

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

Chapter 26: Reunion After 10 Years!\_1

Ruyi Tower, Condensing Immortal Pavilion.

Lu Changsheng, Li Feiyu, Hong Yi, Han Lin, Xiao Xi Yue, and Zhao Qingqing, the six of them reunited after three years.

Over the span of three years, everyone had stepped from the secular world onto the path of cultivation, all experiencing significant changes.

“Miss Xiao, in the cultivation world, strength reigns supreme, so you naturally deserve to take the seat of honor,”

Hong Yi said to Xiao Xi Yue with enthusiasm.

This enthusiasm was not as fervent as it had been three years ago, carrying a hint of pursuit.

It was now like the hearty warmth between friends.

Because Hong Yi knew very well that now, he simply did not match up to Xiao Xi Yue.

He hadn't won her over three years ago, and to now reveal a longing pursuit was nothing but self-humiliation; he wouldn't even be able to maintain a friendship.

“If Marquis says so, then I won't be polite,”

After a slight refusal, Xiao Xi Yue no longer declined politely.

Three years ago, her personality was candid and lively, and after three years, she hadn't changed much in that regard, becoming even more bright and generous.

“Changsheng Bro, you've changed so much, I almost didn't recognize you!”

“Hearing from the Marquis, you and Brother Li are serving as live-in sons-in-law in a cultivation family. Seems like life's been good, huh?”

At this moment, Han Lin said to Lu Changsheng in a casual way.

Back then, among the six of them, Xiao Xi Yue was the esteemed lady with a keen interest in the Jianghu life, often chatting with Li Feiyu about it, hence their relatively good rapport.

As for Han Lin and Lu Changsheng, they had similar backgrounds and personalities, resulting in a good friendship.

“It’s just that I’ve practiced cultivation, so some changes are normal,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile, appearing quite magnanimous.

Although his own change was significant, it was pretty much related to the Immortal Beauty Technique.

But as described by the Immortal Beauty Technique, in the end, it was all because of his own good foundation; there was nothing to feel embarrassed about.

“This isn’t just a little change; your transformation is even bigger than mine,”

“They say girls become unrecognizable after their eighteenth year, could it be there’s something like boys transforming after twenty too?”

Xiao Xi Yue chided playfully.

Three years ago, she was already beautiful as a flower under the moon, and now, after another three years, she had fully blossomed.

Indeed, her grace outshone the flowers in their beauty, her features were more vibrant than spring itself, and every frown and smile bewitching the heart and soul.

This made Lu Changsheng, despite having nine wives and concubines, take a few more glances at her.

After all, not only was Xiao Xi Yue exceptionally beautiful, but she also possessed a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root.

If she could bear him a few children, there was not only a high probability of birthing offspring with Spiritual Roots but also a chance of producing children with Middle Grade Spiritual Roots.

However, the idea of a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root Immortal Sect disciple bearing children for him was just unrealistic.

Probably, he could only accomplish that in his dreams for a long while.

“If there is such a thing as a girl blossoming at eighteen, then surely there is also a lad transforming at twenty, and I am definitely an example,”

Lu Changsheng replied with a smile, his gaze clear and holding neither subservience nor arrogance.

With the confidence given by the system, Lu Changsheng could now face anyone with equanimity and treat everyone equally.

You have talent? I have a system!

You have a background? I have a system!

You have strength? I have a system!

So, we are all more or less the same.

You are graced with talent and background, promising a limitless future.

I am accompanied by a system, and as long as I work hard, I am sure to achieve something great in the future too!

Soon after, in this familiar atmosphere, everyone quickly started to make small talk.

However, it was mainly Hong Yi and Xiao Xi Yue starting conversations and looking for topics.

Lu Changsheng and Han Lin were the types to respond when asked, chiming in when the topic interested them.

Li Feiyu and Zhao Qingqing, on the other hand, spoke relatively little, only speaking up when asked.

In the process of this conversation, everyone mentioned their recent situations, allowing Lu Changsheng to gain some understanding of everyone's circumstances.

Though Hong Yi was the son of a Marquis from the Ruyi Prefecture, with a Third Level Energy Refinement cultivation three years ago, he hadn't had access to many cultivation resources over the years and had to earn them through his own efforts, so he was still at the peak of the Third Level Energy Refinement without having made a breakthrough.

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This also made Lu Changsheng realize that the bottleneck from the Third Level Energy Refinement to the Fourth Level was much more difficult than he had imagined.

Due to Xiao Xiyue's Fourth Grade Spiritual Root, upon entry into the Qingyun Sect she was immediately favored by an elder and became an Inner Sect Disciple, and is now at the Fourth Level Energy Refinement Cultivation Level.

Han Lin and Zhao Qingqing, although also disciples of Qingyun Sect, had ordinary Spiritual Roots and were only Outer Sect Disciples, a world apart from Xiao Xiyue.

Inner Sect Disciples could focus solely on cultivation, but Outer Sect Disciples had to spend time learning a skill in addition to their cultivation.

Because the Sect advocated for complementary advantages and mutual assistance, the internal division of labor was precise.

Some excelled in combat, others in formation, alchemy, artifact refining, talisman making, cultivating spiritual fields, growing spiritual medicine...

Disciples with good talent naturally focused on cultivation.

Those with average talent would see if they had a knack for something else.

Coming from a family of blacksmiths, Han Lin chose Artifact Refining as his skill.

His talent in that area was not bad either, and he was currently apprenticing under an Artifact Refiner.

As for his Cultivation Level, he was at the peak of the Second Level Energy Refinement.

Zhao Qingqing chose to apprentice as a Pharmacist for her skill.

Her Cultivation Level was a bit higher than Han Lin's, having already broken through to the Third Level Energy Refinement.

After hearing everyone's recent updates, Lu Changsheng knew that the gap between the Immortal Sect disciples and himself was not as big as he had imagined.

However, he knew this was just the beginning.

Over time, the gap between them would gradually widen.

"Changsheng, you truly deserved to be the first to awake at the 'Test of Conscience' during the fourth round of the Qingyun Sect's examination," one said.

"Indeed, that saying is true, 'True gold shines no matter where it is,'" another added.

After everyone talked about their own situations and heard that Lu Changsheng had become an Elementary Talisman Master and obtained a Third Level Energy Refinement Cultivation Level from being a son-in-law, they were all extremely astonished.

Han Lin even voiced his amazement, revealing a piece of information.

“Hmm? So Lu, you were actually the first in the ‘Test of Conscience’ during the fourth round of the Immortal Sect exams?” said Hong Yi, along with other people, all turning with surprised glances.

“That’s right, after I became an apprentice Artifact Refiner, I happened to meet a senior brother from the exams and inquired about why Changsheng wasn’t selected.”

“This senior brother also remembered Changsheng and said that if it weren’t for his Ninth Grade Spiritual Root and older age, he definitely could have entered Qingyun Sect based on his performance at the Test of Conscience,” said Han Lin with a touch of regret.

“It’s a bit of a pity.”

Li Feiyu also felt sorry for Lu Changsheng.

The others nodded slightly, feeling it was quite regrettable.

Even if Lu Changsheng had achieved so much in three years, astonishing everyone, they still felt it wasn’t as good as entering Qingyun Sect and becoming a disciple of the Immortal Sects.

“There’s nothing to regret, I think things are pretty good as they are,” replied Lu Changsheng upon hearing this news, without any apparent regret or pity.

If he had been accepted into Qingyun Sect, he would certainly spend several years accumulating before he would consider getting married and starting a family.

In such a case, a lot of time and years would have slipped by, and it wouldn’t necessarily be much better than his current situation.

“Exactly, with Brother Lu’s talent and intelligence, he can shine anywhere,” said Hong Yi immediately, trying to smooth things over as they resumed eating, drinking, and chatting.

The protagonist of this gathering was originally supposed to be Xiao Xiyue.

But Lu Changsheng, who had the worst conditions three years ago, seemed to take on a somewhat leading role in this gathering.

Thus, the six of them spent a day together; then, under the leadership of Hong Yi, they spent a day exploring Ruyi Prefecture, made a ten-year pledge, and then bid each other farewell.

Xiao Xiyue, Zhao Qingqing, and Han Lin, aside from attending the gathering, like Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu, were also returning home to visit their families.

However, Lu Changsheng was not in a rush to return.

He asked Li Feiyu to go back first, and he would visit him at the Crimson Whale Gang later.

This trip out, he wanted to find a place to sell the talismans he carried and to purchase materials for upper-grade and supreme talismans.

He asked Hong Yi where nearby he could find a Cultivation Marketplace for trading.

Hong Yi told him that there were basically no Cultivation Marketplaces in the secular world, just some places where Loose Cultivators gathered.

These Loose Cultivator gathering spots also held trade meets from time to time, and he offered to see if he could find out about any taking place in the next few days and get back to him.

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Chapter 27: Bullhead Mountain!\_1

Several days later.

Ruyi Tower.

“Brother Lu, I’ve gathered some information. About three hundred miles away from Ruyi Prefecture, at Bullhead Mountain, there is a gathering place for loose cultivators holding a transaction fair. It’s likely to continue for another five or six days.”

“If you wish to participate, take this communication talisman with you. Once you arrive at Bullhead Mountain, use it, and someone will open the formation to guide you in.”

Hong Yi knocked on the door and said to Lu Changsheng.

As he spoke, he took out a brownish-yellow talisman.

“Thank you, Brother Hong. This must have cost you quite a bit. These talismans are my own creation, and they will serve as a token of my appreciation.”

Lu Changsheng handed Hong Yi three basic, lower-grade first-grade talismans as he spoke.

This communication talisman belonged to the category of basic talismans and wasn’t very valuable.

However, since the other party had helped him gather information and acquire this, it must have taken some effort.

In matters of reciprocal favors, he naturally wouldn't let others come off worse.

Moreover, Hong Yi held a significant position in the secular world, and he was keen to maintain this connection.

Who knows, perhaps in the future when his own children settled in the secular world, he might need to trouble Hong Yi.

Hong Yi's eyes heated up at the sight of Lu Changsheng's three talismans.

But he waved his hands and said, "Brother Lu is too polite. This didn't cost much, please don't bother."

"Brother Hong, if you're so polite, I'll feel embarrassed asking for your help in the future."

Lu Changsheng spoke thus, placing the talismans into Hong Yi's hands.

"If that's the case, then I won't refuse disrespectfully!"

Seeing this, Hong Yi didn't decline and accepted the talismans.

He then clasped his hands and said, "Brother Lu, I, Hong Yi, still have some contacts here in Ruyi Prefecture. Should you need anything in the future, just give the word."

Now that Lu Changsheng had become a talisman master and was so generous, Hong Yi was, of course, very willing to develop a good relationship with Lu Changsheng.

"Sure, if there's anything in the future, I won't be shy."

Lu Changsheng returned the gesture with a clasped-hand salute.

"By the way, Brother Lu, you should be cautious when attending such meetings."

"Places like these where loose cultivators gather are a mix of good and bad characters and lacking a great cultivator to keep order, robber cultivators often target solo practitioners."

"If Brother Lu is going to sell talismans, and if there aren't many, I could represent the Ruyi Marquis Mansion and transact with Brother Lu to take them all."

Seeing that Lu Changsheng had easily provided three talismans, Hong Yi speculated that Lu Changsheng must have a considerable number of talismans on him and was possibly going to sell them. He voiced this out loud.

Upper-class individuals in the secular world mostly know about the routes to cultivation and will cultivate themselves.

The Ruyi Marquis Mansion was such a place, with more than one cultivator within.

But they were all energy refinement cultivators, only slightly better than the average loose cultivator.

For talismans, items that are always in demand, there naturally exists a need.

However, he was still able to purchase low-level talismans when he wanted to.

Buying from Lu Changsheng was not about seeking a bargain.

Instead, it was about deepening their relationship and exchange through such transactions.

Lu Changsheng was currently a lower-grade first-grade talisman master.

Looking to the future, not to mention becoming a second-grade talisman master, becoming a superior-grade first-grade talisman master was still a great possibility.

Once capable of creating superior-grade first-grade talismans, things would be different.

Getting to know a superior-grade first-grade talisman master and having a stable channel for talismans would also aid in his position at the Ruyi Marquis Mansion.

If in the future they became close, and Lu Changsheng was willing to supply him with a large quantity of talismans below market price, he would make a significant profit.

Perhaps he might even contest for the position of the heir of the Ruyi Marquis Mansion.

“Thank you for your concern, Brother Hong. I’ll be careful.”

“I don’t have many talismans, just enough for my own protection. But if Brother Hong needs them, I could also sell you some at a low price.”

Lu Changsheng smiled and took out ten basic, lower-grade first-grade talismans.

When he revealed himself as a first-grade talisman master in the Lu Family, he had saved up nearly five hundred talismans.



And in the past six months, with the Lu Family providing him materials every month, he had saved another five hundred or so.

That is to say, he now had roughly a thousand talismans on him.

An astonishingly large number.

Among these talismans, about half were lower grade and the other half middle grade.

If converted into spirit stones, they would be worth two to three thousand spirit stones.

But one should never flaunt their wealth, so naturally, he wouldn't reveal such things.

If Hong Yi wanted them, he was willing to sell some at a low price.

Because Lu Changsheng knew very well that at this kind of loose cultivator trading fair, it was simply impossible to sell nearly a thousand talismans.

He also wouldn't dare to do so.

"How could I impose like that, just charge the market price," Hong Yi said.

He wouldn't try to take advantage of a small benefit at the outset.

"Hong Brother, take a look and see if these talismans are of any use to you."

Lu Changsheng handed over the talismans to Hong Yi.

"I didn't expect Brother Lu to be able to draw Rejuvenation Insignias already! It seems Brother Lu will soon be a Middle Grade Talisman Master!"

Hong Yi exclaimed in surprise upon seeing one of the talismans.

Although he didn't know how to make talismans, he was clear on their prices.

For First Grade low-quality talismans, depending on the difficulty, the price was between one and two spirit stones.

And a Rejuvenation Insignia was a low-quality talisman worth two spirit stones, with even higher difficulty to draw.

"I've barely managed to draw a few," Lu Changsheng said, waving his hand dismissively.

Initially considering the prospect of making money, most of the First Grade low-quality talismans he had were of higher difficulty.

“I will take all these talismans, but I don’t have so many spirit stones on me right now. I need to go back and get some from my father before I can make the trade with Brother Lu,” Hong Yi said, somewhat embarrassed.

Although he was the son of the Ruyi Marquis, he didn’t have many spirit stones either.

Also, with the need for cultivation, it was hard to save up any spirit stones.

“There’s no rush. Hong Brother, take these talismans first. I plan to ride to Bullhead Mountain to attend the trading fair and drop by my home on the way,” Lu Changsheng said generously.

“I’ll just keep my steed temporarily with Hong Brother, as I’ll have to come back here anyway.”

Lu Changsheng was not afraid that Hong Yi would hold a grudge over these talismans.

If he did, he would regard it as using these talismans to see someone’s true nature.

“Then I must thank you, Brother Lu. Rest assured, I will take good care of the steed,” Hong Yi said, clasping his hands in appreciation.

Without spending any money and taking these talismans back, it would be easier for his father to believe that he had a close relationship with Lu Changsheng, the talisman master.

“Thank you for the trouble, Hong Brother,” Lu Changsheng said with a slight bow, then obtained a horse and rode toward Bullhead Mountain in Nanyu Prefecture.

He didn’t have a beast storage bag, and he wasn’t sure if he could bring his steed into Bullhead Mountain.

To avoid these troubles, he simply decided to ride a horse there; if he lost it, he wouldn’t be heartbroken.

Having ridden his steed for so long and now being a cultivator, riding a horse presented no difficulty to him.

The next day, the air was slightly cool.

Lu Changsheng rode his horse from Ruyi County City to Bullhead Mountain.

First, he found a farmhouse at the foot of the mountain and left the horse there.

Then he went up the mountain alone, arrived at an uninhabited area, and put on a human skin mask he had purchased in advance from his storage bag.

Suddenly, his handsome face transformed into the appearance of a rather dull, yellow-skinned young man.

He then pulled out a large black cloak and draped it over himself.

With the hood drawn up, his entire frame and even his facial features were concealed, making it impossible to discern his appearance.

After completing these preparations, Lu Changsheng continued up the mountain to the north side of Bullhead Mountain, where there was a slope.

According to the villagers, this slope was shrouded in white mist all year round, but Lu Changsheng, using the Spiritual Eye Technique, saw the faint fluctuation of spiritual energy and knew at a glance that it was a formation.

“It must be here,” Lu Changsheng said to himself as he looked at the mist ahead, confirming that this was indeed his destination.

He took out a Communication Talisman given to him by Hong Yi and activated it with spiritual power.

Immediately, the talisman flew out of his hand, dashed into the fog on the small slope, and disappeared.

Lu Changsheng patiently waited for the time it takes to drink a cup of tea. Suddenly, the mist in front of him began to roll and parted, revealing a very narrow forest trail that seemed to have no end in sight.

After scrutinizing the path for a moment, Lu Changsheng stepped forward and walked into it.

Chapter 28: Loose Cultivator Gathering!\_1

Lu Changsheng walked onto the narrow path.

Up ahead, it seemed endless, as if there was no end in sight.

But after walking about a hundred meters, it was as if he had passed through a layer of lake surface, and the scenery before his eyes suddenly changed.

It transformed into a valley surrounded by mountains on all sides, lush with greenery and blooming with flowers of various colors.

Only behind him, where he had just entered, was there a path shrouded in mist.

The valley wasn't large, covering an area of thirty to forty acres.

Around the valley stood buildings and pavilions with ancient charm, resembling a secluded paradise.

In the central area of the valley, at this moment, many people were neatly and orderly setting up street stalls, just like mundane small vendors, surrounded by a bustling crowd.

The scene before him made Lu Changsheng vaguely remember the market days in the countryside of his previous life, the open-air farmers' markets.

If he didn't know that this was a gathering place for loose cultivators, and that these were all cultivators, he might have believed it was just a mundane market gathering.

"There must be a spirit vein beneath this valley."

"However, it must be an ungraded spirit vein; its spiritual energy is much weaker than that of Qingzhu Villa."

Lu Changsheng thought to himself as he headed toward the central area where the stalls were set up.

Here, the cultivators' attires varied widely.

There were scholars, monks, Taoists, and swordsmen...

Some wore longswords and great sabers at their waists, carried giant gourds on their backs, or were accompanied by their spiritual beasts.

Of course, there were also many like Lu Changsheng, who were enveloped in cloaks from head to toe.

"High-quality healing pills, martial elixirs, all at affordable prices!"

"Hundred-year-old ginseng, hundred-year-old polygonum multiflorum, all for just one spirit stone each!"

"A strip of flood dragon tendon to the highest bidder!"

"'Nine Revolutions Golden Body Art', a legacy cultivation technique from a Divinity Transformation true master, just for ten spirit stones!"

"Exotic stones found in ancient secret realms, containing curious treasures inside, don't miss out as you pass by!"

The stall areas were bustling with people coming and going, and many were calling out to sell their wares, making it very lively.

Lu Changsheng shook his head as he saw some stalls even had pots, pans, meats, fishes, fruits, vegetables and other miscellaneous items.

It seemed that this gathering of loose cultivators was a bit more rustic than he had imagined.

Or maybe, this was the real bottom-layer lifestyle of the cultivation world.

Just like ordinary people struggling at the lower echelons of mundane life.

The only difference was that one was in the mundane world, the other in the cultivation world.

Even if it's as poor as Qingzhu's Lu Family, they still have a Foundation Establishment Ancestor presiding and possess their own Spiritual Vein Blessed Land.

After wandering around for a while, Lu Changsheng had a clear idea of the trading fair.

The items for sale at the stalls were diverse, but mostly they were cheap, low-end goods or fakes.

Only a small part were items useful for cultivators.

In the surrounding houses and pavilions, there were a few shops as well.

The items they sold were relatively more formal and high-end.

Given the size of this loose cultivators' spot, it would be impossible for him to sell off the nearly thousand talismans he carried.

If he dared to do so, he would likely find it hard to leave Bullhead Mountain.

Selling off a part shouldn't be a problem, though.

Immediately, Lu Changsheng followed the example of others and found an empty spot. He took out a thick stack of talismans from his storage bag and laid them out in front of him.

On the wooden board he erected next to him, he wrote that basic first-grade talismans cost 1~2 spirit stones each, and buying five would get one free.

Observing the scene earlier, Lu Changsheng didn't see many selling middle-grade first-grade talismans.

So after thinking it over, he chose not to take out the middle-grade first-grade talismans, as it would be too conspicuous.

As for the pricing, items like magic artifacts, elixir medicines, and talismans were always in solid demand and their prices generally remained stable regardless of location.

To make a quick sale, Lu Changsheng decided to go for the buy-five-get-one-free deal.

“Fellow Daoist, for this buy-five-get-one-free deal, can the free one be chosen at will?”

It wasn't long before people began to inspect the talismans and one of them asked.

“If you buy five of the ones costing two spirit stones each, you can choose any you like, otherwise, you can only choose from the ones here that cost one spirit stone.”

Lu Changsheng replied, his voice low and hoarse from beneath the black robe.

“Alright.”

Immediately, the cultivator took six talismans valued at two spirit stones each and handed ten spirit stones to Lu Changsheng.

Following the first deal, people gradually came forward to purchase talismans.

Talismans were relatively popular among cultivators, as almost everyone would carry a few for self-defense.

With the buy-five-get-one-free offer, and considering that even a layman could tell by the quality of the lines drawn on Lu Changsheng's talismans that they were of good quality, they sold well.

In just over an hour, the nearly hundred talismans that Lu Changsheng had taken out were all sold.

Total earnings: one hundred and thirty-three spirit stones.

“Having a craft really does make money,” Lu Changsheng mused with great satisfaction over his first pot of gold.

The cost of producing one hundred talismans was around twenty-two spirit stones.

But now he had sold them for six times the price.

If he had been selling first-grade middle-grade talismans, with each priced between three to five spirit stones, his profit margin could have doubled.

After all, with ordinary talisman-making materials, Lu Changsheng's success rate for making first-grade middle-grade talismans was one hundred percent!

This was also the confidence that allowed Lu Changsheng to leave the Lu Family and stand on his own two feet in this world.

After selling these talismans, Lu Changsheng chose not to continue selling more.

Because other sellers would only put out about ten or so talismans, maybe a few dozen at most; his nearly one hundred was already quite outrageous.

If he sold more, he might very likely draw unwanted attention, so it was better to be cautious.

Subsequently, Lu Changsheng, with his still-warm spirit stones, began to spend.

In one of the shops, Lu Changsheng saw advanced talisman paper and advanced spirit ink for sale.

However, their quality was quite ordinary, some even poor.

Talisman materials were divided into ordinary, advanced, and supreme.

But even within these, there were differences in quality based on the raw materials and the manufacturing process.

The supplies in this shop were not very good.

But with few other options, Lu Changsheng inquired about the prices.

Talisman paper was priced at five spirit stones for a stack of ten, and spirit ink at five spirit stones for a box.

This was five times the price of ordinary talisman paper and ink.

The price was normal.

Using such advanced materials to make first-grade middle-grade talismans wouldn't leave much room for profit.

But for Lu Changsheng, who could produce first-grade superior talismans, it was definitely profitable.

Immediately, after some bargaining, Lu Changsheng spent sixty-six spirit stones to buy all twelve stacks of the shop's advanced talisman paper and three boxes of spirit ink.

He continued browsing but didn't see any supreme-grade talisman paper or supreme-grade spirit ink for sale.

This was to be expected.

Materials for making supreme talismans were a bit too high-end for gatherings of loose cultivators like this.

While meandering, Lu Changsheng noticed a stall selling books on cultivation.

Various records of cultivation, travelogues, and personal notes seemed very interesting to him, and he spent one spirit stone for ten books.

Afterward, he came across a stall selling Five Elements spiritual materials.

After visiting several stalls and shops, Lu Changsheng purchased all the Five Elements spiritual materials he needed for cultivating the Immortal Beauty Technique.

These materials were all first-grade middle-grade spiritual materials, not too expensive nor too cheap, totaling fifty-nine spirit stones.

Having almost spent all his newly earned spirit stones, Lu Changsheng did not leave yet.

He continued to look around, hoping to find a better quality talisman brush for sale.

He was currently using the gold-tipped talisman brush provided by the Lu Family,

Considered supreme amongst ordinary talisman brushes but not yet a magic artifact.

Although it could be used to draw first-grade superior talismans, it was ultimately lacking.

After looking around and finding no suitable talisman brush, Lu Changsheng could only give up.

Reminded that he needed to visit the Crimson Whale Gang to find Li Feiyu and ask the gang to look after his family, he ought to bring something with him as a courtesy.

So, Lu Changsheng bought several bottles of ordinary elixir medicines from another stall.

These ordinary elixir medicines were very cheap, made by alchemy apprentices and not graded.

The price was similar to that of basic talismans, with two bottles for one spirit stone.

Lu Changsheng spent two spirit stones on five bottles, feeling that was enough, and didn't linger any longer.



He reached the narrow path he had come in on and left the valley directly.

Once out of the valley and seeing that no one was around, he finally stowed the things he was carrying into his storage bag.

Then, with caution always in mind, he took out a Featherweight Talisman from the storage bag and used it on himself.

With a light tap of his toes, his body became as agile as a swallow, and he swiftly descended the mountain.

However.

Just as Lu Changsheng had left a short while ago, three figures emerged from the valley.

“The talismans this kid sold were all of extremely high quality, clearly the work of an advanced talisman master,” one of them remarked.

“But this kid is only at the third level of Qi Refinement and still so cautious trading in this kind of place. He must be a loose cultivator who’s stumbled upon a fortune, and he’s bound to have more good stuff on him!” the second one said, eyes gleaming with greed.

The three cast covetous looks in the direction Lu Changsheng had gone, utilized their Wind Control Skill, and chased rapidly.

Chapter 29: The First Battle, The Power of Talisman Treasure!\_1

“Under the enhancement of the Featherweight Talisman, Lu Changsheng moved as light as a swallow and with the stride of a vigorous walker.

Just as he reached halfway up the mountain, he suddenly heard noises from behind.

Turning his head to look back.

He immediately saw three figures wearing conical hats, moving as swiftly as the wind, rapidly descending from the mountain.

In that instant, Lu Changsheng’s heart gave a fierce pound and his face darkened.

Had he been targeted?!

This was Lu Changsheng’s first thought.

Otherwise, how could it be such a coincidence?

When he had ascended the mountain, he hadn't encountered a single person.

And now, as soon as he descended, three people were immediately coming down too, all in such a hurry.

Moreover.

The faces of the three figures were obscured by their conical hats.

But Lu Changsheng caught a glimpse of a robust figure wearing a yellow robe, vaguely recalling him.

It seemed like this person had purchased talismans from him before.

At this moment, Lu Changsheng was at least 60 to 70 percent certain these three were coming for him.

Damn it, he had been so careful and restrained, revealing only a few talismans for sale, and yet he had still been marked.

A faint gloom appeared on Lu Changsheng's face.

Without further thought, he immediately took out a middle-grade, first-grade Windwalking Talisman and activated it with spiritual power.

Suddenly, a cyclone of dark green wind swirled around his body, giving him wind at his heels and a tremendous burst of speed.

He hurtled forward like a gust of wind, his cloak fluttering loudly and his hood blown off, causing even his face to sting a bit.

"A Windwalking Talisman?"

"This kid actually has middle-grade talismans!"

"To be able to take out so many talismans for sale, he's indeed a fat sheep!"

The three chasing after Lu Changsheng, upon seeing this, had their eyes brighten and also picked up their speed.

In their eyes, Lu Changsheng was now a fat sheep ready for slaughtering!

"Swish, swish, swish!"

After a swift dash by Lu Changsheng, seeing that the three pursuers were not only not thrown off but were instead getting closer, his expression turned ugly.

At this moment, there was no need to think to know that these three were after him, intent on killing and robbing.

Moreover, even under the enhancement of a Featherweight Talisman and a Windwalking Talisman, he still couldn't shake off the three men.

That indicated their cultivation levels were much higher than his.

At least Sixth Level Energy Refinement, or even Seventh Level.

"Since I can't escape, then I'll have to fight!"

Knowing that running was no longer an option and would only waste his strength, a fierce and ruthless look appeared in Lu Changsheng's eyes.

Immediately, his arm, concealed under the black cloak, drew out a handful of talismans from his storage bag, numbering ten to twenty sheets.

At the same time, he gripped the 'Golden Light Brick' talisman treasure in his hand, all the while sprinting and constantly looking back at the three who were rapidly closing in on him.

"Fellow Daoist, please halt."

"Fellow Daoist, why rush so? I merely seek to get to know you better, to make a friend."

"Indeed, we just want to be friends with you."

The three relentlessly pursued him, closing the distance, shouting as they chased.

"Wanting to be friends, are you? Making friends is what I love most."

Hearing these words, Lu Changsheng stopped in his tracks, his expression indifferent as he watched the three men drawing nearer.

As the three entered the range for a spell attack in an instant, Lu Changsheng activated all the talismans in his hand at once.

Instantly, the talismans burst into light.

Some talismans, under Lu Changsheng's control of spiritual power, turned into faint golden glows, water screens, and entwining vines, enveloping his entire body.

Most of the talismans, however, transformed into fist-sized fireballs, water orbs, arm-thick sharp arrows, and keen crescents...

They all shot towards the three pursuers, whistling fiercely as they flew.

“Not good!”

“Careful!”

“This kid actually has so many talismans!?”

The three, noting Lu Changsheng’s move and use of so many talismans at once, were taken aback and somewhat caught off guard.“`

They were all cultivators at the sixth or seventh level of Qi Refinement, facing so many talisman attacks at once, they also found it somewhat difficult to parry.

However, the three of them were also experienced in the ways of the world.

Without some skill, they wouldn’t dare to act as robber cultivators.

One among them, a short and thin figure, also took out several talismans and activated them, casting spells quickly, with yellow light flickering in his hands.

“Earth Wall Technique!”

One could see that thick earthen walls rapidly rose from the ground, blocking the oncoming talisman assault.

“Boom boom boom!!!”

But under the fierce firepower of this group of talismans, the earthen walls were rapidly disintegrating.

Just as the earthen walls were about to be completely disintegrated, one of the three, a tall and thin figure, had already brought out a black shield.

The shield rapidly grew in size as it left his hand, spinning in the air and emitting a dark, mysterious light, bearing the violent firepower of the talismans.

The last of the three, a burly man clad in a yellow robe, brought out a flying dagger several inches long.

The flying dagger transformed into a streak of white rainbow, flying straight towards Lu Changsheng’s forehead.

However, at the same time.

They also felt a startling aura emanating from Lu Changsheng.

One could see Lu Changsheng's black cloak fluttering without wind, rustling loudly, with golden light bursting forth from his hands.

A golden, gleaming rectangular object appeared from his hands, shooting upward, quickly enlarging in the air.

Causing the oncoming flying dagger to slow down.

And the startling aura, the mana, was coming from this very object!

"This kid is really loaded, not only with so many talismans but also such a treasure, jackpot!"

The short and thin man said with joy in his eyes upon seeing this.

However, the burly man in the yellow robe, who had brought out the flying dagger, saw the rapidly enlarging gold brick and his pupils contracted, recognizing its origin.

"Talisman Treasure!"

He hastily yelled out, his deep voice filled with fear.

"What!?"

"Talisman Treasure?"

The other two, hearing this, were momentarily stunned.

Staring at the object in the air that had now transformed into the size of a small house, like a mini mountain of golden light, their pupils immediately dilated and their faces showed panic.

Without giving them time to think, the golden brick surrounded by Spiritual Energy radiated golden light in all directions, emitting a terrifying pressure.

This pressure made the three feel as if they were carrying a great mountain on their backs, their bodies suddenly heavy, their Spiritual Power sluggish, unable to move.

Danger!

Great danger!

At this moment, the three keenly felt a sense of death looming over them and shouted in unison, frantically begging for mercy.

"Fellow Daoist, let's talk this out!"

“Fellow Daoist, spare my life, please! I was wrong, I was blind...”

“Big brother, I have an eighty-year-old mother at home, a three-year-old child; please put away your Divine Skills and spare me!”

At this moment, they felt it was preposterous.

Absolutely preposterous to the extreme, as if preposterousness itself was opening the door for preposterousness, preposterousness had come home.

A cultivator at the Third Level Energy Refinement, coming to a small place like this to attend a trade conference, actually possessed a Talisman Treasure!

This was completely absurd.

If you have a Talisman Treasure at your side, why run?

If you just showed the Talisman Treasure, would we even dare to chase you?

We would turn around and leave, even apologize profusely.

Who pulls out a Talisman Treasure at the drop of a hat?

Isn't it wasteful to kill people like us with a Talisman Treasure!?

Do we deserve it!?

At this moment, the three didn't even know what to say.

The pressure of the golden light brick rendered them speechless.

The golden light brick, massive as a small mountain, slammed down heavily towards the three.

“Bang!!!”

A thunderous sound echoed, making the whole Bullhead Mountain seem to shake violently.

“Dead?”

Lu Changsheng's heart thumped hard as it followed the vibrations of the golden light brick plummeting down.

He stared fixedly at the location of the three people in front of him, where the golden light brick loomed like a small mountain.

Under that strike, not even a shriek escaped from the three of them.

Several defensive spells and the Black Shield Artifact crumbled instantly as if they never existed when the golden light brick smashed down.

“Huff! Huff! Huff!”

After a moment of shock and confirming the three were undoubtedly dead, Lu Changsheng also relaxed, his emotions fluctuating slightly as he gasped for breath.

Although talismans don't consume much spiritual power, they heavily drain the mental spirit. Using a stack of nearly twenty talismans took a considerable toll on him.

The main drain was from activating the Talisman Treasure, the golden light brick, which siphoned away most of his spiritual power.

With a thought, Lu Changsheng withdrew the Talisman Treasure.

The enormous golden light brick immediately retracted its dazzling glow, returning to its original form, resembling a talisman, and flew back into Lu Changsheng's hands.

Where the golden light brick struck, it left a massive pit dozens of feet wide and deep.

The three Robber Cultivators had, in an instant, been reduced to three lumps of bloodied, indistinct pulp.

As for the Black Shield Artifact, it had been flattened and deformed under the golden light brick's force, turning into a lump of iron.

“Is this the power of a Talisman Treasure? It's terrifying!”

“I'm only at the Third Level Energy Refinement, and can only trigger part of its power.”

“If I were at the Energy Refinement Late Stage, or even the Foundation Establishment Stage, and could unleash the full power of the Talisman Treasure, how astonishing that would be...”

Lu Changsheng looked into the pit at the remains of the three people, now just meaty muck, and licked his somewhat dry lips, feeling utterly shocked.

This was his first time using a Talisman Treasure and witnessing its mighty power.

His initial barrage of more than ten talismans was blocked by the three of them.

But once the Talisman Treasure was deployed, it crushed everything in its path with overwhelming force.

The three stood no chance of fighting back.

This not only opened Lu Changsheng's eyes to the power of a Talisman Treasure but also gave him a faint glimpse into the strength of a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator.

With the power of the Talisman Treasure, triggered by his Third Level Qi Refinement, he guessed it was roughly equivalent to a strike from a Foundation Building Great Cultivator.

Without daring to linger, for fear that the recent commotion might attract others, Lu Changsheng, fighting against nausea, jumped into the deep pit and fished out the three storage bags from the bloody mess.

He used a Cleansing Technique to clean the storage bags of blood and flesh, then destroyed the remnants of the meaty muck with a Flame Bullet Technique talisman.

Picking up the damaged and deformed iron lump of a shield and the Flying Dagger Artifact, he used a Wind-Commanding Charm on himself, soaring out of the pit and quickly leaving the area.

An hour later.

Having reverted to his original appearance, Lu Changsheng rode his horse away from Bullhead Mountain, over a hundred miles away, and only stopped to rest and recover his spiritual power after making sure no one was following him.

“Huff!”

“It's good that I didn't think about conserving and used the Talisman Treasure immediately after triggering the talismans.”

“Otherwise, with just Lower Grade and Middle Grade talismans, it would have been impossible to kill those three.”

“The Cultivation World really is fraught with danger; despite being so cautious, I was still targeted.”

“It seems I'll have to be even more careful in the future.”

Lu Changsheng found a grove to rest in, and thinking back to the earlier events, he felt a lingering fear and let out a long sigh of relief.



The fact that he had been so cautious and yet still had been targeted made him even more aware of the dangers within the Cultivation World.

He felt as if the Cultivation World was a stark place governed by the law of the jungle, where only the strong survive.

Without strength, danger and accidents could come at any time.

“It seems that joining a faction and leaning on a strong backer is the way to go.”

“Although living under the Lu Family’s roof means relying on others, at least there is some guarantee of safety.”

Lu Changsheng mumbled to himself, also realizing the benefits of having a family power backing him.

In a family or a sect, although contributions to the collective are expected, at least in the early stages one has others to fend off the elements and take the brunt for you.

After meditating for a while, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but shake his head.

The spiritual energy was too sparse in this mundane world.

It was far too slow to recover through meditation; he had no idea when it would be restored.

He took out a Spirit Stone and began meditating to recover.

Some time later, the once translucent Spirit Stone had become much more dull.

Spirit Stones were mostly used as currency, but they could also be used for Cultivation, drawing the spiritual energy within to accelerate one’s Cultivation.

But for most Cultivators, directly using Spirit Stones for cultivation was too extravagant.

It was more economical to buy Spirit Rice, Spiritual Tea, Spiritual Wine, and other such Spirit Food.

After using a Spirit Stone, Lu Changsheng’s Spiritual Power had mostly recovered.

He took out the Storage Bags he had taken from the three men and began to count his spoils.

“Thankfully, the three of them had Storage Bags; otherwise, this would have been a huge loss.”

“I wonder what’s in these Storage Bags. I hope it’s enough to recoup my losses.”

The Talisman he used earlier was worth thirty to forty Spirit Stones alone.

As for the consumption of the Talisman Treasure with one strike, Lu Changsheng couldn’t even estimate.

But at the very least, it was worth over a hundred Spirit Stones.

If these three were broke, it would be a huge loss indeed.

A moment later, Lu Changsheng sorted out one hundred and three Spirit Stones from the three Storage Bags.

A Flying Sword Magic Artifact and a bell Magic Artifact.

Three bottles of Fasting Pills, one bottle of Yellow Dragon Elixir, one bottle of Pure Spirit Elixir, and three bottles of unrecognizable potions and containers.

Fifteen Lower Grade Primary Level Talismans, six Middle Grade Primary Level Talismans, and one Superior Grade Talisman.

As well as various books and a number of miscellaneous things.

“This Flying Sword, bell, and Flying Dagger all seem to be Lower Grade Magical Instruments; they should each fetch around fifty Spirit Stones or so.”

“Although this shield is a Magic Artifact, all of its prohibitions have been broken. It can only be sold as scrap; I wonder how much it’s still worth.”

“However, these three Storage Bags can be worth about one hundred and fifty Spirit Stones.”

“Plus all these miscellaneous things, the total should also be around five hundred Spirit Stones.”

Having accounted for the belongings of the three men, Lu Changsheng’s mood improved considerably.

He smacked his lips and sighed contentedly, “Killing people and setting fires really tightens your belt with gold. No matter where, murder and looting is always the fastest way to make money.”

Thinking back to when he first arrived at the Lu Family and became a live-in son-in-law, he only got two Spirit Stones per month.

As a Talisman Master, he got barely ten Spirit Stones a month.

The hundred Talismans he sold today were equivalent to a month's worth of making, but after deducting costs, he only made a little over a hundred Spirit Stones.

Nothing compares to the simplicity and speed of killing for treasure.

However, Lu Changsheng did not have the slightest interest in making a living through murder and plunder.

Not to mention his moral principles prevented him from committing senseless killing.

It was also too dangerous, which did not fit his style.

With the system on his side, he didn't need to engage in such risky and treacherous acts.

Marrying, taking concubines, and having children is the righteous path!

Moreover, he was just a weak, Third Level Qi Refinement cultivator who had relied on Talismans and a Talisman Treasure to win this battle.

After organizing all the items, Lu Changsheng took the foot-long Flying Sword Magic Artifact and attempted to wield it.

A Cultivator can wield a Magic Artifact through 'Object Manipulating Technique' after reaching the Third Level of Qi Refinement.

Back at the Lu Family, because he was the first to have a child, he was rewarded with a Flying Sword.

But before he had a chance to experience it, he had sold it for Talisman Making.

Now with a Flying Sword in his hand, he couldn't resist the itch to try and play with it.

"Whoosh"

Under Lu Changsheng's control, the Flying Sword immediately transformed into a streak of silver light and shot out.

Ordinary Magical Instruments can be wielded with Object Manipulating Technique without the need for consecration.

A Spiritual Artifact used by a Foundation Building Great Cultivator, which harbors its own spirit, must be consecrated and acknowledged by its owner before it can be controlled.

There are also some high-end Magic Artifacts crafted by Artifact Refiners that require special Object Manipulating Techniques to wield.

But those kind of Magic Artifacts are quite high-end, and this Flying Sword obviously does not fall into that category.

Under Lu Changsheng's manipulation, the Flying Sword, like a silver dragon, exhaled Sword Qi, slicing through the surrounding trees as effortlessly as cutting tofu.

Then, with a 'plop,' it easily pierced through a large rock, turned into a streak of silver light, and returned to Lu Changsheng's side.

"No wonder it's a Magic Artifact!"

"It's no less powerful than Primary Level spells, but it consumes much less Spiritual Power. If two Cultivators were dueling, the difference between having a Magic Artifact and not having one is like heaven and earth!"

Having briefly experienced using the Flying Sword, Lu Changsheng showed delight and exclaimed in admiration.

If he were to use spells like the Flame Bullet Technique, he could use it four or five times before running out of Spiritual Power.

But by wielding the Flying Sword, he estimated he could control it for a full fifteen minutes, allowing for multiple attacks.

Due to his limited Spiritual Power, Lu Changsheng didn't try the other Magic Artifacts. He put away the Flying Sword and mounted his horse to head towards the Crimson Whale Gang.

He planned to meet up with Li Feiyu and then arrange to secure his family home before returning to Qingzhu Mountain early.

The outside world was still too dangerous. It was better to hunker down at the Lu Family to boost his power and focus on having more children—that was the real way to power.

\_1

The Crimson Whale Gang is located in Heavenly Water Mansion under Ruyi Prefecture.

The Da Jing River of Heavenly Water Mansion runs through the entire Ruyi Prefecture, right next to the Huiqu Canal of Qing Province.

And the Crimson Whale Gang grew strong by engaging in the water transportation business.

Not only are they famous in Jianghu, but they also possess an official background.

One day, a youth in a green robe with clear and handsome features and a tall, slender figure, arrived at the city of Heavenly Water Mansion.

He was leading a tall horse and cradling a small creature with dark fur and a scarlet vertical scar on its brow that resembled a wolf or dog.

As he walked, he carried an air of casual confidence.

At the city gate, several robust men donning short red tunics saw the youth and immediately perked up, quickly approaching and saying, "Could you be Master Lu Changsheng?"

"Our young master has ordered us to wait here respectfully for Master Lu."

Three men stepped forward and spoke reverently.

"Oh? Is your young master Li Feiyu?"

This youth was none other than Lu Changsheng, who had come to find Li Feiyu at the Crimson Whale Gang.

Seeing the 'Crimson Whale Gang' embroidery on the men's clothing, he immediately guessed Li Feiyu had sent them to meet him.

"Indeed, our young master is Li Feiyu," one of them responded.

At that moment, somebody led a luxurious carriage over and invited Lu Changsheng to get inside.

Seeing this, Lu Changsheng nodded slightly, handed the reins he was holding to someone nearby, and, while still holding the Nine Netherhound in his arms, got into the carriage.

"Master Lu, please make yourself comfortable. It will take half an hour to reach the Crimson Whale Gang's main hall from here," the coachman said into the interior.

"Hmm," Lu Changsheng responded.

Immediately after, the carriage started moving steadily at a gentle pace.

About half an hour later, the carriage stopped, and a voice called out.

“Master Lu, we’ve arrived at the Crimson Whale Gang.”

Lu Changsheng lifted the curtain, stepped out of the carriage, and saw a large river in front of him.

On the river surface was a tremendous ship, oval like a whale and bright crimson, lying quietly on the water.

Above the river, under the clear blue sky washed clean, sunlight shone down and fell on the top of the huge ship, upon a red flag.

The flag bore two blood-red characters: ‘Crimson Whale’!

“Is this the Crimson Whale Gang’s main hall?”

It was Lu Changsheng’s first time seeing such a majestic ship, even larger than the aircraft carriers he had seen in his previous life.

On the ship’s deck stood a nine-level towering pavilion, and around it were thick iron chains as big as water buckets, stretched across the river’s edge, anchoring the ship in place.

“That’s correct, this is our Crimson Whale Gang’s main hall, the Crimson Whale!”

“Master Lu, please.”

The man beside him spoke and then led Lu Changsheng toward the huge ship. Along the walkway connecting the ship and the dock, gang members kept watch and were on guard.

However, before they had taken many steps, informed of Lu Changsheng’s arrival, Li Feiyu himself came out to meet him.

Accompanying him was a man in his forties, tall and in a red uniform, with a dignified countenance.

Seeing this, the gang members guarding both sides of the road bowed in respect.

“Greetings to the gang leader.”

“Greetings to the gang leader.”

“Greetings to the gang leader.”

“Changsheng,” Li Feiyu called out as he quickly approached Lu Changsheng.

He was somewhat surprised to see the wolf-dog-like creature in his arms.

He didn't know where Lu Changsheng had acquired a demon beast cub.

Without inquiring further, he gestured to the imposing middle-aged man beside him and introduced him.

"Changsheng, this is my father. He came out to meet you after hearing of your arrival."

"Father, this is my good friend Lu Changsheng," Li Feiyu introduced them to each other.

When he returned home, his father, instead of being angry that he had become a son-in-law to a cultivation family, fully supported his decision.

For a martial artist of Jianghu, becoming a cultivator is to be above others!

So what if he is a son-in-law?

Only a true man can stoop and stretch with ease!

Upon hearing Li Feiyu say that a fellow cultivator and friend was coming for a visit, he came out to welcome Li together.

Because in the secular world, the status of a cultivator is extraordinary.

Even if of the lowest tier, one is still a cultivator!

"I pay my respects to Uncle Li," Lu Changsheng said to the distinguished man before him, his eyes shining with a bright gleam, a hint of a smile appearing on his face as he clasped his hands in greeting.

Then he took out five bottles of elixir medicines from his bosom and said, "I've prepared no proper gift, just a little token. Please accept this, Uncle Li."

"Lu my friend, you are too courteous. You shouldn't bring gifts when coming as a guest," Li Tianyang replied.

"I've already arranged a banquet inside. Please, come in," he added without refusing the gift, his voice deep and resonant, with a touch of magnetism.

He was very polite and showed none of the airs typical of a gang leader, instead making a welcoming gesture and leading the way.

"Is this a demon beast? Where did you get this one?" Li Feiyu finally turned his attention to the small creature in Lu Changsheng's arms and asked quietly.

“I saw it at a loose cultivator gathering, thought it was quite good, so I decided to buy it to guard the house. Later on, it can also keep the children company,” Lu Changsheng casually fabricated.

“Guard the house, keep company...”

Li Feiyu heard Lu Changsheng’s straightforward words and was somewhat speechless.

Living in the Lu Family, did they still need a dog to guard the house? And who would buy a demon beast for a child to play with? Weren’t they afraid of the child getting hurt?

He continued to speak, “If there is no beast taming method, won’t such a young demon beast grow up to be fierce and difficult to train?”

Having lived in the Lu Family for three years, he naturally knew quite a bit about cultivation information.

A young demon beast was nothing like the domesticated pets that were gentle.

“The seller said this one is just an ordinary canine demon beast, fairly mild in temperament, not much different from the usual household cats and dogs, and will obey after being raised for some time,” Lu Changsheng continued to spout nonsense.

This Nine Netherhound was obtained by him through a system lottery, so naturally, there was no such thing as it being fierce or difficult to train.

As a pet, it held a hundred percent absolute loyalty to him, its master, and there was no need for any beast taming method, constraints, or tactics to control it.

“That’s good,” Li Feiyu said, hearing the words without asking further.

He could only tell that the Nine Netherhound was a canine demon beast, but could not discern what type of demon beast it was or its rank.

Moreover, being just a cub, it did not exhibit any wild ferocity.

The group entered the Crimson Whale, where a banquet had already been prepared.

After eating, Lu Changsheng went to rest.

Coming all the way from Bullhead Mountain, he hadn’t really rested and was somewhat tired and weary.

After all, he was just a cultivator on the Third Level of Qi Refinement.

He had plenty of energy, but it was limited.



After the banquet concluded, Li Zhengyang remembered the gifts Lu Changsheng had given him and took them out to inspect.

Looking at the elixir medicines in the bottle, his eyes suddenly dilated with surprise.

Then, he carefully poured the elixir medicines into his hand, examined them closely, and sniffed them, exclaiming in shock.

“This bottle contains Marrow Cleansing Elixirs, which can assist one in cleansing the marrow and improving martial arts aptitude!”

“This bottle is Innate Elixir, which can increase the chances of breaking through to the Innate Realm!”

“This bottle is Great Restoration Elixir, capable of healing any internal or external injuries!”

“This bottle is Essence Nurturing Elixir, which can improve one’s strength by several decades!”

“This bottle is Five Spirit Detoxification Elixir, which can neutralize thousands of fierce poisons in the world!”

“This, this, this...” Li Zhengyang’s commanding visage was filled with shock as he looked at the five bottles of elixirs in his hand.

As the leader of the Crimson Whale Gang and a figure who dominated a mansion, he had broad knowledge.

He recognized all five elixirs at a glance.

They were saintly medicines in the martial world of Jianghu!

Not to mention causing a bloodbath, but each one was coveted by countless people in Jianghu, worth sacrificing life for.

Yet now, Lu Changsheng had casually brought out five bottles to give to him as a meeting gift, how could he not be astonished?

“Father, what’s the matter?” Li Feiyu, who was not far, saw his father in such a state and approached to inquire.

“This is what your friend gave,” Li Zhengyang took a deep breath and showed the elixirs to his son.

“These are... Marrow Cleansing Elixirs, Innate Elixir, Great Restoration Elixir, Essence Nurturing Elixir, Five Spirit Detoxification Elixir,” Li Feiyu’s eyes narrowed slightly as he also recognized these five types of elixirs.

As a martial artist and also a cultivator, he not only recognized these five elixirs, but also knew that many precious elixirs in the secular world were basic elixirs of non-entry grade refined by cultivators.

However, for cultivators, they were basic and non-entry level elixirs.

In the secular world, to the martial artists, they were incomparably precious, miracle medicines!

“Yes, your friend is indeed very generous,” Li Zhengyang nodded and said with emotion.

He had only heard a brief introduction about Lu Changsheng from Li Feiyu previously.

All he knew was that, like his own son, Lu Changsheng was a cultivator.

He came over to ask the Crimson Whale Gang to help take care of his secular family, but he didn’t know much else.

Now, seeing the five bottles of elixirs and recalling Lu Changsheng’s composed and self-confident demeanor, he felt that Lu Changsheng was no ordinary cultivator and could be considered remarkable compared to the general cultivators.

“I have seen many people over the years, your friend is not simple, you should build a deep friendship with him,” Li Zhengyang said seriously.

“As for these elixirs, they’re too precious. You should return them later.”

Li Zhengyang put away the elixirs and handed them to his son.

He was indeed tempted by the elixirs, but felt they were too precious to accept comfortably.

After all, they were gifts given out of the friendship with his son, and such gifts should be returned by his son someday.

“Father, I have a good relationship with Changsheng, so please accept them with peace of mind,” Li Feiyu said, knowing that Lu Changsheng wouldn’t take the gifts back.

“If you feel it’s not right to accept them, you can compensate Changsheng’s parents and family later on.”

Feeling a bit ashamed for not bringing anything good home, he was reminded of how he lived frugally in the Lu Family with only two Spirit Stones a month and no spare Spirit Stones to spend.

“You can rest assured regarding Lu Changsheng,” Li Feiyu continued.

“As long as the Crimson Whale Gang exists, it will ensure his parents and family wealth and safety without a care!”

“Even if the Crimson Whale Gang no longer exists, we will do our utmost to protect his parents and family!” Li Zhengyang declared with a deep and resolute voice.

Even if a common cultivator asked him to take care of a family, he would comply.

Because this was a chance for encountering immortals! To be able to owe a favor to a cultivator.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng seemed out of the ordinary and was a friend of his son.

Journey!\_1

Having stayed at the Crimson Whale Gang for two days, Lu Changsheng set out to return to his hometown.

Li Feiyu had taken two people to accompany him on his journey.

Since Lu Changsheng planned to settle his family well, he would go directly to Ruyi Prefecture and then return to Qingzhu Mountain.

Li Feiyu naturally went back with him.

The two people were brought along for the convenience of settling Lu Changsheng’s family later on.

“I wonder how my parents have been during the three years of my absence.”

As he set foot on the road home, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but feel sentimental and apprehensive as he drew closer to his village.

After all, it was the home where he had lived for eighteen years.

Even after awakening the memories of his previous life, those first eighteen years were still a part of his life.

Six days later.

A carriage traveling on a bumpy, dirt road arrived at a small mountain village.

At the entrance to the village stood a stone pier, engraved with the three characters for 'Woniu Village'.

Lu Changsheng, seeing the landscape familiar from his memories, had the carriage stop outside the village and quickly walked into it alone.

There wasn't anyone to be seen at the village entrance, but from afar came the sound of cheerful music; Lu Changsheng guessed that some family was celebrating an occasion, drawing the villagers to join the festivity for a feast.

He walked towards his own house.

Hearing the music grow louder, he quickened his pace.

He soon saw a tiled two-courtyard house fenced with hedges ahead.

The surroundings of the house were adorned with large 'Xi' characters, and tables were arranged both inside and outside the courtyard, where many villagers were chatting, standing, squatting, or sitting.

Some people were playing gongs, drums, and trumpets, and many children frolicked around, creating a joyful atmosphere.

"Could it be that my younger brother is getting married?"

Lu Changsheng felt a slight surreal sensation as he looked at the familiar courtyard he had lived in for eighteen years.

He was the third child in the family, with an older sister and brother above him, and a younger sister and brother below him.

His brother, five years his junior, was now sixteen and of marrying age.

"Young Master, who are you looking for?"

At that moment, a woman with somewhat coarse and dark skin, carrying a child, noticed Lu Changsheng approaching and came over to inquire.

Gazing at the woman before him, a surge of emotion welled up in Lu Changsheng.

After a moment of silence, he answered with a somewhat hoarse voice, "Sis, I'm Changsheng."

The woman in front of him was in fact Lu Changsheng's eldest sister.

"Changsheng?"

Upon hearing this, the woman looked incredulously at the noble-looking young man before her.

Then, closely examining the face resembling that of her brother who had left home three years ago without any news, her eyes became moist, and her voice choked up as she exclaimed, "Changsheng, you are Changsheng!"

"Where have you been, Changsheng? You've not returned for three years; do you know how worried our parents have been..."

"It's good that you're back, it's good... Ah Lung, this is your uncle, your second uncle."

The woman with the cloth sleeves wiped the moisture from her eyes and excitedly spoke to the toddler, who was only two or three years old, in her arms.

Then, about to reach for Lu Changsheng to take him inside, she hesitated as if fearing she might soil his clothes and withdrew her extended hand.

She said to Lu Changsheng, "Today happens to be the happy day of Changqing's wedding; I'll go tell dad and mom."

With that, she walked briskly into the courtyard, holding her child, and shouted loudly, "Dad, mom, Changsheng has come back!"

"Changsheng? Who's that?"

"The third son of Old Man Lu, the one who disappeared suddenly three years ago."

"I always thought that child was odd from a young age; how did he just come back after three years?"

"He looks nothing like he used to."

"Indeed, he's got such fine skin and looks even more refined than those young masters from the city."

Other villagers, hearing the commotion, also turned their attention towards Lu Changsheng at the entrance and started to murmur among themselves.

Soon, the woman returned with two elderly people with grey hair and faces weathered by the years, dressed neatly, walking out of the house towards Lu Changsheng standing in the courtyard.

Lu Changsheng also fixed his gaze on the two elderly people.

In three years, the degree of aging in his parents had exceeded his expectations.

His lips parted slightly, trembling as he called out, "Dad, Mom!"

That day, something sensational happened in Woniu Village that astounded everyone.

The Lu family's third son, who had vanished for three years, returned home.

Normally, this sort of event wouldn't concern the other villagers much and would be nothing more than small talk over tea or dinner.

However, once this third son of the Lu family got home, he threw a wedding celebration for his younger brother with over a hundred tables of banquet that lasted for half a month.

He also built large houses for his own siblings and his father's family and purchased lands for them.

As a result, the old man Lu went from a commoner to being addressed respectfully as "Lu Yuanwai."

Even the villagers of Woniu received a handsome share of the wedding joy money.

This incident would surely be the talk of Woniu Village for decades.

Yet Lu Changsheng, the man who had become the talk of the town, stayed at his parents' house for just one day before leaving Woniu Village with Li Feiyu, returning to Ruyi County City.

"Why leave so soon, without staying a while?"

On the official road, Li Feiyu looked towards Lu Changsheng beside him and asked aloud.

"There's nothing left to stay for, they are all well, and their future lives will be worry-free, which puts my mind at ease,"

Lu Changsheng shook his head, looking at the blue sky and spoke softly.

Three years apart, and I embarked on a path entirely different from normal people.

Now back at home, the way my parents and family look at me carries a mix of unfamiliarity and awe.

Thus, after ensuring that my parents and family were well settled, I left straightaway without much hesitation.

Nine days later.

Ruyi County City.

Outside the city gates.

“Brother Hong, no need to see us off any further, the mountains are high and the rivers long, we shall meet again,”

“We shall meet again!”

Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu, leading their spirit horses, bid farewell to Hong Yi with a clasped-hands salute.

“We shall meet again. I wish both fellow daoists a prosperous and evergreen path in cultivation,”

Hong Yi returned the gesture with a salute.

He looked more spirited than before.

A few days ago, he showed his father, the Marquis of Ruyi, the thirteen talismans given to him by Lu Changsheng.

He indicated that his friend had become a Talisman Master, and henceforth, stable trade of talismans with the Marquis’s Mansion could be established.

Upon hearing this, and seeing that Hong Yi had received the talismans without having paid any Spirit Stones, his father believed in Hong Yi’s words.

He praised him greatly, encouraging him to foster a good relationship with Lu Changsheng and even assigning him some responsibilities within the Marquis’s Mansion.

Hong Yi was overjoyed by this, and his whole demeanor grew more buoyant and confident.

Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu also returned the salute and then mounted their spirit horses to set off.

After traveling a distance, Li Feiyu spoke up, “I see that Hong Yi seems to have warmed up a lot to you.”

“Although Hong Yi is born to the Marquis, he is just a son of a concubine, and his life cannot be said to have been easy,”

“Making friends with me as a Talisman Master may well improve his position in the household,”

Lu Changsheng naturally knew the reason.

On this trip home to fetch the spirit horses, Hong Yi had brought fifteen Spirit Stones as payment for the previous talismans.

And expressed that because of this, he had received praise from his father, the Marquis of Ruyi.

He hoped that if Lu Changsheng ever planned to sell talismans to outsiders in the future, he would consider him as a priority.

Naturally, Lu Changsheng nodded and agreed to this proposal.

He also felt that it would be worth considering to sell some talismans through Hong Yi as a channel.

Otherwise, with so many talismans on hand and lacking strength, it would be troublesome to sell them.

“True, it’s very difficult to make money and cultivate in the secular world,”

Li Feiyu lamented as well.

After chatting casually for a while, the two took to the official road once again and hastened on their journey.