

I. Family 321

Chapter 321: If You Feel Bad about It, Have a Few Children_3

Already proud and arrogant, he couldn't swallow the affront he encountered at that moment.

As for Xiao Xiyue, he didn't dare to offend her, so he immediately shifted all the blame onto Lu Changsheng.

...

"This person's name is Meng Yibai, the grandson of a False Core Immortal from our sect."

"It seems he came over upon hearing about my Foundation Establishment in the marketplace, to offer his congratulations."

Xiao Xiyue watched Meng Yibai leave with an unsightly expression, and to prevent Lu Changsheng from misunderstanding, she explained softly.

...

"This person must have some pursuit towards Xi Yue."

"Otherwise, his face wouldn't look so troubled."

Lu Changsheng chuckled and said.

He thought it was fortunate that he had disguised himself.

Otherwise, he might have incurred someone's resentment just because of this.

After all, the trouble brought by beauty is something no one can be certain of.

"Mm."

Xiao Xiyue nodded slightly in agreement.

Although she practiced the Great Art of Forgetting Emotions, which made her emotions detached, she was not ignorant of human relationships and worldly affairs.

Naturally, she also knew the other party had such intentions.

“If the disciples of the Qingyun Sect found out that Fairy Xi Yue was pursued and won over by me, wouldn’t I be chased to the ends of the earth?”

Lu Changsheng joked.

He was not jealous because of this.

If Xiao Xiyue had no suitors in the Qingyun Sect, he wouldn’t believe it himself.

Just like in the Nine Dragons Market, Lu Miaoge had many suitors.

But in the end, it was he, Lu, who had more charm and won the beauty’s favor.

“It’s not that exaggerated.”

Upon hearing his words, the corners of Xiao Xiyue’s mouth lifted upwards.

A hint of joy bubbled up in her heart.

Immediately afterward, the two arrived at their cave dwelling rental.

When the caretaker Han saw Xiao Xiyue and Lu Changsheng come,

judging by their appearances and auras, he knew that they had both succeeded in their Foundation Establishment.

One sign was the anomaly of the nature's spiritual energy vortex earlier, which indicated successful Foundation Establishment.

The other sign was that, if Foundation Establishment failed, even with Foundation Establishment Elixirs, one's energy would be weak and disordered in the short term.

But Xiao Xiyue and Lu Changsheng had mana that showed no signs of weakness or disorder, deep and profound like an ocean, which made him feel it was unfathomable.

“Congratulations to Xiao Shishu on successful Foundation Establishment, and to this senior on successful Foundation Establishment. May your path to the Great Dao be promising!”

Caretaker Han immediately bowed deeply.

Now that Xiao Xiyue had achieved Foundation Establishment, her status had naturally risen.

Before, he was able to call her “junior sister” due to joining the sect earlier and being older.

Now he naturally had to address her as “Shishu” and refer to Lu Changsheng as “senior.”

“Xiao Shishu, when you were undertaking Foundation Establishment, Immortal Du and Meng Yibai, Meng Shishu, came here and asked about you,”

“Immortal Du, upon knowing you were attempting Foundation Establishment, instructed that no one should disturb you,”

Caretaker Han continued, taking the opportunity to remind her.

Though this matter wasn't something big,

he felt it was still necessary to inform Xiao Xiyue.

After all, she was not only a disciple of a Nascent Soul Immortal but had also achieved Foundation Establishment. If she could leave a good impression, it might be beneficial for her future.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Xiyue nodded slightly.

She had already seen Meng Yibai just now.

As for Immortal Du, she knew he was a False Core Immortal presiding over the Qingyun Market.

The fact that he ordered not to disturb her was clearly a show of goodwill.

“Thank you, Brother Han.”

Xiao Xiyue bowed slightly in response.

She naturally knew that in the Qingyun Sect, one’s status greatly increased upon breaking through to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

A Qi Refinement disciple must address a Foundation Establishment disciple as “Shishu.”

However, she was not accustomed to such a title yet,

especially since caretaker Han was twenty to thirty years her senior.

“This Fairy Xi Yue and this person seem to have an extraordinary relationship.”

“Not only did they establish their foundations together, but they also stayed in the cave dwelling for so long.”

After Xiao Xiyue and Lu Changsheng left, caretaker Han was inwardly shocked.

He had felt before that the relationship between Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue was not ordinary.

This was why he mentioned not only Immortal Du but also Meng Yibai.

After all, Young Master Meng was not one with a good temper.

If he saw the close relationship between Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue, he might cause trouble.

“But what does it have to do with me?”

Caretaker Han shook his head, deciding not to think further.

Having managed affairs for so many years, he knew that there were things one shouldn't be curious about if it wasn't necessary.

“Changsheng, that Immortal Du is an elder of our sect. Since I've come to the market to break through Foundation Establishment, it's only right for me to pay a visit in both sentiment and etiquette,”

Xiao Xiyue said to Lu Changsheng.

If she hadn't known about it, it wouldn't matter.

But now that she was aware of Immortal Du, and he knew of her visit, it would be inappropriate not to pay a visit.

“Alright, you go ahead. I happen to need to buy some things as well,”

Lu Changsheng smiled and nodded.

Indicating that after he finished his shopping, he would head straight back to Qingzhu Mountain.

“Mm.”

Xiao Xiyue returned to her usual cool demeanor, showing a hint of tenderness.

She then hugged Lu Changsheng somewhat reluctantly.

Meng Yibai, just down from Core Peak, saw this scene. His already unpleasant expression turned as dark as liver, his fists clenched tight, with murderous intent in his eyes.

Before, he had comforted himself, thinking that the two were just friends and therefore somewhat affectionate.

But seeing Xiao Xiyue take the initiative to embrace Lu Changsheng now, to say there was nothing between them would be something not even he could believe.

He walked towards the cave dwelling rentals with an expressionless face.

“It seems I need to be careful with this person,”

Lu Changsheng also noticed the expressionless Meng Yibai and thought to himself.

As a man, he naturally understood men.

He could see that someone like Meng Yibai, who radiated vigorous and sharp energy, must have an extremely proud personality.

Seeing the object of his pursuit intimate with another might lead him to malice simply out of displeasure.

Shortly after, they parted ways, and Lu Changsheng headed toward the Inner City.

He planned to deal with some possessions and buy some materials.

Chapter 322: The Army of Golden Armor Warriors, The Way to Enter Qingyun Sect_1

After arriving in the Inner City, Lu Changsheng didn't go directly to purchase or deal with his belongings.

Instead, he found a large inn, checked into a room, and changed into a different disguise.

After all, having spent so long in Nine Dragons Market, he had experience with this and wanted to avoid attracting attention.

At this time, Lu Changsheng also remembered the 'Golden Armor Bean Mother' in his System Space.

Since he had been with Xiao Xiyue, he hadn't taken it out. "Extract."...

Lu Changsheng opened the System Space, his mental spirit flickered slightly.

Immediately, a golden bean the size of an egg appeared in front of him.

At the same time, detailed information about the 'Golden Armor Bean Mother' emerged in Lu Changsheng's mind.

The Golden Armor Bean Mother could transform into a Second Rank Golden Armor Warrior or be used for planting and breeding Spirit Beans.

The information about this Golden Armor Warrior was close to what he had speculated before.

It was somewhat similar to a puppet and a demon beast.

Or rather, it was something in between a puppet and a demon beast.

It had slightly more autonomy than a puppet.

It didn't require divine sense to control and could follow simple commands.

But compared to demon beasts, it had less autonomy.

It could only do as commanded and lacked the ability to adapt spontaneously.

But this Golden Armor Warrior didn't consume Spirit Stones like a puppet, nor did it require food and drink like a demon beast; it could absorb and store Spiritual Energy on its own, and, when completely depleted, could recover slowly if placed in Spiritual Earth. "This Golden Armor Bean Mother's transformed Golden Armor Warrior has the strength of the late Second Rank." "Even if its autonomy is low and it doesn't have many techniques or divine skills, it's still comparable to a top-level Second Rank puppet." "It shouldn't be a problem facing medium-stage Foundation Establishment cultivators."

Lu Changsheng had an approximate understanding of the Golden Armor Bean Mother's combat capability.

The combat capability was quite straightforward, geared towards close combat and acting as a meat shield.

Similar to a puppet, ordinary Foundation Establishment cultivators would struggle to withstand its full-force attacks. "However, as I suspected, the primary function of this Golden Armor Bean Mother lies in its ability to be planted and cultivated."

A faint smile appeared on Lu Changsheng's face, understanding the planting and breeding aspect of the Golden Armor Bean Mother.

It takes three years to sprout, three years to grow leaves, three years to blossom, and three years to bear pods.

In other words, it can complete a reproduction cycle and bear fruit every twelve years.

Each time, it can yield five to ten Golden Armor Spirit Beans.

All these Golden Armor Spirit Beans can transform into Golden Armor Warriors, although they are not as powerful as the Golden Armor Bean Mother.

They only possess the strength of the late First Rank, roughly equivalent to a high-grade First Rank puppet. “A twelve-year cycle is a bit long,” “Moreover, these Golden Armor Spirit Beans can’t be planted and bred like the Golden Armor Bean Mother.” “Otherwise, if I could continuously breed more from the beans, I could establish an entire army of Golden Armor Warriors.”

Lu Changsheng felt a tinge of regret in his heart.

When he first obtained Second Rank puppet techniques, he envisioned creating an army of puppets to execute the Puppet Sea Technique. However, due to the high cost of creating puppets and the need for personal control, he had to abandon the idea.

But these Golden Armor Spirit Beans could be planted, and he could have them do tasks with just simple commands, rekindling his interest in this approach.

Alas, these Golden Armor Spirit Beans also had their flaws. “Unless necessary, I should avoid using the Golden Armor Bean Mother for combat.” “Otherwise, if it gets damaged or develops problems and can’t blossom and bear fruit, that would be a major loss.” “After all, the Golden Armor Warriors produced from these Golden Armor Spirit Beans are extremely convenient for combat, tilling Spiritual Earth, forging puppet parts, or any simple miscellaneous tasks.” “They require no human manipulation, no food or drink, no rest, and as long as they have enough Spiritual Power, they can work endlessly.” “When their Spiritual Power is exhausted or they suffer from wear and tear, provided it is not too severe, they can recover if buried in Spiritual Earth.”

Lu Changsheng muttered to himself, realizing that for him, the Golden Armor Bean Mother was not to be used for transforming into a Golden Armor Warrior for combat.

But rather, to continually reproduce a labor force.

In the future, when he established his own family, many tasks, such as the envisioned Puppet Factory, could be entrusted to the Golden Armor Warriors produced by the Spirit Beans. “I wonder if I will be able to draw something like the Golden Armor Bean Mother again.”

Lu Changsheng became even more interested in such Dao Soldiers, and decided to check the bookstores in Qingyun Market later for information about Dao Soldiers.

After putting the Golden Armor Bean Mother into his Spiritual Pet Bag, Lu Changsheng left the inn.

He first visited two Magic Artifact shops and traded the artifacts he didn't need for Spirit Stones.

In total, there were four supreme artifacts and three upper-grade artifacts.

The quality of these artifacts was still quite good, and since they weren't used much, he sold them for six thousand three hundred Spirit Stones.

As for the three Spiritual Artifacts he acquired from the young man in the red robe, Lu Changsheng chose not to sell them.

Now that he had reached Foundation Establishment, it was only natural that he updated his artifacts.

The other party's colorless Flying Sword was quite good, being a middle-grade Spiritual Artifact, so he kept it for his own use.

Although the blood-colored scissors were somewhat worn, they were still usable.

As for the Red Phoenix Pearl, since it was the other party's Life-bound Spiritual Artifact, its power would be significantly reduced if he used it, but considering it was a Life-bound Spiritual Artifact and rather conspicuous, potentially recognized by acquaintances, Lu Changsheng also chose not to sell it, planning to decide what to do with it later.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng inquired about the location of the Qingyun Commerce Guild.

He changed his appearance again and headed towards the Qingyun Commerce Guild.

For constructing the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, he already had several of the common materials, but the rest were rarer Spiritual Materials, which were hard to find in ordinary shops.

They could only be purchased from big commerce guilds and large shops.

In addition to buying materials for the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, Lu Changsheng also intended to purchase a Second Rank Talisman Brush and materials for drawing Second-tier top-level Supreme Talismans.

Chapter 323: The Army of Golden Armor Warriors, The Way to Enter Qingyun Sect_2

At the peak of Qi Refinement, he could only draw Second Rank lower quality Talismans and barely manage middle quality ones.

Now that he had broken through the Foundation Establishment, he was almost capable of drawing Supreme Second Rank Talismans.

Naturally, he needed to draw some Talismans for self-protection.

“Welcome to Qingyun Commerce Guild, may I know if the guest is here to buy or sell?”

As soon as Lu Changsheng stepped into the Qingyun Commerce Guild, a beautiful female Cultivator dressed in the standard cheongsam uniform of the guild approached to serve him.

“Both buying and selling.”

...

Lu Changsheng casually replied.

After being invited to sit down and having tea promptly served, Lu Changsheng took out a Storage Bag and placed it on the table, saying, “I want to sell these materials, please give me an estimate.”

“Please wait a moment, Fellow Daoist.”

The female Cultivator smiled politely and began to count and evaluate the materials in front of him.

It wasn't easy to become a receptionist at Qingyun Commerce Guild.

One not only needed to be a Cultivator but also had to be adept at appraising materials.

After a while, the female Cultivator respectfully said, “Senior, I have counted the materials you wish to sell, and our purchase price is three thousand three hundred ninety-one Spirit Stones, may I know your opinion”

“If you need, I can list the purchase price of each item for you.”

The female Cultivator crouched to the side, causing her figure-hugging cheongsam to tighten and outline her exquisite curves, very tempting to the eye.

“No need, that price will do.”

Lu Changsheng nodded his head.

He had also roughly estimated the value of these materials.

The value was around five thousand Spirit Stones.

But value was just value.

It was not guaranteed that he could sell them all on his own.

Buying was also quite troublesome.

In places like the Qingyun Commerce Guild, they typically bought at about sixty to seventy percent of the market value.

“Alright, then I will finalize the price for the senior.”

The female Cultivator took out her own Storage Bag and began placing items into it one by one.

But she didn’t rush to settle the payment in Spirit Stones and asked instead, “Earlier, the senior mentioned needing to buy as well, may I know what you wish to purchase?”

“Take a look at these materials.”

Lu Changsheng, without saying much, took out a list he had prepared.

“Please wait a moment, senior.”

The female Cultivator took the list and glanced at it, her eyes lighting up instantly.

She realized it was a significant transaction.

She quickly took out a Jade Scroll, looking up the inventory information for the materials on the list.

“Senior, regarding the materials you require, I just checked, and currently, we have Xingchen Sand, Tianlan Silk, Dragon Blood Soil, and Celestial Silver....”

“However, we are currently out of Seven-Color Copper and Earth Fire Stone, but if the senior needs them, our Qingyun Commerce Guild can also procure them on your behalf.”

The female Cultivator spoke, handing a Jade Scroll to Lu Changsheng.

The scroll displayed images of the various materials Lu Changsheng intended to buy.

Below them, there was information on inventory and price, along with descriptions.

Xingchen Sand, one thousand Spirit Stones per two.

Tianlan Silk, two hundred fifty Spirit Stones per strand.

Dragon Blood Soil, five hundred thirty Spirit Stones per portion.

Celestial Silver, one hundred Spirit Stones per two.

Looking at these prices, Lu Changsheng couldn't help but click his tongue in wonder.

The price of a low-grade Spiritual Artifact was between three to four thousand Spirit Stones.

To forge his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact, just a portion of the materials would cost nearly ten thousand Spirit Stones, which made him somewhat regretful.

“Five two of Xingchen Sand, nine strands of Tianlan Silk, two two of Dragon Blood Soil, and one catty of Celestial Silver...”

Lu Changsheng sighed inwardly and spoke up.

It just had to be said that the higher one's Cultivation Level, the greater the expenses.

If it wasn't for me, Lu Changsheng, being skilled in Second Rank Talisman Making and occasionally receiving support from kind-hearted individuals, I really wouldn't be able to afford such expenditure.

“Very well, if the senior has no other needs, I will go fetch your purchases.”

The female Cultivator spoke respectfully.

“Show me the Second Rank Talisman pens you have here.”

Lu Changsheng continued.

“Second Rank Talisman pen?”

Upon hearing this, the female Cultivator expressed surprise and said, “I didn't expect the senior to be a Talisman Master, I've been impolite.”

Immediately, she flipped through a Jade Scroll to the page detailing Second Rank Talisman pens.

She introduced the conditions of several Talisman pens to Lu Changsheng.

Second Rank lower quality Talisman pen, approximately three thousand Spirit Stones.

Second Rank middle quality Talisman pen, approximately five thousand Spirit Stones.

Second Rank high quality Talisman pen, approximately ten thousand Spirit Stones.

Supreme Second Rank Talisman pen, approximately fifteen thousand Spirit Stones.

“tsk tsk tsk, that’s really expensive.”

Seeing the prices on the scroll, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but shake his head.

He had previously bought a Supreme First Grade Talisman pen for a total of one thousand four hundred Spirit Stones.

This Supreme Second Rank Talisman pen was more than ten times more expensive.

“Get me a Supreme ‘Qingyun’ Second Rank Talisman pen.”

Lu Changsheng browsed briefly through the descriptions of the various Talisman pens, choosing the most popular model here.

Nine thousand eight hundred Spirit Stones.

Originally, he had considered going all out and buying a Supreme Second Rank Talisman pen.

This wouldn’t only save him the trouble of changing pens later, but also make drawing Supreme Second Rank Talismans much more stable.

He didn’t expect a Second Rank Talisman pen to be so costly.

Mainly because when Xiao Xiyue broke through to Foundation Establishment, the outside Spiritual Energy wasn't enough, and he had to crush Middle Grade Spirit Stones to provide her with nature's spiritual energy.

It altogether consumed more than eighty of his Middle Grade Spirit Stones.

That is more than eight thousand Spirit Stones.

So after selling his Magic Artifacts and materials today, leaving him with just over nine thousand Spirit Stones, he only had a little over ten thousand Spirit Stones left.

Additionally, he still needed to purchase materials for drawing Second Rank Talismans.

"As you wish, senior, I will fetch it for you right now."

Seeing that Lu Changsheng was not only buying a great quantity of materials but also purchasing a Supreme Second Rank Talisman pen, the female Cultivator knew she had encountered a major client and was very pleased, speaking respectfully.

After all, as a receptionist, she did have a commission.

"Not in a hurry, Qingyun Commerce Guild should buy Second Rank Talismans too, right?"

Lu Changsheng continued.

Now that he had broken through to the Foundation Establishment Stage,

the lower quality Second Rank Talismans he possessed were not very useful to him anymore.

He might consider selling some, exchanging them for Spirit Stones.

After all, it's always wise to have some Spirit Stones on hand for emergencies.

Chapter 324: The Army of Golden Armor Warriors, The Way to Enter Qingyun Sect_3 “

It's impossible to spend all the Spirit Stones.

Moreover, he planned to visit several other shops to see if they had the Seven-Colored Copper and Earth Fire Stone he needed. “We certainly take that.”

The female cultivator nodded with a smile.

Then she paused before continuing in a sweet, euphemistic tone, “However, our Qingyun Commerce Guild only purchases premium talismans. If the talismans are of poor quality, we do not buy them.”... “You can check the quality of this talisman.”

Lu Changsheng took out ten Second Rank lower-grade talismans. “Please, Senior, rest in our VIP room here. I, myself, do not understand talismans well, so I need to ask the manager to appraise them,” said the female cultivator as she took the talismans with both hands. “Alright.”

Lu Changsheng nodded.

He knew that these receptionists were just ordinary cultivators.

Being able to recognize and appraise many spiritual materials was already quite commendable.

Asking them to judge the quality of Second Rank talismans might be asking too much.

He followed the other party to the second-floor VIP room to wait.

Before long, a spirited old man in his fifties with white hair appeared with the female cultivator in the VIP room. “Hu from the Qingyun Commerce Guild, seeing the exquisite quality of the talismans you wish to sell, I took the liberty of coming to meet you,” the old man said politely as he made a salute to Lu Changsheng. “You flatter me, Daoist Hu,”

Lu Changsheng responded, also making a slight salute, “In that case, it seems that your guild is willing to purchase my talismans.” “Of course. With such quality talismans, the guild will buy as

many as you have,” “and is willing to purchase at 75% of the market price,” said Manager Hu cheerfully. “Seventy-five percent.”

Lu Changsheng nodded and said, “Then I thank you, Manager Hu.”

He knew that the Qingyun Commerce Guild’s purchase price for talismans was generally 60%.

At most, they would go up to 70%.

So offering 75% was already quite good. “Besides the ten talismans just now, I have another fifteen here for Manager Hu to look at.”

Lu Changsheng took out another fifteen Second Rank lower-grade talismans and said.

He had a total of fifty-nine Second Rank lower-grade talismans on him.

But there was no rush to sell them all at once.

Moreover, he felt that Manager Hu’s visit was not just a simple courtesy call. “Let me see.”

Manager Hu took the fifteen talismans and carefully examined them, noting that they were all premium-quality talismans. “These fifteen talismans, like the previous ten, would be 14,000 Spirit Stones at the market price. At 75%, our guild is willing to offer a purchase price of 7,900 Spirit Stones.” “I wonder what Daoist Han thinks?”

Manager Hu asked. “No problem, thank you Manager Hu,”

Lu Changsheng nodded when he heard the offer.

The price for these Second Rank lower-grade talismans averaged around four hundred Spirit Stones each.

Although his high quality premium talismans could fetch a higher price by an additional ten or twenty percent on the market, the offered price was not unfair.

Moreover, his cost per talisman was only twenty-six Spirit Stones, so a little less was still acceptable. “I wonder if Daoist has any other needs?”

Manager Hu inquired. “I need to purchase some talisman-making materials,”

Lu Changsheng said thoughtfully. “Naturally, we have them, Bi’er,”

Manager Hu, guessing Lu Changsheng’s answer and confirming his speculation, smiled and instructed.

The receptionist named Bi’er took out a Jade Scroll, selecting and showing Lu Changsheng the Second Rank talisman-making materials.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng purchased thirty portions of ordinary, advanced, and superior quality Second Rank talisman paper and spiritual ink, costing a total of 5,280 Spirit Stones. “I presume Daoist is a Second Grade Talisman Master. If I may be so bold, are you part of any power?

If not, would you be interested in becoming a Guest Elder of our Qingyun Commerce Guild? We are always on the lookout for talents like you,”

Manager Hu invited after Lu Changsheng had finished his purchases. “`

This was also the reason he had come in person.

Having seen the Second Rank Talismans earlier, he had discerned that Lu Changsheng’s achievements on the Talisman Path were extraordinary.

At the very least, he was a Middle Grade Second Grade Talisman Master.

Now, seeing Lu Changsheng purchasing so many talisman crafting materials, his guess was confirmed, and he extended an invitation directly. “Oh? May I know what responsibilities and benefits come with becoming a guest elder of your esteemed guild?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng asked aloud.

When this Shopkeeper Hu had come over, he had guessed that his visit wasn't simply a courtesy call.

It turned out he wanted to invite him to join the commerce guild.

Originally, when he was at the Nine Dragons Market, making purchases for Second Grade Talisman crafting materials from the Qingyun Commerce Guild and Myriad Treasures Pavilion, he had also been asked about this matter.

But as he hadn't revealed too much at that time, no managers approached him with inquiries.

Receiving the invitation now, he couldn't help but be curious.

He wanted to learn more about the responsibilities and treatment that came with joining the Qingyun Commerce Guild. "If fellow Daoist is willing to become a guest elder of our Qingyun Commerce Guild, you would only need to craft a batch of talismans for our guild each month, or provide talismans urgently when our guild requires them..." "As for the benefits, not only is there a generous monthly salary, but fellow Daoist will also get an internal price and enjoy discounts when purchasing items from our Qingyun Commerce Guild." "Furthermore, whatever materials you need, our Qingyun Commerce Guild can procure them for you." "Moreover, our guild hosts a Grand Skills Competition every year, where fellow Daoist can communicate with many peers in the same field, exchange insights, and grow together." "Fellow Daoist should know that our Qingyun Commerce Guild is backed by the Qingyun Sect." "If fellow Daoist makes significant contributions to our guild, we have an internal recommendation quota from the Qingyun Sect which can be used to refer fellow Daoist into the Qingyun Sect." "Within the sect, fellow Daoist can not only receive instruction from core elders but might even be favored by an elder and taken in as a disciple."

Shopkeeper Hu began to speak slowly. "Join the Qingyun Sect?"

After hearing this, Lu Changsheng's eyebrows shot up.

He roughly understood the biggest benefit of joining the Qingyun Commerce Guild now.

Not only could he enjoy various benefits and treatment but also had the channel to enter the Qingyun Sect.

For many Loose Cultivators, being able to join an Immortal Sect like Qingyun Sect at an older age was naturally a much sought-after opportunity. “I see, thank you, Shopkeeper Hu, for informing me.” “However, I currently do not have any intention of joining other factions.” “I will need to consider it for a while, and if I have any inclination in this regard later on, I will trouble Shopkeeper Hu then.”

Lu Changsheng slightly bowed with a hint of apology.

In his view, joining the Qingyun Commerce Guild and having the backing of the Qingyun Sect was not bad.

Not only was it good to benefit from a powerful backer, but it would also be much more convenient to collect materials in the future.

As for the responsibilities, if he only needed to craft a batch of talismans each month, it wouldn't be too difficult for him, who had nearly a hundred percent success rate in Talisman Making.

It would just mean spending a bit more time and effort, and being slightly inconvenienced.

However, since his current identity was fake, it was naturally impossible for him to join the Qingyun Commerce Guild.

Should he reveal himself to be a Second Grade Talisman Master in the future, it would be worth considering. “Of course, that is understandable. If Han fellow Daoist is interested, you can come and find me anytime,” Shopkeeper Hu said with a smile, not at all disappointed.

Because such matters were quite normal.

To have honed a skill to such a level, he was obviously invited many times already.

It was possible he was currently serving in some capacity within a certain faction.

How could he agree just because someone asked?

What he needed to do was extend the invitation and leave a good impression.

Hoping that when Lu Changsheng was inclined in this direction, he would consider their Qingyun Commerce Guild. “Senior Han, here are your items.” “A total of 24,880 Spirit Stones, deducting the 11,291 Spirit Stones for the materials and Talisman you sold, you need to pay 13,589 Spirit Stones.”

At this moment, the female Cultivator receptionist brought over the items Lu Changsheng had purchased and asked him to check them. “Alright, there’s no problem.”

Lu Changsheng checked the materials in the Storage Bag and nodded. “Fellow Daoist Han, you can just pay 13,000,” Shopkeeper Hu said with a chuckle, rounding down the amount. “Thank you, Shopkeeper Hu.”

Lu Changsheng, realizing the show of goodwill, immediately expressed his thanks.

He paid with Spirit Stones and then took his leave.

After leaving the Qingyun Commerce Guild, Lu Changsheng went to an inn, as usual, to double-check his items.

Although a big store like Qingyun Commerce Guild wouldn’t usually do such things, one must always be cautious.

Having confirmed there were no issues, Lu Changsheng changed his appearance and prepared to visit other shops.

To see if he could purchase the Seven-Colored Copper and Earthheart Stone he needed.

Chapter 325: The Concept of Dao Soldiers, Jiang Country’s Number One Loose Cultivator_1 “Finally, everything’s gathered.” “` “`

As he stepped out of the sixth shop, Lu Changsheng let out a sigh of relief. “`... “`

At the Myriad Treasures Pavilion, he had purchased Earth Fire Stones. “` “`

But after asking around several shops, none had the Seven-Colored Copper. “` “`

Fortunately, luck was on his side; in this shop, for two thousand Spirit Stones, he managed to acquire the last material needed for casting the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp. ““ “Once I return to Qingzhu Mountain and condense the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, I’ll be able to forge this Life-bound Spiritual Artifact!” ““

Having gathered all the necessary materials, Lu Changsheng was in great spirits. ““

After all, it would have been quite upsetting had he missed just one material. ““ “Now that I’ve broken through to Foundation Establishment, I should also buy some Elixir Medicines suitable for increasing cultivation level during the Foundation Establishment Stage.” ““

Lu Changsheng thought to himself. ““

If one wished to cultivate quickly, consuming medicinal pills was indispensable. ““

Relying on personal cultivation alone, it would take eight to nine years to progress from the First Level to the Second Level of Foundation Establishment. ““

But with enough Elixir Medicines and the aid of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp to refine the Elixir Toxicity and purify mana, it’s estimated it would take just two to three years to reach the Second Level. ““

Immediately after, Lu Changsheng headed to the old and established ‘Elixir Cauldron Pavilion’ to inquire about elixirs suitable for the Foundation Establishment Stage. ““ “Senior, our shop has Harmonizing Energy Elixirs and Origin Nurturing Elixirs suitable for the Foundation Establishment Stage.” ““ “However, the Origin Nurturing Elixirs are all sold out, leaving only one bottle of Harmonizing Energy Elixir.” ““ “If senior is interested, you may pay a deposit, and we will notify you once we restock.” ““

Upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s inquiry about Foundation Establishment Elixir Medicines, the shop clerk immediately responded with respect. ““ “Only one bottle of Harmonizing Energy Elixir?” ““

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng felt somewhat disappointed. ““

But he knew that, just like Second Rank Talismans, most shops didn't stock many Second Rank Elixir Medicines. “` “`

Unless one was acquainted with a Second Rank Alchemist. “` “`

Otherwise, it would be impossible to make large purchases. “` “` “How many Spirit Stones for the Harmonizing Energy Elixir, and do you have elixirs that increase cultivation level for the Energy Refinement Late Stage?” “` “`

Lu Changsheng continued to inquire. “` “` “Senior, the Harmonizing Energy Elixir is one thousand two hundred Spirit Stones.” “` “` “For the Energy Refinement Late Stage cultivation enhancing elixirs, our shop currently has the Energy Refining Powder, Energy Nurturing Elixir, and the Condensing Energy Elixir...” “` “`

After quoting the price, the clerk took out a Jade Scroll and began introducing Lu Changsheng to various Elixir Medicines suitable for the Energy Refinement Late Stage. “` “`

These elixirs were also somewhat beneficial to Foundation Establishment Cultivators. “` “`

For example, the Energy Refining Powder could increase the speed of refining nature's spiritual energy. “` “`

The Energy Nurturing Elixir could nourish spiritual energy and accelerate its circulation within the body. “` “`

However, relatively speaking, the effects of these elixirs on Foundation Establishment Cultivators were quite ordinary. “` “`

Apart from the Harmonizing Energy Elixir, Lu Changsheng also purchased the store's remaining three bottles of Energy Nurturing Elixir and one bottle of Condensing Energy Elixir. “` “`

In total, he spent two thousand two hundred Spirit Stones. “` “`

Just as Lu Changsheng had finished paying the Spirit Stones and was about to leave, “` “` “Little Yu, has the customer who reserved the ‘Three Suns Elixir’ not come to claim it yet?” “` “`

“Shopkeeper, that customer has not yet arrived. Three days ago, I sent Xiao Wu to contact the customer at the provided address, but still couldn’t reach them.” “^” “^”

The shopkeeper came downstairs and asked one of the employees. “^” “^” “Three Suns Elixir?” “^” “^”

Upon hearing this conversation, Lu Changsheng paused mid-step. “^” “^”

He was familiar with this elixir. “^” “^”

A Second Rank Spirit Pill. “^” “^”

Derived from the idea of ‘three suns bring prosperity’. “^” “^”

After consumption, it could not only increase cultivation level, saving years of arduous cultivation, “^” “^” but also eradicate any hidden illnesses or risks within a cultivator’s body, as if shone upon by the bright sun, dissolving them all away. “^” “^”

It has a somewhat miraculous effect on cultivators at the Perfection stage of Energy Refinement advancing to Foundation Establishment, “^” “^” even humorously dubbed the ‘Junior Foundation Establishment Elixir.’ “^” “^”

Lu Changsheng knew of the Three Suns Elixir and had initially thought to prepare one for himself. “^” “^”

However, this elixir was considered a rather rare Second Rank Elixir Medicine. “^” “^”

He had visited several shops initially and had not managed to purchase it. “^” “^”

Now, hearing this conversation, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but entertain the thought of buying it. “^” “^”

He was already at Foundation Establishment and didn’t need it for himself, “^” “^” but he could buy it as a gift for his wife, Lu Miaoge. “^” “^”

Currently, Lu Miaoge's cultivation level was at the Eighth Level of Energy Refinement. “` “`

It was estimated she would need another two to three years to break through to the Ninth Level. “` “`

By then, Lu Miaoge would be in her forties. “` “`

Although at that age, if one could reach the Perfection stage of Energy Refinement and attempt Foundation Establishment before sixty, “` “` as one grows older, the challenge of achieving Foundation Establishment grows greater. “` “`

Naturally, he hoped his wife could cultivate to the Perfection stage of Energy Refinement sooner. “` “`

Moreover, despite Lu Miaoge having recovered from the previous assassination attempt, it was uncertain if any hidden issues remained. “` “`

Possessing a Three Suns Elixir would not only increase cultivation level, but also eliminate any hidden risks in her body, granting Lu Miaoge a greater hope of successfully reaching Foundation Establishment. “` “` “Shopkeeper, since the original buyer has not come to claim the pill, is this ‘Three Suns Elixir’ still for sale?” “` “` “If you are willing to sell, how much would it cost?” “` “`

Lu Changsheng respectfully inquired, looking at the shopkeeper. “` “`

The shopkeeper was slightly surprised by the question, “` “` but immediately, after hearing from the clerk that Lu Changsheng had just spent over two thousand Spirit Stones and might be a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, “` “` he cheerfully said, “If Daoist friend is interested, our shop naturally is willing to sell.” “` “` “The Three Suns Elixir is priced at three thousand eight hundred Spirit Stones,” the shopkeeper declared. “` “` “Agreed, I’ll take the Three Suns Elixir,” Lu Changsheng said promptly, nodding. “` “`

The price wasn’t cheap, but it wasn’t very expensive either. “` “`

After all, the prices in large shops tend to be a little higher. “` “`

Besides, precious elixirs often fluctuate in price. “ “ “Shopkeeper, I don’t have enough Spirit Stones on me; could I offset the cost with Talismans?” “ “

Lu Changsheng took out three talismans and asked. “ “

He didn’t know exactly how many Spirit Stones he had, as he had not counted them. “ “

But it was roughly between three and four thousand. “ “

In such circumstances, it’s only right to keep some Spirit Stones on hand for emergencies. “ “
“Second Rank lower-quality talismans?” “ “

As the shopkeeper of Elixir Cauldron Pavilion, he naturally had an extraordinary eye. “ “

He took the talismans, looked them over for a moment, and said politely, “Second Rank Talismans can indeed be used for offsetting the cost, but our shop can only accept them at sixty percent of the market price.” “

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“Alright, a forty percent discount it is.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly upon hearing this, agreeing to the discounted price.

He couldn’t possibly run to the Qingyun Commerce Guild now to ask if they were still purchasing talismans.

Immediately, he took out ten second-rank talismans, deducted two thousand five hundred spirit stones, and paid an additional one thousand three hundred spirit stones.

“I wonder when I’ll be able to draw a second-rank alchemy skill.”

...

“Otherwise, not only are second-rank elixir medicines hard to purchase, but their prices are also high. The little money I painstakingly earn all goes into this.”

Tucking away the Three Suns Elixir, Lu Changsheng left the store and couldn't help but think to himself.

Currently, his talismans were yielding a twenty-fold profit.

Among the four mainstream skills of cultivation, the profit margins for elixir medicines are only higher than those for talisman making.

It isn't just about making money that simple; he also thought that with alchemy skills of his own, he wouldn't have to worry about elixir medicines.

“Not just alchemy, but formation skills are also needed.”

“If I want to establish my own family, it's essential to have someone in the clan who understands formations.”

“Otherwise, if a family has to rely on others for formations, they would be oblivious to any loopholes or defects.”

Lu Changsheng considered in his mind.

He felt that the road to establishing a family on his own seemed quite long and difficult.

“Next, I'll find a bookstore to ask about Dao soldiers, and that should be enough.”

Lu Changsheng didn't dwell on this.

He prepared to find a bookstore to learn about Dao soldiers.

After looking around, Lu Changsheng saw a 'Ten Thousand Laws Bookstore'.

He recognized it as a shop selling cultivation technique classics.

He went in and inquired about books on Dao soldiers.

“Dao soldiers?”

“May I inquire which aspect of Dao soldiers you’re interested in learning about?”

The shop owner asked with some surprise upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s intention.

“Regarding Dao soldiers, I’ve only heard a little and am quite interested, so I want to understand more in detail.”

“Any classics on this subject will do.”

Lu Changsheng said so.

“Information about Dao soldiers is not widely known in the cultivation world, and there are very few classics on the subject.”

“I happen to know a bit about Dao soldiers. If you’re willing to pay a hundred spirit stones for tea, I’m willing to enlighten you and give a brief introduction,” the shop owner said with a smile.

People like him who run bookstores not only sell cultivation technique classics.

They also possess a wealth of knowledge about many aspects of the cultivation world.

“If you can resolve my queries, naturally, I am willing to offer the hundred spirit stones for tea,”

Lu Changsheng took out fifty spirit stones and spoke.

At the Nine Dragons Market, he knew that the monopoly on high-end knowledge in this world was severe.

The absence of related classics on Dao soldiers also indicated that the subject is advanced and known by few.

Therefore, a hundred spirit stones for tea wasn't considered steep.

In some shops selling information, a single piece of news could cost thousands to tens of thousands of spirit stones.

"You are straightforward."

Seeing this, the shop owner smiled.

He invited Lu Changsheng to sit down, poured a cup of spiritual tea, and began to talk about information related to Dao soldiers.

"Actually, 'Dao soldier' is just a general term."

"Like puppets, demon beasts, yin corpses, ghost soldiers, artifact spirits, and even cultivators can all be referred to as some type of Dao soldier."

"However, being called a Dao soldier often means having a certain quantity of the same kind, much like the soldiers and generals of the secular world."

The shop owner took a sip of his tea and said, "Broadly speaking, Dao soldiers can be classified into three types: domesticated soldiers, refined soldiers, and magic soldiers."

Lu Changsheng also took a sip of his spiritual tea, nodded slightly, and signaled for the other party to continue.

"The first type, domesticated soldiers, is as the name suggests: humans or demon beasts are raised as Dao soldiers."

“However, this kind of domestication is not ordinary breeding. It involves using some cultivation technique, secret technique, or soldier training method to raise cultivators or demon beasts as Dao soldiers.”

“These Dao soldiers possess not only cultivation level and mana but are also capable of fighting and managing armies, as well as arranging formations.”

“Many formations don’t require human manipulation, but the most formidable formations still need many people to control them.”

“That’s where the role of Dao soldiers becomes evident.”

“I’ve heard that some profound techniques for raising domesticated soldiers enable the resulting Dao soldiers not only to form great formations but also to enhance their cultivation level and strength via the formations.”

The shop owner took another sip of tea, slowly introducing the topic.

“People can also be raised as Dao soldiers?”

Lu Changsheng was somewhat surprised to hear this.

“Hehe, all beings have a spirit. It’s not strange for us to be raised as Dao soldiers.”

The shop owner chuckled, finishing his cup of tea.

He continued, “Both the secular world and the cultivation world have practices of training loyal warriors; you can consider these as a type of raised Dao soldiers as well.”

“However, raising Dao soldiers usually involves hundreds or thousands of them, and it often takes decades or even centuries to raise a force.”

“That’s why few powers choose to raise humans as Dao soldiers.”

The shop owner refilled his tea.

“Why is that?”

Lu Changsheng asked.

“Because raising a force of Dao soldiers not only consumes time and energy but also resources, only large powers have the ability to raise Dao soldiers.”

“Raising humans as Dao soldiers, on one hand, is against the natural order. Moreover, the resources required for raising humans as Dao soldiers are too vast, and by the time the Dao soldiers are completed, human lifespans are too short.”

“Compared to humans, demon beasts not only live longer but also consume far fewer resources, making them ideal for becoming domesticated soldiers.”

“That’s why if a power is to raise Dao soldiers, they would undoubtedly choose to raise demon beasts as Dao soldiers instead of humans.”

The shop owner spoke, refilling Lu Changsheng’s tea as well.

“I see.”

Lu Changsheng had a realization upon hearing this.

“`

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Regarding these domesticated Dao Soldiers, there was now a general understanding.

It involved using some kind of cultivation technique to train humans or demon beasts into a kind of death warriors.

But these death warriors not only possessed high combat effectiveness, but they could also form battle formations; whether in magical combat against enemies or other matters, they were extraordinary.

“May I ask, fellow Daoist, what about Refined Soldiers and Magic Soldiers? What’s the situation with them?”

Lu Changsheng sipped his tea and continued to inquire.

“As for Refined Soldiers, for example, certain puppets with unique characteristics, spirits of magical treasures, or those created through techniques such as corpse refinement and ghost nurturing—any Dao Soldiers artificially made are collectively known as Refined Soldiers.”

...

“As for Magic Soldiers, they are mostly magical treasures capable of cultivating and nurturing Dao Soldiers.”

“For instance, in the Demon Path there is an extremely famous magical treasure called the Myriad Soul Banner, which, after killing human or demon beasts, can refine their souls into the banner, turning them into fierce ghosts.”

“Such are known as Magic Soldiers.”

“What most of us refer to as Dao Soldiers, generally means those that have been cultivated, and the cultivators and forces that can cultivate Dao Soldiers in the cultivation world are truly few and far between, which is why so few people know of Dao Soldiers.”

The shopkeeper lightly sipped his tea, smiling as he spoke.

“Domesticated Soldiers? Refined Soldiers? Magic Soldiers?”

Lu Changsheng, upon hearing about the three types of Dao Soldiers, nodded thoughtfully as if gaining a rough concept of them.

“So with that said, which category of Dao Soldiers does my Golden Armor Bean Mother fall into?”

Lu Changsheng felt that his Golden Armor Bean Mother didn't seem to fit into any of the three types of Dao Soldiers the shopkeeper mentioned.

It was somewhat like a Domesticated Soldier, but also somewhat like a Magic Soldier.

He remembered the system had introduced it as a Spirit Plant type Dao Soldier.

It seemed to lean more towards the Domesticated Soldier type.

However, he didn't pay it much mind.

The shopkeeper was only a Qi Refinement peak cultivator after all.

His understanding of Dao Soldiers was bound to be limited and couldn't possibly encompass everything.

Besides, rewards from the system couldn't be measured by ordinary standards.

"May I ask, fellow Daoist, in our Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, are there any forces that have Dao Soldiers?"

Lu Changsheng continued to inquire.

"Within the Four Great Immortal Sects of our Jiang Country, the Spirit Taming Sect is renowned for taming spiritual beasts, so they definitely have domesticated Dao Soldiers."

"But whether the Heavenly Sword Sect, Qingyun Sect, and Luoxia Sect have Dao Soldiers, I really do not know."

"In our Jiang Country's Three Great Immortal Cities, the Azure Phoenix Immortal of the Azure Phoenix Immortal City has domesticated a force of Azure Phoenix Dao Soldiers."

“Rumor has it, two hundred years ago, Azure Phoenix Immortal, with the power of five hundred Azure Phoenix Dao Soldiers, both shocked Jiang Country and established Azure Phoenix Immortal City, hence earning the title of Jiang Country’s number one loose cultivator.”

The shopkeeper spoke.

“Azure Phoenix Immortal, Azure Phoenix Dao Soldiers.”

Lu Changsheng was somewhat surprised by these words.

Naturally aware of Azure Phoenix Immortal City, he had heard of the great reputation of the Azure Phoenix Immortal.

Yet, he did not know that this Azure Phoenix Immortal made a name for himself by relying on a force of Dao Soldiers to establish Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

“Indeed, rumor has it that Azure Phoenix Immortal back in the day was just in the initial stage of Core Formation, but with five hundred Azure Phoenix Dao Soldiers, he was able to go head-to-head with those in the late stage of Core Formation.”

The shopkeeper spoke of Azure Phoenix Immortal with a look of admiration and longing in his eyes.

The Azure Phoenix Immortal, as a loose cultivator without any backing, yet managed to condense a True Elixir.

Furthermore, he established Azure Phoenix Immortal City, a sacred site for loose cultivators, on the border between Jiang Country and Yue Country, naturally earning the worship of numerous loose cultivators and setting a goal for them to strive for.

“As expected, those who have made a name for themselves in the cultivation world, especially loose cultivators, all fit the mold of chosen children of destiny.”

Lu Changsheng felt that this Azure Phoenix Immortal was indeed formidable after hearing these words.

At his current state of early Foundation Establishment, he felt he could barely compete with those at the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

The gap in strength between stages of Core Formation would be even greater.

Yet this Azure Phoenix Immortal was able to confront someone in the late stage of Core Formation during his initial stage.

“However, Azure Phoenix Immortal’s Azure Phoenix Dao Soldiers are also amongst the top ranks of the many Dao Soldiers.”

“As far as I know, one of the Three Great Cultivation Families in our Jiang Country, the Beast Taming Xu Family, has also domesticated a force of Water Serpent Dao Soldiers and Fire Raven Dao Soldiers, but they are far from matching the Azure Phoenix Dao Soldiers of the Azure Phoenix Immortal.”

The shopkeeper continued to introduce the Dao Soldiers.

“The Beast Taming Xu Family, Water Serpent Dao Soldiers, Fire Raven Dao Soldiers.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly upon hearing this.

He had heard of this Beast Taming Xu Family.

One of Jiang Country’s Three Great Cultivation Families.

With a Nascent Soul Immortal sitting in residence, it was a true cultivation family.

It is not at all comparable to small cultivation families like Qing Zhu’s Lu Family or Red Leaf Valley’s Chen Family.

Unexpectedly, this family not only has a Nascent Soul ancestor presiding but also cultivates Dao soldiers.

However, he discovered that the store owner spoke only of domesticating Dao soldiers.

There was no mention of refining soldiers or magic soldiers.

Right away, Lu Changsheng inquired about refining soldiers and magic soldiers.

“Dao soldiers are indeed rare and difficult to cultivate,”

“Compared to domesticated soldiers, refining soldiers have more associations with the Heretical Path, and naturally, they are less seen in Jiang Country.”

“Centuries ago, the royal family of Yue Country, which bordered our Jiang Country, secretly stirred up successive wars to select a batch of battle-hardened soldiers and refine a type of Dao soldier.”

“When the several great immortal sects of Yue Country learned of this, they directly exterminated the entire royal family.”

“As for magic soldiers, they are even more exceedingly rare.”

“Apart from the infamous Myriad Soul Banner of the Demon Path, I’ve heard that the Yiming Ghost Sect of Jin Kingdom has a treasured artifact known as the Myriad Ghosts Blood Pool, which uses the blood of myriad spirits for nourishment and can foster a type of Dao soldier.”

The shop owner said this and then finished another cup of tea.

After speaking, he also turned to Lu Changsheng and said, “Fellow Daoist, this is all I know about Dao soldiers.”

“Thank you for enlightening me and broadening my horizons,” Lu Changsheng immediately cupped his hands in thanks.

He handed over the remaining fifty Spirit Stones for the tea and then took his leave.

“These Dao soldiers really do sound impressive.”

“If I could draw a magical treasure capable of nurturing Dao soldiers from the system lottery, perhaps I could cultivate my own Dao soldiers,” Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

Having understood roughly the three types of Dao soldiers, he felt magic soldiers were the best.

Whether it was domesticated soldiers or refined soldiers, they were too difficult in terms of time and effort.

Only magic soldiers, which could be nurtured and cultivated using a magical treasure, were the best option.

It was also the most likely for him to obtain directly through the system lottery.

Without further thought, Lu Changsheng found an inn to disguise himself in new clothes and then quickly left Qingyun Market.

“Quite smart to know to change his appearance and disguise.”

“But daring to compete with me, Meng Yibai, for a woman, he must pay the price.”

At the entrance and exit of the marketplace, atop the second floor balcony.

A young man in his twenties, bursting with vigor, sensed something and stood up, looking outwards. In his hand, a golden hamster appeared, pointing out Lu Changsheng, who had just left the marketplace, from the crowd.

Lu Changsheng, after stepping out of the marketplace, did not ride the Iron Feather Eagle.

He also did not control a flying artifact.

Instead, he attempted to fly by controlling the air.

After all, the most significant feature of a breakthrough from Qi refining to Foundation Establishment is the ability to fly through the air without relying on flying artifacts.

Now that he had broken through to Foundation Establishment, it was natural for him to try out and experience it.

With a movement of his mental spirit, Lu Changsheng naturally rose into the air and began to fly through the air.

Many cultivators were coming and going next to Qingyun Market.

Seeing Lu Changsheng flying, they all gave way, showing envy and respect.

Even in large marketplaces like Qingyun Market, Energy Refining Cultivators are more common.

Seeing a cultivator flying through the air, they naturally understood he was a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, and they didn't dare to offend him.

Because if this great cultivator was in a bad mood and felt they were in the way, a simple slap could kill them without anywhere to seek justice.

"The reason Energy Refining Cultivators cannot fly is that their spiritual power is insufficient to support their bodies, and they need to rely on flying artifacts."

"But after breaking through to Foundation Establishment, one undergoes a profound transformation, shedding the mortal coil, and the spiritual energy within transforms into mana, becoming more than ten times more robust, enabling the body to lift off and fly through the air."

Lu Changsheng tried out flying and understood the principle behind it.

Immediately, he descended from the air, released the Iron Feather Eagle, and flew towards Qing Zhu Mountain.

Even though Foundation Establishment Cultivators can fly through the air, they cannot do so for long distances without incurring some consumption.

Therefore, it's still preferable to travel by mount or artifact.

Meanwhile,

Meng Yibai left Qingyun Market and released a palm-sized golden hamster from his spirit beast bag.

"Which direction did he go?" he fed it an elixir medicine and spoke faintly.

"Chirp chirp chirp..."

The golden hamster nibbled on the elixir and immediately pointed in one direction.

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"Dreams of dust, I cannot awaken alone; atop the Qingyun platform, my true self is shown."

"Yin and yang, five elements, all are clear, forming a jade platform to establish the Dao Foundation."

"I walk the Great Dao alone, not of my own will; free in the mortal world, prosperity spans myriad ages."

"Humans are not heartless like grass and trees; I cut down the mortal body, not the heart."

Lu Changsheng stood with his hands behind his back, atop the Iron Feather Eagle, his blue robe flapping in the wind, reciting the settling poem he had composed to himself.

...

"Hmm?"

After flying for several hundred miles, Lu Changsheng suddenly sensed a fierce aura behind him, rushing towards him like lightning.

Confronted with this ferocious aura, Lu Changsheng's face darkened slightly, his mind alert.

After all, having been in the Cultivation World for so many years, he was quite experienced.

Having just left the marketplace and encountering this, he couldn't help but be cautious.

With past experience to guide him, Lu Changsheng immediately stood in the air on his flying artifact, and he retracted the Iron Feather Eagle, a mere means of transportation, into his Spiritual Pet Bag.

The next moment, Lu Changsheng saw a golden escape light, fast like a shooting star, tearing through the air as it charged ferociously toward him.

"Is it him?"

As the escape light drew near, Lu Changsheng immediately recognized a young man about twenty-four or twenty-five years old, dressed in a golden robe, riding a flying shuttle.

It was the same young man he had seen in the Qingyun Market when Xiao Xiyue had emerged from the cave dwelling with him—Meng Yibai.

Lu Changsheng had guessed then that the other might hold pursuit intentions towards Xiao Xiyue and, upon seeing the close interaction between him and Xiao Xiyue, may harbor jealousy or something of the sort.

He had changed his appearance for this very reason.

Yet, despite his many disguises and altered appearances, this man had fixed his sights on him and was coming directly to assassinate him.

"Swoosh!"

Meng Yibai approached Lu Changsheng with a chilling expression, not uttering a word.

A dazzling golden sword rainbow slashed towards Lu Changsheng, sharp and swift.

“Pfft!”

Lu Changsheng, well-prepared, raised his right hand leisurely; the Seven Luminaries Sword light surged forth, cleaving the air and shattering the golden sword rainbow.

“Who are you, and why do you attack me out of the blue?”

Lu Changsheng called out, looking at Meng Yibai before him.

If it were an ordinary robber cultivator, he naturally wouldn’t waste words with them.

But having chatted with Xiao Xiyue, he knew the young man was not only a disciple of Qingyun Sect but also had an elder who was a False Core Immortal.

If possible, Lu Changsheng really didn’t want to make an enemy of him.

After all, to kill someone like that would likely invite trouble.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng also wanted to know how the other could see through his disguises and lock onto his trail.

“Indeed, you have some skill. Just established your Foundation, and you can break my Sword Qi.”

“As for why I attack you, I think you are well aware of the reason in your heart.”

Meng Yibai sneered.

He stood tall on the flying shuttle, like a pike piercing the heavens, proud and sharp.

“I truly don’t know where I have offended you?”

Lu Changsheng put on an expression of a wry smile.

“Since you don’t know, then take your doubts with you to the grave!”

Meng Yibai did not speak further, coldly shouted, formed a spell with his hands, his aura became fierce, causing a sound of golden resonance in the void.

A splendid gold Flying Sword appeared.

Countless golden runes flowed along the sword body, and with Sword Qi that crisscrossed, it launched a sharp attack on Lu Changsheng.

“Sigh, it seems there’s no room for talk.”

Lu Changsheng, seeing the approaching golden Flying Sword, his expression solemnly changed, and stopped talking.

Knowing this man’s domineering and arrogant nature and the jealousy and murderous intent he held, he was simply unwilling to talk further.

“Since that’s the case, let’s see whose Flying Sword is sharper!”

Lu Changsheng said coldly.

He wasn’t to be messed with.

And having just completed his Foundation Establishment, he was also eager to test his own abilities.

He smacked his Storage Bag and a blood-colored pair of scissors appeared; with a surge of mana, they transformed into a blood-colored Flood Dragon, roaring ferociously at the golden Flying Sword.

Meanwhile, a pale white Flying Sword appeared in front of him.

“Sword Shadow Dividing Light Technique!”

Lu Changsheng formed a spell with two hands, and rainbow lights were infused into the Flying Sword.

The pale white Flying Sword trembled fiercely, and seven colors of treasured light flowed as it created two identical Flying Swords.

The next moment, another two identical Flying Swords appeared.

In total, eight Flying Swords formed before Lu Changsheng.

The Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture’s Second Level not only has the Divine Skill, the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, which can create a life-bound Spiritual Artifact,

it also has two spell Divine Skills.

The first spell is known as the Sword Shadow Dividing Light Technique.

When facing an enemy, this technique can create up to eight sword shadows identical to the actual Flying Sword.

The sword shadows can not only confound the enemy’s sight, but each also possesses thirty percent of the original’s power.

The second spell is named the Shimmering Shadow Condensation Sword Technique!

After deploying the Sword Shadow Dividing Light Technique and creating several sword shadows, all shadows can be converged into the Flying Sword for the strongest slash.

An average beginner who practices the Sword Shadow Dividing Light Technique can at most create one or two sword shadows.

But Lu Changsheng is thoroughly familiar with the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, requiring no time-consuming practice.

Additionally, possessing the Profound Origin Bead, creating many sword shadows without worrying about excessive mana consumption is of no concern.

“Hmm? You’re a Sword Cultivator too!”

Meng Yibai, upon seeing Lu Changsheng’s completely formidable presence, as if he had transformed into a different person, using the technique of division and shadow, expressed surprise.

Cultivators can roughly be divided into the Scholarly Cultivator Faction and the Martial Cultivator Faction.

The Scholarly Cultivator Faction primarily obtains cultivation resources through production and trade.

The Martial Cultivator Faction primarily obtains cultivation resources through battle and plunder.

Sword Cultivators are a classic example within the Martial Cultivator Faction.

They are known for their straightforwardness, characteristically having formidable combat abilities and sharp techniques in battle.

This was why, seeing Lu Changsheng with Xiao Xiyue, he felt displeasure in his heart; harboring a grudge, his thoughts troubled, he decided to directly take Lu Changsheng’s life.

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“Since that’s the case, let me show you the true capabilities of a Sword Cultivator!”

Meng Yibai’s hands formed seals, and the golden Flying Sword suddenly let out a clear hum, emitting streaks of Sword Qi.

The Sword Qi swept through like a storm, causing the blood-red Flood Dragon to wail and its body to dim.

“Go!”

Lu Changsheng’s expression remained unchanged as the nine Flying Swords in front of him shot out simultaneously.

...

Three headed towards the golden Flying Sword, and six towards Meng Yibai.

“Hm!?”

Meng Yibai watched the approaching Flying Swords with a slight frown.

He found it difficult to distinguish the real from the illusionary among the Flying Swords sent by Lu Changsheng.

His expression did not change, and he showed no panic. His eyebrows raised like swords, and with a slap to his Dantian, he spat out a gleaming Sword Bead.

This Sword Bead was round and glinted like a Golden Core, rotating around him and forming a net of Sword Qi.

The Sword Bead, round in form yet embodying the intent of the sword, combined hardness with softness.

Sharp enough to cut through metal like mud, and soft enough to coil around one's finger, its power far surpassed that of other Flying Swords of the same level.

Furthermore, this Sword Bead was his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact, possessing terrifying power.

“Clang clang clang—”

The six illusionary Flying Swords clashed against the net of the Sword Bead, sparking and ringing like metal striking against metal.

Indeed, the Sword Bead was extraordinary, preventing Lu Changsheng's illusionary Flying Swords from breaking through its defense and even nicking the blades.

“I have only recently reached Foundation Establishment and my resources are insufficient, many techniques have not caught up.”

“To avoid any accidents, I must conclude this battle quickly!”

After a brief exchange, Lu Changsheng had a rough estimate of Meng Yibai's strength.

His Cultivation Level appeared to be in the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment.

However, with the Profound Origin Bead by his side, his Mana was not weaker than that of a Middle Stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

In fact, in terms of the amount of Mana, he was even slightly superior.

In a battle of equals, he naturally did not fear his opponent.

But since the opponent was a disciple of the Immortal Sects and had a False Core Immortal as a senior, it was certain he had many tricks and means of preservation, so a swift victory was best.

“Your so-called Sword Cultivator abilities are just this. Taste my sword!”

“Shimmering Shadow Condensation Sword Technique!”

Lu Changsheng formed seals with his hands, and the Mana in his body surged like a river, with the Mana within his Dantian’s Profound Origin Bead rapidly circulating.

This caused the eight illusionary Flying Swords to tremble violently and shine brilliantly.

Subsequently, they transformed into streaks of seven-colored rainbow light, merging into the pristine white Flying Sword, which expanded greatly, transforming into a giant sword over three meters long.

“Slash!”

Lu Changsheng pointed like a sword and commanded the Flying Sword to cut down.

The giant sword rose, with seven colors of divine light swirling around it, and an endless surge of fierce and chilling Sword Qi seemed ready to extinguish all vitality as it slashed towards Meng Yibai with astounding momentum.

“Clang clang clang—”

Under the terrifying onslaught of the Seven-Colored Giant Sword, the golden Flying Sword let out a distressed cry as though it couldn’t bear the pressure.

“How is this possible?”

“How can you, a Cultivator who has just broken through to the Foundation Establishment, have the ability to use such techniques, to have such power!”

Meng Yibai looked at the Seven-Colored Giant Sword, his eyelid twitching uncontrollably as shock took over his expression.

As a Sword Cultivator, he was already considered unbeaten among his peers.

Thus, he had not regarded Lu Changsheng, who had only just broken through Foundation Establishment, as a threat.

Earlier, Lu Changsheng's Shimmering Shadow technique had merely made him acknowledge that Lu was an impressive talent, no wonder he had caught the eye of a prodigy like Xiao Xiyue.

But now this technique was beyond what mere talent could account for.

Or rather, this was definitely not a technique that a Cultivator who had just broken through Foundation Establishment should have!

Lu Changsheng's expression was indifferent, and he didn't reply, intent on slaying Meng Yibai with one sword.

"This youth has such astonishing methods; he must have obtained an unparalleled Sword Cultivation inheritance!"

"Even if it costs me, it will be worth it to slay him!"

Meng Yibai's body burst with Sword Qi, and he took out a large tortoise shell to block the attack from the giant sword.

The golden Sword Bead, after forming a heaven-covering Sword Qi net, suddenly burst forth in a flourish of sharp light, tearing through the air as it aimed for Lu Changsheng.

Simultaneously, a Blue Talisman appeared in his hand, glowing and pulsing with energy.

"Talisman Treasure!"

Lu Changsheng immediately noticed Meng Yibai's action.

He recognized the Blue Talisman in his hand as a Talisman Treasure.

“Indeed, befitting a disciple of the Immortal Sects, Talisman Treasures seem to be standard issue.”

Previously Xiao Xiyue had a Talisman Treasure by her side, and now so did this person!

“Go!”

Lu Changsheng did not bring out his Talisman Treasure, the Golden Light Brick, to counterattack.

His Golden Light Brick Magical Treasure had limited remaining power and was not suitable for prolonged use.

He slapped his Storage Bag and released a top-grade shield Magic Artifact and his Second Rank Puppet to block the Sword Bead.

Next, he channeled a continuous flow of Mana into the Seven-Colored Giant Sword, pushing its power to the extreme, making it overwhelmingly powerful.

“Crack!”

In that moment, the Tortoise Shell Magic Artifact immediately showed a crack.

“Not good!”

Meng Yibai did not expect Lu Changsheng’s assault to be so aggressive.

His own Tortoise Shell was a low-grade Spiritual Artifact.

Yet, it seemed so fragile against the onslaught of the giant sword.

Seeing Lu Changsheng also had a Second Rank Puppet, he had no choice but to call his Sword Bead back to defend.

Sword Qi burst forth, forming a spiraling net of Sword Qi in the sky, continuing to block the onslaught of the Seven-Colored Giant Sword as he sought time to activate his Talisman Treasure.

Within a few breaths, Meng Yibai activated the Blue Talisman Treasure.

With a clear sound, the Talisman Treasure transformed into a small, water-like flowing Blue Jade Ruler.

The Jade Ruler radiated a dazzling light in the air.

Just like Lu Changsheng's previous pristine white Flying Sword, it split in two, then four, and then eight... creating more and more Jade Rulers.

In no time, Meng Yibai's front was covered with a multitude of Blue Jade Rulers, totaling over a hundred.

These Jade Rulers were neatly arranged, forming a barrier in front of the Seven-Colored Giant Sword.

“Go!”

Meng Yibai formed seals with his hands, directing the Sword Bead, which was still clashing with the Giant Sword, to transform into a golden ray of light and strike towards Lu Changsheng.

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Chapter 330: Sword Cultivator Duel, Who Killed My Grandson!_3

Simultaneously, a series of Blue Jade Rulers shot towards Lu Changsheng.

Although his Talisman Treasure was quite ordinary, it excelled in both offense and defense.

“As a Sword Cultivator, once you start defending, it's the beginning of defeat.”

Lu Changsheng's expression remained calm as he spoke lightly, his words aimed to influence the Mental Spirit of his opponent.

With his Divine Sense, he manipulated the Magical Shield and the Second Rank Puppet to rush forward to the Sword Bead for defense.

At the same time, his hand sliced through the air like a blade, unleashing sword lights towards the Blue Jade Rulers.

...

He saw several Blue Jade Rulers disintegrate under his Seven Luminaries Sword lights, giving him a rough idea of the rulers' might.

Instantly, a talisman appeared in his hand.

Earlier, from the hands of the red-robed youth, he had obtained seven Second Rank Supreme Talismans.

Among them were four Attack Talismans.

Second Rank Supreme Talisman—Thunder Fire Immaculate Talisman!

“Boom boom boom—”

Lu Changsheng's talisman was activated, transforming into endless celestial thunder and Earth Fire, sweeping towards the overwhelming tide of Jade Rulers with an astonishing momentum, causing a furious barrage.

The myriad of Jade Rulers, already struggling to withstand the Seven-Colored Giant Sword, started to tremble wildly, shattering and then splitting anew.

“Go!”

Seeing his Second Rank Puppet fall back step by step in front of the Sword Bead and suffer damage all over, Lu Changsheng immediately reactivated the blood-red scissors, transforming them into a blood-colored Flood Dragon to charge at the golden Sword Bead.

After all, repairing the puppet afterwards would not only cost money but also time.

“Little guy, keep an eye on him.”

Lu Changsheng released the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm from his Spiritual Pet Bag.

Though the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm only had late First Grade strength for now,

as long as the opponent wasn't a Body Cultivator, hiding in the dark, it could still deliver an unexpected strike.

“Damn it!”

“He's just a Cultivator who recently broke through to Foundation Establishment; where does he get such profound Mana to support these techniques!”

Meng Yibai felt his Mana rapidly draining from within, his complexion exceedingly unsightly.

With his strength at the fifth layer of Foundation Establishment, his Mana was swiftly depleting, almost exhausted.

Lu Changsheng, however, was a Cultivator who had just broken through Foundation Establishment, with less than half his own Mana.

Yet, while using such terrifying Divine Skills and techniques like the Seven-Colored Giant Sword, he could still nonchalantly cast other spells and activate Spiritual Artifacts, which was utterly beyond Meng's comprehension.

“Crack!”

Just at that moment, a crisp sound echoed.

Hovering in mid-air, the Tortoise Shell filled with cracks finally shattered completely, allowing the myriad Jade Rulers to break and divide continuously under the Seven-Colored Giant Sword.

“No, there’s something wrong with this kid, something seriously wrong!”

“He must have some sort of artifact on him that increases and stores Mana; otherwise, having just broken through Foundation Establishment, it shouldn’t be so exaggerated.”

Seeing Lu Changsheng showing no signs of Mana depletion and launching yet another talisman with explosive force, Meng Yibai’s face turned extremely sour.

Making a snap decision in his mind, he prepared to flee.

Sword Cultivators may value a relentless advance and unobstructed thoughts,

but they are not fools.

Knowing that “where there’s life, there’s hope,” there’s no need for a bitter struggle to the death.

Meng Yibai’s Mana surged throughout his body, fully activating his Talisman Treasure to fend off the terrifying assault of the Giant Sword.

Meanwhile, he recalled the blood-colored Flood Dragon and the dimly lit Second Rank Puppet Sword Bead to his side.

“Hmm!?”

Lu Changsheng, witnessing this act, instantly knew something was wrong.

His blood-colored scissors and Second Rank Puppet were no match for the Sword Bead.

The question was whether he would break the opponent's Talisman Treasure first,

or if the opponent's Sword Bead would destroy his Second Rank Puppet and blood-colored scissors first.

But now, the opponent was withdrawing the offensive, which clearly indicated a problem.

"Could he be thinking of fleeing?"

Lu Changsheng's heart skipped a beat, realizing that the other might be planning an escape.

Otherwise, as a Sword Cultivator, to abandon offense and focus solely on defense in these circumstances was indeed illogical.

Without hesitation, Lu Changsheng ceased to conserve his resources.

He took out his Talisman Treasure, the Golden Light Brick.

Although this Golden Light Brick Talisman Treasure wasn't very powerful,

it had the effect of suppressing the heavens and the earth, making it difficult for one to break free and hard to escape.

Now that Lu Changsheng had broken through to the Foundation Establishment Stage, he could activate his Talisman Treasure much faster than in the Qi Refinement Realm.

In just a short time, the talisman in his hand soared into the sky, radiating golden light.

"A Talisman Treasure!"

Meng Yibai's expression drastically changed upon seeing this.

He hadn't expected Lu Changsheng to still possess a Talisman Treasure, hidden until now.

In that moment, he could no longer care about his Life-bound Sword Pellet.

He instantly propelled the flying shuttle beneath him, transforming into a streak of golden light to flee without looking back.

But part of the Golden Light Brick Talisman Treasure's power had already manifested.

Golden light shone in all directions, as if the might of an ancient divine mountain pressed down with a rumbling force, causing his body to feel suddenly heavy and his Mana sluggish.

The Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, concealed in the dark, struck at that very moment, lunging out like a golden flash.

"What is this?"

Despite being a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, Meng Yibai acutely sensed the incoming Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, his Mana erupting around him to form a Protective Aura.

"Clang!"

The Six-Winged Golden Silkworm slammed into the shield, emitting a sound of metal clashing, unable to penetrate.

"Boom boom boom!"

At that moment, the myriad Blue Jade Rulers lacking Meng Yibai's Mana support began to shatter under the Giant Sword.

Lu Changsheng immediately led his Second Rank Puppet to chase after Meng Yibai.

"Fellow Daoist, if you cease this pursuit and let me go, I swear upon my Dao Heart, I will not seek revenge, and I am willing to offer this Talisman Treasure and ten thousand Spirit Stones as compensation," Meng Yibai shouted out, trapped beneath the Golden Light Brick, his Mana sluggish.

“I am rather curious, having disguised my appearance, how did you manage to track me down?” Lu Changsheng pressed, using the remaining power of the Golden Light Brick to suppress Meng Yibai, as he voiced his inquiry.

“I have an Earth Rank lower-grade Pet Beast, the Earth Spirit Mouse.”

“This mouse doesn’t have many talents, but it has an extremely sharp sense of smell for Spiritual Objects, and this sense applies in other areas as well.”

“It had caught the scent on your body, the odor of the Storage Bag, so even if you changed your appearance and concealed your aura, it still couldn’t be completely hidden and could be sensed approximately,” Meng Yibai explained.