

Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family #Chapter 1281: 442: Can't cure Bi Lake Mountain, can't I cure you? - Read Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family Chapter 1281: 442: Can't cure Bi Lake Mountain, can't I cure you?

Chapter 1281: Chapter 442: Can't cure Bi Lake Mountain, can't I cure you?

“Magical Treasure!?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the reward and raised his brows slightly.

In his earlier years, he felt indifferent about magical treasures.

Now that he had broken through to Core Formation and had no suitable treasures on hand, he found himself looking forward to obtaining one.

He considered using the system to draw a few handy magical treasures.

After all, crafting a magical treasure himself would be immensely time-consuming.

Lu Changsheng's mental spirit moved as he gazed into the System Space.

[Magic Artifact: Formless Treasure Wheel]

[Grade: Superior Quality Treasure]

[Description: Formless creates infinite phenomena. This treasure wheel can empower various techniques and divine skills, Golden Core law domains, forming the Formless Domain that derives infinite transformations and defies prediction.]

“Formless Domain... This magical treasure seems to have something interesting...”

Lu Changsheng squinted as he read the description of the Formless Treasure Wheel before him.

He recalled hearing about realms from Hong Lian.

When one breaks through Core Formation into Nascent Soul True Lord, the law domain advances further, enabling the practitioner to shatter the void and condense a fragmented independent space.

This space could not only be used for combat but also for storage, or even as a residence.

And this space is known as a realm!

“Extract!”

Lu Changsheng immediately extracted the Formless Treasure Wheel from the System Space, eager to test its effects and examine the realm it could generate.

In an instant, a three-foot-long, crystal-clear wheel adorned with intricate golden patterns appeared, radiating a faint golden light.

Simultaneously, Lu Changsheng gained a detailed understanding of this magical treasure’s capabilities.

This treasure wheel was primarily functional and lacked proactive offensive capabilities.

However, it could enhance any technique or divine skill, boosting their efficacy by approximately thirty percent while generating illusory attacks, leaving opponents defenseless.

This effect could also augment the Core Formation law domain, enhancing its power, restricting mana, and disrupting mental spirits.

This was the Formless Treasure Wheel’s mode of attack.

Beyond offense, its defensive capabilities allowed it to form a protective domain and spiritual shielding.

The effects were fairly impressive, even comparable to low-quality and some middle-grade defensive treasures.

If faced with an unmanageable attack, it could also activate the Formless Domain, using the realm space to absorb and withstand the assault.

However, once the realm was broken, this magical treasure would be nearly ruined.

The Formless Domain was essentially an independent space opened through the gateway of the Formless Treasure Wheel.

This space could be used for storing items, suppressing enemies, isolating poisonous vapors, mists, and other methods.

As for residing inside, it was indeed possible.

But the interior was extremely small, devoid of spiritual energy, akin to emptiness—dry, monotonous, and capable of driving one to madness.

“This Formless Domain pairs perfectly with my Yin Yang Qi Grasp!”

Lu Changsheng’s expression brightened as he examined the magical treasure’s abilities.

While the Treasure Wheel’s offensive and defensive capabilities were merely adequate for him, the Formless Domain’s features brought him unparalleled delight.

The Formless Domain, when used to subdue enemies, could strip their senses, immobilize their mana, and function as a portable prison.

His Yin Yang Qi Grasp’s inherent ability to capture, suppress, and restrain aligned seamlessly.

If he used Yin Yang Qi Grasp to apprehend and suppress an opponent, then transferred them into the Formless Domain, even a Core Formation True Master might be powerless to resist or escape.

Previously, though his Yin Yang Grasp was overwhelming and tyrannical, it could only suppress an enemy briefly, lacking the ability for prolonged containment.

“But if I encounter a tough adversary who breaks the realm, this magical treasure would be rendered useless.”

Lu Changsheng was also keenly aware of the drawbacks.

After all, becoming a Core Formation True Master was no easy feat, requiring extensive trump cards and strategies.

Under the combined suppression of Yin Yang Qi Grasp and the Formless Treasure Wheel, an opponent still might find a way to shatter the Formless Domain and escape through some means.

“As long as I act swiftly, there shouldn’t be too much trouble.”

Lu Changsheng mused silently.

After all, if an opponent could easily break the Formless Domain, they wouldn’t have been subdued by the Treasure Wheel to begin with.

Besides, he had no reason to imprison anyone without necessity.

Once subdued within the Formless Domain, the logical move would be to eliminate the enemy immediately.

“Sister Miaoge...”

Lu Changsheng remembered that in a few months, the Tianyuan Secret Realm would be opening.

He figured he should mention it to Lu Miaoge and then proceed with closed-door cultivation to refine the treasure.

He planned to fully refine it before heading to the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

That way, even if unexpected situations arose, he'd have additional methods at his disposal.

...

Inside a mountain cave.

"Daoist, you're awake."

Lu Xingchen looked at the white-robed youth before him and spoke.

One might say a good deed deserves to be carried through.

After rescuing the young man and seeing him unconscious, Lu Xingchen had been tending to him and healing his injuries these past days.

However, the severity of his injuries astounded Lu Xingchen.

Not only was his body battered and scarred, but his meridians, Qi Ocean Core, and Dantian were in utter disarray.

Yet, under such circumstances, he had still managed to hold his ground against a pack of Green Wind Wolves for so long. To Lu Xingchen, this was nothing short of a miracle.

Had he not cultivated the "Cauldron Medical King's Scripture" and possessed an ample supply of elixir medicines, he might not have been able to save this person.

In addition to his own abilities, Lu Xingchen could tell that the youth had an extraordinary physical body, likely enhanced by rare spiritual medicine or refined to the level of Second Rank.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have had the resilience to survive and endure under such conditions.

Beyond that, Lu Xingchen also discerned that the youth was disguised—she was likely a woman.

"Thank you, Daoist, for saving me..."

Wang Yanjing's pale and frail face revealed gratitude as she spoke softly.

She was well aware of the dire nature of her injuries, having nearly crossed death's threshold.

During these days of unconsciousness, she often sensed a cool and soothing greenish energy flowing within her, dragging her back from the brink of death.

"Since we've crossed paths, it wouldn't sit right to leave you for dead."

Chapter 1282: Chapter 442: Can't cure Bi Lake Mountain, can't I cure you?_2

Lu Xingchen shook his head and said, he had spared no effort to heal the other during these past days.

After speaking, he glanced at the roasting turkey crackling with oil, sprinkled some powder on it, tore off a drumstick, and handed it to her: "You've been gravely wounded and unconscious for such a long time. You must be hungry, right? Here."

Wang Yanjing stared at the golden, oil-dripping drumstick before her, slightly stunned.

Her ordinary pale face quickly revealed a moving smile as she said, "Thank you."

"Daoist friend, your injuries seem severe. You must have used some kind of secret technique prior to this, am I correct?"

Lu Xingchen tore off another drumstick for himself and casually asked.

Though he wasn't young, he had never ventured far from home and remained curious about many things in the cultivation world.

During the healing process, he had noticed that the other person was no ordinary individual.

Curiosity drove him to inquire further, to confirm his judgment.

Of course, he also wanted to subtly probe her situation, to determine whether it was good or bad.

Upon hearing these words, Wang Yanjing's heart skipped a beat as she realized he was probing her circumstances.

Reflecting on the past few days, she assumed he had already deduced most of her situation. In a weak and low voice, she replied, "Yes, I was originally a Foundation

Establishment cultivator. But shortly after breaking through, I used a secret technique, which caused my cultivation level to fall to this state.”

“Foundation Establishment!?”

Lu Xingchen was quite surprised, suddenly understanding why her physical body differed from that of an Energy Refining cultivator.

He refrained from asking too much all at once.

As the two of them interacted over time, their relationship grew much closer, and Lu Xingchen came to understand her identity and circumstances.

Her name was Li Jingyi, and she hailed from a Foundation Establishment family, serving as the family’s Foundation Establishment seedling.

Six months ago, shortly after breaking through to Foundation Establishment, she was ambushed by an archenemy. The enemy had hired two Foundation Establishment great cultivators for reinforcements, and her family stood no chance against them.

Protected by her elders who fought to the death and through the use of a secret technique, she narrowly escaped with her life and fled to this location.

Her cultivation level had fallen from Foundation Establishment back to the seventh level of Energy Refinement, and her meridians and dantian were in disarray.

Relying on a treasure-hunting and medicine-collecting technique she cultivated in her youth, she came here searching for spiritual medicine, only to be attacked by a pack of Green Wind Wolves, including a Mutant Wolf King, which caused her injuries to erupt.

As a clan cultivator and a Foundation Establishment seedling of the Lu Family at Bi Lake Mountain, Lu Xingchen found her experiences quite touching.

Several days later.

“Miss Li, if you have no place to go for now, I can escort you to my family’s marketplace for temporary shelter.”

Through their days of interaction, Lu Xingchen felt that she was quite decent and was willing to offer a helping hand.

Considering her talent, should she recover her Foundation Establishment in the future, this could form a beneficial connection.

As for her family feud, Lu Xingchen was undaunted.

First, her family was not in the Qingyun Domain but in the Luoxia Region, which was far away.

Second, both families were Foundation Establishment families with only two Foundation Establishment cultivators guarding them, posing little threat.

“If that’s the case, thank you, Lu Daoist.”

Wang Yanjing had now shed her boyish appearance and assumed her true form as a twenty-year-old young woman. Though her looks were unremarkable, her round and jade-like demeanor exuded the elegance of a prominent family.

Through their interactions over the past few days, she realized that Lu Xingchen, despite his Foundation Establishment cultivation level, had little worldly experience. His character remained straightforward and honest, kind-hearted and generous.

Knowing her injuries would take time to heal, she thought it best to find shelter in the marketplace and plan her next steps.

“Alright.”

Lu Xingchen smiled warmly, his face gentle and scholarly.

His offer to take her to his family’s marketplace was spurred by his urgency to return home.

He felt he had been delayed too long due to her circumstances.

If delayed any longer, his family would worry about his well-being.

...

Qingyun Sect.

On this day, Sima Qiuhua and the Great Elder of the Sima Family arrived at the Enforcement Hall of Qingyun Sect.

Their delay in coming to the Enforcement Hall to ransom Sima Tong was not intentional.

Twenty thousand Spirit Stones was no small figure.

Even though the Sima Family was a False Core family, gathering such a sum required some maneuvering.

Plus, there was a spirit land and ten shops to consider.

Although the Qingyun Sect had made its demands clear, they dared not act rashly.

Yet they couldn't leave the spirit land's crops or shop assets behind and needed time to handle everything.

The speed at which they resolved these matters was already impressive.

Upon arriving at the Enforcement Hall, they expressed their intentions.

The elder at the Enforcement Hall did not deliberately make things difficult for them.

After inspecting the Spirit Stones within their storage bag and verifying the property deeds for the spirit land and shops, he escorted them to see Sima Tong.

"Second Uncle!"

"Ancestor!"

The Great Elder of the Sima Family and Sima Qiuhua called out in trembling voices upon seeing the pale-faced and severely weakened Sima Tong.

Sima Tong had not suffered any mistreatment or abuse during his captivity.

However, the injuries he sustained battling Lu Ping'an, including the self-detonation of his magical treasure, had only been superficially treated, leaving him debilitated.

"Wenyuan, Qiuhua."

Sima Tong's voice was hoarse and his appearance greatly aged as he responded weakly.

Though he didn't know the finer details of what had transpired during these days, he had a general understanding, and his heart burned with frustration and anger.

"Second Uncle, you've suffered. We'll take you back home now."

Sima Wenyuan stepped forward to help Sima Tong out of the Enforcement Hall.

The elder from the Enforcement Hall observed and said a few obligatory words, emphasizing how the Sima Family of Xuanwu Ridge and the Lu Family of Bi Lake Mountain were both families under Qingyun's rule and how they should conduct themselves properly.

After all, the matter was concluded with the judgment that the Sima Family of Xuanwu Ridge had initiated provocation and blatantly ambushed the Lu Family of Bi Lake Mountain, stirring conflict between the two.

“Elder Xu, we understand.”

Sima Wenyuan hurriedly cupped his hands in respect, offering a superior-grade Spirit Stone from his storage bag.

“Hmm.”

Elder Xu nodded slightly upon receiving the Spirit Stone and refrained from saying more.

After giving several instructions to the disciples of the Enforcement Hall, he personally set off for Bi Lake Mountain to deliver the Spirit Stones and property deeds.

Chapter 1283: Chapter 442: Can't cure Bi Lake Mountain, can't I cure you?_3

Lu Changsheng, as a Third-Rank Talisman Master and favored by Caiyun True Immortal, has been appointed as a Visiting Noble Servant. Even though he holds the status of a False Core Immortal, Enforcement Elders are willing to show some respect and maintain good relations with Bi Lake Mountain.

...

“Wenyuan, how much Spirit Stone has the family spent on compensation this time...?”

Sima Tong, seated on a Spirit Boat with Sima Wenyuan after departing Qingyun Sect, asked in a faint and weak voice.

“Second Uncle...”

Sima Wenyuan could tell that their Family Patriarch was not in a good state.

If he were to hear about such compensations, he might erupt in rage, sending his qi-blood into turmoil.

“Say it. I'm fine.”

Sima Tong sighed deeply and responded.

“Two hundred thousand Spirit Stones, the spirit land at Heming Mountain, and ten shops...”

Sima Wenyuan reported in a low tone.

“What...ugh!”

Hearing those words, Sima Tong's eyes widened with shock, his fists clenched tightly, his pale face flushed red, and he spewed a mouthful of fresh blood.

This journey not only cost his Sima Family four young prodigies and a Foundation Establishment Late-Stage cultivator but also left him gravely injured and half-crippled. Even if he recuperated, he would be considered the lowest tier of False Core Immortals.

And in these dire circumstances, his family had paid such an excessive amount of Spirit Stone assets just to save him!

Agonizing!

Sima Tong felt a unique grievance, anger like he had never experienced before.

It was worth noting that he had earlier been suppressed by Lu Ping'an, and upon waking, his Storage Bag had also been taken.

Thus, this trip led to losses for the Sima Family exceeding one million Spirit Stones!

"Second Uncle, Second Uncle..."

Sima Wen yuan quickly supported Sima Tong, channeling his mana to help soothe his meridians and stabilize his qi-blood.

With a visibly bitter expression, he said, "Lu Changsheng is backed by Caiyun True Immortal and has become Qingyun Sect's Visiting Noble Servant. Furthermore, Caiyun True Immortal personally intervened in this matter, leaving our Sima Family absolutely no room for negotiation..."

"Previously, Qihua had gone to seek an audience with Yuzhi True Immortal but was reprimanded instead over this issue."

"So, for this matter, even if...even if we want revenge, we can only wait for the storm to pass and act covertly."

Sima Wen yuan expressed grimly.

Having suffered such devastating losses, the Sima Family naturally didn't want to let the matter go.

Especially with Bi Lake Mountain growing at such an unprecedented pace – it filled the Sima Family with unease, unwilling to witness Lu Family rise in power like this.

"Caiyun True Immortal..."

Upon hearing that Caiyun True Immortal had intervened, Sima Tong exhaled deeply, a sense of powerlessness surging in his heart.

Qingyun Sect – the insurmountable mountain looming over these family forces!

And the Nascent Soul Immortals of Qingyun Sect – they are the mountain's rulers, holding the very power of life and death over them!

“Bi Lake Mountain, the Lu Family!”

Endless rage, hatred, and murderous intent surged within Sima Tong's heart.

But as he contemplated his current state, an air of helpless despair washed over him.

With injuries of this severity, it would take at least three to five years to recuperate before he could engage in combat.

Even then, he estimated that he would still fail to contend with Lu Ping'an.

But in that instant, he recalled escaping to Misty Rain Market during his plight, only for the marketplace to activate its Great Formation and refuse aid, leaving him to perish.

If the market had intervened at that time, he might have escaped, and his family might not have suffered such losses!

“Humph!”

Sima Tong snorted coldly, recounting the Misty Rain Market incident to Sima Wenjuan.

Unable to touch Bi Lake Mountain Lu Family, surely they could deal with a mere marketplace!

A chance to not only recover some losses but also make a statement, affirming that their family remains a force among the False Core families!

...

Bi Lake Mountain.

Biyun Villa, within a grand hall.

“Thank you, Elder Xu, matters like these could have been notified through others.”

Lu Miaoyun promptly received the Enforcement Elder from Qingyun Sect upon hearing of his arrival, to provide hospitality.

“Haha, this Elder happened to have some free time, and considering Bi Lake Mountain isn’t far from Qingyun Sect, decided to personally make the trip.”

The Enforcement Elder was visibly disappointed at Lu Changsheng’s absence.

He had hoped to seize this opportunity to establish familiarity with Lu Changsheng and Lu Ping’an.

Having managed family affairs for years, Lu Miaoyun had cultivated shrewdness and tact.

She explained that her husband had entered closed-door cultivation after a recent epiphany, while her eldest son, Lu Ping’an, was currently at White Tiger Mountain.

Assuring that if Elder Xu had pressing matters, she would notify her husband promptly.

“Haha, this Elder carries no particular matter, only admiration for the illustrious Bi Lake Mountain Lord.”

Upon hearing that Lu Changsheng was in closed-door cultivation, the Enforcement Elder refrained from disturbing him. After some casual chatter, he rose to take his leave.

“Elder Xu, thank you for your troubles this trip. Please accept this humble token of gratitude.”

Lu Miaoyun presented a Jade Box to Elder Xu.

Utilizing his Divine Sense, Elder Xu glanced inside and was stunned by the discovery – a Third-Rank Talisman. He couldn’t help but marvel at the sheer generosity of Bi Lake Mountain.

No doubt, this act confirmed that the Bi Lake Mountain Lord’s Talisman Path skills had reached Third Rank long ago!

His expression brightened as he said warmly, “Lady Lu, this is far too kind. Should your family encounter obstacles in substantiating your spirit land or transferring shop ownership, feel free to seek assistance from the Enforcement Hall.”

“Likewise, if you face any issues in the future, you can look for this Elder – I still command some influence within the Sect.”

Elder Xu’s demeanor shifted to one of heightened enthusiasm.

This initial gesture of generosity from Bi Lake Mountain made him keen on establishing closer ties.

After all, Bi Lake Mountain boasted Lu Changsheng, the Third-Rank Talisman Master, along with a top-tier Alchemist capable of refining Foundation Establishment Elixirs!

In the future, he might need favors from Bi Lake Mountain.

“That’s excellent; the family may very well trouble Elder Xu in the future.”

Lu Miaoyun replied with an amiable smile.

Silently, she praised her husband’s foresight, having long anticipated that Third-Rank Talismans could pave the way for forging family connections.

After sending Elder Xu on his way, she handed over the Spiritual Contract to Lu Xinyang for arrangements, assigning personnel to take over the spirit land and shops.

...

With the Sima Family’s compensations, the feud between Bi Lake Mountain Lu Family and Xuanwu Ridge’s Sima Family reached a temporary resolution.

This matter didn’t stir much attention.

However, families like Jinlong Ridge Jin Family, Lingxi Lake Xie Family, and Great Ape Mountain Yuan Family kept a close watch.

After all, rumors of Lu Changsheng aligning with Caiyun True Immortal were simply astounding, prompting further verification efforts.

Observing the outcome of this matter, these families realized there was truth to the buzz.

The entanglement between Bi Lake Mountain and Xuanwu Ridge had indeed drawn Caiyun True Immortal’s intervention.

Otherwise, under normal circumstances, Qingyun Sect’s usual approach would have been mutual reprimands!

At that moment, these family forces grew increasingly wary of Bi Lake Mountain.

For now, Bi Lake Mountain remained quiet, with family operations proceeding normally, and trade caravans continuing their journeys uninterrupted.

But with Lu Ping’an’s victory over Sima Tong, the caravans, now under Lu Ruyi’s charge, no longer required Lu Ping’an to personally oversee them.

Under typical circumstances, one or two Foundation Establishment cultivators were sufficient for caravan security.

Half a month later, Xiao Xiyue arrived at Bi Lake Mountain, delivering news regarding the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

Finding Lu Changsheng in closed-door cultivation, she handed the Secret Realm Token to Lu Miaoge.

She explained that if Lu Changsheng had yet to emerge from seclusion after a month, then they should notify him to proceed to Luoyun Mountain Range and head to the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

Aside from this token, Xiao Xiyue left Lu Changsheng another item—a keepsake.

She stated that if needed, the keepsake could be used to contact her senior sister, Chu Qingyi.

Chapter 1284: Chapter 443: Tianyuan Secret Realm!

The news of the Four Great Immortal Sects opening the Tianyuan Secret Realm did not cause much of a stir in the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm.

After all, this secret realm had little to do with most cultivators.

Nine out of ten cultivators in Jiang Country hadn't even heard of the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

However, the Four Great Immortal Sects releasing a portion of the secret realm quotas to their subordinate family forces caused these families to be both excited and joyful.

Yet amidst the joy, some couldn't help but feel unease.

They only had a vague understanding of the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

They had heard rumors of how the opportunities within this realm drew the covetous gaze of many cultivators from other nations. There were even whispers of demonic path Nascent Soul cultivators lurking within the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, scheming to seize these opportunities.

They feared the dangers they might encounter upon entering the secret realm.

At this very moment.

The Zhang Family of Little Kong Mountain.

“Honored Envoy, this is the list of subordinate family forces under the jurisdiction of the Luoxia Sect that have been granted quotas for the Tianyuan Secret Realm.”

The Zhang Family patriarch knelt outside the forbidden courtyard of his family’s grounds, prostrated himself, and presented a jade slip with a respectful tone.

“The Tianyuan Secret Realm is finally about to open?”

A serene and indifferent, yet slightly delighted and enchanting voice spoke from within the pavilion.

A slender and graceful jade hand extended, taking the jade slip to assess its contents.

A moment later, the figure dissolved into a cascade of purple stardust, vanishing without a trace.

Such events, like at the Zhang Family of Little Kong Mountain, occurred in many other places.

“Now, it’s only a matter of waiting for the fish to take the bait.”

“This battle must not be lost!”

At the same time, the high-ranking members of the Four Great Immortal Sects in Jiang Country were also mobilizing in succession.

For a time, hidden currents churned fiercely within the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm.

...

Bi Lake Mountain.

Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

“It’s finally complete!”

Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, gazing at the translucent, crystal-like Formless Treasure Wheel before him, emitting a faint golden glow.

With a subtle mental command, the treasure wheel hovered behind him, radiating nine-colored divine light, making his whole being appear sacred and extraordinary, with an awe-inspiring and solemn majesty.

“Buzz!”

The treasure wheel began to spin, its radiance brilliant. Around Lu Changsheng, it seemed as though endless flames blazed and deafening thunder roared. In an instant, flying swords materialized one after another, forming a menacing assault.

However, these attacks caused no actual damage to the Cave Heaven.

They were all mere illusions created by the Formless Treasure Wheel.

The effects were both realistic and illusory; even a Nascent Soul cultivator would need to discern carefully.

In battle, even if such illusions could be recognized, they would still disrupt the opponent's mental focus.

If he combined this effect with a technique or divine skill capable of truly blending illusion with reality, he could catch his opponents completely off guard.

"It's a pity that I've lacked the time and conditions to cultivate the Six Desires Heart Demon Technique. Otherwise, it would pair perfectly with the Formless Treasure Wheel."

Lu Changsheng pondered to himself.

The Six Desires Heart Demon Technique was an intricate divine consciousness cultivation technique.

If cultivated to profound levels, it could blur reality and illusion, deceiving and disrupting others' sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, and thought.

However, cultivating this technique was exceptionally dangerous and troublesome, requiring one to temper themselves against the seven emotions and six desires.

"Domain!"

Lu Changsheng formed a gesture incantation with one hand, and the Formless Treasure Wheel behind him suddenly trembled.

The originally three-foot-wide wheel expanded to seven or eight feet. Its intricate, radiant crystalline patterns began to flow, forming an invisible field that enveloped Lu Changsheng within.

This domain became increasingly tangible, forming a protective spiritual light that flowed around Lu Changsheng's body.

"Formless Domain!"

Lu Changsheng formed successive incantations with his hands, his expression steady and focused.

“Buzz!”

In that instant, the spinning Formless Treasure Wheel seemed to burn like a miniature sun, exuding an oppressive aura capable of suppressing mountains, rivers, and the vast heavens.

Lu Changsheng’s divine sense swiftly entered the Formless Domain.

Inside, it resembled a boundless void.

There were no rules or boundaries.

Vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch—all seemed to vanish, making it impossible to discern one’s location.

If one were to open their eyes and suddenly find themselves in such a place, even a cultivator would feel a surge of fear.

“Light!”

With a subtle shift of his mental focus, Lu Changsheng activated the Formless Treasure Wheel with his mana.

Instantly, the void gained a faint luster.

But Lu Changsheng was well aware that it was merely an illusion.

The true Formless Domain was nothing but a confined void space!

“Not bad.”

After a brief experience of the Formless Treasure Wheel’s effects, Lu Changsheng nodded in satisfaction.

With a mere thought, he retracted the treasure into his Qi Ocean Core within his dantian and stepped out of his cave mansion.

“Changsheng.”

Lu Miaoge, who had been instructing her son, sensed his presence. Seeing Lu Changsheng, she approached to discuss the matter of the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

“So soon?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow, then smiled, “Good.”

“By the way, Changsheng...”

Lu Miaoge went on to inform Lu Changsheng about another matter.

A few days ago, a Foundation Establishment faction called Misty Rain Market came to Bi Lake Mountain to seek help, expressing their willingness to become a vassal.

“Misty Rain Market?”

“I recall that their Prefect once came to us before but refused to accept the terms of vassalage. Why have they come again seeking it?”

Lu Changsheng frowned slightly, recalling some impressions of this marketplace.

They had previously visited Bi Lake Mountain, hinting at their intention to seek protection.

However, their offered benefits were too meager, leading to no agreement. Instead, they only established a basic cooperative relationship, allowing the Lu Family Commerce Association to set up within Misty Rain Market.

“Yes.”

Lu Miaoge, her features refined and voice gentle, explained, “This matter is connected to the Sima Family.”

“Previously, when Ping’an was pursuing Sima Tong, the latter was ultimately captured at Misty Rain Market.”

“It seems that after Sima Tong returned to his family some days ago, he was unwilling to let the matter rest. He sent people to Misty Rain Market to demand accountability, prompting Prefect Yu to seek our assistance and agree to vassalage.”

Lu Miaoge explained calmly.

“The Sima Family truly is overbearing.”

Lu Changsheng chuckled lightly at this and said, “If they’re now willing to accept vassalage and provide sufficient benefits, there’s no harm in agreeing.”

Chapter 1285: Chapter 443: Tianyuan Secret Realm! _2

Lu Changsheng was quite pleased with a faction like Misty Rain Market coming to pledge allegiance.

After all, under Bi Lake Mountain's name, there were no truly presentable subordinate forces at the moment.

Misty Rain Market not only had two Foundation Establishment cultivators holding the fort, but also lacked entangled interests and complexities. Moreover, they could provide significant profits annually, making them quite a high-quality faction.

"The Prefect of Misty Rain Market is willing to agree to all subjugation terms, but she also has one condition."

Lu Miaoge paused briefly and said softly.

"Oh? What's the condition?"

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow slightly.

"She hopes you can take her as a concubine..."

Lu Miaoge spoke in a gentle tone.

"?"

Lu Changsheng froze for a moment.

He hadn't expected such a request from the other party.

Had his charm really reached such heights?

However, Lu Changsheng instantly understood. The other party likely wanted to further solidify the relationship through this method to secure greater benefits.

"Heh, this woman does have some courage."

Lu Changsheng chuckled softly and said, "If her character is decent, there's no harm in agreeing."

For a Foundation Establishment cultivator to willingly propose becoming a concubine, as long as her character passed muster, the Lu Ancestor wouldn't mind giving her a chance.

Moreover, Misty Rain Market's allegiance to his family could greatly benefit its development.

As the Lord of Bi Lake Mountain, he was willing to make a bit of personal sacrifice for the family.

“Sister Ling has already investigated beforehand, so she made the decision directly.”

“When you’re free, Changsheng, you can make a trip to Misty Rain Market to settle this matter.”

Lu Miaoge, gentle as water, spoke softly.

“Hmm?”

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng was somewhat speechless.

Grasping Lu Miaoge’s fair hand, he spoke warmly, “Sister Miaoge…”

“It’s all right, Changsheng,”

Lu Miaoge gently shook her head.

The two had been husband and wife for many years. She knew her husband had no unusual hobbies except for his wish to fill the house with children and grandchildren, building a large family with abundant blessings.

She even knew that in his youth, Lu Changsheng had resolved to marry hundreds of wives and father hundreds of children in his lifetime.

Now, with a Foundation Female Cultivator possessing good character and appearance proactively volunteering, she naturally wished to support her husband.

The two chatted for a while before Lu Changsheng checked in on his son, Lu Qingxuan, and his cultivation progress.

He then paid visits to other wives, concubines, and children in the household and spent time with a maidservant he had recently taken in.

...

Five days later, with the time for the Tianyuan Secret Realm approaching, Lu Changsheng didn’t hurry to Misty Rain Market to take concubines but went directly to the secret realm instead.

“Changsheng, husband, take care on the road.”

Lu Miaoge, Lu Miaohuan, Lu Miaoyun, and others expressed their concern.

They had all heard about the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

However, previously Xiao Xiyue had visited and shared some details, claiming it was very safe.

Moreover, they knew their husband's cultivation strength well, so their worry wasn't excessive.

"Haha, don't worry."

Lu Changsheng smiled as he bid farewell to the women before boarding his purple flying shuttle and heading for the Luoyun Mountain Range.

The quota for the Tianyuan Secret Realm wasn't allocated to every family or power.

Factions like Qingzhu Mountain and Hundred Birds Lake didn't receive any slots.

Thus, on this trip, Lu Changsheng was traveling alone and had no companions.

"I wonder if I'll encounter any ambushers."

Clad in a cyan robe, standing atop the purple flying shuttle, Lu Changsheng mused to himself.

Previously, when chatting with Xiao Xiyue, she'd speculated that the opening of the Tianyuan Secret Realm might be a trap set by the Four Great Immortal Sects.

She even suspected that family cultivators like them were merely bait for the Four Great Immortal Sects.

Because while the secret realm's entry was allowed for sect disciples, spots were also given to certain family powers.

Sect disciples naturally had the protection of their sect elders, ensuring they faced no dangers during the journey.

Family cultivators traveling alone, however, might encounter ambushes, their identities stolen, and someone else sneaking into the secret realm in their place.

"It would actually be nice to encounter a couple of Demonic Path Golden Core cultivators."

Lu Changsheng was not afraid; in fact, he looked forward to running into a few demonic path Nascent Soul cultivators.

In his possession was a cultivation technique called the “Brahman Demon True Saint Technique.”

The cultivation of this technique was extremely stringent.

It required Demonic Dao Origin, Heavenly Demon Blood, and a Buddhist Relic for marrow cleansing and body refinement before it could be practiced successfully.

He had barely managed to gather the Heavenly Demon Blood.

But as for the Demonic Dao Origin and the Buddhist Relic, Lu Changsheng still had no leads.

So, if he could suppress one or two Demonic Path Golden Core cultivators, it might help him gather the Demonic Dao Origin.

Of course, such notions were merely idle thoughts.

Golden Core cultivators were exceedingly rare.

Moreover, condensing a Superior Gold Core through demonic techniques was even harder than doing so with orthodox methods.

Thus, obtaining such a Demonic Dao Origin was probably more difficult than acquiring Heavenly Demon Blood.

...

The journey from Bi Lake Mountain to the Luoyun Mountain Range was quite substantial.

Considering the possibility of a trap by the Four Great Immortal Sects and potential ambushes by Demonic Path Foundation Establishment cultivators along the way, Lu Changsheng decided to act as bait himself, deliberately projecting the cultivation level of a mid-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator while piloting the purple flying shuttle.

A month later, Lu Changsheng reached the Luoyun Mountain Range.

The journey had been uneventful; he hadn’t even encountered a single ambushing or rogue cultivator, which left him somewhat disappointed.

However, this wasn’t unexpected.

Jiang Country’s Cultivation Realm was vast, and there were likely no more than twenty or thirty Nascent Soul cultivators drawn here for the opportunity. The odds of encountering them were naturally slim.

Upon reaching the Luoyun Mountain Range, however, the atmosphere grew livelier. Every so often, another cultivator could be seen flying swiftly to the area.

It seemed that, like him, they had obtained entry to the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

At present, the Luoyun Mountain Range remained in a state of lockdown, patrolled heavily by sect disciples. All entrants were required to present their identity tokens.

Under the guidance of these sect disciples, it wasn't long before Lu Changsheng arrived at the location of the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

A temporary base was stationed there, enveloped in dense spiritual light, likely supported by a third-order formation.

"There isn't even a third-order spirit vein here, so the operation of this formation must entirely rely on burning spirit stones."

"As expected of the Four Great Immortal Sects, truly wealthy."

Lu Changsheng thought to himself as he stepped forward to present both his identity token and the secret realm token given to him by Xiao Xiyue, gaining entry to the outpost.

"Please."

The sect disciple, after verifying his identity, made a welcoming gesture.

Entering the formation's gate, Lu Changsheng found himself in a narrow corridor stretching endlessly into the distance.

The corridor was about a zhang in height and width, made entirely of pitch-black stone, sealed tightly enough to cause a sense of mental oppression and discomfort.

"This seems to have been constructed with Mystical Iron Essence, Tiangang Mystical Iron, and a few other minerals, thus possessing a divine sense isolation effect..."

As a third-order Artifact Refiner, Lu Changsheng immediately discerned a few details.

Attempting to probe the walls with his divine sense, he immediately felt a layer of energy blocking him, preventing penetration.

Though he could likely break through with full effort, doing so might trigger hidden prohibitions, alerting others to any abnormalities.

"It appears the Four Great Immortal Sects prepared thoroughly, setting up a heaven-and-earth net from the very entrance."

Striding forward, Lu Changsheng pondered, somewhat concerned whether his Cultivation Realm would be seen through.

Although the Sealing Divine Light of the Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone could conceal his cultivation and mana levels, making them undetectable...

This time, it seemed the Four Great Immortal Sects had employed numerous sophisticated means.

What if their measures could see through disguises and detect Cultivation Realms?

"If the worst happens, I'll simply escape using the Teleportation Talisman or Life-Substituting Talisman and claim I encountered some danger en route."

Maintaining a calm expression, Lu Changsheng continued forward steadily.

After nearly a quarter of an hour, a rippling gate appeared before him.

Stepping through, the world around him transformed completely.

He found himself in a square underground palace.

Here, the air was saturated with incomparably dense spiritual energy, leaving one feeling refreshed and at ease.

"This spiritual energy..."

Lu Changsheng felt a bit astonished.

With his Dragon Seeking Art, he had not detected a third-order spirit vein prior to entering.

Yet the density and purity of the spiritual energy here were nearly on par with those of a middle to upper third-order spirit vein.

"Could this spiritual energy be emanating from the Tianyuan Secret Realm?"

Lu Changsheng observed a fissure nearby, large enough for a person to pass through.

From the fissure, clouds of dense, mist-like spiritual energy continually flowed out.

"Fellow Daoist, please be patient for a few more days."

A sect disciple addressed Lu Changsheng, indicating that he could rest and cultivate in the meantime.

The spiritual energy here was enough to support the cultivation of over a hundred Foundation Establishment cultivators.

“Thank you.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly and found a spot to rest.

The place already had a good number of individuals gathered, including someone Lu Changsheng recognized.

It was Jin Zan, the Ancestor of the Jin Family of Golden Dragon Ridge.

Given the lack of cordial relations between their families, the two merely exchanged indifferent glances before Jin Zan closed his eyes.

Lu Changsheng paid it no mind and sat quietly in meditation.

In the following days, more people trickled in periodically.

“Hmm?!”

One day, an exceptionally handsome young man stepped into the palace, causing Lu Changsheng’s heart to throb faintly, an odd sense of foreboding washing over him.

The young man’s gaze immediately locked onto Lu Changsheng.

Chapter 1286: Chapter 444: Nangong Mili: No Effort Found Despite Exhaustive Search

“Hmm!?”

Lu Changsheng’s heart trembled.

A cultivator’s spiritual sense was extraordinary, rarely stirred without reason.

Having broken through to Core Formation and awakened the Taiyi Divine Soul, his heightened perception made it even less likely for this inexplicable unease to occur for no reason.

Through this faint, fleeting sense of unease, Lu Changsheng vaguely sensed an intriguing... familiarity coming from the other party?

“Familiarity?”

Lu Changsheng was certain he had never met or known the other party before.

So... the other party was most likely disguised.

“Peach Blossom Gu, activate!”

Lu Changsheng recalled a similar feeling when he encountered Meng Xiaochan in Jiuxiao Immortal City back in the day. Withdrawing his gaze, he questioned the Peach Blossom Gu.

“Buzz...”

In an instant, the Peach Blossom Gu transmitted a message through intent, indicating a strong intertwining of peach blossom luck between the two of them.

“Nangong Mili!?”

Through this surge of peach blossom luck, Lu Changsheng immediately deduced the other party’s identity.

It was none other than the woman he had once pierced through with a spear, whose hips were as round as grinding stones.

As for the feeling of familiarity, he now understood its origin.

It stemmed from the Misty Sky Bead he had given her and the sliver of Golden Core Charm he had nurtured for her.

“Why does this woman always seek out such perilous situations?”

Lu Changsheng felt a twinge of displeasure in his heart.

A mother with a child should stay home to care for her daughter. Why wander around Jiang Country’s Cultivation Realm all day long?

First, the Jiuxiao Immortal City incident involved her. Now, the Tianyuan Secret Realm does too?

Does she purposely seek out danger wherever it arises?

“But meeting her isn’t altogether bad. It’s high time I resolved the entanglement between us.”

“When the time comes, traveling to the Jin Kingdom with her to visit Yaoyao will be much more convenient.”

Lu Changsheng's expression remained calm and composed, though he contemplated inwardly.

He planned to make a trip to the Cultivation Realm of the Jin Kingdom after the emergence of the Red Lotus.

Yet, he knew very little about the Jin Kingdom.

Reuniting with his daughter might prove challenging.

With Nangong Mili accompanying him, however, things would be far easier.

As for whether she was willing or not, Lu Changsheng trusted in his own charm.

"Lu Changsheng?"

Lu Changsheng's perception hadn't erred. The handsome young man before him was indeed Nangong Mili in disguise, using the Misty Sky Bead.

Seeing Lu Changsheng, Nangong Mili also appeared slightly shaken and surprised.

"How unexpected, encountering him here. This saves me an extra trip."

Nangong Mili barely glanced at Lu Changsheng before calmly finding a spot to sit cross-legged.

Originally, she had planned to visit Bi Lake Mountain after the secret realm expedition to check on Lu Changsheng.

Now, seeing Lu Changsheng here, she decided to wait for the right moment to abduct him instead.

...

Time passed gradually.

People arrived at the grand hall one after another.

Forces like the Beast Taming Xu Family, Five Elements Wang Family, Shangguan Family, Danxia Mountain, and Huan Yin Sect all gathered.

Seeing the five people arriving from the Beast Taming Xu Family, Lu Changsheng was slightly surprised.

Because Xu Ruyin was unexpectedly among them.

“She’s here too?”

Lu Changsheng felt a tinge of astonishment.

But after a moment, he understood. The Beast Taming Xu Family possessed slots for the secret realm, and as one of the Xu Family’s proudest talents, Xu Ruyin receiving a slot was entirely reasonable.

He nodded at Xu Ruyin as a gesture of acknowledgment but didn’t engage her in conversation.

Beyond Xu Ruyin, he recognized few others.

The only one who stood out was a woman with a painted-like visage, her face veiled in white silk, exuding an ethereal charm. She was from the Huan Yin Sect—someone he vaguely recalled being called the ‘Qin Fairy,’ a disciple of the sect master.

“Qin Fairy.”

The title amused Lu Changsheng somewhat.

He remembered months ago, his daughter Lu Wangshu had made her name known in the Red Leaf Valley Market during a battle, earning the playful epithet ‘Talisman Fairy.’

She had complained to him afterward, saying that such titles were utterly overused.

In Jiang Country’s Cultivation Realm, titles like Talisman Fairy, Qin Fairy, Sword Fairy, and Flower Fairy were dime a dozen.

Once the Beast Taming Xu Family, Danxia Mountain, and Huan Yin Sect had all arrived, a 30-strong group entered the hall.

They wore the attire of disciples from the Luoxia Sect, exuding the imposing presence of Foundation Establishment cultivators.

“It seems unlikely anything major will go wrong in this secret realm. If anything does happen, the Four Great Immortal Sects will suffer tremendous losses.”

Lu Changsheng observed the scene, thinking to himself.

Though the Four Great Immortal Sects were not short of Foundation Establishment cultivators,

Foundation Establishment was not as common as cabbages and formed the backbone of their sects.

Besides, these Foundation Establishment cultivators weren't ordinary—they were elite disciples within their sects.

After the Luoxia Sect's arrival, it wasn't long before the Qingyun Sect, Spirit Taming Sect, and Heavenly Sword Sect followed suit.

It was Lu Changsheng's first time witnessing such an enormous gathering.

The grand hall held nearly three hundred Foundation Establishment cultivators!

"If a Demonic Path True Monarch were to attack now, wiping everyone out in one fell swoop, the entire Jiang Country Cultivation Realm would be half-crippled with severe damage to its vital energy..."

Lu Changsheng sighed internally, scanning the cultivators present with curiosity, wondering how many Demonic Path cultivators had managed to blend in.

He refused to believe Nangong Mili was the only Demonic Path Nascent Soul hiding among them.

Just then, ripples began to stir in the void's crack in the distance.

Out stepped an old man with white hair and beard, radiating an air of immortality, his robe fluttering effortlessly.

Following him was a woman with sword-like brows as sharp as ink-painted mountains, her icy countenance glowing like a snow lotus in bloom. Her high ponytail added to her aloof disposition, and on her back, she carried a magical sword emanating cold, shimmering strands.

"Greetings, True Person Lingfeng!"

"Greetings, True Person Qing Yi!"

Some immediately recognized the two figures, expressing respectful gazes and clasping their hands in salute.

Even cultivators from family forces who didn't recognize them were well aware that they were Core Formation immortals from the Four Great Immortal Sects, prompting them all to bow courteously.

"Heh, now that everyone has arrived, this old man won't waste time with small talk. Line up in order and enter the secret realm one by one."

The immortal-like Lingfeng True Person surveyed the crowd before speaking, his tone infinitely kind.

Chapter 1287: Chapter 444: Nangong Mili: No Effort Spared in a Fruitless Search_2

After speaking, he cast a spell toward the crack in the secret realm before him.

Suddenly, radiant light surged around the crack, the ground trembled slightly, forming a massive formation about ten feet wide, interwoven with a layer of shimmering white spiritual light.

“What kind of formation is this?”

Lu Changsheng had some knowledge of formations, but not extensive research, so he couldn’t discern what this formation was.

However, a few individuals observed the formation with subtle expressions, their expressions carrying a trace of solemnity.

Soon, figures began to pass through the formation one after another, entering the secret realm through the crack.

“Buzz!”

At that moment, a thin old man stepped onto the array patterns, and suddenly a surge of demonic energy erupted.

“A Demon Cultivator!”

“How dare you, Demon Cultivator!”

Upon witnessing this demonic energy, someone instantly exclaimed.

“Buzz——”

In a flash, the kind-looking old man with an immortal demeanor suddenly widened his eyes, his entire presence resembling a mighty lion awakening. The array patterns and prohibitions within the palace surged forth, producing a powerful and terrifying spiritual pressure that bore down on the thin old man.

At the same time, Chu Qingyi’s azure longsword swiftly unsheathed, unleashing dazzling sword light.

“Splat!”

The thin old man was instantly obliterated by the sword light.

“This...”

“So this is a Nascent Soul Immortal!”

“How frightening!”

The crowd stirred in awe, their expressions respectful and reverent as they looked toward Lingfeng Immortal and Chu Qingyi.

Especially many of the male cultivators, whose gazes toward Chu Qingyi showed admiration, fascination, and infatuation.

“Heh, even a False Core Cultivator has come here hoping to stir up trouble...”

Lu Changsheng watched the scene, his expression calm and indifferent.

He thought to himself how foolish it was for this False Core Patriarch to interfere in such matters.

Still, he could somewhat understand this behavior.

It was likely that as a False Core Immortal, his lifespan was nearing its end.

The Tianyuan Secret Realm had been spoken of in such a mysterious and miraculous manner; perhaps it contained a supreme opportunity to transform a false core into a true one, so he had come to test his luck.

“But it’s a pity—he didn’t even make it through the door.”

Lu Changsheng sighed inwardly and shifted his gaze toward the handsome young man disguised as Nangong Mili.

He wondered to himself, given that Nangong Mili possessed the Misty Sky Bead, could his disguise avoid detection?

If he was detected, the situation would become troublesome—even if he wanted to intervene, it would be hard to do so.

“Hmph, there really are Demonic Path Thieves mixed in among us.”

Lingfeng Immortal snorted coldly.

Then his stern expression returned to its original benevolent visage, and he said to those before him, “Everyone, pay it no mind and proceed.”

The figures in the crowd resumed lining up, entering the secret realm one by one.

Seeing Nangong Mili enter, Lu Changsheng breathed a slight sigh of relief, silently noting that this formation was somewhat remarkable, but not overly so.

Just as it was his turn, a green-clad woman stepped forward, and thin strands of faint demonic energy began to emerge from her body.

“Hmm!?”

Lu Changsheng noticed the sudden danger and immediately stepped back behind the crowd.

“Boom!”

In an instant, the palace’s prohibitions surged, forming a terrifying spiritual pressure that bore down on the green-clad woman.

Beside him, Chu Qingyi moved swiftly, her sword light glinting coldly, as if snow were falling in June.

The green-clad woman’s face shifted, and demonic energy churned around her, manifesting into a black-red demon armor.

But within the blink of an eye, Chu Qingyi’s vast, azure sword light descended, piercing through her demon armor as though ignoring its existence, cleaving her body in two.

Yet the moment her body was split in half, she transformed into a cloud of black-red blood mist, surging to engulf the surrounding cultivators.

“Demonic Path Thief, how dare you act so boldly!”

Lingfeng Immortal’s voice rang out coldly as he summoned an object resembling a celestial chessboard. Array patterns brimmed with spiritual energy, encasing the blood mist completely.

“Buzz!”

The blood mist was immediately confined, revealing a pale, sinister middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man’s complexion was pale, his left arm shriveled and lifeless, leaving his sleeve empty.

“This is the Substitute Tribulation Technique?”

Lu Changsheng’s pupils narrowed as he recognized the method.

The principle was somewhat akin to Substitute Talismans.

When faced with an unavoidable assault, one could redirect the damage to another object.

Among Demonic Path secret techniques, it often involved sacrificing one's own limbs or internal organs.

“Go!”

The sinister man realized it would be impossible to act in the palace and immediately retrieved an ancient jade talisman from his sleeve. Surrounding himself with an invisible layer of spiritual light, he attempted to escape the palace.

However, the palace was forged from special materials, inscribed with array patterns. Even a Nascent Soul Immortal could not rush out directly.

Simultaneously.

“Swish, swish, swish——”

Chu Qingyi's sword emitted bursts of light, slashing toward the sinister man, suffusing the entire palace with an icy, bone-chilling sword intent, cold as the depths of winter.

“Slash, slash, slash——”

The sword light shattered the spiritual light surrounding the sinister man, leaving blood marks across his body. His complexion grew pale and weak, and he could only rush toward the entrance portal.

The portal too bore prohibitions.

But he had used a talisman earlier with forbidden-breaking effects, forcefully breaking through the portal and vanishing from sight.

“The tunnel outside spans several miles; escaping won't be easy. Besides, there are likely ambushes waiting outside.”

Lu Changsheng observed this with a quiet sigh, feeling that the Four Great Immortal Sects' layout was akin to a trap to corner the prey.

Even if Nascent Soul Cultivators entered, they faced only death.

Moreover, he noticed that the white-robed elder and Chu Qingyi hadn't gone all out earlier.

It seemed that both were wary of the sinister man being driven to desperation and self-destructing his core formation, thus leaving him a sliver of hope.

After all, even if his abilities were average and his core formation of low quality, the self-destruction of a core within a crowd would still cause considerable trouble.

“That man earlier was a Nascent Soul Immortal, yet he couldn’t muster the strength to fight back.”

Chapter 1288: Chapter 444: Nangong Mili: Truly Finding It After Exhausting All Efforts_3

“Fairy Qing Yi has condensed a superior gold core; how could ordinary people compare!”

“What? This Fairy Qing Yi actually possesses a superior gold core? No wonder...”

Within the crowd, some gazed at Chu Qingyi and murmured softly.

The earlier act of slaying a false core with a single sword strike seemed only natural in everyone’s eyes.

Yet at this moment, seeing a demonic path Nascent Soul unable to muster even a counterattack against the two, many in the crowd felt shocked.

After a brief commotion, Venerable Lingfeng spoke up and ordered the queue to continue. Lu Changsheng then stepped forward, passed through the formation, and entered the fissure secret realm.

In an instant, the heavens and earth transformed.

“So this is the Tianyuan Secret Realm?”

Lu Changsheng stood amidst a fragrant meadow, surrounded by lush greenery, with towering ancient trees visible in the distance.

The cultivators who had entered earlier were all waiting nearby.

Apart from these individuals, there were also two Nascent Soul Immortals stationed here.

One of them was someone Lu Changsheng recognized.

It was none other than the Spirit Taming Sect Immortal, Venerable Huxiao, whom he had encountered when visiting the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range years ago!

“It seems the Four Great Immortal Sects have mobilized all the manpower they can muster for this expedition.”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself as he surveyed the secret realm.

It bore resemblance to the outside world, yet the sky dome lacked the presence of the sun and moon.

Despite the abundant spiritual energy, spiritual mechanisms were absent.

“This secret realm resembles Mount Sumeru’s Cave Heaven in certain aspects, yet here the spiritual mechanisms are severed, resulting in a lack of vitality...”

Lu Changsheng recalled Xiao Xiyue once explaining the general circumstances of the Tianyuan Secret Realm.

He knew that the Four Great Immortal Sects had already emptied this secret realm.

Thus, the severed spiritual mechanisms and lack of vitality imparted a somewhat desolate vibe.

“Even with spiritual mechanisms severed, there’s still such an abundance of spiritual energy. This Tianyuan Secret Realm likely once harbored a fourth-order spirit vein...”

Observing the flowing spiritual energy within the secret realm, Lu Changsheng mused inwardly.

For a moment, it became difficult to imagine just how flourishing this secret realm must have been before its development.

Without lingering to observe further, Lu Changsheng found a spot to sit and rest.

After some time, everyone had entered the secret realm, including Venerable Lingfeng and Chu Qingyi.

However, Lu Changsheng keenly noted that three individuals were missing compared to before. Likely, after he entered, three more demonic cultivators had been discovered and dealt with.

“Everyone, follow me.”

Venerable Lingfeng spoke in a gentle tone, leading the group deeper into the secret realm.

This secret realm was vast.

Not only did it feature lush forests, but also expansive grasslands, pitch-black mountain ranges, and sprawling ruins of dilapidated structures.

“Is this merely a secret realm? It might as well be a small world...”

Lu Changsheng marveled in his heart.

This was his first time entering such a dungeon-like secret realm.

Even though the secret realm had been completely developed and left as an empty shell, it still managed to surprise him greatly.

After an hour.

Lu Changsheng spotted a towering stone monument ahead, as immense as a small mountain.

The monument was grand and magnificent, appearing like stone yet seeming as though forged from gold and iron. It exuded an air of majesty, etched with an ancient and timeless aura.

Upon approaching the stone monument, one couldn't help but feel small and insignificant, accompanied by an oppressive heaviness akin to a mountain's weight.

“Everyone, this Heaven Monument is the ultimate opportunity within the Tianyuan Secret Realm.”

“As long as you calm your heart and contemplate, you may gain insights into the Great Dao or receive inheritance of cultivation techniques from the Heaven Monument!”

At this moment, Venerable Lingfeng spoke cordially, saying, “All of you present here are either the future hopes of the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm or its pillars and foundations.”

“The Four Great Immortal Sects offer this rare opportunity for shared benefit, with the hope that everyone will work together to make the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm more prosperous overall, so cherish it well.”

“Should anyone gain a cultivation technique inheritance while contemplating the Heaven Monument, you will need to transcribe a copy for us.”

“However, the Four Great Immortal Sects will not take advantage of you. We will provide resources and contribution value proportionate to the value of the cultivation technique inheritance.”

Venerable Lingfeng, dressed in a flowing white robe, radiated warmth with his gentle demeanor, speaking kindly to the cultivators present.

Nonetheless, everyone had glimpsed this Immortal's capacity for fierce wrath before.

“Thank you, Venerable!”

“Rest assured, Venerable!”

“We will surely cooperate hand-in-hand with the Supreme Sect!”

“Our family exists today entirely thanks to the Supreme Sect; we will wholeheartedly repay this grace!”

“Without the Supreme Sect, my Wang Family wouldn’t exist. My family is willing to dedicate everything to the Supreme Sect!”

Immediately, many clan cultivators voiced their loyalty.

As for the disciples of the Four Great Immortal Sects, they were already familiar with these rules and simply clasped their hands in acknowledgment.

Chapter 1289: Chapter 445: Secret Realm Anomaly, Ghost Cultivator!

“Alright, let’s begin.”

After briefly explaining, Venerable Lingfeng instructed the nine individuals to step forward and attempt to comprehend the inheritance of the Heaven Tablet.

The first batch of nine cultivators appeared slightly nervous as they sat cross-legged before the stone tablet, placing both hands upon its surface and channeling their mana into it.

Lu Changsheng quietly observed the scene, trying to decipher the mysteries hidden within the stone tablet.

Yet, without utilizing his pupil skills or Fire Golden Eye, Lu Changsheng couldn’t discern anything peculiar.

He merely sensed that once the nine individuals injected their mana, the stone tablet seemed to radiate an endless flow of Great Dao principles, exuding a mysterious and profound aura.

“Could this stone tablet be some kind of inheritance treasure?”

Lu Changsheng pondered to himself, watching for a while before ceasing his observation and sitting cross-legged.

Time passed little by little.

About an hour later, among the nine individuals comprehending the Heaven Tablet, one of them opened his eyes with an expression of slight confusion and reluctance.

He gazed at the stone tablet before him, placed his hands on it again, and injected mana.

Yet, the stone tablet seemed to possess an invisible force that repelled and rejected him.

“Everyone can only obtain opportunities from it once. Next.”

Upon witnessing this, Venerable Lingfeng calmly remarked.

He then summoned the individual to inquire about the inheritance opportunity obtained from the stone tablet.

Although Lu Changsheng couldn’t hear their conversation, upon seeing Venerable Lingfeng’s expression remaining unmoved, he deduced that the cultivation technique inheritance likely did not yield any surprises.

“According to Xi Yue, the Heaven Tablet offers each individual a unique Great Dao insight and cultivation technique inheritance, though repetitions may occur.”

“The Four Great Immortal Sects have released such benefits not only to win over people’s loyalty but also to gather all of Jiang Country’s extraordinary talents. Presumably, they aim to extract as many cultivation techniques from this event as possible.”

“Moreover, even if family forces obtain top-level cultivation techniques, all the spells and methods of these techniques are firmly controlled by the Four Great Immortal Sects, including ways to counteract or deconstruct them.”

Lu Changsheng mused inwardly.

And so, time continued to pass bit by bit.

The cultivators present stepped forward in an orderly fashion to comprehend the Heaven Tablet.

During this process, Lu Changsheng noticed a pattern.

The longer one’s comprehension lasted, the greater the likely benefits.

As for the factors determining the duration of comprehension, Lu Changsheng remained unclear, speculating it might relate to talent, comprehension, cultivation level, realm, and other such factors.

“Hmm?”

On this day, Lu Changsheng observed a young man finishing his comprehension of the Heaven Tablet. After handing over the cultivation

technique inheritance to Venerable Lingfeng, the man's hand, retreating into his sleeve, seemed to execute a furtive motion.

The motion was subtle and concealed.

If not for Lu Changsheng having awakened the Taiyi Divine Soul, with a Divine Sense rivaling the peak of Core Formation, and coincidentally looking toward the man, he might not have even noticed it.

"Could this man be a demonic path cultivator?"

Lu Changsheng speculated internally, finding the man's behavior suspicious.

He even suspected the man to be a Demonic Path Nascent Soul cultivator who, after comprehending the Heaven Tablet and confirming its contents, was now transmitting information to the outside world.

Still, though he had noticed something was amiss, speaking up about it now was unwise.

After all, there were four Nascent Soul Immortals presiding over this place.

If he, merely at Foundation Establishment Mid-Stage, suddenly voiced suspicions about someone, it would seem unreasonable.

Moreover, the Four Great Immortal Sects had laid down a Heaven-and-Earth Net within the Tianyuan Secret Realm, and this situation might well be intentional.

"If chaos truly erupts, I hope it waits until I've finished comprehending the Heaven Tablet."

Lu Changsheng's expression remained composed.

Although his interest in the Heaven Tablet's inheritance wasn't profound, since he was here, he naturally wished to experience it.

However, not long after,

"Boom!"

Suddenly, a deafening sound of collapse tore through, causing the entire Secret Realm to tremble and quake violently.

"What's happening?"

"What's going on!?"

All present abruptly opened their eyes, their expressions marked by confusion, surprise, and dread.

Even those still comprehending the Heaven Tablet snapped awake, bewildered and uncertain, glancing around in mutual astonishment.

“Is there really a demonic path disturbance!?”

Lu Changsheng’s heart surged with surprise, confirming his earlier observation of information being transmitted externally.

Otherwise, could it truly be mere coincidence?

Moreover, the intensity of this commotion indicated the intruders were no ordinary individuals.

“Hmm!?”

Chu Qingyi, Venerable Huxiao, and several others furrowed their brows in unison, collectively gazing toward the entrance of the Secret Realm.

“Remain calm!”

Venerable Lingfeng seemed to have anticipated this scenario, taking a step forward and shouting with a deep voice.

As he spoke, the power and presence of Nascent Soul-level mana pervaded the area, bringing the chaotic atmosphere to an abrupt halt.

“I trust you’ve all heard the rumors about certain demonic path thieves coveting the opportunities within this Secret Realm.”

“But these inherited opportunities within the Secret Realm are not yours for the taking—those rats in the shadows who dare come will face utter annihilation!”

Clad in a flowing white robe, his hair and beard snow-white, Venerable Lingfeng exuded an aura of divine majesty, yet his tone carried undeniable authority and resolve.

After finishing, his demeanor shifted, his expression stern and resolute as he said: “Many among you have yet to encounter demonic path cultivators.”

“But the Cultivation Realm of Jiang Country has always stood in opposition to the demonic path. And so, I must remind you all—we, as cultivators, wrest life from the heavens!”

“If you wish to break through Core Formation or Nascent Soul, then in the future, you will inevitably clash with the demonic path. Only by harboring no fear, cutting through myriad demons, both external and internal, can you navigate the thorny path to seek your true self and inquire of the Great Dao of Changsheng!”

Venerable Lingfeng's robe billowed as he spoke with an overwhelming presence, his voice projecting clearly into everyone's ears.

"Thank you for the guidance, Venerable Immortal. We understand!"

"Rest assured, Venerable Immortal—should we encounter demonic path cultivators, we will harbor no fear and show no mercy!"

"We stand firmly opposed to the demonic path!"

The gathered cultivators, hearing these words, felt their anxiety dissipate instantly, knowing the Four Great Immortal Sects were fully prepared. They bowed respectfully and spoke out loudly.

However, Lu Changsheng couldn't help but notice that while many family cultivators displayed seemingly passionate and resolute expressions, their behaviors were clearly superficial and ingratiating.

Only the disciples of the immortal sects truly exhibited stirred emotions and steadfast determination.

Chapter 1290: Chapter 445: A Change in the Secret Realm, Ghost Cultivator!_2

This is normal.

They all belong to the elites of their sects, instilled from the very beginning of their cultivation with the notion of being irreconcilable with the Demonic Path.

Throughout their growth in cultivation, many have either personally experienced or witnessed incidents involving the Demonic Path.

Like the Demon Subjugation Order several decades ago, many participated, heard of it, and firmly believed themselves to be righteous, with the mission of slaying demons and vanquishing devils.

However, when Lu Changsheng saw the youth disguised by Nangong Mili shouting passionately in response, a strange feeling welled up in his heart.

"Hmm."

As a Core Formation Immortal, Venerable Lingfeng's spiritual sense was extraordinary, and he naturally understood that most of the clan cultivators here were seasoned veterans.

Thus, he didn't pay much attention to these people.

If a war between the righteous and demonic paths truly broke out, would these clan cultivators even have the luxury to refuse?

Besides, once war begins, it could also serve as a stepping stone for clan cultivators to rise in status.

If you don't fight, someone else certainly will!

But in the very next moment.

“Boom, boom, boom—”

Another series of earth-shattering sounds erupted, making the entire secret realm quake violently as if an earthquake had struck.

Venerable Lingfeng's face suddenly changed dramatically.

Not just him—Chu Qingyi, Venerable Huxiao, and another Core Formation Immortal all shared the same sudden, drastic change in expression, exchanging glances.

Immediately, Venerable Lingfeng looked at everyone present and said, “Now that the Demonic Path cultivators are attacking, the matter of comprehending the Heavenly Monument will be postponed for the time being. First, you will retreat with me.”

“Could the situation have taken a turn?”

Looking at the scene before him and the expressions of the four, Lu Changsheng sensed that something was wrong.

If the Four Great Immortal Sects had already laid down a Heaven-and-Earth Net to trap and kill intruders, how could it have turned out like this?

Indeed, the Four Great Immortal Sects could ensnare and slaughter by luring people in.

But if the Demonic Path had sent people, they could also block the exits of the secret realm, trapping prey like turtles in a jar.

Moreover, mixed within the group of present cultivators were a fair number of Core Formation experts from other countries.

If this group colluded with the individuals outside, it would spell major trouble.

In an instant, Lu Changsheng became even more cautious.

Many of the cultivators present also began to sense that something was amiss.

Yet, at this moment, no one dared to slack off or voice doubts. They all obediently followed Venerable Lingfeng's guidance.

Moments later, Venerable Lingfeng summoned an array plate and formation flags, directing everyone to designated positions.

He promptly commanded the disciples of the Four Great Immortal Sects to arrange themselves systematically, forming an overwhelming battle formation through tokens and secret techniques.

“Battle formation!”

Lu Changsheng observed how the disciples of the Four Sects synchronized their auras until they exuded a force so powerful it seemed capable of swallowing rivers and mountains. It was clearly some kind of battle formation.

The Four Sects’ Foundation Establishment disciples had each formed their own formation. If they went all out, they might even hold their own against a Core Formation Immortal.

“Damn it, this Venerable Lingfeng clearly knows there are Demonic Path Core Formation experts mixed in here!”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself as he observed the strategic placements.

The clan cultivators, including himself, were intentionally positioned out to the side.

Meanwhile, the disciples of the Four Great Immortal Sects had taken the central and most fortified positions, their formations arranged in four directions.

It was evident that Venerable Lingfeng was aware of the presence of foreign Core Formation experts among them but hadn’t pinpointed their exact identities.

“If an unexpected situation really arises, I’ll have no choice but to disguise myself as a Core Formation cultivator from another country.”

Lu Changsheng murmured to himself, keeping an eye on the previously suspicious cultivators.

By now, he was almost certain that the current chaos in the secret realm was connected to those individuals.

“Boom, boom, boom—”

The secret realm trembled more intensely, nearly to the point of collapse, with the surrounding spiritual energy becoming increasingly chaotic.

“Venerable Immortal, may I ask if staying here poses any danger to us?”

“If the Demonic Path is attacking, we are willing to contribute our efforts!”

A moment later, a bold clan cultivator couldn't contain himself, gritting his teeth and addressing Venerable Lingfeng.

"Outside the secret realm, Xuanjian True Monarch is standing guard. It won't be long before these Demonic Path thieves are dealt with."

Venerable Lingfeng replied calmly, his expression composed.

"Xuanjian True Monarch!"

"What? Xuanjian True Monarch is actually standing guard outside the secret realm!"

"Could all this commotion be Xuanjian True Monarch engaged in a fight?"

Hearing this name, everyone gasped in surprise, their eyes filled with reverence and awe.

Xuanjian True Monarch, the ruler of the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, the Ocean-Calming Divine Needle!

No one would doubt the strength of this Nascent Soul True Lord.

Upon hearing that this True Monarch was holding the line outside the secret realm, those who were previously anxious and fearful quickly felt reassured.

Even Lu Changsheng was taken aback by this revelation.

Yet, deep in his heart, his worry only deepened.

If Xuanjian True Monarch had come to oversee the Tianyuan Secret Realm and had caused such an immense disturbance, it meant that the Demonic Path—or perhaps other factions—might also have a Nascent Soul True Lord present.

And for a Demonic Path True Monarch to dare infiltrate the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, they must be thoroughly prepared.

"The Tianyuan Secret Realm has drawn so many Core Formation immortals here. There must be some powerful force orchestrating this behind the scenes. Could it be this very faction?"

Lu Changsheng couldn't believe that his first journey into a secret realm had turned into such an ordeal.

"Damn it, and I haven't even comprehended the Great Dao insights from the Heavenly Monument yet!"

Thinking of his original purpose for coming here, Lu Changsheng felt deeply frustrated.

But given the current circumstances, he had no choice but to wait and see how events unfolded.

“Rumble, rumble, rumble—”

The tremors of the secret realm grew increasingly violent, as if the entire earth were collapsing and crumbling.

Just then.

“Boom!”

A deafening sound, like the sky shattering and the earth splitting, erupted.

In an instant, the sky changed color, and thunder roared.

“No, the Heavenly Monument has collapsed!”

Someone cried out, looking toward the monument, their voice trembling with fear.

They saw the towering Heavenly Monument, once standing like a mountain, now breaking apart under the tremors and crashing down catastrophically.

“Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—”

As the monument fell, a vast, ancient, gray-black mist roared upward like a gaping abyss, swallowing the boundless spiritual energy between heaven and earth.

The sky resounded with thunderous roars, as if demons were shrieking and ghosts were wailing.

“Kill, kill, kill!!!”

“I hate, I hate, I hate!”