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Real Person Chiyang, with a dignified and resolute demeanor, spoke in a calm tone and continued.

"Has the opening time of the Tianyuan Secret Realm been confirmed?"

Hearing these words, Song Qingzhi showed some surprise and bewilderment, and proceeded to ask, "Will there be any danger?"

"News from the Heavenly Sword Sect states that Xuanjian True Monarch will personally oversee it, so there will be no danger."

Real Person Chiyang chuckled as he replied.

"Xuanjian True Monarch..."

When Song Qingzhi heard this name, her heart skipped a beat. She had not expected even such a True Monarch to get involved.

It seemed that the matter of the Tianyuan Secret Realm might lead to significant movements in Jiang Country soon.

"My dear wife, during these days, I also need to make some preparations and forge a few small trinkets."

After chatting for a while, Real Person Chiyang got up and left.

"Go on, go on."

Seeing her Dao companion acting in this manner, Song Qingzhi spoke in a slightly exasperated tone.

She then began to ponder over the relationship between Yun Wanshang and Lu Changsheng.

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Yun Wanshang had just returned to Caiyun Peak from the Qingyun Grand Hall when her Tongyu Phoenix Marrow Body emitted a faint and fleeting sense of unease.

This unease instantly turned her expression cold, as she guessed what Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue might be up to.

"Hmph, that little scoundrel—is this how he helps Xiyue resolve her cultivation technique issues?!"

Yun Wanshang was somewhat irritated, inwardly muttering to herself: Could it be that Lu Changsheng can't live without women?

Coming to the Qingyun Sect just to engage in such matters with Xiao Xiyue.

Even her closed-door cultivation was disturbed because of this...

If not for considering her disciple's reputation, she would have called Lu Changsheng over to scold him right now.

Soon after Yun Wanshang returned to her palace, a figure appeared outside the great hall and reported, "Peak Master, I have already brought Sima Tong to the Enforcement Hall."

"But... the reparations demanded by Bihu Mountain are somewhat excessive, and since Sima Tong is already half-crippled, if we force the Sima Family to comply, they may harbor resentment, and other family forces might also have their grievances..."

Jinxiu respectfully reported to Yun Wanshang from outside the palace.

"What are Bihu Mountain's demands? And what's Sima Tong's condition?"

After a brief moment, Yun Wanshang's voice resounded in Jinxiu's mind.

"Bihu Mountain stated that Lu Changsheng demands fifty thousand spirit stones, a spirit land, the ability to choose thirty shops under the Profound Martial Ridge marketplace at Bihu Mountain's discretion, the opening of all trade routes, and a pledge not to seek revenge for a hundred years..."

"As for Sima Tong, his life-bound magic treasure has self-destructed, his meridians and dantian are damaged, his inner core is dimmed and has a faint crack—he is likely beyond recovery..."

Jinxiu voiced her report.

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When Yun Wanshang heard these demands, she immediately understood why Red Sun Peak and the Sima Family could not come to terms with Lu Changsheng.

Such demands— the Sima Family could completely nurture one, or even two, False Core cultivators with those resources.

How could they possibly pay such a price to apologize and compensate Bihu Mountain for a half-crippled False Core cultivator?

"Reduce it to twenty thousand spirit stones, one spirit land, and the choice of ten marketplace shops under their name. Modify the terms and have the Sima Family come to retrieve their man."

Yun Wanshang spoke decisively.

Although she could have approved, or even imposed harsher conditions, forcing the Sima Family to relent...

As the Enforcement Hall Master, she couldn't entirely favor Lu Changsheng.

Otherwise, what would the Sima Family, other family factions, or the disciples of the Qingyun Sect think?

Moreover, the Sima Family's incident also involved Real Person Chiyang.

If she went too far, it would amount to showing no regard for Real Person Chiyang, slapping him in the face.

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These days, the conflict between the Bihu Mountain Lu Family and the Profound Martial Ridge Sima Family continued to escalate.

It began spreading across the entire Qingyun Region, and even throughout Jiang Country's Cultivation Realm.

Initially, many who heard the news dismissed it as mere rumors, doubting its authenticity.

However, as the matter continued to unfold, it reached an increasing number of ears, gradually being believed. This brought great renown to Bihu Mountain.

At this moment, within the Beast Taming Xu Family.

"The Bihu Mountain Lu Family, Lu Ping'an, approaching third-order body refining, and Lu Changsheng advancing to a Third-Rank Talisman Master..." A senior member of the Xu Family, upon hearing this news, furrowed his brows slightly, deep in thought.

Ten years ago, the Third Ancestor of their Xu Family, Xu Ge, had gone to Bihu Mountain, intending to ambush Lu Changsheng, the master of Bihu Mountain, but ultimately perished with no trace of the assailants.

Later, their Xu Family dispatched people to investigate the circumstances surrounding Bihu Mountain.

But no matter how much they searched, no information or traces of the battle could be found.

Since Bihu Mountain was close to the Qingyun Sect, they worried the matter might involve the Qingyun Sect. As a result, they let it drop and did not pursue further investigation.

Now, with Lu Ping'an showing the strength nearing a False Core, and Lu Changsheng becoming a Third-Rank Talisman Master, suspicions began to arise in his heart.

After all, within the cultivation world, didn't everyone have some hidden trump cards and strategies?

This Bihu Mountain Lu Family, which had only been established for a few decades—not yet a hundred years—and had risen to such prominence, clearly had access to extraordinary opportunities and profound secrets.

Especially Lu Ping'an, who, at his age, already possessed such combat power. His fortuitous encounters and secrets were undoubtedly far from ordinary!

Perhaps he possessed some kind of one-time-use exotic treasure capable of ambushing and killing False Core cultivators.

And now that Lu Changsheng had advanced to a Third-Rank Talisman Master, who could say whether this had just happened recently or had occurred much earlier?

If Lu Changsheng had advanced some time ago and possessed multiple Third-Rank Talismans, there was no saying he couldn't have played a part in Xu Ge's demise.

After all, in the world of cultivators, duels were ever-changing and unpredictable.

Even though Xu Ge, as a False Core cultivator, had extraordinary combat prowess, any slight negligence—facing multiple Third-Rank Talismans unexpectedly—could still have resulted in his downfall.

After ruminating for a while, he decided to report his suspicions to the Family Head of the Xu Family, requesting continued monitoring of Bihu Mountain and further investigation.

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At the Lingxi Xie Family.

Previously, Lu Xingchen, following Lu Miaoyun's arrangements, went to the Lingxi Lake Xie Family to deliver an invitation.

When he arrived at the Lingxi Xie Family, he learned that the Fifth Elder of the Xie Family had taken the initiative to visit his family.

"My eldest brother subdued the Sima Family's False Core Patriarch?"

Hearing this from the Xie Family, Lu Xingchen was completely dumbfounded.

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He knew his eldest brother was formidable, possessing unmatched combat strength.

But he never expected his eldest brother to be so powerful as to suppress even a False Core Patriarch.

And just like that, their family was elevated to a False Core Family?

He had thought that, at the very least, it would take their family another thirty to fifty years to have any hope of being promoted to a False Core Family or even a Nascent Soul Noble Family.

"Young Master Lu, you've traveled a long way, so you may not have heard of this matter. Otherwise, just stopping by any marketplace to inquire would reveal the news."

The Head of the Xie Family greeted Lu Xingchen with great politeness.

After all, Lu Xingchen's visit to them represented the goodwill of Bi Lake Mountain, signaling a desire to foster a friendly relationship with the Xie Family.

Under such circumstances, the family head naturally chose to personally host him.

"I indeed have been constantly traveling and haven't had much opportunity to learn about the latest." Lu Xingchen replied with a polite smile.

His appearance bore a close resemblance to his father, Lu Changsheng. Added to that, his cultivation of the "Cauldron Medical King's Scripture" lent him a similar refined and gentle demeanor, exuding a scholarly elegance.

"Young Master Lu, might I ask if you are betrothed? Our Xie Family..."

The Xie Family Head spoke with a gentle smile.

After all, the most common way for families to solidify alliances was through marriage!

The Xie Family elder's recent trip to Bi Lake Mountain held such intentions, even considering marrying off a daughter to Lu Changsheng.

However, since the Lu Ancestor rarely appeared in public, leaving most affairs to Lady of the Lu Family, it became awkward for these family factions to propose marriage in person.

After all, who would directly ask another man's wife whether her husband and their family wanted to establish a marital alliance?

Additionally, the Lu Ancestor's status and position had risen significantly.

Sending an ordinary Qi Refinement woman over would only result in her becoming a maid, possibly not even qualified to be a concubine.

And sending Foundation Establishment women to marry was an unlikely prospect.

Thus, more and more families began shifting their attention to the younger generation of the Lu Family.

Though the Xie Family Head had not previously heard of Lu Xingchen,

seeing that he was a Foundation Establishment cultivator caused the notion of marriage to surface in his mind.

"Thank you for your kind offer, Family Head Xie, but I currently have no plans for marriage."

Lu Xingchen replied sincerely.

While he didn't object	to marrying and	starting a family-	-or even a n	narriage for political
alliance—				

such matters were not something he would decide on his own.

"Very well, Young Master Lu, since you've come such a long way, feel free to explore and enjoy yourself here. Let my Xie Family show proper hospitality as hosts."

The Xie Family Head maintained an amicable demeanor and continued to speak, intending to arrange for several family daughters to meet Lu Xingchen later.

If both sides were pleased with one another, that would be the ideal outcome.

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Caiyun Peak.

Mingyue Residence.

Over recent days, Lu Changsheng had been deeply entangled with Xiao Xiyue, assisting her in her cultivation.

After all, Xiao Xiyue's cultivation level was already at the Foundation Establishment Seventh Layer.

She would soon break through to the Eighth Layer.

Under such circumstances, Lu Changsheng naturally needed to resolve Xiao Xiyue's situation as soon as possible.

Otherwise, if Xiao Xiyue reached the point of attempting a Core Formation breakthrough while the effects of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique remained unresolved, it would be quite troublesome.

"Buzz——"

On the bed, Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue were in harmony, yin and yang blending as an ethereal furnace floated above their heads, with the rotation of the sun and moon reflected within.

In the palace atop the peak, Yun Wanshang, sitting cross-legged, opened her eyes and couldn't help but want to say, "Are they ever going to stop?"

Over the past few days, Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue's continuous practice of the Sun Moon Samsara Technique had caused her Tongyu Phoenix Marrow Body to resonate uncontrollably, stirring faint ripples in her body.

This resonance had utterly distracted Yun Wanshang, leaving her unable to focus on her own cultivation.

"This won't do. I need to figure out if there are any formations that can block out this sensation."

Yun Wanshang contemplated, considering how Lu Changsheng, now registered as a Guest Elder in Caiyun Peak, was bound to be around more often in the future.

She needed to find someone to arrange multiple formation layers to isolate this resonance as soon as possible.

Otherwise, how could she possibly cultivate in peace?

She really didn't want to feel this strange, inexplicable sense of involvement...

"Huh?"

That day, Yun Wanshang blinked her beautiful eyes as if awakening from a dream, thinking to herself that there didn't seem to be any ripples today?

Had they finally stopped, or had she just gotten used to it?

Replaying the memories in her mind, she couldn't quite recall the last time the ripples had occurred.

Immediately, Yun Wanshang sent a sound transmission to her steward, Jinxiu, to head to Mingyue Residence and summon Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue.

At Mingyue Residence, when Xiao Xiyue heard from her maid, Green Willow, that the steward of the peak had come to summon her and Lu Changsheng, her fair and jadelike face flushed with a rosy blush.

She knew that her recent activities had certainly not escaped her master's notice.

Or rather, her master was likely calling her now to remind her to take Lu Changsheng to complete his Guest Elder registration before addressing other matters.

Yet, after completing the Guest Elder registration, the two of them had become so entwined that they'd completely lost track of time.

"It's all my fault. Anytime I'm with you, Xiyue, I lose all sense of time."

Lu Changsheng, however, remained remarkably calm, holding Xiao Xiyue's graceful, mature, and seemingly moonlit flawless body with tenderness in his voice.

Since discovering that Caiyun True Immortal was the Core Formation woman he had once shared a fleeting connection with in his younger years—and with their multiple indepth conversations since then—Lu Changsheng no longer held any reverence for her.

He only harbored the intention of making her the mother of his children.

After briefly indulging in each other's company, the duo adjusted their attire and ascended to the grand palace at the peak, appearing like a celestial couple as they bowed respectfully in greeting.

"Truly..."

Yun Wanshang gazed at the pair outside, her heart filled with a mix of inexplicable and complex emotions.

"Boom!"

The palace doors swung open.

Yun Wanshang stepped out in a resplendent multicolored gown, its flowing hem cascading like clouds, accentuating her noble and majestic aura.

"Xiyue, I established a fifty-year pact with you, and half of that time has already passed."

"If in the remaining time you fail to break through to Core Formation, do not blame me for being merciless."

Yun Wanshang looked down at Xiao Xiyue, her voice cold and commanding.

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After speaking, she looked at Lu Changsheng, her eyes as tranquil as water, her aura imposing. Her voice was like ancient, unyielding ice as she stated, "Lu Changsheng, the same applies to you. Even if I consider past relations, I will show no mercy."

"Please rest assured, True Immortal!"

Lu Changsheng's handsome face bore a faint smile at the corner of his lips, his demeanor one of confidence and certainty as he replied calmly.

Then, he lightly squeezed Xiao Xiyue's jade-like hand, signaling her not to worry.

This scene left Yun Wanshang slightly puzzled, curious as to the source of Lu Changsheng's undeniable confidence.

However, she couldn't deny that Lu Changsheng, full of confidence and brimming with vigor in this moment, was truly captivating, completely distinct from his usual shameless demeanor...

"Master, this disciple understands."

Though Xiao Xiyue inwardly lacked full confidence, under Lu Changsheng's encouragement, she still cupped her hands respectfully and responded.

"Hmm."

Yun Wanshang nodded slightly and shifted her gaze to Lu Changsheng again, speaking, "Regarding the matter with the Sima Family of Profound Martial Ridge, I have already sent someone to handle it."

"Afterward, the Sima Family will provide compensation, which I will have delivered to Bi Lake Mountain. Thus, this matter ends here; with my writ in hand, the Sima Family will not dare think of retaliation against you in the future."

Yun Wanshang spoke with certainty.

Though it was only a writ.

The fact that she personally intervened and resolved the issue was tantamount to announcing to the outside world that Bi Lake Mountain was backed by the Qingyun Sect and Caiyun Peak's lineage.

Under such circumstances, unless Bi Lake Mountain initiated trouble themselves,

the Beast Taming Xu Family would certainly think twice before making a move against Bi Lake Mountain.

"Many thanks, True Immortal!"

Lu Changsheng cupped his hands and responded.

He knew that, with this layer of deterrence provided by Yun Wanshang, his foundation would be secure, and he could develop steadily for quite some time ahead.

"Your family has come this far; in the days to come, maintain a lower profile. Excessive flamboyance is not a blessing."

Yun Wanshang's voice softened slightly, cold yet melodious, carrying a regal authority befitting her lofty position.

"Oh?"

Lu Changsheng paused for a moment, picking up on a deeper implication in Yun Wanshang's words.

He immediately cupped his hands and inquired, "I beseech True Immortal for guidance!"

"When any Immortal Sect develops to a certain stage, they issue a Pioneer Order to initiate an expansion war."

"It has been several centuries since Qingyun Sect last issued a Pioneer Order."

"In recent years, incidents have erupted repeatedly between Yue Country and Liang Country. Should these conflicts escalate into full-blown war, Jiang Country may also be implicated and dragged into the fray."

"Moreover, Jiang Country itself has not been peaceful in these years. You must have noticed as much."

Yun Wanshang shot a glance at Lu Changsheng and spoke in an even tone.

Hearing these words, Lu Changsheng's heart sank.

He faintly perceived the underlying meaning in Yun Wanshang's words.

There was a likelihood that Jiang Country would, in the near future, face either an Immortal Sect expansion or a full-scale Cultivation World war!

Both expansion wars and Cultivation World wars signified bloodshed and peril!

Once such a war erupted, every cultivator in Jiang Country, whether loose cultivator or family-affiliated, would be unconditionally bound to follow the commands of the Immortal Sects!

In years past, when mobilizing forces to exterminate the Xiahou Family and Demonic Path cultivators, numerous families had fallen into decline as a result.

The dangers of a war in the Cultivation World could only be imagined.

Countless families would either rise or be annihilated in such processes!

And at that time, the larger and stronger a family's forces, the greater their expected contribution!

"Many thanks for the guidance, True Immortal. Lu Changsheng understands."

Lu Changsheng's eyes sharpened as he nodded in response.

A war of this scale would involve disciples of the Immortal Sects being conscripted to the battlefield.

Thus, even with Yun Wanshang's support, there was no avoiding it.

Yun Wanshang's reminder was clearly meant to warn him that the signs were already emerging, and he should refrain from revealing too much of his power prematurely.

"Hmm."

Yun Wanshang nodded slightly and continued, "Soon, the Four Great Immortal Sects will open the Tianyuan Secret Realm. At that time, Bi Lake Mountain will be granted a spot."

"Prepare yourself well and enter the Tianyuan Secret Realm to comprehend the Celestial Monument. It will be beneficial to you."

"As for the specifics of the Tianyuan Secret Realm, you may inquire with Xiyue."

Yun Wanshang, possessor of supreme elegance, wore no adornments, yet her beauty was stunning and regal.

"The Tianyuan Secret Realm? Comprehend the Celestial Monument?"

Lu Changsheng blinked in surprise, not expecting this sudden turn of events about the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

He was, of course, familiar with the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

Years ago, Xiao Xiyue had accompanied Caiyun True Immortal and senior sister Chu Qingyi in pioneering the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

Now, with rumors abounding that the Secret Realm was attracting numerous foreign Core Formation cultivators coveting its opportunities,

Yun Wanshang was suggesting that the Four Great Immortal Sects would open it up, allowing him to comprehend the Celestial Monument?

Before he could ask further questions, Caiyun True Immortal waved her hand, dismissing them and closing the hall doors.

"Xiyue, what is the situation with this Tianyuan Secret Realm?"

Seeing this, Lu Changsheng turned to Xiao Xiyue for clarification.

Previously, due to sect rules and her Dao Heart oath, Xiao Xiyue had been unable to divulge much, so Lu Changsheng hadn't pressed her then.

"The Tianyuan Secret Realm should now have been thoroughly cleared. The Celestial Monument is one of the opportunities within."

"As for its origins, I am not entirely sure. All I know is that everyone can use the monument to comprehend cultivation insights, gaining Dao enlightenment, cultivation experiences, or even Cultivation Technique inheritances..."

Xiao Xiyue explained, indicating that both she and her master had secured substantial gains from the monument in the past.

However, each person could only comprehend the Celestial Monument once, with no second opportunities.

"Now the outside world is abuzz with news of the Tianyuan Secret Realm. Even many foreign Core Formation Immortals are being drawn to claim its opportunities."

Lu Changsheng frowned and muttered, "Opening the Tianyuan Secret Realm at this moment—is there a trap involved?"

He had experienced the Jiuxiao Immortal City incident early in his cultivation journey.

He knew the Heavenly Sword Sect was not to be trusted.

Back then, when Xuanjian True Monarch was challenged by the Jin Kingdom's Demonic Path True Monarch, the Heavenly Sword Sect had knowingly allowed the Demonic Path cultivators, who harbored ill intent, to infiltrate Jiang Country and plot within Jiuxiao Immortal City.

They had then ambushed and captured a Core Formation cultivator, killing two others and wiping out seven or eight False Core practitioners.

If not for one Core Formation cultivator self-destructing their True Elixir in a desperate bid, the Demonic Path forces would have suffered even greater losses.

Now, with the Tianyuan Secret Realm reopening, it reminded him of the Jiuxiao Immortal City incident, making him suspect that the Four Great Immortal Sects were using this as an opportunity to lure in Demonic Path cultivators for an ambush and to assert dominance.

Otherwise, the timing seemed far too coincidental.

"Not foolish at all."

Within the palace, Yun Wanshang's lips curved into a faint smile upon hearing Lu Changsheng's remark.

Her decision to have Lu Changsheng enter the Tianyuan Secret Realm was partly due to the benefits of the Celestial Monument for him.

If he could gain enlightenment or a Cultivation Technique inheritance from it, his chances of forming a Core would improve in the future.

On the other hand, she found herself increasingly unable to discern Lu Changsheng's depths.

Thus, she saw the Tianyuan Secret Realm as an opportunity to test him.

"This…"

Xiao Xiyue, hearing Lu Changsheng's words, felt he was likely correct.

Even though she knew Lu Changsheng had already broken through to Core Formation and become a Nascent Soul Immortal, she remained somewhat concerned.

After all, Lu Changsheng had only reached Core Formation three years ago.

With no completed Divine Skills or Magical Treasures in hand, he might encounter danger.

"It's fine."

Lu Changsheng, seeing Xiao Xiyue's worried expression, held her hand and spoke gently.

Under normal circumstances, he would avoid meddling in such a Secret Realm.

But with Yun Wanshang's explicit instruction, refusing out of fear might disappoint her.

Since that was the case, he would make the trip.

Moreover, if the Four Great Immortal Sects dared to proceed, they were surely confident and wouldn't send people to their deaths recklessly.

Of course, the primary reason was that he now had enough strength to feel assured.

As long as no Nascent Soul True Monarch appeared, he was confident he could escape even from a Late Stage Core Formation Great Cultivator.

"Hmm, senior sister will be stationed in the Tianyuan Secret Realm. If danger arises, Changsheng, you may seek her protection..."

Xiao Xiyue nodded slightly, offering a reassuring suggestion.

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Profound Martial Ridge, Sima Family.

"Hmm, Thirteenth Sister is back!?"

The Sima Family Head, upon hearing the report, immediately rushed to the hall with an expression of surprise and joy.

These past days, with the family patriarch's matters involving Blue Lake Mountain weighing on his mind, his role as the family head had been a daily torment.

Constantly, he was waiting for Sima Qiuhua to send back good news.

At the moment he heard of Sima Qiuhua's return, his first thought was that the family's issues had been resolved.

When he arrived at the hall and saw not only Sima Qiuhua but also two individuals in Qingyun Sect Enforcement Hall robes—a man and a woman—his expression slightly stiffened as he sensed something amiss.

"Thirteenth Sister."

The Sima Family Head addressed Sima Qiuhua, whose face showed a hint of fatigue, and then slightly cupped his hands toward the two Qingyun Sect disciples.

"Sima Family Head, correct? This is our Hall Master's Edict, regarding the resolution of the grievances between the Profound Martial Ridge Sima Family and the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family."

The two Enforcement Hall disciples exchanged glances and spoke up, handing the edict to the Sima Family Head.

"Thank you, Daoists."

Though the Sima Family Head felt something was off, he maintained his courtesy.

He took out ten Middle Grade Spirit Stones from his storage bag and handed them to the two disciples.

The disciples accepted the stones without reservation.

After all, traveling this distance was arduous, and this counted as a little extra reward.

After taking the spirit stones, the two disciples stepped out of the hall to wait outside, allowing the Sima Family Head and Sima Qiuhua a private conversation.

"This..."

The Sima Family Head trembled violently as he read the content of the edict. His face turned deathly pale, as though struck by lightning.

He then looked at Sima Qiuhua in disbelief and said, "Thirteenth Sister, what is going on..."

"Originally, this matter had been handled by my master, and Real Person Chiyang already approved..."

"But Lu Changsheng saved the disciple of Caiyun True Immortal, Xiao Xiyue, years ago, which alarmed Caiyun True Immortal and led her to personally intervene..."

Sima Qiuhua spoke bitterly.

Previously, she had received a family message and went to request her master, Song Qingzhi.

She had thought the matter was resolved, with her master and grandmaster's backing.

She even imagined she could leverage this achievement for resources from the family afterward.

Who could have expected it would provoke Caiyun True Immortal's involvement, resulting in a harsh reprimand from her master, Song Qingzhi, and displeasure from her senior brother, Song Cheng?

"Caiyun True Immortal intervened personally!"

When the Sima Family Head heard this, his pale complexion turned ashen.

This act, personally handled by the Enforcement Hall Master, indicated the matter was already finalized and unchangeable.

Whatever the punishment might be, the Sima Family must accept it!

Moreover, if one were to account for the truth, it was indeed the Sima Family that instigated it first and was in the wrong.

"Additionally, following this matter, Lu Changsheng leveraged his status as a Third Rank Talisman Master to become a Visiting Noble Servant at Caiyun Peak. So…" Sima Qiuhua sighed and continued.

Even though the Sima Family now faced massive losses and frustration, they could only admit defeat.

Should they dare seek trouble with Blue Lake Mountain again, it would equate to insulting Caiyun True Immortal.

"This..."

The Sima Family Head sat in a chair nearby as though drained, only recovering after a long while, his voice weak as he said, "Thirteenth Sister, I understand."

This compensation not only caused severe damage to the Sima Family's vitality.

It also signified irreversible damage to the family's reputation.

In the future, whenever people discussed Blue Lake Mountain or Profound Martial Ridge, this matter would inevitably surface, causing massive harm to the Sima Family's prestige.

Reputation was intangible but had unavoidable indirect consequences!

Moreover, as the Sima Family Head, he became acutely aware of one critical issue.

That was the rapid growth of Blue Lake Mountain, achieved in just a few decades!

Previously, aside from the Sima Family, other forces such as the Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family, Golden Dragon Ridge Jin Family, Fuyun Mountain Luo Family, and Beast Taming Xu Family secretly suppressed Blue Lake Mountain to hinder its rise.

But now, Lu Changsheng had aligned with Qingyun Sect's Caiyun True Immortal.

This meant other families had to weigh their actions before targeting the Lu Family and couldn't act openly.

Without suppression and limits, at this growth rate, in a few decades, Blue Lake Mountain might rise to become the foremost False Core Family, potentially advancing to a Nascent Soul Noble Family!

Who could say if Blue Lake Mountain would then resolve to exact vengeance on the Sima Family?

The Sima Family Head felt a deep sense of heaviness pressing on his heart.

"I will go with you to meet the family patriarch and elders."

Sima Qiuhua gazed at her brother's dispirited state and sighed.

Though this outcome was not one the Sima Family could refuse.

The patriarch and elders still needed to be informed for deliberation.

Not to mention, deploying such a massive sum of compensation required much planning and arrangement.

"Thank you, Thirteenth Sister."

The Sima Family Head cupped his hands in gratitude.

If he had to face the patriarch's fury alone, it would be unbearable.

With Sima Qiuhua there, matters would be far more manageable.

. . .

Qingyun Sect.

Following a session of dual cultivation with Xiao Xiyue, Lu Changsheng did not continue cultivating afterward.

On one hand, a profound cultivation technique like the Sun Moon Samsara Technique emphasized moderation and avoided rash progress.

On the other hand, since awakening the Taiyi Divine Soul, his sensitivity and perception had heightened considerably.

In the inexplicable, he often felt watched, suspecting it was Caiyun True Immortal.

Thus, he believed constantly lingering under the gaze of that true immortal might unintentionally provoke her discontent.

After all, given the depth of their interactions over time, Lu Changsheng didn't imagine Caiyun True Immortal could remain completely unbothered by him and Xiao Xiyue perpetually engaging in dual cultivation.

However, Lu Changsheng did not immediately leave Qingyun Sect.

Instead, he visited Lingyao Peak to spend time with Zhao Qingqing, aiming to strengthen their relationship and perhaps conceive a second child.

In the Hundred Herbs Garden, upon the bed.

Lu Changsheng held his beloved tightly, galloping into passion.

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Zhao Qingqing's Vegbody is extremely compatible with the "Cauldron Medical King's Scripture."

After cultivating this technique, by consistently using Spirit Flowers and Spirit Grass for cultivation, not only did her progress accelerate tremendously, but her physique also developed a refreshing, enchanting fragrance of Spiritual Medicine.

At this very moment, the room was filled with the exuberance of spring and permeated with an intoxicating aroma.

"Mmm!"

Zhao Qingqing let out a soft and tender hum from her nose.

Her two jade-like feet, fair and smooth as bamboo shoots, swayed constantly near the corner of Lu Changsheng's eyes. Ten delicate white toes curled and stretched, stirring an irresistible allure.

No one knew how much time had passed; Zhao Qingqing's expression appeared dazed as her jade-like body trembled.

"Lu Lang..."

Half-closing her alluring eyes, she gazed at him with a mesmerizing tenderness and clung weakly to Lu Changsheng. Her ruby-red lips whispered softly, her breath fragrant like orchids.

Her rounded, shining calves, supple and smooth, twitched uncontrollably. Ten delicate toes curled tightly, while the tender soles of her feet turned a blush-pink hue.

"Qingqing."

Lu Changsheng watched her exquisite demeanor, gently caressing her warm and soft body, which still trembled reflexively.

After laboring in the Hundred Herbs Garden for half a month, Lu Changsheng checked on his son, Lu Yunlou, and his daughter, Lu Xingyue, before returning to Bi Lake Mountain. Though both had Foundation Establishment Elixirs, matters of Foundation Establishment required thorough preparation and cultivation.

"Boom—"

Just as Lu Changsheng returned to Bi Lake Mountain, he felt an intense surge of pure mana suddenly entering his body.

Judging by the power of this mana, he immediately surmised his son, Lu Ping'an, had made a breakthrough.

Previously, during a battle with Sima Tong, Lu Ping'an had faintly sensed an opportunity for a breakthrough.

Thus, upon returning home, he immediately went into closed-door cultivation to push toward Foundation Establishment Fourth Layer.

[Name: Lu Ping'an]

[Life Span: 61/253]

[Talent: Fifth Grade Spiritual Root]

[Cultivation Level: Foundation Establishment Third Level]

[Capability: Body Refining Compatibility (61%)]

"Hmm, was it not Ping'an?"

Lu Changsheng was slightly surprised.

Unexpectedly, it wasn't his son, Lu Ping'an, who had made the breakthrough.

Currently, only a few of his children were at mid-stage Foundation Establishment; he observed each of them.

[Name: Lu Quanzhen]

[Life Span: 58/193]

[Talent: Fourth Grade Spiritual Root]

[Cultivation Level: Foundation Establishment Fifth Layer]

[Capability: Combat Law Compatibility (67%)]

"Quanzhen has broken through to the Fifth Layer of Foundation Establishment!?"

Lu Changsheng appeared both astonished and surprised.

He recalled that his son, Lu Quanzhen, had only advanced to the Fourth Layer four years ago.

At his current speed, it would have taken at least another two or three, perhaps even four or five years to break through.

"It seems Quanzhen must've encountered some fortuitous event."

Lu Changsheng thought silently to himself.

For someone like Lu Quanzhen, who spent extended periods abroad, his cultivation advancements were largely reliant on fortuitous encounters rather than methodical effort.

From his son's lifespan and capabilities, it was evident that he must have gone through numerous battles and even resorted to life-burning techniques.

"Children and grandchildren have their own fortunes."

Lu Changsheng chose not to worry too much about his son Lu Quanzhen's situation and returned to Bi Lake Mountain.

"Mountain Master!"

"Greetings, Lu Ancestor!"

Even after all this time, cultivators continued to visit Bi Lake Mountain to pay their respects.

Upon seeing Lu Changsheng, they displayed utmost reverence, bowing with admiration. Many women revealed expressions of infatuation.

"Hmm."

Lu Changsheng smiled lightly and nodded, transforming into a streak of Escape Light as he returned to Bi Yun Peak.

Lu Miaoyun and Ling Zixiao approached Lu Changsheng and brought up the matter of Sima Tong.

Lu Changsheng briefly explained how the situation was resolved to the two ladies.

He also mentioned that he had taken up the role of a Visiting Noble Servant within Qingyun Sect.

Regarding family business, trade caravans, and related matters, he indicated that the arrival of Qingyun Sect's Enforcement Hall would finalize and handle these issues, allowing them to proceed.

Furthermore, the news of him becoming a Visiting Noble Servant of Qingyun Sect could be gradually revealed outward.

"Caiyun True Immortal..."

Ling Zixiao mused upon hearing this, gazing at Lu Changsheng meaningfully.

She had previously speculated which patron Lu Changsheng might seek in Qingyun Sect.

After seeing the Enforcement Hall arrive and learning that its Hall Master was Xiao Xiyue's Master, Caiyun True Immortal, her suspicions were further confirmed.

Now hearing this, she wasn't sure what to say.

"Cough, cough, your husband encountered Caiyun True Immortal in the past when she was gravely injured and saved her life. She's simply repaying the favor."

"However, publicly, you may hint that I saved Xiyue's life."

Lu Changsheng offered a brief explanation.

Ling Zixiao, however, upon hearing that Lu Changsheng had saved Caiyun True Immortal, appeared even more intrigued.

After all, she was well aware of her husband's ability to "save people."

She chose not to believe that Caiyun True Immortal and her husband had been completely free of entanglements under such circumstances.

Still, Ling Zixiao refrained from making further remarks.

She understood that whatever relationship the two might have, it was not yet appropriate for public dissemination.

She proceeded to discuss family matters with Lu Changsheng.

During recent times, many families visited bearing goodwill and seeking collaboration.

Not only Foundation Establishment Families, but also False Core Families, such as Lingxi Xie Family, the Feng Family of Divine Eagle Valley, and the Luo Family of Floating Cloud Cave.

Even the patriarch of Dayuan Mountain Yuan Family, who had previously acted against them in secret, personally came to make amends.

"Since this elder of the Yuan Family is willing to come forward and apologize proactively, the grievances between our families can be set aside."

Lu Changsheng deliberated and commented.

With the matter of the Sima Family, Bi Lake Mountain's reputation was already established. There was no need to continue entangling with the Yuan Family and creating unnecessary discord.

The Yuan Family Patriarch himself had come to offer apologies. If they continued to press the matter, they might instead appear domineering beyond measure.

Moreover, Yun Wanshang had previously reminded him that wars might occur in the Cultivation World in the future. Thus, there was no need to recklessly challenge others now; steady development would suffice.

"I share the same opinion."

Ling Zixiao replied gracefully with a faint smile, presenting a booklet that listed numerous families seeking marriage alliances with their own.

Chapter 1276: Chapter 440: Breakthrough, Breakthrough, Breakthrough, Promotion!_3

Aside from a few women proactively offering themselves as concubines to Lu Changsheng, most sought marriage alliances with Lu Ping'an, Lu Qingxuan, and other Lu Family disciples.

"If there are loose cultivators with decent character and background who would be beneficial to our family, we can consider them."

"As for Ping'an and Qingxuan, let them decide for themselves."

Lu Changsheng looked at the booklet before him and spoke.

Although he didn't mind taking in dozens more concubines,

most of the women sent by family forces were of Qi Refinement cultivation level, with Spiritual Roots no better than fourth or fifth grade.

For such candidates, Lu Ancestor truly found them unworthy, preferring instead to bring in loose cultivators—or perhaps he might take a stroll to the White Jade Tower when he had time.

While loose cultivators generally lacked remarkable Spiritual Root talent,

those who could achieve success in the cultivation world rarely had poor Spiritual Roots.

If someone had notable Spiritual Root talent, Foundation Establishment cultivation, a clean background, and decent character, Lu Ancestor wouldn't mind compromising his dignity to win them over.

After reviewing the family matters, Lu Changsheng headed to Bailian Peak to inspect the situation.

He checked the local Earth Fire Vein to estimate how much longer it would take to mature, preparing to refine the White Peak Immortal's Life-bound Magic Treasure anew.

Thus, he would have more techniques at his disposal when venturing into the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

However, the Earth Fire Vein at Bailian Peak still required at least another year or half before it could ascend—and until then, the Earthfire Array wouldn't yield the desired Earth Fiend Flame.

"Sigh... Forget it. Let's focus on having children!"

Lu Changsheng sighed and gave up on the idea of crafting magical treasures, instead resolving to produce offspring at home.

Admittedly, it was significantly harder to conceive children after reaching Core Formation.

Despite his diligent efforts over the past few days at home, only one concubine had managed to conceive.

Even after half a month of groundwork at Qingyun Sect's Lingyao Peak, it was unclear whether Zhao Qingqing had conceived.

Still, faced with such results, Lu Changsheng refused to be discouraged, firmly believing that Heaven rewards persistence. As long as he exerted himself, there would inevitably be outcomes!

After staying at the Lingxi Xie Family for three days, Lu Xingchen bid farewell and departed.

The journey from Lingxi Lake to Bi Lake Mountain was long—even traveling day and night would take over half a month.

However, given the rare chance to venture far, Lu Xingchen wasn't eager to rush back and instead leisurely explored along the way, broadening his horizons.

One night, as the curtain of dusk descended,

Lu Xingchen instructed the Iron Feather Eagle to land on a mountain peak to rest.

He skillfully scattered powder around the area to prevent the approach of groupdwelling demon beasts.

Not long after he sat down, he suddenly heard the sounds of combat ahead in the forest—demon beasts roaring, explosions rumbling, and dazzling flashes of spells colliding.

Upon hearing the commotion, Lu Xingchen's initial reaction was to distance himself from it.

However, considering that using mana then might attract the attention of demon beasts, he quickly formed an incantation gesture with his hands, blending his energy into the nearby tree. His entire being seemed to merge seamlessly with the tree.

The Cauldron Medical King's Scripture, although not adept at fighting techniques, offered many life-saving methods.

This particular technique allowed his body and energy to harmonize with the tree, making it nearly impossible for ordinary Foundation Establishment cultivators or demon beasts to detect him.

Moments later, Lu Xingchen spotted a young man in white clothing besieged by over a dozen wolves with bluish-green fur.

"Green Wind Wolves, low-level bloodline demon beasts... Is this group led by a Mutant Wolf King?"

Lu Xingchen recognized the pack as one of the lowest-level social demon beasts, most ranging from Initial to Middle Stage of First Order.

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The lead Green Wind Wolf had fur with faint purple traces, suggesting it had gained some chance encounter to mutate and progress to a Second Order Great Demon.

What truly astonished Lu Xingchen, however, was that the white-clothed young mandespite only being at the Seventh Level of Qi Refinement—had managed to evade the pack's attacks for so long.

On closer observation, the young man demonstrated not only proficient spellcasting but also nimble movements; several times he narrowly avoided deadly attacks from the Green Wind Wolf King, escaping calamity by what seemed like sheer luck.

Lu Xingchen speculated that, had the youth been facing the Wolf King alone, he might have escaped. Unfortunately, he was trapped by the pack.

"Awoo!"

One of the Green Wind Wolves seized an opening while the youth dodged the Wolf King's Wind Blade, pouncing on him and sinking its sharp teeth into his shoulder, drawing blood.

Already weak, his aura frail and riddled with wounds, the young man cried out in pain before unleashing a technique, blasting the wolf away.

But at that moment, the other Green Wind Wolves swarmed him, leaving the youth struggling helplessly, his eyes filled with despair and grief.

"Sigh."

Lu Xingchen let out a soft sigh as he witnessed this scene.

Though his family taught him to avoid meddling in trouble while traveling, urging caution,

and to assess his abilities before taking action, never acting impulsively...

He found it hard to ignore something so dire now that it was right in front of him.

"Green Wood Entanglement!"

Lu Xingchen formed incantation gestures with his hands, and suddenly green-gold vines sprouted from the ground, ensnaring the Green Wind Wolves.

One vine wrapped around the white-clothed youth, pulling him toward Lu Xingchen.

"Roar!"

The Green Wind Wolf King noticed immediately, let out a furious roar, and unleashed Wind Blades swirling around its body, heading straight for Lu Xingchen.

"Bang!"

Lu Xingchen hurriedly summoned a shield, its flowing radiance blocking the incoming barrage.

Gripping the nearly unconscious, gravely weakened youth in his arms, Lu Xingchen dared not linger, fleeing hastily.

Without using talismans, he was truly no match for the Green Wind Wolves,

especially now when he had a liability to take care of.

After running for an extended period, Lu Xingchen noticed the Green Wind Wolf King relentlessly pursuing them, likely tracking the scent.

"No, this won't do. If I keep going, I may draw other demon beasts too."

Reluctantly, Lu Xingchen retrieved a Second-Order Middle Grade Fire Talisman from his pocket and launched it at the Green Wind Wolf King.

Faced with the attack, the Wolf King's fur was singed severely, fear and apprehension flickering in its eyes as it abandoned the chase.

"Whew!"

Seeing this, Lu Xingchen sighed in relief and carried the white-clothed youth to a safer spot to tend to his injuries.

Though he was no expert at combat, he was well-suited to healing.

"Thank you..."

The white-clothed youth, breath faint and erratic, weakly murmured his gratitude to Lu Xingchen.

But as soon as he finished, his tense mental spirit finally relaxed, causing him to faint entirely.

"Sigh, what a mess this is."

Lu Xingchen looked at the unconscious young man in his arms and sighed helplessly.

That day, Lu Changsheng was at Bi Shui Lake enjoying himself with Bai Ling, Qu Zhenzhen, and several other ladies.

Suddenly, he felt a rush of pure mana.

With a brief glance, he immediately understood that his son Lu Ping'an had achieved a breakthrough.

This surge of cultivation energy wasn't particularly significant, but it was enough to push him to his current limit.

Following the conclusion of the lake outing, Lu Changsheng went to Mount Sumeru's Cave Heaven and entered Changsheng Hall to meditate. He circulated his cultivation technique to prepare for his breakthrough.

For Lu Changsheng, such progression was naturally smooth and effortless.

"Boom!"

Several days later, his Qi Ocean Core bubbled turbulently as Yin Yang Mana surged, the Golden Core radiated dazzling colors, and his physique reverberated with the pulsating energy of Yin Yang Qi.

Three years after reaching Core Formation, Lu Changsheng finally advanced from the Initial Stage to the Second Level.

This pace was largely thanks to the Yin Yang Integration Spirit Pill.

Otherwise, apart from dual cultivation, he hadn't practiced seriously at all during these three years, and the support from his children due to the disparity in cultivation levels was minimal.

"Breaking through before entering the Tianyuan Secret Realm-this is not bad."

Lu Changsheng smiled pleased as he exited Changsheng Hall.

As usual, he checked on the status of Cave Heaven's Spirit Vein, estimating it would need another year or so to advance to Third-Order Spirit Vein.

Yet what excited him more than the Spirit Vein's progress was the impending emergence of the Hong Lian.

Emerging from Mount Sumeru's Cave Heaven, he stood atop Blue Cloud Peak, overlooking the bustling activity at Biyun Villa.

The grand banquet held previously to celebrate Lu Wangshu's Foundation Establishment ceremony was about to commence, and the family forces in attendance had gathered from afar.

For those traveling long distances, Bi Lake Mountain naturally arranged accommodations.

At the Lu Family Mansion, Lu Miaoyun informed Lu Changsheng that Lu Chensha had sought him out a few days prior.

He had reported the successful formation of the Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon, with the first Second-Order Blackwater Jiaolong Spirit Weapon having ascended.

Chapter 1277: Chapter 441: The Might of the Dao Soldier, the Formless Treasure Wheel!

"Oh, the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers have advanced?"

Lu Changsheng's brow lifted slightly upon hearing this, a trace of joy appearing on his face.

Years ago, he invested considerable time and effort into cultivating this batch of Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers.

However, their growth was painfully slow.

Despite his heavy investment of resources, along with the assistance of Ancient Beast Taming Charms, their speed remained frustratingly sluggish, eventually prompting him to lose interest.

Yet now, one of the Dao Soldiers had finally achieved Second Rank advancement, making him feel somewhat pleased.

"Chensha, come see me."

Lu Changsheng enveloped the entire Blue Cloud Peak with his Divine Sense and summoned his son, Lu Chensha, who was training Iron Fire Ants, intending to inspect the Second Rank Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier.

Soon after, Lu Chensha arrived at the Lu Family Mansion.

Upon seeing Lu Changsheng and the others, he respectfully clasped his hands in greeting: "Chensha greets Father and Aunt."

"Hm."

Lu Changsheng nodded faintly and, accompanied by Lu Chensha, ascended to the summit of Blue Cloud Peak, saying, "Release the Second Rank Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier for me to see."

"Yes, Father!"

Lu Chensha responded reverently, then retrieved the Ancient Beast Taming Charm and activated the 'Beast Technique' spell.

"Buzz!"

The Ancient Charm radiated brilliant light, and a streak of black aura shot forth, manifesting as a pitch-black Jiaolong roughly three zhang (9 meters) long and as thick as a barrel, its hide covered with dense, dark scales.

The Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier had a pair of short legs beneath its body shimmering with a cold, obsidian gleam, and a solitary small black horn atop its head.

"Hooo-aargh!"

As the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier emerged, a surge of aqueous energy spread across the surroundings, causing the creature to soar on misty clouds.

"A Second Rank Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier, its innate monster techniques awakened: Black Water Divine Light, Cloud Soaring Technique, and Illusion Mist Technique..."

Lu Changsheng scrutinized the Dao Soldier before him.

The Blackwater Jiaolong Spell refined demon beasts into Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers, with notable differences in appearance during the First Rank.

Upon advancing to Second Rank, aside from retaining some minor traits, they largely metamorphosize into the form of a Blackwater Jiaolong.

When Dao Soldiers reach Third Rank, unless the demon beast's original bloodline was extraordinary and its innate talents remarkable, few of their original features remain, as they are entirely transformed into the likeness of a Blackwater Jiaolong.

"Though it's only Second Rank and its combat strength is limited, using it as a mount does have a certain prestige."

Lu Changsheng chuckled faintly at the sight of the imposing Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier before him.

This Dao Soldier belonged to the water element.

Its full combat effectiveness could only be unleashed within aquatic environments.

Brought outside, its abilities were no more than average at best.

Nonetheless, its appearance was impressive—ferocious and dignified, with a semblance of the majestic aura of a Jiaolong.

"Is there only one Second Rank Blackwater Jiaolong at present?"

Lu Changsheng turned to Lu Chensha.

"In response to Father, currently there is only this one Dao Soldier that has advanced to Second Rank. Five others are progressing, three are on the verge of advancing, and at most within a year, they will achieve Second Rank..."

Lu Chensha reported dutifully.

Lu Changsheng had reared a total of eighty-one Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers.

Among the earlier members refined from Bi-blood Carp Kings and various low- to midtier bloodline demon beasts, their foundation was relatively weak, so he opted for simpler cultivation, without the intention of accelerating them to Second Rank.

After all, even if these Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers reached Second Rank, their potential was exhausted, making advancement to Third Rank almost impossible.

However, the nine Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers subject to more intensive cultivation were also of merely high-tier bloodline grade.

"Hm."

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly, stepping onto the head of the Blackwater Jiaolong.

Although the Blackwater Jiaolong Soldier Charm had been handed over to Lu Chensha,

these Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers were all forged by him using the Blackwater Jiaolong Spell, giving them an innate reverence and submissiveness toward him, remaining under his control.

"Come here."

Lu Changsheng raised his hand lightly, pulling his son Lu Chensha onto the head of the Blackwater Jiaolong as well, preparing to test its prowess.

"Roar! Roar! Roar!"

The Blackwater Jiaolong bellowed fiercely, its scales shimmering, surrounded by swirling mist as torrents of aqueous vapor surged around it, propelling it toward Bi Shui Lake.

"What's that?"

"A Jiaolong! That's a Second Rank Jiaolong!"

"When did our family acquire a Second Rank Jiaolong?"

"It's Father alongside Chensha!"

Many on Blue Cloud Peak noted the commotion, noticing a fearsome black Jiaolong flying toward Bi Shui Lake with an aura of majesty, upon whose ferocious head stood two figures. Discussions arose in astonishment.

"Apart from the Nine Netherhound guarding White Tiger Mountain, Bi Lake Mountain actually possesses another Second Rank Spiritual Beast!?"

"Could this Second Rank Jiaolong possibly be Lu Ancestor's mount?"

"What is Lu Ancestor planning to do?"

Cultivators visiting Bi Lake Mountain for the ceremony were astounded, shocked, and filled with envy at the spectacle.

Although this type of Second Rank Dao Soldier was entirely insignificant to Lu Changsheng, kept for amusement,

to cultivators from other families, it would be akin to a Second Order Great Demon—a Clan Guardian Spirit Beast!

Particularly, the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier boasted an extremely striking appearance.

As it soared high in the sky, were it not examined closely, it could easily be mistaken for a demon beast with Earth Grade bloodline.

"Roar! Roar! Roar-"

As the Blackwater Jiaolong reached the skies over Bi Shui Lake, its excitement visibly increased, becoming enveloped in a heavy mist, causing waves to surge upward from the lake.

"Settle down."

Lu Changsheng frowned with displeasure, pressing his foot against the Jiaolong's head.

This Bi Shui Lake belonged to his family, stocked with numerous Spiritual Fish. What if they ended up harmed?

The Blackwater Jiaolong whimpered softly, retracting its imposing air.

Soon after, a Bi Lake Mountain Token appeared in Lu Changsheng's hand.

This token carried partial Formation restrictions, allowing activation of the Bi Lake Mountain Great Formation.

Through the token, Lu Changsheng activated the second transformation of the Bi Lake Mountain Great Formation, 'Bihu Stream Layers.'

From Bi Shui Lake, columns of water erupted skyward, layers of mist spread, cloaking the surroundings in azure currents and foggy haze, isolating this portion of the heavens and earth.

Then Lu Changsheng turned to his son, Lu Chensha, saying, "Chensha, release all the Dao Soldiers except those currently advancing."

Within his Qi Ocean Core, the Yin Yang Great Path Golden Core orbited around the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus, radiating brilliant resplendence.

Chapter 1278: Chapter 441: The Might of the Dao Soldier, the Formless Treasure Wheel!_2

"Boom, boom, boom—"

With the thunderous roar emanating from his Dantian, Lu Changsheng exuded a profound aura belonging to the "Black Dragon Codex".

This was the 'Dominion Over All Techniques' from the Yin Yang Creation Scripture!

As long as he fully comprehended the Cultivation Technique, he could leverage its magical properties and the Tianyuan Supreme King Lotus to transform Yin Yang Magic Power into this potent strength.

At the same time, Lu Chensha released the remaining seventy-five Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers.

Immediately, the surroundings were occupied by massive black flood dragons and dragonfish.

These Dao Soldiers were all First Rank and displayed significant differences in appearance.

However, their uniform ebony-black color and orderly formation collectively emanated an awe-inspiring majesty.

"Dao Soldier Talisman."

Lu Changsheng glanced at his son and continued speaking.

Without asking further questions, Lu Chensha promptly retrieved a palm-sized ink-black soldier token.

It was etched with an image of a Blackwater Jiaolong soaring through the heavens.

Unlike Lu Changsheng, who had cultivated the Black Dragon Codex, Lu Chensha did not possess this cultivation and thus needed the Dao Soldier Talisman to command the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers, as they usually wouldn't obey him.

"Blackwater Jiaolong Spell, Blackwater Jiaolong Battle Formation!"

Lu Changsheng took the token, glanced at the soldiers, and gestured with incantations using both hands.

"Swish, swish, swish—"

The seventy-five Dao Soldiers immediately began aligning neatly, their inner Blackwater Jiaolong Spell activating automatically.

"Boom, boom, boom—"

In an instant, the First Rank Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers fused their auras with the Second Rank Blackwater Jiaolong beneath Lu Changsheng's feet, causing the demonic power from all Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers to gather, gradually morphing into a colossal flood dragon phantom.

The flood dragon phantom stood five or six zhang tall, exceptionally tangible, radiating an intimidating mid-Second Rank aura.

"This…"

Lu Chensha saw this spectacle, his expression filled with astonishment and terror.

He had always known that his father was incredibly extraordinary, far from a typical Foundation Establishment Cultivator!

Yet witnessing his father's methods firsthand left him utterly shaken.

Especially this immense flood dragon phantom—its presence alone overwhelmed him, making him feel insignificant and weak, sending shivers down his soul.

"Rumor has it that some profound and exquisite cultivation techniques allow nurtured Dao Soldiers to form formations, which can enhance the master's power significantly."

"Could this be my father's Life-Path Dao Soldiers!?"

Lu Chensha speculated internally.

His cultivation technique, the "Beast Technique," also contained methods for nurturing Dao Soldiers, but he hadn't yet accessed them.

"Not bad."

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly as he observed the flood dragon phantom.

It was no wonder that in years past, Azure Phoenix Immortal, at the Initial Stage of Core Formation, could confront cultivators at the Late Stage of Core Formation head-on.

Even this small contingent of Dao Soldiers could enable an Initial Foundation Establishment Cultivator to challenge one at the Late Stage.

If there were five hundred Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers, they might be able to defeat a Foundation Establishment Peak cultivator outright, perhaps even contend against a False Core expert!

Considering that his family's Great Formation could only offer basic concealment, Lu Changsheng chose not to test the offensive capabilities of the flood dragon phantom further. Instead, he gestured once more, activating another technique.

"Roar!"

The flood dragon phantom let out a resounding roar before dissolving into ethereal light and coiling around Lu Changsheng.

In an instant, Lu Changsheng's azure robe transformed, and a fierce black dragon armor slowly condensed over him.

The armor was adorned with intricate runes, while its shoulders bore two menacing black dragon-head pauldrons.

These dragon heads appeared alive, with dark golden vertical pupils and faint dragon breath emanating from their snouts, making it seem as though a black dragon coiled around Lu Changsheng, granting him a cold and imposing aura—like that of a sovereign emperor.

Standing nearby, Lu Chensha gazed at his father in this form, his entire being overwhelmed by a sense of suffocation.

Even though Lu Changsheng was merely testing the armor without unleashing his magical aura,

the intrinsic dragon might from the Black Dragon Codex made Lu Chensha's body tense, his heartbeat pounding against his chest, almost compelling him to bow in submission.

This was not a pressure born of cultivation-level disparity.

Rather, it was an innate suppression of spirits and willpower!

Much like the natural suppression of bloodline hierarchy between demon beasts!

"Later, head to Xuanfu Peak and acclimate yourself to the Dragon Blood Tree's aura!"

Lu Changsheng spoke, his calm voice carrying an undeniable authority this time.

"Understood, father!"

Lu Chensha, realizing his behavior had slightly displeased his father, quickly activated the "Beast Technique" and straightened his posture forcefully.

"Now that Ping'an has broken through to the Mid-Stage of Foundation Establishment, with these Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers, even without invoking the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, they could spar against Foundation Establishment Late Stage cultivators."

"Once the Nine-headed Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers all advance to Second Rank, alongside Quasi Third-tier Body Refining, they should be able to face off against someone like Sima Tong, a False Core cultivator, and even suppress them."

Lu Changsheng contemplated internally.

This brief experiment had given him a thorough understanding of his Dao Soldiers' capabilities.

For him personally, they were of little use.

However, for his children cultivating the "Black Dragon Codex," the Dao Soldiers represented a significant force.

Even if his children had just reached Foundation Establishment, commanding this contingent alone could allow them to confront cultivators at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage head-on.

In cases of weaker opponents, they might even achieve a clean victory.

"Alright, withdraw the Dao Soldiers."

"These Second Rank Dao Soldiers can be maintained with regular training now; there's no need to allocate excessive resources for their development."

The black dragon armor dissipated from Lu Changsheng's body as he addressed his son, Lu Chensha.

Cultivating Dao Soldiers was exceptionally resource-intensive.

Over the past decades, Lu Changsheng had invested resources worth tens of thousands into the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers.

Advancing them to Third Rank would require resources beyond imagination.

Additionally, Dao Soldiers, no matter how much was spent, demanded enormous time investment!

Moreover, the foundational quality of these Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers was quite average.

While advancing to Second Rank was feasible, progressing to Third Rank remained exceedingly difficult.

Chapter 1279: Chapter 441: The Might of the Dao Soldier, the Formless Treasure Wheel!_3

How about waiting to find some Earth Grade Bloodline or Heaven Grade Bloodline Flood Dragon offspring in the future, refining them into Dao Soldiers? It would be much easier to nurture them then.

"Yes, Father."

Lu Chensha replied respectfully.

As a Beast Tamer, he naturally understood how resource-intensive it was to nurture spirit beasts and Dao Soldiers.

These resources were enough to cultivate multiple Foundation Establishment Cultivators!

"I wonder how much stronger my Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier is compared to the Xu Family's Water Serpent Dao Soldiers."

At this moment, Lu Changsheng recalled the two famous Dao Soldiers of the Beast Taming Xu Family in Jiang Country.

Water Serpent Dao Soldiers!

Fire Crow Dao Soldiers!

In Lu Changsheng's view, it seemed inevitable that he would have to face the Xu Family one day.

One reason was the minor grievances between the two families.

Another was that the Qingyun Region could not accommodate two Nascent Soul Noble Families!

"When Hong Lian emerges, I can let her cultivate a Fire Element Dao Soldier. If there's truly going to be a showdown in the future, a clash of Dao Soldiers would be rather interesting."

Lu Changsheng chuckled softly, thinking to himself.

Hong Lian had several methods for nurturing Fire Element Dao Soldiers.

However, nurturing Dao Soldiers was truly complex, cumbersome, and costly in terms of money and time. Therefore, Lu Changsheng had only cultivated the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier.

Now that the family was much wealthier, if it didn't require his own time and energy, Lu Changsheng was still willing to spend money for Hong Lian to cultivate one or two Dao Soldiers to enhance the family's foundation.

He activated the Mountain Lord Token and disabled the effects of the formation 'Blue Water Layered Streams.'

Lu Changsheng rode the Blackwater Jiaolong and, along with Lu Chensha, returned to Bi Yun Peak.

"What just happened?"

"Did the Mountain Lord just put on a show of strength and demonstrate his power?"

Many people looked at Lu Changsheng atop the Jiaolong's head with reverence and awe.

Earlier, although the formation had concealed and shielded the presence of energy.

Some cultivators near Lake Heart Villa had faintly sensed a terrifying aura of pressure.

"Daddy! Daddy!"

As soon as Lu Changsheng returned to Bi Yun Peak and dismounted from the Blackwater Jiaolong, his daughter Lu Linghe, Lu Qingqi, and several other little ones gathered around, looking at him with ingratiating expressions.

"Chensha, take your younger siblings out for a stroll and have some fun."

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

Although many of the children in the family had ridden Spirit Boats and Iron Feather Eagles.

Riding a Jiaolong was undoubtedly a different experience.

After all, in various handbooks, ancient texts, and storybooks, there were countless tales of people riding dragons and phoenixes.

"If, when the remaining Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldiers ascend to the Second Rank, I have nine Jiaolong pulling a carriage, it would surely outshine the scene of Xu Family's Second Ancestor with his Wind-Thunder Steeds back then."

At this moment, Lu Changsheng recalled the time in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm when the False Core Patriarch of the Beast Taming Xu Family commanded nine Wind-Thunder Steeds to pull his Spirit Vessel, which was grand beyond words.

Although his Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier was no match for the Wind-Thunder Steeds in terms of combat power or speed.

In terms of grandeur and momentum, it did not fall short and perhaps even surpassed them.

"Yun'er, Zhenzhen, if you would like to give it a try, I'll let you experience it later too."

Seeing Lu Miaoyun and the others also gazing at the Blackwater Jiaolong, Lu Changsheng chuckled aloud.

During dinner, Lu Changsheng spoke to his son Lu Ping'an: "Ping'an, make time to study the Dao Soldier secret techniques and battle formation methods in the 'Black Dragon Codex."

This Dao Soldier could indeed be passed down.

But for now, within the Lu Family, aside from Lu Changsheng, only Lu Ping'an could utilize and wield its power effectively.

"Yes, Father."

Lu Ping'an nodded in response.

...

Six days later, Lu Wangshu's Foundation Establishment Ceremony was about to take place.

The protagonist of this event, Lu Wangshu, had finally returned to Bi Lake Mountain from Flower Fruit Mountain.

Since Lu Changsheng intended for his son Lu Ping'an to appear prominently during the ceremony, Xia Zhiyue had yet to return and was still stationed at Flower Fruit Mountain.

"Hey, Lu Chensha, you've got something so amazing, and you didn't tell me!"

Lu Wangshu, upon seeing a new Jiaolong in the household during her absence, exclaimed immediately.

"Sister Wangshu, this is the same Blackwater Dragon-Serpent from before. It only advanced to the Second Rank a few days ago, enabling it to fly..."

Lu Chensha explained.

"Let me have a go with it."

Lu Wangshu looked at the Blackwater Jiaolong Dao Soldier before her with a face full of curiosity and said.

Soon, Lu Chensha handed the symbol of the Blackwater Jiaolong to Lu Wangshu and gave her a rough overview of how to control it.

A short while later, at Bi Shui Lake.

Lu Wangshu was riding atop the Second Rank Blackwater Jiaolong.

Nearby, Lu Chensha, Lu Qingxuan, Lu Qingqi, Lu Linghe, and Lu Qingli were riding Blackwater Dragon Fish, having the time of their lives.

"Hiss, these spirit beasts have similar colors. Could it be that the Lu Family is nurturing Dao Soldiers?!"

Some Foundation Establishment Ancestors witnessing this scene could not help but speculate with amazement and suspicion in their hearts.

Although the name of Dao Soldiers was widely known.

Aside from the Four Great Immortal Sects and Nascent Soul Noble Families like the Beast Taming Xu Family, no other forces cultivated them.

It wasn't that they didn't want to cultivate them.

On one hand, they lacked the heritage of domesticated soldiers.

On the other hand, they lacked the capability and financial means.

Everyone knew that the resources required to cultivate a Dao Soldier were astronomical!

Not to mention Foundation Establishment Families.

Even for Nascent Soul Noble Families, it was a significant burden!

"Although Bi Lake Mountain cannot afford to cultivate Dao Soldiers, it is highly likely they have some kind of Dao Soldier heritage!"

"Now, with the Lu Ancestor backed by the Qingyun Sect and Caiyun Peak, and with prodigies like Lu Ping'an and Lu Wangshu in the family, they might truly become a Nascent Soul Noble Family in the future!"

"The Lu Family of Bi Lake Mountain—truly terrifying!"

Many Foundation Establishment Ancestors who had come to offer congratulations marveled and sighed in astonishment at the strength, foundation, and potential of Bi Lake Mountain's Lu Family.

"Lu Wangshu!"

Lu Lingxiao, upon hearing of Lu Wangshu's return, immediately sought out his elder sister to spar with her.

He knew of Lu Wangshu's achievements at the Red Leaf Valley Market and understood he wasn't her match, but he still wanted to gauge the gap between them.

After a long while.

"Lu Lingxiao, work hard and show some respect for your elder sister in daily life, understood?"

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Lu Wangshu, dressed in a pink and white dress, her face bright and charming, smiled as she patted her younger brother's shoulder.

In her heart, she was grateful for the Profound Origin Bead given by her father.

Otherwise, facing Lu Lingxiao, she would have had to use talismans and talisman soldiers.

"Understood, Sister Wangshu..."

Lu Lingxiao's mouth twitched, and he called out with a tense face.

He hadn't expected the gap between himself and Lu Wangshu to be so large, not even pushing her to use her talisman formation skills.

However, he was not discouraged, as he had come primarily to see the difference between them.

He planned to spar with Lu Wangshu again after creating his life-bound Spiritual Artifact and refining his Foundation Establishment spell.

. . .

Five days later, Lu Wangshu's Foundation Establishment ceremony officially began.

However, to all the guests, this ceremony was not only Lu Wangshu's Foundation Establishment ceremony but also Lu Family's eldest son Lu Ping'an's False Core ceremony and Lu Changsheng, the Lu Family Ancestor's Talisman Master ceremony!

Therefore, this ceremony was exceedingly grand.

Every force representative or individual loose cultivator who came to congratulate was presented with a congratulatory gift.

Even many small Qi Refinement families and small forces that weren't invited prepared gifts to come to Blue Lake Mountain.

After all, for those small family forces, this was an opportunity.

If they could become acquainted with the Lu Family through gift-giving, it would be worth any expense.

"Xie Family from Lingxi Lake, Fifth Elder came to congratulate, presenting three Foundation Establishment spirit herbs and one top-level Spiritual Artifact!"

"Owner Yan from Misty Rain Market came to congratulate, presenting a second-rank Monster Core!"

"Lu Ancestor from Qingzhu Mountain came to congratulate, presenting ten jade green bamboo treasures!"

Generally, the higher the cultivation level and the larger the force behind, the more generous the congratulatory gift.

However, these matters are all about social exchanges.

In the future, when these forces host ceremonies, the Lu Family also needs to reciprocate.

"Such a ceremony is truly grand."

"It was about thirty-nine years ago when the Lu Family was established on Blue Lake Mountain. I came with the ancestor to attend the ceremony. Who knew that Blue Lake Mountain would now become a False Core family!"

"I always knew the Lu Family on Blue Lake Mountain would rise, but I never expected it to rise so quickly."

"Alas, back then, it was because a direct daughter of the Luo Family was noticed by the Lu Ancestor and taken as a concubine that the Luo Family rapidly rose over the years, having two Qi Refinement great circle cultivators to oversee. Unfortunately, ordinary women now do not catch the eye of the Lu Ancestor."

Many guests, hearing these congratulatory gifts and watching the coming and going Foundation Establishment cultivators, exchanged whispers and marveled.

The forces that frequently interacted with Blue Lake Mountain were particularly moved.

They had witnessed the establishment and rise of Blue Lake Mountain's Lu Family.

But who would have thought, in the blink of an eye, Blue Lake Mountain had grown to such a degree, becoming a behemoth.

Bai Yunyang, the ancestor of the Hundred Birds Lake Bai Family, looked at the scenes before him, feeling a bit dazed.

When Lu Changsheng attacked Blue Lake Mountain back then, he had helped out.

Now, more than thirty years later, his Hundred Birds Lake still had only one Foundation Establishment cultivator.

And Blue Lake Mountain now officially had nine Foundation Establishment cultivators, a world of difference between the two!

It wasn't that the Bai Family had developed poorly.

In thirty-nine years, following Blue Lake Mountain and relying on the Red Leaf Valley Market, the Bai Family's strength had almost doubled compared to before.

But no family had developed like Blue Lake Mountain...

Hong Yi also came to Blue Lake Mountain with a congratulatory gift.

Looking at the scene before him, he was filled with emotion.

Sixty years ago, if someone had told him Lu Changsheng could grow to this extent, he wouldn't have believed it even if they killed him.

In his heart, he was incredibly grateful to know Lu Changsheng and to have fostered good relations.

"If I could see Xuanji achieve Foundation Establishment, I, Hong Yi, would have no regrets in this life."

Hong Yi recalled that a few days ago, his son Hong Xuanji told him he was preparing for Foundation Establishment.

The reason was simple: His wife, Lu Caizhen, had requested a Foundation Establishment Elixir for him.

At the time of hearing this, Hong Yi felt like he was dreaming, thinking he was hallucinating.

After all, Foundation Establishment Elixirs were precious.

Even though he had years of friendship with Lu Changsheng, he didn't dare ask for a Foundation Establishment Elixir.

Now the other has taken the initiative to give his son an opportunity.

Although he felt his son's chance of achieving Foundation Establishment was low.

He still brought out all the family savings, letting him purchase Foundation Establishment Spirit Objects and prepare well.

...

This ceremony, Lu Changsheng just went through the motions.

Mainly, it was Lu Ping'an, Lu Wangshu, and Lu Xingyang who made appearances.

Since Lu Miaoge had previously said she would present a few third-rank talismans as a giveaway at the ceremony,

Lu Changsheng also took out five ready third-rank lower quality talismans for a simple auction.

The enthusiasm of the Foundation Establishment cultivators present exceeded Lu Changsheng's expectations, with each third-rank talisman fetching tens of thousands of Spirit Stones.

However, of the five third-rank talismans, except for two that were purely sold at high Spirit Stone prices, the other three involved a trade of Spirit Stones plus item exchanges.

This made Lu Changsheng realize that this stuff was sometimes more effective than Foundation Establishment Elixirs.

Or rather, Foundation Establishment Elixirs were mostly needed by family forces.

While third-rank talismans were needed by both family forces and loose cultivators.

Especially those who risked their lives on the line, adventuring and exploring secret realms, these loose cultivators.

"Rest assured, everyone, our Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family still adheres to the development path of harmony and shared prosperity, and will not proactively make enemies with any family forces...

After the ceremony had progressed to a certain point, Lu Changsheng spoke up.

Although nobody fully believed and trusted such words,

But with Blue Lake Mountain's current strength and reputation, Lu Changsheng, the ancestor, saying these words carried a certain weight.

Thus, with the newly established Lu Family Commerce Association not yet fully set up, many forces were already willing to join voluntarily to form a commerce alliance.

However, in these matters, Lu Changsheng did not concern himself, leaving it for Lu Xingyang and others to arrange and handle.

After all, he only set the family's general direction; it was for the children to implement, and he had no leisure to worry.

However, facing the enthusiasm of various family forces, after some thought, Lu Changsheng still accepted five maidservants to show goodwill.

After the ceremony ended, Lu Changsheng returned to continue spending his days with his wives, concubines, and children, occasionally making talismans, teaching Li Xingruo alchemy, and child-rearing!

.

Half a month later.

[Congratulations to the host's first offspring for becoming a second-order Spiritual Plant Master, receiving one lottery chance!]

"Second-order Spiritual Plant Master?"

Lu Changsheng's brow lightly raised, momentarily unsure which child had advanced to a second-order Spiritual Plant Master.

Because the path of Spiritual Plants, among the hundred arts of cultivation, was the simplest, many of his children followed it.

"It should be Xingyue, right?"

Lu Changsheng thought for a moment, considering his daughter Lu Xingyue to be the likeliest.

Though he had several children who were top-level Spiritual Plant Masters,

either their cultivation level was a bit low, or they had only recently advanced; only daughter Lu Xingyue fit the bill.

And a few days ago, Lu Xingyue was preparing to nurture her Divine Sense before Foundation Establishment, then impact Foundation Establishment.

Having her Divine Sense would greatly help with these skills.

Lu Changsheng did not dwell much on it, silently thinking: "System, draw."

A light-red roulette appeared, and golden light began to spin.

A moment later, the golden light stopped on the 'Magical Treasure' section.

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for obtaining the Magical Treasure: Formless Treasure Wheel!]

[The reward has been sent to the system space, and the host can check it anytime]

A crystal-clear, faintly golden glowing treasure wheel, etched with ancient patterns, emerged from the roulette as a system prompt sounded.