

I. Family 341

Chapter 341: My Son Ping'an Has the Talent of a Martial Saint!_1

Lu Changsheng could tell that Bai Ling and Granny Zhao had just gone through a significant upheaval and were physically and mentally exhausted, so they did not head directly to Ruyi Prefecture.

The journey to Ruyi Prefecture from here would take roughly three to four days.

The two of them were mere mortals, lacking the physical and mental stamina for such a trek.

They promptly found a city to settle down in.

He let them rest for a night and have a good meal.

With Granny Zhao's help, Bai Ling changed into a beautifully ornate white fairy dress.

...

Her lustrous black hair was tied in twin ponytails, making her look like a cute porcelain doll.

"Brother."

She approached Lu Changsheng timidly, her eyes filled with hope as she showed him her new clothes.

But her entire demeanor was still very nervous, her small hands clutching the hem of her dress. Like a frightened little rabbit, she looked pitifully adorable.

"Little Ling'er is really cute."

Lu Changsheng smiled warmly at Bai Ling's timid and delicate appearance.

He ruffled her little head, making a happy and contented smile appear on her cute face.

“Let’s go, it’s time to eat.”

Then, Lu Changsheng took the little girl by the hand to have a meal.

Just then, Lu Changsheng noticed the slight scale patterns on Bai Ling’s wrist and gave them a few glances.

When the little girl saw Lu Changsheng looking at the scales on her wrist, her face turned pale instantly.

She quickly pulled down her sleeve to cover her wrist, her delicate body trembling, and spoke in a scared, anxious voice, “Brother, I’m sorry, I… I didn’t mean to scare you.”

Seeing the little girl acting like this, her voice anxious and fearful, with a cry in her tone, Lu Changsheng sighed softly.

He knew that over the years, the little girl had endured much ridicule and indifferent stares because of those scales.

It had made her extremely sensitive in this respect, having developed a conditioned response.

He gently kneeled down.

Looking at her face, full of fear and self-doubt, he carefully lifted her sleeve and, seeing the white snake scales, spoke in a gentle tone, “How could this scare anyone? These scales are very pretty.”

Saying this, he gently stroked the scales with his hand.

The white scales blended perfectly with her fair little arm, almost imperceptible unless closely examined.

They felt slightly cool to the touch but not uncomfortable, quite smooth indeed.

The little girl, her face full of fear, paused in surprise at his words.

Ever since the scales had appeared on her body, even Granny Zhao had been a bit frightened at the time.

Later, a boy from the village saw the scales on her arm and called her a monster.

This led to the other villagers finding out, all of whom deemed her a monster.

She had even thought about cutting the scales off with a knife.

But each time she tried, it would be a bloody mess and the scales would grow back soon after, leaving no scars.

It was only after Granny Zhao comforted her and said it was okay that she gradually accepted the scales.

Yet, these scales remained a lump in her heart, always covered by clothes and not something she wanted others to see.

Lu Changsheng was the first to say that the scales, which even she was concerned and frightened by, were very pretty.

At that moment, the little girl's insecure and fragile heart experienced an inexplicable feeling.

Her clear eyes, black and white like peach blossoms, teared up and looked at Lu Changsheng as if intoxicated but not, asking timidly, "Brother, do you really not find it scary?"

Lu Changsheng, seeing the clear distinction in Bai Ling's eyes, suddenly sensed an enchanting allure, bewitching and deeply moving.

It made his Mental Spirit ripple, and he was momentarily distracted.

"This..."

If it weren't for checking with his Divine Sense multiple times, confirming that she was just an ordinary little girl, Lu Changsheng might have thought she was using a Bewitching Technique.

However, the charm disappeared in an instant.

The distinction in her eyes remained pitifully innocent.

The allure he had just felt seemed like an illusion, as if it had never been there.

"How could it be scary? I think it's very pretty," Lu Changsheng said, looking at the timid and fragile girl while smiling gently.

He was even more surprised at her condition.

It had actually made him, a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, slightly distracted in her presence.

He didn't look any further, knowing the little girl couldn't adapt all at once.

He pulled Bai Ling's sleeve back down and then ruffled her little head again, smiling, "Little Ling'er, don't pay too much attention to what others think."

"If Brother says it's pretty, then it's pretty, understand?"

Listening to Lu Changsheng's gentle words, Bai Ling felt as if she were basking in the spring breeze, quietly serene and peaceful in her heart.

She then nodded vigorously.

"Let's go, it's time to eat," he said, taking the little girl's hand to dine.

Outside the room, Granny Zhao looked at this scene and also breathed a sigh of relief.

She did not know what the Immortal had seen in Bai Ling.

Whether he would dislike her because of Bai Ling's condition.

But at this moment, she felt that the scales on Bai Ling's body shouldn't be a bad thing.

Otherwise, this Immortal wouldn't have taken an interest in her.

Soon after, the trio went to a private room to eat.

Facing a table full of exquisite delicacies, Bai Ling and Granny Zhao were dazzled and appeared a bit restrained.

Lu Changsheng told them to make themselves at home, chatting with them while they ate, and began to inquire about some things.

Through the conversation, Lu Changsheng gained a rough understanding of Bai Ling's situation.

She was eleven years old.

She lost her mother at two and her father at five.

After begging for food for a while, she was taken in by Granny Zhao.

For some unknown reason, at the age of seven, Bai Ling discovered scales beginning to appear on her wrist.

Then, scales gradually started to appear on her neck, shoulders, and lower legs as well.

These white scales terrified and frightened her.

However, the scales didn't cause any unusual symptoms in her body.

If anything, they seemed to make her grow even whiter and more delicate, and she was much stronger than her peers.

“Seven years old,” Lu Changsheng paused for a moment when he heard this age.

In the Cultivation World, children could be tested for their Spiritual Root when they reached the age of five or six.

Chapter 342: My Son Ping'an Has the Talent of a Martial Saint!_2

The matter of the Spiritual Body is much more complicated.

Some are born with unusual phenomena, some are almost the same as the Spiritual Root.

There are also those who only awaken their Spiritual Body in their forties or even require some sort of opportunity.

If one were to say that the awakening of the Spiritual Body at the age of seven caused scales to grow, that still makes sense.

But Lu Changsheng had also read quite a bit about the Spiritual Body in various books.

As for Bai Ling's situation, it was simply unheard of.

...

“The Cultivation World is vast and wondrous.”

“Not only can she charm me, but she can also conceal her own Spiritual Root, which is definitely not simple.”

Lu Changsheng didn't dwell on it too much, deciding to keep her with him for now.

He would teach her cultivation later.

After eating quite a bit, Lu Changsheng noticed that Bai Ling had quite the appetite, even larger than that of an average adult.

At that moment, Bai Ling also realized that Lu Changsheng had hardly eaten anything.

While she nibbled away, she never stopped, and the table was piled with leftovers, making her small face blush with shame.

“Immortal, the girl’s appetite is a bit bigger than the average person’s.”

“Unfortunately, following this old woman, she has never been able to eat her fill.”

Old Lady Zhao spoke up.

“No worries, having a good appetite is a blessing. Ling’er, eat more, if it’s not enough, order more.”

Lu Changsheng waved his hand and said with a smile to Bai Ling.

The little girl was in her growth phase, and being able to eat more was definitely a good thing.

Then he turned to Old Lady Zhao and said, “Old Lady Zhao, you don’t need to call me ‘Immortal’ anymore; simply address me as ‘master’ from now on.”

When they entered the city earlier, Lu Changsheng had noticed that Bai Ling severely lacked a sense of security and was somewhat socially anxious.

When the glances of passersby landed on her, her delicate body would tremble slightly, displaying fear.

Lu Changsheng guessed that this was an aftereffect of her previous life in the village.

He also planned to continue to have Old Lady Zhao take care of her, keeping their shared life.

Once Bai Ling's situation improved, he would consider bringing her to the Lu Residence.

"Yes, master."

Old Lady Zhao quickly nodded in response.

After a full night's rest with plenty to eat and drink, Lu Changsheng prepared food for their journey and resumed his travels towards Ruyi County City in his Flying Boat.

Four days later, the Spirit Boat stopped outside of Ruyi County City.

Lu Changsheng took Bai Ling and Old Lady Zhao down from the Spirit Boat.

"Is my brother's house here?"

Bai Ling asked timidly upon seeing the grand and imposing city ahead.

"Yes, Ling'er, from now on, you and Old Lady Zhao will live here temporarily."

Lu Changsheng smiled and nodded, taking out a Transmission Talisman to contact Hong Yi.

One reason was to ask Hong Yi for assistance with arrangements.

Also, he hadn't seen him for a long time and wanted to catch up.

Suddenly, as if remembering something, his body surged with a white light, and he reverted to his true appearance.

Before this, Lu Changsheng had always been using a disguised appearance.

Even during their rest along the journey, he had not reverted back to his real face.

“Brother.”

Bai Ling, upon seeing Lu Changsheng’s true face, opened her mouth in an O shape, totally astonished.

Old Lady Zhao was also surprised, thinking to herself that indeed he was a True Immortal; she had never seen such a handsome person before.

“Brother usually conceals his appearance as well.”

Lu Changsheng said with a light chuckle, and then took Bai Ling’s small hand and walked towards Ruyi County City.

“Brother is so handsome,” Bai Ling said softly, tilting her head up slightly as she was led by the hand, a blush spreading on her face.

Ruyi Prefecture was bustling with life, people coming and going on the streets, never-ending.

However, Lu Changsheng had used his mana to conceal his aura, reducing his presence.

But even so, with his handsome face, upright stature, and elegant and uncommon demeanor, many women on the street couldn’t help but stop and gaze at him longingly.

Walking through the city, Bai Ling looked around at the busy crowd and couldn’t help but feel nervous, clutching Lu Changsheng’s hand tightly.

It wasn’t long before Hong Yi arrived swiftly.

“Brother Lu, who is this?”

Hong Yi, looking at Bai Ling whom Lu Changsheng was holding hands with, was somewhat astounded.

He was already used to Lu Changsheng bringing along ladies, but her age and appearance didn't seem to fit the role of a daughter.

And to say concubine, she seemed too young.

"Heh, this is a sister I recognized, named Bai Ling. I plan to have her temporarily stay here and will need Brother Hong's help in looking after her," Lu Changsheng said, briefly explaining the situation of Bai Ling and Old Lady Zhao.

"I see," Hong Yi replied after listening, not asking further.

Not far from the Lu Residence, he arranged a quiet courtyard for Old Lady Zhao and Bai Ling.

He also arranged for a maid and an old woman to serve the two.

"Brother Lu, have you just come back from traveling?" Hong Yi asked Lu Changsheng after settling the two in.

"Hmm, how did you know, Brother Hong?" Lu Changsheng asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Five months ago, Brother Li returned for a visit."

"Seeing you didn't come over, and since I had some free time, I went with Brother Li to the Red Maple Marketplace, but Miss Lu said you were out traveling," Hong Yi said.

"Feiyu came back?"

"Where is he now, in the Red Maple Marketplace, or did he leave?" Lu Changsheng asked, pausing at Hong Yi's words.

It had been five months since he and Xiao Xiyue left the Red Maple Marketplace.

He didn't expect Li Feiyu to have returned right during that time.

“Brother Li came back this time to say farewell before heading to the Azure Phoenix Immortal City, so he left after waiting a month,” Hong Yi said with a sigh, feeling a sense of reverence.

He revered Li Feiyu’s actions after realizing the reality that he didn’t pass the selection for the Immortal Sects.

He had given up unrealistic dreams of cultivation, intending only to inherit his father’s title as the Marquis of Ruyi and to break through to the Energy Refinement Late Stage in his lifetime.

As for Li Feiyu, after spending so many years in the Cultivation World without success, he still had full determination.

Now he was even setting out to make his way in the Azure Phoenix Immortal City, a holy place for Loose Cultivators, which left Hong Yi feeling wistful.

Chapter 343: My Son Ping’an Has the Talent of a Martial Saint!_3

“Azure Phoenix Immortal City.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng sighed.

Li Feiyu had mentioned before that he planned to venture into the Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

However, prior to that, he would gain experience in other places and get a glimpse of the Cultivation World.

Lu Changsheng hadn’t expected that by the time Li Feiyu returned from his cultivation journey, he himself would just happen to be away for Foundation Establishment, causing the two of them to miss meeting each other again.

“Brother Li must have experienced quite a lot on this journey,”

...

“Moreover, with Brother Li’s temperament, he might even make a name for himself and establish his Immortal Foundation.”

Knowing the deep relationship between Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu, clearly better than the one with himself, Hong Yi spoke out to console him.

He then spoke of some changes in Li Feiyu.

He indicated that Li Feiyu was indeed extraordinary; having been out cultivating for over two years, his Cultivation Level was about to break through the Sixth Level Energy Refinement.

But hearing this, Lu Changsheng felt even heavier at heart.

In the Cultivation World, if one wants to quickly improve one’s Cultivation Level, the options are Spiritual Medicines, Elixir Medicines, or fortuitous opportunities.

Li Feiyu’s acquisition of resources certainly couldn’t have come from his few skills as a Spirit Plant Gatherer or a Spiritual Butcher.

It must have been earned through risking his life.

After chatting for a long while, the two parted ways.

Walking on the way home, Lu Changsheng looked at the vast, turbulent canal behind the Lu Residence and suddenly let out a deep sigh.

“Life is as the tidal flows and people as water; only to lament how few return from the rivers and lakes.”

...

After arriving home, Lu Changsheng, somewhat melancholic, saw his children and realized how quickly time passes.

The older ones had grown up to his shoulder height.

“Ping’an, what are your plans for the future?”

Lu Changsheng, with his arm around his son Lu Ping’an’s shoulder, asked.

He knew that he had been somewhat negligent as a father.

When Lu Ping’an and the younger ones were small, he had been more attentive.

But as the children grew older and more numerous, the less attention he paid.

Usually, on a whim when he had spare time, he would show some concern.

“Dad, you’ve said ‘read thousands of books and travel thousands of miles.’ I’m thinking of traveling in a few years to see the world,”

Lu Ping’an, unsure why his father was suddenly asking this, scratched his head and spoke somewhat embarrassedly.

As the saying goes, one should not travel far while one’s parents are alive.

Being the eldest son at home, he felt such behavior was not quite appropriate.

But since his father asked, he didn’t hold back.

“It would be good for you to travel around,”

“But wait a few more years until you’ve broken through to the Innate Realm before you go,”

Lu Changsheng said.

These children lacked freedom, in fact.

They stayed on Qingzhu Mountain when they were young.

When they were slightly older, they stayed in Ruyi County City.

Their days were filled with studying and practicing martial arts, with rare opportunities to go out.

Wanting to go out and explore the world is normal.

He wouldn't stop them from doing such a thing.

After all, the children were growing up and should become independent.

This kind of experience is part of the necessary journey of growth.

The reason he mentioned the Innate Realm is that Innate Martial Artists can use Innate True Qi to activate First Grade low and middle-grade talismans.

By then, he would be much more at ease with Lu Ping'an traveling in the jianghu.

"Yes, Dad, I should be able to break through to the Innate Realm in at most three years,"

Lu Ping'an said with some excitement.

He had recently become a first-rate master in the martial artists' community.

One more step, and he would be an innate master of the jianghu.

So, in his view, his father's requirement was not difficult.

"Good, my son Ping'an has the qualities of a Martial Saint!"

Lu Changsheng, upon hearing this, patted his son's shoulder and teased.

When Li Feiyu became a first-rate master at eighteen, he was considered a genius.

Now his son had become a first-rate master at thirteen.

However, Lu Changsheng was also aware that his son's martial talent had little to do with his aptitude.

Three parts training, seven parts feeding!

Purely thanks to his own older father spending money.

“Martial Saint, Dad, is Martial Saint a martial realm above the great masters of the Innate Realm?”

Lu Ping'an, upon hearing this, immediately asked.

He had heard that the great martial masters could compare to some cultivators.

Now hearing about this Martial Saint, he became curious.

He wanted to know if a Martial Saint was as formidable as a cultivator.

“It should be, right?”

Lu Changsheng said offhandedly.

He was just making a playful guess, not knowing anything about a Martial Saint.

He didn't expect that his son, who was missing a beat, would actually not catch the joke and instead asked him if there was a martial realm called Martial Saint.

But looking into his son's eyes, he roughly understood what his son was thinking.

Although the children had accepted the reality that they didn't have Spiritual Roots and couldn't cultivate, they still harbored fantasies about it.

He let out a slight sigh and changed the subject, "Ping'an, if there's anything you lack, like when breaking through to the Innate Realm, isn't there something called the Innate Elixir?"

"If I'm not around, you can go directly to Uncle Hong and ask for it when the time comes, don't be shy."

"Also, when you plan to go out, don't just run off without saying hello, remember to write me a letter to let me know."

Lu Changsheng said to his son.

"Don't worry, Dad, I understand,"

Lu Ping'an nodded and said.

Lu Changsheng patted his son's shoulder.

He was quite confident in his eldest son, who had an honest character and would listen to what he said.

"Wuyou, Wuyu, what are your plans for the future?"

Lu Changsheng then turned to his other two children and asked.

"Dad, I also want to travel the jianghu, but I don't know how many years it will take to break through to the Innate Realm, so maybe I'll go with Brother Ping'an,"

Lu Wuyou said, grinning.

“That depends on whether your brother Ping’an is willing to take you,”

“Besides, your brother Ping’an hasn’t even traveled far himself yet, and then he’d have to carry you, a burden.”

Lu Changsheng, hearing his daughter’s words, laughed and said.

“No worries, if Wuyou sister wants to brave the jianghu, let me go out and check it first. Then I’ll come back and accompany sister Wuyou together,

Chapter 344: My Son Ping’an Has the Talent of a Martial Saint!_4

Lu Ping’an immediately said,

As the eldest son, under Lu Lanshu’s tutelage, he still had a strong sense of responsibility as a big brother.

“Hehe, thank you, Brother Ping’an.”

Lu Wuyou immediately clung to Lu Ping’an’s arm, pouted playfully at Lu Changsheng, prompting Lu Changsheng to smile warmly, and then looked towards Lu Wuyu, saying, “You don’t plan on trying your luck in the jianghu as well, do you?”

“Second Brother said he wants to be a County Magistrate in the future, to govern a place and bring blessings to the people.”

Lu Wuyou immediately spoke up first.

...

“Not bad, that’s a good aspiration. After a few years, speak to your Uncle Hong. Then, you can follow him and learn,”

Lu Changsheng said to his second son.

He approved of Hong Yi's character and conduct.

He felt his children could learn something from following Hong Yi.

In this manner, Lu Changsheng discussed the present, the future, and dreams with his children.

He did not forget Bai Ling.

Over these few days, he took time to see Bai Ling and foster a relationship with her.

And he also brought her to meet his several daughters.

So they could keep each other company normally, play together, chat, and it would be easier for her to integrate into the family.

After living in Ruyi County City for ten days, Lu Changsheng, amid the reluctant farewells of everyone, returned to Qingzhu Mountain.

...

Having had no news from Lu Changsheng for over five months, naturally, his wives and concubines worried.

If not for Lu Miaoge saying everything was fine and that Lu Changsheng had gone traveling with a good friend, they would have assumed something untoward had happened to him.

Seeing Lu Changsheng return now, they all expressed their concern and care.

Lu Changsheng had to invent a whole narrative explaining his journey, and only after working hard into the evening did he manage to placate his wives and concubines.

After spending several days appeasing his wives and concubines, Lu Changsheng also began to focus on his children.

Now that his son, Lu Xianzhi, had started cultivating after drawing Qi into his body, naturally, Lu Changsheng was full of encouragement and even awarded him a vestment robe and a lower-quality flying sword magic artifact as a reward.

He hoped his son would cultivate diligently to reach the Third Level Energy Refinement soon.

This scene made the other siblings envious and many wives, concubines, and maids secretly wished their own children would strive and excel.

But the second child with a Spiritual Root, Lu Quanzhen, was only ten years old.

He still had more than a year before reaching the age to start cultivation.

Lu Changsheng looked forward to his children's achievements, filled with anticipation.

He wondered how many achievements he would get for the number of his children who could draw Qi into their bodies.

Or whether there were achievements for when a child reached the Energy Refinement Middle Stage or Energy Refinement Late Stage.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng chatted and shared heart-to-heart talks with his children, paying attention to their situations.

Thanks to the overall atmosphere of the Lu Family and Lu Miaoyun's attentive management of the backyard, he thought that the children, regardless of their personalities, had not developed any noticeable distortions and were doing pretty well.

If there was any issue, it was that the children of concubines and maids were relatively less close to him, their father.

They felt more awe than affection for him.

Concerning this, Lu Changsheng understood the situation.

Be it his wives or his children, he could not treat everyone equally.

Often with his children, it was either about their Spiritual Root or their mother's status.

So even though he was easygoing with his children, the lack of regular contact naturally led to a decrease in closeness.

Under the influence of the atmosphere and their mothers' teachings, an image of dignity had formed in the children's minds.

Even though he knew about this issue, Lu Changsheng had no way to improve it.

He now had one hundred and seventeen children.

Twenty-eight of them had Spiritual Roots.

Even if he only cared for those with Spiritual Roots, he didn't have the time and energy.

All he could do was to pay a bit more attention to the children and try to ensure they didn't go astray.

After finishing the heartfelt discussions with his wives and children, Lu Changsheng also remembered his Golden Armor Bean Mother.

He dug a hole in his courtyard, poured in some Second Rank Spiritual Earth, and planted the Golden Armor Bean Mother.

He also asked Lu Miaoyun to water and look after it on his behalf regularly.

After all, the earlier it was planted, the sooner it would sprout. It couldn't be grown inside the Spiritual Pet Bag.

Lu Miaoyun, although unsure of what kind of seed it was, remembered her husband's instructions and resolved to care for it well.

In the following time, Lu Changsheng was dedicated to child-rearing in Qingzhu Mountain.

He planned to keep shuttling between Qingzhu Mountain and the Red Leaf Valley Market once he received news from Xiao Xiyue.

Chapter 345: The Number One Talisman Path Practitioner of the Lu Family, Crafting the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp!_1

“

Qingyun Sect.

Sutra Pavilion.

“Xiao Xiyue, are you sure you want to choose such a technique?”

The Guardian Elder looked at the three techniques Xiao Xiyue had chosen. Upon seeing one of them, a strange expression crossed his face.

“Mastering one spell can help understand all spells. The cultivation technique I practice requires comprehension of various techniques, so I choose this one.”

...

Xiao Xiyue's demeanor was cool and holy, her expression calm as she made a slight bow and spoke.

“Since you've made up your mind, Xiao Xiyue, this old man naturally won't say more.”

“However, you should be aware of our Qingyun Sect's rules. You must swear an oath to the Heart Demon that no cultivation techniques shall be leaked.”

The Guardian Elder, seeing Xiao Xiyue's disposition, spoke no further, merely nodding slightly.

"Thank you, Elder."

Xiao Xiyue nodded, took the Heart Demon oath to keep the cultivation techniques confidential, and then left promptly.

...

"It seems that Foundation Establishment does have a significant impact on childbearing."

Lu Changsheng had returned to Qingzhu Mountain for over a month now.

In this past month, he had hardly practiced cultivation.

Apart from making talismans, he had spent all his time on trivial matters with his wives and children and on childbearing efforts.

Yet despite trying hard for a month, only three concubines became pregnant.

He realized that this must be due to his breakthrough to Foundation Establishment.

As cultivators enhance their cultivation level, each breakthrough in a major realm makes it more difficult to sire offspring, a common sense in the cultivation world.

"However, the higher the cultivation level of the parents, the higher their strength, and the higher the probability that the children born will possess Spiritual Roots and of better quality."

"Now that I've broken through to Foundation Establishment, plus the system's boost of a 5% probability for Spiritual Roots, the probability and quality of my children's Spiritual Roots should also significantly improve."

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

Although he had been diligently engaged in childbearing this month, he also adhered to the principle of optimal breeding.

All three children were conceived by concubines with Spiritual Roots.

Therefore, there was a reasonable probability that the children too would possess Spiritual Roots.

“If Xi Yue and I were to have a child, it should be of good aptitude, I reckon.”

At that moment, Lu Changsheng thought of Xiao Xiyue.

She not only possessed a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root and a Moonlight Spirit Body, but she was also a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

If the two were to have offspring, it would most likely result in a child with Spiritual Roots, and one of commendable aptitude.

Yet he also knew that having a child with Xiao Xiyue at this point would be quite difficult.

Childbearing would delay several years of cultivation, and her master was unlikely to agree.

“Husband, grandmother has come over. It seems she has something to discuss with you.”

Lu Miaoyun came to the backyard at that moment, informing Lu Changsheng.

“Something to discuss with me?”

Surprised by the news, Lu Changsheng followed Lu Miaoyun to the main hall.

In the hall, the Fourth Elder was sipping tea.

The elderly person was now ninety years old.

The once plump and aged face had aged considerably.

The now completely white hair had once shown mere streaks of gray.

“Grandmother.”

Lu Changsheng immediately greeted her with a bow.

“Changsheng.”

The Fourth Elder nodded approvingly, her face wearing a loving smile.

After chatting about family matters for a while, she disclosed her purpose for visiting.

She indicated that she was getting older and was preparing to step down from her position as Family Elder.

Therefore, she was preparing to recommend Lu Changsheng for the position of the Elder within the family.

At the same time, she hoped Lu Changsheng would instruct the Lu Family’s youth in Talisman Making when he had the time.

“Taking the position of Elder, instructing the Lu Family Disciples in Talisman Making...”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng pondered for a moment.

If given the choice, he would definitely not want to take on this responsibility.

Because right now, he truly was very busy.

He needed to make talismans, refine the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, pay attention to his children, engage in childbearing, and cultivate himself.

In the past month since his return, he had devoted almost all his time and thoughts to his wives and children and had barely practiced cultivation.

He hadn't even managed to cultivate the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp Technique to this day.

Taking on the role of Elder would consume even more of his time and energy.

However, the Fourth Elder's plea was earnest, making it hard for him to refuse outright.

After all, the elderly deserved to retire and enjoy her remaining years.

Additionally, in the Lu Family, being a cultivation family, the Elder usually was someone from within the family ranks.

"Changsheng, instructing the disciples in Talisman Making is mainly about giving lectures to enlighten them and to see if they have any talent for the Talisman Path."

"If they have talent, it would be just like when grandmother taught you and Sister Miaoge, it won't take too much time..."

The Fourth Elder saw Lu Changsheng's hesitation and continued speaking.

Her tone was gentle and loving, with a hint of hope and plea in her eyes.

"Grandmother, instructing in Talisman Making is naturally no problem."

"As for the position of Elder, please give it to Miaoge. As you know, I have no great ambitions and don't like dealing with affairs normally."

Lu Changsheng met the elder's gaze and spoke.

Since the elder had put it that way, he felt he couldn't outright refuse.

Taking just a bit of time to lecture and share knowledge of the Talisman Path with the Lu Family Disciples wasn't too demanding.

He considered it a way of contributing a bit more to the Lu Family.

Besides, it wasn't something he could easily shrug off.

Lu Changsheng knew very well that if he declined, the duty would ultimately fall on his wife, Lu Miaoge.

He hoped for Lu Miaoge to have fewer worries and to focus more on her own cultivation.

Given that, he might as well accept on her behalf.

Moreover, he was accustomed to providing such enlightenment to his own children, so it amounted to teaching a few more.

“Changsheng, this position of Elder is not only grandmother's wish but also the intent of the Family Head and the other family elders.”

“Moreover, this Elder position is really just a title and doesn't come with many duties. Miaoge will have other arrangements in the family in the future.”

The Fourth Elder patted Lu Changsheng's hand and whispered softly.

Chapter 346: The Number One Talisman Path Practitioner of the Lu Family, Crafting the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp!_2

Lu Changsheng understood upon hearing this that the position of family elder was the Lu Family's way of further pulling him in.

Otherwise, there was no such thing as inheritance of the elder's position—it couldn't be decided by the Fourth Elder alone.

It required a vote from all the Lu Family elders.

“Grandmother, since you have said so, Changsheng naturally accepts,”

Seeing the old woman’s kind face, Lu Changsheng didn’t refuse any longer and nodded his agreement.

“Good, this matter will be decided at this year’s family gathering. It will be hard work for you then, Changsheng,”

...

Upon seeing Lu Changsheng accept, the Fourth Elder’s face broke into a smile.

Such a matter was significant and naturally wouldn’t be decided on the spot.

She had come to give a heads-up, so that Lu Changsheng could be prepared.

“Grandmother, it’s not hard at all,”

Lu Changsheng said with a slight smile, shaking his head.

“Changsheng, how are you doing with the First Grade Supreme Talisman now?”

At that moment, the Fourth Elder started to show her usual concern for Lu Changsheng’s Talisman-Making Skill.

She would ask about Lu Changsheng’s progress in Talisman-Making every half-year or so.

Half a year ago, Lu Changsheng had already revealed skill almost comparable to that of the Fourth Elder.

“I still need Grandmother’s guidance,”

Without saying much, Lu Changsheng showed his own Talisman-Making Skill to the Fourth Elder.

Now that he had broken through Foundation Establishment, he felt bold enough to be a bit more daring.

He planned to accelerate his progress in the Talisman Path.

In a few years, he would reveal his Second Grade Talisman-Making Skill to the public.

“Very good, very good,”

The Fourth Elder was thrilled and full of approval as Lu Changsheng successfully drew a First Grade Supreme Talisman, her face alight with excitement.

She could see that Lu Changsheng’s skill in making talismans was in no way inferior to her own.

The Talisman, even if she were to draw it herself, would not surpass the proficiency shown by Lu Changsheng, or might even be inferior.

Lu Miaoyun, who stood to one side, although not fully understanding, was also filled with joy and happiness.

She knew that her husband’s skill in the Talisman Path had improved again.

Over the years, she had watched as Lu Changsheng’s Talisman Path skills steadily improved.

“Changsheng, in the future for Talisman-Making, there’s nothing much Grandmother can teach you, you must rely on yourself,”

“This purple one is the inheritance for our Lu Family’s Second Grade high-quality Talisman Master,”

“This white one contains my own annotations and understandings of the Talisman Master inheritance over the past few decades. Now, take them and study well,”

“The only thing Grandmother wishes now is to see you become a Second Rank Talisman Master,”

The Fourth Elder straightened the Storage Bag and took out a white jade case.

Inside were two Jade Slips she passed to Lu Changsheng with a solemn expression.

Lu Changsheng, seeing her expression, knew that this must be the most precious thing the old woman possessed.

After all, it was extremely difficult for ordinary cultivators to acquire Advanced Cultivation Techniques and Second Rank Skills inheritance.

Not just because they were expensive.

It was also because there were very few available in the market.

This inheritance for the Second Grade high-quality Talisman Master was probably the foundational inheritance of the Lu Family's Talisman Path.

“Grandmother, Changsheng will certainly not disappoint your expectations,”

Lu Changsheng nodded emphatically, accepting with both hands respectfully.

“Very good, very good,”

The Fourth Elder joyfully patted Lu Changsheng on the shoulder, not saying much more on the subject.

After briefly chatting for a while, she went to visit several of her other grandsons.

As the old woman aged, her fondness for the children grew even more.

Lu Yun, Lu Miaoyun's eldest son, was also nine years old this year.

Having been discovered to have a Seventh Grade Spiritual Root, he was very much loved by the Fourth Elder.

However, Lu Miaoyun's second child did not have a Spiritual Root, and the third child only had a Ninth Grade Spiritual Root, causing both Lu Miaoyun and the elder a bit of disappointment.

"Congratulations to my husband,"

After the Fourth Elder departed, Lu Miaoyun congratulated Lu Changsheng with a joyous face.

Her husband was not only making rapid progress in the art of Talisman-Making, but he was also about to become a Family Elder, which as his wife, naturally seemed like a great cause for celebration.

She felt proud and happy for her husband's achievements.

"Indeed, it is something to celebrate,"

Lu Changsheng replied, smiling and nodding.

Even if he was indifferent to the elder position,

it was indeed a happy event for a normal person,

and it would seem somewhat remiss if he appeared too calm about it.

Before long, Lu Miaoyun announced the news within the household.

"Congratulations to my husband,"

“Congratulations, Father,”

“Congratulations, Daddy!”

The wives and children in the back courtyard, upon hearing the news, were all very happy, offering their congratulations to Lu Changsheng.

Their thoughts and understanding were similar to those of Lu Miaoyun.

They felt that becoming a Family Elder was something very extraordinary and honorable.

Now that their own husband and father were about to become a Lu Family Elder, it was naturally a remarkable achievement.

Lu Changsheng, seeing his wives and children’s happy faces, couldn’t help but feel joyful, a smile spreading across his face.

“The matter hasn’t been decided yet, it’s enough that we know ourselves,”

He waved his hand and thought to himself that if they knew he, their husband and father, was already a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, they would be even more astonished.

...

Half a month passed in the blink of an eye.

Inside the Practice Room,

Lu Changsheng sat cross-legged with his eyes closed, the Seven Luminaries Stars appearing tirelessly in his mind along with endless Sword Qi.

Countless strands of Sword Qi gathered in his Dantian, slowly forming an ancient lamp with seven star-like flames circulating around it.

“Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp!”

“With Spiritual Light in the heart as the wick and Mana as the oil, a flicker of Mental Spirit ignites the Heart Lamp, dispelling Elixir Toxicity, protecting Mental Spirit, clarifying the mind to see one’s true nature, and warding off external demons,”

“Should it be forged into a Life-bound Spiritual Artifact, and with heavenly silver as the oil, it could hasten cultivation, refine Mana, and make one’s foundations even more pure,”

“Furthermore, when facing an enemy, stirring the Mana can unleash boundless Sword Qi to attack, making it a versatile tool suitable for offense, defense, and cultivation!”

Chapter 347: The Number One Talisman Path Practitioner of the Lu Family, Crafting the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp!_3

“

After a long time, Lu Changsheng slowly opened his eyes, inspected his Dantian where the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp had condensed, exhaled lightly, and his face revealed a look of joy.

Through over half a month of secluded and arduous cultivation, he had finally succeeded in condensing the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp.

Next, he could spend materials to forge this Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp into his life-bound Spiritual Artifact.

However, he did not start the forging right away.

Because such a task could not be completed in a short time, and it was not possible to interrupt the process.

...

He would need to be in seclusion for several months to accomplish it.

Now Lu Changsheng was beginning to understand why cultivators were beyond the constraints of time.

He didn't even have to spend time comprehending and learning the method to condense this Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp.

Just visualizing the Seven Luminaries, condensing Sword Qi, and forging the Heart Lamp had already taken over half a month of his time.

If it were an ordinary person, they would have to be in seclusion for at least three or four months, or even half a year, to condense this lamp.

“Sigh, no wonder cultivators cannot have too many distractions and trivial matters.”

“With too many trivial matters, it's really hard to focus on cultivation.”

Lu Changsheng sighed, stepping out of the practice room.

He immediately went to the residence of the Fourth Elder to inquire about teaching the Lu Family Disciples about the Talisman Path.

He planned to teach this class and then use seclusion to break through to the Seventh Level Energy Refinement as a pretext to forge the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, his life-bound Spiritual Artifact.

After all, the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp was beneficial to cultivation, and the sooner it was forged, the better.

“I'll let the Family Head know later, and you can start teaching tomorrow at Qingzhu Villa.”

Upon hearing Lu Changsheng's intentions, the Fourth Elder said so.

...

The next day, the sun shone brightly.

The Fourth Elder then arrived at Lu Changsheng's residence.

In addition to the Fourth Elder, there was also a man in his thirties with a handsome and refined appearance, wearing a blue shirt and greeting them courteously.

This man was the Lu Family's Young Family Head, Lu Miaochang.

By this year's family meeting, he would become the new Family Head of the Lu Family.

It wasn't that Lu Yuanding had done anything wrong.

Instead, the term of the Family Head of the Lu Family lasted for twenty years.

This year happened to mark the end of Lu Yuanding's twenty-year tenure, so he would step down to serve as an elder.

"Grandma, Young Family Head."

Lu Changsheng greeted the Fourth Elder and Lu Miaochang with a bow.

"Changsheng."

The two also nodded to Lu Changsheng in return.

This Young Family Head was Lu Yuanding's nephew.

That's why his temperament was somewhat similar to Lu Yuanding's.

He was polite and dignified in his dealings, making him a very comfortable person to be around.

Both had come for the Talisman Path class.

Since it was Lu Changsheng's first time teaching, the Fourth Elder had to come to oversee things.

As for the Young Family Head, he was there to set the scene and check on the situation,

so that none of the Family Disciples would misbehave and offend Lu Changsheng, the future elder and Talisman Master.

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng also called his sons Lu Xianzhi and Lu Quanzhen to come along.

He had already noticed that both of his sons lacked talent in the Talisman Path.

But lack of talent aside, as cultivators, having more understanding of talismans was not a bad thing.

Everyone made their way to Qingzhu Villa.

"Uncle Fu."

Lu Changsheng greeted the steward of Qingzhu Villa as he saw Uncle Fu.

The old man had also aged significantly and was currently in a semi-retired state.

"Fourth Elder, Young Family Head, Changsheng."

Uncle Fu greeted the three of them.

He felt somewhat sentimental inside; the once son-in-law of the Lu Family had now become a core member.

In the realm of talismans, he had surpassed Sister Miaoge in the Lu Family to replace the Fourth Elder as the number one person in the Lu Family.

He led the three to a large hall in Qingzhu Villa.

Inside, there were more than twenty Lu Family Disciples.

The youngest were eleven or twelve years old, and the oldest were only fifteen or sixteen.

“We pay our respects to the Fourth Elder, Uncle Miaochang, Elder Miaochang, Teacher Lu.”

After receiving the message the day before, these Lu Family Disciples knew that Lu Changsheng would be teaching Talisman-Making.

Their elders at home had also instructed them to be polite and respectful to Lu Changsheng.

After all, during the battle where the Lu Family vanquished the Chen Family, the older generation of the Lu Family knew just how substantial this son-in-law was.

He was not only extraordinarily gifted in the Talisman Path, earning the favor of the Lu Family Ancestor who personally bestowed the marriage,

but he also had a deep relationship with a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator.

“Xianzhi, Quanzhen, find a place to sit down.”

Lu Changsheng said to his two sons, then started the class.

“~

With his Second Rank Talisman-Making Skill, his foundation in this basic knowledge was exceptionally solid.

The theoretical aspects were also articulated as if he had a full set of instructions.

He was nothing like the Fourth Elder, who relied on slow self-study, and could not compare to his finely honed approach.

Therefore, in terms of enlightening and lecturing the newcomers on the Talisman Path, he could not be better suited.

Lu Changsheng did not hold back his skills, teaching in a straightforward and comprehensible manner, fluid and natural.

Moreover, in the classroom, he broke down the steps of Basic Talismans for everyone, teaching them bit by bit, to the point that these children and youths were utterly enraptured.

“This...”

Even the Fourth Elder, upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s lecture and the dissection of the Talisman steps, couldn’t help but be surprised.

She felt that Lu Changsheng’s instruction was simply flawless, with not a single fault to find.

She even experienced the sensation of reviewing old knowledge and coming to new realizations.

She had originally assumed that Lu Changsheng, relying on his own exploration, would have some deficiencies in his foundational knowledge.

Therefore, she came to listen to the class, also thinking of giving Lu Changsheng some guidance at that time to reinforce his basics.

Unexpectedly, under these circumstances, she reviewed the basics herself.

“Alright, today’s class will end here,”

“If you are interested, you can go home and practice some on your own, and I will check on your progress in the next lesson,” said Lu Changsheng after lecturing for almost an hour.

Simply listening is of no use in Talisman Making.

After all, even if your mind understands, if your hands are unable to execute, it's no good.

To go far on the Talisman Path, one must unite body and mind, with meticulous and minute control over one's own Spiritual Power and the strength applied.

Then, through continuous hard practice, one can achieve success on the Talisman Path.

"Changsheng, your performance today was truly surprising to grandma,"

said the Fourth Elder, her face full of smiles, rather moved as she spoke to Lu Changsheng.

"Grandma is overpraising me, it's all thanks to your regular guidance,"

humbly replied Lu Changsheng.

He then spoke of his preparations to break through the Seventh Level Energy Refinement.

The next lecture might be in a few months.

"Changsheng, if you plan to give a lecture, just tell Uncle Fu a few days in advance,"

Lu Miaochang spoke up.

Asking Lu Changsheng to give lectures obviously couldn't involve fixed times; it had to be at Lu Changsheng's convenience.

"By the way, Changsheng, do you need to exchange for a High Rank Breakthrough Elixir for your advancement to the Energy Refinement Late Stage?"

"I remember the Lu Family currently has two High Rank Breakthrough Elixirs," Lu Miaochang continued.

“That’s exactly what I intend, I’m planning to exchange for a Breakthrough Elixir to assist,” said Lu Changsheng with a smile.

It wasn’t about taking advantage of using Contribution Value for such a small benefit.

It was simply that for someone with a Ninth Grade Spiritual Root, it would seem abnormal not to use a Breakthrough Elixir as an aid.

“I just so happen to be going there as well, so let’s go together,” Lu Miaochang nodded promptly.

“Okay,”

Lu Changsheng nodded, instructing his two sons to head back on their own.

He went with Lu Miaochang to exchange for the High Rank Breakthrough Elixir.

This High Rank Breakthrough Elixir, when purchased in the Marketplace, costs one thousand two hundred Spirit Stones.

But when exchanged using Contribution Value in the Lu Family, it only costs eight hundred fifty points.

That’s equivalent to eight hundred fifty Spirit Stones.

This is one of the benefits provided by the family,

encouraging the Lu Family Disciples to contribute more.

Lu Changsheng, providing Talismans for the Lu Family every month, had long since accumulated enough Contribution to exchange for the High Rank Breakthrough Elixir.

After exchanging for the High Rank Breakthrough Elixir, Lu Changsheng bid farewell to Lu Miaochang.

He could see that this young Family Head had always been extending goodwill towards him.

But the man was also a close uncle through marriage relations, so naturally, Lu Changsheng was friendly in return. For every inch of respect given, he would return a foot.

“I wonder when Xi Yue will come,”

“This refining of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp will likely take three to four months,” mused Lu Changsheng on his way back.

It had been three months since they parted ways.

She went back to Qingyun Sect to report and to cultivate the techniques for Foundation Establishment, so she was expected to visit in the coming months.

“Yun’er, keep this Transmission Talisman for me, and if anyone tries to contact me, just tell them I’m in closed cultivation,”

“Tell her to go directly to Red Leaf Valley Market to find Sister Miaoge if she has any issue,” Lu Changsheng instructed upon reaching home.

He mentioned his plans for going into seclusion and left his and Xiao Xiyue’s Transmission Talisman with his wife, Lu Miaoyun.

He did this to avoid Xi Yue arriving while he was not present.

Chapter 348: The Effect of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, Elder of the Nine Bags_1

“~

Time flew by, and in the blink of an eye, four months had passed.

Inside the practice room, Lu Changsheng was dressed in a blue long robe, sitting cross-legged in meditation.

In front of him, an ancient star lamp hovered.

This ancient lamp was simple in design, its body a bronze color with a faint colorful light flowing over it.

Around the lamp's dish, seven thumb-sized dazzling gems were embedded, like seven small stars, emanating strands of brilliant light.

...

"The Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, it's done!"

Lu Changsheng suddenly opened his eyes, looking at the ancient lamp before him.

He could distinctly feel that this ancient lamp was integrated with him, connected to his mental spirit.

This was a Life-bound Spiritual Artifact!

Even as a lower-grade Spiritual Artifact, its power far exceeded that of ordinary Spiritual Artifacts.

And it could be taken inside the body, nurtured with the mana within one's Dantian, gradually enhancing its power and quality.

Moreover, in times of danger, the Spiritual Artifact could actively alert and protect the owner.

The only downside was that if the Life-bound Spiritual Artifact was damaged, the owner would also sustain certain injuries.

Lu Changsheng reached out, gripping the ancient lamp in his hand.

It felt warm to the touch, lacking the coldness of metal, as if he was holding a piece of warm jade.

With a slight intent of his mental spirit, he channeled mana into it, and the seven gems on the lamp immediately released a blinding divine light, like seven stars in rotation, with a golden flame emerging in the center.

Under the starlight and golden flame, Lu Changsheng looked immaculate, transcendent.

“Ha!”

Lu Changsheng, holding the ancient lamp, gently blew on it.

Instantly, the lamp’s flame flickered, and strands of Sword Qi burst forth.

These strands of Sword Qi were sharp and elegant, encircling Lu Changsheng, forming a Sword Qi True Dragon, a Sword Qi Fierce Tiger, and a Sword Qi Barrier.

“Although its power is only equivalent to a single blow from an ordinary Foundation Establishment Cultivator,”

“having the Profound Origin Bead at my side, I fear not the consumption of mana, and in a moment’s thought, I can unleash up to a hundred strands of Sword Qi, which even a Foundation Establishment Middle Stage Cultivator would find difficult to withstand.”

“If it’s a group battle, facing Energy Refining Cultivators, it would be a one-sided slaughter.”

Lu Changsheng observed the strands of Sword Qi around him, felt the spiritual pressure, and estimated their power.

Immediately with a thought, the Sword Qi dissipated, and the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp transformed into a streak of light, entering his body and traveling along his meridians to hover above the Qi Ocean Core.

Having a tangible Spiritual Artifact and merely a technique-conjured Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp were completely different experiences.

Now that the Spiritual Artifact was inside his body, Lu Changsheng also found it quite mystical.

“I wonder how effective the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp is in condensing mana.”

Lu Changsheng thought of the effects of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp on concentrating mana at its foundation.

This was also one of the most formidable effects of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp.

He took two qian of heavenly silver from his Storage Bag, as fuel for the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp.

Immediately, the golden flame of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp blazed brightly, then entered into the elixir lake.

Making the liquid mana inside the elixir lake bubble and churn, as if boiling.

Time went by little by little.

After a long time, when the fuel was exhausted, the elixir lake returned to calmness.

“Tsk, tsk, tsk, down goes two qian of heavenly silver, and I hardly saw any effect, only a faint sense of purer mana.”

“According to the Seven Luminaries Great Freedom Sword Scripture, with the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp condensing mana, the foundation can be enhanced by up to thirty percent, and this thirty percent probably requires burning upwards of a hundred jin of heavenly silver.”

Lu Changsheng couldn't help but shake his head in amazement.

Ordinarily, the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp uses mana as fuel, deployed in battle, expelling Elixir Toxicity, guarding the mental spirit, and resisting external demons.

But to condense the mana foundation, one had to use heavenly silver as the fuel.

This heavenly silver was priced at a hundred Spirit Stones for one liang.

If one were to burn up to a hundred jin of heavenly silver, that is, burning up to about a hundred and fifty or two hundred thousand Spirit Stones.

Even for Lu Changsheng, such a figure was astonishing.

“However, a thirty percent enhancement in mana, not only solidifying the foundation, is also beneficial for the probability and quality of Core Formation. The cost in Spirit Stones, one could say, is worth it.”

“Moreover, the price of a hundred Spirit Stones for one liang is what I paid at the Qingyun Commerce Guild.”

“If I purchase it myself, at least I could get it for twenty to thirty percent cheaper.”

Lu Changsheng pondered in his heart.

He was in no rush to use heavenly silver to condense his mana foundation.

This kind of thing could completely wait until there were surplus Spirit Stones.

Or wait until he had a solid base, then slowly start to purchase heavenly silver.

Besides, such a process is not accomplished overnight; it's a long-term project.

“It's about time to go out, otherwise after being closed up for four months, the family might think something has happened to me.”

Lu Changsheng used the Cleansing Technique, cleaned up the practice room, packed up the “Heavenly Canopy Five Elements Formation,” and walked out of the practice room.

“Husband!”

“Daddy!”

Outside the courtyard, Qu Zhenzhen was telling a story to their little son and daughter.

Upon seeing Lu Changsheng, they immediately voiced their surprise joyfully.

“Zhenzhen, I’ve made you worry.”

Lu Changsheng knew that his prolonged seclusion must have worried his wives.

“Was your cultivation smooth, husband?”

Qu Zhenzhen, clad in a light pink and white dress, her delicate features charming, hugged Lu Changsheng and asked with concern.

“Having closed up for so long, naturally, I’ve made a breakthrough.”

Lu Changsheng smiled, gently patting his petite wife’s back.

After all these years, Qu Zhenzhen was still very attached to him.

But with children now, when he wasn’t around, she would focus her heart and energy on the kids.

“Congratulations, husband.”

Qu Zhenzhen, hearing this, immediately congratulated him cheerfully.

Having been on Qing Zhu Mountain for many years, she too was practicing cultivation and had gained quite an understanding of it.

She knew that Lu Changsheng’s breakthrough this time was to the Seventh Level Energy Refinement, which was the Energy Refinement Late Stage.

At Qing Zhu Mountain, reaching the Energy Refinement Late Stage already qualified as a master.

“Congratulations, daddy.”

“Congratulations, daddy.”

The two little ones beside also followed with their congratulations.

“What story is mom telling you?”

Lu Changsheng looked at his son and daughter, took out two Spirit Fruits from his Storage Bag and handed them over, as he affectionately ruffled their heads and asked with a smile.

“`

Chapter 349: The Effect of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, Elder of the Nine Bags_2

“`

Qu Zhenzhen had four children, and even the youngest was already six years old.

This made Lu Changsheng marvel at how quickly time passed.

He still vividly remembered making that three-year pledge and on the way back, bringing Qu Zhenzhen home from the dilapidated temple to Qingzhu Mountain.

The two little ones then prattled on to Lu Changsheng with their chirping voices.

Following Lu Changsheng’s emergence from seclusion, his other wives and concubines came to visit one after another with their congratulations, delighted at Lu Changsheng’s breakthrough to the Energy Refinement Late Stage.

...

After reuniting with his wives and family, Lu Miaoyun informed Lu Changsheng that the Lu Family clan assembly had already concluded.

Because he was in seclusion, they did not disturb him.

This year's clan assembly marked the completion of a generational handover within the Lu Family.

Lu Miaochang assumed the role of the new Family Head, while Lu Yuanding became a Family Elder, responsible for the family finances and assisting the new Family Head in managing the family.

Lu Miaoge also became an Executor of the family, a candidate in the next generation of elders.

Lu Changsheng's position as Family Elder was also made official.

However, due to his generation and age, he was placed at the end of the line, as the ninth elder.

Upon becoming an elder, besides the title, the family benefits and treatment also correspondingly improved.

For the specific obligations of an elder, Lu Changsheng needed to speak with the new Family Head, Lu Miaochang.

"Ninth Elder."

Hearing this ranking, Lu Changsheng smirked with a smile, his thoughts inadvertently turning to the elders ranked by bags.

"Husband, the Transmission Talisman you gave me also brought news last month..."

Lu Miaoyun conveyed that a woman had come looking for Lu Changsheng last month.

After chatting with her for a while and learning that Lu Changsheng was in seclusion, the woman then left for the Red Leaf Valley Market.

“Yun’er, thank you for your hard work.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng nodded, understanding that it was Xiao Xiyue who had visited.

But he had a pile of matters at hand and wasn’t in a rush to go to the Red Leaf Valley Market just yet.

First, he sought out Lu Miaochang to confirm the specifics involved with these so-called elder duties.

Lu Miaochang told Lu Changsheng that the main duties revolved around Talisman affairs.

Then there was cultivating Talisman Path apprentices, overseeing the profits and losses of the Talisman Shops in the various marketplaces, along with some other trifles.

After hearing this, Lu Changsheng immediately refused to involve himself with the Talisman Shops, advising the Lu Family to find someone else to manage them.

He didn’t want to get too involved with the core interests of the Lu Family, nor did he have the spare time for it.

After all, he didn’t even have time to manage his own shops.

Once they roughly finished their discussion, Lu Changsheng informed Uncle Fu at Qingzhu Villa that he would be teaching in three days.

After taking care of all these matters, Lu Changsheng went back home to spend time with his wives, continuing with his grand endeavor of parenting.

...

In the blink of an eye, another half a month had passed.

During this half month, Lu Changsheng basically didn't cultivate; he was focused on parenting.

As for how many more children he would have, that would require some time to determine.

"Hmm?"

One day, Lu Changsheng suddenly felt a surge of pure spiritual power infusing into his own body.

"What is this?"

Lu Changsheng was somewhat surprised, unsure where this spiritual power came from.

It took a moment before he realized it was his son, Lu Xianzhi, who had made a breakthrough to the Second Level.

"But this bit of cultivation is like pouring a jug of water into a pond for me at the moment."

Lu Changsheng lightly shook his head.

After briefly showing concern for his son, he told his wives that he needed to make a trip to the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Before heading to the marketplace, Lu Changsheng paid a visit to his father-in-law, Lu Yuanding.

It wasn't that there was anything in particular; he simply wanted to take his daughter Lu Qingzhu to visit her mother.

Since Lu Miaoge spent most of her time in the Red Leaf Valley Market, the daughter was typically taken care of either by Lu Miaohuan or Lu Yuanding.

Recently, both Lu Qingzhu and Lu Qingshan had been taken there by Lu Yuanding.

“Father-in-law.”

Upon reaching Lu Yuanding’s residence, Lu Changsheng immediately saw him babysitting his grandchildren.

His son, Lu Qingshan, was energetically chasing a white goose with a small wooden sword.

His daughter, Lu Qingzhu, on the other hand, sat quietly in Lu Yuanding’s arms, watching Lu Qingshan chase the goose.

“Changsheng, you’ve come.”

Lu Yuanding, holding his little granddaughter, greeted Lu Changsheng with a beaming smile.

He used to be quite busy, but after relinquishing the position of Family Head, he gained some leisure time.

As for the Elder duties, they essentially depended on oneself.

If one were willing to delegate authority, it wouldn’t be too busy, so he also had the leisure to spend time with the children.

“Daddy, ha!”

The goose-chasing Lu Qingshan, upon spotting his father’s arrival, charged over with his little legs and a swing of his sword.

Seeing this, Lu Changsheng reached out and caught his son by the nape and lifted the mischievous boy.

“Grandpa, grandpa save me!”

Lu Qingshan immediately called out for his grandfather’s help.

“Daddy.”

Lu Qingzhu, nestled in Lu Yuanding’s arms, stared at Lu Changsheng, as if she took a moment to recognize her father, causing him a twinge of shame.

After all, children of her age had a limited memory, and he hadn’t been around much.

“Father-in-law, I’m planning to go to the Red Leaf Valley Market, so I wanted to take Qingzhu to see Miaoge.”

Lu Changsheng set his son down and explained his intentions.

“Alright, Changsheng, I know you’re busy now, but if you can, do try to spend more time with Miaoge and Huan’er,” Lu Yuanding said, nodding.

“Changsheng understands.”

After chatting with Lu Yuanding for a while, Lu Changsheng picked up his daughter.

Looking at her little chubby, pale, and tender face, he couldn’t help but give her two kisses and said, “Qingzhu, let’s go, we’re going to see your mother.”

Every time he saw his daughter’s little face, he couldn’t resist kissing her.

“Daddy, I also want to go see Auntie!”

Hearing this, his son Lu Qingshan also shouted loudly.

He was very fond of his aunt Lu Miaoge.

Because every time, she would buy him delicious treats and fun toys.

Lu Changsheng glanced at his son.

To be honest, he was rather reluctant to take this son out.

Chapter 350: The Effect of the Seven Luminaries Heart Lamp, Elder of the Nine Bags_3

The problem is that this son is too lively and always needs to be watched over.

Unlike his daughter Lu Qingzhu, who is usually quiet and well-behaved, not causing any fuss, very clever.

“Alright, since you want to go, let’s go together,”

Thinking that he rarely spent time with the child, Lu Changsheng still nodded in agreement.

Seeing that Lu Changsheng intended to take both children, Lu Yuanding also mentioned that he just happened to be visiting the Red Leaf Valley Market and would accompany Lu Changsheng.

Although the Red Leaf Valley Market was relatively close, he was still somewhat worried about the two children, who were not yet four years old, being taken out by Lu Changsheng alone.

...

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng naturally couldn’t say anything.

With Lu Yuanding there, at least someone would help look after the children, saving him from a headache.

Soon after, the two men each carried a child and rode the Iron Feather Eagle to the Red Leaf Valley Market.

...

Half a day later, the two arrived at the Red Leaf Valley Market.

The Red Leaf Valley Market now had a much larger crowd than before.

Lu Yuanding told Lu Changsheng that the four big families plan to hold an auction every year starting next year, to attract more loose cultivators.

He also hoped that by then, Lu Changsheng could bring out some top-quality Supreme Talismans for the auction.

“An auction, good,”

Lu Changsheng nodded upon hearing the news.

Now that the Red Leaf Valley had been open for three years, the flow of people had reached a small bottleneck.

To attract cultivators to come, naturally something had to be offered.

Otherwise, with a security guarantee like Red Leaf Valley Market’s being average, and lacking big shops from the Qingyun Commerce Guild or Myriad Treasures Pavilion to settle in, the appeal was indeed limited.

As the two talked and walked, they arrived at the ‘Lu Family’s Spiritual Talisman Shop’ of Qing Zhu.

“Dad, Changsheng,”

Lu Miaoge smiled when she saw Lu Changsheng and Lu Yuanding arrive, carrying the two children.

Immediately after, the group, along with the children, strolled around the market, enjoying themselves.

After wandering around for a long time and finishing their meal, Lu Yuanding gave the couple some space and took the two children back to the Lu Family’s compound.

Since Red Leaf Valley was initially divided by the four big families, the Lu family got the lion's share, taking up almost forty percent.

So for the Lu Family people in this Red Leaf Valley Market, there was no shortage of places to stay.

“Changsheng, that Miss Xiao has come over again and is staying in the cave dwelling you used before,”

Back at the Spiritual Talisman Shop, Lu Miaoge said to Lu Changsheng.

“Sister Miaoge, thank you for the trouble,”

Lu Changsheng responded warmly upon hearing this.

Having stayed in the Red Leaf Valley Market for half a year previously, Xiao Xiyue was already known to Lu Miaoge.

Furthermore, with Lu Miaoge's intelligence, she surely realized that the relationship between the two was not simply about cultivation.

“Changsheng, has Miss Xiao successfully reached Foundation Establishment?”

Lu Miaoge inquired.

From some information previously mentioned by Lu Changsheng, she knew about Xiao Xiyue's attempt at Foundation Establishment.

But Xiao Xiyue was reticent in nature, and since Lu Miaoge was not one to talk much either, even if they had interacted, they did not really chat.

“Yes, she has successfully reached Foundation Establishment, but she still needs some of my help for her subsequent cultivation, which is why she has come over again,”

Lu Changsheng explained.

“Foundation Establishment.”

Lu Miaoge’s face showed a trace of envy and yearning upon hearing of Xiao Xiyue’s successful Foundation Establishment.

As a child of a cultivating family, raised from an early age to aim for Foundation Establishment, achieving it was the dream of all of them.

However, most of them gradually realized that Foundation Establishment was too far out of reach.

Lu Miaoge was aware that even though there was a slight chance of reaching Foundation Establishment, it was very slim.

“Sister Miaoge, I have a gift for you,”

Lu Changsheng, seeing the expression in Lu Miaoge’s eyes, knew well how her heart was set on cultivation and dreamt of breaking through to Foundation Establishment one day.

He then took out a porcelain bottle from his Storage Bag.

“A gift?”

Lu Miaoge said with a smile as she took the porcelain bottle to examine it.

“Is this... Three Suns Elixir?”

Looking at the elixir inside the bottle, Lu Miaoge showed a look of surprise and doubt.

“That’s right, it is indeed the Three Suns Elixir, also known as the ‘minor Foundation Establishment Elixir,’”

“Sister Miaoge, taking this Three Suns Elixir should allow you to break through directly from the Eighth Level of Energy Refinement to the Ninth Level,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

He had also prepared a Foundation Establishment Elixir for Lu Miaoge, so there was no need to wait until Qi Refinement reached perfection before taking this elixir.

Taking it now would yield the same effect.

“You should keep this Three Suns Elixir for yourself,”

Lu Miaoge said with a gentle smile, her lovely and graceful appearance particularly charming.

Although she didn’t know where Lu Changsheng had acquired this Three Suns Elixir, she was aware of its preciousness.

If put on the market, one pill would be worth at least three to four thousand Spirit Stones.

Even though she was a Top-Level Talisman Master, she couldn’t afford such a valuable elixir.

After all, not all Talisman Masters were like Lu Changsheng, possessing a one hundred percent success rate in talisman making.

Moreover, she didn’t need to spend Spirit Stones on materials for practicing Talisman Making.

“I have already taken one, and this one is specifically for you, Sister Miaoge,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

He had guessed that Lu Miaoge would refuse, so he had prepared his response.

“This... Changsheng, thank you,”

Lu Miaoge said, gazing into Lu Changsheng's eyes that shimmered with tenderness, and she didn't refuse any further.

"Between husband and wife, there is no need for thanks,"

Lu Changsheng chuckled and continued, "If Sister Miaoge plans to enter closed-door cultivation after taking the elixir, I can manage the shop."

"Father and Qing Zhu, Qing Shan have all come here, let's talk about it later,"

Lu Miaoge said softly.

As she spoke, it seemed she remembered something and added, "Oh, right, your good friend Li Feiyu came by earlier, but he didn't wait for you to return, so he left some things for me to give to you."

"Things?"

Lu Changsheng was somewhat surprised to hear this.

In a little while, Lu Miaoge took out a Storage Bag from the room and handed it to Lu Changsheng.

Lu Changsheng opened the Storage Bag and saw that it contained a pile of Spirit Stones.

Almost two hundred Spirit Stones.

There was also a letter.

He opened the letter to read it.

"Sigh."

After reading the letter, Lu Changsheng let out a light breath.

The letter was a farewell.

It mentioned that he had made arrangements with someone to head to Azure Phoenix Immortal City, so he wouldn't wait any longer for Lu Changsheng; they would catch up and chat some other time.

The two hundred Spirit Stones were his current spare stones, so he wanted to pay back a portion first.

As for the remaining Spirit Stones, he would repay them after coming back from Azure Phoenix Immortal City next time.

He also told Lu Changsheng not to worry, as he would return when he had time.

Then, the letter mentioned some trivial matters and his own insights into the Cultivation World.

"Ah, Feiyu is still the same old Feiyu, not willing to owe even a little,"

Lu Changsheng sighed and shook his head.

He wasn't in need of these two hundred Spirit Stones at all right now.

But these two hundred Spirit Stones were probably all that Li Feiyu could offer at the moment.

"Changsheng,"

Lu Miaoge also knew that Li Feiyu was one of Lu Changsheng's few close friends.

They had come to the Lu Family together and shared a deep friendship.

"I'm fine, just feeling a bit emotional,"

Lu Changsheng shook his head slightly, not hiding the matter of Li Feiyu from his wife.

Sometimes, having someone close to talk and confide in could make one feel much better.

Since he was harboring many secrets, he would not hide ordinary matters from his wife.

“Sister Miaoge, it’s getting late,”

After talking for a long time, Lu Changsheng, gazing at his wife’s soft, beautiful, and stunning countenance, suddenly spoke.

Immediately, he supported his lovely wife’s slender shoulder and captured her full, moist, soft lips, extracting sweetness.

“Mm~ let’s go to the room...”

Lu Miaoge didn’t expect that while they were having a good conversation, her husband would suddenly turn romantic. Her eyelashes quivered slightly, then her arms encircled her husband’s neck, and she gasped, speaking in short breaths.