxiao, and Zhou Datong, as Peak Foundation Establishment Cultivators, they were completely disregarded by Sima Sijie.

Usually, they were just little cultivators who could be killed on a whim.

Ping'an, don't be distracted, focus on killing the person in front of you first.

At that moment, in the carriage where Ling Zixiao was, besides him and Lu Linghe, there was another woman who looked exactly like Ling Zixiao.

However, this woman, compared to Ling Zixiao, seemed to have a few more traces of allure in her eyebrows and eyes.

The words had just been spoken.

"Ah!!!"

Sima Bo, who was vehemently contending with Lu Ping'an, suddenly felt an intense pain in his divine consciousness, causing a spell of dizziness.

"Crack!"

The vast Xuan Huang Mountains suddenly appeared cracked at this moment.

And immediately after.

"Boom!!!"

The punch from Lu Ping'an was like a divine axe that splits heaven and earth, breaking through the Qi-Wind.

"Ah!!!"

Accompanied by a tragic scream, the robust physique of Sima Bo, resembling that of a Demon Beast, exploded under this punch.

“Big brother!”

The other three, seeing this scene, were shocked and did not understand what just happened.

How their own big brother could be defeated in an instant.

“Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, this is a Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, be careful!”

“Ling Zixiao!”

Sima Sijie, able to have such a renowned reputation, were naturally extraordinary.

They instantly realized what had happened.

Their big brother must have been secretly attacked by a Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, which caused him to be distracted, leading to his defeat.

Otherwise, even if Lu Ping'an in front of them was incredibly powerful and domineering, he would not be able to kill their eldest brother in one punch amidst their combined assault.

“Let's go, let's get out of here quickly, there's a big problem with Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family!”

The three brothers, although heartbroken, also realized at this moment that with Lu Ping'an's physical body combined with Ling Zixiao's Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, it would be difficult for the brothers to withstand.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh—”

Sima Zhong continuously waved the Five-Colored Feather Fan in his hand, sweeping up Qi-Winds like a vast ocean, covering the area to buy time for their escape.

“There's a Formation ahead, Ping'an, strike down the person holding the Array Plate.”

In the carriage, Ling Zixiao's calm and indifferent voice sounded, noticing that the three were going to utilize the formation to escape.

“Buzz buzz buzz—”

Sima Shu, holding the Array Plate, upon hearing this, immediately felt horrified.

Immediately after, a small bell in his mind started frantically ringing, indicating that a Divine Sense Attack was targeting his soul.

“Nascent Soul Divine Sense, how... how is this possible!”

Sima Shu’s face was filled with terror.

The small bell in his mind was a Divine Sense Secret Treasure designed to defend his Mental Spirit and fend off Divine Sense Attacks.

But at this moment, this Divine Sense had already surpassed the limits his secret treasure could handle.

Instantly, Sima Shu’s mind was in severe pain, and his Mental Spirit was in a trance.

“Spurt!”

Lu Ping’an stood majestic, aura radiating with golden treasure light, directly ignoring Sima Zhong’s Five-colored Qi-Wind, standing firmly and punching directly at Sima Shu, whose body exploded into a mass of blood and mud.

Even though Sima Shu was wearing a Magical Robe and had a Spiritual Artifact automatically protecting him, all defenses and Body-Protecting Qi Barriers broke down under Lu Ping’an’s golden fist.

“Third brother, third brother!”

Sima Zhong and Sima Ji, witnessing this scene, were utterly heartbroken and incredulous.

But at this moment, the two were terrified out of their wits and had no desire to fight any longer; the brothers chose to escape separately.

Because they knew that if they escaped together at this time, it might be even more dangerous.

“Ping’an, the person holding the Feather Fan.”

“Xiao’er, the person holding the bow and arrows.”

In the carriage, Ling Zixiao continued to speak.

Both, having already transformed into Escape Lights, stiffened suddenly as their Divine Sense was damaged.

“Spurt!”

Lu Ping’an swiftly soared out, his fist flowing with golden treasure light, blasting Sima Zhong’s body into pieces.

Lu Lingxiao then drove the Devastation Flame towards Sima Ji.

But even though Sima Ji's Divine Sense was in intense pain and his Mental Spirit was in a trance, his body still formed a Body-Protecting Qi Barrier, resisting Lu Lingxiao's Devastation Flame.

"Boom!"

Lu Lingxiao, imitating his elder brother, mobilized his Qi-Blood. His physique glowed as he fiercely punched out.

Yet, this punch merely threw Sima Ji backwards, smashing him to the ground as he spat blood, but it did not kill him.

Chapter 1238: Chapter 429: So What If the Lu Family Produces Several Great Fate Bearers?_3

Sima Ji also regained some clarity from the severe pain in his divine sense due to the attack, his face twisted ferociously as he looked at Lu Lingxiao.

But the next moment.

"Pfft!"

Lu Ping'an hurled the Black Dragon Halberd over, like a ferocious black dragon descending from the sky, piercing straight through Sima Ji's chest, nailing him dead.

"Lingxiao, you can ask father more about how to fuse your Heavenly Spiritual Fire with the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art."

Lu Ping'an turned to his younger brother and patted his shoulder.

He still clearly remembered, after the end of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family came to hunt him and his brother Lu Quanzhen.

In the face of the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family, their father burned his body with a purplish-red Heavenly Spiritual Fire and then vanquished the adversary with a punch.

The Heavenly Spiritual Fire of his brother Lu Lingxiao, though not as astonishing as their father's.

But so long as he was given time to grow, it is not impossible to achieve the same.

"Yes, big brother."

Through their time together these days, Lu Lingxiao had come to admire his elder brother profoundly.

He also recognized the dominance of body cultivation and the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art from him.

Ordinary cultivators, when facing the techniques of the same level, would have to defend against the onslaught with magical robes and magic artifacts.

Yet his elder brother just now directly ignored the other's Gang wind with his physical body and even resisted the spiritual artifact arrows with his flesh.

This kind of fierce fighting method, unless cultivators of the same rank collaborate in a group attack or possess some exotic treasure, they would have no way to counter it.

"This this this...."

Zhou Datong, watching Lu Ping'an who seemed like a god or demon, was simply dry-throated and trembling in his spirit.

To know, an existence like the Sima Sijie was someone he could only look up to in ordinary days.

But such a renowned figure was now effortlessly suppressed and killed by this eldest son of the Lu family.

Once this news spreads out, it's likely to shock the entire Jiang Country Cultivation Realm!

Because this is no longer the fighting strength of a Foundation Establishment cultivator!

"This Eldest Young Master of the Lu Family is quite approachable on regular days; he's in charge of the Lu Family Commerce Association. If I do my duties well, I might actually gain my freedom, and perhaps even a Second Order Breaking Stage Pill."

At this moment, Zhou Datong fostered some thoughts of allegiance, thinking that serving the Lu family might not be so bad.

"So this is big brother's strength!"

"With big brother here, what is there to fear on the journey ahead!"

The other Lu Family Disciples escorting the convoy also pulled themselves out of their recent fears, each one excited beyond measure.

Although they had never heard of any Sima Sijie.

But the spiritual pressure just now was the most terrifying they had ever seen.

Merely a breath of air made their qi-blood churn and breathing difficult.

Yet such beings were all blasted to their death by their own big brother, Uncle's punch by punch; what could there possibly be to fear on the rest of their journey.

"Ping'an, thank you for your hard work."

At this moment, Ling Zixiao glanced at the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox beside her, and as her daughter Lu Linghe stepped out of the carriage, she addressed the eldest son of the Lu Family.

Even though she was well aware of the capabilities of the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox, the effect just now was still beyond her expectations.

"Thanks to Auntie Ling."

Lu Ping'an knew that Ling Zixiao had taken action just now.

Otherwise, even if he could win, he wouldn't have been able to kill all four.

It could be said that these four were the strongest opponents he had faced since he set out on his path.

Each of them had profound strength, and their techniques complemented each other.

"Now that the beasts of burden have been frightened, we can no longer continue on our journey. Ping'an, you should also rest well, recover your condition, and wait for the upcoming battle."

Ling Zixiao, dressed in a lake blue palace dress, her figure dignified and elegant, said with a light smile.

"The upcoming battle?"

Lu Lingxiao and Lu Ruyi beside her were both startled and somewhat surprised when they heard this.

"These four were the seeds of the Sima Family's current generation."

"Rumors have it that the four had acquired an opportunity for inheritance, and their cultivation methods are enhanced when practiced together, not to say necessarily achieving Core Formation simultaneously, but they are also likely to reach False Core."

"Now that the four are dead, the Patriarch of the Sima Family will certainly not sit still and will come to seek vengeance."

With a slight smile and an offhanded manner, Ling Zixiao said.

"The False Core Patriarch!"

“The False Core Immortal!”

Everyone nearby was shocked upon hearing this.

Even Lu Ping'an's heart skipped a beat.

Although he had advanced to the eighth layer of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, he had just made the breakthrough recently and had not yet developed divine skills.

If he encounters a False Core Immortal, the outcome may be difficult to predict.

“Rest assured, unless the Sima Family sends two of their False Core real people, or invites their Mysterious Turtle, there's no need to worry.”

“This battle also serves to establish the might of our Blue Lake Mountain, deterring others from constantly seeking trouble with us.”

Ling Zixiao said softly.

Even though she usually doesn't concern herself with family affairs, she had spent time understanding the power dynamics of the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, especially the family forces of the Qingyun Region.

After speaking, she turned to look at Lu Ping'an and continued, “After this battle, every move you make will be watched by others.”

“Ping'an will follow Auntie Ling's arrangements.”

Lu Ping'an said with his hands clasped in salute.

His father had instructed him, if he was uncertain about anything during this trade mission, he could consult Auntie Ling.

Therefore, upon hearing the other party, he did not raise any questions and chose to trust.

“Mother, wouldn't this be too dangerous? Didn't father say that harmony is precious?”

Lu Lingxiao spoke up.

Although he had faith in his mother.

Yet, this was essentially a confrontation with a False Core Immortal, which seemed too risky in his eyes.

Ling Zixiao glanced at her son and spoke, “It's true that harmony is precious, but excessive concession only makes us seem weak and susceptible to bullying, leading others to push us even further.”

“Our family must now show some toughness to secure a footing for the Commerce Association.”

“Besides, now that a fight has happened, even if we return to Blue Lake Mountain, the Sima Family will still come looking for us.”

“In that case, it’s better to settle the grudges here directly.”

“This battle will also signal to other forces that we at Blue Lake Mountain do not provoke trouble, yet we do not fear it either. Should anyone dare to trouble our family, they better weigh their options carefully.”

“Moreover, the six False Core families have always been fighting overtly and covertly. The Jin Family already has a bad relationship with us; if we also antagonize the Sima Family, the other families will surely be more than happy to forge good relations with us.”

“Some of the family forces around the Sima Family will also take the initiative to reach out and cooperate with us.”

Ling Zixiao patiently explained to her son, “As for the wrath of the Sima Family... there’s no need to care about it.”

Although she approved of her husband’s principles,

She believed that sometimes it was necessary to be more assertive.

While it may attract trouble and unwanted attention, it also prevents a lot of hassles.

Furthermore, the events at the Red Leaf Valley Market, along with the continuous Foundation Establishment breakthroughs of the children at home, meant that the family’s situation couldn’t be concealed after all.

Instead of hiding and pretending, it’s better to frankly reveal some information to others.

If Lu Ping’an shows False Core strength, then our family would be completely regarded as a False Core family.

Isn’t it quite normal for the family to have a few more Foundation Establishment Cultivators then?

As for the fact that Lu Ping’an is so young yet has the power of a Quasi-Third Order Body Refining and False Core level... although this matter is exaggerated and astonishing,

It’s not so shocking in the eyes of Core Formation Cultivators and Nascent Soul True Lords throughout the Cultivation World.

After all, the Cultivation World is filled with countless opportunities and miracles.

Why couldn't our Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family produce a few individuals of great fortune?

It's precisely because Lu Ping'an has encountered great opportunities and fortune that he has such Body Refining strength at a young age.

It's also because of such miraculous encounters that our Blue Lake Mountain has seen a surge of Foundation Establishment Cultivators!

As long as we don't draw the attention of Nascent Soul True Lords, these False Core families, and even Core Formation noble families, are nothing but whetstones for my children's growth."

"The child understands..."

Lu Lingxiao nodded thoughtfully.

In his younger years, his mother had taught him many life lessons.

But having always been in Blue Lake Mountain, he felt that many of his mother's words clashed with what he had heard elsewhere.

Only now, during this trip, did he start to grasp the meaning of some of her words.

"This trip has been rewarding. Xiaohe, go with your elder brother and sister Ruyi to sort things out."

Ling Zixiao smiled at her daughter.

The battle was bloody and brutal, and she didn't want her daughter to get too involved.

But her daughter loved sorting through their battle spoils.

Even if she did not get much herself, just being involved in the tally could make her happy for quite a while.

"Big Pot!"

Lu Linghe immediately looked at Lu Ping'an with bright and sparkling eyes.

"Xiaohe, you and Ruyi will do just fine sorting things out, big brother needs to rest for a bit."

Lu Ping'an patted her little head and grinned.

He was preparing to restore himself to peak condition as soon as possible since he would soon face a False Core real person.

Although the previous battle only lasted a few exchanges, it was not small in consumption.

Seeing her daughter happily calculating their gains with Lu Ruyi, Ling Zixiao also took her son, Lu Lingxiao, to set up formations around them and taught him about formation knowledge.

While she downplayed this battle, she was also making preparations to ensure everything was foolproof, to avoid any accidents.

Chapter 1239: Chapter 430: Spirit Vein Promotion, Two Branch Veins!
Profound Martial Ridge.

Sima Family Ancestral Hall.

“How is this possible!”

The Sima Family Head saw the four shattered Soul Plates in front of him, his entire body shivering uncontrollably, his face deathly pale.

Not only was he afraid of the death of his four uncles.

He also feared the wrath of the family patriarch after his uncles’ deaths.

After all, these four uncles were the hope of this generation for the Sima Family, with future prospects of reaching Core Formation.

Now, they had all fallen unexpectedly.

“My uncles were just going to deal with the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family Caravan. How could they possibly fall in the outside world?”

“Could it be that some other family’s False Core Patriarch ambushed and killed them on the way?”

The Sima Family Head’s body trembled continuously, muttering to himself, unwilling to believe this fact.

“No, this is absolutely unthinkable. If other False Cores dared to commit such a taboo act, it would lead to an all-out fatal rupture with our Sima Family. They definitely wouldn’t dare to do so.”

“Moreover, my uncles were extraordinary, even a True Pill Master would find it difficult to kill them all.”

The Sima Family Head’s throat was dry, his mental spirit quivering, suspecting that his four uncles might have encountered other dangers on the road.

Not daring to think further, he hurriedly flew towards the top of Profound Martial Peak, arriving in front of a cave mansion, he knelt down and shouted, "Patriarch, there's a great disaster!"

"What issue needs such screaming and shouting?"

A deep, heavy voice filled with authority came from the cave mansion.

"Patriarch..."

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"What!"

An overwhelming magic aura billowed out from the cave mansion, hitting the Sima Family Head who knelt outside so hard that his whole body sank, his Qi-Blood tumbling violently, leaving him with a heavy feeling in his chest.

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An old man with grey hair, a rugged face, dressed in black brocade robes, walked out of the cave mansion, his eyes round and fearsome, looking at the Sima Family Head in front of him, radiating an intense oppressive aura.

"Patriarch, I am also at a loss..."

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He knew well that their family patriarch was not someone with a good temper.

It was only after breaking through to False Core that he began to cultivate his disposition, becoming much more amiable.

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"This Lu Family Caravan was presided over by the Lu Family's eldest son, Lu Ping'an, and Lu Changsheng's Dao Companion, Ling Zixiao..."

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After finishing, he added, "A month ago, under Blue Lake Mountain's Red Leaf Valley Market held a Foundation Establishment Elixir auction... During this event, Lu Changsheng did not show up, so it's not ruled out that Lu Changsheng was hiding within the caravan."

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Immediately lifting his head, he looked at his family patriarch with a grieving expression and said, "Otherwise, with the four uncles' strength, even a True Pill Master in a confrontational fight couldn't have killed them all."

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But as soon as the words left his mouth, his heart sank sharply.

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But now, with the fall of the four Sima brothers, their Great Clan dream was directly shattered.

How could he not be enraged by this situation!

"Third and Fourth, are they at home? Notify them to come and see me!"

Patriarch Sima was beyond furious, his False Core power permeating his surroundings, making the adjacent Sima Family Head feel suffocated, struggling to breathe.

Chapter 1240: Chapter 430: Spirit Vein Promotion, Two Sub-veins!_2

Although he was angry, he realized that it might be difficult to kill Lu Changsheng, who had slain four of his family's proud sons.

After all, no one knows how many talismans a talisman cultivator has in hand.

“The fourth brother is at home, and the third brother seemed to have gone to Thundercliff not long ago.”

The Sima Family Head said with some difficulty.

“Little Four, come see me.”

The voice of Patriarch Sima thundered, and then he looked toward the back hill of his own family and called out in a low voice, “Black Shadow.”

“Whistle!”

A moment later, a whistling cry sounded.

A gigantic goshawk with deep ink-like lustrous feathers spread its wings and approached.

Its eagle eyes were deep and sharp, its beak curved and pointed, glistening with a cold metallic luster, and its talons were like refined steel, emanating a fearsome demon qi.

For a False Core Family like the Sima Family with a legacy of over a thousand years, in addition to nurturing the family’s children, they also raise several spiritual beasts to bolster their foundations.

However, the most famous spiritual beast of the Sima Family is a Mysterious Turtle left behind by Patriarch Sima in his early years.

It is said that this Mysterious Turtle has extraordinary bloodlines, advancing towards a Third Rank Demon King, and even the name of the family’s territory, Profound Martial Ridge, is related to this Mysterious Turtle.

“Second Uncle.”

A moment later, an old man exuding the spiritual pressure of Foundation Establishment hurried over and saluted the Patriarch Sima who stood before him.

“Where is the Lu Family Caravan at this moment?”

Patriarch Sima’s gray hair whipped wildly, his authority intimidating as he looked towards the Sima Family Head and asked in a deep voice.

“Based on the previous information, they should be near Jiulian Mountain...”

The Sima Family Head quickly responded.

“Little Four, come with me.”

Upon hearing this, Patriarch Sima’s eyes glinted sharply with killing intent.

He immediately took the elder named Little Four to the back of the black goshawk.

“Whistle!”

The goshawk let out a loud cry, stirring up a gust that swept everything away, as it flew out of Profound Martial Ridge towards the direction of Jiulian Mountain.

...

Meanwhile.

Bihu Mountain, Lu Family Mansion.

“Lingxi Lake Xie Family, Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family, Profound Martial Ridge Sima Family...”

Lu Changsheng glanced at the letter in his hand, chuckled lightly, and said, “It seems that the events at Red Leaf Valley Market have dissuaded certain families with ill intentions from their schemes.”

“And these few False Core Families can no longer remain seated idly.”

After the incident at Red Leaf Valley Market had ended, he had speculated that his family’s caravan would be targeted.

The several False Core Families of Qingyun Region were likely to take direct action.

Now, seeing the letter from Ling Zixiao, his guess was confirmed.

However, the attitude of the Lingxi Xie Family seems quite amiable.

This shows that not all False Core Families bear malice towards his own.

And that is also quite normal.

The various False Core Families aren’t united and are competitors to each other.

Though Bihu Mountain is fierce in its rise, it bears no direct conflict or dispute, and none are willing to fight to the death.

No one is so noble as to confront Bihu Mountain for the peace of mind of other family forces.

“Miaoyun, later have Xingyang send someone to Lingxi Lake Xie Family for a visit and deliver an invitation,” Lu Changsheng said thoughtfully to his wife, Lu Miaoyun, beside him.

At present, the family is arranging the Foundation Establishment ceremony for Lu Wangshu.

Given the current circumstances of Bihu Mountain, there really isn't much point in arranging a grand ceremony; a small family celebration would suffice.

But this time, under the guise of Lu Wangshu's Foundation Establishment ceremony, they aimed to invite other family forces to Bihu Mountain to discuss partnership opportunities and seek cooperative partners.

After all, establishing a trade association cannot rely solely on their own family, Qingzhu Mountain, and Hundred Birds Lake; these few families alone are clearly not enough.

Moreover, when it comes to a trade association making money, it's impossible for one family to monopolize everything without sharing any benefits.

Doing so would undoubtedly make enemies of all forces; one's family couldn't handle everything alone.

Therefore, cooperation is still required to form an interest group through the trade association.

With shared interests, the cooperation between both sides will be incredibly stable.

Eventually, other family forces would also be willing to wholeheartedly safeguard Bihu Mountain.

"Alright, I'll have Yun'er or Qingsong go there later," Lu Miaoyun replied.

Though a mere visit or invitation could easily be communicated by sending anyone.

Yet for a False Core Family like Lingxi Lake Xie Family, their own family still needs to show respect.

"Mhm."

Lu Changsheng nodded, his eyes narrowing slightly at the mention of 'Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family' and 'Profound Martial Ridge Sima Family' on the letter.

According to investigations by Xiao Xiyue and Xia Zhaoyang, these two families also had a hand in the trouble at Red Leaf Valley Market.

However, both families had kept their actions clean.

So far, only traces of a vassal family under the Yuan Family had been found.

The Foundation Establishment Cultivator that Xiao Xiyue had killed with a single slap came from this Foundation Establishment Family.

“Rumors have it that Tianyuan Secret Realm has drawn the attention of quite a few Nascent Soul Immortals to Jiang Country, and even the death of White Peak Immortal is assumed to be the work of these Demonic Path Nascent Soul cultivators...”

“Perhaps we should take this opportunity to give the Yuan and Sima Families a bit of trouble...”

Lu Changsheng pondered inwardly.

Having repeatedly ambushed Demon Kings in Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, he now had experience in laying ambushes.

He just needed to come up with a way to make some noise, lure the patriarchs of both families out of their Great Formations, and then kill them instantaneously.

If he was willing to take some risks, he could even use the Fate-Defying Robe and Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone’s Unsealing Divine Light to directly infiltrate Dayuan Mountain and Profound Martial Ridge.

“Forget it, we’re not yet at that point.”

“Besides, it’s impossible for a family to rise without encountering some troubles and obstacles.”

After pondering for a while, Lu Changsheng shook his head, dismissing the thought.

At present, in the vicinity, except for Jinlong Ridge Jin Family, none could pose a challenge to his family.

If he were to wipe out the Sima Family and the Yuan Family, the False Core Level powers, once his family extinguished the Jin Family, there’d be no competitors left in the entire Qingyun Region, aside from the Beast Taming Xu Family.