

Read Starting as a Son-in-law to Establish an immortal Family Chapter 281: Chapter 135: Xiao Xiyue: So This is the Love Tribulation!_2

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Xiao Xiyue murmured to herself.

Without realizing it, she reached out to touch her cheek, which was slightly warm.

She didn't even know what had just happened to herself.

Was she bewitched?

She was clearly aware of what Lu Changsheng was doing.

And yet, she still stole a glance.

"If I could completely control and suppress this emotion, perhaps that would be the time when my state of mind reaches completion and I can see through illusions."

...

As she practiced the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, Xiao Xiyue's emotions gradually stabilized.

But the thought of having to completely control these emotions made Xiao Xiyue sigh quietly.

She looked up at the bright moon hanging in the night sky through her window.

Somehow, the scene she had just witnessed appeared again before her eyes.

It caused her freshly calmed heart to flutter slightly.

Xiao Xiyue did not dispel the embarrassing image from her mind.

Instead, she chose to confront it directly.

And even... tried to imagine herself in it.

Because, for her, it was also a way to temper her state of mind.

If she couldn't even control such emotions, how could she talk about transcending the 'emotional tribulation' and seeing through illusions?

It was unclear how much time had passed.

Xiao Xiyue found she could now look at the scene without any perturbation.

Face the image that challenged her Dao heart.

By then, daylight had come.

Xiao Xiyue stood up, straightened her moon-white dress, and applied a Cleansing Technique to herself.

She prepared to find Lu Changsheng and have a frank discussion, to reveal the issues of the emotional tribulation.

And explain last night's events.

"Lu Daoist."

Xiao Xiyue went to the front courtyard and found Lu Changsheng.

Because of last night's events, the sight of Lu Changsheng caused a faint ripple in her heart.

However, after a whole night of tempering her state of mind, she didn't show any unusual signs.

"Xiao Daoist, let's have breakfast before setting off," Lu Changsheng said casually.

He didn't bring up last night's events.

After all, it was somewhat awkward to discuss such matters.

The best approach was to act as if nothing had happened.

"It's not about that. I have something to discuss with Lu Daoist," Xiao Xiyue said, shaking her head slightly and speaking earnestly.

Seeing her serious expression, Lu Changsheng knew she must have some important matter to discuss.

Perhaps this was also why she came looking for him last night?

Lu Changsheng immediately escorted Xiao Xiyue to a secluded side hall.

He inquired, "May I know what Xiao Daoist would like to discuss?"

“Lu Daoist must have noticed a clear change in me compared to ten years ago,” Xiao Xiyue said softly, looking at Lu Changsheng.

Lu Changsheng nodded.

He was unsure as to why Xiao Xiyue was suddenly broaching this subject.

“It’s because of the cultivation technique I have been practicing,” Xiao Xiyue continued.

Having spent the last few days with Lu Changsheng, experiencing life lessons and observing the lives of mortals, she had been observing him.

Through her observation, Lu Changsheng had passed her tests.

That’s why she thought of revealing the matters of the emotional tribulation.

If she was to reveal the tribulation, she needed to explain the whole context.

When Lu Changsheng heard this, he thought to himself, as expected.

As he had suspected, Xiao Xiyue’s changes were due to the practice of a particular cultivation technique.

But he still didn’t know why Xiao Xiyue was mentioning this to him.

Not waiting for Lu Changsheng to speak, Xiao Xiyue continued, “The cultivation technique I’m practicing is called the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique.”

“To fully master this technique, one must experience the trials of the mortal world, understand grief and joy, separation and union, to comprehend the essence of ‘Supreme Forgetfulness.’

“My master crafted elixir medicines for me to skip this step and master the technique.

“But my state of mind still has flaws, and I find it difficult to break through.”

Xiao Xiyue said slowly, maintaining an indifferent expression and a calm demeanor.

“Supreme Forgetful Love Technique?” Lu Changsheng nodded slightly.

He knew that profound techniques like these have such requirements; therefore, they are very difficult to practice.

Like the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture he practiced, there were requirements for one’s state of mind.

However, he was an exception, having a shortcut to overlook this aspect.

“My state of mind is incomplete, and I gradually realized that I must overcome the ‘emotional tribulation’ to break through the illusion and reach the fulfillment of my state of mind.

“My main purpose for descending the mountain is to undergo this emotional tribulation.

“And when I met Lu Daoist, I sensed an opportunity for a breakthrough from you. The ‘emotional tribulation’ is likely related to Lu Daoist.”

“That’s why I asked Lu Daoist to accompany me on part of my journey.”

Xiao Xiyue spoke with a cool countenance and a tranquil tone.

“Emotional tribulation,” Lu Changsheng uttered, his heart suddenly enlightened upon hearing this.

Before, he only knew that Xiao Xiyue was close to him and asked him to accompany her for a part of her journey because of the Peach Blossom Gu.

But as for the specifics, he had no idea.

Now, hearing Xiao Xiyue’s words, he suddenly understood.

The so-called ‘emotional tribulation’ must involve experiencing matters of affection.

Xiao Xiyue left the mountain, intending to experience emotions to overcome her bottleneck.

But just after meeting him, the Peach Blossom Gu made these emotions fall upon him.

Xiao Xiyue had also realized this, which is why she had been observing and sizing him up continuously at the Ruyi Tower.

And she took the initiative to say that she was planning to travel without a particular destination in mind and asked him to accompany her.

The goal was to try to overcome her emotional tribulation through him and thus make a breakthrough.

Now that she was being upfront, she likely wanted him to do something.

“As a good friend, helping Xiao Daoist with her troubles is naturally my unquestionable duty,”

“I’m not sure how Xiao Daoist intends to undergo this emotional tribulation, but if I can be of help, Lu would naturally help.”

Since the other party had put it that way, Lu Changsheng felt it would not be good to refuse and thus spoke.

“As for this matter of emotional tribulation, I am not very clear about it myself.”

“Originally, when I was beside Lu Daoist, my thoughts would become disordered, and my cultivation technique would operate automatically.”

“Therefore, I would like to ask Lu Daoist to cooperate with me in an attempt, but last night...”

Xiao Xiyue, with a cold expression, seemed as ethereal as a fairy from the Moon Palace, her demeanor supremely pure and holy as she explained her situation.

After all, when she decided to practice the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, she possessed the resolve “to ask about the Way in the morning and be prepared to die in the evening,” determination.

Now that the Way lay in front of her, she naturally wouldn’t be coy like a young girl.

“Ah, this...”

After hearing Xiao Xiyue’s words, Lu Changsheng was momentarily stunned.

Although he had thoughts about Xiao Xiyue,

he had suppressed these ideas for the time being due to her status and identity.

But what she was talking about now, this undergoing of emotional tribulation, was entirely a proactive offering.

In such a situation, saying he would cooperate was possible, and maybe with some deeper persuasion, he could even get Xiao Xiyue to have a child with him before she returned to Qingyun Sect.

But Lu Changsheng did not harbor these thoughts.

The identity of a Nascent Soul Immortal disciple made him apprehensive.

“Regarding this matter of emotional tribulation, Lu also has some views, feeling that it may not necessarily require my involvement, Xiao Daoist can do this...”

Lu Changsheng pondered for a moment before speaking tactfully.

If it were anyone else offering such an opportunity, he, Lu someone, would naturally not refuse.

But Xiao Xiyue's status and identity were something he couldn't afford to provoke.

Acting on it would not bring him much advantage, and it was likely to cause him endless embarrassment.

Therefore, if she could resolve this emotional tribulation on her own, owing him a favor would be ideal.

"Is that really possible?"

Xiao Xiyue, after a moment of silence upon hearing Lu Changsheng's words, asked.

Evidently, her heart was not entirely calm either.

After all, her Supreme Forgetful Love Technique would be affected in front of Lu Changsheng.

She couldn't achieve a state of absolute detachment.

"Xiao Daoist can give it a try."

Lu Changsheng handed her a soft cushioned meditation mat.

Immediately, the plan for both to tour the marketplace was revised.

...

Inside the room.

Xiao Xiyue, with a cold countenance, sat cross-legged on a pink meditation mat.

Suddenly her beautiful brows furrowed slightly.

Then, on her cold and holy face, a hint of blush appeared, rendering her stunningly beautiful.

The blush spread at a visible pace.

It made her beautiful face flushed like the rosy clouds, her red lips slightly parted, and her breathing somewhat hurried.

After a few breaths, the blush spread from her cheeks to her ears, making her delicate and lovely ears thoroughly red, and her snow-white, graceful neck also gradually reddened.

The perfect and delicate body inside the fairy's moon-white dress also started to tremble slightly.

The embroidered shoes covering her round and petite jade feet trembled lightly, restless and uneasy.

A moment later.

A suppressed heavenly sound emanated from the fairy's throat, causing her to furrow her brows in pain, then look befuddled, her red lips parted, as she collapsed to the ground.

"Huff!"

"Huff!"

"Huff!"

Xiao Xiyue's bewitching eyes looked confusedly at the eaves, carefully observing the changes in her heart.

In a daze, she realized the state of her heart at that moment,

In that overwhelming, dream-like instance, was somewhat similar to last night when she witnessed the scene that impacted her Dao Heart.

"To break through illusions, one must control these emotions."

Xiao Xiyue murmured to herself.

She could feel that this method indeed helped her,

bringing a hint of ease to her heart.

It felt as if much of the irritability and stray thoughts regarding her cultivation breakthrough had diminished.

Even her realm seemed to have loosened a bit.

"But it's still not enough."

Xiao Xiyue operated her Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, her eyes cold and calm as she murmured to herself.

Propping up her body with her fair arms, she straightened her dress, then Xiao Xiyue pushed open the room door and went out to find Lu Changsheng.

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Lu Changsheng hadn't expected Xiao Xiyue to return to seek him out so soon.

Looking at Xiao Xiyue in front of him, wearing a moon-white long dress with delicate features and an exceptionally ethereal and cool demeanor, Lu Changsheng couldn't help feeling somewhat guilty.

After all, looking back on it now, his idea seemed a bit off.

Who would ask someone to cultivate like that?

However, thinking about the unearthly beauty standing before him, as if she were a fairy from the Guanghan Moon Palace embarking on cultivation trials as he had suggested, a faint fire of irritation began to smolder in Lu Changsheng's dantian.

"Xiao Daoist, is the method I proposed effective?"

Lu Changsheng gathered his mental spirit, calmed his restless mind, and asked earnestly.

...

"Yes,"

Xiao Xiyue replied softly.

Her cold and succinct words were filled with temptation, stirring the imagination.

"If it's been of any help to you, that's good,"

Lu Changsheng exhaled lightly.

Although he felt a little disappointed,

He had at least managed to deal with the troublesome matter concerning Xiao Xiyue.

After all, if he were to actually intervene, the loss would outweigh the gain, and it would easily cause trouble.

“However, Xi Yue can feel that this effect is not enough to break through the bottleneck, so I will still need Lu Daoist’s help...”

Xiao Xiyue’s chest heaved slightly, and she spoke with her lips barely parting.

A ripple appeared in her cool and calm eyes,

Clearly, her heart was not as tranquil as her outward appearance suggested.

After all, the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique is not about being truly without emotion,

But about being so immersed in the Great Dao that one remains unaffected by emotions and desires.

Furthermore, she had not yet cultivated to such a level.

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng’s mouth twitched.

He had not expected Xiao Xiyue to still require his assistance.

This meant that what he had proposed had some effect, but it was not sufficient.

He did not speak.

It went without saying, he could help,

But the benefits did not balance out the costs.

More loss than gain.

Xiao Xiyue noticed the hesitation in Lu Changsheng.

Although inexperienced in worldly affairs, she wasn’t entirely naive.

She knew that her request made Lu Changsheng apprehensive,

Probably because he was worried that such a matter would bring him trouble.

“Lu Daoist, Xi Yue knows this matter is making it difficult for you,”

“If Lu Daoist is willing to help, Xi Yue would be immensely grateful and ready to offer thanks, or if Lu Daoist has any requirements, please feel free to make them,”

“Also, Xi Yue is willing to make a Dao Heart vow that, regardless of the outcome of this emotional trial, success or failure, I will not involve or blame Lu Daoist,”

“All consequences will be borne by Xi Yue alone, so Lu Daoist can rest assured,”

Xiao Xiyue said, her eyes locked onto Lu Changsheng.

A trace of heartfelt crimson flashed through her icy eyes but was quickly replaced by a look of determination.

Now that the opportunity for her breakthrough was within reach, even her Moon Palace serene heart of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique could hardly suppress this sense of urgency.

Lu Changsheng, upon hearing these words, pursed his lips.

He could tell that Xiao Xiyue was sincere.

And he was quite pleased with her proactive approach.

A Dao Heart vow might not be infallible,

But for someone like Xiao Xiyue, who was single-minded in her cultivation, it was a reliably safe course of action.

Since she had said so much, he felt he could agree to the arrangement.

After all, he wasn't planning to make her bear children right now.

Having made up his mind, Lu Changsheng said to Xiao Xiyue, “Since Xiao Daoist has put it that way, how can I refuse?”

“There's no need for any lavish gifts, I only hope that in the future you can help me with one thing. I have yet to decide what it is; I will let you know once I have figured it out,”

Lu Changsheng stated.

In his view, having helped Xiao Xiyue with such an intimate act as surmounting an emotional trial,

Xiao Xiyue might as well be considered the mother of his future child.

It was not convenient for him to take her home to be the mother now,

But it would be no issue once he had the strength to do so.

Considering Xiao Xiyue's current cool demeanor, if she continued to progress in her cultivation, she might become an icy statue.

So, it was necessary to plant a seed earlier on.

After all, he, Lu Changsheng, never forced anyone.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Xiyue's eyebrows knitted slightly.

She would not have agreed to such a condition from anyone else,

As it was akin to a sword hanging over one's head,

Making it difficult to cultivate in peace.

But considering this was related to her Great Dao opportunity and the cause and effect of her emotional trial,

And given her interactions with Lu Changsheng over these days, she felt relatively confident about his character.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have disclosed her emotional trial to him.

She nodded and said, "As long as it does not go against the Dao Heart, Xi Yue will do her best to fulfill it when the time comes."

Xiao Xiyue spoke, and then solemnly raised her hand to take the vow.

She vowed that she would not blame Lu Changsheng whether the emotional trial succeeded or failed,

And that she alone would bear the consequences of any event.

"Bearing a few children shouldn't count as going against the Dao Heart, right?"

Lu Changsheng thought to himself, watching Xiao Xiyue make her vow.

He nodded slightly and said to Xiao Xiyue, "How do you plan to start?"

At these words, Xiao Xiyue blinked in surprise.

She knew her emotional trial was related to the affections between men and women, her own desires,

But how to begin, or what to do next, she found herself at a loss.

After all, in this matter, she was truly clueless.

The next moment, she saw Lu Changsheng's handsome face drawing closer,

A warm, moist breath approached her lips and enveloped them.

“Mmm~”

A blush like blooming snow lotuses crept onto Xiao Xiyue’s face,

Her heart pounded furiously, wanting to push Lu Changsheng away.

But the surging shyness and desire within her, controlled by the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, suppressed her instinctive reaction.

Her eyelashes quivered as she hid her embarrassment, her face filled with bewilderment and helplessness, allowing him to take the lead.

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The fervent breath pried open her clenched teeth, intensifying her emotions to an overpowering degree, rendering her nearly incapable of self-control.

“No, this can’t happen.”

Moments later, Xiao Xiyue felt the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique almost fail, and a languid moan escaped from her nostrils as she lightly struggled.

Her stunningly beautiful face was flushed with a rosy hue, her delicate body going limp in waves.

She seemed powerless to resist, almost collapsing in Lu Changsheng’s arms.

After a while, Lu Changsheng embraced Xiao Xiyue’s tall and graceful figure, and in a gentle voice, he said, “Daoist Xiao, is this the desired effect?”

Xiao Xiyue’s eyes were slightly downcast, her lips tenderly pink as she softly murmured an “mm-hmm.”

...

The sunlight outside streamed through the lattice windows, sprinkling over the Fairy’s jade-like face. It bloomed on her beautiful cheeks like trees laden with snow and brought a hint of shallowness and enchantment to her holy and charming appearance.

With the circulation of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, Xiao Xiyue gradually suppressed and extinguished the tide of carnal desire.

“Would Daoist Xiao like to continue?”

Lu Changsheng, holding her waist and smelling the fragrance from her hair, asked, looking at Xiao Xiyue in such a state.

He found the Fairy Xi Yue's appearance quite amusing.

Normally, she seemed cold and aloof, like the Nine Heavens Bright Moon high above, serene, sacred, indifferent, and calm, provoking only distant admiration without daring any desecration.

Yet with the slightest intimacy, she would become like a little girl, her face flush with shyness, her body going weak.

Once it stopped, she would slowly revert to the ethereal Fairy demeanor.

"Wait, just a moment."

Xiao Xiyue, with eyes enchanting as the moon, allowed the man to wrap his arms around her waist and smell her dark silky hair as she whispered softly.

She could feel that just being held like this, breathing in the masculine scent of Lu Changsheng, made her heart restless.

Lu Changsheng, hearing this, remained silent.

He simply held her, quietly embracing the tall, exquisite softness, relishing her beauty.

After all, he was helping someone in her cultivation.

They say that doctors possess compassion, and saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-tiered pagoda.

In Lu Changsheng's view, assisting someone in their cultivation was much the same.

A man and a woman, like a pair of celestial beings, quietly embraced each other.

It was unclear how much time passed.

Xiao Xiyue's emotions stabilized.

She had gradually become accustomed to Lu Changsheng's breath and embrace.

Suddenly, the Fairy pursed her lips and took the initiative to lift her cold jade-like face, the Moon White Embroidered Shoes elevating slightly.

Their lips met, eyes closed gently.

During this process, Xiao Xiyue's cheeks began to blush once again.

It was her first kiss just now.

And now, it was her first time initiating a kiss.

During this, she remained shy and passive, allowing the actions to happen to her without taking the lead.

Desire surged wildly within her, making the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique circulate rapidly, her stunningly beautiful cheeks radiating with allure, a blush spreading from her face to her ears and neck.

Moments later, the raised tips of her toes inside the Moon White Embroidered Shoes began to weaken along with her delicate body.

And just then,

Xiao Xiyue, who was lost in the intoxication as if savoring fine wine, suddenly stiffened as if struck by lightning. With a soft 'yelp,' her entire delicate body went limp, and she began to tremble.

This caused the effect of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique to directly fail.

"No, this mustn't happen."

The beautiful face of the Fairy flushed red as blood, experiencing an odd sensation on her chest, her legs going weak. She quickly gasped for breath and spoke out to stop Lu Changsheng's actions.

"Huff! Huff! Huff!"

As their lips parted, Xiao Xiyue gasped for air, her breath as fragrant as orchids.

She pursed the corners of her lips and, pretending to be composed, lifted her hand to wipe away the traces at the corner of her mouth, and said, "Lu, Lu Daoist, let's call it a day."

She felt that things were moving too fast, and she had to take time to properly digest it.

But having said that, her body had yet to recover from its trembling, still leaning in Lu Changsheng's arms.

"Alright, as Daoist Xiao wishes."

Lu Changsheng looked at the radiant beauty in his arms, her lips lustrous and full, at the Fairy who was struggling to maintain self-control, and a hint of amusement crossed his mind.

He thought to himself that this Fairy's combat strength was really too weak.

If this were the case, her path to cultivation would indeed be very long.

After a while, Xiao Xiyue's demeanor calmed down a bit, she gave Lu Changsheng a salute, and staggered away.

Watching the hastily departing Fairy, Lu Changsheng chuckled softly, twirling his fingers and bringing them to his nose to sniff.

He could still smell a fragrance like a blossoming garden of flowers.

He couldn't help thinking, the Fairy indeed carried her own weight, certainly not one to leave her children hungry in the future.

"Phew!"

Having just assisted the Fairy in her cultivation, Lu Changsheng felt that it had also affected him, his mind a bit disordered.

He would need to find his wives and consorts to help with his own cultivation.

...

After returning to her room,

Xiao Xiyue had a maid fill a tub with water for her to bathe.

She soaked alone in the bathtub scattered with flower petals.

"Is it worth it?"

During the recent cultivation session, which nearly nullified the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, her state of mind seemed to revert to her once genuine and lively self, her heartstrings beginning to quiver.

She questioned herself, whether it was worth it to do this for the sake of cultivation.

A trace of confusion flashed in Xiao Xiyue's eyes.

She recalled joining the Qingyun Sect, her master Yun Wanshang imparting the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique to her, and her own resolute choice of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique without any hesitation.

She remembered the years of hard cultivation, the leaving of the mountain for experience, and clarifying Lu Changsheng's emotional calamity with him.

She was acutely aware that all this was her own choice, following her true nature.

"It's worth it, all of it!"

Xiao Xiyue's eyes were clear, the confusion, retreat, and regret in her heart clearing away.

As the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique circulated, her beautiful eyes became as cold as the moon. She murmured to herself, "I... can certainly do it!"

Her cold and touching voice was very calm.

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But it revealed an unwavering determination.

With the clarity of her Dao Heart, she felt as if her realm had also loosened somewhat.

In the following days,

Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue did not venture out, but continued their cultivation practice within the residence.

During these days, under the guidance of Lu Changsheng, Xiao Xiyue's practice of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique improved rapidly.

She no longer closed her eyes and simply endured his verbal sparring, letting things happen, but would now slightly shyly collaborate a little....

Although her proud chest still fluttered when caressed, it no longer caused the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique to lose its effect, and gradually she was able to control and restrain this surge of desire.

Pitifully, this made things difficult for Lu Changsheng.

Initially, Lu Changsheng thought he was merely helping a fairy with her practice,

As if helping the future mother of his child.

But once he truly assisted, this was not mere fairy cultivation,

It was also a cultivation for himself.

Thankfully he had his wives in the residence; otherwise, who could withstand it?

While Lu Changsheng was practicing with the fairy,

At Qingyun Sect, Caiyun Peak,

Within a magnificent palace, Yun Wanshang was seated, engaged in alchemy.

A green jade pill furnace, brimming with vitality and lush greenery, slowly rotated above her head.

As a Nascent Soul Immortal, she naturally knew some skills.

In terms of alchemy, although not extremely profound, she was also a Second-Rank Alchemist. "Coalesce!"

As she formed hand seals, she sent a Spiritual Art towards the pill furnace.

Elixir medicines flew out one by one from the pill furnace, landing in her hands.

Out of ten elixir medicines, half were dull and scorched, clearly failures. "What's wrong with me today? My mental spirit is somewhat restless during alchemy. Could it be that something has happened to Xi Yue?"

Yun Wanshang frowned slightly as she looked at the elixir medicines in her hand.

Her first thought was whether her disciple, Xiao Xiyue, had encountered trouble.

But through the soul guide on Xiao Xiyue's body, she knew that Xiao Xiyue was not in mortal danger.

Immediately, a jade token appeared in her hand.

This was an information-transmitting jade token, divided into a pair of master and subordinate tokens.

Although it could not convey specific information, during its creation, one could inscribe general information for simple communication.

Yun Wanshang used the master and subordinate communication tokens to reach out to Xiao Xiyue, inquiring about her situation.

Within the Lu Family residence,

In a room of a courtyard, the sound of 'huala huala' could be heard.

Xiao Xiyue sat in a bath bucket, her black hair lightly tied up.

She scooped up the hot water tinged with flower petals with her delicate hands, gently rubbing away the non-existent saliva mark on her snowy skin.

The clear serene beauty on her face was calm, but her eyes that were as bright as the full moon, trembled from time to time, clearly not as tranquil as she appeared.

She had thought that after so many days of cultivation, her mental state would have greatly improved, allowing her to control these emotions.

Yet, under Lu Changsheng's child-like behavior, her Dao Heart was once again challenged.

But inside, she did not reject such behavior.

Or rather, she did not reject such behavior from Lu Changsheng.

She knew that Lu Changsheng was helping her with her cultivation.

And the effects of such cultivation methods also made her even more certain that Lu Changsheng was indeed the opportunity and key to her breakthrough. "Hmm?"

At that moment, Xiao Xiyue's mental spirit stirred slightly, and with a beckoning gesture, she pulled out a jade token from the nearby storage bag.

Seeing the caring message from her master on the jade token warmed Xiao Xiyue's heart, and a touch of softness appeared in her eyes.

She also knew that her master was worried about her discipleship and training outside the mountain, and immediately replied through the jade token, indicating she was well and asked her master to be at ease, not to worry.

Although she had things she wanted to say to her own master, the jade token could only convey simple messages.

Meanwhile,

In Azure Phoenix Immortal City, within a Second-Order Cave Mansion, "Caiyun True Immortal's disciple Xiao Xiyue is out on a solo training expedition."

A young man around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, dressed in a Crimson Brocade Robe, with a somewhat sinister and cunning face, looked at the message in his hand. "Back then, my cheap master went to ambush Yun Wanshang, only to never return." "Now they send a message, wanting me to go and ambush this disciple of Caiyun True Immortal, hehe."

The corners of the young man's mouth curled up in a cold smirk. "However, for the sake of this Heavenly Pure Water, I might as well make a trip; after all, she's just a little Qi Refinement girl." "Moreover, if this girl was taken as a disciple by Yun Wanshang, she must have an exceptional talent."

Looking at the self-destructing jade slip in his hand, greed flickered in his eyes as he stepped out of the mansion. ...

Within the Lu Family residence. "Zing Zing Zing!"

In a courtyard, Xiao Xiyue played the ancient zither in her white dress and skirt, her demeanor cool and ethereal.

The sound of the zither was lingering and extremely beautiful.

But to those proficient in rhythm, it was evident that the music was somewhat chaotic.

Clearly, the player's heart was not at peace. "Sigh!"

Xiao Xiyue stopped playing the zither, sighing deeply.

Her stunningly beautiful face momentarily lost in thought with a blush creeping up her cheeks.

Just recalling the events of the previous day caused desire to surge uncontrollably within her, and the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique began to circulate rapidly.

That day, during their cultivation, Lu Changsheng had lifted and slid off her moon-white dress and then...

Feelings of shyness, shame, panic, confusion, and palpitations tormented her, a sensation like gnawing bones and scorching hearts, making her tremble and unable to compose herself even now.

She felt as if she were ruined.

It was nothing like when she did it herself in the past.

As a result, she hadn't been able to calm her emotions entirely.

And then yesterday...

Xiao Xiyue looked toward her jade foot wrapped in plain white silk stockings inside her moon-white embroidered shoes.

Her eyes, usually cool and indifferent like the bright moon, were now like a lake disturbed by falling drizzle, rippling slightly.

Just as Xiao Xiyue's emotions were in turmoil and she was about to use the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique to calm herself, "Knock Knock Knock—"

A series of knocks sounded at the door.

Xiao Xiyue knew it was Lu Changsheng.

This courtyard was only ever visited by Lu Changsheng. "Is it time to start cultivating today?"

Xiao Xiyue felt a tinge of restlessness in her heart, mixed with faint anticipation. "Xiao Daoist."

Lu Changsheng looked toward Xiao Xiyue in front of the zither, who was clad in white, surpassing the snow, resembling the bright moon above or the Guanghan Fairy, and called out with a smile. "Lu Daoist, you've arrived?"

Xiao Xiyue's expression was cool, yet pleased as she looked toward the young man.

She didn't know how Lu Changsheng would cultivate with her today. "Xiao Daoist, I'll be away for a while, as there are matters to attend to at Qingzhu Mountain, so I need to make a trip back." "Thus, for the upcoming period, it might be inconvenient to cultivate with you," Lu Changsheng said upfront to the fairy before him.

His trip to Ruyi County City for the appointment had already been earlier than scheduled.

As it had been one or two months since he'd been outside, he needed to return home briefly to inform his wives and concubines and to handle affairs at the Spiritual Talisman Shop.

Although the days spent cultivating with the fairy brought both pain and pleasure, he couldn't forget his home or neglect his duties.

Moreover, the cultivation with the fairy couldn't be completed in a short time, and he couldn't stay with Xiao Xiyue here to cultivate at a leisurely pace. "Going back."

Xiao Xiyue nodded at his words.

She was aware that Lu Changsheng spent most of his time in the Cultivation World, only occasionally visiting the secular realm.

That he had stayed for so long in the secular world this time was because of her cultivation matters. "You've had a hard time these days, Lu Daoist," Xiao Xiyue said softly. "You're too courteous, Xiao Daoist. When I return, probably next month, I should be able to come over," Lu Changsheng replied with a smile.

Though it was painful and joyful, he had also tasted its sweetness, which he found quite acceptable in his view. "I'll go with Lu Daoist. I remember that Red Leaf Valley Market is near Qingzhu Mountain," "That way it would be convenient for you to go back and forth, Lu Daoist, instead of the trouble of travelling to and fro." "Besides, during this time I've had some insights and want to go see the Cultivation World," Xiao Xiyue spoke out.

She felt indebted for Lu Changsheng's assistance. "Alright, since that's the case, let's set off right now," Lu Changsheng felt this would be better and much more convenient upon hearing her words.

After all, the trip from Qingzhu Mountain to Red Leaf Valley was only half a day's journey.

Spending days in the secular world was not only troublesome with the traveling back and forth but without the Spirit Vein, it also hindered and affected his cultivation.

Xiao Xiyue, hearing Lu Changsheng mention setting off right away to handle proper matters,

Felt an inexplicable hint of slight loss in her heart upon not hearing anything about cultivating together.

However, she didn't show this emotion and immediately smoothed over and erased these feelings.

She nodded lightly and said, "Alright."

Immediately, Lu Changsheng informed his wives, concubines, and children and then set off with Xiao Xiyue, riding flying mounts and leaving Ruyi County City for Red Leaf Valley Market.

Chapter 285: Chapter 137: Foundation Establishment Ambush, Treasure Bones Emerge!_1

The vast clear sky was a washed azure blue.

A black Iron Feather Eagle and a majestic Immortal Crane with pure white feathers were soaring swiftly through the air.

On the backs of the Iron Feather Eagle and the Immortal Crane, there stood a handsome young man with a stalwart figure, and a cold-faced, tall, and graceful woman.

It was Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue who had departed from Ruyi County City and were heading towards the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Lu Changsheng, utterly bored, watched Xiao Xiyue atop the crane; her tall and graceful figure draped in a moon-white dress, standing there like an ethereal fairy.

Her cool and detached visage bore the pure aura of the bright moon in the sky, exuding an air of immortality.

Beneath the caress of the wind, her long black hair and the hem of her dress fluttered, occasionally revealing a small section of her fair and round jade-like legs.

...

This sight involuntarily caused Lu Changsheng to think back to the moments of her cultivation over the past several days.

"Indeed, to hold an esteemed and inviolable fairy beneath oneself and indulge as one pleases is the deepest desire hidden in the heart of every man,"

Lu Changsheng thought to himself, exhaling lightly to suppress the restlessness within his heart.

For Xiao Xiyue, these days were for cultivation.

For him, they were likewise a form of cultivation.

"Fellow Daoist Xiao, in about two days, we should reach the Red Leaf Valley Market,"

seeing a landmark range of mountains and having a rough idea of their location, Lu Changsheng sent a message to Xiao Xiyue.

"Good,"

Xiao Xiyue replied.

Whether she was in the state of cultivation or not, she was usually not very talkative, somewhat reticent.

However, if a topic was brought up to her, Xiao Xiyue would always respond.

Like during these days, Lu Changsheng had asked Xiao Xiyue numerous questions.

Even to some of the more personal questions, she would answer.

The Iron Feather Eagle and the Immortal Crane continued to glide rapidly through the air.

Just then,

“Be careful!”

Xiao Xiyue suddenly exclaimed.

She abruptly turned her gaze to the right where an ancient qin appeared in her hands.

“Hmm!?”

Alerted by her exclamation, Lu Changsheng quickly turned and looked in the same direction.

He immediately saw a stream of rainbow light slashing through the sky far away, speeding directly toward them.

“The little girl is not simple, indeed, to have detected my presence. Truly worthy of being a disciple of Caiyun True Immortal,”

In the next moment, the rainbow light appeared mere zhangs away from the two.

A man in his late twenties, with a sinister, effeminate face and dressed in a crimson brocade robe, materialized.

Standing on a black cloud, he radiated a powerful aura of spirit pressure.

It caused Lu Changsheng’s Iron Feather Eagle below him to flap its wings frantically and shiver in fear.

“A Foundation Establishment Cultivator!”

Lu Changsheng’s pupils shrank, and his gaze narrowed slightly.

From the man’s speed and the spirit pressure he emitted, Lu Changsheng immediately knew he was faced with a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator.

And from the look of it, this Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator bore no good intentions.

“Senior recognizes my master, is there something you require?”

Xiao Xiyue looked toward the young man and spoke.

Her fair hand rested on the qin, poised and ready to strike, clearly perceiving the ill intentions of their adversary.

“I am here for you this time; as for the reason, you shall know in a moment,”

the man in the crimson robe spoke as he stood with his hands behind his back, his eyes revealing a glint of dark red light.

As soon as he finished speaking, a mass of dark red murderous aura appeared beside him, transforming into the head of a ferocious python and roaring as it lunged toward Xiao Xiyue.

“Clang!”

Xiao Xiyue, prepared for such an event, plucked a string on the qin, and a resonant sound arose, followed by a gust of wind.

It was clear to see ripples of sound waves emanating from Xiao Xiyue at the center, rolling out like a series of circular blades and crushing the murderous python with their force.

But the next moment, the shattered murderous python, like mist, reassembled and continued its ferocious onslaught.

Realizing the situation, Xiao Xiyue understood that this Foundation Building Great Cultivator was an enemy, not a friend.

Even with her exceptional talent, she stood no chance against a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator.

Especially since this Great Cultivator was evidently no ordinary one.

Immediately, she took out a second-rank, ice-blue talisman from her storage bag and activated it swiftly.

A terrible frost and cold wind arose as if intending to freeze the heavens and earth, aiming to encase the murderous python in ice and form a giant wall of ice.

“Go!”

Xiao Xiyue didn’t linger, immediately shouting to Lu Changsheng.

Without hesitation, she retracted the Immortal Crane into her Spiritual Pet Bag and conjured a cloud veil.

Her graceful figure in white dress alighted on the cloud veil, reached out to Lu Changsheng beside her, and brought him onto the cloud veil. Together, they turned into a beam of escape light, attempting to flee.

“You think you can escape?”

The man in the crimson robe watched this unfold, his lips curling up in a slight smile, his voice filled with contempt and disdain.

He, a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, set on interdicting a mere Qi Refinement minor, couldn't possibly let them get away.

Even with the addition of Lu Changsheng, it only meant another Qi Refinement cultivator, hardly worth his concern.

“Scowl!”

The man in the crimson robe formed hand seals and shouted coldly.

Suddenly, his life-bound spiritual artifact, the ‘Red Phoenix Pearl,’ flew out from his dantian and hovered above his head, radiating a red glow.

A beam of light shot out, casting a red glow that caused the figure of Xiao Xiyue, maneuvering the cloud veil to escape, to stiffen abruptly.

Immediately after, a chilling white flying sword appeared out of nowhere, its sword qi roiling and sharpness menacing, making a beeline for Xiao Xiyue.

“Not good!”

Realizing the imminent threat of the flying sword, Xiao Xiyue knew escape was likely impossible.

Quickly, she slapped her storage bag and summoned a five-colored tortoise shell.

The tortoise shell shot into the air, unfolding a five-colored radiance while exuding an aura of impregnable defense.

Then, a colorful sword bead appeared.

The sword bead spun wildly, surrounded by terrifying sword light, seeming capable of slicing through everything.

“Go!”

Xiao Xiyue formed hand seals and shouted crisply, propelling the sword bead viciously towards the man in the crimson robe.

Chapter 286: Chapter 137: Foundation Establishment Ambush, Treasure Bones Emerge!_2

Lu Changsheng was slightly taken aback by Xiao Xiyue's decisive actions and strategies in combat.

He hadn't expected Xiao Xiyue to be so resolute, possessing such fighting techniques.

She didn't seem like someone who was experiencing her first time outside for training at all.

He couldn't help thinking to himself that the disciples taught within the Immortal Sects were truly different.

They didn't just know how to cultivate, in terms of combat techniques, they were completely superior to many ordinary Loose Cultivators.

Furthermore, looking at the Cloud Veil, Tortoise Shell, and Sword Bead, which were obviously of superior and top-grade magic artifacts, she seemed to be very wealthy.

Despite his astonishment, Lu Changsheng didn't just stand by and do nothing.

...

He took out a stack of Talismans, all of middle and superior grade, and threw out more than a dozen in one go.

After all, as a Talisman Master, it was only natural for him to carry extra Talismans for self-defense.

"Whoosh whoosh whoosh—"

The Talismans emitted a diffuse light, turning into streams of Fire Clouds, Fire Serpents, Ice Spikes, Wind Blades, and Lightning, bursting forth wildly.

"Clang clang clang!"

The stark white Flying Swords struck against the Five-Colored Tortoise Shell, the swords vibrating, and the tide-like Sword Qi roaring tumultuously, as if to shred to pieces anyone it touched, causing faint cracks to appear on the Tortoise Shell.

As for the onslaught of the colorful Sword Beads and Talismans, the young man in the red robe just let out a disdainful sneer.

He lifted his right hand, crystal clear like jade and shimmering with a demonic luster, and directly grasped the Sword Bead.

“Crack, crack...”

The sharp Sword Beads made a teeth-grating ‘crack’ sound against the crystal-like jade palm.

A Murderous Python bursting with sinister Qi leapt from his shoulder, directly neutralizing and shattering Lu Changsheng’s Talismans offensive.

“This is definitely not an ordinary Foundation Building Great Cultivator!”

Seeing this scene, Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed slightly.

He didn’t say much about his own stack of Talisman attacks; it was quite normal for them to be neutralized, being merely middle and superior grade Talismans.

But Xiao Xiyue’s Tortoise Shell and Sword Bead were clearly not simple.

Yet, under the techniques of this young man in the red robe, the Tortoise Shell cracked, and the Sword Bead was even pinched in his hand.

Although the young man’s palm seemed to use some kind of spell, it still made him very alarmed.

He knew that the strength of this young man in the red robe was not that of an ordinary Foundation Building Great Cultivator.

His power far exceeded the Lu Family Ancestor, Chen Family Ancestor, Bai Family Ancestor, and Meng Xiaochan that he had encountered before.

“Hmph.”

Xiao Xiyue’s countenance paled slightly as the two artifacts she summoned were broken, and she let out a muffled groan.

She took out a silver Talisman from her Storage Bag and handed it to Lu Changsheng.

She quickly transmitted her voice, “Lu Daoist, this matter started because of me; he must be tracking me through some kind of technique.”

“This is a Second Rank Escape Talisman. I’ll hold him off for a moment; you can use the Talisman to escape from here,” Xiao Xiyue said urgently.

Practicing the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique helped her keep her mind calm even in the face of various crises.

She knew that the young man in the red robe, a Foundation Building Great Cultivator, was after her.

This kind of encounter was certainly no coincidence.

It was highly likely that the opponent possessed some secret technique that could find her.

Thus, in this situation, it was extremely difficult for her to escape from the hands of a Foundation Building Great Cultivator.

She also didn't want to get Lu Changsheng involved at this time.

Lu Changsheng did not take the Talisman.

He had such Second Rank Escape Talismans himself.

If he had wanted to escape, he could have used the Talisman to do so during the first opportunity in the gap between their fights.

But faced with this situation, leaving Xiao Xiyue behind and escaping alone was something he found rather difficult to do.

"Sigh, with this kind of nature, I'm really not suited for the Cultivation World, for these times," he thought to himself.

"However, after tasting both the sweet and the savory, and she being the future mother of my children, I can't just stand by and do nothing," Lu Changsheng sighed softly in his heart.

He decided to fight back fiercely and see if he could save Xiao Xiyue.

His boldness wasn't completely ungrounded. He had a certain confidence.

He felt that if he truly gave it his all, he could take down a Foundation Building enemy.

Though this particular Foundation Builder was somewhat strong.

Moreover, even if he was no match, he had the Life-Substituting Talisman on him to cling to life.

In the blink of an eye, with thoughts flashing through his mind, Lu Changsheng made a decision, his palms subtly retracting into his sleeves.

One hand held a Talisman, the other gripped a Talisman Treasure emitting golden light.

"Hurry up," Xiao Xiyue pressed, looking at Lu Changsheng with some anxiety.

She urged him to take the Talisman and escape quickly.

"Xiao Daoist, under these circumstances, how could I abandon you and leave?" Lu Changsheng responded with a light chuckle.

"At a time like this, still indulging in romantic sentiment?"

"But make no mistake, you two are doomed not to become lovebirds on the run!" The young man in the red robe's eyes flashed fiercely as he abruptly exclaimed.

In a pair of deep-set eyes, a crimson light glowed, striking fear into the heart.

The next instant, Lu Changsheng's Brow Peach Blossom Gu roared furiously.

It felt as if his brain had been hammered by something, his head dizzying, which made him let out a muffled groan.

The pendant artifact he wore on his neck emitted a cool breeze at that moment.

"Pfft!"

Xiao Xiyue, on the other hand, turned deathly pale at the instant, and suddenly spurted a mouthful of fresh blood, clutching her white forehead.

"Huh? You brat can actually withstand my Divine Sense Attack?"

The young man in the red robe was quite surprised seeing this scene.

He never expected that under his Divine Consciousness Secret Technique, Lu Changsheng would remain unscathed, merely grunting.

He knew that ordinary Cultivators affected by his Divine Sense Attack either fell immediately or ended up like Xiao Xiyue.

Additionally, he could tell that Lu Changsheng was not a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

He was likely just an Energy Refining Cultivator.

For a minor Energy Refiner to withstand his Divine Consciousness Secret Technique indicated the possession of some kind of protective treasure for the sea of consciousness.

That made his eyes gleam with greed.

Chapter 287: Chapter 137: Foundation Establishment Ambush, Treasure Bones Emerge!_3

After all, treasures that can protect the sea of consciousness are all highly cherished.

“No matter what treasure you have, it’s all mine now!”

The red-robed youth laughed heartily, his palm closing as the Red Phoenix Pearl hovering above his head radiated a dazzling light, shining towards Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue.

The ghostly white little sword broke through the Five-Colored Tortoise Shell and, with a ‘whoosh,’ charged towards Lu Changsheng.

The brilliance from the Red Phoenix Pearl caused Lu Changsheng’s figure to suddenly stiffen, feeling as if his surroundings were sealed off and his spiritual power flowing sluggishly within him.

He knew this was the gap between the realms of Qi Refinement and Foundation Establishment.

Not daring to hold back any longer, he slapped his Storage Bag.

...

Suddenly, a two-meter-tall Metal Puppet appeared in front of him, its body pitch-black, wielding a knife in one hand, a shield in the other, and carrying five dark javelins on its back.

It was the Second Rank Puppet he had forged, which had been lying dormant in his Storage Bag gathering dust!

“Clang!”

Facing the ghostly white Flying Sword, the Metal Puppet stepped forward, shield at the ready, creating a metallic clang and sparks flying in all directions.

Immediately after, the Black Gold Long Knife in the puppet’s hand fiercely swung out, mighty and unyielding, striking the ghostly white Flying Sword with another deafening clang.

“You also have a Second Rank Puppet? Seems like you’re not as simple as you look, kid.”

The red-robed youth watched this scene, chuckled lightly, still appearing nonchalant and unconcerned.

But the next moment.

“Hm? A Talisman Treasure!”

He saw that in Lu Changsheng’s hands, an aura was spreading.

A golden, rectangular object shot out, rapidly enlarging in the air, shining brightly, causing his expression to change subtly.

Even as a Foundation Building Great Cultivator, facing a Talisman Treasure like this, he felt a bit troubled.

“It seems you really aren’t simple, kid. Since that’s the case, then go to your death!”

The red-robed youth, seeing that Lu Changsheng had both a Second Rank Puppet and a Talisman Treasure, dropped the cat-and-mouse attitude.

His hands formed a Spiritual Art, and one by one, Evil Pythons appeared, their momentum fierce as they charged towards Lu Changsheng, prepared for a quick battle.

Xiao Xiyue, with a pale face and blood spilling from her mouth, was astonished by Lu Changsheng’s actions.

Her beautiful face showed disbelief.

Having been in close contact for so long, she naturally realized that Lu Changsheng was not as simple as he appeared on the surface.

He surely had hidden his abilities, his secrets.

As for this, she did not question or care about it too much.

After all, which Cultivator does not have some fortune and secrets on them?

But she never would have guessed that Lu Changsheng had hidden his powers so deeply.

Producing a Second Rank Puppet and a Talisman Treasure unexpectedly.

Especially when Lu Changsheng activated the Talisman Treasure, with the aura of spiritual power surging around his body.

It allowed her to approximately perceive that Lu Changsheng's cultivation level and strength must be the same as hers, at Qi Refinement Perfection.

However, seeing that Lu Changsheng had such strength and measures to escape on his own, yet chose to fight by revealing himself in order to save her, it made her heart flutter, spawning an inexplicable emotion.

But at this moment, she did not pay attention to this feeling, taking out a golden talisman paper from her Storage Bag.

"Buzz buzz buzz!!!"

Xiao Xiyue stimulated the talisman paper with her spiritual power, causing a small golden sword to appear, emitting a terrifying might.

This turned out to also be a Talisman Treasure.

"Huh? Another Talisman Treasure!?"

The red-robed youth saw this, his eyes flickered, and his expression darkened.

Before he acted, he had guessed that these Qi Refinement juniors would certainly have treasures to defend themselves.

But he did not expect that there would be this additional complication.

Two Qi Refinement juniors, each possessing a Talisman Treasure.

"But they are just two Qi Refinement juniors, even with Talisman Treasures, how can they unleash their full power?"

The red-robed youth scoffed, smacked his belt, and a set of black armor appeared, which he put on.

After all, even though it was just talk, the unleashed power of two Talisman Treasures could potentially injure him if he was careless.

"Roar roar roar!"

Meanwhile, the nine Evil Pythons had already furiously charged right in front of Lu Changsheng.

Lu Changsheng was fully focused on activating the golden brick Talisman Treasure when he saw this sight, his fingers squeezing an activated Supreme Talisman—a Thunder Talisman.

At this moment, as he activated the golden brick Talisman Treasure and controlled the Second Rank Puppet, he found it difficult to use another Second Rank Talisman.

Under his Puppet Control Technique, the Second Rank Puppet, which was clashing head-on with the ghostly white Flying Sword, suddenly had all five javelins on its back shoot up into the sky.

“Swoosh swoosh swoosh—”

Like thunder and lightning, they turned into five black bolts of lightning, and together they rushed toward the Nine-Headed Evil Python, fiercely and powerfully.

“Boom boom boom!!!”

Every one of the five javelins, each as powerful as a strike from someone of the Foundation Establishment Stage, collided with the Nine-Headed Evil Python, causing an explosive booming noise.

But during this collision, Lu Changsheng could distinctly feel that the Middle Grade Spirit Stones within the puppet’s core were being rapidly consumed, unable to keep up with the onslaught of the enemy’s attacks.

“We must end this battle quickly!”

Lu Changsheng also knew that in this situation, his side could not afford to drag the fight out.

Every casual attack from his opponent forced him to use all his techniques.

Looking up at the sky, where the golden brick now resembled a small mountain, Lu Changsheng’s mind shifted slightly.

He poured his entire Mental Spirit and Spiritual Power into controlling the Talisman Treasure.

“Boom!”

The mountainous, radiant golden brick, with its heavy and pure aura, plummeted down towards the red-robed youth.

“Chi!”

Faced with the surging momentum of the falling golden brick, the youth dared not underestimate it and let out a low shout.

The Red Phoenix Pearl above his head spun rapidly, radiating intense red light, making the surroundings appear as if engulfed by a blazing cloud, rising to meet the golden brick bearing down like a formidable mountain.

“Rumble rumble!”

The two treasures collided, their might surging, locking the golden and red light in a standoff mid-air.

And at that moment, Xiao Xiyue’s Talisman Treasure, the golden little sword, also burst forth.

This little golden sword, nearly pushed to its limit by Xiao Xiyue, displayed an incredible might and suddenly closed in on the red-robed youth.

Chapter 288: Chapter 137: Foundation Establishment Ambush, Treasure Bones Emerge!_4

The youth was combating the golden Talisman Treasure brick when he saw the small sword coming to kill him, he slapped his hand, and a puppet in the form of a tiger appeared.

“Pfft!”

In just a moment, the golden small sword pierced through the tiger puppet, shattering its core.

But in that instant, the youth wielded a pair of blood-colored scissors from his hand, which transformed into a blood-colored flood dragon, colliding with the golden small sword.

“Clang clang clang!”

The golden small sword and the blood-colored flood dragon continuously clashed.

At this moment, the youth in the red robe was somewhat strained facing the Second Rank puppet and two Talisman Treasures.

...

He saw that Xiao Xiyue was already at the end of her tether.

Under the initial offensive and Divine Sense Attack, her mental spirit had already been damaged.

Now, as she desperately stimulated the Talisman Treasures, both her mental spirit and mana were barely holding on.

He prepared to deal with Xiao Xiyue first, then handle Lu Changsheng.

With a flicker of his mental spirit, the sen-white Flying Sword entangled with the Second Rank puppet suddenly turned and charged towards Xiao Xiyue.

“Daoist Xiao, be careful!”

Lu Changsheng, upon seeing this, immediately shouted.

He took control of the Second Rank puppet to intercept the Flying Sword.

However, after the Nine-Headed Evil Python was shattered, it regrouped, indomitable, forcing the puppet to block its way.

“Pfft!”

Xiao Xiyue’s complexion turned pale as she saw the small sword coming to kill her; she bit her silver teeth, spitting fresh blood onto her ancient zither.

“Twang!”

Immediately, the ancient zither soared into the sky, its blood-stained strings plucked autonomously, emitting a sound like that of warhorses and ironclad soldiers, as wave after wave of Sound Wave Blades were unleashed.

“Clang clang clang!”

The sen-white Flying Sword collided with the ancient zither, making Xiao Xiyue’s face even paler.

“Daoist Lu, you must go quickly!”

Xiao Xiyue said aloud.

She could see that even if Lu Changsheng was hiding his strength, possessing a Second Rank puppet and Talisman Treasures,

this Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator was not an ordinary one; they were no match for him.

If they persisted, both of them would die here.

After speaking, she fully stimulated her mental spirit and spiritual power, propelling the golden small sword to create an opportunity for Lu Changsheng.

The sword emitted bursts of golden light around itself, and with a fierce slash, it cut a deep gash in the body of the blood-colored flood dragon.

Causing the Spiritual Artifact to revert to a blood-colored pair of scissors and fall from the sky.

At that moment, the golden small sword also dimmed considerably but still charged towards the youth in the red robe.

“Hmph!”

The youth in the red robe, seeing his Spiritual Artifact damaged, let out a cold snort and formed a hand seal.

Black armor around him surged with a ghostly light, and at the same time, the blood-colored scissors flew up again, transforming into a blood-colored flood dragon, colliding with the golden small sword.

But at this moment, the blood-colored flood dragon was clearly much dimmer than before.

Lu Changsheng, watching this scene, also had an estimate of the youth in the red robe’s strength.

He knew the latter was also running low on strength.

He propelled the Talisman Treasure golden brick with all his might while controlling the Second Rank puppet to attack the youth in the red robe.

The Treasure Bones in his chest were poised and ready.

This was his last trump card!

“Damn it!”

The youth in the red robe, seeing the puppet coming to kill, also looked somewhat sullen and ugly.

Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue, although both were in the stage of Qi Refinement, summoned Talisman Treasures with incredibly astonishing power.

Especially the golden light brick, which completely entangled his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact, crazily draining the mana within his body.

He gritted his teeth, formed a hand seal with both hands, and slapped his chest to use a secret technique.

It allowed him, under such circumstances, to split a part of his Mental Spirit and mana to control his Magic Artifact.

“Clang clang clang!”

Immediately, a purple bell Magic Artifact appeared, gently swaying in the void and emitting a series of soul-stirring sounds.

This sound made both Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue unable to help but feel dazed, somewhat dizzy and swollen-headed.

The young man clearly saw that both were fully controlling the Talisman Treasure, thus expending a great deal of their Mental Spirit.

A disturbance would inevitably lead to an opening.

“Pfft!”

The Second Rank Puppet reached the young man in the red robe, and the Black Gold Long Knife in its hand slashed out explosively.

The young man wasn’t a Body Cultivator, so naturally he wouldn’t forcibly resist such a close-range attack.

An armor surrounded by dim light materialized a ghostly shield in front of him, blocking the strike.

The purple bell continued to ding, unsettling the mind, causing Xiao Xiyue, who was barely holding on, to completely faint.

“Now’s the moment!”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes flashed fiercely, knowing that the young man in the red robe had also reached his limit.

Now, without Xiao Xiyue’s help, he couldn’t delay any longer. If the opponent had the chance to recover, there would be no opportunity.

He immediately patted the Spiritual Pet Bag and summoned the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

This Six-Winged Golden Silkworm had been raised for almost two years now.

But regardless of its size or appearance, there was no difference from when he first obtained it.

It was still in the larval stage.

However, at this moment, as long as it could be of use, that was enough.

Lu Changsheng had the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm prepare in secret.

Then, while putting all his strength into stimulating the golden light brick, he unleashed the Treasure Bones that he had nourished for many years with the Black Dragon Magical Bead.

“Roar roar roar—”

In an instant, dragon roars resonated through the void.

Straight from Lu Changsheng’s chest, a tide of dark light spread unceasingly, like a rolling river with surging waves, emitting a terrifyingly powerful aura.

“What kind of technique is this, and how does it have the aura of Core Formation!”

“And how can this youngster, with only Qi Refinement strength, having already stimulated one Talisman Treasure, still unleash such a powerful technique!”

The young man in the red robe screamed, somewhat panicked.

“Boom!”

The next moment, from Lu Changsheng’s chest emerged a Flood Dragon enveloped in glistening black light and shrouded in black mist, giving off a bizarre and evil roar as it emerged.

“What on earth is this technique, this youngster is clearly just a minor Qi Refinement cultivator!”

The young man in the red robe stared at the menacing, roaring Flood Dragon, his expression also becoming somewhat vacant.

Not understanding what was happening before his eyes.

Why, while fully controlling a Talisman Treasure, could he still unleash a technique with a forceful presence not weaker than that of a Foundation Establishment aura.

“Roar roar roar!”

Before he could think further, the rolling black mist and the roaring evil spirit of the Flood Dragon made the young man in the red robe feel his body sluggish and the Spiritual Light in his Mental Spirit dim.

The Black Dragon Magical Bead, upon initial activation, burst forth with black light capable of suppressing the flesh and corrupting the soul.

This spirit of the evil Flood Dragon naturally possessed such an effect.

The young man, already in a state of deadlock, couldn't withstand the soul of the evil Flood Dragon at all and was directly engulfed and devoured by the approaching black mist.

Chapter 289: Chapter 138: 100,000 Spirit Stones, The Change in Xiao Xiyue!_1

“

“Rumble!”

The evil Jiao's soul engulfed and drowned the young man in the red robe, a terrifying radiance filled the void, causing the entire space to boom and explode.

“Ahhhh——”

A shrill scream sounded amidst the waves.

“Huff!”

This strike, lit by the explosive energy of the Treasure Bones, also made Lu Changsheng's face somewhat pale, with a faint pain in his chest.

...

Through the red bead that had clashed hard against the golden light brick, he knew that the young man in red was not yet completely dead.

“Go!”

Lu Changsheng issued an order to the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, lest the opponent still had some strength left.

At the same time, he continued to control the golden light brick with his mental spirit.

At this moment, he could clearly feel the might of the red bead resisting the golden light brick had greatly diminished, falling steadily.

This indicated the dire situation of the young man in red, who was unable to resist.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!”

As the golden light brick continued suppressing the Red Phoenix Pearl, a blood-red light burst out from the soul of the evil Jiao.

It was indeed the young man in red.

By now his black armor was ragged, his hair disheveled, his appearance was utterly wretched.

“Ah... you wait for me, this grudge...”

The young man in red ranted bitterly, attempting to escape using a secret technique.

But before he could finish speaking.

The hovering golden light brick came crashing down like a mountain.

“Puff!”

Simultaneously, a golden line shot out like an arrow, piercing his forehead, leaving a bloody hole.

It was the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

The next moment, the golden light brick also thundered down, pressing both the Red Phoenix Pearl and the young man in red toward the ground below.

Upon seeing this, Lu Changsheng embraced Xiao Xiyue’s delicate body and, piloting the Flying Artifact, descended swiftly.

“Rumble!”

With a thunderous roar,

the golden light brick pinned the young man directly onto the mountainous terrain, causing the ground to shake.

“Phew, truly fitting for a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, so hard to kill!”

“The Treasure Bones I’ve nurtured for years are not the least bit weaker than a full-force strike from a Talisman Treasure, yet he almost got away.”

Lu Changsheng could sense that the opponent's vitality had nearly extinguished with the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm's strike.

But just to be safe, he had followed up with a blow from the golden light brick.

Through the golden light brick, he could detect that the young man in red pinned underneath was thoroughly devoid of life.

However, to be on the safe side, Lu Changsheng still took out three Superior Grade Talismans and one Supreme Talisman, setting them up around the golden light brick.

After he finished, Lu Changsheng slightly stirred his mental spirit, allowing the golden light brick to rise slowly.

Upon seeing the mangled corpse within the large pit, Lu Changsheng finally felt at ease.

He retracted the golden light that had engulfed the brick, which had become as large as a small hill, and watched it shrink, reverting to the form of a talisman and flying back into his hand.

But now, this Talisman Treasure was quite dim, its paper even appearing somewhat damaged.

"This Talisman Treasure is probably going to be completely scrapped after one more use."

Lu Changsheng looked at the dim golden light brick Talisman Treasure in his hand and mused inwardly.

This Talisman Treasure had been used by him multiple times, already depleting much of its power.

The recent battle, though brief, had been greatly taxing due to his full-powered activation.

"If this Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator was a pauper, then this would be quite the loss for me."

Lu Changsheng gazed into the large crater made by the golden light brick, at the torn body within it, and exhaled lightly.

However, the likelihood of this was slim.

The red bead, the pale white sword, and the blood-colored scissors alone were of considerable value.

Lu Changsheng did not ponder long to avoid drawing others to the site of the recent battle.

He embraced Xiao Xiyue's tender body, collected the young man in red's mangled corpse, and quickly gathered the scattered treasures around before swiftly departing.

After an hour,

Lu Changsheng found a cave in the mountain range.

He gently placed Xiao Xiyue down inside.

From his Storage Bag, he took out the 'Heavenly Canopy Five Elements Formation' and set it up.

This formation had the effects of trapping enemies and isolating aura, very practical, and was always on Lu Changsheng's person.

After setting up the formation, Lu Changsheng took a recovery elixir medicine from the Storage Bag and used a healing Talisman on him, which made him feel much better.

He then checked Xiao Xiyue's condition.

She seemed to have just suffered damage to her mental spirit and had overconsumed her spiritual power, nothing too serious.

After making a preliminary assessment, Lu Changsheng passed a healing pill into her lips.

He then applied another healing Talisman to her.

He immediately saw her pale complexion improve considerably.

"The biggest difference between the Qi Refinement Realm and the Foundation Establishment Stage, aside from the qualitative change in spiritual power and mana, is divine sense."

"Foundation Establishment Cultivators give birth to divine sense, which affords great convenience in both combat and cultivation."

"If it weren't for the Peach Blossom Gu shielding me from divine sense attacks, I fear I would have suffered damage to my mental spirit just like Xiao Xiyue."

Lu Changsheng looked at Xiao Xiyue's form and realized the most undefendable aspect of encountering Foundation Establishment while being in the Qi Refinement stage.

Even if you have a magic artifact, defending against divine sense attacks is almost impossible.

If he didn't possess the Peach Blossom Gu, he might have been affected as well.

Nevertheless, it was only now that Lu Changsheng discovered the Peach Blossom Gu had this effect.

Immediately, he closed his eyes to introspect, inspecting the condition of the Peach Blossom Gu between his eyebrows.

Though it seemed somewhat listless, it wasn't of much concern.

This was normal.

After all, it was a divine spirit Gu.

And the growth of the Peach Blossom Gu was remarkably fast.

Under his flourishing peach blossom luck, it had grown to the extreme limit of the First Transformation.

If his cultivation level did not restrict it, it could have advanced to the Second Transformation.

Seeing that Xiao Xiyue wouldn't awaken anytime soon, Lu Changsheng stripped the Storage Bag and Storage Belt from the young man in red.

He began sorting through the spoils of the battle.

"I hope they yield a substantial return."

Lu Changsheng looked at the Storage Belt and Storage Bag with a hint of anticipation.

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Chapter 290: Chapter 138: 100,000 Spirit Stones, The Change in Xiao Xiyue!_2

After all, the young man in the red robe didn't seem like an ordinary Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

One would think he couldn't be too poor.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz—"

At this moment, the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm was flying around Lu Changsheng.

Its wings, thin as cicada's, fluttered, emitting a bloodthirsty aura.

"Go ahead."

Lu Changsheng naturally understood what the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm meant and chuckled lightly.

...

He hadn't burned the young man in the red robe to ashes, precisely to leave the body for the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

After all, this Six-Winged Golden Silkworm fed on blood.

To it, the blood essence of a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator like the young man in the red robe was naturally a great tonic.

Having received Lu Changsheng's permission, the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm immediately burrowed into the young man's body and began to feast greedily.

"Isn't this a bit too much like the practices of the Demonic Path?"

Lu Changsheng watched the actions of the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm and smacked his lips.

Very soon, he shook his head and said, "But it's just resource utilization after all. If I didn't feed it to the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, I'd have to burn it to ashes."

"Besides, this is far from what the Demon Path cultivators do."

"I read in a book before that some Demonic Path cultivators use any resource they can for cultivation, be it humans, demon beasts, or the souls of all living beings."

"Things like human skin books, White Bone Arrows, pools of blood and flesh, Myriad Soul Banners, and even human emotions like joy, anger, and hatred can be used for cultivation."

Lu Changsheng clicked his tongue in amazement.

He had roughly read about the differences between the righteous path and the Demonic Path in books before.

Although the descriptions weren't very detailed, he had a general idea.

Demonic Path cultivators are more extreme in their cultivation techniques and behaviors, showing less humanity for the sake of advancement.

This consequently leads to some differences in the speed of cultivation and breaking through realms.

But on the whole, there isn't much difference between cultivators of the righteous path and those of the Demonic Path.

"My cheap brother-in-law seems to have followed the Demonic Path, and I have no idea about his current situation or if he's still alive."

Lu Changsheng suddenly remembered Qu Zhenzhen's brother, Qu Changge.

After all these years, he wondered how his cheap brother-in-law, who had entered the Demonic Path, was faring.

After all, life wasn't easy for Demonic Path cultivators in Jiang Country.

Without further musing, Lu Changsheng began to check the Storage Bag.

"So many Spirit Stones, materials!?"

Lu Changsheng immediately saw a pile of Spirit Stones and materials inside, and his face lit up with surprise.

Even without counting in detail, he could tell at a glance that this was no small number of Spirit Stones.

Among them were many lustrous Middle Grade Spirit Stones.

"Hmm, what's this?"

Lu Changsheng then looked at a crystal porcelain bottle.

Inside was half a bottle of red crystal granules, resplendent like glazed glass.

Just by the quality of the exquisite Spirit Bottle and the appearance of the crystals, Lu Changsheng could tell they were no mundane objects.

Opening the porcelain bottle, he immediately felt an intense, scorching energy.

Each grain of crystal shone with a precious light.

"Could this be something like the Core Formation Spiritual Object, Heavenly Fire Glaze, as recorded in the books?"

"If this thing really is the Core Formation Spiritual Object, Heavenly Fire Glaze, then its value is at least fifty to sixty thousand Spirit Stones."

Lu Changsheng looked at the crystal porcelain bottle, his face filled with a smile, and he put it into his Storage Bag.

A regular Foundation Establishment Spiritual Object might cost two to three thousand Spirit Stones.

But for a Core Formation Spiritual Object, the price increases twentyfold.

And they are priceless on the market!

Lu Changsheng continued his inventory.

Seeing ordinary materials and Magic Artifacts didn't stir much emotion in him.

"Red Phoenix True Scripture, a Peripheral Sect Level Cultivation Technique."

"Seems like there's something worthwhile after all, to possess a Peripheral Sect Level Cultivation Technique."

"However, the technique is incomplete, only cultivable to the Core Formation Stage, but I can study the two secret techniques recorded inside later."

Lu Changsheng found several Technique Jade Slips in the Storage Bag.

After a brief glance, there were several High Grade Cultivation Techniques and the inheritance of a hundred arts of cultivation.

Only the Red Phoenix True Scripture notably piqued Lu Changsheng's interest.

"Is this a Magic Treasure embryo?"

Lu Changsheng saw a small black-red cauldron among the items, examining it in his hand.

This small cauldron had only a rough outline of a cauldron shape.

Neither the design nor the patterns were sculpted yet, resembling an unrefined embryo.

But from inspecting the material of the small cauldron and the aura it emitted, even the worldly Lu Changsheng faintly sensed that this was a Magic Treasure.

This kind of appearance made Lu Changsheng guess it was a Magical Treasure embryo.

As far as Lu Changsheng knew, most cultivators' Life-bound Magic Treasures are made from some rare and precious materials, which they refine themselves.

They then shape it into an embryo, and gradually nurture and imbue it into a fledgling form, eventually turning it into a Magic Treasure.

This has an advantage, as one could control the fledgling form of the Magic Treasure in the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

And by nurturing the Magic Treasure embryo well in advance, one could let the Magic Treasure take shape immediately upon reaching Core Formation, significantly increasing its power.

“Could it be that this young man in the red robe is a cultivator in the late stage of Foundation Establishment?”

“Otherwise, why would he have Core Formation Spiritual Objects and a Magical Treasure embryo?”

Lu Changsheng glanced at the corpse that was being drained of blood by the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm and speculated.

After all, how could an ordinary Foundation Establishment Cultivator have such rare items?

However, sifting through the spoils made Lu Changsheng somewhat relieved.

For he had also found in the red-robed young man’s Storage Bag, six pieces of Supreme Talismans of the second rank, as well as Heavenly Thunder Pearls, White Bone Arrows, and other treasures.

It became clear that the latter actually had quite a few trump cards.

If he had made a determined attempt to take their lives from the beginning of their encounter with him and Xiao Xiyue, neither she nor Lu Changsheng would have had the chance to retaliate.

There wouldn’t have been any time to employ Talisman Treasures to suppress him.

“The same principle applies, even when a lion hunts a rabbit, it uses all its strength,” Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

“Otherwise, one might capsize in the gutter unexpectedly.”