

I. Family 381

Chapter 381: The Shock of the Four Patriarchs!_3

“

“So I’ll come to teach you myself later.”

Lu Changsheng didn’t wait for Lu Miaoge to reply and continued speaking.

He didn’t carry any jade slips or jade scrolls containing sword technique cultivation techniques on his person.

Ordinary cultivation techniques and spells are quite easy to copy and replicate.

But high grade cultivation techniques and spells are not so easily copied.

...

Not only must one have an expert grasp of the cultivation techniques,

one must also expend the writer’s own vital energies to inscribe them onto a technique jade slip.

And normally, who would carry a copy of the cultivation techniques they’re practicing on their person?

“Changsheng, why are you so good to me?”

Lu Miaoge looked up at the Lu Changsheng before her, her beautiful eyes full of tenderness as she softly spoke.

“You’re my wife, if I’m not good to you, to whom should I be?”

Lu Changsheng looked at his wife and laughed with a smile.

“Thank you, Changsheng.”

Lu Miaoge’s eyes glistened, and she smiled tenderly.

“We are husband and wife, one entity, there’s no need for thanks,”

Lu Changsheng waved his hand and said.

“Mm.”

Lu Miaoge gently hummed in affirmation and then quietly snuggled into her husband’s arms.

...

Time passed by slowly.

At this moment, Lu Yuanzhong, the Bai Family Ancestor, the Patriarch of Zheng Family, and Patriarch Yu Jinyang of the Yu Family had all hurriedly arrived at Red Leaf Valley Market.

The commotion earlier caused Yu Yuanshan to send the highest-level of emergency message.

Faced with such a message, the ancestors of the four major families did not dare delay.

They ordered their families to activate their defensive formations and quickly came over.

“Yuanshan, what’s the situation here?”

Patriarch Yu Jinyang asked aloud.

This Patriarch of the Yu Family had a full head of white hair, but not a single wrinkle or age spot on his face, his skin as clear and glossy as a baby’s, perfectly exemplifying the phrase ‘old in years, youthful in looks.’

As Patriarch Yu Jinyang spoke, Lu Yuanzhong, the Bai Family Ancestor, and the Patriarch of the Zheng Family all turned to Yu Yuanshan, wanting to know the specifics of what had happened in the market.

Although they arrived one after another, Yu Yuanshan indicated that the situation in the market had stabilized, so he waited for everyone to gather before explaining.

“Patriarch, fellow daoists...”

Upon hearing Patriarch Yu Jinyang’s words, Yu Yuanshan immediately recounted what had happened in the market earlier.

“What?”

“Two Foundation Establishment Robber Cultivators!”

“An extraordinary Sword Cultivator, who slew a Second Rank Demon Beast with a single sword strike!”

“And this Sword Cultivator killed both Robber Cultivators!”

Upon hearing this, the four of them exchanged astonished glances, their faces revealing shock and disbelief.

After all, these were Foundation Establishment Great Cultivators.

Beings on the same level as them.

And now, Yu Yuanshan was telling them that tonight, two Foundation Establishment Robber Cultivators had raided the market.

Then, suddenly, an extraordinary Sword Cultivator appeared and slew both Robber Cultivators.

If not for the current state of the market's Great Formation being weakened, allowing them to see that the market had gone through a disturbance and knowing that Yu Yuanshan wouldn't lie to them, they would have thought they were listening to a radio drama.

"How could our market have such a Sword Cultivator?"

"Indeed, all the Foundation Establishment cultivators who were invited to the auction left after it ended."

The Patriarch of the Zheng Family and Bai Family Ancestor spoke up.

"This is what I recorded on the Shadow Retention Stone."

Without saying much more, Yu Yuanshan took out a fist-sized black stone.

The Shadow Retention Stone is a magic artifact refined by Artifact Refiners.

It can record a period of images and sounds.

Depending on the grade, the clarity of the images and duration vary.

Its uses are wide-ranging.

Many cultivators use Shadow Retention Stones to leave their last words before they pass away.

Or when selling cultivation techniques or instructing juniors, they might record their insights onto a Shadow Retention Stone, which is often much more vivid than text alone.

It can also be used for recording various scenes in daily life.

The Jade Scroll of the 'Returning Origin Technique' that Lu Changsheng cultivated initially also had a Shadow Retention effect.

As mana was infused into the Shadow Retention Stone, a segment of images began to emerge.

It was the scene where Lu Changsheng slew the Second Rank Demon Beast and confronted the pair of Robber Cultivators.

“Hiss, such a domineering sword stance!”

“That’s a true Sword Cultivator!”

“Could this person be a disciple of the Heavenly Sword Sect?”

“That’s not an impossibility.”

“But for what reason would a disciple of the Heavenly Sword Sect come to our Red Leaf Valley Market?”

The ancestors of the four major families, upon watching the images on the Shadow Retention Stone, were struck with unparalleled shock in their hearts.

Although the Shadow Retention Stone could not record the aura or presence,

they could still sense an unstoppable, sword-breaking-all-laws, unmatched aura from Lu Changsheng through the images.

“Hmm?”

Patriarch Yu Jinyang, upon observing the attire and methods of the two Robber Cultivators on the Shadow Retention Stone, frowned slightly, falling into contemplation.

But upon seeing the two Robber Cultivators being killed and their bodies taken away, a hint of disappointment flashed in his eyes.

“Patriarch, what’s the matter?”

Yu Yuanshan, seeing his Patriarch's expression, inquired.

"The strength, attire, and appearance of these two Robber Cultivators remind me of the 'Male and Female Villains' who are being pursued by the major Immortal Sects."

Patriarch Yu Jinyang narrowed his eyes slightly as he spoke.

"Male and Female Villains! The two of them each possesses the strength of the middle and early stages of Foundation Establishment..."

"The couple often act together, robbing wealth and assaulting individuals with cunning and unpredictability... They have been wanted by the Heavenly Sword Sect for killing an elite disciple."

"Come to think of it, these two do bear some resemblance to the Male and Female Villains."

Once Patriarch Yu Jinyang said this, even the Bai Family Ancestor began to express his doubt as he looked at the images on the Shadow Retention Stone.

"Male and Female Villains, wanted by the Heavenly Sword Sect?"

"If that's the case, then this Sword Cultivator must be a disciple of the Heavenly Sword Sect, tracking them to this place."

"Indeed, otherwise, how could there be such a coincidence of having an extraordinary Sword Cultivator in our Red Leaf Valley Market?"

"Aside from the Heavenly Sword Sect, where else could you find such a dominant Sword Cultivator?"

Upon hearing this, the others felt relieved, believing that things must be as they surmised.

Chapter 382: The Shock of the Four Patriarchs!_4

Otherwise, how could there have been such a coincidence?

Although stories of eminent figures hiding in the market were common, after all, they were just stories and rare ones.

“Yuanshan, you just said that you presented a gift to that Sword Cultivator, how much was it worth in Spirit Stones?”

At this moment, Patriarch Yu Jinyang turned to Ancestor Yu and spoke.

Upon hearing these words, Lu Yuanzhong, Bai Family Ancestor, and Zheng Family Ancestor all felt a pang in their hearts.

“Ancestor, a total of thirty thousand Spirit Stones.”

...

“Given the situation at the time, how could I dare to give less? Thus, I brought out all the Spirit Stones I could, along with all the stock from the store.”

Yu Yuanshan said with a bitter smile.

He then looked at the three family ancestors: “Regarding the gift, I can provide a detailed list and swear on my Heart Demon that there has been absolutely no deceit.”

Thirty thousand Spirit Stones was not a small amount, he merely intended for it to be split equally among the four families.

He wouldn’t risk making enemies of the three families for the sake of extorting Spirit Stones.

“Fellow Taoists, as our four families jointly manage the Marketplace, this matter of the Spirit Stones surely shouldn’t fall on my Yu Family alone, should it?”

Patriarch Yu Jinyang looked at the three family ancestors and made himself heard.

His tone carried an almost undeniable assertiveness.

“That’s only right; we can share the cost of these Spirit Stones across our four families.”

Upon hearing this, Zheng Family Ancestor immediately voiced his agreement.

However, his face betrayed a look of pain.

Although splitting thirty thousand Spirit Stones would mean only seven thousand five hundred per family.

Even seven thousand five hundred Spirit Stones wasn’t a small sum.

While family income was higher than that of ordinary Loose Cultivators, so too were expenses greater.

“Patriarch Yu Jinyang, the Robber Cultivators’ raid on the Marketplace is likely greatly related to Loose Cultivator Zhao Feng’s pursuit of Foundation Establishment.”

“Initially, it was your Yu Family who overruled all objections, allowing this Zhao Feng to attempt Foundation Establishment within the Marketplace. Had that not been the case, perhaps there would have been no incident tonight.”

Lu Yuanzhong spoke up.

He believed that Yu Yuanshan wouldn’t resort to extorting Spirit Stones in this matter.

But tonight, not only was the Marketplace impacted, their families’ stores and businesses also suffered losses.

And now, to take out such a large sum of Spirit Stones, naturally, he was reluctant.

“Indeed, it was your Yu Family’s decision to allow Zhao Feng to undertake his Foundation Establishment within the Marketplace, which led to the troubles we faced tonight.”

“Tonight, our families have already suffered great losses. Later, we will also need to soothe and compensate the merchants who set up shop here; I believe it is not proper to share this expense of the Spirit Stones now.”

“I think that the Yu Family should bear the brunt of the cost of these Spirit Stones as well as the compensation for the merchants.”

Bai Family Ancestor also spoke.

“The raid on the Marketplace tonight might not necessarily have been due to the Foundation Establishment attempt.”

“So many Robber Cultivators, they obviously came prepared.”

Yu Yuanshan said, expressing his opinion.

Immediately, a debate began between the two sides.

Confronted with this situation, Zheng Family Ancestor chose to remain silent.

If possible, he naturally also didn’t want to share the cost of these Spirit Stones.

Only, his Zheng Family was not in a good situation and was thinking of appeasing the Yu Family.

“The matter of Zhao Feng was indeed proposed by me, but also agreed upon by all of you.”

“Therefore, it’s impossible for my Yu Family to bear the full cost of the Spirit Stones and compensation.”

“Let’s do this: my Yu Family will cover fifty percent of these thirty thousand Spirit Stones, and the remaining fifty percent will be shared among your three families.”

“As for the losses in the Marketplace and the merchants’ settlements, we will discuss that when we have a detailed list, how about that?”

At this point, Patriarch Yu Jinyang spoke in a deep tone.

“I have no objections.”

Zheng Family Ancestor immediately said.

If the three families were to share fifty percent, it would mean five thousand Spirit Stones per family.

That was over two thousand less per family, a significant saving.

“Agreed.”

Lu Yuanzhong and Bai Family Ancestor exchanged glances, nodded their heads, and decided to take the offer while it was good.

After all, with the current situation, it was already not bad for the Yu Family to be willing to make a concession.

After the negotiation concluded, Lu Yuanzhong, Bai Family Ancestor, and Zheng Family Ancestor left to check on their respective family stores and personnel.

Meanwhile, Yu Yuanshan was somewhat unwilling to accept the outcome as he looked at his own ancestor.

“Ancestor, why should we make such concessions?”

“Even if we didn’t, what could Lu Yuanzhong, Bai Tongyun possibly say?”

Yu Yuanshan spoke out.

In his view, as long as their family didn't give in or make concessions, the Lu Family and Bai Family would have to accept the expenses of the Spirit Stones.

After all, this concession meant an extra expenditure of seven thousand five hundred Spirit Stones.

Their Yu Family had already emptied their coffers last year to purchase the Foundation Establishment Elixir and had been living frugally ever since.

This significant expenditure was like adding frost to snow for an already not-wealthy family.

"At present, there is no need for our four families to create an unnecessary rift over these Spirit Stones."

"Old Ghost Zheng may be active in his stance, but he is also reluctant to part with these Spirit Stones; hence, it is not an issue to step back."

"Now that Ning Hu has successfully established his foundation, our Yu Family has three Foundation Establishment cultivators. If we slowly accumulate our strength, they will have to spit back everything they have swallowed, sooner or later."

Patriarch Yu Jinyang waved his hand and said firmly.

Chapter 383: Three-Colored Spiritual Earth, Bai Ling's Talent, An Unexpected Lottery!_1

Before one's eyes, seven days had passed.

During this time, the Marketplace remained in a state of lockdown and alert, inspecting for Robber Cultivators.

Lu Changsheng learned from the Lu Family that the outward losses of the Marketplace were not severe and were within an acceptable range.

The main issue was the series of adverse effects brought about by the incident.

To minimize the impact and recover popularity and reputation, the four major families made certain compensations for the losses suffered by the businesses settled in the market.

And they issued a series of preferential and welfare policies.

...

Taking all these aspects into account, it amounted to a huge loss.

Even so, the flow of visitors to the Red Leaf Valley Market would still see a significant decline.

The fame and reputation built up by the previous auction would be rendered futile by this incident.

“Tsk, tsk, tsk, it’s indeed not easy to run a Marketplace, a slight incident can lead to a loss,” Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but lament after learning of these developments.

He was well aware that over the years, the four major families hadn’t made much money from the Red Leaf Valley Market.

The primary income had been from the initial sales of land.

But with this incident, not only had many Spirit Stones been spent,

but the Marketplace, which had just gotten on the right track, had taken a severe fall.

It would take several years, perhaps even over a decade of management, to regain popularity and get back on track.

“It seems that the Red Leaf Valley Market won’t change much in the short term,”

“Speaking of which, if I were to reveal my strength and talk with the four major families, I might be able to take over the Red Leaf Valley Market directly as my Family Spirit Land.”

A sudden thought crossed Lu Changsheng’s mind.

Through the previous battle, he had clearly realized that his current strength had already far surpassed that of the patriarchs of the four major families.

It would be incredibly easy to take a Spirit Land by force with his might.

However, he would not engage in such reputation-damaging actions of forcefully seizing others' Spirit Lands without good reason.

But the Red Leaf Valley Market, the Lu Family held a forty percent control.

If he were to reveal his strength and cooperate with the Lu Family, it would be entirely possible to take ownership of Red Leaf Valley using both carrot and stick approaches.

“Initially, the Lu Family and the Bai Family did not have the intention to establish the Red Leaf Valley into a Marketplace,”

“It was only after the Yu Family and the Zheng Family joined that the decision was made to maximize benefits by establishing the Red Leaf Valley into a Marketplace.”

“Thus, from the Lu Family's perspective, as long as enough benefits are provided as compensation, it wouldn't be much of a problem,” Lu Changsheng pondered in his heart.

“But there's no rush for that.”

“Once I've accumulated a bit more foundation and my children have grown up, if we still don't have a Spirit Land, then it might be a viable option,” Lu Changsheng shook his head lightly.

Red Leaf Valley possesses a Second Rank Middle Grade Spirit Vein and several First Grade Spirit Veins.

Its geographical location is good as well, right beside Qingzhu Mountain.

In Lu Changsheng's view, it's an excellent place for a Spirit Land.

However, he could not reveal his true strength just yet.

At most, in a few years, he could disclose to the outside that he had acquired a fortuitous opportunity and had made a breakthrough in Foundation Establishment.

Exhibiting combat power comparable to the Foundation Establishment Late Stage in just fifteen short years would indeed be astonishing.

It would most likely draw unwanted attention.

Once targeted, it could be very troublesome.

After all, he was not a Cultivator who walked the Great Dao alone.

He belonged to those with families and vulnerabilities—a Cultivator with soft spots.

If it was possible to be more cautious, he would opt for that route.

Moreover, Lu Changsheng felt that he was still far from having the accumulation and foundation necessary to establish a Family.

To set up a Family, it required not only a top-notch combatant and a Family Spirit Land,

but also a top-tier Great Formation, a complete set of Family facilities, an operational system, as well as a sufficient core strength and a continuous influx of new blood, among other things.

Although he had a hundred and twenty-five children, thirty of whom were Spiritual Root descendants,

the oldest child was only fourteen, and the youngest was still an infant.

Under such circumstances, there wasn't enough financial or human resources to support a Family,

Even with the help of his wives and concubines, the assistance they could provide was limited.

“The children still need to grow up; without a solid base, even if outsiders are recruited, it would be very troublesome,”

“But by the time the children are almost grown, my strength and foundation will have also improved, and by then, it should be about right,” Lu Changsheng exhaled slowly.

He didn’t mind enlisting members from outside the main lineage.

After all, it was impossible to rely solely on one’s own bloodline.

Not every child would succeed in managing the Family.

That is the limitation of a Family.

But the core matters had to be held in the hands of his own bloodline.

In this world, the cohesion of a Family bloodline could not be matched by its power.

“Sigh, it’s time to sort out the gains from this trip,”

Seeing that the alertness of the Marketplace had relaxed and things were wrapping up, Lu Changsheng got up and headed towards the cave dwelling area.

He was preparing to go to Xiao Xiyue’s cave dwelling to tally up his gains,

and to deal with the body of the Second Rank Demon Beast.

After all, the Storage Bag did not have a fresh-keeping function.

If not stored in a special container, it could cause problems over time.

“Changsheng,”

When Xiao Xiyue received Lu Changsheng’s message, she immediately opened the restrictions of her cave dwelling.

Because there had been patrols in the Marketplace these past few days, she had been disguised.

However, the main inspections in the Marketplace were focused on the Loose Cultivator’s residential area and the commercial district.

The cave dwelling area was only briefly questioned,

as those who resided there were either people from the four major families or from other Cultivation families.

“Xi Yue,”

Lu Changsheng entered the cave dwelling.

After the two of them entered the cave dwelling, they also reverted to their true appearances.

It always felt somewhat strange to look at each other in disguised forms.

“Lu Lang, your heroic and dashing figure that night truly amazed Xi Yue and is unforgettable,”

Chapter 384: Three-Colored Spiritual Earth, Bai Ling’s Talent, An Unexpected Lottery!_2

Xiao Xiyue’s countenance was radiant and entrancing, her beautiful eyes brimming with laughter as if she were a playful young girl.

Seeing the usually aloof and saintly fairy exhibiting such a girlish demeanor, Lu Changsheng knew that Xiao Xiyue was partly teasing on purpose, but it still satisfied a part of his masculinity.

After all, which man doesn't like his wives, concubines, and children to show dependence and adoration towards him?

"Haha, Xi Yue wishes to see her husband's grace, how could I disappoint you, Xi Yue, I must naturally put on a good performance."

Lu Changsheng chuckled softly and leaned in to capture the ripe and charming lips of the fairy.

A moment later, the fairy was nearly as limp as water, collapsing into Lu Changsheng's arms.

...

Her stunningly beautiful face was flushed on both sides, like a fairy descending to the mortal world, breathtakingly vivid and irresistible.

"Xi Yue, were you satisfied with your husband's performance that night... today, you must satisfy your husband."

Gazing at the entrancing beauty of the fairy before him, Lu Changsheng whispered into her ear.

Xiao Xiyue naturally understood what Lu Changsheng meant.

She rolled her eyes at him, gently lowered her stance, causing her three thousand strands of hair to fall over her forehead, like dark clouds over the moon, concealing the extraordinary beauty of the fairy's face.

"Ssss."

Lu Changsheng gently lifted a lock of Xiao Xiyue's hair, curled it around his finger, and playfully toyed with it.

Looking at her peerless beauty, he couldn't help but recall the situation when he first met Xiao Xiyue.

Unknowingly, the relationship between the two had reached such a stage.

...

Afterwards.

Afterwards.

Afterwards.

Lu Changsheng took out an elixir medicine to swallow, held two spirit stones in his hand, and sat down to cultivate.

The next moment, a drop of liquid mana formed within his Dantian's sea of qi and slowly merged into the seven-colored Dan lake.

Among all his wives and women, only Xiao Xiyue had the best effect when dual cultivating with him.

Currently, only Xiao Xiyue could make him cultivate in dual without any reservations.

One session of Tender Embrace Technique cultivation was nearly equivalent to a month of his cultivation.

And after such a long accumulation, he had condensed another drop of liquid mana.

"Sigh, with fifteen drops of liquid mana, even at this rate, it will still take two to three years to break through to the second level of Foundation Establishment," Lu Changsheng couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

Although this rate was already very fast.

In his eyes, it was still quite ordinary.

Without dwelling on it too much, after Xiao Xiyue woke up, he told her and then took out the corpses of two Robber Cultivators and the storage bags he had harvested, and began to clean them up.

In addition to the storage magic artifacts of the two Robber Cultivators, and the several storage bags, there were the three storage bags given by the Patriarch of the Yu Family, and from killing Robber Cultivators, he had harvested more than ten storage bags.

Just these storage bags alone amounted to a significant sum of spirit stones.

“Indeed, Robber Cultivators are treasures all over.”

Lu Changsheng pulled several magic artifacts off the two people.

Like Foundation Establishment Cultivators, they usually wear magical robes, magic boots, and have a few protective magic artifacts on them.

“Hmm?”

Looking at the burly man’s fierce and resentful face, Lu Changsheng touched his face a little bit with his hand.

Then, mana surged in his palm and he tore forcefully.

“Rip!”

A mask as thin as a cicada’s wings appeared.

“This mask is quite nice; it should be a spiritual artifact or some sort of disguise item that leaves no trace of transformation even when its owner has died,” Lu Changsheng commented with a click of his tongue while observing the mask in his hand.

Being a Robber Cultivator and having a disguise was quite normal.

But had he not inspected them routinely, he wouldn't have noticed any traces of disguise.

"Changsheng, I think I've seen this man on the sect's wanted list; he seems to be a wanted fugitive," said Xiao Xiyue, frowning slightly as she looked at the burly man's true face and spoke.

"A wanted fugitive?" Lu Changsheng raised his eyebrows upon hearing this.

In the Cultivation World where the law of the jungle prevails, there are no rules.

However, the major Immortal Sects still maintain order.

If someone causes trouble and offends the major Immortal Sects, they would be labeled as Heretic Cultivators and be wanted by the Immortal Sects.

"If I remember correctly, this couple should be the 'Malevolent Duo', Heretic Cultivators wanted by the Heavenly Sword Sect because they killed disciples of the Heavenly Sword Sect," Xiao Xiyue said.

The wanted lists from the major Immortal Sects are all shared with each other.

When Xiao Xiyue left the Qingyun Sect, they also asked her to remember these wanted criminals.

Not to have their disciples chase down the fugitives, but to deal with them if encountered to uphold the majesty of the sect.

If they couldn't handle it, it would also inform them of the strong capabilities of their opponents, enabling them to avoid danger by staying far away.

"Oh, wanted by the Heavenly Sword Sect, is there a bounty?" asked Lu Changsheng, smiling as he inquired.

If a person was wanted by an Immortal Sect, there usually was quite an attractive bounty.

“Naturally, there’s a bounty, but Xi Yue doesn’t remember the specifics,” Xiao Xiyue said with a gentle shake of her head.

She had only glanced at the wanted list at the time, just to get a general idea.

Upon seeing the true face of the burly man, based on the couple’s strength and their disguises, she recognized them.

“In that case, I’ll just hold onto it for now; if there’s an opportunity in the future, I’ll go and claim that bounty,” Lu Changsheng decided after some thought.

He had been planning to feed the corpses to the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

Now that there was mention of a bounty, he naturally wasn’t going to waste it.

He planned to make a trip whenever he had the spare time.

“Mm-hmm, such Robber Cultivators wanted by the Heavenly Sword Sect can collect their bounties in any large marketplace under the jurisdiction of the Heavenly Sword Sect,” said Xiao Xiyue.

“However, if Lu Lang wants to quickly receive the bounty, he’ll have to go to the Heavenly Sword Sect or the Jiuxiao Immortal City,” she added.

Xiao Xiyue spoke up.

Chapter 385: Three-Colored Spiritual Earth, Bai Ling’s Talent, An Unexpected Lottery!_3

“Right, Xi Yue, when claiming a bounty, do they need to verify identity information or anything?”

Lu Changsheng nodded and continued to ask.

“Usually not.”

“There are many bounty hunters in the Cultivation World, and they make their living by capturing heretic cultivators with bounties on their heads; they prefer to keep their identities secret.”

“Therefore, the major Immortal Sects don’t require identity verification as long as you have the head or a token of the deceased; they generally won’t investigate your identity.”

Xiao Xiyue shook her head and explained.

...

“Got it.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng felt reassured.

If identity verification were required, he would’ve simply given up on the bounty and not bothered with it.

Suddenly, Lu Changsheng began to collect the two corpses again.

He planned to buy some equipment later to store the two bodies.

Otherwise, by the time he went to collect the bounty, the bodies would be rotten.

“What’s this?”

Lu Changsheng started to clean out the storage bag.

From the burly man’s storage bag, he took out a few items that looked particularly cherished to inspect, and among them was a jar of tricolor patchy soil.

The soil was not only filled with spiritual energy but also gave off a faint fragrance.

“This should be tricolor Spiritual Earth, a pretty good Foundation Establishment Spiritual Object. If consumed during Foundation Establishment by those cultivating earth attribute techniques, it can help with the magical barriers during the three stages of Foundation Establishment.”

“It can also be used as medicinal mud for planting spiritual medicines and Spirit Plants, producing an ‘accelerating’ effect on their growth.”

Standing to the side, Xiao Xiyue looked at the jar of tricolored soil and spoke out.

“Tricolor Spiritual Earth, Foundation Establishment Spiritual Object?”

Initially, Lu Changsheng thought that Foundation Establishment Spiritual Objects were average.

However, when he heard about the medicinal mud and its accelerating effects on growth, his eyes immediately lit up.

After obtaining the Golden Armor Bean Mother, he had looked into methods to accelerate its maturity and growth.

After all, the growth of the Golden Armor Bean Mother was excruciatingly slow.

Three years to sprout, three years to grow leaves, three years to bloom, three years to bear fruit—a full twelve-year cycle.

However, upon inquiry, he found that medicinal mud and soil capable of accelerating growth are very rare and precious.

Unless it’s an extremely rare spiritual medicine that’s difficult to cultivate, it would be better to plant in spirit-rich Spiritual Earth and have a specialized Spirit Plant cultivator tend to it carefully.

Unexpectedly, today, without any effort, he had come across such Spiritual Objects.

“Not bad, good stuff.”

Lu Changsheng chuckled lightly and stored away the tricolor Spiritual Earth.

He planned to use it later to cultivate the Golden Armor Bean Mother.

The subsequent cleaning process didn't reveal any more high-value items that excited Lu Changsheng.

Even with treasures worth over a thousand Spirit Stones, they didn't impress him much.

“All these are magical artifacts; this must've been plunder from a Magical Artifact Shop. I wonder whose shop they robbed.”

Lu Changsheng opened another storage bag.

Seeing it was full of Magical Artifacts, he took a glance and couldn't help shaking his head.

He then opened every storage bag one by one, finding them mostly filled with Elixir Medicines, Magical Artifacts, and Spiritual Medicines—clearly plundered goods.

After half an hour, Lu Changsheng had finally cleaned out all the storage bags.

“One hundred and fifty-six Middle Grade Spirit Stones.”

“Twelve thousand eight hundred ninety-four Lower Grade Spirit Stones.”

“One portion of tricolor Spiritual Earth, one Middle Grade Spiritual Artifact, four Lower Grade Spiritual Artifacts, but three of them were severely damaged.....”

“Four top-grade Magical Artifacts, nine high-grade Magical Artifacts, twenty-nine middle-grade Magical Artifacts, thirty-five lower-grade Magical Artifacts.....seventeen bottles of Yellow Dragon Elixir, nine bottles of Energy Refining Powder, Condensing Energy Elixirs... treasures of heaven and earth.....”

“Doesn't seem too much, probably only worth around sixty or seventy thousand Spirit Stones in total.”

Lu Changsheng looked over the items with a slight frown.

The haul seemed large with a variety of items.

But most items weren't worth much and were a hassle to deal with.

Excluding the three storage bags given by the Patriarch of the Yu Family, the actual total was only about thirty to forty thousand Spirit Stones.

"That's also to be expected, already being a robber cultivator and resorting to robbing the marketplace; there's a limit to how wealthy that could make one."

Lu Changsheng gently shook his head, knowing not every cultivator could be wealthy.

Especially those who were robber cultivators, they generally wouldn't carry a lot of Spirit Stones on them.

Immediately, he looked at Xiao Xiyue and asked, "Xi Yue, is there anything you fancy?"

"Thank you, Lu Lang."

Xiao Xiyue smiled lightly and didn't hesitate.

She took a blue bead and a Flying Needle Magical Instrument.

They were the Lower Grade defensive spiritual artifact and a top-grade magical artifact of the female robber cultivator.

Seeing that Xiao Xiyue only took two items, Lu Changsheng gave her some talismans as well, to keep for emergencies.

After all, for him, talismans were the least valuable.

"Right, there's also this big fellow."

Lu Changsheng asked Xiao Xiyue to step back a bit.

He took the corpse of the Green Wolf out of the storage bag.

“Collect!”

Watching the massive corpse before him, Lu Changsheng took out a Magical Artifact gourd and placed it to the side.

Then, wielding the True Yang Five Elements Sword, he skillfully made incisions at several points on the Green Wolf, formed a spell with his hands, and collected all the blood into the gourd.

This Second Rank Demon Beast blood could not only be used to make spirit ink but also for concocting certain Elixir Medicines.

Of course, Lu Changsheng intended to use this Demon Beast blood to nourish his Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

After draining the blood, Lu Changsheng proficiently inspected the Green Wolf’s head and abdomen.

Confirming there was no Demon Core, he collected the corpse back into the storage bag.

“Lu Lang, you also know the art of Spirit Slaughter?”

Xiao Xiyue watched Lu Changsheng dissect the Green Wolf, collect the blood, and check for the Demon Core; surprise flickered in her beautiful eyes.

“Just a little, just a little,”

Lu Changsheng chuckled and said.

This technique came naturally from the Second Rank Spirit Slaughterer ability he had drawn from the system.

In fact, his instant killing of the Green Wolf was also somewhat related to the Second Rank Spirit Slaughterer ability.

Chapter 386: Three-Colored Spiritual Earth, Bai Ling's Talent, An Unexpected Lottery!_4

With a Second Rank Spirit Slaughterer, he could, in the face of a demon beast, discern its weak points and flaws at the first instance, enabling a more effective attack.

This feeling was incredibly profound, and even Lu Changsheng himself couldn't explain it clearly.

It was as if he had been slaying demon beasts for decades, his heart and blade equally cold, knowing exactly when to strike swiftly.

"Lu Lang, could you be the reincarnation of some great being?"

"Otherwise, how could you be so formidable, knowing so much."

Xiao Xiyue's beautiful eyes were lively as she blinked and looked at Lu Changsheng, jokingly saying.

...

Having been around Lu Changsheng for so long, and him always surprising her, made her feel that he was no ordinary person.

Yet, through their long association and interaction, and various behaviors, she could also tell that Lu Changsheng wasn't like some old monster reborn.

"Hiss, you actually figured it out, I was once a False Core master."

Lu Changsheng's heart skipped a beat as he said with a smile.

He thought to himself that in front of Xiao Xiyue, he had indeed revealed a bit too much.

It seemed he needed to be a little more restrained; otherwise, such astonishing performances were indeed too shocking and hard to explain.

“Wow, that’s so impressive.”

Xiao Xiyue then put on an admiring look, causing Lu Changsheng to be unable to resist pinching her clear, jade-cool cheeks.

He thought that if Xiao Xiyue hadn’t cultivated the Supreme Forgetful Love Technique, she would probably always be this way.

...

In the blink of an eye, more than half a month passed.

During this time, Lu Changsheng spent his days making talismans, cultivating, refining the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, and continuously teaching Lu Miaoge the “Saturn Solar Sword Technique.”

After half a month of hands-on, detailed instructions, Lu Miaoge finally made a simple entrance into the “Saturn Solar Sword Technique.”

The next step was for her to familiarize herself with the technique and convert her cultivation of the “Profound Water Art” to the “Saturn Solar Sword Technique.”

Although this process would consume some of her cultivation level and delay her progress, overall, the benefits outweighed the drawbacks.

“Sister Miaoge, since you’ve grasped the ‘Saturn Solar Sword Technique,’ I will now head back home for a while.”

“If you encounter any problems during your cultivation, stop and wait for me to return.”

Lu Changsheng said to Lu Miaoge.

“I understand, Changsheng, be careful on your journey.”

Lu Miaoge said with a gentle and water-like demeanor.

“Mm.”

Lu Changsheng nodded and then rode the Iron Feather Eagle back to Qingzhu Mountain.

Shortly after Lu Changsheng left the marketplace,

a black-robed young man about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, with an ordinary and upright face, walked out of Red Leaf Valley Market.

“Red Leaf Valley Market, I shall return.”

After leaving the Red Leaf Valley region, the black-robed young man exhaled a sigh of relief, looked back toward Red Leaf Valley, clenched his fists tightly, and a shadowy fierceness flickered in his eyes.

...

After returning to Qingzhu Mountain, Lu Changsheng, as usual, first visited Qingzhu Villa to discuss matters of his lectures with Uncle Fu.

Although he had lectured many times, there were only two or three youngsters with some talent for talisman making.

Given his current lack of time, Lu Changsheng didn't have the leisure to give them private lessons.

He would just give them some extra attention and answer questions in class.

He planned to have them apprentice at the Red Leaf Valley Market when they got older and if their parents agreed.

By then, if he had time and was willing, he would provide more guidance and teaching.

Moreover, if he was unavailable, Lu Miaoge could also take over.

After returning home, his wives and children immediately came forward to inquire about the events at the Red Leaf Valley Market.

The incident of the Robber Cultivator pillaging the Red Leaf Valley Market had caused quite a stir, and they all were aware of it.

Though they knew Lu Changsheng was unharmed, they were very concerned about him.

“

Soon after, Lu Changsheng also shared with them the general events of that night.

His wives and concubines listened, feeling nothing but thrill and danger.

A group of children heard about a Foundation Establishment Robber Cultivator causing havoc in the marketplace, and a Sword Cultivator stepping forward, breaking all spells with a single strike, slaying the Robber Cultivator, and saving the marketplace from fire and water, all showing excited expressions.

After all, children of this age very much enjoyed stories of Sword Cultivators slaying demons and vanquishing evil.

Seeing the children like this, Lu Changsheng couldn't help but smile.

Afterwards, he also inquired about the current situation of the children.

He learned that Lu Xianzhi was still at the Second Level of Qi Refinement.

His son, Lu Quanzhen, would start cultivating in another month.

As for the little girl Bai Ling, she expressed that she would breakthrough to the Second Level of Qi Refinement in a short while.

Looking at Bai Ling's timid face, waiting for praise and commendation, Lu Changsheng rubbed her little head and couldn't help but marvel at her talent.

He remembered Bai Ling had started cultivating less than half a year ago.

Specifically, from the time of drawing Qi into her body to now, it had only been a bit more than three months.

Three months' time, without any elixir medicines, this progress was truly astonishing.

This made him involuntarily think, how great it would be if Bai Ling were his own biological daughter.

In that case, his own talent would probably be at full throttle.

After showing some concern and rewarding little Bai Ling, Lu Changsheng went to his backyard and dug a pit, pouring all of the three-colored earth into it.

"I wonder how much this tri-color Spiritual Earth will help the Golden Armor Bean Mother."

Looking at the Golden Armor Bean Mother that had just started to show a bit of sprouting after a year, Lu Changsheng's heart was filled with anticipation.

He also mentioned to Lu Miaoyun that he had bought some Spiritual Earth and medicinal mud.

Although Lu Miaoyun could tell that the Spiritual Earth and medicinal mud were extraordinary, she didn't ask much and stated that she would take care of it every day.

....

Time flew quickly, and before he knew it, Lu Changsheng had been back at Qingzhu Mountain for over a month.

During this time, aside from cultivating, making talismans, and refining the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, he was also fathering children.

With his efforts, during this month, four maids had successfully conceived.

And on this day, Lu Changsheng's 121st and 122nd children were born.

Just when these children were born, a system notification sounded.

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for the first birth of dragon and phoenix twins, granting you one lottery chance!]

“Dragon and phoenix twins? There's even an achievement reward for this.”

Lu Changsheng's eyebrows rose slightly as he smiled.

He had known for a while that his concubine Kui Si was carrying twins.

But because he had already received a reward for the first set of twins, he didn't expect much chance of getting a reward the second time and consequently had no such expectations.

Unexpectedly, without any particular hopes, he received a system reward.

And both of these children had Spiritual Roots.

One Seventh Grade Spiritual Root, one Eighth Grade Spiritual Root.

“Perhaps by continuously accumulating Lower Grade Spiritual Roots, would my Spiritual Root also slowly progress to Fourth Grade?”

“However, for fast promotion of a Spiritual Root, it’s still necessary to rely on higher-grade ones.”

Lu Changsheng sighed inwardly, yearning to have a child with a talent like Bai Ling’s.

He planned once Lu Miaoge had reached Foundation Establishment, to have two more children.

With both parents at Foundation Establishment and possessing Fifth Grade Spiritual Roots, the children born were likely to have good Spiritual Roots.

After visiting the children, Lu Changsheng also returned to his study, preparing for the lottery.

He wanted to see what this unexpected lottery chance would yield.

“System, draw the lottery!”

Lu Changsheng silently commanded in his heart.

Watching the familiar lottery wheel emerge before his eyes, with a slight stir of his spirit, a ray of golden light whisked around rapidly on the lottery wheel.

“`

Chapter 387: Breakthrough! Breakthrough! Condensing the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi!_1

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for obtaining a bottle of Purple Mansion Elixir!]

[The reward has been issued to the System Space, and the host can check it at any time]

The golden light paused on the ‘Elixir Medicines’ category.

Immediately, an elixir icon emerged from the big roulette, accompanied by a system notification sound.

“Purple Mansion Elixir, a bottle?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the reward he had drawn.

...

He had never heard of this elixir name before.

However, the fact that he was given a whole bottle suggested that the effects were probably average, not some rare elixir.

With a slight movement of his mental spirit, information about the Purple Mansion Elixir appeared in the System Space.

[Elixir: Purple Mansion Elixir]

[Quality: Third Rank]

[Description: Can cleanse the spirit soul, purify the physical body, and strengthen divine sense and physique]

“Third Rank Elixir, can cleanse the spirit soul, purify the physical body, and strengthen divine sense and physique.”

“This is good stuff. Now among my body, mana, and divine sense, it’s my divine sense that’s the weakest. If the Purple Mansion Elixir can strengthen my divine sense, it can also make up for this shortcoming,” Lu Changsheng mused as he looked at the description of the elixir’s effects.

A smile spread across Lu Changsheng’s face upon reading about the effects of the Purple Mansion Elixir.

In the marketplace, Second Rank elixirs were already hard to come by.

And elixirs nourishing the soul and strengthening the divine sense were even rarer.

Unless one attended some major auction, it would be very difficult to purchase such elixirs from marketplace shops.

As for a Third Rank Elixir like the Purple Mansion Elixir, it was even more rare, something ordinary people could not even dream of laying their eyes upon.

“Extract!”

Lu Changsheng immediately extracted the bottle of Purple Mansion Elixir.

Suddenly, a white jade bottle appeared in his hand.

The detailed introduction about this bottle of Purple Mansion Elixir also emerged in his mind.

It was more or less the same as the provided description.

Nourishes the spirit soul and the physical body, thereby strengthening the divine sense and physique.

And within this bottle, there were a total of ten Purple Mansion Elixirs.

“Speaking of which, if I feed the elixirs that I win from the lottery to my child, and he breaks through, then the feedback bonus will be given to me, wouldn’t I receive double the gain,” Lu Changsheng suddenly thought, looking at the Purple Mansion Elixir in his hand.

“It’s a pity that in order to consume the Purple Mansion Elixir, not only a certain physical foundation is required but also the birth of a divine sense.”

“Basically, only Foundation Establishment Cultivators can consume it. If an Energy Refining Cultivator consumes it, it will only backfire, damaging the body and unsettling the mental spirit,” Lu Changsheng shook his head and said.

If his child were able to consume it now, he naturally would be willing to give it to the child to eat.

But alas, his child was still too young and couldn't consume it.

Lu Changsheng walked out of the study and entered the Practice Room.

He was ready to see the effects of the Purple Mansion Elixir.

"As expected of a Third Rank Elixir, it looks extraordinary," Lu Changsheng said as he poured out a Purple Mansion Elixir into his palm, admiring it.

The elixir was the size of a longan fruit, radiating a flowing light, with colorful purple mists swirling around it, emanating a rich medicinal fragrance that invigorated the spirit when inhaled.

After swallowing the elixir, Lu Changsheng immediately felt as if his entire body was ignited, his blood boiling, spirit soul scorching hot, almost transforming into a ball of firelight.

"Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, Purple Mansion Nourishing Spirit Technique!"

Lu Changsheng immediately closed his eyes and sat cross-legged, circulating the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art and the Purple Mansion Nourishing Spirit Technique to refine this powerful medicinal strength.

"Boom, Boom, Boom—"

His entire body was crystalline, shining with the luster of precious light, his blood roiling, surging and pounding within his body.

Meanwhile, his mind's spirit soul was like a ball of firelight, being scorched continuously, making him feel dizzy and his brain in chaos.

Not knowing how long had passed, Lu Changsheng felt that the medicinal strength within his body had almost been refined.

“Phew!”

He opened his eyes and exhaled lightly.

He felt clear-headed and bright-eyed, full of vitality and strength throughout his body.

“The Purple Mansion Elixir is indeed worthy of being a Third Rank Elixir, with quite fierce medicinal power.”

“If it weren’t for my cultivation of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art and the Purple Mansion Nourishing Spirit Technique, it wouldn’t have been easy to assimilate the power of this elixir,” Lu Changsheng muttered to himself, then proceeded to check his divine sense.

He discovered that his divine sense had grown from the original eighteen zhang (approximately 54 meters) to almost thirty-three zhang (approximately 99 meters).

Almost a doubling in size.

Based on what he knew, the divine sense of an average Foundation Establishment Middle Stage cultivator was around fifty zhang (approximately 150 meters).

Yet now, with just one elixir, he had already gained around fifteen zhang (approximately 45 meters).

“Hiss, this effect, this improvement, is simply astounding.”

“If I were to consume and refine all ten Purple Mansion Elixirs, my divine sense could probably be comparable to that of the Foundation Establishment Late Stage,” Lu Changsheng said excitedly.

He felt that this bottle of Purple Mansion Elixir was better than the previous Third Stage Life-Extending Pill and Coagulation Crystal Elixir he had drawn.

After all, things that bring immediate improvement were the best.

As for the Lifespan Extension Pill, he was currently not lacking in lifespan.

And the Coagulation Crystal Elixir was still gathering dust in the System Space, with no telling when it would come into use.

“Not just divine sense, my physical body has also improved.”

“But the main effect of the Purple Mansion Elixir is in strengthening divine sense, and since I practice the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, my physical body is comparable to a high-grade magic artifact, so the effect is not very obvious.”

“After refining all ten Purple Mansion Elixirs, I estimate that my Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art could also directly break through to the Fourth Level,” Lu Changsheng continued to assess his current physical situation.

He could clearly perceive that his physical body had also received a significant enhancement.

Only because the Purple Mansion Elixir’s effects on divine sense were more prominent.

“While refining this elixir just now, my brain was in chaos, and I have no idea how much time has passed.”

“No wonder they say some elixirs require protection during consumption. Something like the Purple Mansion Elixir—if one were disturbed during the process, the consequences would be unimaginable,” Lu Changsheng remarked and did not continue to consume any more elixirs but walked out of the Practice Room.

Looking at the scenery outside, he realized his eyesight had significantly improved compared to before.

The veins on the distant Qing Zhu leaves, the ants on the ground, the insects, were all captured clearly by him.

Chapter 388: Breakthrough! Breakthrough! Condensing the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi!_2

“

Even ordinary walls were almost transparent to his vision.

“Enhancing divine sense really does have many advantages.”

“Not only for cultivation, but also for battles, and many other aspects.”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

He knew there were many more wonders to divine sense.

...

For example, with a stronger divine sense than others, one could easily see through their disguises and gauge their cultivation levels.

After chatting with his wives and concubines, he realized he had only been in seclusion for three days.

It hadn't been long at all.

After having a meal with his wives, concubines, and children, Lu Changsheng announced his intention and began another period of secluded cultivation.

He was prepared to consume all nine remaining Purple Mansion Elixirs in one go.

...

One month later.

Inside the practice room.

“Boom——”

Lu Changsheng was sitting cross-legged with his eyes closed, his body emanating a hazy treasured light that bestowed upon him an aura of majesty and sanctity.

At this moment, his physical body was undergoing a transformation, breaking through to the fourth level of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art.

The surging blood qi within his body was constantly flowing, cleansing every inch of his flesh and skin.

The commotion grew louder and louder, like a volcanic eruption or the roaring of rivers, and it resembled the sonorous clang of metal on metal.

“Boom!”

After who knows how long, a sharp clang resounded within Lu Changsheng’s body.

He seemed to break free from shackles, as a light unfurled and shone through mountains and rivers; a brilliant, dazzling radiance emanated from within him.

“Huff!”

“Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, fourth level!”

The eyes of the seated Lu Changsheng suddenly snapped open, glowing with a golden treasured light.

He stood up, stretching his muscles and bones, producing a ‘crackling’ sound throughout his body.

He quietly felt the changes in his body after the breakthrough.

He just felt an inexhaustible strength filling his entire body.

“With the fourth level of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, my physical body is comparable to top-grade magic artifacts.”

“Now facing ordinary energy refining cultivators, I can boldly try to catch magic artifacts with my bare hands.”

Lu Changsheng looked at his palms, which were like jade.

They were still as white and delicate as ever, yet they exuded an unbreakable quality.

“Clang clang clang——”

He clenched his fists and collided them lightly, immediately producing a sound like the clash of metal.

When he collided them with a bit more force.

“Bang——”

A loud sonic boom echoed in the practice room.

“But sometimes, having too good of a physique isn’t a good thing either.”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

His wives, concubines, and maids were all mortals and energy refining cultivators.

In comparison to him now, they seemed somewhat fragile, necessitating control of the impact force.

“My divine sense has finally reached one hundred and fifty zhang.”

“For ordinary cultivators, just after breaking through to the Foundation Establishment Stage, divine sense is about ten zhang, in the middle stage around fifty zhang, and in the late stage one hundred and fifty zhang.”

“Tsk tsk tsk, ten Purple Mansion Elixirs not only allowed my Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art to break through to the fourth level, but also advanced my divine sense to one hundred fifty zhang, comparable to the late Foundation Establishment stage.”

“Indeed, popping pills is the true path. Reliance on sheer personal effort in cultivation, unless one has a Heavenly Spiritual Root or an Earth Spirit Root, would mean this would be as far as one gets in a lifetime.”

Lu Changsheng sighed.

According to the progress in his Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, it would have taken about three more years to reach the fourth level.

This three-year estimate was already accounting for the assistance of a middle-grade magic artifact and its prototype.

If he were to cultivate at a normal pace, it would take twenty to thirty years.

However, ten Purple Mansion Elixirs saved him from such arduous cultivation.

As for the divine sense, the effects were even more extraordinary and stunning.

If he were to cultivate step by step on his own, it would likely take sixty to seventy years to reach this level of divine sense.

“Now that I have divine sense at the late stage of Foundation Establishment, I can also start studying this Divine Consciousness Secret Technique.”

At this point, Lu Changsheng took out a Technique Jade Slip from his storage bag.

It was the Red Phoenix True Scripture that he had obtained from the young man in the red robe.

Initially, he had only glanced at this technique.

It was a technique that veered towards the Heretical Path.

The only thing that impressed him was the Divine Consciousness Secret Technique named ‘Soul Dispersion Needle’ in the “Red Phoenix True Scripture.”

It allowed one to condense divine sense into a ‘Soul Dispersion Needle’ to launch a divine sense attack against enemies.

Back then, both he and Xiao Xiyue suffered from the ‘Soul Dispersion Needle’ used by the young man in the red robe.

Had it not been for his Peach Blossom Gu guarding his sea of consciousness, the situation would have been dangerous.

Now that he possessed divine sense comparable to someone in the late Foundation Establishment stage, he naturally planned to cultivate this secret technique.

In future battles, it would serve as an unexpected and preemptive strike.

Reading the cultivation method for ‘Soul Dispersion Needle,’ its condensation method, and its application, Lu Changsheng spent an hour to understand the principles and steps, and then began to try cultivating it.

He sat cross-legged with closed eyes, introspecting his sea of consciousness.

He formed a mysterious symbol with his divine sense in the sea of consciousness, with a subtle rhythm.

Then, through this symbol, he slowly condensed a red needle.

Some time later.

“Damn, is it really this hard to condense a single Soul Dispersion Needle?”

Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, somewhat at a loss for words.

He had made several attempts, using the power of his divine sense to condense the Soul Dispersion Needle.

But each time it failed to take shape before he could even really get started.

It was entirely a case of ‘I understand the principle and every step, but I just can’t do it.’

“This secret technique is many times more difficult than the Flame Bullet Technique, the Spiritual Eye Technique, or the Aura Concealment Technique I learned before. It’s going to be very hard to get the hang of it by figuring it out on my own.”

Lu Changsheng shook his head, knowing full well the difficulty of cultivating a secret technique.

This Soul Dispersion Needle required divine sense to follow a mysterious rhythm and form into ancient, intricate runes before slowly condensing into the ‘Soul Dispersion Needle.’

Every step had to be flawless, and he would have to slowly become proficient with it.

Not like the techniques he obtained from the system, which he could master perfectly right away.

“Forget it, I’ll study it later.”

Chapter 389: Breakthrough! Breakthrough! Condensing the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi!_3

Lu Changsheng shook his head.

He was not an ascetic cultivator.

He had already been in seclusion for so long.

He was not willing to spend several more months focusing solely on the study of secret techniques.

He pushed the door and walked out of the practice room.

The manifold increase in his divine sense had changed the way he viewed the world.

...

The entire world seemed more vibrant and lively.

The vitality of all things rose and fell, each with its distinct charm.

Looking up, he saw the great formation that enshrouded Qingzhu Mountain, where mana flowed, transformed, and varied, all following a certain pattern.

“Now that I have a divine sense comparable to that of late Foundation Establishment, if I were to study formation, becoming a first-grade array master shouldn’t be difficult,”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

Many skills, as one’s cultivation level and strength increased, became less challenging to grasp.

This was especially evident with formations.

Array master was a profession with a very high threshold.

It was even more dependent on innate talent than talisman making.

But with a breakthrough to Foundation Establishment and the possession of divine sense, learning formations would become much easier.

Because divine sense was advantageous for studying pattern details, observing the evolution of great formations, and precisely arranging formations, among other things.

“However, even with these advantages, advancing to second rank would still take an unknown amount of time and effort,”

Lu Changsheng shook his head.

He had no intention of trying to delve into these matters himself.

With the time and effort that would take, he might as well have a few more children in the hope of drawing a second-rank formation.

...

Half a month later.

Lu Changsheng was chatting with Qu Zhenzhen in the courtyard, keeping the children company.

At that moment, Lu Changsheng felt a stream of qi enter his body out of nowhere.

He knew it was his son Lu Quanzhen who had completed drawing qi into his body.

“Indeed, it’s not an achievement award for just one child,”

Lu Changsheng murmured to himself.

He felt neither disappointed nor perturbed; he was very calm.

After all, he had suspected that probably only after five or ten children had completed drawing qi into their bodies would any reward be triggered.

“Dad, Mom, I’ve completed drawing qi into my body!”

Soon after, his son Lu Quanzhen came running over excitedly to share the good news.

“Eh, indeed after cultivating, one looks much more handsome and pleasing to the eye.”

Qu Zhenzhen, hearing of her son’s successful cultivation, promptly looked at him with joy, pinched his little face, and made Lu Quanzhen show a helpless expression.

He felt that his mother, despite her age, still acted like a child and was even more childish than himself.

Upon hearing these words, Lu Changsheng’s mouth twitched slightly.

He didn’t see how his son had become more handsome.

His son grew up in Qingzhu Valley, consuming spirit rice and spiritual meals daily, and began taking elixir medicines to fortify his foundation and nurture his primary qi since the age of six, virtually stepping one foot into cultivation.

So there was no significant change when drawing qi into his body.

“Congratulations, Brother!”

“Congratulations on stepping onto the path of cultivation, Brother!”

The few children beside him revealed looks of envy and voiced their congratulations.

“Well done.”

“This is your reward from Dad; when you reach the Third Level Energy Refinement, you’ll be able to control a flying sword.”

Lu Changsheng took a flying sword from his storage bag and handed it to his son.

He had gathered a pile of magic artifacts from slaying a robber cultivator in Red Leaf Valley.

These artifacts, which he found inconvenient to handle in the Red Leaf Valley Market, he had kept with him.

Thinking it over, he was too lazy to deal with them anymore.

He decided to use them as rewards for his children.

After all, these artifacts had no markings and were not forged by any Artifact Refining Master, so they wouldn't be recognized as stolen goods.

“Thank you, Dad!”

Lu Quanzhen's eyes lit up at the sight of the flying sword, and his face was full of joy.

As a cultivator, who didn't dream of possessing their own flying sword?

Previously, when Lu Changsheng rewarded a flying sword to Lu Xianzhi, it made all his siblings envious.

“Quanzhen, you must work hard in the future.”

Qu Zhenzhen watched the scene happily, patted her son's head encouragingly.

“Mom, rest assured.”

Lu Quanzhen nodded firmly.

After seeing that his son Lu Quanzhen had completed drawing qi into his body, Lu Changsheng stayed a few more days before returning to Red Leaf Valley Market.

Lu Miaoge had already begun switching her cultivation of the “Profound Water Art” to the “Saturn Solar Sword Technique.”

But changing cultivation techniques was no small endeavor.

Originally, when Lu Changsheng was at Seventh Level Energy Refinement and cultivating the non-attribute “Returning Origin Technique,” it took him four months to switch techniques.

Although Lu Miaoge’s two cultivation techniques were both water attribute, switching between them was actually less efficient than for a non-attribute technique like the “Returning Origin Technique.”

With her Ninth Level Energy Refinement cultivation, it was estimated she would need about half a year to complete the switch.

...

Half a year later, inside the practice room on Qingzhu Mountain.

“Phew, I’ve finally completed the refinement of this Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi,”

Lu Changsheng looked at the exquisite and smooth Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi before him, which seemed divinely crafted, and joy appeared on his face.

Normally, he would have finished refining the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi much earlier,

but due to various trivial matters, and the dual cultivation with Xiao Xiyue and so forth, it was only now he had completed the refinement of this heavenly spiritual treasure.

“This Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi is a heavenly spiritual treasure, and I plan to integrate and refine it into my life-bound treasured bone.”

“Therefore, to be safe, it’s better to solidify this Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi into my chest bone,”

Lu Changsheng had long made plans for the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi.

He intended to consolidate it into his chest bone first.

Wait until he broke through the fifth layer of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Technique, then he'd thoroughly integrate the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi with the Baogu Method into his life-bound treasured bone.

Once the life-bound treasured bone was formed, henceforth, the chest bone would be the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, and the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi would be his chest bone.

In that way, he would be able to attain the Nine Great Divine Abilities of the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi permanently.

“Chuh!”

Lu Changsheng unbuttoned his magical robe to reveal his muscular, sculpted chest, and with a light shout,

the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art circulated, preparing to extract the Black Dragon Magical Bead currently in his chest bone.

Chapter 390: Breakthrough! Breakthrough! Condensing the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi!_4

As the cultivation technique circulated, a treasure light flowed around his chest, and the imprint of the Black Dragon Magical Bead gradually surfaced, becoming clearly visible.

The treasure light flowed, dazzling and splendid; flesh crawled as the Black Dragon Magical Bead slowly emerged from his chest.

This process was exceedingly slow and also extremely painful.

After a long time, Lu Changsheng finally extracted the Black Dragon Magical Bead from his breastbone.

“Huff puff puff—”

Lu Changsheng rubbed his breastbone, gasping for breath and feeling somewhat fatigued.

...

At this moment, the Black Dragon Magical Bead's dark light was dimmed.

Inside, the miniature flood dragon was even more listless, on its last breath.

Naturally, Lu Changsheng knew that this Black Dragon Magical Bead, which had accompanied him for ten years, had its origin source depleted by half.

The once middle-grade magical treasure now couldn't even be counted as a lower-grade one; it was only a half-ruined magical treasure.

If he continued to use it for cultivating the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, he estimated that in another decade, once the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art was cultivated to the fifth layer, this Black Dragon Magical Bead would be completely spent.

“Merely ten years have let me cultivate the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art from the first layer to now; it was worth it.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Black Dragon Magical Bead in his hand and let out a light breath.

He didn't feel any heartache.

In his view, this Black Dragon Magical Bead had allowed him to cultivate the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art to this level in just ten years, which was quite acceptable.

After all, since the magical treasure was integrated into his body, he hadn't spent any time cultivating this technique.

It had been entirely automatic.

During this period, it had also been used to nurture his Treasure Bones.

Under such circumstances, he could accept a higher cost.

He took an elixir medicine and began to circulate his cultivation to recover his state.

Just now, extracting the Black Dragon Magical Bead had also taken a significant toll on him.

What followed, the integration of the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, was also a major undertaking.

He had to maintain his peak condition.

One day later.

“Chi!”

Lu Changsheng, fully restored and energized, began to integrate the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi into his body.

It took him a full three days to successfully integrate the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi into his body, causing a nine-colored ruyi pattern to appear on his chest.

The instant he completed the integration, Lu Changsheng immediately felt an immense force surge from his chest, refining his flesh, blood vessels, and bones.

This effect was completely two or three times that of the Black Dragon Magical Bead.

The reason it was only two to three times more was simply because this efficiency had already reached the limit of his physical body.

Any further increase would place a burden on his physique.

“Hiss, unworthy as it is to be called a Celestial Spiritual Treasure, with this Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, I’m afraid that in three or four years, my Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art will be able to break through the fifth layer!”

Lu Changsheng gently stroked the area on his chest, his joyful eyes revealing a look of anticipation.

After all, the Nine Great Divine Abilities of the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi were something he coveted greatly.

Once the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi is refined into his Life-bound Treasured Bone, these nine divine abilities would also become his innate divine abilities.

His strength would then see an overall enhancement.

Unlike before with the Black Dragon Magical Bead, where the ‘Baogu Method’ after years of nurturing through the magical treasure could only unleash one strike of the Treasure Bones’ power.

Once the power of the Treasure Bones was exhausted, it needed to be nurtured anew.

After resting for three days, Lu Changsheng re-integrated the Black Dragon Treasure Bead into his left hand.

Although with the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi now, whether he needed this Black Dragon Magical Bead was irrelevant.

But since the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi was ultimately to be refined into his Life-bound Treasured Bone, the less origin source that was lost, the better.

After finishing his task, he glanced at the Golden Armor Bean Mother in his courtyard.

Under the nurturing of the three-colored soil, initial results were showing, as the bean sprouts began to sprout leaves faintly.

It should be noted that this Golden Armor Bean Mother had only been planted for two years.

Satisfied with the progress, Lu Changsheng nodded and then rode the Iron Feather Eagle back to Red Leaf Valley Market.

This half-year, besides occasionally visiting his wife and children in Ruyi Prefecture, he had been mostly at Qingzhu Mountain or Red Leaf Valley Market.

Due to the prior incident with the robber cultivator, the traffic at Red Leaf Valley Market had significantly declined.

This had affected the business of his 'Peace Talisman Hall' as well.

However, the impact wasn't major.

The main income of his shop came from the five supreme talismans he issued each month.

The total income of the entire shop didn't compare to the profit from these five supreme talismans.

"Sister Miaoge, you have completed your cultivation technique transition."

Upon arriving at the Spiritual Talisman Shop, Lu Changsheng saw Lu Miaoge and could tell at a glance that her spiritual power had all transformed into the Saturn Solar Spiritual Energy.

"I was actually planning to tell you this good news, but I didn't expect you, Changsheng, to notice it right away," said Lu Miaoge, her elegant and gentle demeanor as serene as water.

"I also cultivate this technique, so I can easily sense it," Lu Changsheng said with a light laugh.

He continued to inquire, "Sister Miaoge, how much did your cultivation level get affected by completing the technique transition?"

Generally, transitioning to a new cultivation technique incurs some loss.

"This technique and the previously cultivated Xuan Yuan Jue are both water-attribute cultivation techniques, so the loss wasn't much, roughly twenty percent," she said.

“Although twenty percent was lost, I can feel my spiritual power is twenty percent more profound,” Lu Miaoge said excitedly, her beautiful eyes shimmering.

She could clearly sense the sophistication and power of the “Saturn Solar Sword Technique.”

“That’s good,” Lu Changsheng nodded, thinking the loss was manageable.

After all, compared to the foundation increase, this slight setback in cultivation wasn’t significant—it could be recovered with a bit more time and effort.

Afterward, he also further instructed and taught Lu Miaoge about the cultivation of the “Saturn Solar Sword Technique” as well as the accompanying techniques.