

Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family #Chapter 1251: 433: Self-Destructing Magical Treasures, A 3000 Li Chase!_3 - Read Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family Chapter 1251: 433: Self- Destructing Magical Treasures, A 3000 Li Chase!_3

Chapter 1251: Chapter 433: Self-Destructing Magical Treasures, A 3000 Li Chase!_3

“What kind of trick is this!?”

He had no time to think, hurriedly activating his cultivation technique to alleviate the dizziness and disorientation before continuing his escape.

“Riiip!”

Just then, Lu Ping’an, his silver, tattered armor gleaming with golden light, shot toward them like a cannonball.

“Boom!”

Already frail, Patriarch Sima staggered from the impact, spewing a mouthful of fresh blood.

“Second Uncle, leave now!”

Weakened and covered in wounds, Sima Tai clenched his teeth, enduring his injuries as he stepped in front of Lu Ping’an.

He could tell that his family’s patriarch was at his limit.

Under these circumstances, escaping together seemed impossible.

If the patriarch were to be captured by Bi Lake Mountain, or die at the hands of the Lu Family, it would be a devastating blow to the family.

Thus, for the sake of the family, he decided to sacrifice himself to buy time for the patriarch.

“Fine.”

The patriarch knew hesitation was not an option at this moment. He slapped his spiritual pet bag, summoning the Black Scaled Eagle, then fell to his knees on its back to escape.

But just then.

“Swish!”

Nearby, Lu Lingxiao's talisman treasure emanated a powerful wave of mana, revealing a jade-green dagger.

“Slash!”

The jade-green dagger shot out like an invisible ribbon, tearing through the void and slicing into the wing of Patriarch Sima's Black Scaled Eagle, splattering blood across the sky.

The Black Scaled Eagle let out a mournful cry and nearly plummeted from the air. Its wings flapped frantically to continue flying, but its speed was noticeably slower.

“Damn it!”

Patriarch Sima turned back abruptly, his eyes bloodshot, brimming with killing intent as he glared at Ling Zixiao.

He hadn't expected the opponent to possess such a variety of techniques beyond formations, talisman formations, and Third Rank Talismans.

Not only had she harmed his divine sense, but she also wielded such top-level talisman treasures!

“Too bad my lord's Thousand Faces Puppet Fox cannot directly engage, or there wouldn't have been so much trouble...”

Ling Zixiao's beautiful eyes remained calm and indifferent as she gazed at Patriarch Sima.

Currently, the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox was inside the carriage and could only attack through divine consciousness secret techniques.

Moreover, it had to pose as an exotic treasure technique, which greatly reduced its power.

If it could directly engage, Patriarch Sima could easily be trapped in the illusion realm.

“Kill!”

Lu Ping'an charged at Sima Tai, who obstructed his path.

Though fatigued and his mana unstable, Sima Tai's condition was far worse.

With a punch, the bronze bell wielded by Sima Tai trembled violently. His already pallid complexion turned deathly white, blood flowing from his seven orifices.

Yet, he still commanded the bronze bell to block Lu Ping'an, simultaneously utilizing a secret technique to suppress his own injuries and buy time for his family patriarch.

"Whoosh—"

Lu Lingxiao, holding the jade-green dagger talisman treasure, soared into the sky and charged at Sima Tai, shouting, "Big Brother, leave this to us! Go after that old Sima thief!"

Lu Ruyi and Zhou Datong joined in, surrounding Sima Tai.

"Understood!"

Lu Ping'an glanced in the direction of Patriarch Sima and shot off like a beam of golden light, tearing through layers of air with a deafening speed.

"Ping'an, make a bigger commotion. Try to ensure more people see it," Ling Zixiao transmitted her voice to Lu Ping'an as a reminder.

After a brief pause for thought, she transmitted her voice to the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox as well and said, "Thousand Faces, be cautious. Follow Ping'an closely and observe."

With that, the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox silently followed behind Lu Ping'an.

"Damn it!"

Patriarch Sima, slumped on the Black Scaled Eagle's back, saw Lu Ping'an pursuing him and his expression turned grim.

His palms surged with mana, channeling it into the Black Scaled Eagle, forcing the spiritual bird to accelerate forward.

Seeing this, Lu Ping'an retrieved a Divine Wind Talisman from his storage bag.

His resplendent golden body was instantly enveloped in a vortex of azure wind, and with a roaring airflow, he flashed across the sky as if streaking lightning, stirring up a massive whirlwind behind him as he sped toward Patriarch Sima.

"This... this... this..."

The surrounding cultivators of various factions were alarmed by the scene before them.

No one had expected the Sima Family's False Core Patriarch to end up in such a pitiful state.

And now he was being hunted down by Lu Ping'an.

It was worth noting that this False Core Patriarch was renowned for his prowess.

Unlike Jin Zan, who was a newly ascended False Core cultivator.

Regardless of whether they were aligned with the Sima Family or bore grudges against Bi Lake Mountain, none thought to intervene.

A battle of this magnitude was beyond their ability to meddle.

"Boom!"

Seeing an opportunity, Lu Ping'an summoned the Black Dragon Halberd and hurled it fiercely toward Patriarch Sima.

"Whoosh!"

The Black Dragon Halberd flew like a coiled flood dragon, clawing and snapping with a terrifying momentum that caused the Black Scaled Eagle to roar in anguish, another wing bleeding profusely.

"Damn it."

Patriarch Sima formed a gesture incantation and struck his chest, seemingly suppressing his body's injuries. He then retracted the Black Scaled Eagle and turned into a streak of black divine rainbow, shooting off in retreat.

Lu Ping'an continued his relentless pursuit.

A few moments later.

Patriarch Sima realized he couldn't maintain his condition for long.

In such an open sky, his flight made him a glaring target, and shaking off Lu Ping'an seemed impossible. Determined, he plunged down toward the mountain ranges below.

Lu Ping'an saw this and pursued without hesitation.

"Huh?"

Landing amidst the dense forest, Lu Ping'an scanned the surroundings but saw no trace or aura of Patriarch Sima.

He realized that the opponent had used a secret technique to conceal his presence.

Sweeping the area with his divine sense, he came up empty-handed.

“As expected of a False Core Master—truly adept in diverse techniques...”

Lu Ping'an understood the adversary was still nearby.

After some thought, he slapped his spiritual pet bag, summoning a massive golden rat.

This was none other than the Treasure-seeking Mouse gifted to him by his father, Lu Changsheng.

“Have you caught this scent?”

Lu Ping'an produced a fragment of the Leveling Ruler for the mouse, seeking Patriarch Sima's trail.

“Squeak squeak squeak—”

The Seeking Spirit Mouse sniffed the fragment, then caught the traces of mana from their earlier battle, cautiously pointing toward a large tree ahead.

Chapter 1252: Chapter 433: Self-Detonating Magical Treasures, Pursuit for 3000 Li!_4

“Boom!”

Lu Ping'an's fist, glowing with golden light, suddenly slammed towards the large tree ahead.

“Bang——”

The large tree exploded instantly, turning into a swirling rain of wood fragments.

A streak of black shadow suddenly darted into the air, fleeing swiftly in another direction.

Seeing this, Lu Ping'an continued his pursuit.

Just like that, the two figures chased each other relentlessly.

...

Three thousand miles south of Jiulian Mountain, amidst endless mountains, stood a mid-sized marketplace called 'Misty Rain Market,' established by two Foundation Establishment loose cultivators as a base for itinerant cultivators.

Though it was only a mid-sized marketplace, the two owners, being loose cultivators themselves, emphasized rules and proper management. Coupled with the plentiful demon beasts available for hunting in the surrounding vast mountains, the market was favored by many itinerant cultivators.

"Third Grandpa, I heard that Owner Yan might have a chance to attain False Core immortality in the future. Is that true?"

On a spirit boat, an elder stood with several young men and women.

Among them, a young woman asked the elder.

"Owner Yan is indeed extraordinarily talented, having cultivated to Foundation Establishment Sixth Layer at the age of a hundred. But to break through to False Core, it is difficult—extremely difficult..."

"Even if Owner Yan reaches Foundation Establishment Peak by the age of one hundred and fifty, breaking through to False Core requires the aid of a Third-Order Demon Pill—such a pill is not easily obtained."

The elder shook his head as he replied.

"Owner Yan operates such a large marketplace, earning gold and Spirit Stones daily—can't he afford a Third-Order Demon Pill?"

A young man exclaimed in surprise.

"Third-Order Demon Pills are priceless, often auctioned for tens of thousands of Spirit Stones at least."

The elder patted the youth's head and chuckled, saying, "If they were easy to acquire, there wouldn't only be six False Core families in the Qingyun Region."

"Third Grandpa, then what about Lu Ancestor of Bi Lake Mountain? Could he have a chance to obtain a Third-Order Demon Pill and break through to False Core?"

"I heard that Lu Ancestor not only cultivates a Dual Cultivation Technique with his Dao Companion, comparable to a True Pill Master, but is also a Second-Grade Talisman Master and an Alchemist."

The young woman continued her inquiry.

Currently, the name of Bi Lake Mountain was known throughout Qingyun Region.

“Lu Mountain Lord likely has a considerable chance.”

The elder stroked his beard and said slowly, “But when a tree stands above the forest, it invites the wind. Bi Lake Mountain has risen too quickly and its momentum is too strong; now establishing a chamber of commerce, it is bound to attract targeted suppression from various family forces.”

“Hence, Lu Mountain Lord’s path to False Core won’t be easy.”

“Moreover, it’s rumored that Lu Mountain Lord has devoted all resources to nurturing the Foundation Establishment cultivators of his family, leaving no Spirit Stone reserves. This is why Bi Lake Mountain has been acting with such urgency lately.”

At his age, he enjoyed sharing past experiences and insights into the Cultivation World with the younger generation of his family.

“Alright, we’ll arrive at Misty Rain Market shortly. During the auction, don’t speak out of turn, and if you have questions, ask me privately,” the elder advised while gazing forward at the marketplace nestled among the mountains, its lights shimmering with spiritual energy.

However, just as he finished speaking, an overwhelming and terrifying pressure suddenly spread in their direction.

He turned his head to look.

In the air, a streak of black light fled swiftly.

Behind it, a thunderous golden glow followed closely.

“Boom!”

The black light, spotting the spirit boat, suddenly waved its hand.

Even with such a simple motion, it unleashed a tide-like force that destabilized the spirit boat, flipping it over completely.

“Ah——”

“Third Grandpa!”

The cultivators on the spirit boat cried out in alarm.

At this moment, amidst the thunderous golden glow, a tall and burly youth clad in shattered silver armor revealed himself.

With a gesture, he steadied the spirit boat and stabilized it before propelling himself swiftly forward, continuing his pursuit of the black glow.

“Gulp!”

“Gulp...”

The youths and elder aboard the spirit boat all swallowed dryly, their faces filled with stunned disbelief and lingering fear.

“Third Grandpa, what just happened...?”

After some time, a young man stared at the diminishing streaks of black and gold light, dazed and bewildered.

The elder did not answer; he too was still rattled and unsettled.

“That person who steadied our spirit boat—I feel like I’ve seen him somewhere before....”

A young woman aboard the spirit boat swallowed hard and spoke hesitantly.

After a long pause, she suddenly exclaimed in realization, “I remember now! He looks like Lu Ping’an, the eldest son of Lu Ancestor from Bi Lake Mountain!”

...

The two streaks of escape light, naturally, belonged to Patriarch Sima and Lu Ping’an.

In terms of escape techniques, Patriarch Sima usually far surpassed Lu Ping’an.

But now, Patriarch Sima had self-detonated his magical treasure, severely damaging his vital energy, and his speed had been greatly reduced.

Although Patriarch Sima employed various methods to shake off Lu Ping’an along the way,

Lu Ping’an always managed to track him down using other means.

Besides the Seeking Spirit Mouse, he also had a Second-Grade flying beast—the Silver-winged Golden Falcon—as well as several types of Talismans.

Under these circumstances, Patriarch Sima's injuries worsened steadily; even with the aid of secret techniques, he could no longer suppress them.

Even if he managed to escape back to his family now, it was uncertain how many Heavenly and Earthly Treasures it would take to fully heal him.

More critically, his inner core developed a slight crack due to forcibly channeling mana and secret techniques after the self-detonation of his life-bound magical treasure.

"Boom, boom, boom!"

Lu Ping'an pressed the attack relentlessly, periodically launching Second-Grade Lower Quality Talismans at Patriarch Sima.

Although Second-Grade Lower Quality Talismans typically couldn't harm a False Core Master like Patriarch Sima,

the situation now was anything but ordinary.

"Damn it!"

Feeling the stabbing pain emanating from his body, meridians, dantian, and False Core, Patriarch Sima's face turned pale as paper, revealing an expression of urgency.

He knew that if this continued, his inner core might truly rupture.

Once the inner core cracks, the chaotic and violent demonic power within would erupt uncontrollably. Even if he survived, he would be crippled.

Chapter 1253: Chapter 433: Self-Destructing Magical Treasures, Chasing for 3000 Li!_5

"Lu Daoist, you're already heavily injured. If you continue the chase, you won't gain much. Why not let this end here?"

"As long as you spare me, I am still willing to swear an oath upon my Dao Heart..."

Patriarch Sima had abandoned his dignity, pleading for mercy, hoping that Lu Ping'an would cease his pursuit.

Lu Ping'an paid no heed to these words.

If it weren't for his aunt's instructions to create some commotion, he could have long subdued Patriarch Sima using talismans and the Silver-winged Golden Falcon.

There was no need for such a prolonged chase.

“This should be enough.”

At this moment, Lu Ping'an noticed a marketplace just beyond, shrouded in spiritual light, resembling a small town, and pondered deeply.

Delay breeds complications.

If too much time is wasted, allowing reinforcements from the Sima Family or their allies to show up, it would turn into a significant problem.

“Boom!”

Lu Ping'an's figure erupted in golden light, surrounded by roaring winds and thunder. He swiftly closed in on Patriarch Sima, his gold-filled fist crashing down like the drum of a divine demon, stirring turbulent momentum.

“Pfft!”

The black-tinged figure of Patriarch Sima immediately coughed up blood and plunged from the sky.

“This is a False Core Immortal!”

“False Core combat! Quickly activate the formation!”

The intensity of the battle and the surge of mana caught the attention of many within Misty Rain Market, who raised their heads to observe the skies.

The market's Owner Yan detected the presence of two powerful auras and hurried to fully activate the Great Formation, enveloping the marketplace in its protection.

She feared the battle's destruction might spill over into her territory.

After all, when immortals fight, mortals suffer.

If two False Core cultivators were to battle within the market, the place would be half-ruined and take decades to recover.

“I am True Pill Master Sima Tong of the Xuanwu Ridge Sima Family. Fellow Daoists of the market, if you activate your formation to assist me in dealing with this crisis, the Sima Family promises generous rewards afterward!”

Facing a life-or-death crisis, Patriarch Sima abandoned all pride and directly called out to Misty Rain Market for help.

Even if the marketplace couldn't hold Lu Ping'an off, it might at least give him a chance to escape.

"The Sima Family of Xuanwu Ridge!?"

"Sima Tong, is this the False Core Patriarch from the Sima Family?"

"Who is this person that managed to chase the False Core Patriarch of the Sima Family to such extremes?"

Eighty percent of Misty Rain Market's population consisted of loose cultivators.

While their experience varied, many had heard of the Sima Family's renowned name.

Upon hearing Patriarch Sima's plea, the marketplace erupted into exclamations and heated discussions.

"This is an enmity between Blue Lake Mountain and the Sima Family. I ask that you refrain from interfering."

Though Lu Ping'an's aura was chaotic, he remained imposing, his voice firm and resounding.

"Blue Lake Mountain's Lu Family?"

"What? This individual hails from the Lu Family of Blue Lake Mountain?"

"When did the Lu Family produce such a Great Cultivator, capable of bringing the Sima Family's False Core Patriarch to this state?"

The cultivators within the marketplace reacted in shock upon hearing Lu Ping'an's words.

Though the Lu Family of Blue Lake Mountain was not as acclaimed as the Sima Family of Xuanwu Ridge,

the names of Mountain Lord Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge were well-known throughout the Qingyun Region.

Many loose cultivators regarded Lu Changsheng as an aspirational figure.

"Xuanwu Ridge, Blue Lake Mountain..."

From Misty Rain Peak, Owner Yan observed the unfolding events outside, murmuring in thought.

Initially, she considered lending a hand if the conflict was between a heretic cultivator and the Sima Family, hoping for potential rewards.

But hearing what was said, she immediately abandoned the idea.

After all, getting involved in the grudge between two powerful families was equivalent to courting death for a small marketplace like theirs.

“That Patriarch Sima better not die in my Misty Rain Market. If the Sima Family sends someone and blames us for standing by idly, we’ll face disaster.”

Prefect Yu watched the chaos outside, unease written all over her face.

Fortunately, both combatants appeared to be in poor condition.

The old man claiming to be the patriarch of the Sima Family was swiftly subdued by the golden light-emitting youth after just a few moments, unable to even resist. He was then bound by a cord-like magic artifact.

The youth didn’t linger after victory, employing multiple techniques on the elder before departing, carrying him away on the back of a flying bird.

Chapter 1254: Chapter 434: Lu Family, A Dragon Emerges!

Misty Rain Market.

Countless cultivators gazed at the sky dome, trembling inwardly as Lu Ping’an departed riding a spiritual bird.

Although Patriarch Sima was gravely injured, his qi was withered, and his strength was down to less than sixty percent of his peak.

But the overwhelming and shocking False Core-level spiritual pressure during the brief exchange earlier was unmistakably real.

Yet such a lofty False Core Patriarch was being hunted down so miserably, suppressed and captured.

And the one who called himself a cultivator from Bi Lake Mountain dragged this False Core Immortal like a prisoner behind his spiritual bird, completely disregarding the opinions of others.

What was this?

Was it an act of dominance!?

This... was simply tyrannical, wasn't it?

"The Sima Family of Profound Martial Ridge is an established False Core family. Can Bi Lake Mountain really act like this without fearing their retaliation?"

"Indeed, such behavior is outright humiliating, shamelessly blatant humiliation."

"If one has this level of strength, what is there to fear from the Sima Family?"

"When did Bi Lake Mountain produce such a formidable False Core Patriarch? This person doesn't seem like Lu Changsheng, the ancestor of the Lu Family."

"Judging by his battle style, it's not that of a Law Cultivator but rather a Body Cultivator."

"A False Core Immortal—will I ever be able to touch this realm in my lifetime?"

Many cultivators whispered among themselves, hearts trembling with awe.

Their eyes were fixed in the direction Lu Ping'an had vanished, filled with reverence, fear, envy, aspiration, and other complex emotions.

"I heard that several months ago, in Red Leaf Valley Market under Bi Lake Mountain's domain, there were robbers causing havoc. The Lu Family had a daughter who inherited the Lu Family Ancestor's Talisman Path legacy, who single-handedly killed five Foundation Establishment cultivators. And now someone like this has emerged."

The Misty Rain Market's prefect, Yan Lan, gazed at Lu Ping'an as he departed, filled with a sense of awe.

As a Foundation Establishment cultivator and the prefect of a marketplace, she paid close attention to many matters of the cultivation world.

"I think this person resembles Lu Ping'an, the eldest son of the Lu Ancestor of Bi Lake Mountain..."

Beside her, Prefect Yu, dressed in a pale blue dress, charming in appearance and with an icy demeanor, spoke up.

"Lu Ping'an?"

Yan Lan exclaimed in surprise: "Isn't Lu Ping'an only at Foundation Establishment Mid-Stage?"

"I can't say for sure; I just feel his appearance bears some similarity."

Yu Fei gently shook her head and said softly: “If this person truly is Lu Ping’an of Bi Lake Mountain, then Bi Lake Mountain is poised for true ascension.”

“I recall that the Lu Ancestor of Bi Lake Mountain is not even a hundred years old yet. If this person really is Lu Ping’an of Bi Lake Mountain, then at this age, with such cultivation, isn’t Core Formation within reach?”

Yan Lan’s eyes revealed a trace of envy and longing.

Both sisters had risen from being loose cultivators to their current position, surpassing 90% of other cultivators.

But to advance further was akin to climbing the heavens.

Seeing Lu Ping’an’s remarkable cultivation at such a young age, her heart was filled with emotion.

“Sister, the Sima Family conducts itself with brutal dominance. Today, their False Core Patriarch sought aid from our market, but we turned him away. If they harbor resentment afterward, it could spell trouble for us.”

At this moment, the worry in Yu Fei’s eyes became evident as she voiced her concerns.

The Misty Rain Market was a decent establishment, reasonably renowned.

But compared to an enormous force like the Sima Family, it was insignificant.

If the Sima Family truly targeted them in retaliation, they wouldn’t be able to withstand such fury.

“That possibility isn’t out of the question.”

Yan Lan’s expression grew serious as she spoke: “Fei’er, do you have any suggestions?”

Their Misty Rain Market’s growth had been achieved not only due to the sisters’ strength but also because of their strategy of forging relationships and avoiding meddling in disputes between other forces.

“If this person truly is Lu Ping’an of Bi Lake Mountain, I think we should pay a visit to Bi Lake Mountain...”

Yu Fei deliberated briefly before suggesting: “Once the Lu Family of Bi Lake Mountain successfully ascends to the ranks of False Core families, they will inevitably expand their influence.”

"If we pledge allegiance at this time, Bi Lake Mountain will likely welcome us and value our gesture as an act of loyalty."

"Sister, you are currently at Foundation Establishment Sixth Layer. If you were to obtain a Second-Order High-Grade Breakthrough Pill, you could advance to Foundation Establishment Late Stage sooner."

"Bi Lake Mountain has top-tier alchemists who can refine Foundation Establishment Elixirs, so they should be able to craft Second-Order High-Grade Breakthrough Pills..."

"Not to mention, compared to the Sima Family, Bi Lake Mountain's reputation is relatively favorable right now. Recently, the Lu Family's matriarch, Lu Miaoge, even extended invitations to other forces for alliances."

As Yu Fei spoke, she paused, looked at her sister, and smiled: "Besides, the fame of the Lu Ancestor of Bi Lake Mountain is widespread, and if Sister is willing..."

Before she could finish, Yan Lan lightly slapped her younger sister and interjected: "Stop teasing your sister like that. If you have such thoughts, your sister certainly wouldn't stop you."

Ending the jest, she continued earnestly: "Since that's the plan, Fei'er, prepare a gift and head to Bi Lake Mountain to test their stance."

"Sister, you must be careful. If the Sima Family grows aggressive, abandon the market if necessary."

Yu Fei understood that her sister was stationed at the marketplace, and the arrival of the Sima Family to interrogate them could bring potential dangers, so she reminded her earnestly.

"Don't worry. Unless a False Core Patriarch comes in person, the market's Great Formation ensures that not even a Foundation Establishment Late Stage cultivator could stand against me."

Yan Lan smiled.

...

Lu Ping'an was oblivious to the ripple effects his actions at Misty Rain Market had caused.

He was merely following the instructions of his aunt to stir up as much commotion as possible.

Riding his spiritual bird and dragging Patriarch Sima, Lu Ping'an raced toward the caravan's encampment.

Along the way, some cultivators who had previously witnessed Lu Ping'an relentlessly pursuing Patriarch Sima were now seeing this shocking sight.

Upon this encounter, they responded respectfully and stepped aside without protest.

When Lu Ping'an returned to the Jiulian Mountain region riding his spiritual bird, dragging Patriarch Sima, all the spies monitoring the Lu Family Caravan were left speechless, their faces filled with shock.

"This... this... this..."

"Patriarch Sima has been captured!"

Chapter 1255: Chapter 434: Lu Family, A Dragon Emerges!_2

All the cultivators looked horrified, unable to believe their eyes.

At the time, they were far away and only saw Patriarch Sima trapped by formations and talisman formations, then using some unknown method to escape tragically.

But they never expected that the renowned False Core Patriarch had failed to escape and was captured alive by Lu Ping'an.

This was utterly shocking!

One must understand, among cultivators of the same level, subduing and suppressing the other was far more difficult than simply killing them.

"The Lu Family... has produced a dragon!"

A cultivator looked at the spiritual bird, atop which Lu Ping'an stood, tall and imposing, clad in tattered armor, his throat dry as he stammered.

They had all come from various factions, familiar with Bi Lake Mountain and Lu Ping'an's situation.

At such a young age, to possess such abilities—it was as if a flood dragon emerged from shallow waters!

"I always thought Lu Wangshu was the hope of this generation for the Lu Family, but who would have guessed this Lu Ping'an was hiding so deeply!"

“Lu Changsheng rising from the status of a son-in-law to reach his current heights was already remarkable as a man of great fate, and now his son has surpassed him!”

“Damn it, the ancestral graves of the Lu Family must be glowing with gold!”

“Lu Changsheng, Lu Ping’an, Lu Wangshu... even the luckiest ancestral graves need to take a break sometimes.”

“And then there’s Ling Zixiao—the Lu Family’s Lady has been dormant for years since establishing Bi Lake Mountain, and now, with one move, she laid a trap for a False Core Immortal!”

“Quick, send messages back home and prepare gifts to visit Bi Lake Mountain!”

In that moment, everyone began contacting their own families.

Some had already sent messages home earlier.

But now, dissatisfied with the delay, they crushed their emergency communication talismans or rushed directly back to their clans.

“Big Brother!”

“Big Pot!”

At the Lu Family caravan’s encampment, Lu Ruyi, Lu Lingxiao, Lu Linghe, and others spotted Lu Ping’an’s return and immediately ran up to greet him.

They could all see Lu Ping’an’s unstable aura and fatigued expression, understanding that chasing Patriarch Sima had been no simple task.

“I’m fine.”

Lu Ping’an grinned, and with mana flowing from his palm, he dissolved the dried blood upon it, then ruffled his sister Lu Linghe’s hair.

Turning to Ling Zixiao, he spoke, “Aunt, I did not fail your expectations.”

“Ping’an, you’ve worked hard for us.”

Ling Zixiao gazed at Lu Ping’an, her lips gently pressed together, her voice soft.

Even though she typically felt indifferent toward most Lu Family disciples, at this moment, she found Lu Ping’an quite remarkable.

“Aunt, you’re too kind—it’s what I should do.”

Lu Ping'an briefly recounted the process of hunting down Patriarch Sima.

"Take a good rest; I've sent a message to your father, and he'll arrive later."

Ling Zixiao spoke further.

This battle, despite the Lu Family caravan avoiding casualties, had left everyone in poor condition.

Thus, she planned to return to Bi Lake Mountain to recuperate, preventing any chances of the Sima Family or other factions launching another ambush.

Meanwhile, word of Lu Ping'an's clash with the Sima Family could spread and ferment during this time.

"Father is coming?"

Lu Ping'an was slightly stunned but soon nodded, pointing at the unconscious Patriarch Sima and said, "Aunt, his condition is grave; if he isn't treated, he might die outright, or become permanently crippled."

Back when Patriarch Sima was cornered, he had attempted to self-destruct his Core Formation, seeking mutual destruction.

Fortunately, at the critical moment, interference from the Thousand Faces Puppet Fox allowed Lu Ping'an to strike a decisive blow to his Qi Ocean Core.

This left Patriarch Sima in a state so dire it couldn't be any worse—on the brink of collapse.

"Alright."

Ling Zixiao summoned a Lu Family disciple to examine Patriarch Sima's condition.

That disciple was a doctor.

After observing Patriarch Sima's state, he couldn't help but click his tongue.

"So this is the life force of a False Core Immortal."

He sighed inwardly.

If it were an ordinary cultivator, these injuries would have killed them countless times over.

Faced with such a situation, he was utterly powerless.

Seeing this, Ling Zixiao administered a few elixir medicines to Patriarch Sima to sustain his vitality.

The man couldn't die now.

If he did, he'd lose his value.

After making basic arrangements, the caravan settled down to rest.

...

Meanwhile.

At Profound Martial Ridge, at the Sima Family.

"How could this be? Wasn't the Third Elder accompanying the Patriarch? How did his Soul Plate shatter?!"

The Sima Family Head stared at the broken Soul Plate in the ancestral hall, his expression deeply grim.

Although the Sima Family had a strong foundation, losing five Foundation Establishment cultivators in one fell swoop was devastating.

More importantly, these five weren't mere ordinary Foundation cultivators!

Sima Bo and the other three each possessed Foundation Establishment Late Stage combat strength.

Even a Foundation Establishment Peak cultivator wouldn't stand a chance against all four simultaneously.

Third Elder Sima Tai, with his eighth-layer Foundation Building cultivation, was among the Sima Family's top-tier forces.

And now, they were all dead!

For the Sima Family, this loss was unimaginably dire, leaving them severely damaged in vitality!

"Could it be that the Patriarch encountered some grave danger?"

The Sima Family Head eyed Patriarch Sima's Soul Plate, his brows furrowing as his mind raced.

The Third Elder had accompanied the Patriarch.

If their enemies hadn't been overwhelmingly strong, it would've been impossible for the Third Elder to die under the Patriarch's nose.

"Investigate! Quickly send someone to check, contact the Patriarch, and find out what happened to the Third Elder!"

The Sima Family Head dared not contemplate further and immediately dispatched personnel to contact the Patriarch to uncover what had transpired.

...

Half a day later.

At the Ninth Heavenly Gang Wind Layer.

A rugged, burly figure tore through the wind layer silently, descending into the Jiulian Mountain region.

"Hm?"

The figure was none other than Lu Changsheng, who had rushed over after receiving the news.

Seeing Ling Zixiao and the others unharmed, with numerous cultivators focused on this area, Lu Changsheng found a secluded spot, where his face and form blurred before returning to his true appearance—unrivaled in handsomeness, akin to a banished immortal.

Moments later, Lu Changsheng, clad in a green robe, slender and upright, with hands behind his back, stood atop a violet flying shuttle and approached the caravan's encampment.

Chapter 1256: Chapter 434: Lu Family, A Dragon Emerges!_3

"Father!"

"Greetings, Father!"

"Daddy!"

"Paying respects to Lu Ancestor!"

Everyone stationed at the resting point, upon seeing Lu Changsheng, immediately exclaimed joyfully and cupped their hands in salute.

“Mm.”

Lu Changsheng smiled and responded.

He then turned his gaze to the dignified and elegant Ling Zixiao, asking, “Zixiao, what’s going on here?”

Although he had received a message,

the distance was too far, and the Sensing Talisman wasn’t able to convey precise details, so he didn’t know the exact situation here.

“My lord...”

Ling Zixiao, her breath somewhat unsteady, softly recounted the general situation.

“Patriarch Sima?”

Hearing his wife’s words, Lu Changsheng narrowed his eyes slightly and looked toward the unconscious Patriarch Sima not far off.

He knew this trading journey would face many obstacles and had prepared accordingly, but he hadn’t expected it to escalate to the point of a False Core Patriarch personally intervening.

“Ping’an, you’ve worked hard.”

Lu Changsheng let out a light sigh, looked at his son Lu Ping’an, stepped forward, and patted his shoulder as he spoke.

He was well aware of his son Lu Ping’an’s combat prowess.

Having just broken through to the eighth level of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art,

he could handle someone like Jin Zan, a mediocre False Core cultivator, with no problem.

But against a powerhouse like Patriarch Sima, a False Core Immortal with Divine Skills and Magical Treasures, he was no match.

“Ruyi, Xiao’er... you’ve worked hard as well.”

Lu Changsheng then turned his gaze to his other children and said warmly.

He then looked toward Zhou Datong and said, “As long as you do your job well, my Lu Family will never mistreat our own.”

“Please rest assured, Lu Ancestor; this humble one wouldn’t dare have second thoughts.”

Zhou Datong replied hastily, his tone filled with reverence.

He had initially been quite reluctant,

but after witnessing Lu Ping’an’s strength and Ling Zixiao’s methods, he no longer harbored any dissent.

“We’ll handle matters as you’ve suggested, Zixiao. Let’s return first.”

Without saying much more, Lu Changsheng departed with Ling Zixiao, Lu Ping’an, Lu Lingxiao, and others.

As for the goods, Lu Ruyi and Zhou Datong were tasked with transporting them to the nearest marketplace.

These storage crates mostly contained supplies, each one weighing tens of thousands of pounds.

Unless Lu Changsheng used Nascent Soul-level mana, it would be impossible to transport them all at once.

However, the storage crates were marked with prohibitions, ensuring they wouldn’t easily be stolen.

Seeing Lu Changsheng lead Lu Ping’an, Ling Zixiao, and the others away, the spies and cultivators observing the Lu Family caravan also dispersed, hurrying back to report the news to their respective factions.

...

Several days later.

A piece of news spread like wildfire, shaking the entire Qingyun Region. Countless family forces and cultivators were left stunned.

The Sima Family of Profound Martial Ridge had sent the renowned Sima Sijie to ambush the Lu Family caravan, only for all of them to be slain by the Lu Family.

Afterward, Patriarch Sima Tong of the Sima Family went to seek revenge.

The Lu Family's matriarch, Ling Zixiao, set up a great formation and an ambush. She and the Lu Family's eldest son, Lu Ping'an, forced the Sima Family's patriarch to detonate his own Magical Treasure to escape the formation.

But ultimately, he was still subdued and captured by the Lu Family's eldest son, Lu Ping'an.

This news was like a boulder thrown into a calm lake, stirring up a tempest of waves.

Countless people were dumbfounded, unable to believe it, and hotly debated the matter, finding it utterly astonishing.

"The Sima Sijie... It's said that the four brothers once slew several Foundation Establishment Late Stage cultivators, even repelling Foundation Establishment Peak cultivators. Though not comparable to the Immortal Sect's elites, they were extraordinary, yet they were completely wiped out by the Lu Family!?"

"The Sima Family's False Core Patriarch was subdued by the Lu Family... This is simply unbelievable!"

"Even with the formation and an ambush, such a feat seems impossible, doesn't it?!"

This battle, though witnessed by few firsthand,

nonetheless caused an uproar. Discussions ran rampant among small families and loose cultivator outposts.

This news was simply too shocking.

The world was about to witness the rise of a new False Core Family!

At that very moment,

the Lingxi Xie Family, the Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family, the Profound Martial Ridge Sima Family, the Jinlong Ridge Jin Family, and other False Core families, as well as numerous Foundation Establishment families, were left in a state of disbelief upon hearing reports from their spies.

"Quasi-Third Order Body Refining!?"

"Third Rank Talismans!"

"Talisman Formation techniques!"

Listening to the account of the battle involving Ling Zixiao, Lu Ping'an, and the Sima patriarch, they were all stunned beyond words.

Although this battle could be attributed to favorable timing, advantageous terrain, and unity of purpose, the Lu Family's efforts were exhaustive.

Still, no matter how one looked at it, Lu Ping'an's age and combat prowess left them all unsettled.

Even if they weren't particularly concerned about Lu Ping'an's current strength, they couldn't ignore his future potential.

They often claimed their own prodigies were capable of Nascent Soul breakthroughs and had the potential to form a Nascent Soul,

but in their hearts, they all knew that fewer than one in ten could truly achieve it!

Lu Ping'an, however, demonstrated the kind of potential that truly promised Nascent Soul achievement!

He was already on par with the True Inheritors of the Immortal Sects!

Even though the Lu Family lacked the conditions provided by the Immortal Sects, given enough time to develop, there was a three-to-four chance he could form a Nascent Soul.

If a Nascent Soul was achieved, the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family would become a Nascent Soul Noble Family!

Although False Core Families stood tall and were regarded as great clans, they were as different from Nascent Soul Noble Families as clouds differ from mud!

...

Lingxi Lake, Xie Family.

"I didn't expect Lu Ping'an to have concealed his strength that day. Could it be that the Lu Family deliberately laid a trap?"

Upon hearing the news, Xie Ying was filled with shock and unease,

but also relief that his family had not antagonized the Lu Family and that he himself had shown restraint toward the Lu Family caravan at the time.

Otherwise, he and his two companions might already have become piles of bones.

Looking at his family head, he said, "Family Head, prepare a generous gift. I'll head to Blue Lake Mountain immediately to offer congratulations!"

Previously, though the Lingxi Xie Family was willing to collaborate with Blue Lake Mountain, they did so with a condescending attitude, waiting for Blue Lake Mountain to approach them first.

Now, having received the scout's report, they set aside their arrogance completely, regarding the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family as equals and proactively going to congratulate them.

...

Dayuan Mountain, Yuan Family.

"What? Sima Tong was subdued and captured by Blue Lake Mountain's Lu Ping'an?!"

Upon hearing the report from his family's scout, the Yuan Family head's expression turned to one of shock and disbelief.

He knew that the Yuan Family had not only sent people to ambush the Lu Family caravan but had also been involved in the matter at Red Leaf Valley before.

He immediately convened a family meeting to discuss the matter.

As they deliberated, a voice filled with authority resounded.

"If Blue Lake Mountain has risen to such strength, I, this old patriarch, shall personally visit and offer apologies for the past incidents."

A middle-aged man with thick eyebrows and a steady demeanor, dressed in a purple brocade robe, entered the council hall and spoke.

"Greetings to the Patriarch!"

"Greetings to the Patriarch!"

All the people in the hall saluted the man upon seeing him.

This man was none other than the Yuan Family's False Core Patriarch, Yuan Chengshan.

"This..."

The Yuan Family head and the family elders glanced at each other in astonishment upon hearing his words.

Though Blue Lake Mountain now had a False Core-level strength standing guard, was it enough to warrant their patriarch personally visiting to offer apologies?

“Now that Blue Lake Mountain is at odds with the Sima Family, there’s no need for us to get involved.”

The Yuan Family patriarch said calmly.

As a False Core great clan, the Yuan Family naturally didn’t fear Blue Lake Mountain, but since the friction between the two sides was minor, he didn’t want matters to escalate into a full-fledged conflict requiring large-scale combat.

Wouldn’t it be better to let Blue Lake Mountain and the Sima Family, as well as the Jin Family, fight each other to the death?

Of course, the reason he was willing to lower his stature and personally visit to make amends was the Lu Family’s newly demonstrated True False Core-level strength, capable of subduing Patriarch Sima.

Otherwise, how could a mere Foundation Establishment Family warrant an apology from him, a distinguished False Core Patriarch?

“The Patriarch is wise!”

Everyone in the hall applauded and cupped their hands toward their patriarch.

Chapter 1257: Chapter 435: Movement in All Directions, Bai Xia Bloodline!

Xuanwu Ridge, Sima Family.

The Sima Family received the news about their patriarch immediately.

At first, they could not believe what they had heard.

How could their patriarch, a False Core Immortal, possibly be suppressed by a junior from the Lu Family!

After multiple confirmations, they immediately notified Sima Yue, another False Core Patriarch stationed outside.

“Mere Bi Lake Mountain, how dare they humiliate my Sima Family like this!”

When Sima Yue arrived back at the family, he was utterly enraged.

The Nascent Soul Seed had been slain.

The False Core Patriarch was suppressed and captured.

This was an undeniably loud slap in the face.

It was utterly humiliating for the Sima Family of Xuanwu Ridge, turning them into a laughingstock across the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm.

From now on, whenever anyone mentioned the Sima Family, they would say their False Core Patriarch was suppressed by a junior from Bi Lake Mountain.

“I will go to Bi Lake Mountain right now and see who gave them such audacity!”

Sima Yue’s face was haggard, full of wrinkles, and his posture slightly hunched, yet he radiated a terrifying, predatory aura like a Wolf King poised to devour.

Though he did not have much life left, with only a few decades remaining, the accumulation of over a hundred years of cultivation since forming the False Core had made his divine skills, magical treasures, and combat prowess far superior to Sima Tong’s.

“Patriarch, please quell your anger! Patriarch, stay calm!”

“Patriarch, I have already dispatched a messenger to Qingyun Sect to notify the Thirteenth Sister...”

The Sima Family Head and several senior members scrambled to calm the fuming patriarch.

Having just suffered such a disgraceful incident, the family was experiencing widespread turmoil. They could not afford another mishap!

If anything were to happen to Sima Yue, if he were to meet any misfortune, it would spell the total ruin of the Sima Family.

“Patriarch, the family needs you to remain here to preside over our affairs. Regarding the Second Elder’s predicament, I am confident Thirteenth Sister will be able to resolve it.”

The Sima Family Head earnestly and painstakingly persuaded him.

Though the family’s False Core Patriarch had been captured, and five Foundation Establishment cultivators killed,

as long as Sima Yue, this False Core Immortal, remained present, their family would retain stability, and other forces would not dare to push too far or break ties completely.

After all, if relationships were severed and open conflict broke out, even a few Foundation Establishment cultivators could disrupt a major faction's peace, let alone a False Core Immortal.

If this False Core Patriarch met with misfortune, there would be no deterrent, and other factions would rush in like ravenous wolves to devour and dismantle the Sima Family entirely.

Even though the Sima Family could boast deep reserves and cultivate another False Core Immortal quickly, the losses to their assets and influence would be immense.

"Inform the Thirteenth Sister that, no matter the cost, she must bring back the Second Elder!"

Sima Yue understood that he had to remain seated at the heart of the family as their deterrent for now.

Moreover, his words were merely bluster.

Not to mention Bi Lake Mountain's possession of Lu Changsheng, Lu Miaoge, and Lu Ping'an—three powerful False Core combatants—

Even just Ling Zixiao and the Bi Lake Mountain Great Formation alone would be enough to foil his efforts.

If he truly set foot on Bi Lake Mountain to start a battle, it would only lead to his own destruction.

"Please rest assured, Patriarch. With Thirteenth Sister stepping forward, Bi Lake Mountain will have no choice but to yield."

The Sima Family Head spoke with a heavy tone.

The Sima Family had a legacy spanning over a thousand years, with extensive connections to various factions, including a notable foothold within Qingyun Sect.

Especially in this generation, the Sima Family had a direct descendant who was a disciple of Jade Branch Immortal from Qingyun Sect.

While Jade Branch Immortal was merely a False Core Immortal,

her Dao Companion was none other than the Peak Master of Red Sun Peak within Qingyun Sect—Real Person Chiyang!

As long as the family's esteemed cousin could persuade this Nascent Soul Immortal to intervene, even with just a nod or a written decree, Bi Lake Mountain would have no choice but to hand over the captive.

"Hmm."

Sima Yue nodded slightly, then turned toward the Sima Family Head with a grim expression. He said gravely, "I've heard that Lu Ping'an from Bi Lake Mountain is only just over sixty years old. To possess False Core-level body refinement strength at that age, he must have extraordinary fortune and great secrets!"

"Immediately dispatch people to investigate his background and compile as detailed information as possible."

Sima Yue's eyes, beneath his thick brows, gleamed coldly and piercingly, exuding a chilling sharpness.

Even as an experienced False Core Patriarch, he couldn't help but feel astonished and develop murderous intent upon hearing of Lu Ping'an's circumstances.

After all, body cultivation was an incredibly time-consuming, resource-draining path.

For someone of Lu Ping'an's age to achieve such a level of refinement was nothing short of unprecedented!

Anyone with foresight could see that, barring an untimely death, Lu Ping'an had a strong probability of breaking through to Third Order Body Refining.

The thought of such a possibility sent shivers down Sima Yue's spine.

"Do not worry, Patriarch; I've already sent people to investigate Lu Ping'an's information."

The Sima Family Head bowed respectfully.

...

Golden Dragon Ridge, Jin Family.

When the Jin Family's senior members heard about the events between Bi Lake Mountain and the Sima Family, they were utterly dumbfounded.

Earlier, upon hearing of the Sima Family's major movements, they had been brimming with glee.

They thought the Sima Family's operation would resolve the threats posed by Lu Ping'an and Ling Zixiao.

But unexpectedly, scouts had now reported that the Sima Sijie were dead. Even the Sima Family's False Core Patriarch had been suppressed by Lu Ping'an.

What madness was this!?

Had it not been confirmed through multiple channels, they wouldn't have believed it.

"Years ago, we sent someone to probe White Tiger Mountain, but one of them was shot dead by an arrow. It must have been Lu Ping'an who acted."

A Jin Family elder recalled an incident and spoke up.

"This Lu Ping'an hides so deeply..."

"No, it's more accurate to say Bi Lake Mountain hides deeply! Lu Ping'an, Lu Wangshu, Lu Qingxuan—each one is keeping their secrets under wraps!"

"Family Head, what should we do about this?"

The Jin Family's senior members all had grim expressions.

Their Jin Family of Golden Dragon Ridge had long harbored a mortal enmity with Bi Lake Mountain.

Unlike Xuanwu Ridge, which was far from Bi Lake Mountain,

The Jin Family not only bordered Bi Lake Mountain, but was also adjacent to White Tiger Mountain.

If Lu Ping'an were to remain stationed at White Tiger Mountain long-term, wouldn't Golden Dragon Ridge have to maintain perpetual high alert?

Chapter 1258: Chapter 435: Movement in All Directions, Bai Xia Bloodline! _2

"This matter... it's better to seek the advice of the Ancestor."

The Patriarch of the Jin Family said with a bitter smile.

The Jin Family was already severely weakened, barely able to maintain its status and stabilize the clan's situation.

But now, with Lu Ping'an, such a formidable force emerging in Bi Lake Mountain, the balance between the two families might soon be reversed.

A quarter of an hour later.

The Patriarch of the Jin Family, along with several elders, arrived at Golden Dragon Peak to meet Jin Zan.

“What!? Sima Tong suppressed by Lu Ping’an? How is that possible!?”

Inside the main hall, Jin Zan immediately expressed disbelief upon hearing the Patriarch’s words.

After all, Sima Tong had broken through to the False Core level decades ago and possessed a life-bound magic treasure, his battle prowess far surpassing Jin Zan’s own.

Yet, such a seasoned False Core Immortal was suppressed by Lu Ping’an, a junior from the Lu Family!

If he didn’t know that the Patriarch and others wouldn’t dare joke about this, he would’ve thought they were trying to deceive him.

“Why does Heaven favor this Lu Changsheng so much!”

Seeing that everyone’s expressions were grave, Jin Zan looked to the sky and sighed deeply, his eyes filled with both envy and helplessness.

He had also become aware of the recent events involving Lu Wangshu and Lu Qingxuan.

So upon hearing this news, his first reaction wasn’t fear of Bi Lake Mountain’s current strength.

Rather, he feared Bi Lake Mountain’s future potential!

Feared that Bi Lake Mountain might still be holding back its true power!

Because it was simply too astonishing!

Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge—a pair cultivating a dual cultivation technique.

Lu Wangshu, inheriting Lu Changsheng’s Talisman Path legacy.

Lu Qingxuan, who had just broken through to Foundation Establishment but managed to kill two of their Foundation Establishment clansmen.

Lu Ping’an, so young yet already possessing False Core-level combat power!

And a single Lu Family disciple, Lu Qingshan, now accepted into an Immortal Sect in Yue Country!

Thinking of these Lu Family talents gave Jin Zan a profound sense of powerlessness.

Although the Jin Family did have a few promising seeds of talent,

They paled in comparison to Lu Ping’an, Lu Qingshan, and Lu Wangshu.

Furthermore, the family's foundation had been drained while supporting him to break through to the False Core level.

Now, the clan didn't have the resources to cultivate new Nascent Soul seeds and could only barely maintain a decent number of Foundation Establishment cultivators.

"Consolidate the family's forces further, stabilize the current situation, and observe the developments."

"Sima Family has suffered this humiliation. They won't let it slide easily, so we'll watch their response first."

Jin Zan sighed heavily, his tone filled with weariness.

In his youth, he had been ambitious and radiated vitality.

But ever since the previous Jin Family Patriarch was killed by a Heretic Cultivator, leaving the family's survival entirely on his shoulders, he had become cautious and prudent in all matters.

"Though the Wang Family is declining, a skinny camel is still bigger than a horse."

"Years ago, I heard that the Wang Family had always been seeking marriage alliances with other powers. Xiao Jiu, go contact them and gauge their attitude."

After some contemplation, Jin Zan continued.

"Five Elements Wang Family..."

The Jin Family Patriarch froze upon hearing this.

He had considered this matter before as well.

But the Wang Family was under the jurisdiction of the Luoxia Sect.

Moreover, the Wang Family's relationship with the Beast Taming Xu Family was poor. If their clan tried to curry favor with the Wang Family, it might provoke the Xu Family's displeasure.

As if reading the Jin Family Patriarch's concerns, Jin Zan added: "The Xu Family and the Shangguan Family can also be approached."

"Yes, Ancestor."

The Jin Family Patriarch and others nodded heavily in response, their hearts burdened with the implications.

They understood that the Ancestor was preparing to surrender a portion of their interests to forge alliances and leverage external powers.

...

Bi Lake Mountain.

The news of Lu Ping'an and Ling Zixiao suppressing the False Core Patriarch spread wildly across the outside world, and the Lu Family disciples naturally caught wind of it.

Many of them noticed their fathers welcoming their concubines and elder brothers back home, realizing that the news wasn't just a rumor—it was likely true.

"I thought Wangshu was already invincible, but who would've guessed that my elder brother..."

"A False Core Immortal! My elder brother suppressed a False Core Immortal. Doesn't that mean my elder brother has achieved False Core Immortal status?"

"Our family has become a False Core-level clan!"

Many Lu Family disciples were thrilled and ecstatic.

Meanwhile, cultivators and representatives from many family forces arrived at Bi Lake Mountain to verify the authenticity of the rumors.

"It is true."

Lu Changsheng, Lu Ping'an, and Ling Zixiao did not appear in public.

Lu Xinyang and Lu Miaoge confirmed the matter directly.

During the exchanges, Lu Miaoge revealed shocking news to families with good relations with hers: her husband, Lu Changsheng, had advanced to Third-Rank Talisman Master!

"Third-Rank Talisman Master!!!"

"Hiss! Hiss! Hiss..."

Upon hearing this bombshell, these people were visibly shocked and audibly gasped in amazement.

A Third-Rank Talisman Master might not have the status of a Nascent Soul Immortal, but it was equivalent to a False Core Immortal.

Especially Lu Changsheng—the Talisman Master—who also mastered Talisman Path legacy.

He had once joined forces with Lu Miaoge to defeat the False Core Immortal Jin Zan!

Now that the Lu Family had stable access to Third-Rank Talismans, even ordinary False Core Immortals might not be a match for Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge together.

“Congratulations to Lady Lu, congratulations to Mountain Lord Lu!”

“Congratulations to Ancestor Lu on advancing to Third-Rank Talisman Master. A Nascent Soul breakthrough is in sight!”

These family elders were astonished, and they each expressed their congratulatory remarks.

This news was incredibly impactful!

No less shocking than the information about Lu Ping'an suppressing Sima Patriarch.

With Lu Changsheng publicly claiming the title of Third-Rank Talisman Master and Lu Ping'an possessing False Core-level battle strength, the Lu Family of Bi Lake Mountain had indisputably solidified its reputation as a False Core-level clan.

“Two months from now, at my daughter Wangshu's Foundation Establishment Ceremony, my husband will offer several Third-Rank Talismans as gifts for auction.”

“If you could help spread the word, and if anyone possesses Heavenly and Earthly Treasures sought by our Lu Family, they may exchange them for Third-Rank Talismans.”

Lu Miaoge, dressed in a simple white palace gown, her jet-black silky hair shaped into an ethereal celestial bun adorned with several azure jade beads, added a touch of elegance and nobility to her serene and refined face.

Professions such as Array Masters, Alchemists, Artifact Refiners, and Talisman Masters often authenticated their rank with sales of corresponding elixirs, artifacts, or talismans.

Chapter 1259: Chapter 435: Movement in All Directions, Bai Xia Bloodline! _3

Of course, aside from this method, one could also go to certain organizations or forces to undergo evaluations, thereby indirectly gaining fame.

Lu Changsheng naturally chose the simplest method: taking out a few talismans to sell and auction.

Though such things might be falsified,

few people would be willing to use Third-Rank Talismans for deception or name-building.

Moreover, such falsehoods would inevitably lead to suspicion over time.

“Lu Mountain Lord is truly magnanimous!”

“Lady Lu, rest assured, upon returning, I will certainly promote your esteemed family well.”

“Lady Lu, might I ask what kind of heavenly and earthly treasures your esteemed family currently requires?”

The cultivators present, upon hearing these words, all spoke with excitement and enthusiasm.

In Lu Changsheng’s eyes, Third-Rank Talismans were no longer anything special.

But to these cultivators, they were incomparably rare!

Having a Third-Rank Talisman was essentially equivalent to possessing a life-saving artifact.

In times of danger, merely unveiling a Third-Rank Talisman would be enough to deter most Foundation Establishment cultivators.

“Materials for the Foundation Establishment Elixir are the same as before.”

Lu Miaoge replied with a graceful smile, exuding an elegant demeanor.

Gradually, cultivators began arriving at Bi Lake Mountain to visit.

Apart from offering congratulations and probing for information, many families also came seeking cooperation, with some even proactively pledging allegiance to the Lu Family.

The cultivation world is unpredictable and ever-changing.

One might unexpectedly encounter trouble or cross paths with heretic cultivators or robber cultivators.

Though these families were under the jurisdiction of the Qingyun Sect, the Qingyun Sect rarely intervened in family affairs under their rule.

It was only upon encountering heretics or demon cultivators that they would send someone to investigate and resolve the matter.

If two families were at odds or clashing, as long as the situation did not escalate excessively or cause too much of a commotion, the Qingyun Sect typically turned a blind eye.

In the event of requesting the Qingyun Sect to intervene and uphold justice, both participating families would have to pay a heavy price.

Thus, these family forces preferred to seek out their own protectors.

However, the families seeking Bi Lake Mountain's protection were not fools either.

Most were in unfavorable circumstances, hoping to leverage Bi Lake Mountain's reputation to overcome their crises.

Alternatively, they foresaw that Bi Lake Mountain, as a False Core family, would undoubtedly expand its influence, and by pledging allegiance now, they might gain benefits from the Lu Family, possibly earn a share of the profit.

"Regarding allegiance, esteemed seniors and Daoists may discuss the details with me later."

Lu Xinyang addressed the family patriarchs expressing intentions to pledge allegiance.

The family had indeed discussed this beforehand and planned to recruit several subordinate families to perform tasks for them.

However, the Lu Family would not indiscriminately accept just any family force.

....

Apart from disseminating selective information during visits from other families,

Lu Changsheng also directed the family to publicly and covertly promote his status as a Third-Rank Talisman Master, as well as the specifics of Lu Ping'an's battle with Patriarch Sima, emphasizing the significance of Third-Rank Talismans.

After all, Lu Ping'an subduing a False Core Patriarch at his age was rather astonishing.

It was necessary to ease the shock somewhat through such information.

The role of being a Third-Rank Talisman Master, along with the Third-Rank Talismans and pre-laid formations, provided a reasonable explanation for how Lu Ping'an managed to subdue and capture Patriarch Sima.

At this moment, within a secret chamber.

Lu Changsheng brought Bing'er with him and was using the Six Desires Heart Demon Technique on Patriarch Sima.

It was not a soul search.

Rather, it was simply a method of disturbing the soul to extract certain information about the Sima Family from the opponent, such as financial resources, cultivation technique inheritance, and other secrets.

With his Taiyi Divine Soul comparable to the peak of Core Formation, employing such methods on a False Core opponent like Patriarch Sima was naturally effortless.

However, his Six Desires Heart Demon Technique lacked the cultivation from the Seven Emotions and Six Desires, which resulted in mediocre effects.

He could only obtain superficial details; for deeper information, the opponent's subconscious would resist, potentially awakening them.

"The Sima Family has managed to stand strong for so many years; they do have some foundation."

Lu Changsheng chuckled lightly.

Though the Sima Family only had two False Core immortals, their heritage was exceptional.

If needed, they could cultivate a False Core immortal in the shortest time possible.

However, to the Sima Family, having two False Core immortals in residence was already sufficient.

Nurturing additional False Core immortals would only result in wasted resources.

They would consider training new False Core members only after their current ones passed away, thus maintaining the family's continuity.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng learned that the Sima Family possessed a significant heritage: their ancestral Mysterious Turtle.

This Mysterious Turtle currently had the status of a Quasi-Third Rank entity, remaining in long-term slumber.

Perhaps, after a few hundred years, it could ascend to the Third Rank.

“This type of turtle-based spiritual beast truly is well-suited to serve as a Clan Guardian Spirit Beast...”

Lu Changsheng reflected inwardly.

The Beast Taming Xu Family had a Mysterious Turtle spirit beast, the Sima Family had one, and he recalled the Spirit Taming Sect seemed to have one as well.

This brought Lu Changsheng’s thoughts back to his own Cold Blue Dark Turtle.

Yet, the growth of such turtle-based spiritual beasts was exceedingly slow.

Forty years had passed, and this Cold Blue Dark Turtle had just advanced to the middle stage of the First Grade.

Even Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but feel speechless.

Lu Wangshu was equally unimpressed with its growth speed.

After all, this Cold Blue Dark Turtle wasn’t raised in the wild.

It was well-fed and cared for, often placed inside Ancient Beast Taming Charms for accelerated cultivation.

“Should I perhaps...”

Lu Changsheng stared at Patriarch Sima before him, his thoughts stirring.

Considering that once Sima Tong was ransomed back, he could find an opportunity to deal with the Sima Family’s other False Core cultivator, Sima Yue.

This way, the Sima Family would be reduced to a level similar to the Jin Family, posing much less of a threat.

After all, Patriarch Sima Tong’s self-destruction of his life-bound magic treasure damaged his foundation, and his combat strength would likely be inferior to Jin Zan, who was a mere blank-slate False Core.

“Master.....”

At that moment, the voice of Mount Sumeru echoed in Lu Changsheng’s mind, informing him of an anomaly in Bai Ling’s cocoon of light.

“Alright.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng immediately ensured Patriarch Sima Tong remained unconscious and departed with Bing’er towards the Changsheng Hall.

Inside the cave mansion, upon the bed.

Chapter 1260: Chapter 435: Movement in All Directions, Bai Xia Bloodline! _4

The white golden cocoon formed by Bai Ling emanated a faint, sacred radiance, accompanied by the subtle sound of cracking.

“Crack, crack, crack—”

As the cracking sounds continued to echo, tiny fissures began to appear on the cocoon.

When the fissures spread densely across its surface, the entire cocoon suddenly split apart, emitting an endless torrent of dazzling, sacred white light that illuminated the entire cave mansion.

“Brother~”

Amidst the sacred and dazzling radiance, a voice filled with joy resounded.

Bai Ling appeared standing in the midst of the luminescence, her graceful and alluring figure as snow-white and smooth as jade. Her silky black hair cascaded down to her waist and hips, while her complexion bore a striking harmony of black and white hues.

Her delicate and pure features, paired with her enchanting and curvaceous figure, seemed more refined and mature than before, radiating an irresistible beauty.

The most noticeable change, however, was the disappearance of the white-golden scales previously on her skin.

Her skin was now soft and smooth like that of an ordinary person, glimmering faintly as if dusted with pearl powder. It was luminous and pinkish, exuding an unparalleled allure.

“Brother, I’m pregnant!”

Bai Ling’s soft and graceful figure embraced Lu Changsheng, her misty eyes resembling blooming peach blossoms, brimming with excitement.

“Pregnant?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng was also pleasantly surprised.

Earlier, after they had mostly expended the effects of the Yin Yang Integration Spirit Pill, Bai Ling had suddenly fallen into slumber, forming a cocoon, which had made him worry she might not have conceived.

If she hadn't conceived, the Yin Yang Integration Spirit Pill would have been wasted.

Now, hearing Bai Ling's words, his heart finally settled, filled with anticipation for the birth of this child.

"Come, let me take a look."

Lu Changsheng smiled and lightly touched Bai Ling's smooth and flat abdomen.

He felt that her skin was incredibly delicate and soft, providing an indescribable sensation.

A moment later, he could sense a faint trace of life from within Bai Ling's abdomen.

Since it had been conceived only recently, he could not discern any distinct characteristics of this life form.

Additionally, the Yin Yang Integration Spirit Pill within Bai Ling's body had not been fully metabolized.

A portion of its medicinal power would be consumed gradually as the fetus developed, nourishing the unborn child.

"Ling'er, was that a bloodline awakening just now?"

Lu Changsheng gazed at the exquisite, pure beauty of Bai Ling before him and asked in a gentle tone.

"Mm."

Bai Ling nodded joyously.

She explained that under the stimulation of the Yin Yang Integration Spirit Pill's power, the strength of her bloodline had been awakened, allowing her to inherit certain aspects of the bloodline's legacy.

Included in the legacy was a cultivation technique.

Moreover, she instinctively gained control over her body's demonization.

This involved the serpent scales that surfaced on her skin.

"Bloodline inheritance? Demonization?"

Lu Changsheng was slightly astonished upon hearing this.

He hadn't anticipated that Bai Ling's bloodline awakening would grant her a bloodline inheritance.

Typically, only demon beasts that had ascended to the Third Rank Demon King level could awaken their bloodline inheritance, or obtain innate divine abilities.

Bai Ling had merely possessed a trace of the Demon Race's bloodline.

Under such circumstances, bloodline inheritance should have been extremely difficult to achieve.

However, this indirectly indicated that Bai Ling's bloodline was far from ordinary.

It was highly likely, as Hong Lian had mentioned, to be a True Spirit Bloodline.

"Little Ling'er, do you have any knowledge of the bloodline inside you?"

Lu Changsheng asked, his curiosity piqued.

"I think it's called 'Bai Xi.'"

Bai Ling replied hesitantly.

Her bloodline inheritance was incomplete, offering only sparse information.

"Bai Xi?"

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow, unfamiliar with this demon beast.

He planned to ask Hong Lian about it later.

Next, he inquired about the cultivation technique included in Bai Ling's bloodline inheritance.

He wanted to determine the grade of this technique.

"Brother, the cultivation technique is called the 'Immortal Rhapsody Manual.'"

Bai Ling, facing Lu Changsheng, naturally withheld nothing and spoke candidly about this inherited technique.

"Immortal Rhapsody Manual..."

Lu Changsheng expressed mild surprise, feeling that the name didn't resemble a Demon Race cultivation technique.

Through Bai Ling's detailed explanation, he learned that it was an uncommon Path of Music cultivation technique, specializing in sound-based spells.

Grade-wise, it seemed to fall somewhere between Peripheral Sect Level and Orthodox Level.

However, the manual could only be cultivated up to the Fourth Rank, resembling a prelude technique to another advanced one.

Perhaps, when Bai Ling reached a certain level of cultivation and her bloodline awakened further, she might obtain a continuation of the manual or an upgraded version of it.

“Tsk, bloodline inheritance from the Demon Race truly is considerate.”

“Even with partial bloodline awakening, one can gain access to such a top-tier technique.”

Lu Changsheng commented in amazement.

Although he possessed numerous cultivation techniques ranging from Peripheral Sect Level to Orthodox Level, and even True Immortal Level Techniques,

for most cultivators, Peripheral Sect Level techniques already qualified as top-tier!

Bai Ling was still at the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Yet, with just partial bloodline awakening, she had obtained a top-tier technique.

Should the bloodline continue to awaken and even reactivate ancestral traits, she might acquire techniques of Profound Mystery Level or even True Immortal Level in the future.

Merely this inherited technique was enough for Lu Changsheng to realize how extraordinary Bai Ling’s ‘Bai Xi’ bloodline truly was.

It was undoubtedly a True Spirit Level Bloodline!

“Brother, while I was sleeping, my cultivation technique automatically converted into the ‘Immortal Rhapsody Manual.’ From now on, I won’t be able to help you raise snakes or fish anymore.”

At this point, Bai Ling lightly pursed her red lips and spoke with a hint of sadness.

She had always wanted to assist Lu Changsheng, to do something for him.

Previously, Lu Changsheng had entrusted her with nurturing the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Troops and raising demon beasts, tasks she diligently performed.

This gave her a sense of being needed.

However, now that her cultivation technique had automatically transformed into the 'Immortal Rhapsody Manual,' she could no longer utilize Black Dragon Power to cultivate Dao Soldiers.

"It's fine. As for the Dao Soldiers, I'll assign the task to someone else later."

"Little Ling'er, you're pregnant now, so you need to rest more."

Lu Changsheng dismissed the concern without hesitation, chuckling as he spoke, lifting Bai Ling's soft and warm delicate figure and sitting down beside her.

Currently, aside from Lu Ping'an, a few of their other children had cultivated the Black Dragon Codex.

As long as they broke through Foundation Establishment, they could use mana to cultivate the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Troops.

"Mm~"

Bai Ling happily nestled into Lu Changsheng's arms, gently touching her flat abdomen, still immersed in the joy of pregnancy.

Finally, she had her own baby.

Looking at her tender and rosy skin, Bai Ling timidly murmured, "Brother, if you prefer Ling'er's original appearance, Ling'er can transform back."

Although Lu Changsheng didn't mind the scales on her body, her childhood experiences had left her uneasy about these scales.

She worried whether Lu Changsheng's usual reassurances were sincere or merely to comfort her.

Now that she could freely demonize and control the manifestation of the scales, she was thrilled.

"Ling'er, no matter your appearance, Brother likes you just the same."

Lu Changsheng smiled, pinching her smooth cheek as he replied.

He couldn't deny that Bai Ling's skin felt utterly divine.

"Father, Sister Ling'er, would you like to play games?"

At that moment, Bing'er, acting as the proverbial third wheel, saw the two embracing flirtatiously and spoke, her clear and innocent eyes twinkling.

"Ah..."

Bai Ling's flawless cheeks immediately turned crimson upon hearing this.

“Since Bing’er suggests it, Little Ling’er, let’s accompany her for a while.”

Seeing Bai Ling’s reaction, Lu Changsheng let his hand trail across her smooth and supple figure, smiling slightly as he replied in a gentle tone.

...

During the game, Lu Changsheng remembered Bai Ling’s demonization ability and asked her to transform back to her original appearance.

Not because of anything else—he simply wanted to affirm his previous compliments on her demonized look.

Bai Ling’s graceful and alluring figure was soon covered in a thin layer of glimmering scales.

These scales resembled her original ones but were more refined and sophisticated.

Upon hearing Bai Ling mention that the scales could originate at will across her body, Lu Changsheng made a request for her to alter them as he saw fit.

A moment later, Bai Ling, who was already enchanting, now wrapped in a faint veil of crystalline scales, had her allure reach an utterly irresistible peak.

When Bai Ling activated her demonization ability to the fullest extent, her scaled skin transformed into a set of crystalline armor imbued with luminous brilliance.

This armor was exceptional.

Its defensive prowess was nearly equivalent to Foundation Establishment Peak.

Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but marvel internally—this wasn’t just an awakened ability.

This was undoubtedly an innate divine skill!

Yet Bai Ling’s gentle personality meant that, even with such an extraordinary ability, she wouldn’t seek conflict.

After all!

Once the games ended, Lu Changsheng took the exhausted Bai Ling and Bing’er to bed.