

## I. Family 331

### Chapter 331: Sword Cultivator Duel, Who Killed My Grandson!\_4

“If the fellow daoist requires, Meng would also be willing to offer this Earth Spirit Mouse.”

As a Sword Cultivator, although Meng Yibai was begging for mercy, he still stood tall, speaking neither humbly nor arrogantly.

“So that’s how it is.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly upon hearing this.

He had previously read in books about how some treasures and Spiritual Beasts could even sense the treasures inside another person’s Storage Bag.

He never expected that this Earth Spirit Mouse would be able to sniff out not only a person’s aura but the aura of their Storage Bag as well.

...

This gave him a shiver of fear.

Fortunately, he hadn’t encountered a Cultivator who could sense the treasures in his Storage Bag; otherwise, he would have been the ultimate fat sheep.

“Fellow daoist, what do you say?”

Meng Yibai, whose Mana was nearly depleted and watching his Talisman Treasure dimming, felt a sense of urgency but still steadied his Mental Spirit and said in a deep voice.

“There’s nothing to say. In this situation, how can I let you go?”

“I can’t rest easy if I don’t kill you.”

As soon as Lu Changsheng's words fell, the Seven-Colored Giant Sword thunderously slashed down.

From the moment his opponent engaged him in combat, his opponent's death was certain.

"Fellow daoist, we originally had no grudges, and this matter was due to my momentary impulsiveness, which offended you. I am willing to apologize to you, and you can make any demands."

"Moreover, my grandmother, a False Core Immortal of the Qingyun Sect, has planted a Soul Seal inside my body. If you kill me, she will be informed."

"I am telling you this not as a threat but to let you know that if you kill me, you will only bring endless trouble upon yourself, with disadvantages outweighing the benefits."

Meng Yibai forced his Mana to surge, spinning the golden Sword Bead to attempt escape.

But being suppressed by the golden brick, his movements were like being mired in a swamp, making it difficult to break free, forcing him to reactivate his Talisman Treasure to block the attack.

At this moment, his tone became hurried, unable to maintain the calmness and dignity he previously had.

"Alas, that is exactly why I asked you at first if there was a misunderstanding."

"But unfortunately, given the chance, you did not know how to seize it!"

Lu Changsheng sighed.

No sooner had he spoken than his eyes revealed a fierce glint, and he thrust down the Seven-Colored Giant Sword with all his might.

Today, no matter the excuses, his opponent was doomed.

Otherwise, being sought after by someone so prideful and willing to chase him over a small matter would make his own life unbearable!

“Boom, boom, boom—”

The forcefully activated Talisman Treasure and Sword Bead erupted, colliding constantly in front of the Seven-Colored Giant Sword.

But his Mana was largely expended, and he was suppressed by the golden brick, his Mana sluggish. Facing such a fearsome assault, how could he possibly block it?

“Puchi! Puchi! Puchi!”

Five spears from behind the Second Rank Puppet burst forth simultaneously, piercing through Meng Yibai’s Protective Aura and then through his body like thunder.

“Puh!”

In an instant, Meng Yibai spat blood and lost the strength to support his Talisman Treasure and Sword Bead against the attack.

The next moment, the Seven-Colored Giant Sword descended like the opening of the heavens and the earth, slicing Meng Yibai’s body in two, splattering blood and drenching the sky.

“My methods are still too few.”

“Were it not for the Mana enhancement and support from the Profound Origin Bead, the outcome of this battle would have been uncertain.”

“Not to mention, this Flying Sword isn’t quite suited to me.”

After witnessing Meng Yibai’s death, Lu Changsheng let out a breath and murmured to himself, gaining a rough understanding of his own strength.

Without dwelling on it further, he instantly reached out with a Mana-influenced hand, capturing the opponent's treasures and body, and disappeared in an Escape Light.

At that moment.

Qingyun Sect.

Within a golden and dazzling magnificent palace.

An old lady with aged features and graying hair suddenly felt something in her heart.

A Life-bound Jade Token appeared in her hand.

But now, this Life-bound Jade Token showed cracks.

“Yibai!”

Watching the broken Life-bound Token in her hand, her eyes filled with disbelief as she let out a piercing scream.

“Who is it? Who killed my grandson?”

The old lady's entire presence saturated the air, and her eyes revealed a reddish hue.

Moments later, she transformed into a rainbow light and flew out of the palace.

Straight away, steering a Spirit Boat, she turned into an Escape Light and shot towards the Qingyun Market.

Chapter 332: Great Harvest, Could the Killer of My Grandson Be False Core Immortal!\_1

Within a cave.

Lu Changsheng closed his eyes and surveyed himself with his Divine Sense.

He saw an odd greyish aura within his body.

“Is this the so-called Soul Seal?”

“Not only does it allow the caster to know when the person on whom the spell is cast dies or encounters an accident,”

“but it also allows the caster to find the slayer from a thousand miles away by transforming the Soul Seal into a resentful soul thread that resides within the assailant.”

...

Lu Changsheng looked at the grey aura and murmured to himself.

He attempted to eradicate the grey aura with his mana.

But the grey aura wriggled and twisted like a living being, proving to be obstinate.

His mana was simply unable to eradicate it.

Then, Lu Changsheng took out a Second Rank Lower Grade Purification Talisman and activated it on himself.

A glow as pure and white as water flowed through his body, and upon sensing the grey aura, it immediately enveloped it.

However, the purifying force could only suppress the grey aura to a certain extent and was unable to purify it completely.

“A Soul Seal planted by a False Core Immortal is indeed not so easily resolved.”

“Must I really be forced to use a Life-Substituting Talisman?”

Lu Changsheng's eyes narrowed slightly as he muttered to himself.

Knowing that Meng Yibai was the grandson of a False Core Immortal, he still dared to kill him because he had something to rely on.

This reliance was the Life-Substituting Talisman.

The Life-Substituting Talisman had the effect of fending off lethal attacks and escaping through space.

Schemes like the Soul Seal and resentful soul threads that curse one's life could also be diverted by the Life-Substituting Talisman to take the user's place.

"First, let's see if other methods can resolve this resentful soul thread."

"Otherwise, using this Fourth Rank Life-Substituting Talisman here would be too wasteful."

Lu Changsheng took a deep breath and thought to himself.

He did not wish to waste his life-saving talismans so easily and carelessly.

After all, this Life-Substituting Talisman could allow him to escape death even from a Nascent Soul below.

To be so frightened as to use the Life-Substituting Talisman for a yet-to-arrive False Core Immortal would be too disheartening.

"Moreover, if I really have to use the Life-Substituting Talisman, I'd have to wait until that False Core Immortal comes searching."

"By then, I could also remember his appearance and aura to send him on his way with the Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates to settle the grudge once and for all."

“The Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates would require a hundred years of lifespan to curse a Nascent Soul Immortal to death. I wonder how much it would take for a False Core Immortal, thirty years or fifty?”

Lu Changsheng pondered silently.

Although the False Core Immortal is called an ‘Immortal.’

There is, after all, a ‘False’ prefix.

It is not achieved through their own cultivation but by relying on external objects and refining a Demon Core to advance.

In comparison to a true Nascent Soul Immortal, there’s no way to compare.

Whether it’s in terms of strength or lifespan, they fall far short of a Nascent Soul Immortal.

Not only is their cultivation unable to progress further in this life, but their lifespan is also limited to just over three hundred years.

“Nevertheless, this is a last resort; if it can be avoided, it’s best avoided.”

“Not only would it waste two of my treasures, but the death of a False Core Immortal might also provoke an investigation by the Qingyun Sect.”

Lu Changsheng considered to himself.

Then he closed his eyes, sat cross-legged, and began to circulate the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture.

He tried to transform his mana into Seven Luminaries Sword Qi to refine the resentful soul thread.

After all, the Seven Luminaries Sword Qi can refine elixir toxicity, so perhaps it could refine the resentful soul thread as well.

“Sizzle—”

Sword Qi enveloped Lu Changsheng’s body, nearly piercing through it.

The Seven Luminaries Sword Qi inside him, like serpentine dragons, wrapped around the resentful soul thread, emitting a sound like fierce fire crackling in oil.

Despite being engulfed and devoured by the Seven Luminaries Sword Qi, the resentful soul thread still stubbornly twisted and writhed.

Moments later.

“It really works!”

“The Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, as an Orthodox Level Cultivation Technique, has the power to refine even a False Core Immortal’s resentful soul thread.”

“But, this refining speed is too slow; it will take at least two or three days to refine this resentful soul thread completely.”

“In two or three days, that False Core Immortal might find me.”

Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, a trace of joy on his face.

Recalling how the Second Rank Purification Talisman had a suppressive effect on the resentful soul thread,

he took out another Second Rank Lower Grade Purification Talisman and activated it on himself.

As the purifying force flowed through his body towards the resentful soul thread, Lu Changsheng immediately began refining the grey aura with his Seven Luminaries Sword Qi.

Indeed, under these conditions, his efficiency in refining the resentful soul thread doubled.



By the time the effects of the Purification Talisman wore off, Lu Changsheng had refined about one-tenth to one-fifth of the grey aura.

“If I had a Second Rank Supreme Purification Talisman to suppress this resentful soul thread, perhaps I could refine it quickly.”

After seeing the method’s effectiveness, Lu Changsheng promptly took out the talisman pens and talisman materials for Second Rank talismans he had bought from the marketplace from his Storage Bag.

He began to draw a Second Rank Supreme Purification Talisman,

planning to rely on the talisman’s assistance to rapidly refine the resentful soul thread.

Having just been through a magical combat, not only was his mana spent, but his heart had not completely calmed yet.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng did not start by drawing a Second Rank Supreme Talisman.

Instead, he first drew a Second Rank Middle Grade Purification Talisman to recover his touch and calm his heart.

An hour later.

Lu Changsheng held the talisman pen and slowly outlined a Second Rank Middle Grade Purification Talisman, infusing it with mana.

The talisman paper radiated with a white light, surging forth and bringing the talisman to form.

After completing this talisman, Lu Changsheng did not rest.

He began drawing a Second Rank Upper Grade Purification Talisman.

It took Lu Changsheng about half an hour to finish drawing this Second Rank Upper Grade Purification Talisman.

Talisman making is such; the higher the grade of the talisman being drawn, the more difficult and complex it becomes, and the more time and mana it consumes.

However, Lu Changsheng not only possessed a maxed-out Talisman-Making Skill at the Second Rank,

he also had the Profound Origin Bead, acting as a second Dantian.

Inside it, he stored nine times his own mana,

which kept his mana nearly inexhaustible and spared him the worry of insufficient mana.

Chapter 333: Great Harvest, Could the Killer of My Grandson Be False Core Immortal!\_2

Moreover, having broken through to Foundation Establishment, Lu Changsheng was not so easily fatigued in his mental spirit just by drawing a few talismans.

“Phew!”

With the feel gained from just now by drawing two talismans, Lu Changsheng took a deep breath, his expression serious, and began to draw a Second Rank Supreme Purification Talisman.

Currently, for drawing Second Rank Superior Grade Talisman, he had a 98% chance of success.

But for the Second Rank Supreme Talisman, he only had about a 70-80% chance.

He didn't dare claim he could succeed 100% of the time.

...

Lu Changsheng, holding the talisman brush, slowly started to draw.

The mana from within his body flowed unceasingly through the Second Rank brush, outlining on the talisman paper, making the paper constantly bloom with colors and forming mysterious runes.

An hour later.

Lu Changsheng looked at the Second Rank Supreme Talisman he had successfully drawn, a faint smile appearing on his face.

He then picked up the talisman and applied the Purification Talisman to himself.

Instantly, the talisman's white light flourished, illuminating the cave as if it were daytime.

The purifying force, like tidal waves, surged into Lu Changsheng's body, enveloping and purifying the strands of malevolent spirits.

In this process, the strands were directly purified by the talisman.

Lu Changsheng felt that, with just five or six Second Rank Supreme Purification Talismans, he could directly purify these malevolent spirit strands.

Lu Changsheng didn't think too much and quickly began to circulate the Seven Luminaries Freedom Scripture.

With the Seven Luminaries Sword Qi in coordination with the Purification Talisman, he refined the wisp of malevolent spirit strand.

Half an hour later, the strand of malevolent spirit inside Lu Changsheng was directly refined by eighty percent.

Seeing this, Lu Changsheng didn't continue drawing Second Rank Supreme Purification Talismans.

He directly used the Second Rank Superior Grade Talisman he had just drawn.

With the help of the purifying power of this Superior Grade Talisman, Lu Changsheng directly refined the remaining strands of the malevolent spirit.

After the refining was complete, Lu Changsheng used his divine sense and the remaining Second Rank Middle Grade Purification Talismans to check again and confirm.

Ensuring that the malevolent spirit strand within his body was refined and there were no other issues, he finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Glancing at the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, which was absorbing the residual blood of Meng Yibai's corpse.

"Let's go."

Lu Changsheng beckoned, recalling the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

Then a Fireball Technique shot out, burning Meng Shaobai's body to ashes and causing the cave to collapse.

Only then did he take out an Escape Talisman and quickly depart.

After continuously fleeing for several hundred miles, Lu Changsheng finally started to rest.

He took out two elixir medicines and swallowed them to restore his physical strength and mana.

Only then did he start to sort through Meng Yibai's Storage Bag to see what gains he had made.

"This is a sword cultivator, huh? Apart from a Flying Sword and a Life-bound Sword Pellet, there is only one Tortoise Shell Magic Artifact; he doesn't have any other magic artifacts."

Lu Changsheng glanced at the Storage Bag, giving it a cursory sweep with his divine sense.

He discovered that surprisingly, there were no magic artifacts inside, just Spirit Stones, Spiritual Medicine, and various Elixir Medicines.

Immediately afterward, Lu Changsheng set aside the Spirit Stones, Spiritual Medicines, and various precious materials.

He picked up a medicine bottle, sniffed the aroma and nodded, “Hmm, this should be Origin Nurturing Elixir, and there are still seven pills, not bad.”

“This should be Harmonizing Energy Elixir...”

Lu Changsheng evaluated each Elixir Medicine bottle one by one.

Just then, as Lu Changsheng opened a porcelain bottle, he looked at the pill inside, and his pupils couldn’t help but constrict.

He immediately poured the pill into his palm to take a closer look.

“It really is a Foundation Establishment Elixir.”

“Why would he have a Foundation Establishment Elixir on him!”

Lu Changsheng looked at this Foundation Establishment Elixir with a little surprise and delight.

He really hadn’t expected Meng Yibai to have a Foundation Establishment Elixir on him.

He had been thinking about getting a genuine Foundation Establishment Elixir for Lu Miaoge.

After all, with Lu Miaoge’s talent, wanting to make a breakthrough in Foundation Establishment without a Foundation Establishment Elixir was almost impossible.

So he planned, once Lu Miaoge reached Qi Refinement Perfection, to visit the Three Great Immortal Cities to see.

To see if he could get a Foundation Establishment Elixir through some channel or at an auction.

Never did he expect to find what he sought without putting much effort into it and inadvertently obtaining a Foundation Establishment Elixir from Meng Yibai.

Moreover, it was exactly the genuine Foundation Establishment Elixir he needed, not some inferior product.

“Now that I have the Foundation Establishment Elixir as well as the Three Suns Elixir and Foundation Establishment Spirit Objects, Sister Miaoge’s Foundation Establishment should be secure.”

Lu Changsheng didn’t think too much about where Meng Yibai got the Foundation Establishment Elixir from.

He was simply grateful for the kind person’s gift.

He carefully stored the Foundation Establishment Elixir, preparing to give it to Lu Miaoge when the time came.

After all, she was currently his only wife with hopes of achieving Foundation Establishment.

If he had the ability to assist her, he would naturally lend a hand.

For Lu Miaoyun, Qu Zhenzhen, and Lu Miaohuan, he currently had no way to assist them.

After clearing up the Storage Bag, Lu Changsheng opened the Spiritual Pet Bag.

He immediately saw a palm-sized golden-furred, endearingly clumsy... hamster.

“A hamster?”

Lu Changsheng saw this innocuous, somewhat cute golden hamster and was stunned.

After all, in the Cultivation World, he had seen many ferocious demon beasts.

Suddenly seeing such a harmless and endearingly clumsy hamster really caught him off guard.

“Is this the Earth Spirit Mouse?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the golden hamster and immediately knew, this must be the Earth Rank low-grade bloodline demon beast, the Earth Spirit Mouse, that Meng Yibai had mentioned.

It was relying on this Earth Spirit Mouse that the other party had detected his scent, seeing through his disguise.

Lu Changsheng took the Beast Control Token from the Storage Bag into his hands.

Then, with a subtle movement of his mental spirit, he released the golden hamster from the Spiritual Pet Bag.

“Squeak, squeak, squeak...”

When the little hamster appeared and saw Lu Changsheng, it displayed fear and trepidation.

This demon beast, although possessing an Earth Grade bloodline, was primarily skilled in its sense of smell and used for treasure hunting.

It was not combat-oriented and was quite timid.

Now with only Late Stage First Grade power, the hamster naturally felt fear and trepidation in the presence of Lu Changsheng, a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng was holding in his hand the Beast Control Token that decided its fate.

“Throughout my life, adrift as a mouse, I have only regretted not finding a worthy master; now that I have met one, if you would not reject me, I am willing to acknowledge you as my adoptive father!”

## Chapter 334: Great Harvest, Could the Killer of My Grandson Be False Core Immortal!\_3

The golden hamster looked at Lu Changsheng, knelt on both legs, and made a gesture of bowing with its hands.

Through the Beast Control Token, it also sent a mental communication.

“???”

Lu Changsheng received this mental communication and looked at the little hamster in front of him, somewhat surprised.

He hadn't expected that this demon beast would possess such intelligence.

Like his own Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, despite being of Heavenly Grade bloodline, it utterly lacked any intelligence.

...

All it knew was to kill, kill, kill.

“This is indeed the two extremes.”

Lu Changsheng smiled, picked up the hamster in front of him to inspect it, and gave it a couple of rubs.

The golden fur was like silk, very comfortable to the touch.

“This Earth Spirit Mouse has an extremely keen sense of smell for heaven and earth spiritual objects. If one is exploring a secret realm or dungeon, having such a demon beast can easily double the efficiency.”

“What a pity I hardly ever run dungeons.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the hamster and smacked his lips.



But he didn't feel it was a waste.

This treasure-seeking mouse was quite good for the family.

Moreover, if he didn't use it, he could at least sell it for tens of thousands of Spirit Stones later on.

“However, what demon beast's egg is this?”

Lu Changsheng put the hamster back into the Spiritual Pet Bag.

With a slight movement of his Mental Spirit, a pale green egg, the size of a watermelon, appeared.

When he checked the Spiritual Pet Bag, he saw that besides the Earth Spirit Mouse, there was also a Pet Beast Egg.

But looking at the egg's appearance, he couldn't discern which demon beast's egg it was.

“Being in the Spiritual Pet Bag of a second-generation cultivator, it mustn't be an ordinary demon beast's egg.”

Lu Changsheng held the egg and examined it for a few moments.

He could tell that there were normal life signs within.

But it would take some time before it could hatch.

He put the Spiritual Pet Bag away again, planning to study it later.

“Although there are only just over six thousand Spirit Stones, and there are no other magic artifacts.”

“But the Talisman Treasure, Foundation Establishment Elixir, Earth Spirit Mouse, and this pet egg are also great gains.”

Lu Changsheng roughly tallied the spoils of this encounter.

Fifty-one Middle Grade Spirit Stones.

One thousand three hundred and seventy-two Lower Grade Spirit Stones.

Spiritual Medicine, materials, Elixir Medicines, worth four to five thousand Spirit Stones.

Then there were the Talisman Treasure, the golden Flying Sword, the Life-bound Sword Pellet, the flying shuttle, as well as the Foundation Establishment Elixir, the Earth Spirit Mouse, and the pet egg.

...

Several hours later.

A streak of Escape Light cut through the air, descending from the sky.

It arrived at the place where Meng Yibai and Lu Changsheng had fought.

“Yibai should have... fallen here.”

The old crone stood on the Spirit Boat, her eyes emitting a faint glow, surveying the surroundings.

After a while, her expression turned extremely grave.

“As a Sword Cultivator, Yibai was invincible at his level, and with the Blue Jade Ruler Talisman I gave him for self-defense, he could even escape from those in the late stages of Foundation Establishment.”

“Yet not only has he fallen here, but the Soul Seal I planted inside him has also disappeared.”

“Could it be that the person who killed Yibai is a False Core Immortal?”

The old crone’s face was serious, her eyes slightly vacant as she murmured to herself.

She could only deduce that her grandson had died here from some residual auras, but could not understand the specific circumstances.

The absence of the Soul Seal and vengeful spirits made her realize that the person who killed her grandson was not simple.

It was very likely a False Core Cultivator.

But the next moment, she shook her head slightly, feeling it was unlikely to be a False Core Cultivator.

If it were a False Core Cultivator, they wouldn’t have left behind so much residue of a magical duel.

Moreover, even if her grandson was audacious and recklessly confident in his abilities to overcome all challenges, he would not have provoked a False Core Immortal.

“If it were a Foundation Establishment Cultivator...”

The old crone’s expression grew even graver.

Realizing that if a Foundation Establishment Cultivator had killed her grandson and dealt with the vengeful spirit thread, then this indicated that the opponent was extraordinary.

Behind them could very well be a False Core Immortal, or even a Nascent Soul Immortal!

Otherwise, they wouldn’t and wouldn’t dare to kill her grandson.

“Alas, I warned Yibai many times, being too rigid can lead to breakage, those who advance too boldly retreat quickly, the true strength of an unsheathed green peak lies in its concealment, cultivating the Sword Dao is not about blindly seeking sharpness...”

The old crone, with hands clasped behind her back, suddenly sighed, murmured to herself, and stooped a little more.

At this moment, even though her heart was filled with myriad feelings of outrage and hatred, she had nowhere to vent them.

Furthermore, guessing that the person who killed her grandson was no small fry also made her wary.

After all, she had only a few decades of life left.

The entire family relied on her, the old ancestor, for support.

Now that Meng Yibai, the pillar of the family’s future, was dead, she, as the old ancestor, had to keep supporting it so that the family lineage would continue.

“Yibai was serving as the Record Chief in the marketplace, why would he suddenly be here, fighting with someone?”

The old crone paused for a moment, her eyes squinted into slits, still pondering her grandson’s affairs.

Even though she was apprehensive, she couldn’t simply give up and ignore the revenge for her grandson’s death.

Suddenly, the old crone controlled her Spirit Boat and flew toward the Qingyun Market.

She intended to investigate the reason her grandson left the market and why he ended up in combat.

Chapter 335: The Seven Luminaries Stars Sword, 2nd Transformation Peach Blossom Gu!\_1

Lady Meng arrived at the Qingyun Market and began to inquire about the recent circumstances of her grandson, Meng Yibai.

And whether anything had happened within the marketplace.

Since the Qingyun Market was established by the Qingyun Sect,

she, as a False Core Immortal, naturally found it quite effortless to obtain this kind of information.

Before long, she had a general understanding of her grandson's recent situation and the latest developments in the marketplace.

Among these, she sharply picked up on a piece of information.

...

Xiao Xiyue was making her attempt at Foundation Establishment in the Qingyun Market.

Moreover, Xiao Xiyue was not attempting Foundation Establishment alone.

She was also co-renting a cave dwelling with a man to make the attempt.

Upon learning this news, Lady Meng realized in her heart that her grandson's death from an external conflict could very well be related to this matter.

She knew her grandson's temperament very well,

and was aware of his pursuit of Xiao Xiyue.

It was she who first brought it up,

hoping her grandson could take Fairy Xi Yue as his cultivation partner.

If her grandson knew that Xiao Xiyue had come to the Qingyun Market for Foundation Establishment, he would surely go to offer his congratulations.

But upon seeing Xiao Xiyue being intimate with another man, sharing a room, feelings of jealousy and even murderous intent towards the man would surely arise.

“Xiao Xiyue.”

Lady Meng’s complexion turned somewhat unsightly.

Unexpectedly, the matter had somehow become entangled with Xiao Xiyue.

The lead pointed back to Xiao Xiyue.

However, even knowing the matter was related to Xiao Xiyue and could be investigated through her, she dared not go to Xiao Xiyue to inquire.

For one, she herself was not in the right in this matter.

If a man could share a room and attempt Foundation Establishment with Xiao Xiyue, even if they were not cultivation partners, their relationship was certainly not shallow.

In such a situation, her grandson getting into trouble due to jealousy and meeting his demise was simply courting death.

Seeking her out herself might even offend Xiao Xiyue.

She was certainly not afraid of Xiao Xiyue,

but Xiao Xiyue’s status was special.

She had Yun Wanshang, a Core Formation Master, as her mentor.

Even as a False Core Immortal, she dared not offend the esteemed Caiyun True Immortal.

After all, this was a true Nascent Soul Immortal!

Especially since the Caiyun True Immortal had real power within the sect and was extremely protective of her own.

Just a year ago, she even drew swords with Chiyang Peak over matters concerning her disciple, Xiao Xiyue.

With such a temperament, Lady Meng knew she could not provoke her.

If this True Immortal of Caiyun learned of the matter and targeted her, one strike aimed at her, and she feared she would have to prepare her last rites in advance.

Furthermore, learning that the person had just broken through to the Foundation Establishment confirmed her previous suspicions.

The assailant behind her grandson's slaying must have had someone else supporting him,

most likely a False Core Immortal, or even a Nascent Soul Immortal.

Otherwise, how could a person who had just achieved Foundation Establishment possibly defeat her grandson?

Let alone slay him.

“Sigh...”

After having a general understanding of the cause and effect, Lady Meng let out a deep sigh.

Her stature dejected, she left the Qingyun Market in her Spirit Boat, heading back to the Qingyun Sect.

She planned to spend the following days peacefully within the Qingyun Sect.

...

“This Flying Sword is indeed a bit more suited to me than the red-robed young man’s Spiritual Artifact Flying Sword,” Lu Changsheng spoke after refining Meng Yibai’s golden Flying Sword, toying with it for a while.

“But it’s also because I possess a Gengjin Body Constitution, which makes this Flying Sword more compatible with me,” he added.

“If I want to possess a truly suitable Spiritual Sword, I’ll need to employ an Artifact Refiner to forge a Spiritual Sword that encompasses both Yin and Yang and the five elements,” Lu observed.

Practicing the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, Lu Changsheng was naturally very clear about what kind of Spiritual Sword he needed to maximize his strength.

It was difficult to acquire such a Spiritual Sword through purchase or pillage, as most Flying Swords in the Cultivation World were of a single attribute or had two or three attributes.

It was rare to find one with both Yin and Yang and the five elements.

One had to commission an Artifact Refiner to forge it.

“When I have some spare money later on, I’ll hire someone to forge one,” Lu Changsheng decided as he stowed away the Flying Sword, thinking to himself.

He wasn’t too concerned about it.

This kind of Flying Sword was, after all, just a transitional Spiritual Artifact.

During the Foundation Establishment stage, his Life-bound Spiritual Artifact was the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp.



Once this lamp was forged, his strength could rise to another level.

As for the Flying Sword,

when he broke through to Core Formation, within the third level of the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, there was a set called ‘Seven Luminaries Stars Sword’, consisting of Magical Treasures Flying Swords of various different attributes.

He could forge the Sun Solar Sword, the Lunar Solar Sword, the Venus Solar Sword, the Jupiter Solar Sword, the Saturn Solar Sword, the Mars Solar Sword, and the Terran Solar Sword, seven Magical Treasures Flying Swords of differing attributes.

This set of Magical Treasures Flying Swords, when paired with the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, complimented each other perfectly, amplifying their power significantly.

They could also turn into sixty-four sword shadows to form the Seven Luminaries Star Sword Formation.

Once this sword formation was complete, even at the Initial Stage of Core Formation, he could easily suppress a Mid Nascent Soul Stage, and might even overpower someone at the Core Formation Late Stage.

“Still, I’m only at Foundation Establishment, and Magical Treasures are far beyond my reach,” Lu Changsheng shook his head, not dwelling further on the subject.

He took out a Jade Slip map, poured his Mana into it, and checked his current location.

He was about two days’ travel from Qingzhu Mountain.

“Although the spiteful spirit threads have been refined, I still don’t know if Meng Yibai’s False Core elder has any other means to track me down. Therefore, to be safe, I better wander outside for a while longer, not hurrying back to Qingzhu Mountain, to avoid attracting trouble,” he pondered.

After checking the map, Lu Changsheng decided to spend the next ten days to half a month observing the surroundings before returning.

Confirming that Meng Yibai's elder could not find him was prudent before going back.

Otherwise, involving Qingzhu Mountain and the Hongye Marketplace would be unfortunate.

"Sigh, it seems I really must limit my excursions," he reflected.

Chapter 336: The Seven Luminaries Stars Sword, 2nd Transformation Peach Blossom Gu!\_2

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"It's one thing to kill ordinary robber cultivators,"

"But killing those second-generation cultivators with influential backgrounds might bring serious trouble."

Lu Changsheng sighed.

He made up his mind that after this trip home, he would focus on making money and nurturing his child, settling his own foundation.

Otherwise, encountering more people like Meng Yibai might bring trouble to his family.

...

Moreover, he needed to invest more effort into raising his child and education.

If not, even if he could establish a family, it would be troublesome if the child grew up improperly.

"Hmm?"

Just as Lu Changsheng was about to find a place to rest, he felt a faint throbbing in his glabella.

“The Peach Blossom Gu has completed its transformation and ascended to the Second Transformation.”

The next moment, Lu Changsheng knew what this trembling sensation was about.

It was his Peach Blossom Gu reaching ascension.

This Peach Blossom Gu had already peaked at the First Transformation.

But due to the limitations of his own cultivation level, it had been unable to transform and ascend to the Second Transformation.

At the very moment he achieved Foundation Establishment, the Peach Blossom Gu in his glabella began its transformation and ascension.

Now, a month had passed, and the Peach Blossom Gu had completed its transformation, successfully ascending to the Second Transformation.

The ascension of the Peach Blossom Gu to the Second Transformation didn't come with significant changes.

Just an enhancement of its three original effects.

This made his Peach Blossom Luck even more prosperous.

The Peach Blossom Gu improved his appearance and charisma when attracting the opposite sex.

As well as its proactive effect, enhancing the affliction of the Five Aggregates Peach Blossom poison.

“With the Peach Blossom Gu's ascension, my Peach Blossom Luck has increased even further. I'd better go out less.”

“Otherwise, I might encounter Peach Blossom Luck the moment I step out of the door.”

Lu Changsheng stroked his chin and chuckled lightly.

Immediately, he descended toward a large mountain in front of him.

Planning to pause here for half a month.

To see if the False Core Immortal backing Meng Yibai would find him.

If they did come looking, he would proceed as planned, fleeing with a Life-Substituting Talisman and settling scores using the Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates.

If not, naturally that would be best.

...

After visiting the true immortal Du at the Qingyun Market, Xiao Xiyue didn't delay and returned directly to the Qingyun Sect.

Upon her arrival at the sect, she headed straight for Caiyun Peak.

She went to voir her master at the magnificent palace at the very peak.

As soon as she arrived in front of the grand hall, Xiao Xiyue saw on the stairs a woman clad in colorful clouds, her hair done up in a cloud bun, with an appearance as stunning as a heavenly maiden, noble and gorgeous.

It was her master, Yun Wanshang.

Apparently, her master knew she had returned and was waiting for her here.

"Master."

Xiao Xiyue immediately greeted her with a respectful curtsy.

“Xi Yue, you have not disappointed your teacher,” Yun Wanshang said, with a faint smile on her face as she looked at her disciple.

She had received early news from the real immortal Du at Qingyun Market of Xiao Xiyue’s success in Foundation Establishment.

She also knew that Xiao Xiyue was not alone in her breakthrough.

She had undergone Foundation Establishment together with Lu Changsheng.

After hearing this news, she felt reassured on the one hand, yet also experienced an indescribable complexity.

It was reassuring that Xiao Xiyue had overcome her emotional ordeal, reached a complete state of mind, and succeeded in Foundation Establishment.

The complexity was due to the situation between Xiao Xiyue and Lu Changsheng.

Although she had been prepared for this, actually learning that Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue underwent Foundation Establishment together still left her feeling complex.

This meant that her connection with Lu Changsheng was completely severed.

Upon learning of Lu Changsheng’s Foundation Establishment, she felt an inexplicable irritability.

She was afraid that Lu Changsheng would activate the Jade Pendant to contact her.

After all, when she had given the Jade Pendant to Lu Changsheng, she had said that once he achieved Foundation Establishment, she would give him a chance.

But now that Lu Changsheng and Xiao Xiyue had formed a bond and taken that step together, she didn’t know how to deal with the situation.

Fortunately, there had been no movement from the Jade Pendant.

Yet this also brought some displeasure to her heart.

Although she had already decided in her heart,

Even if Lu Changsheng activated the Jade Pendant, she wouldn't respond.

However, even though she would ignore it, the fact that Lu Changsheng had succeeded in Foundation Establishment and didn't activate the Jade Pendant to contact her annoyed her quite a bit.

She wanted to ask Lu Changsheng what he meant by that.

Did he look down on her?

She was a Nascent Soul Immortal, offering such an unparalleled opportunity, and yet he didn't know to cherish and seize it!

"Master, I have still disappointed you," Xiao Xiyue said softly, pursing her lips.

"Hmm?"

Yun Wanshang was slightly startled upon hearing this.

She then examined Xiao Xiyue carefully.

Immediately noticing that Xiao Xiyue's magical aura was slightly amiss.

As Xiao Xiyue's master, she naturally knew that the Foundation Base her disciple sought to condense was the Supreme Yin Mysterious Moon Dao Foundation.

This Foundation Base was quite impressive even among perfect Foundation Bases, not only for its robust foundation of mana but also for complementing Xiao Xiyue's constitution.

But what she observed at the moment was not like a perfect Foundation Base in Xiao Xiyue's magical aura.

She immediately grasped Xiao Xiyue's wrist, which was as white as jade, to examine her condition.

She quickly saw that atop the perfect moon-white Dao platform in Xiao Xiyue's Dantian, there was a clearly visible and significant crack.

"This..."

Yun Wanshang was taken aback.

She had not expected her disciple's Foundation Establishment to be a success,

And that the Supreme Yin Mysterious Moon Dao Foundation had been condensed, yet there were flaws in the Dao Foundation.

"Xi Yue, why has this happened?" Yun Wanshang asked Xiao Xiyue.

Although she had not cultivated the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, she had studied it.

She knew that this cultivation technique placed great emphasis on the state of mind.

If the state of mind was not complete, Foundation Establishment would be difficult.

And there was no such thing as achieving Foundation Establishment but with a flawed Foundation Base.

Moreover, to have condensed a perfect Foundation Base and still have flaws was something she had never seen before.

“Master, it was only during the breakthrough in Foundation Establishment that I truly understood the real meaning of ‘Cloud Without Emotion, Moon Without Emotion’ in the first layer of Supreme Forgetful Love,”

“Where clouds and moon converge, the clouds envelop the moon, the moon illuminates the clouds, both with a semblance of separation and connection, one cold and silent, the other ethereal and unpredictable, both heartless. This represents ‘Cloud Without Emotion, Moon Without Emotion’...”

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Chapter 337: The Seven Luminaries Stars Sword, 2nd Transformation Peach Blossom Gu!\_3

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“Disciple started off wrong... This also led to disciple’s accidental success in Foundation Establishment, yet the Dao Foundation is flawed.”

Xiao Xiyue slowly conveyed her own situation and her understanding of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique to her master.

“What a Yun Wuqing, Mingyue without love...”

Yun Wanshang couldn’t help but sigh upon hearing this.

She had previously seen through the layer of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique that cloud and moon rely on each other.

...

This is how she had instructed Xiao Xiyue.

But she hadn’t expected this interdependence to mean emotional detachment despite desire.

She really didn’t know how to evaluate this Cultivation Technique.



She nodded and said, “Xi Yue, rest assured, a damaged Dao Foundation is not irreparable.”

“As a teacher, I also know of several rare natural treasures that have the effect of repairing the Dao Foundation, and I will find them for you when the time comes.”

Yun Wanshang said so.

Xiao Xiyue was not only her direct disciple.

In her view, this Cultivation mistake and the damage to the Dao Foundation were also related to her as a teacher.

Initially, when she instructed Xiao Xiyue in her Cultivation, she did not show the clear path.

It was also because of her guidance that Xiao Xiyue took the wrong path.

“Master, disciple considers this to be a blessing in disguise.”

Xiao Xiyue gently shook her head, and a bright and gentle smile appeared on her cool face as the ice and snow melted away.

Yun Wanshang looked at her disciple and was slightly taken aback upon hearing these words.

One reason being that she didn’t fully understand her disciple’s meaning.

Another was that it had been a long time since she had seen Xiao Xiyue smile like this.

After mastering the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, although Xiao Xiyue was not entirely cold-faced in front of her master,

her expression only became somewhat gentler and was not usually like this.

This made her realize that there must have been significant changes in her disciple following this Foundation Establishment.

“Master, although there are flaws in this foundation, it has led me to understand the true essence of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique.”

“I have also realized the meaning of the Second Level ‘Cloud with affection, Moon with affection’.”

“If your disciple can cultivate this level to perfection, there is hope to completely restore the Dao Foundation.”

Xiao Xiyue said.

She knew she couldn’t hide the damage to her Dao Foundation from her master, Yun Wanshang, so she was upfront about it.

But the fact that Lu Changsheng could repair the Dao Foundation was too astonishing.

Therefore, she chose to attribute this to the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique.

In the future, when her Dao Foundation was restored to perfection, even taken a step further, she could have a reason to explain it.

Moreover, she wanted to continue descending the mountain to cultivate with Lu Changsheng and needed her master Yun Wanshang’s approval.

It wasn’t just about such Cultivation in the marketplace.

In the Qingyun Sect, after a disciple succeeds in Foundation Establishment, the Sect also arranges tasks.

Even if she was the disciple of a Nascent Soul Immortal.

So she needed to speak openly about it to ask for her master's approval, to temporarily put aside her duties.

"Cloud with affection, Moon with affection, repairing the Dao Foundation on your own..."

Yun Wanshang was somewhat shocked upon hearing this.

The Supreme Forgetful Love Technique seemed even more mysterious and profound in her heart.

She wondered whether it was right or wrong to let Xiao Xiyue choose this Cultivation Technique initially.

After all, even with her vision as a Nascent Soul Immortal, she had not yet fathomed the true meaning of this technique; one can imagine its difficulty in Cultivation.

"Based on the disciple's understanding of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique's Second Level 'Cloud with affection, Moon with affection,'"

"with the cloud's accompaniment, the moon shines more brightly, and with the moon's illumination, the cloud appears more lively and graceful."

"To people on the ground, both reflect each other's brilliance, creating a picture-perfect beauty in the azure sky, therefore..."

Xiao Xiyue continued.

She slowly expressed her understanding of the Second Level of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique.

"The First Level is 'Desire without affection,' making people forget love upon Foundation Establishment."

"The Second Level, however, fills the heart with affection beneath the veneer of forgetfulness..."

Yun Wanshang, as a Nascent Soul Immortal, already had an understanding of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique.

Now, having heard her disciple's words, she instantly understood the meaning and the key points.

After thinking it over, she found the Supreme Forgetful Love deeply profound and elusive, hard to fully comprehend at once.

There was a hint of recognizing the mountains as mountains, then not as mountains, and finally as mountains again.

“Xi Yue, do you plan to descend the mountain again to cultivate with the help of that Lu Changsheng?”

Yun Wanshang also understood why her disciple had shared so much with her.

It wasn't just a matter of reporting to her as a teacher.

It was also about setting out her path of cultivation.

“Please, master, approve.”

Xiao Xiyue bowed with her hands clasped.

Yun Wanshang did not speak but looked at her disciple.

She had come to terms with her own issues with Lu Changsheng.

However, seeing her disciple increasingly involved with Lu Changsheng for the sake of Cultivation, she couldn't help but be concerned.

She wondered if her disciple could truly move on and achieve the true essence of Supreme Forgetfulness.

Moreover, in cultivation, cause and effect are important.

The debt of Cultivation and the grace of being saved, Xiao Xiyue had repaid with the Sun Moon Dao Foundation.

But if the cultivation continued like this, how would she repay the debt and resolve the cause and effect?

Their eyes met.

Looking into Xiao Xiyue's clear, water-like eyes, as serene as the Nine Heavens Bright Moon, Yun Wanshang finally nodded.

"I permit it," she said.

"Take the token from your teacher, go to the Record Hall to register your Cultivation Level, and then be exempted from Sect duties."

Yun Wanshang took out a token and gave these instructions.

"Thank you, master."

Xiao Xiyue expressed her gratitude respectfully.

"Xi Yue, the Second Level is 'Cloud with affection, Moon with affection,' but the Third Level 'Cloud without affection, Moon without affection,' may well be the true Supreme Forgetfulness..."

Having listened to Xiao Xiyue's words, Yun Wanshang also had a deeper understanding of the later stages of the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique and advised accordingly.

"Please rest assured, master."

Xiao Xiyue understood her master's intentions and replied with a radiant smile.

Chapter 338: This Peach Blossom Luck is Really a Punishment!\_1

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“Phew, looks like everything should be alright now,”

Atop the mountain, Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, exhaling lightly as the two middle-grade spirit stones in his hand turned to powder.

He had stayed on this mountain for over half a month.

Besides a few wild beasts coming to offer themselves as meals, no one had searched for him at all.

So Lu Changsheng was also preparing to return.

...

After all, if they really had the means, half a month was more than enough time to find him.

The fact that no one came for so long also indicated that there was no trouble.

Stepping out of the cave, Lu Changsheng released the Iron Feather Eagle, ready to take off, when he saw flames reaching towards the sky from a small mountain village at the base of the mountain.

“Hmm, what’s happened there, bandits?”

Lu Changsheng’s brows furrowed slightly as he looked carefully and faintly heard cries and screams.

Seeing this, he put the Iron Feather Eagle back into the spiritual pet bag and turned into a streak of escape light to check the situation.

Although he wasn’t someone who would normally intervene in others’ affairs,

this looked to be a raid by bandits, wielding torches and looting.

He had heard about such things in his youth, before his memories were awakened.

Now that he had come across it, he would lend a hand where he could.

After all, to be human is to have basic morals.

You don't spend years cultivating to become an immortal, only to look down on others, indifferent to the plight and death of ordinary people.

"Swoosh!"

Lu Changsheng became a beam of light speeding toward the village.

Before he even got close, he saw a group of bandits dressed in black and riding on horses, slaughtering the villagers as cries and screams pierced the air.

"It's the horse bandits,"

Lu Changsheng's expression turned severe.

Horse bandits were even more despicable than ordinary robbers and bandits.

They had horses, coming and going without a trace.

Thus, while normal bandits would just raid nearby villages and then leave,

it was a long-term infestation.

But when horse bandits raided, it completely depended on their mood.

Massacring entire villages was a common occurrence.

“Bold thieves, wantonly taking lives, meet your end!”

Lu Changsheng shouted from the sky.

With the enhancement of his mana, his voice roared like thunder, resonating through the entire village.

“Not good, it’s an Immortal, everyone retreat quickly!”

A tall and muscular man with an ominous presence, wielding a nine rings saber and one eye, heard the deafening voice and immediately panicked, his soul almost flying out of his body as he shouted loudly.

However, before he had finished speaking, he saw a stark white flying sword coming straight at him.

The next moment.

“Pu!”

A head soared up, as blood sprayed!

The other marauding bandits also became terrified upon hearing this command.

Their faces filled with horror, they ran like dogs that had lost their homes.

“An Immortal, it’s an Immortal!”

“It’s an Immortal! I heard from Grandpa about legends of immortals who could fly with the wind... The Immortal has come to save us,”

“Wuwuwu, Immortal, save us!”



The remaining villagers, hearing the shout, felt as if they had grasped a lifeline while drowning.

They looked up at Lu Changsheng in the sky, calling out loudly in prayer, kneeling and bowing.

“Pu! Pu! Pu——”

Lu Changsheng, dressed in his magical robe flapping in the wind, stood aloft in the air, his expression emotionless as the stark white flying sword, like a wandering dragon, unleashed its sword qi in sweeping slashes, killing one bandit after another.

The bandits who had been arrogantly slaughtering the villagers were like chickens and ducks awaiting slaughter under Lu Changsheng’s flying sword, falling dead immediately upon being struck by the sword qi.

“We Blood Cloud Bandits were ignorant, unaware an Immortal was passing by, and we wish to leave now. Please, Immortal, have mercy on us!”

“Immortal, spare our lives!”

“Spare us!”

The bandits knew that they couldn’t resist someone with the capabilities of an immortal like Lu Changsheng, and they begged loudly for their lives.

But Lu Changsheng showed no trace of compassion.

If he hadn’t happened to pass by today, the Blood Cloud Bandits would have killed who knows how many people.

At the very least, this village would not have been spared.

The other villagers watching Lu Changsheng slaying the bandits felt a surge of relief, but also couldn’t help feeling terrified and their scalps numbed.

Though the bandits deserved to die,

Lu Changsheng, with his indifferent expression and impassive demeanor, sword rising and falling like mowing grass, killing bandit after bandit, left them deeply shocked.

They felt both respect and fear for this ‘Immortal.’

Shortly after, Lu Changsheng had slain dozens of bandits.

Looking at the flames burning in the village, he flicked his hand.

Suddenly, mana spread from him like a hurricane, extinguishing the blazing flames.

Then he helped some of the injured villagers, providing healing.

“Thank you, Immortal, thank you!”

“Thank you, Immortal, I will forever owe a life debt for your kindness!”

“Thank you, Immortal, I’ll install an altar in my home to pray for your safety!”

The villagers kneeled and thanked Lu Changsheng in succession.

They knew their own limitations.

They knew they couldn’t possibly help Lu Changsheng.

So they could only express their gratitude in this simplest of ways.

“Sigh.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the many burned-down huts and dead bodies, and he let out a sigh.

Even after so many years of cultivation and numerous experiences, his heart had grown much more indifferent than at first.

But faced with such a scene, he couldn't help but feel a heavy weight in his heart.

No matter whether it's the Cultivation World or the secular world, those at the bottom always seemed to have the hardest lives.

It made him feel fortunate that he had encountered the chance to cultivate and reach this stage.

"Hmm?"

Just as Lu Changsheng finished aiding people and was about to leave, he noticed a little girl among the crowd kneeling before him.

The girl looked to be about ten years old.

Her face was somewhat dirty, wearing ragged grey linen clothes.

Yet from such a small girl, Lu Changsheng felt an odd allure.

This inexplicable sensation caused Lu Changsheng to pause.

As a man who had been through countless battles and seen all there is to see, Lu Changsheng was quite confident about his ability to resist temptation when it came to the fairer sex.

Chapter 339: This Peach Blossom Luck is Really a Punishment!\_2

He absolutely didn't believe he could have inexplicable thoughts about a little girl.

Especially such a dirty little girl.

“This little girl has a problem!”

Lu Changsheng scrutinized the little girl carefully.

He immediately found, beneath the girl’s tattered grey hemp clothes, on her neck and wrists, there were white scales resembling those of fish or snakes.

“A half-demon?”

...

Seeing these scales, Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow.

But he didn’t sense any demonic energy from the little girl.

He employed his Spiritual Eye Technique, looking at the little girl.

He saw a faint spiritual energy swirling around her, indicating she possessed a Spiritual Root.

“There’s a problem, definitely a problem.”

At this moment, Lu Changsheng became even more aware of the issue with the little girl.

He had recently achieved Foundation Establishment, shedding his mortal shell, and his spiritual perception and senses had all improved.

Even without using the Spiritual Eye Technique, he could tell whether a person had a Spiritual Root or not.

Yet he hadn't noticed the Spiritual Root in the little girl before.

It was only after using the Spiritual Eye Technique that he saw the Spiritual Root in the little girl.

"Could it be some special constitution?"

Lu Changsheng scrutinized the little girl, thinking to himself.

The little girl seemed to sense that Lu Changsheng was looking at her, and fearfully shrank her petite body.

"Immortal, it must surely be this monster that brought the bandits!"

A villager who saw Lu Changsheng examining the little girl immediately spoke out.

"That's right, she's a disaster star."

“It’s this monster that nearly doomed our village!”

“We implore you, Immortal, to eliminate this monster!”

Soon, several more villagers spoke out.

The little girl, upon hearing these words, immediately began to tremble with fright, her eyes brimming with tears.

“Little girl, don’t cry, don’t cry.”

A nearby old woman with grey hair and dressed in grey hemp clothes immediately hugged the little girl to comfort her.

“Granny Zhao, this monster is a disaster star, and since you adopted it, that’s why your son and daughter-in-law never returned from their work outside.”

Another villager spoke out.

This statement instantly caused the old woman to stiffen.

“What’s the matter with this little girl?”

Lu Changsheng raised his hand slightly and asked in a mild tone.

He saw that the little girl was problematic.

But he could not see exactly what the issue was.

Now he heard the words of the people, it seemed that the villagers had long known that there was something wrong with the little girl.

“Reporting to the Immortal, this monster was originally Xu’Er’s daughter.”

“Xu’Er used to be a famous hunter in our village, but ever since the birth of this monster, his life became miserable.”

“First, his wife died in childbirth while delivering their second child, both the mother and child perished.”

“After a few years, Xu’Er himself never returned from a hunting trip in the mountains.”

“Granny Zhao, out of pity, adopted her, but when she was seven or eight, she started growing scales on her body, just like snake scales, if that’s not a monster then what is.”

“Moreover, after Granny Zhao adopted this monster, her son and his wife went to the city to work and they too have not returned.”

“Now that our village was doing well, it suffered a bandit attack, which must surely be caused by this disaster star.”

A few villagers said.

“Disaster star, monster.”

As for a monster, Lu Changsheng couldn’t deny it.

After all, the girl’s condition was indeed strange.

But regarding the disaster star, he did not agree.

In this era, especially for poor families, childbirth was fraught with great risk.

And hunting in the mountains or working far from home also came with their own dangers.

“What’s your name, would you like to leave with me?”



Lu Changsheng asked the little girl, his tone gentle.

He saw that the girl was extraordinary, problematic.

Since this village couldn't accommodate her, he thought it best to take her away and care for her.

And see exactly what the situation with this little girl was.

Whether she possessed some special constitution, or something else.

The little girl, hearing Lu Changsheng's words, was slightly taken aback.

She felt a warmth and peace from the young man that she had never experienced before.

It was a kind of aura and feeling.

Like a spring breeze, making her subconsciously drawn to him, feeling a sense of goodwill.

She didn't answer.

She just timidly looked at the granny by her side.

“Immortal, the child is very well-behaved, not a monster,” Granny Zhao, thinking that Lu Changsheng was about to exorcise a demon, cautiously said.

She certainly knew that there was something wrong with the little girl.

But after so many years together, she had long considered the little girl her own granddaughter.

Not only was she obedient and well-behaved, but she also took the initiative to do farm work, laundry, and cooking.

Usually, when she was wronged or bullied by other children, she would hold it in secretly and not tell anyone, which broke Granny Zhao’s heart.

As for her son and daughter-in-law’s situation, although it was painful for her, every year some villagers followed trade caravans to work outside, and never returned.

So it wasn’t entirely fair to blame the child.

“Hehe, I saw that this child has a connection with the immortals, so I thought about taking her away,” Lu Changsheng chuckled and said.

“Connection with the immortals!”

“What, this m... girl actually has a connection with the immortals?”

“Immortal, could you have made a mistake?” the other villagers, upon hearing this, exclaimed with envy.

“Girl, quickly accept the Immortal’s offer!”

Upon hearing Lu Changsheng say the little girl had a connection with the immortals, Granny Zhao immediately urged the little girl.

“But I am a monster...” the little girl said in a low voice.

It wasn’t that she didn’t want to leave with Lu Changsheng.

But she also felt inside that she was a monster and could bring trouble, feeling somewhat apprehensive.

“I said you are not a monster, would you like to leave with me?” Lu Changsheng continued.

“The girl is willing to leave with the Immortal,” the little girl said, looking up with a docile and timid demeanor.

After speaking, her eyes were expectant, and her voice slightly stuttering and trembling, she added, “Immortal, could you also take Granny away with us?”

“Not bad, your filial piety is commendable, naturally that is possible,” Lu Changsheng said.

Chapter 340: This Peach Blossom Luck is Really a Punishment!\_3

Lu Changsheng nodded with a smile.

The little girl was willing to leave with him, and it didn’t matter to bring an old lady along.

After all, it wasn’t anything troublesome.

He didn’t plan to leave the little girl at Qingzhu Mountain.

Instead, he intended to settle her in Ruyi Prefecture first.

“Thank you, Immortal!”

...

“Thank you, Immortal!”

The little girl was thrilled.

She hadn’t expected Lu Changsheng to agree so readily.

After all, her hesitation had also been due to her reluctance to leave Granny Zhao.

Granny Zhao herself was happy and grateful.

Her husband had long passed away, and her son and daughter-in-law had never returned, so naturally, she was willing to embrace this fortunate chance.

“If that’s the case, let’s go.”

Seeing the old lady and the child ready, Lu Changsheng didn’t say much more.

With a slap of his Storage Bag, a Spirit Boat appeared.

He possessed two Spirit Boats on him.

But usually, he found them too conspicuous and a waste of Spirit Stones.

Plus, since they were ill-gotten, he rarely used them.

Now that there were two more people and the Iron Feather Eagle was inconvenient, he naturally used the Spirit Boat.

With a wave of his sleeve, both were gently placed onto the Spirit Boat.

Then, under the villagers' congratulations, Lu Changsheng steered the Spirit Boat upwards, turning into a streak of light, and flew toward Ruyi Prefecture.

And at that moment, Lu Changsheng sensed that the Peach Blossom Gu had gathered a strand of peach blossom luck.

It meant that taking in the little girl counted as peach blossom fortune.

“This also counts as peach blossom luck, this is truly amusing.”

“Could this be the mysterious and profound fortune ordained by fate?”

“Because of the prosperous peach blossom luck, did I just happen to rest on this great mountain, just happen to take a half-month break, and just happen to encounter this event, meeting this little girl?”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

Ever since he acquired the Peach Blossom Gu, every time an incident like this occurred, Lu Changsheng would wonder if it was related to the Peach Blossom Gu and if it was peach blossom luck.

Now that he saw the Peach Blossom Gu harvest peach blossom luck, he was certain it was.

Especially just now, if not for the sudden allure he felt from the little girl, which revealed her abnormality, he wouldn't have noticed her.

Lu Changsheng looked at the bashful little girl beside him and asked gently, "Little girl, you haven't told me your name yet."

"I'm just called Girl."

The little girl said.

"Immortal, she doesn't have a name, she's just called Girl."

Then, Granny Zhao cautiously added.

"No name."

Lu Changsheng was momentarily taken aback when he heard this.

He also remembered that in the countryside, mean names were used for better survival until an older age when proper names were given.

And many girls didn't even have mean names at all.

"If that's the case, shall I give you a name? How does that sound?"

Lu Changsheng looked at the little girl and said with a smile.

"Girl, don't hesitate to accept and thank the Immortal for bestowing a name!"

Hearing this, Granny Zhao immediately told the little girl.

"Thank you, Immortal."

The little girl heard this and showed a hopeful happiness.

Other children in the village had names, but she had always been without one.

Sometimes she too wished for a name.

"From now on, you shall be called 'Bai Ling', white as in the color, and Ling as in spirited; how does that sound?"

Lu Changsheng, looking at the faint white scales on the girl's wrist, spoke out.



“Bai Ling, Girl, you are to be called Bai Ling from now on, thank the Immortal promptly.”

Granny Zhao again told the little girl.

“Bai Ling thanks the Immortal.”

The little girl, hearing her name, repeated it twice and said cheerfully.

Lu Changsheng chuckled lightly, and then waved his sleeve.

A breeze blew by.

“Swoosh—”

Bai Ling’s dirty little face, as if washed by a spring, became clean and fair.

Her features were delicate, and her eyes clear with distinct black and white.

Especially her skin, which appeared extremely fair and smooth, like that of a porcelain doll.

Although she was still in her worn grey cloth garments, she seemed like a completely different person, no longer resembling a girl from a small mountain village.

“Immortal.”

Bai Ling glanced at her own palms and touched her reddening cheeks, somewhat shyly.

She had discovered, at the age of seven when scales began to grow on her, that her skin gradually became fair and tender.

Her appearance also became more and more attractive.

But Granny Zhao said this wasn't good and always smeared her with mud to cover it up.

So now, with the dirt removed and her true face revealed, she was somewhat unaccustomed and felt shy.

When Granny Zhao witnessed this scene, she was also quite astonished.

She had always known that Bai Ling was pretty, especially her skin, which wasn't like that of a country folk but even better than the city ladies.

So she smeared her with mud daily.

Consequently, she had almost forgotten Bai Ling's naturally beautiful appearance.

Viewing her like this now, she thought to herself, no wonder this Immortal took an interest in her.

"Do not worry, from now on in my presence, there's no need to hide," Lu Changsheng said with a soft smile as he patted her head.

Though she was but a little girl, the desire to be beautiful is common to all.

She certainly would not like to have her face covered in mud all the time.

"Mhm mhm, Bai Ling will listen to the Immortal," Bai Ling obediently nodded her head.

Her large eyes showed a gleam of delight.

Just as Lu Changsheng had guessed, she also did not like that, having her face smeared with mud every day.

Which girl doesn't love beauty?

"Buzz!"

At this moment, Lu Changsheng gave his Storage Bag another pat, and instantly, several exquisite and beautiful dresses appeared.

“Which one do you like?” Lu Changsheng asked with a smile.

He had bought dozens of vestment robes for his own children when he was in Qingyun Market.

Now that he had picked up a lovely little girl, he naturally wouldn’t be stingy with a vestment robe and wanted to dress her up beautifully.

Moreover, having someone by his side, shouldn’t he give her some benefits?

“The Immortal will give me one?” Bai Ling looked at the colorful, exquisite dresses before her and immediately her eyes widened.

She had never seen such pretty clothes in all her life.

She didn’t even know how to describe them; they were dazzling to her eyes.

“Why is the Immortal so nice to me...” her eyes suddenly moistened as she spoke.

Apart from Granny Zhao, he was the first person to be so kind to her.

They had just met, and not only had he given her a name but also a gift of such precious and beautiful clothing. She felt dizzy, almost too bashful to accept it.

“You were willing to follow me, so naturally, I should be good to you,” Lu Changsheng said with a laugh as he ruffled her hair.

Then he spoke in a warm voice, “From now on, you can call me... Brother.”

“Brother,”

Hearing this, Bai Ling paused, her heart beating with an inexplicable stir.

Then she pursed her lips, calling out somewhat shyly, “Brother...”

“Hahaha, good, so pick one,” Lu Changsheng said, laughing as he ran his fingers through her hair again.

Soon after, Bai Ling looked and finally chose a white dress.

Because she had never worn such a clean dress before.

Brother had also said she wouldn’t need to be dirty anymore, so she wanted to stay clean always.

Granny Zhao, watching this unfold, also felt immense emotions stir within her, happy for the child's future.