

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

Chapter 21: Three-Year Agreement!\_1

In the monotonous and dull life of cultivation, talisman making, and spell practicing, another month had passed.

Lu Changsheng's another concubine was pregnant with a second child.

At the same time, the ninth child was also born.

Still, there was no pulsation of the Spiritual Root, indicating the absence of one.

On the second day after the birth of the ninth child, Lu Changsheng received a letter.

He was somewhat surprised when he saw the letter.

It was actually from Hong Yi, who had attended the Immortal Sects' examination with him.

The letter started with simple greetings and then inquired whether Lu Changsheng still remembered the three-year agreement they had made.

It had been more than two years since they had parted from the Qingyun Sect.

He hoped that Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu would also come together to catch up.

And he mentioned that Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin had all agreed to the meeting.

"The three-year agreement."

Lu Changsheng, looking at the content of the letter, narrowed his eyes slightly.

This three-year agreement was a casual remark made by Hong Yi when the six of them were introduced to the Qingyun Sect.

They had agreed, regardless of whether they entered the Immortal Sects or not, to gather at Ruyi Prefecture's largest restaurant, 'Ruyi Tower,' three years later.

If it weren't for Hong Yi's letter, Lu Changsheng would have forgotten about it and considered it just a joke.

He did not expect that Hong Yi would actually write to mention it.

He also said that Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin would all come.

“There is about half a year left, should I go?”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

On his way to Qingzhu Mountain in the past, the attack by the Chen Family cast some shadows on him.

He felt the cultivation world was too dangerous and did not want to leave the Lu Family lightly.

But the thought of the meeting and that Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin would also be there gave him some inclination to attend.

As the saying goes, the more friends one has, the more paths one finds.

All three were disciples of the Qingyun Sect, and maintaining this friendship might be beneficial and advantageous for him in the future.

He wasn't close to Xiao Xiyue and Zhao Qingqing, but he had a fairly good relationship with Han Lin back then.

“On this trip to the meeting, I can also deal with the talismans I've accumulated over the years and buy some materials for drawing high-quality and supreme talismans.”

“With these talisman treasures on me, as long as I don't encounter a Foundation Building Cultivator, there shouldn't be a problem.”

“Moreover, after seeking the path of cultivation and leaving my home for three years, it's time to go back for a visit.”

After thinking it over, Lu Changsheng decided to make the trip.

Besides attending the meeting, there were other things he needed to do; he had to make some decisions about his worldly family affairs as well.

“Since I've received the letter, Feiyu must have received one too,” Lu Changsheng thought.

Immediately, he went out and headed towards Qingzhu Villa to see what Li Feiyu planned to do.

It would be safer for the two of them to travel together.

Lu Changsheng did not go directly to Li Feiyu's house.

Instead, he first went to the Hundred Treasures Pavilion to greet the shopkeeper.

If it were not for the storekeeper of the Hundred Treasures Pavilion, his talent for talisman making wouldn't have become so smoothly known by the higher-ups of the Lu Family; thus, he came to visit and express his gratitude.

Besides, he was still dependent on the Lu Family, and it was good to cultivate a favorable impression by befriending the people of the Lu Family. After all, cultivation is not only about practicing and fighting; there are also interpersonal relationships and worldly affairs to navigate.

The shopkeeper of the Hundred Treasures Pavilion was delighted and gratified to see Lu Changsheng come to Qingzhu Villa to visit him.

Initially, he had helped Lu Changsheng out of self-interest.

He saw that the young man had a good talent for talisman making and was a decent person, suitable to be utilized by the Lu Family.

But Lu Changsheng's gesture added a few more points of fondness in his heart.

He felt the young man was indeed commendable.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng bought some medicinal herbs for strengthening the foundation and nurturing vitality from the Hundred Treasures Pavilion as gifts and brought them to Li Feiyu's home.

He now had ten spirit stones a month, while Li Feiyu still had only two spirit stones.

Directly providing for the latter would not be accepted.

And he wouldn't do that either.

Not to mention he wasn't wealthy enough to afford it, doing so would also change the nature of their friendship.

Visiting now with some gifts in hand was just appropriate.

Carrying the gifts, Lu Changsheng arrived at Li Feiyu's home.

"If you're going to visit, why bother bringing gifts?"

Li Feiyu was somewhat surprised and delighted to see Lu Changsheng coming.

"It's not like we're just neighbors dropping by, so it's perfectly normal to come over and bring something."

“Besides, in two months, my sister-in-law will be giving birth, and all these are things to nourish her body.”

Lu Changsheng said casually.

He and Li Feiyu were of the same age, but Li Feiyu was older by several months, so Lu Changsheng also called Li Feiyu’s wife “sister-in-law.”

“Alright, then I’ll take it without being polite.”

Upon hearing this, Li Feiyu did not hesitate and directly accepted the gifts.

“You’ve received Hong Yi’s letter too, haven’t you?”

As they entered the living room, Li Feiyu brewed a pot of tea and, guessing the purpose of Lu Changsheng’s visit, started the conversation.

“I did, and after seeing the letter, I thought that since Han Lin and the others are going, I might as well go too, to get together.”

“And I’ve been away from home for so long, it’s time to go back and settle things, so I came over to see what you think.”

Lu Changsheng stated directly.

“I have the same idea.”

Li Feiyu nodded and said.

“Great, then we’ll go together. We still have half a year, and we should set out about a month in advance.”

“After all, traveling from Qingzhu Mountain to Ruyi Prefecture takes quite some time,” Lu Changsheng said.

“No problem, I usually don’t have much going on. Just come and call me on the day you leave,” Li Feiyu said.

Subsequently, the two chatted for a while, and Lu Changsheng had lunch at Li Feiyu’s home before leaving.

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Time flew, and another half a month passed by.

On this day, Lu Changsheng’s tenth child was born.

Just like the others, this child did not have a Spiritual Root.

However, the instant the child was born, a system notification sounded.

[Congratulations to the host; the number of progeny has reached ten. You've earned one lottery chance!]

“As expected!”

Upon hearing the system notification, Lu Changsheng was delighted and thought to himself that it was as he expected.

He had previously suspected that once certain achievements were triggered, they would lead to rewards.

The first numeral was one; it was highly likely that the second numeral was ten.

“I wonder if the next one is twenty, fifty, or... a hundred,” Lu Changsheng pondered.

Without further thought, Lu Changsheng went to see the child.

It was a girl, adorable indeed.

After visiting his wives and children, Lu Changsheng returned to his study to start his fourth lottery draw.

“System, I want to draw a prize.”

Lu Changsheng silently wished.

Immediately, a pale red virtual lottery wheel appeared before his eyes.

Looking at the familiar lottery wheel, Lu Changsheng took a deep breath and prayed in his heart.

He hoped for a Cultivation Technique.

His current Returning Origin Technique was a primary level common Cultivation Technique.

The advantage was that the Cultivation was steady and smooth, with almost no risk of issues during the process.

However, the downside was the same, too steady, which caused the absorption of Spiritual Energy to be exceedingly slow.

He hadn't felt it much while at Qingzhu Villa.

Now that he had come to Qingzhu Valley to cultivate on the Second Grade Spiritual Vein, this feeling was very pronounced.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng thought that if he could obtain a Cultivation Technique, this situation should improve.

After all, even if the system was stingy, it would at least provide a Peripheral Sect Level Technique, right?

"Start the draw!"

Lu Changsheng exhaled and declared.

Instantly, a golden light spun on the pale red wheel.

After five seconds, the wheel slowed down.

Under Lu Changsheng's gaze, filled with a mix of nervousness and anticipation, the golden light settled on Pet Beasts.

Chapter 22: Nine Netherhound!\_1

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for obtaining a Nine Netherhound cub!]

[The reward has been distributed to the System Space, and the host can check it at any time.]

An image of a small creature, dark as the abyss and resembling a wolf or a dog, emerged from the big wheel, accompanied by a system notification sound.

"A Nine Netherhound cub?"

Lu Changsheng paused, his face lighting up with joy.

Although it wasn't the cultivation technique he wanted most,

he also considered pet beasts quite nice.

After all, those who played games in their previous lives know the importance of having a good 'pet'.

It's pretty much the same in this cultivation world.

If one has a good spiritual pet to accompany them as they grow, it can provide considerable help in both combat power and other aspects.

Although he had never heard the name 'Nine Netherhound,' Lu Changsheng was unsure of what rank this demon beast was,

but after the previous three draws, Lu Changsheng had some trust in the system.

He knew that while products from the system might sometimes be useless, they were never trash.

Lu Changsheng directed his mental spirit to look at the Nine Netherhound in the System Space, and information immediately surfaced.

[Spiritual Pet: Nine Netherhound]

[Rank: Heaven Grade Middle Grade]

[Description: An ancient fierce beast variant, with Heaven Grade Middle Grade bloodline, possessing a trace of the primordial True Spirit Nine Netherhound bloodline, can grow to its peak in five hundred years and become a Fourth Rank demon beast.]

"Hiss! A Heaven Grade Middle Grade bloodline, and it even has a trace of the primordial True Spirit's bloodline."

"As long as it grows to its peak, it can become a Fourth Rank demon beast!"

Upon seeing the information about the Nine Netherhound, Lu Changsheng gasped in surprise and felt a wave of exhilaration.

In the cultivation world, besides the human race, there are many other races.

Such as winged, feathered, scaly, insect, flora, and fauna that can cultivate and ascend, are all collectively called demons.

However, most demons are unenlightened with little intelligence and are also known as demon beasts.

The strength division of demon beasts is very straightforward.

From low to high, they are classed as: First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade...

Corresponding to the Qi Refinement Realm, Foundation Establishment Stage, Core Formation Stage, Nascent Soul Stage, and Divinity Transformation Stage of the human cultivators.

The difference between demon beasts and humans is that humans possess a Spiritual Root and strengthen themselves through cultivation techniques.

While demon beasts cultivate and grow stronger through the bloodline inheritance within their bodies.

The higher the bloodline rank, the greater the potential.

As far as Lu Changsheng knew, the bloodline ranks for demon beasts were divided into: Low Rank Bloodline, Middle Grade Bloodline, High Rank Bloodline, Earth Grade Bloodline, Heaven Grade Bloodline,

and the legendary True Spirit Bloodline!

Low Rank Bloodlines, also known as Mixed Bloodlines,

will never break through to become Second Rank demon beasts in their lifetimes without some sort of fortuitous encounter that purifies or mutates their bloodline.

Middle Grade Bloodlines will grow into First Rank demon beasts, but there's hope to grow into Second Rank demon beasts.

High Rank Bloodline demon beasts will mostly be Second Rank at their peak, with a chance to become Third Rank.

Earth Grade Bloodline demon beasts are Second Rank in their mature stage, and at their peak, they have a high chance of reaching Third Rank.

As for Heaven Grade demon beasts, they are Third Rank in their mature stage and can hope to reach Fourth Rank at their peak.

This Nine Netherhound obtained by Lu Changsheng not only had a Heaven Grade Middle Grade bloodline but also a trace of the primordial True Spirit bloodline.

Therefore, given five hundred years, it could smoothly grow to its peak and become a Fourth Rank demon beast.

That is equivalent to a human cultivator at the Nascent Soul Stage!

“A Fourth Rank demon beast is equivalent to a human Nascent Soul True Lord!”

“According to the information I've seen in the Lu Family library, within the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm where I'm situated, the Nascent Soul Stage is the ceiling.

“Only the ‘Heavenly Sword Sect’ has a Nascent Soul True Lord in residence, even the Qingyun Sect that I tried to enter through the assessments doesn’t have a Nascent Soul True Lord presiding over it!”

“If the Nine Netherhound can grow into a fourth-rank demon beast, I could walk sideways through Jiang Country’s Cultivation Realm with complete impunity,”

Lu Changsheng said with a trace of excitement and exhilaration.

In the Cultivation Realm of Jiang Country where he resided, the strongest power was known as ‘Heavenly Sword Sect’.

Within its gates sat a Nascent Soul True Lord.

Beneath it were Qingyun Sect, Luoxia Sect, and Spirit Taming Sect, the Three Great Immortal Sects.

Although these Three Great Immortal Sects didn’t have a Nascent Soul True Lord at their helm, they each possessed several Nascent Soul Immortals and had very profound foundations.

Beyond the Three Great Immortal Sects were two sects, three cities and three aristocratic families, making up eight great powers.

All eight powers were headed by a Nascent Soul Immortal and were considered the pinnacle forces within Jiang Country’s Cultivation Realm.

As for Cultivation families like the Lu Family of Qingzhu Mountain, which only had a Foundation Establishment Stage cultivator at their helm, there were many, and it was impossible to record them all in the books.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng noted that the book he saw was almost a hundred years old.

The content recorded therein was likely to have changed considerably by now.

But a moment later, Lu Changsheng shook his head again.

“Even if one cultivates to the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm, one would only have a lifespan of a hundred years. Breaking through to the Foundation Establishment Stage would only extend one’s life by another hundred years, living to be a bit over two hundred.”

“Only a Nascent Soul Immortal can have a lifespan of five hundred years!”

“Therefore, if I can’t break through to the Nascent Soul Stage and become a Nascent Soul True Lord myself, even if the Nine Netherhound grows into a fourth-rank beast, it wouldn’t mean much to me.”

The lifespan of demon beasts is generally several times that of humans.

For demon beasts, a Nine Netherhound managing to grow into a fourth-rank within five hundred years is already quite fast.

But for humans, this period is a bit lengthy.

After all, even the lifespan of a Nascent Soul Immortal barely exceeds five hundred years.

Even if one consumes life-extending elixirs or heavenly treasures, at most a few more decades or a century could be added, but ultimately, it is limited.

Only after breaking through to the Nascent Soul Stage can one’s lifespan surpass a thousand years.

“With a five hundred year pinnacle period, reaching maturity in two or three hundred years shouldn’t be a problem.”

“Maturity should be equivalent to a third-rank beast at the Core Formation Stage. So, growing into a second-rank beast in around a hundred years would also be feasible.”

“Looking at it this way, it seems not too bad.”

“Moreover, in the world of cultivation, there are methods to tame and control beasts, including many techniques that can speed up the growth of demon beasts.”

Lu Changsheng licked his lips, thinking to himself.

The growth of demon beasts can be divided into infancy, growth, maturity, and peak – four stages.

The Nine Netherhound cub he won in the lottery naturally was in its infancy.

But according to the hundred arts of cultivation he knew of, there existed a skill called beast taming.

It involves domesticating demon beasts into spiritual beasts for cultivators to utilize.

The pet beasts that Lu Changsheng’s system awarded naturally didn’t need domestication and were absolutely loyal to him.

However, within these beast taming techniques, there were many husbandry methods capable of accelerating the growth of spiritual beasts.

Lu Changsheng was aware that the Spirit Taming Sect, one of the Three Great Immortal Sects, was renowned for nurturing spiritual beasts, with each disciple taming and controlling a spiritual pet.

“This isn’t urgent at the moment; I can look into it later if I get the chance to obtain the method for nurturing spiritual beasts. For now, I’ll just raise it normally.”

“But right now, it’s inconvenient for me to take the Nine Netherhound out of the System Space.”

“Otherwise, if others see that I seemingly conjured a demon beast cub out of thin air, I’d have no way to explain.”

“It just so happens that I need to make a trip to the secular world soon. When I return, I can take it out and claim I bought it to guard the house or to be a companion for the children.”

After some contemplation, Lu Changsheng decided not to take the cub out of the System Space but to continue keeping it inside.

Like system rewards, keeping it within the System Space without taking it out doesn’t affect it in the slightest.

But once it’s taken out, there’s no way to put it back in.

PS: Thank you ‘Book Friend 20180320084218622’ for the 5000 coin reward, I feel a deep sense of recognition.

Also, thank you ‘Fatty Head’ for the 500 coin reward, and ‘Book Friend 20200911024200054’ for the 100 coin reward.

Chapter 23: Qi Refinement Level 3!\_1

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Time flew by, and in the blink of an eye, more than three months had passed.

In those three months, Lu Changsheng’s eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth children were all born.

However, all three of these children also lacked a Spiritual Root.

Regarding this, Lu Changsheng had already completely let go, knowing that it couldn't be forced.

But he did not stop having children because of this probability.

After all, having many children is considered the true path to happiness and good fortune.

As long as he kept at it, and the base number of children increased, there would eventually be a child with a Spiritual Root.

Moreover, as the number of children grew, the system would also provide rewards.

In these three months, two more of Lu Changsheng's concubines became pregnant with their second child.

In three years, with three wives and six concubines, he had fathered thirteen children.

And with three more on the way, he had made quite a name for himself in the Lu Family's Qingzhu Valley.

Everyone knew that the Lu Family had taken a son-in-law who was exceptionally talented in Talisman Making but also fond of female company and having children.

During this time, Lu Yuanding also visited Lu Changsheng to chat.

His words were of admonishment, hoping Lu Changsheng would not indulge too much in pleasures of the flesh and should focus more on cultivation and the Talisman Path, lest he waste his life away.

Faced with such advice, Lu Changsheng naturally nodded in agreement.

But he also expressed that his Spiritual Root was too poor and that he had little ambition in life; he was content with his current life and only wished for his descendants to fill his home in the future.

If he could have a few children with Spiritual Roots, he would then devote all his energy to nurturing them.

Hearing this, Lu Yuanding was momentarily at a loss for words and brought up a matter with Lu Changsheng.

The Lu Family had a rule that all children who had not yet shown a Spiritual Root by the age of six should be sent to the secular world.

Even if the time could be extended, they would definitely have to be sent to the secular world by their teenage years.

They couldn't stay in Qingzhu Mountain indefinitely.

Because these children lacked Spiritual Roots and were unable to cultivate, staying on Qingzhu Mountain would mean they could only perform menial tasks.

Eaglets must one day soar into the sky, facing the strong winds and tempests.

Without a Spiritual Root, keeping children by one's side only hinders them.

Moreover, the Lu Family had its own clan and industries in the secular world, ensuring these children a life of wealth, clothing, and food without worry.

If Lu Changsheng agreed, his children could also be placed within the Lu Family of the secular world in the future.

After hearing Lu Yuanding's words, Lu Changsheng felt a bit heavy-hearted.

In three years, he had not completely adapted to the rules of this world.

He found it difficult to accept the idea of sending his children into the secular world at the age of six.

Considering he now had a total of thirteen children, and only one with a Spiritual Root.

But he also understood that Lu Yuanding was right.

If the children lacked Spiritual Roots, keeping them by his side was not beneficial for the children.

As parents, one must let go and allow them to grow.

So.

Lu Changsheng planned in his heart to wait until the children were a bit older before sending them to the secular world.

To let the children go out, explore, and see the world for themselves.

Before that, as he had thought before, he would find Li Feiyu to teach his children martial arts.

Not only to strengthen their bodies but to give them some ability to protect themselves if they encountered dangers in the secular world in the future.

After all, not only is the Cultivation World dangerous, but there are also many conflicts and disputes in the secular world, and he couldn't possibly watch over all these children at all times.

Of course, he couldn't deny his own ulterior motive.

He hoped that training his children in martial arts would bring some improvement to his own strength.

And in the future, if his children took root and established themselves in the secular world, they could also spread out and form a Lu Family of their own, a martial household.

If there were descendants with Spiritual Roots in the family, he could send them to his side for guidance.

This was also the current model for many Cultivation families, flourishing in both the secular and Cultivation worlds.

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On this day.

Sitting in the practice room and cultivating, Lu Changsheng's body surged with a wave of energy, causing his vestment robe to flutter without wind.

"Third Level Energy Refinement!"

"Finally, I've made a breakthrough before the meeting!"

After a moment, his breath settled, and Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, his face full of joy.

It took him one year and four months to break through from the First Level Energy Refinement to the Second Level.

But to break through from the Second Level to the Third took only ten months.

The significant improvement was due not only to Qingzhu Valley's Second Grade Spiritual Vein but also to the Spiritual Root Talent of his seventh son, Lu Xianzhi, and the enhancement of his cultivation resources.

He now had ten Spirit Stones, thirty jin of Spirit Rice, and a bottle of Yellow Dragon Elixir every month.

Since the children were still young and had no expenses, and his wives had no need to spend money.

So most of these Spirit Stones could be used on himself to improve his cultivation speed.

Though his talent was lacking, and it was difficult to achieve much on his own, he could not afford to slack.

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After all, to soar on the success of a child, the child must first grow up.

Besides, among his thirteen children, now only seven have a Spiritual Root, and even then, it's a Lower Grade Spiritual Root.

For now, he still had to rely on his own efforts as a father.

“Three years have passed, I'm finally going to take a trip outside,”

Lu Changsheng stood up and straightened his vestment robe.

He approached the bronze mirror and looked at his reflection.

The once unremarkable and ordinary face had gained more defined contours, and the somewhat dark skin had become fair and delicate, making him appear much more handsome.

It is said that clothes make the man, just as the saddle makes the horse.

Dressed in an azure vestment robe, as if tailored for him, perfectly fitted, it accentuated a tall and slender stance.

A gentle and handsome face, a tall figure exuding an easy and confident air, his whole being radiated an inexplicable nobility.

Compared to his appearance and aura from three years ago, the change was as different as heaven and earth.

This included the effects of cultivating the Immortal Beauty Technique which refined and improved his appearance.

It was also a result of bodily development, living in comfort, as well as the awakening of past life memories and activating the system, which brought changes to his mindset and outlook.

The effect of the Immortal Beauty Technique alone wasn't this pronounced.

Looking at his reflection, Lu Changsheng chuckled softly and went to inform his wife that he was going to venture far and return to the secular world for a while.

This matter had long been discussed with his wife and also applied for through the Lu Family.

The Lu Family agreed readily, even asking Lu Changsheng if he needed someone to accompany him.

During his half-year stay at Qingzhu Valley, Lu Changsheng had perfectly completed all of the Lu Family's Talisman Making tasks, performing very well, hence the Lu Family valued him even more.

For this, Lu Changsheng expressed that he was just having a small gathering with a good friend and would also visit home to handle some affairs, and that he didn't need accompaniment.

Having someone with him was safer, but it was also restrictive and inconvenient.

The Lu Family didn't insist and after giving him a Transmission Talisman, told him to be careful on the way.

Having already packed his belongings in his Storage Bag, he placed it inside his robe and went to Qingzhu Villa, knocking on Li Feiyu's door.

"I thought something came up and you weren't going,"

Li Feiyu, holding his child, opened the door of the courtyard and said with a smile upon seeing Lu Changsheng.

His child had just turned three months old, a little girl.

"I was almost at the point of breaking through, so it ended up being delayed to now,"

Lu Changsheng explained.

"You've broken through to the Third Level of Energy Refinement!?"

Li Feiyu exclaimed with surprise.

During this time, Lu Changsheng had not stopped practicing his spells.

Techniques like the Flame Bullet Technique, Wind Control Skill, Object Manipulating Technique, Aura Concealment Technique, Spiritual Eye Technique, Sound Transmitting Technique, and such— he had mastered all the Primary Level spells.

Spells, like Talisman Making, once you get through the entry stage, everything that follows becomes much simpler.

Currently, Lu Changsheng was using the Aura Concealment Technique to slightly restrain his Spiritual Energy, so Li Feiyu hadn't noticed Lu Changsheng's recent breakthrough to the Third Level of Energy Refinement.

"Yes, so as soon as I made the breakthrough, I came over,"

Lu Changsheng nodded and added.

"Tsk, tsk, just breaking through to the Third Level of Energy Refinement, your cultivation speed might catch up with someone with a Middle Grade Spiritual Root soon,"

Li Feiyu couldn't help but shake his head in admiration.

He had been far ahead of Lu Changsheng during the First and Second Level of Qi Refinement.

But now, while he was still at the peak of the Second Level, Lu Changsheng had overtaken him by a step, breaking through to the Third Level sooner.

This made him feel quite moved and a touch envious.

"Hey, it's all thanks to external resources that I've reached this point. It's going to be hard moving from the Third to the Fourth Level of Energy Refinement,"

Lu Changsheng waved his hand and explained.

A family knows their own affairs.

If it wasn't for a bottle of Yellow Dragon Elixir each month and using all his Spirit Stones to buy spiritual vegetables, Spiritual Tea, and demon beast meat, how could he have possibly broken through so fast?

He would have needed at least another year and a half of cultivation.

Moreover, the nine levels of Qi Refinement, the first three levels are straightforward given some time, presenting no particular difficulty.

But breaking through from the Third Level to the Fourth is difficult.

It marks the transition from the Primary Stage to the Middle Stage of Qi Refinement, where bottlenecks exist.

And the lower the Spiritual Root, the harder it is to overcome these bottlenecks.

“I believe this won’t be a big problem for you.”

“Are we setting off now?”

Li Feiyu didn’t dwell on the topic and changed the subject.

“I’m ready to leave at any time, it’s up to you whether you still need to prepare anything,”

Lu Changsheng replied.

“I’ve been ready for a while now, let’s go,”

Li Feiyu said. He handed the child to a recently acquired concubine in the backyard, then set out from his home with Lu Changsheng.

Chapter 24: Heading to Ruyi Prefecture!\_1

Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu first rented two spirit steeds from Uncle Fu, along with a map.

Otherwise, how the two of them would go to Ruyi Prefecture was a question.

The spirit steeds were the same as the ones they rode when they first came to Qingzhu Mountain.

As for the map, it was a map of Jiang Country.

Jiang Country’s territory was vast, encompassing nine provinces.

Each province governed nine prefectures, each prefecture governed nine counties, and each county had many villages beneath it.

Places like Qingzhu Mountain, though not under the rule of Jiang Country, were still considered within its territory.

The Ruyi Prefecture that Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu were headed to was a major prefecture under the jurisdiction of Qing Province.

Lu Changsheng’s ancestral home was also in Ruyi Prefecture.

However, it was just a small mountain village under Qinghe County of Nanyu Prefecture within Ruyi Prefecture.

After looking over the rough route on the map, the two mounted their spirit steeds and set off.

“Before I realized it, three years had passed.”

After leaving Qingzhu Mountain, Li Feiyu thought about how he had gone from a worldly martial hero, one of the young masters, to a son-in-law in the cultivation world, and he felt quite emotional.

“Yeah, three years, I wonder how Hong Yi and Han Lin are doing.”

Lu Changsheng also felt somewhat emotional.

He remembered that three years ago, he awakened his memory during the Immortal Sects' examination and then became a son-in-law in the Lu Family.

Overall, Lu Changsheng was quite satisfied with his growth over these three years.

“Hong Yi, born into the Ruyi Marquis Mansion, already had the strength of the Third Level Energy Refinement back then, and he must have broken through to the Fourth Level Energy Refinement by now.”

“As for Han Lin and Zhao Qingqing, they are cultivating in the Qingyun Sect, and I estimate they are around the Third or Fourth Level Energy Refinement as well.”

“It's just Xiao Xiyue... With her Fourth Grade Spiritual Root, I have no idea how far she has cultivated in three years.”

Li Feiyu looked up at the azure sky and spoke out loud.

Back then, among the six of us, Hong Yi was exposed to cultivation early on because he was born into the Ruyi Marquis's Mansion, and he had the power of the Third Level Energy Refinement.

However, Hong Yi only possessed an Eighth Grade Spiritual Root, and even though he returned to the Marquis's Mansion and had access to resources, they were definitely limited, so his improvement in three years wouldn't be too significant.

Whereas Han Lin and Zhao Qingqing had Seventh and Sixth Grade Spiritual Roots, respectively.

Even if they were cultivating in a cultivation sect like Qingyun Sect, they wouldn't be expected to get too far ahead in such a short time.

Only Xiao Xiyue's Fourth Grade Spiritual Root was beyond their speculation.

After speaking, Li Feiyu thought of Lu Changsheng, who had now also broken through to the Third Level Energy Refinement.

That meant that among the six of them, he had the lowest cultivation level, with only the Second Level Energy Refinement, and his heart couldn't help but feel a touch of sadness.

"It should be about the same, the gap wouldn't be too big in just three years."

Lu Changsheng nodded and said.

He felt that Han Lin and Zhao Qingqing were probably at the Third Level Energy Refinement.

After all, the two of them were only Seventh and Sixth Grade Spiritual Roots.

If they had broken through to the Fourth Level Energy Refinement in three years, then the conditions of the Immortal Sects would be many times better than he had imagined.

Seeing Li Feiyu suddenly fall silent and look somewhat despondent after speaking, Lu Changsheng paused and guessed the reason.

Once you got to know Li Feiyu, he appeared quite amiable and casual.

But Lu Changsheng knew that the latter was actually quite proud at heart.

This was normal; in the past, as the young deputy head of the Crimson Whale Gang, Li Feiyu was a top-notch expert in the martial world even at a young age—calling him a youthful prodigy was by no means an overstatement.

But now, three years had passed, and among the six who had embarked on the path of cultivation together, his situation seemed to be the worst.

Moreover, he still owed the Lu Family for forty-eight children, a thought that was distressing.

"Feiyu, don't think too much about the matters concerning the Lu Family for now."

"As for the matter of having children, let's wait a few years. Once my Talisman Master skills improve further, I'll try to negotiate with the Family Head to get your obligation reduced."

Lu Changsheng spoke.

He was blessed with the system of 'multiple children bring fortune', so he wasn't concerned about fifty, a hundred, two hundred, or even a thousand children; he was willing to have them all.

But Li Feiyu did not have such a system, indeed fifty children seemed a bit too much.

Not only would it affect my cultivation, but once I leave the Lu Family, the child would no longer be mine, which is truly difficult to accept.

As a friend, a good brother, I'd naturally help out if it's within my power.

However, right now I'm just a First Grade Lower Grade Talisman Master, with limited authority.

I plan to wait another year or so until I can reveal myself as a First Grade Middle Grade Talisman Master, which would give me more say, and then try to help Li Feiyu with this matter.

"It's nothing, how could I trouble you with such a thing, besides..."

Li Feiyu fell silent for a moment and then shook his head.

During this time, Lu Changsheng had already helped him a lot.

Every time he came over, he would bring him gifts, and he felt embarrassed to keep troubling Lu Changsheng.

Besides, he felt that this matter would also be troublesome for Lu Changsheng.

But before he could finish talking, Lu Changsheng directly waved his hand and said, "We're so close, you're being a stranger by saying that."

"Besides, I also need your help with something."

"What is it?"

Li Feiyu, somewhat moved, nodded and asked.

"I'm going home to visit my family and it's impossible to bring them over here."

"So, I would like to trouble you to ask the Crimson Whale Gang to take care of my family in the future."

Lu Changsheng said.

He knew that he would eventually leave the Lu Family and couldn't always live under others' shelter, so naturally he couldn't bring his family to Qingzhu Mountain.

Not only is it inconvenient, but he also didn't want to do so.

As for taking care of his family, he was not in a position to do so.

But he also could not neglect them entirely.

So, he thought of Li Feiyu's Crimson Whale Gang, which had significant influence in the secular world, and decided to ask Li Feiyu's family to help take care of his own.

He didn't ask for much, just to ensure that his family would have a lifetime of carefree sustenance and wealth.

"This little matter is hardly troublesome; leave it to me,"

Li Feiyu said directly upon hearing this.

After all, he was the Young Leader of the Crimson Whale Gang.

Though he had been away from home for many years and likely lost the position of Young Leader, the Leader was still his father, and he was confident that this matter would not be a problem.

"Also, I have so many children that it's impossible for all of them to have a Spiritual Root."

"So I was thinking, for any child who cannot engage in cultivation, I'd like to trouble you to teach them martial arts."

Lu Changsheng continued.

Though it would be quite some time before the children could grow up and learn martial arts, since they were on the topic, he just said it outright and asked for any advice on this matter.

After all, Li Feiyu grew up practicing martial arts from a young age and was very clear about these things.

"Martial arts?"

"That's naturally not a problem, it's just that martial arts training is very hard. As long as you are willing, it's fine."

Li Feiyu replied, seemingly recalling something, and shook his head.

He could tell that Lu Changsheng was very indulgent with his children on a regular basis and didn't seem like someone who would allow his children to endure hardship.

"For such matters, I will follow their own choices when the time comes."

"Besides, what's a little hardship?"

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

He naturally didn't have any reservations about such things.

Although he would not force his children to do anything, he was also not willing to spoil them to the point of being unwilling to let them face hardships and grow up spoiled and pampered.

Moreover, this first group of children would be the foundation for building his family in the future.

He would naturally put in more effort to not let them go astray and to help them become successful.

And so, the two of them chatted idly while making their way.

At night, they took turns keeping watch, to avoid any accidents.

Chapter 25: Friends Reunited!\_1

Due to Lu Changsheng's breakthrough to the Third Level of Qi Refinement, they were delayed in setting out on their journey.

Thus, worried about missing their three-year appointment, the two traveled day and night without stop.

It took them only nineteen days to rush from Qingzhu Mountain to Ruyi County City.

The journey was very smooth; aside from encountering several fierce birds and beasts, they faced no real danger.

When they arrived at Ruyi County City, the sky had already darkened.

"Is this Ruyi County City?"

Lu Changsheng looked at the city before him with some surprise.

This Ruyi Prefecture was several times more prosperous and grand than he had imagined.

The entire city was majestic and immense, resembling a giant beast sprawled out.

The lights within the city were as bright as daylight, and the closely arranged residences, buildings, and shops were bustling with activity.

The streets were filled with bustling crowds, weaving through like shuttles, and from afar, one could see several towering structures that reached into the clouds.

“It seems that this world’s mundane realm is more prosperous than I had imagined.”

Lu Changsheng gazed at the bustling city before him, feeling a surge of emotion.

Before his memories had awakened, he was just the son of an ordinary farmer, and the furthest place he had been to was Qinghe County.

Not to mention Ruyi Prefecture, he had never even been to Nanyu Prefecture, which was above Qinghe County.

This also made him quite unfamiliar with these big mundane cities.

Now looking at Ruyi County gave him a feeling similar to a country person arriving in the grand Shanghai.

After entering the city, the two asked for directions and made their way to Ruyi Tower.

Ruyi Tower, as expected as Ruyi Prefecture’s largest restaurant, was more than ten zhang high.

A jade Ruyi hung in front of the building, with the three characters “Ruyi Tower” engraved on it, very splendid.

Red lanterns adorned each corner, and the walls showcased murals of illuminated landscapes and beautiful women.

Li Feiyu stepped forward and stated they were looking for Hong Yi.

The doorman had already been instructed, and upon hearing this, immediately went in to notify.

Soon, a tall figure clad in a vestment robe and opulent attire emerged from Ruyi Tower.

“Brother Li, Brother Lu!”

Hong Yi greeted the two warmly upon seeing them.

But when he saw Lu Changsheng, he couldn't help but take a few extra glances, as if he could hardly recognize him.

Now, Lu Changsheng, both in appearance and temperament, had quite a noticeable change from three years ago.

"Brother Hong, you look as though you don't recognize me?"

Seeing the other's reaction, Lu Changsheng also joked.

"If Brother Li weren't here, with such a change in Brother Lu, I really would have hesitated to recognize you right away."

Hong Yi shook his head, his face filled with a smiling sense of awe as he spoke.

He was much more enthusiastic and generous than he was three years ago.

"Every time I meet him after a few months, I feel he has changed too much, let alone the long separation you've had."

Li Feiyu chimed in.

He would meet with Lu Changsheng every few months to catch up on old times.

He didn't feel much at the moment, but looking back, he always felt that Lu Changsheng had some indescribable transformation.

"Indeed, Brother Lu, what's going on with this change? It's massive. Brother Li, on the other hand, hasn't changed much."

Hong Yi nodded and continued, "This is not the place for idle chat. I've already reserved rooms and a private booth at Ruyi Tower. Brother Li, Brother Lu, you've been traveling all the way here; let's go upstairs to welcome you properly and wash away the dust of the journey."

"Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin haven't arrived yet, but they should be here within the next couple of days."

Through the conversation, Hong Yi led the two into Ruyi Tower.

Inside, it was resplendent with gold and jade, and the eaves and rafters were intricately carved. In the center stood a spiral staircase.

The three ascended the stairs and arrived at an elegant private booth on the ninth floor. Through the windows, they could directly enjoy the beautiful night view outside.

“Brother Li, Brother Lu, it’s been three years since we’ve seen each other. How have you been in the Lu Family of Qingzhu Mountain?”

After taking their seats, Hong Yi enthusiastically served the two tea and asked.

“It’s been all right,”

Li Feiyu responded succinctly.

He felt there wasn’t much to talk about his own situation.

“I’ve been managing,”

Lu Changsheng replied concisely as well.

“If Brother Li says so, I naturally believe it, but with you, Brother Lu, I don’t buy it.”

“Over the past few years, I, Hong Yi, have frequently interacted with people, and I consider myself to have some discerning ability. Speaking of which, Brother Lu, that garment you’re wearing, if I’m not mistaken, it’s a vestment robe, right?”

“Moreover, if I had not previously met and gotten to know Brother Lu, I would have certainly mistaken you for a noble scion from a cultivation family with your appearance and temperament.”

“So, Brother Lu, you’re not being truthful, not treating me as a friend, huh?”

Hong Yi said with a smile, adopting a somewhat exaggerated posture of being upset.

Even though the three of them hadn’t been particularly close before, under Hong Yi’s words, they seemed to become much closer.

“I truly haven’t hidden anything from Brother Hong.”

“If anything, it’s that I discovered my talent for talisman making in the Lu Family and have now become a talisman master, so my living conditions are quite decent.”

Lu Changsheng shook his head and spoke thus.

This wasn’t him trying to show off.

Rather, there was no need to hide such matters.

Coming to this meeting, he did have some objectives in mind.

He wanted to connect with Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin, the three disciples from the Immortal Sects, and maintain their friendship.

But to maintain a relationship, one naturally needs to have capital.

Otherwise, what reason would the son-in-law of a cultivation family have to socialize with disciples of the Immortal Sects?

Currently, being a First Grade Talisman Master was the capital he had on the table.

“Sss, who would have thought Brother Lu had such talent!”

“To think that in just three short years, you’ve become a talisman master. I’d like to offer a toast to Brother Lu with tea in place of wine!”

Startled by these words, Hong Yi gasped, his demeanor warming considerably as he raised his cup of tea.

“Brother Hong is too kind. I’m just an elementary talisman master after all, nowhere close to Brother Hong’s free and easy manner.”

Lu Changsheng also lifted his tea in response.

The lord of Ruyi County City was none other than the Marquis of Ruyi.

And that was Hong Yi’s father.

Within secular society, his status was certainly out of the ordinary.

But seeing how warm and polite the latter was now, a stark contrast to three years ago, it seemed he had endured quite a few setbacks over the years.

“I’m merely an extraneous son, my status is hardly worth mentioning, certainly nothing compared to Brother Lu.”

“Besides, Brother Lu has become an elementary talisman master in such a short time, which shows extraordinary talent, a true rare gem among men. It’s very possible that you could become a Second Grade Talisman Master in the future.”

Hong Yi shook his head in admiration, then spoke with a sincere expression on his face.

“You flatter me, Brother Hong.”

Hong Yi’s words indeed made Lu Changsheng feel quite comfortable.

He remembered how, three years ago, there was an arrogant air about Hong Yi.

Although he didn't belittle him and Han Lin with cold ridicule or do anything hostile, his actions and mannerisms had a certain air of superiority, a disdain for them.

Thus, the stark change in his attitude was surprisingly pleasing to Lu Changsheng.

Of course, Lu Changsheng wasn't so proud as to leverage his status and engage in empty pleasantries with Hong Yi because of his changed attitude.

With Hong Yi driving the conversation, the three of them gradually became more familiar and engaged in more intimate discussions.

It was as though they were old friends reuniting after many years.

In this way, under Hong Yi's enthusiastic hospitality, Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu stayed at the Ruyi Tower for three days.

Three days later, Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin arrived in Ruyi.

Receiving the news, Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu came downstairs with Hong Yi to welcome them.

No sooner had they descended than they saw Xiao Xiyue and her companions.

"Brother Feiyu, Young Master Hou, are you Lu Changsheng?"

Xiao Xiyue, dressed in a long white dress as pristine as snow, with an extraordinarily beautiful oval face, greeted Lu Changsheng and the others with a bright smile as she approached.

Her frank disposition and easy grace shone through her smile, brightening up everyone around her.

Zhao Qingqing gave a slight nod in acknowledgment.

Her hair was simply done up, and she wore a long, verdant dress. While her appearance couldn't be called stunning, it was delicate and pretty.

Especially standing next to the exquisitely beautiful Xiao Xiyue, she seemed overshadowed, merely a green leaf serving as a foil.

But she had fair skin and a tall, outstanding figure, with her slender legs and waist particularly eye-catching.

"Brother Changsheng, Brother Feiyu, Young Master Hou,"

Han Lin also greeted everyone.

Compared to the two women, he appeared quite ordinary with no particular presence.

Dressed in a grayish-brown robe with somewhat dark skin and unremarkable features, he was neither tall nor short, neither fat nor thin.