

I. Family 421

Chapter 421: Xiao Xiyue Leaves, Awakening the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body!_1

In the blink of an eye, three months passed.

During this period, both of the concubines newly taken by Lu Changsheng, Zheng Yongwan and Bai Feifei, succeeded in becoming pregnant.

As for the five maids, only Luo Rui was pregnant for the time being.

This was also why Lu Changsheng spent most of his time at the Red Leaf Valley Market.

At home, he only gave minimal care.

However, this efficiency had already astonished the Zheng Family, Bai Family, and Luo Family to no end.

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They thought to themselves that Master Lu truly enjoyed having children.

It had only been two or three months, and they were already pregnant.

Especially the Luo Family Head.

He had thought that since his daughter was a maid, it would take a lot of effort to win Master Lu's favor.

He never expected that she would become pregnant so quickly; he was truly pleasantly surprised.

Immediately, all three families sent tonics to their respective daughters to ensure they were well-nourished during pregnancy.

After all, they had sent their daughters to Lu Changsheng to be concubines and maids, hoping they would bear offspring to deepen the ties between their families.

Now that they were pregnant, they naturally hoped the children would have Spiritual Roots and excellent talents to gain Lu Changsheng's attention.

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On this day, Xiao Xiyue was also preparing to return to Qingyun Sect.

She carried her daughter and walked out of the Red Leaf Valley Market with Lu Changsheng.

"Changsheng,"

As she looked at Lu Changsheng and her daughter in his arms, her heart was filled with reluctance.

She even had the thought of giving up going back to the sect, just so she could stay by Lu Changsheng and their child's side.

“The separation now is only for a better reunion later,”

Lu Changsheng looked at Xiao Xiyue and said gently.

He also felt somewhat reluctant.

But he still supported Xiao Xiyue's decision to return to the Sect for cultivation.

During this time, because of the child, Xiao Xiyue had become somewhat indifferent to cultivation.

“Wangshu still can't call me ‘mother.’ When I come back, will she have forgotten about me?”

The once Guanghan Fairy, akin to the Nine Heavens Bright Moon, had now descended to the mortal realm, entangled in worldly affections, becoming as sentimental and affectionate as most mothers.

“If you miss her, write to me, and I will bring Wangshu to Qingyun Sect to see you,”

Lu Changsheng consoled Xiao Xiyue's emotions.

“No, it’s dangerous to travel from here to Qingyun Sect; what if we encounter danger on the way?”

Xiao Xiyue immediately shook her head.

Though having Lu Changsheng as a father meant they usually wouldn’t face any danger,

the child was still small, and she didn’t want her daughter to suffer the hardship of travel.

She then handed her daughter over to Lu Changsheng.

She asked him to take good care of their daughter.

“Don’t worry, this is our daughter, I will naturally take care of her,”

Lu Changsheng said affectionately while holding his daughter, his tone undeniably firm.

Xiao Xiyue looked at her daughter for a while longer, then with her robes fluttering, she rode a crane and flew away.

Watching Xiao Xiyue’s figure gradually disappearing into the horizon, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help feeling a bit empty.

After all, the two of them had spent so many years together.

Now that they were separating, he didn't know how long it would be before they saw each other again.

“Sigh,”

Lu Changsheng looked at the child in his arms and let out a gentle sigh.

Then he took a deep breath, exhaled softly, and after returning to the courtyard to tidy up a little, he resumed his true appearance and went to the Lu Family's Spiritual Talisman Shop.

“Changsheng, this is?”

Lu Miaoge was somewhat surprised and curious as she saw Lu Changsheng holding an infant.

After all, normally, Lu Changsheng hardly ever took such a young child out with him.

“This is the child of Xiao Xiyue and me,”

Lu Changsheng spoke up, stating directly.

“Fairy Xiao’s child!”

Upon hearing this, Lu Miaoge was somewhat shocked.

She knew her husband had been assisting Xiao Xiyue in her cultivation.

She had also guessed that her husband’s relationship with this Fairy was more than ordinary.

But she never thought that while assisting in cultivation, they would have a child together.

It was truly astonishing.

Previously, Lu Changsheng had told her about Xiao Xiyue’s situation.

She had already conquered Foundation Establishment, was a core disciple of Qingyun Sect.

But now, a Foundation Establishment female cultivator, a core disciple of Qingyun Sect, had borne a child for her husband.

This left Lu Miaoge uncertain whether to praise her husband’s charm or to say something else.

“Where is Fairy Xiao?”

Lu Miaoge looked outside and inquired.

“She has been away for a long time, she has gone back to Qingyun Sect,”

Lu Changsheng replied.

“Changsheng,”

Upon hearing this, Lu Miaoge’s lips pressed together gently.

Thinking that Xiao Xiyue’s farewell had saddened Lu Changsheng, she stepped forward to gently embrace her husband.

“I’m fine, it’s just a temporary parting,”

Lu Changsheng replied with a smile, indicating that he was alright.

“Such a cute child, what is her name?”

Seeing Lu Changsheng was fine, Lu Miaoge then turned her attention to the baby, smiling tenderly and softly asking.

“Wangshu, Lu Wangshu,”

Lu Changsheng handed the child to Lu Miaoge.

He had brought the child over, hoping that Lu Miaoge would take care of her when she had time.

“Lu Wangshu,”

Lu Miaoge held the child, her face full of tenderness, recalling her own daughter, Lu Qingzhu.

“Changsheng, you should have brought Fairy Xiao and the child over together,”

Lu Miaoge cooed to the child, her voice soft.

“Fairy Xiao must be worried about the child, returning to Qingyun Sect alone,”

“If she had come together with us, we could have talked to her, got to know each other a little, and she would feel more at ease about the child,”

Lu Miaoge continued to speak in her gentle way.

“Xi Yue never brought it up before, and I didn’t realize it either,”

Lu Changsheng, having heard this, felt it was indeed the case.

Even though he was the father, he knew he wouldn’t have time to take care of the child all the time,

and it was certain that he would have to leave the child in the care of his wives and concubines.

And among his wives and concubines, Xiao Xiyue had only met Lu Miaoge.

Just brief encounters, without much understanding.

No doubt she felt less at ease.

“How could you let Fairy Xiao take the initiative to speak up about such a matter?”

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“Next time Fairy Xiao comes, Changsheng, you can let me meet her and have a chat with her,”

“After all, Fairy Xiao is willing to have a child with you, she must be accepting you in her heart,”

Lu Miaoge said softly to her husband.

She knew that even though her husband had many wives and concubines, he still didn't fully understand women's thoughts.

"Wife, you are right,"

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Lu Changsheng nodded.

Xiao Xiyue had a child with him, only lacking an official status.

Sooner or later, she would have to meet and get to know his other wives and concubines.

Now it was a good time to use the child as a bridge for communication.

...

Time flies, and in the blink of an eye, three months passed.

Because he was preparing to visit Jiuxiao Immortal City, Lu Changsheng spent most of his time making talismans.

Preparing for his talisman formation.

But while making talismans was important, he did not neglect his duties.

He worked diligently every day and all four remaining maids became pregnant.

The total number of his offspring reached one hundred and fifty-three.

“Husband, you’ve received a letter,”

One day, Lu Miaoyun handed a letter to Lu Changsheng.

“A letter for me?”

Lu Changsheng took the letter.

It was from Xiao Xiyue.

There were prohibitions on the letter.

If forced open, the letter would self-destruct.

Lu Changsheng broke the prohibition and read the contents.

In the letter, Xiao Xiyue wrote that everything was well with her.

Currently, she was being assigned a mission by her sect and was preparing to go to the Green River Marketplace as the Record Chief, so she wouldn’t be able to come for a short period.

Being a Record Chief was a training treatment only given to core disciples of a sect.

It would broaden her horizons and help her understand the Cultivation World.

There was hardly any danger.

The first few pages of the letter were filled with mundane daily affairs and the longing for her daughter, Lu Wangshu.

At the end of the letter, Xiao Xiyue wrote that she had found information about the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body and the Green Jade Luan Bird in her sect.

The Blood Talisman Spiritual Body is a latent type of Talisman Path physique.

Naturally compatible with the Great Dao of Talismans.

This physique allows cultivators who have it to be exceptionally talented and make rapid progress on the path of talisman crafting.

In addition, the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body can use one's own spiritual blood to enhance the success rate of talisman making.

Furthermore, one can burn their spiritual blood and life span to feed a talisman and improve the grade of a talisman by a large margin.

However, both methods resulted in substantial self-harm.

“Just as I had guessed, this Blood Talisman Spiritual Body is a type of Talisman Path physique,”

“Use spiritual blood to improve talisman making success rate, burn life span and spiritual blood to improve a talisman's grade,”

Lu Changsheng muttered to himself as he read the information about the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.

The letter also mentioned how to awaken the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.

One method would be through some kind of Blood Sacrifice Ritual to awaken the spiritual body,

But Xiao Xiyue did not provide details about this ritual.

The other method would be through the Blood Refinement Method, using Second Rank spiritual blood to continuously stimulate the body and thus activate the spiritual body.

This method required that the spiritual blood must have a mild attribute.

Otherwise, during the stimulation process, it could cause significant self-injury.

“Blood Sacrifice Ritual, Blood Refinement Method,”

“This Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, both its effects and awakening methods are, as the name implies, related to blood,”

Lu Changsheng said with a sigh as he read about the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body and its awakening methods in the letter.

The Second method, the Blood Refinement Method, was explained by Xiao Xiyue in the letter,

Which seemed quite straightforward to Lu Changsheng.

He planned to purchase some Second Rank spiritual blood later and use the method described in the letter to awaken his spiritual body,

To see how effective this ‘Blood Talisman Spiritual Body’ truly was.

As for the requirement that the spiritual blood must be mild, Lu Changsheng ignored it entirely.

He practiced the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, and his physical body was as tough as a superior magic artifact.

He was not the least bit worried that such stimulation would cause him any harm.

As for the information about the Green Jade Luan Bird in the letter, it was about incubation and feeding,

For incubation, a nest should be cast from Warm Jade,

Then, use ingredients like Green Jade Qiong Lotus, Red Yang Snow Ginseng, bile of the Azure Scale Snake, and powder of Yuan Chen Crystal mixed with Spirit Stone powder to make a spiritual liquid, and pour it into the nest made of Warm Jade.

Place the egg of the Green Jade Luan Bird in the nest, and then nourish it with spiritual power and mana every day, and in about three to six months, the spiritual pet egg would be incubated successfully.

“Incubating a spiritual pet egg really isn’t easy,”

Seeing the incubation method, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but shake his head and sigh.

Just these materials alone would cost him thousands of spirit stones.

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And the price of this Green Jade Luan Bird egg was estimated to be just a few thousand Spirit Stones.

This is also why many people are unwilling to raise Spiritual Pets.

Hatching, feeding, waiting for growth, not only consumes time and energy, but also financial resources.

“However, I remember seeing these Qingyu Snow Lotuses and Chiyang Snow Ginsengs in Meng Yibai’s Storage Bag back then.”

Lu Changsheng’s eyebrows raised slightly.

He vaguely remembered seeing these kinds of Spiritual Medicine and Spiritual Materials when he cleared out Meng Yibai’s Storage Bag.

And he hadn’t dealt with these Spiritual Medicines and Materials yet.

Right away, Lu Changsheng began searching for these Spiritual Medicines and Materials in his several Storage Bags.

A moment later.

Lu Changsheng found the materials needed to hatch the Green Jade Luan Bird from the Storage Bags.

“It seems that Meng Yibai had already prepared all this beforehand, only I never knew it,”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself as he looked at these Spiritual Medicines and Materials.

He then made a nest with the Sky Blue Warm Jade in his courtyard.

After that, he prepared the Spiritual Liquid according to the formula and placed the pet egg inside it.

As for nurturing it with mana, Lu Changsheng directly called over Lu Miaoyun.

He asked his wife, Lu Miaoyun, to come and nurture the pet egg daily.

After all, it would take three months to half a year of nurturing to hatch the Green Jade Luan Bird.

He didn't have the leisure for that, nor would he always be at home, so it was better to leave it to his wife.

Once the Green Jade Luan Bird hatched later on, he would also leave it for Lu Miaoyun to look after.

“Husband, what kind of Spiritual Beast egg is this?”

Lu Miaoyun asked curiously after listening to Lu Changsheng's instructions.

“The seller said it's the egg of some kind of flying Demon Beast.”

“As for which specific Demon Beast, you'll know once it hatches, Yun'er,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

It was not that he intentionally kept it a secret.

He simply felt there was a certain anticipation this way.

Upon hearing this, Lu Miaoyun did not ask further and expressed that she would take good care of the Spiritual Pet egg.

...

Half a month later.

Lu Changsheng spent two thousand four hundred Spirit Stones to buy three gourds of Spiritual Blood.

This so-called Second Rank Spiritual Blood was actually the blood of Second Rank Demon Beasts.

In Red Leaf Valley Market, as long as one didn't specify a certain type of Demon Beast blood, it was still possible to buy some.

"Three gourds of blood should be enough,"

Lu Changsheng looked at his three gourds of Demon Beast blood and thought to himself.

He then went to his Practice Room, took out a large vat, and poured all the Spiritual Blood from one gourd into it.

This one gourd of Spiritual Blood, naturally, was not as little as it appeared.

These gourds, like Storage Bags, could hold several vats of liquid.

One gourd of Spiritual Blood poured in, immediately filling more than half of the large vat.

“Gulu gulu gulu—”

This portion of Spiritual Blood came from a Demon Beast known as the Blazing Fire Lion.

Therefore, this blood was like magma, still emitting rolling heat.

Lu Changsheng’s expression remained calm as he stripped off his clothes and entered the vat.

Then, following the Blood Refinement Method written by Xiao Xiyue, he used the Spiritual Blood to stimulate his flesh.

During this process, the Demon Beast blood continuously stimulated every inch of his skin and flesh, making his body seem to reveal all sorts of winding blood-colored runes.

It looked mysterious and terrifying.

“Hum hum hum—”

As Lu Changsheng continuously practiced the Blood Refinement Method, the Demon Beast blood from the vat entered his body through his pores, traveled along his meridians to his Dantian.

There, the originally faint and sporadic blood veins in his Dantian gradually became clearer during the process.

Lu Changsheng knew that once this blood vein was activated, the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body would successfully awaken.

He opened his eyes, flicked his fingers, and the two gourds beside him automatically opened, pouring the Spiritual Blood directly into the vat.

This three different kinds of Spiritual Blood were already quite domineering on their own.

Mixed together, they were even more exceptionally stimulating to the human body.

However, as a Foundation Establishment Cultivator who had also been cultivating the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, Lu Changsheng naturally had no fear of this mere Demon Beast blood.

As the Spiritual Blood continuously surged, stimulating the blood vein in the Dantian, the blood vein became clearer and clearer, forming a mysterious rhythm.

After a long while.

“Hum—”

An unusual aura spread out from within Lu Changsheng.

It caused the blood vein in his Dantian to fully emerge, clearly visible.

And at this moment, his body was covered in bizarre and mysterious blood-colored runes.

But in the blink of an eye, these blood runes gradually faded and disappeared from view.

“So this is the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body,”

Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, aware that he had successfully awakened the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.

Chapter 423: Effects of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, Ten Thousand Poisons Devour the Heart_1

“The Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, how profoundly mysterious,”

“It seems as though one is born with numerous insights into the Talisman Path,”

“By continually learning and delving into the Talisman Path, one can integrate and have interrelated understandings, illuminating many difficult problems in talisman arts.”

Lu Changsheng quietly experienced the changes brought by the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.

When this Spiritual Body was activated, strands of blood patterns in his Dantian gradually surfaced, eventually merging into his blood and bones.

Almost instantly, many experiences and insights about talisman arts flooded his mind.

...

These insights were enigmatic.

Indescribable and inexplicable.

But as a Second-tier Top-Level Talisman Master,

And the inheritor of the teachings of the Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture,

Lu Changsheng clearly knew that these were insights into the Talisman Path.

This type of insight was not like the skills acquired from a system lottery, which directly poured knowledge and experience of talisman arts into the mind as if enlightening with a sacred teaching.

Instead, it transformed into a kind of innate talent.

Allowing one to study the Talisman Path and gradually understand and assimilate, thereby making rapid advancements in the field.

The abilities of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body written about by Xiao Xiyue in her letter previously,

By burning essence blood, it increases the success rate of Talisman Making.

The method of burning the lifespan to raise the grade of Talismans was also within these insights,

And it manifested as an innate ability.

However, the cost of this ability was steep.

For example, creating a Second Rank Talisman required half an hour,

Which meant burning half an hour of essence blood.

Once the Talisman was created, surely the essence blood would be depleted, taking at least three to four months to recover.

As for burning lifespan to increase the grade of Talismans, it also depended on one's cultivation level.

For instance, a Qi Refinement Cultivator aiming to elevate a First Grade Talisman to Second Rank might have to expend more than a decade or two of their lifespan.

If one tried to upgrade a Second Rank Talisman to Third Rank, it could mean the end of all their essence blood and lifespan.

Moreover, even after depleting one's essence blood and life, success in upgrading the Talisman's grade was still not guaranteed.

One could only say that the ability of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body was fierce, but it was not against the natural order.

“This ability of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body seems quite suitable to be used as a tool for Talisman Making,”

“Not only is the talismanic talent exceptional, advancing rapidly, but in critical moments, one can nourish talismans with blood to enhance their grade.”

“If an ordinary Loose Cultivator awakened this Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, it might even unwittingly attract misfortune.”

As Lu Changsheng experienced the abilities of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, he thought to himself.

Talent is rare.

But not all talents are valued and treasured.

Like Bai Ling,

She possessed a talent not inferior to a top-grade Spiritual Root.

If she hadn't been picked up by chance, she might have perished at the hands of bandits.

Such cases are far from uncommon in the Cultivation World.

Many people who gain a talent first think of maximizing benefits rather than nurturing it.

After all, nurturing a person not only requires a huge investment in resources but also consideration of loyalty, among other factors.

"So at the end of the day, it's still about power,"

"Without power, existence is a sin."

"With me as a father, as long as Wangshu awakens the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body and begins cultivation of the Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture, becoming a Fourth Rank Talisman Master in the future shouldn't be a problem!"

After awakening the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body and gaining a general understanding of it,

Lu Changsheng also knew that this Spiritual Body could allow one to make strides on the Talisman Path.

Advancing to Third Rank and even Fourth Rank Talisman Master.

With the “Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture” as his talismanic legacy, as long as his daughter was willing to learn, she would surely be able to develop the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body to its utmost potential, achieving the status of a Fourth Rank Talisman Master.

“It’s a pity this Blood Talisman Spiritual Body doesn’t help with cultivation,”

“If the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body also provided benefits for cultivation, then Wangshu’s future potential would be even higher,”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

His son, Lu Qingshan’s Gengjin Body Constitution, benefited the cultivation of metal-attribute techniques.

Even with a Sixth Grade Spiritual Root, as long as he cultivated metal-attribute techniques, his speed was not weaker than that of a top-grade Spiritual Root.

But the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body lacked such enhancement effects.

Thankfully, his daughter Lu Wangshu’s Spiritual Root was not weak either, possessing a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root.

Otherwise, even with the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, her cultivation would be hindered by her focus on talismans.

“But I have the Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture,”

“This talismanic cultivation technique, after condensing the Life-bound Divine Talisman, both Talisman Making and casting talismans do offer cultivation benefits,”

“In such a case, it’s an indirect enhancement,”

Lu Changsheng thought of his Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture.

As an Orthodox Level Cultivation Technique, it was naturally profound and infinite,

Allowing one's cultivation level and mastery over the Talisman Path to complement each other and progress side by side.

“This Blood Talisman Spiritual Body is related to that blood pattern in the Dantian,”

“If I could thoroughly understand this blood pattern, trace and outline it to create a talisman, could it possibly enhance others' insights into the Talisman Path?”

Lu Changsheng suddenly had another thought.

In the Cultivation World, many Formations, Talismans, and even Cultivation Techniques are the result of studying and imitating the Spiritual Patterns manifested by the rules of heaven and earth.

Like the blood pattern of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, it is also a manifestation of the rules of heaven and earth, incredibly arcane.

If he could sketch it out, it might yield some of its effects.

“Such Spiritual Patterns, manifested from the rules of heaven and earth, are not so easily comprehended and understood,”

“If one glance could uncover their mysteries, Spiritual Bodies wouldn't be so rare,”

Lu Changsheng shook his head, not dwelling on this thought any further.

The blood pattern was extremely arcane,

To comprehend and grasp it was as difficult as understanding the eighty-one Spiritual Patterns of the Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture.

It was not something he could grasp at his current level.

Maybe after a few more steps in the Talisman Path, it would be worth research.

Stepping out of the large vat,

There was still about half a vat of Spiritual Blood left inside.

Lu Changsheng didn't waste it.

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He cast a Cleansing Technique to clean his body and, after dressing up, used the gourd to collect what was inside to feed the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

“Such demon beast spiritual blood is simply not something ordinary Energy Refining Cultivators can withstand.”

“If it's for awakening the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body in Wangshu, it absolutely cannot be done like this.”

“When the time comes to go to Jiuxiao Immortal City, we also need to see if there is any Second Rank Spiritual Blood with a gentle nature.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the spiritual blood gourd in his hand, murmuring inwardly.

The process of awakening his Spiritual Body just now seemed simple.

...

But this was because he had already achieved Foundation Establishment and had cultivated the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art.

If it were a regular Energy Refining Cultivator, under the stimulation of the three types of spiritual blood, their meridians and dantian would probably be damaged.

As for Lu Wangshu's Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, he planned to awaken it when the child was around ten years old.

At that time, Lu Wangshu would not be able to withstand such spiritual blood for Body Refinement.

Therefore, it was necessary to find some kind of spiritual blood with a gentle attribute, and even one that would be beneficial after absorption, to activate the Spiritual Body.

However, with more than a decade to go, Lu Changsheng was not in a hurry.

If it really couldn't be done, he would go to find the child's mother.

He did not have a way to obtain it, but Xiao Xiyue had the channel of Qingyun Sect, which would clearly make acquiring such Second Rank Spiritual Blood much simpler.

Just like the information related to the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body and the Green Jade Luan Bird.

He had consulted many references on this topic but had not found any relevant information.

Yet, not long after Xiao Xiyue returned to Qingyun Sect, she managed to find detailed information on these two items.

"This is the benefit of having the power of a sect."

Lu Changsheng sighed.

He deeply understood what it meant to enjoy the shade under a big tree.

He then went over to the table, took out a Talisman brush and Talisman-making materials from the Storage Bag, and started drawing Talismans.

After awakening the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body, he felt an inexplicable proficiency in drawing Talismans.

It was as though the moment he picked up the brush, he knew he was a natural-born Talisman Path prodigy.

Lu Changsheng effortlessly drew two Second Rank Talismans.

“Drawing Second Rank Talismans, I can’t really feel the benefits brought by the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.”

“I must have a new Talisman Path inheritance for me to comprehend on my own, or draw Third Rank Talismans, before I can truly experience the effects of the Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.”

Lu Changsheng put away the Talisman brush.

Now for him, drawing Second Rank Talismans was as easy as eating and drinking.

Only the yet-to-be-experienced Third Rank Talismans could offer him some challenge.

After leaving the courtyard, Lu Changsheng went to check on his family’s Peace Talisman Hall.

His son, Lu Xianzhi, was also there.

Otherwise, he seldom visited this place before.

But spending this time was worthwhile.

Thanks to his early enlightenment teaching and the guidance over this year, Lu Xianzhi had made considerable progress in Puppet Mastery.

He estimated that in another year or so, he would be able to create First Grade lower-quality puppets and thus qualify as a Puppet Master.

By that time, Lu Changsheng planned to open a shop in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

He would let him, along with Lu Quanzhen, Lu Ruyi, and his brother Lu Yun, manage the shop together.

To personally get accustomed to the ins and outs of running a business.

After all, in the future, when he established his own family, he would definitely engage in business.

For this aspect, he certainly wouldn't have the time and energy to devote himself and would leave it to his wives and children to manage.

And to entrust it to his children, it was natural to let them learn, experience, and understand as much as possible right now.

This would also reveal whether the children had any talent in this area.

If they did, they could develop further in this direction in the future.

If not, they could be put in charge of other aspects.

After all, in Lu Changsheng's vision, with so many inheritances, the family's future industry chain was also extensive.

Therefore, his children could choose to develop in many different areas.

"Boss, all the Supreme Talismans in the store have been sold out. I was wondering if you could restock in these few days, as many customers have been inquiring."

Gao He immediately spoke up upon seeing Lu Changsheng arriving.

"Eh? How come this month's Supreme Talismans sold out so fast?"

Lu Changsheng was somewhat surprised to hear this.

Due to his influence, the Peace Talisman Hall was indeed doing well.

The selling out of one Second Rank Spirit Talisman and ten Supreme Talismans each month was almost a given.

It provided him with a substantial income every month.

Because he often forgot about it, being away, he would store a few dozen Supreme Talismans with Gao He.

He remembered that he had just restocked not long before, so how could they have sold out so quickly.

“It’s said that two days ago, in the Heiyun Mountain Range, a battle between two demons caused a mountain to collapse, resulting in a sky full of rosy light, suspected to be a relic, and attracting many Cultivators to explore.”

“That’s why there have been a lot of purchases of upper-grade and Supreme Talismans, and a number of regular customers have also come to inquire, so I sold the previously stored stock.”

Gao He explained.

“A relic?”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly upon hearing this.

He understood that such occurrences would attract swarms of Cultivators seeking fortune, and would boost sales of Elixir Medicines, Talismans, and Magic Artifacts.

“Alright, I will draw some extra Talismans these few days.”

Lu Changsheng nodded in response.

Given this development, he was also willing to sell more Talismans.

One reason was to make money, and the other was to earn some reputation for the store.

After all, at a time when other stores were out of stock, being able to restock would make customers think of his store first the next time they wanted to buy Talismans.

However, he had no interest in such so-called relics.

He then cautioned his son Lu Xianzhi at the store to stay away from such relics.

Absolutely not to get carried away exploring or let someone coax him into venturing into such places.

“Dad, there’s no need for you to say more, I know.”

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“Moreover, I’m only at the fourth level of energy refinement; venturing into such ruins would be tantamount to courting death,”

Lu Xianzhi heard his father’s words and cracked a smile.

“Good, as long as you know.”

Seeing his son was aware, Lu Changsheng also nodded in relief.

After all, stories of insignificant characters in the Cultivation World stumbling upon adventures and rising to prominence occurred every day.

...

He genuinely feared that his son, in a moment of folly, or after being coaxed by some Robber Cultivator, would run off on some escapade.

Therefore, even if he had already advised him on this matter before, he still continued with his earnest admonitions.

...

Five Poisons Cult.

Tianzhu Peak.

In an antique and luxurious room, a multicolored spring pool emitted steaming purple mist.

Neatly folded by the pool were snow-white silken garments with golden trim, a bodice embroidered with a purple phoenix, plain lingerie, and jade-white stockings.

There was also a terrifying blood-colored spider, its entire body emitting a sinister red light.

Within the multicolored spring, there was a breathtakingly beautiful girl with an ethereal demeanor.

The beautiful girl's eyes were tightly closed, with only her head and jet-black hair floating on the water's surface.

"Xiao Chan, come to my great hall."

Just then, a voice echoed in the girl's mind.

"Master?"

Meng Xiaochan, upon hearing the voice, opened her eyes.

She immediately stood up from the multicolored spring, utterly nude.

In an instant, the perfection of the girl's figure was revealed without a doubt.

Her slender waist seemed to ask for a gentle embrace, and her legs were straight and long.

Her dark, smooth hair cascaded down, covering her pert buttocks shaped like a new moon.

Her skin, still dotted with multicolored droplets, made her jade-like complexion even more sparkingly translucent and dazzling, as if her entire body was aglow.

The girl floated up, her pale hand lightly lifting.

The multicolored droplets slid off her skin, causing the clothes by the pool to fly up and dress her neatly.

Meng Xiaochan, now clothed in purple, had an ethereal and elusive aura, just like that of a celestial fairy.

This contrasted starkly with the terrifying blood-colored spider beside her.

Exiting the room, Meng Xiaochan transformed into an escape light and arrived at a magnificent palace atop the peak, directly entering it.

This great hall was exceedingly magnificent and splendid.

The floor was paved with black jade that shone with a slick brightness, and the walls had elaborately carved beams and painted rafters.

But the images all depicted snakes, spiders, butterflies, and all sorts of insects.

The walls were further adorned with lamp fixtures shaped like spirit snakes, made of silver, which added a mysterious, eerie chill to the room.

“Bzzz bzzz bzzz—”

Upon seeing Meng Xiaochan approach, a purple jade spider with over a dozen pairs of eyes by the ebony bed opened its eyes.

“I greet you, Master!”

Meng Xiaochan, seeing this scene, remained composed and respectfully bowed to the ebony bed.

“Xiao Chan, you’re here,”

A languid, seductive voice came from within the purple gauze of the bed, bewitching to the soul.

“May I know why Master has summoned me here?”

Meng Xiaochan continued to speak.

The purple gauze curtains slowly parted.

On the ebony bed, a woman in a purple dress, around twenty-eight or twenty-nine years old, was lounging.

Her face was stunningly beautiful and enchanting, her slender phoenix eyes appearing as though she had just woken from a dream, misty like blooming peach blossoms, her gaze fluid and compelling, with a bewitching power that could make one lose their soul.

Her reclining posture revealed her alluring figure wrapped in the purple dress, accentuating an extraordinarily curvaceous body from head to toe, clear at a glance.

Beneath the proud and prominent swell of her chest was a waist as delicate as a willow, leading down to her full and pert rear.

The tantalizing curves were breathtaking, vaguely visible beneath the purple gauze, creating an allure of both concealment and revelation.

Her two long, fair legs were slightly bent, enthralling like the tail of a serpent.

“Xiao Chan, I remember you used to live in Jiang Country, didn’t you?”

Nangong Mili’s luscious lips parted slightly, her voice irresistibly charming.

“`

“Master, I have lived in Jiang Country since I was young,” Lu Changsheng replied.

Meng Xiaochan nodded.

“I have a task that requires a trip to Jiang Country.”

“In that case, you will accompany me when it is time to go.”

The woman in the purple dress rose from her ink jade bed with a languid elegance.

A strand of black hair twirled past her ear and fell upon her ample and proud chest.

The purple sheer dress fell, lightly covering her snow-white legs that resembled sculpted jade.

“To Jiang Country?”

Upon hearing this, Meng Xiaochan felt a sudden pause in her heart.

An involuntarily image of a man with a noble and handsome face, a tall and slender figure, swept into her mind like a willow in the breeze.

“That’s right, you are currently at the bottleneck of the early stages of Foundation Establishment, so it’s a good time for you to travel with me.”

“This mission, if successful, will also be beneficial to you; it’s an opportunity,” Nangong Mili said softly, her voice sultry.

“Master, may I know what the task is?” Meng Xiaochan asked.

“You’ll know when the time comes.”

Nangong Mili’s delicate steps moved nimbly as she came beside Meng Xiaochan, chuckling softly.

Her voice was full of seductive charm.

Or it could be said that her entire being exuded an enthralling seductiveness, capable of ensnaring souls and eroding bones, inciting temptation in the observer, fostering a desire to ravish her.

“Master, when do we leave?”

Meng Xiaochan asked, not pressing further.

The command of a master is not to be disobeyed.

Besides, Nangong Mili’s personal involvement indicated that the mission was no simple affair.

Moreover, considering the vast expanse of the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, as long as she didn’t encounter him, going to Jiang Country shouldn’t pose a big problem.

“One month later.”

Nangong Mili said, her lips parting slightly as her jade-white fingers gently caressed Meng Xiaochan's face.

"Yes, Master," Meng Xiaochan nodded in agreement.

"How is your progress with the Myriad Poisons Devouring Heart Technique?" the woman in the purple dress continued to inquire as she pinched her disciple's cheek.

"Please inspect it, Master," Meng Xiaochan replied, offering her fair wrist for examination.

Her skin was exceptionally pale, yet Nangong Mili's complexion was even whiter.

It was an unhealthy shade of white that added a certain sickly enchantment to her slender yet voluptuous figure, evoking pity and tenderness.

"Not bad, you truly deserve your title of the Thousand Strands Myriad Poisons Body. Now, you have reached a minor completion of the poison body."

"If this mission is completed to perfection, I will apply for a Heart-Eating Gu for you at the sect," Nangong Mili said, her enchanting face showing a faint smile, looking captivating.

"Thank you, Master!" Upon hearing this, Meng Xiaochan's face instantly lit up with joy.

The Thousand Strands Myriad Poisons Body is a type of Spiritual Body.

The Five Poisons Cult, incidentally, happens to have this Spiritual Body legacy.

With the Heart-Eating Gu, her Myriad Poisons Devouring Heart Technique could reach major success.

Not only would her mana be greatly enhanced by fifty percent, but her chances of achieving Core Formation would also increase by fifty percent.

Providing her with a high likelihood of attaining True Elixir!

“It’s a pity I lost the Lockheart Gu; otherwise, with it, to become the Holy Maiden of the Five Poisons Cult, there would have been no need for all this trouble,” Meng Xiaochan sighed softly to herself.

She remembered the Lockheart Gu that was now in Lu Changsheng’s hands.

This Lockheart Gu was a top-level Earth Spirit Gu, nearing the level of a Heavenly Spirit Gu.

Even within the Five Poisons Cult, it was exceedingly rare.

Chapter 426: Ruins Secret Realm, Second Rank Monster Core!_1

Before one knew it, half a month had passed.

Because of the Black Cloud Mountain Range ruins, these days Lu Changsheng, besides drawing Second Rank Talismans, had also created quite a few supreme First Grade Talismans.

Not just him, Lu Miaoge had also been busy making talismans these days.

After all, the Black Cloud Mountain Range was not far from the Red Leaf Valley Market.

It was only a journey of four or five thousand li.

Therefore, many cultivators in the vicinity went to Black Cloud Mountain Range, hoping to try their luck.

...

Moreover, after half a month’s fermentation, the buzz about the Black Cloud Mountain ruins not only hadn’t decreased in the slightest.

But because of several news rumors that people had obtained Ancient Techniques, Foundation Establishment Spirit Objects, and rare treasures from the ruins, the excitement intensified, attracting even more people.

After all, for most cultivators, a Cultivation Technique or a Foundation Establishment Spirit Object represented an incredible opportunity.

They could pursue it all their lives and yet might not come across such fortune.

Now that such ruins had emerged, naturally, they would not miss out.

It was for this reason that the flow of people in the Red Leaf Valley Market had increased.

Talismans, Elixir Medicines, and Magic Artifacts were selling like hotcakes, with prices rising by thirty to forty percent, earning Lu Changsheng a tidy sum.

Facing this situation, the four big families also pulled staff to increase patrols and tighten security in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

To prevent Robber Cultivators that might be attracted by the Black Cloud Mountain Range ruins from seizing the opportunity to create chaos.

After all, the previous incidents of Robber Cultivators causing trouble had left the four big families deeply shaken.

During a chat with Lu Miaoge, Lu Changsheng learned that the Lu Family, Bai Family, Yu Family, Zheng Family, and many other local Cultivation Families had sent people to explore the ruins at Black Cloud Mountain.

Cultivation is like crossing a river, a thousand horses and a thousand troops all competing for the sail.

With such an opportunity presented, if they didn't vie for it, how could they ever succeed and make progress in their Cultivation.

Yet, the Lu Family Ancestor, Lu Yuanzhong, still remained stationed in Qingzhu Mountain.

He did not participate in exploring the ruins.

The Yu Family, Zheng Family, and Bai Family were the same.

They were only small families.

With just one or two Foundation Establishment Ancestors as their pillar, they dared not risk venturing out for opportunities.

After all, they were not individuals but support pillars of their families.

If any accident occurred, the whole family would be in trouble, facing catastrophic disaster.

They could only send a few Energy Refinement Late Stage cultivators to explore.

However, Lu Changsheng heard that some Foundation Establishment Cultivators had already gone to explore the ruins.

“Qingyun Sect has entered the scene?”

A few days later, while chatting with Lu Yuanling, Lu Changsheng learned that Qingyun Sect had also made a move on the Black Cloud Mountain Secret Realm.

“That’s right, it has now been confirmed that this ruin is a small Secret Realm, filled with numerous opportunities and treasures. Qingyun Sect, of course, would not miss out,” Lu Yuanling said.

As the Second Elder of the Lu Family and the person in charge of Red Leaf Valley Market, he was very focused on this kind of news.

“Once Qingyun Sect steps in, the whole Secret Realm will belong to them,” Lu Changsheng clicked his tongue.

For Loose Cultivators and various powers, Qingyun Sect’s involvement was a completely different level of challenge.

The other Loose Cultivators and forces simply had no chance.

“Not exactly, Qingyun Sect hasn’t sealed off the Secret Realm nor driven away Loose Cultivators and other forces,” Lu Yuanling shook his head.

“Oh, so it seems Qingyun Sect is quite generous,” Lu Changsheng said, raising his eyebrows.

He had assumed that Qingyun Sect would directly seal off the Secret Realm and forbid others from entering.

After all, if Qingyun Sect did this, nobody else would have much to say, nor dare to object.

“Changsheng, you are still too young,”

“It’s not about Qingyun Sect being generous. The hazards lurking within such a Secret Realm are undeniable, and Qingyun Sect naturally wouldn’t want their own disciples to be the vanguard,”

“Better to share a bit of the spoils, letting our families and Loose Cultivators act as the cannon fodder to explore,” Lu Yuanling scoffed.

At his age, and having been through much, he had a very clear understanding of these matters.

“Uh...”

Lu Changsheng suddenly understood the rationale upon hearing this.

It’s like the Purple Shadow Secret Realm controlled by the Immortal Sects.

If they wholly relied on their own disciples for exploration, not only would the gains be limited, but they also risked losing disciples in the process.

It was better to let Loose Cultivators and others join in.

After all, any gains made inside would require sharing some of the spoils with the Immortal Sects.

“For Loose Cultivators and smaller forces, facing such Secret Realms and miraculous opportunities, trying to profit and gain advantages is quite difficult,” Lu Changsheng remarked.

Every time he heard about such things, he felt deeply for the struggles of the lower-level cultivators in the Cultivation World.

Lacking extraordinary talent, achieving success in Cultivation seemed almost too difficult.

One could only gamble with fate continuously.

“At least I have the system,” Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

With the system, he only needed to live a settled life, get married, take concubines, have children, and he would obtain countless opportunities and treasures that others could not reach in their lifetimes.

Thus making his path to immortality clear and smooth.

At this moment, Lu Changsheng’s thoughts inevitably turned to his friend in the distant Azure Phoenix Immortal City, Li Feiyu.

Although the latter had not explained in detail,

He knew that Li Feiyu’s path involved hunting Demon Beasts, exploring ruins, and venturing into predecessors’ caves—a life of taking risks.

Just like these Loose Cultivators, a moment of carelessness could lead to an accident.

...

In Jiang Country, along the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.

This mountain range stretched endlessly, starting in the south of Jiang Country and extending across a large part of the Southern Wilderness Cultivation Realm.

It also served as a natural barrier between Jiang Country and Yue Country.

Because the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range was full of Demon Beasts and grew many rare Spiritual Medicine and Herbs, cultivators frequently entered the range to gain experience and hunt Demon Beasts.

After all, for cultivators, every part of a Demon Beast was valuable.

Flesh, fur, bones—all could fetch a good price.

If one could come across young beasts or rare Spirit Grass, it would be an even bigger windfall.

At this time, on the outskirts of the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, five cultivators were besieging two blue serpentine Demon Beasts.

Chapter 427: Ruins Secret Realm, Second Rank Monster Core!_2

Both of these giant pythons were extremely massive.

With a girth over a meter thick, their bodies radiated a powerful spiritual light, and their eyes flickered with a cold light, continuously spewing frosty air at the humans.

“Roar!”

One of the cultivators let out a fierce shout, emitting a lion-like roar that caused the attacking giant python to hesitate.

Then a golden rope was thrown, binding one of the pythons, and he shouted loudly, “Old Li!”

Immediately,

...

a middle-aged man around thirty, tall and wearing a black outfit, his face fierce, and wielding a red long saber, burst forth with rapid steps.

His muscles bulged and the red long saber in his hand surged with a reddish glow as he ferociously chopped at the seven-inch vital part of the python.

“Clang!”

The blow was like thunder, powerful and domineering, shattering the python’s protective spiritual light.

Then it struck the azure snake scales, producing a metallic ring, and slightly cracked the scales.

“Hiss hiss hiss!”

The giant python roared angrily, its body flaring with spiritual light, and suddenly lashed its tail, striking the man in the black outfit.

“Boom!”

The man in the black outfit, along with his saber, was sent flying backward, crashing into a large tree in the distance and toppling it over.

Luckily, at the critical moment, his protective aura surged, warding off most of the damage, and he was not gravely injured.

“Now’s the chance, kill!”

Seeing this, the three that were entangled with the other giant python also simultaneously wielded their magic artifacts, cast their techniques, and turned their attention towards the python whose protective spiritual light had been broken.

“Ao ao ao—”

Under the overwhelming onslaught, the giant python threw its head back and screamed pitifully.

Such roars made the other giant python nearly go mad.

But these five people clearly had experience dealing with demon beasts.

In this situation, they did not opt to keep up a frontal assault, but instead kept up the entanglement.

After grinding one python to death, they only then started to confront the other python head-on and gradually killed it.

“This haul isn’t bad, the materials from these two Azure Blood Pythons can sell for quite a bit of money,”

said an older man with grey hair, wearing a grey robe.

“These two Azure Blood Pythons seem to be a pair, I wonder if they laid eggs.”

“If they did lay eggs, then we’ve struck it rich,”

remarked a middle-aged woman in a red robe.

“Laying eggs, what are you thinking? We can’t be that lucky,”

a man in a blue robe said, shaking his head.

Following that, the group made their way towards the cave of the two Azure Blood Pythons.

These demon beasts live in the mountains, and if they encounter treasures, remains of cultivators, bodies of other demon beasts, or even spiritual medicine and herbs, they would bring them back to their caves.

Hence, sometimes after killing a demon beast, exploring its cave can yield unexpected treasures.

“There actually are eggs, eight Azure Blood Python eggs!”

The woman in the red robe saw something deep in the cave, her eyes lighting up as she exclaimed with surprise.

“What, really?”

“These eight Azure Blood Python eggs could sell for four to five hundred Spirit Stones!”

“We’ve made a fortune with this haul!”

Upon hearing this, the others looked at the eggs, their eyes revealing surprise and delight.

For them, four to five hundred Spirit Stones split amongst them meant that each would receive roughly a hundred Spirit Stones.

A considerable profit indeed.

However,

the old man in the grey robe fixated on a dark grey, dull-looking core at that moment.

Upon seeing the dull-colored core, his slightly murky eyes widened, and his throat felt somewhat dry.

“Xiao Bo, what are you looking at?”

The woman in the red robe noticed the old man in grey robe staring motionlessly and asked aloud.

Then she followed his gaze, and suddenly her eyes landed on the dark core.

“This is a Monster Core!”

The woman in the red robe exclaimed.

A Monster Core, similar to the Dao Foundation of Cultivators of the Human Race, is the core that stores mana.

However, not all Second Rank Demon Beasts possess a Monster Core.

Only some rare or particularly powerful Second Rank Demon Beasts have a Monster Core.

Because a Monster Core signifies that the Demon Beast has the potential to advance to Third Rank.

If it advances to Third Rank, the Monster Core will also transform into a ‘Demon Core,’ comparable to the True Elixir or Golden Core of Nascent Soul Cultivators.

Now, inside the lair of the Azure Blood Python, a Monster Core had appeared.

Although it looked like a lot of its energy had dissipated, it was still worth a fortune.

The addition of eight Azure Blood Python eggs and a Monster Core suddenly made the atmosphere within the cave tense.

After all, wealth stirs human hearts.

The five of them often cooperated in hunting Demon Beasts but did not have much of a relationship beyond that.

The appearance of such a great benefit naturally led to thoughts arising in their minds.

“This Monster Core could probably sell for two to three thousand Spirit Stones.”

“Once sold, each of us could get at least five to six hundred Spirit Stones,” the old man in the grey robe said to the others.

Upon hearing this, the others showed expressions of delight.

This amount of Spirit Stones was no small sum.

“Who should hold this Monster Core?” the man in the green robe asked somberly.

For something like the Azure Blood Python, they could directly process the carcass as material and divide its value equally among them.

The same went for the snake eggs.

The extra three snake eggs would be converted into Spirit Stones.

But a priceless Monster Core like this couldn’t be dealt with in the same way.

As soon as these words were spoken, the atmosphere in the cave tensed up again.

“What’s going on? I feel so dizzy...”

At that moment, the woman in the red robe suddenly clutched her forehead and staggered.

“Not good, there’s poison!”

The man in the green robe, trembling, also sensed that something was wrong.

“Who poisoned us!”

The man in black, looking ferocious, shuddered and stumbled as he barked out the question.

Turning to the old man in the grey robe, the elegantly-dressed middle-aged man accused coldly, “Old Xiao, you’re the one who poisoned us!”

As he spoke, he formed a Spiritual Energy Shield around himself, attempting to block out the poison.

“Yao Dao friend, you actually have an anti-poison artifact?”

Chapter 428: Ruins Secret Realm, Second Rank Monster Core!_3

The elderly man in a grey robe looked at the refined gentleman with some surprise.

His Soul Severing Powder was colorless and tasteless; unless one had Divine Sense, ordinary cultivators couldn’t detect it.

So the fact that the refined gentleman hadn’t been poisoned meant that he must possess some kind of poison-resistant treasure.

Upon hearing this, the other three glared angrily at the elderly man in the grey robe.

But at this moment, they could no longer speak, swaying as if about to fall, coughing up blood, and collapsing to the ground.

“Yao fellow Daoist, I’m afraid your treasure can’t completely block my ‘Soul Severing Powder.’ You should hurry and leave while you can,” the grey-robed elder continued to speak, his voice unhurried.

...

“Very well, Yao acknowledges his defeat,” said the refined gentleman upon hearing this, well aware that he was no match for the grey-robed elder.

He cautiously eyed the grey-robed elder and slowly backed out of the cave.

“Wait a moment,”

Just as the refined gentleman was about to leave, the grey-robed elder suddenly called out to stop him.

He said, “Yao fellow Daoist, take these few snake eggs with you. In return, let’s consider this matter settled; how does that sound?”

“No need,”

Although tempted, Yao fellow Daoist didn’t dare to stay longer and quickly departed.

But just then.

“Puchi—”

A streak of purple light streaked out from the sleeve of the grey-robed elder.

It was a Thunder Talisman, aimed to strike the refined gentleman.

At the same time, a golden cone-shaped magic artifact was deployed, transforming into a streak of golden light aiming for the refined gentleman.

How could he possibly let someone escape under such circumstances?

If word got out, he might be ambushed before he could even get back to Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

After all, within the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, not only demon beasts were dangerous, but other cultivators also had to be guarded against.

That was also why many cultivators formed teams to enter the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.

It wasn’t just because the mountains were perilous but also because they feared being exhausted after exiting the range and then encountering robber cultivators.

“Boom boom boom—”

Facing the onslaught of the grey-robed elder, the refined gentleman immediately deployed a small earthen-yellow shield.

However, under the bombardment of the attack, the Spiritual Energy Shield around him swiftly dimmed, and he felt poison entering his body.

Just as the elder had said, he did have a poison-resistant treasure.

But it was just an ordinary item and couldn't continuously block the enemy's poison.

“Puch—”

The grey-robed elder kept attacking.

The refined gentleman knew he was no match for the elder, and retreated incessantly, fleeing the cave dwelling.

But the grey-robed elder pursued without delay.

Just as the two had barely left the cave and the man in black who was poisoned and had fainted opened his eyes.

“Such a formidable poison, colorless, tasteless, without a trace,” he murmured.

“If I hadn't cultivated the Profound Body Refinement Technique, I might have fallen here,” said Li Feiyu, his expression serious.

He had noticed something off about the elder immediate and sensed something was amiss.

He promptly sealed his pores to stop breathing.

But the poison was indeed formidable, colorless, tasteless, and left no trace.

If he hadn't cultivated his Body Refinement Technique to the Third Level, with his flesh almost as tough as someone in the Energy Refinement Late Stage coupled with some resistance to poison, he would have been done for there.

He didn't delay; he took out a Detoxification Pill from his Storage Bag, swallowed it, and began to purge the poison from his system.

Then he held a Talisman in his hand and continued to feign death, waiting for the grey-robed elder to return.

Before long, the grey-robed elder hurried back to the cave.

His breathing was slightly disordered.

In order to finish off the refined gentleman quickly, he had held nothing back.

"After this expedition, I can stop living this blood-shedding life," the grey-robed elder muttered, holding a Second Rank Monster Core in his hand, his face showing delight.

He was already over sixty and long past the possibility of Foundation Establishment.

Now his hunting of demon beasts was for the sake of his descendants.

However, at that moment, he suddenly sensed a scorching heat and a sharpness.

"Not good!"

The grey-robed elder subconsciously tried to form a Spiritual Energy Shield.

But the hastily constructed shield was immediately shattered by the Fire Talisman and the fierce and domineering blade aura.

In the next instant.

“Puch—”

The sound of a blade piercing flesh could be heard.

As the grey-robed elder’s field of vision tumbled, he fell from the air and saw a headless corpse.

It was his own corpse.

And standing behind the body was a robust man dressed in black, holding a red long blade.

“How is he not dead...”

With shock and unwillingness, the grey-robed elder’s consciousness plunged into endless darkness.

“Huff!”

After slaying the grey-robed elder with a single cut, Li Feiyu exhaled deeply.

The situation had been extremely tense for him as well.

After all, the elder had a Ninth Level Energy Refinement cultivation, while he was only at the Mid Stage.

His only reliance was his Body Refinement Technique, which was at the level of the late Energy Refinement.

He quickly collected the Storage Bags of several people in the cave.

He then used the Flame Bullet Technique to reduce the bodies to ashes.

“It might be dangerous to return to Azure Phoenix Immortal City alone,” he mused.

“This Monster Core might just allow me to break through the bottleneck of the Energy Refinement Late Stage,” he considered.

“With both the cultivation from the Energy Refinement Late Stage and my Body Refinement Technique, I stand a better chance of making it back to Azure Phoenix Immortal City safely,” Li Feiyu speculated, his gaze intense as he looked at the grey Monster Core in his hand.

Demon Beast Crystal Cores were mostly violent in nature.

If a cultivator absorbed it directly, not only would much of the energy be wasted, but it could also injure the body.

It was nowhere as effective as refining it into Elixir Medicines.

But given the circumstances, Li Feiyu could not afford to care about that.

...

As for the incident at the Black Cloud Mountain Range’s secret realm, other than earning a tidy sum, it hadn’t affected Lu Changsheng’s daily life much.

He spent most of his days now on Talisman Making, drawing Second Rank Talismans in preparation for his journey to Jiuxiao Immortal City.

After nearly a year, he managed to save up almost a hundred Second Rank Spirit Talismans, enough to form a Talisman Refinement Formation capable of blasting away cultivators at the Foundation Establishment Late Stage, or even those with a False Core.

But when it came to making a Talisman Formation, one can never have too many Talismans.

The more Talismans there are, the greater the power of the Talisman Formation.

Chapter 429: Ruins Secret Realm, Second Rank Monster Core!_4

Lu Changsheng was not in a hurry to head to Jiuxiao Immortal City, so he prepared to stock up on more talismans to carry with him.

Moreover, this trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City would be a long journey, and the round trip would take quite some time.

He estimated that it would cost him half a year, or even a year.

Therefore, he also needed to make proper arrangements for the matters afterward.

He prepared in advance all the talismans supplied by his family's Spiritual Talisman Shop and those provided to the Lu Family.

Just like that, three months passed in a blink of an eye.

...

“Boom!”

That day, Lu Changsheng felt a surge of qi flow into his body.

He knew that his son, Lu Quanzhen, had made a breakthrough to the middle stage of Qi Refinement.

Now each of his children was waiting for their breakthrough to the middle stage of Qi Refinement, then to go out and gain experience.

Lu Changsheng returned to Qingzhu Mountain and made arrangements for Lu Quanzhen.

This son was competitive in nature and wanted to venture out on his own.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng did not arrange for him to experience life in the marketplace.

Instead, he sent him to the secular world to mix with Hong Yi.

Now, Hong Yi had become the crown prince of Marquis of Ruyi.

He was in charge of all the large and small affairs of Ruyi Prefecture.

Not only did he have to deal with the martial world and Jianghu, but also the disturbances of parasitic cultivators in the secular world.

So, sending his son to the secular world not only allowed him to experience the martial world and Jianghu, secular cultivation, and broaden his horizons but also ensured he wouldn't encounter too much danger.

"Brother Lu, rest assured, I will take good care of Quanzhen, your esteemed nephew," Hong Yi said to Lu Changsheng as he readily agreed to take the son with him for experience.

Then he turned to a twelve or thirteen-year-old boy dressed in an embroidered robe and with an extraordinary bearing next to him and said, "Xuanji, get along well with your brother Quanzhen in the future, treat each other like brothers and support each other."

This young boy was named Hong Xuanji, the sixth son of Hong Yi, with a Seventh Grade Spiritual Root, and was deeply adored by Hong Yi.

"Yes, Father!"

Hong Xuanji nodded in response to his father's words.

He knew that his father's current position had a lot to do with Uncle Lu.

Moreover, the present Lu Quanzhen, who was only three years older than him but had already reached the middle stage of Qi Refinement, would be a valuable association for the future.

“Quanzhen, you must listen to your Uncle Hong in the future. If anything happens, just write a letter back home,”

“On ordinary days, remember to write to your mother, and when you have time, come home to visit, and also go to see your sister...”

On the side, Qu Zhenzhen’s eyes were red, and she said to her son with a face full of reluctance.

Even though her son was grown up, he was still a child in her eyes, and she was very worried about him going to the secular world to make his way.

“Mother, don’t worry, I understand,” Lu Quanzhen said, looking at his mother’s expression with a hint of helplessness on his face.

He then spoke to reassure her that he would definitely be careful, write home when he had time, bring his sister to visit, and asked his mother to be at ease.

Lu Changsheng watched this scene, the corner of his mouth twitching slightly.

He wondered how Lu Quanzhen’s character had been formed.

Although he had taught his son, most of the time it was Qu Zhenzhen who did the teaching.

Yet Qu Zhenzhen, when it came to children, though not indulgent, could hardly bear to scold or reprimand them.

Sometimes, even lecturing the children would make herself feel aggrieved, feeling that it was her fault for not teaching well.

So seeing that his son Lu Quanzhen had a mature and decisive character, Lu Changsheng also did not know how it came to be.

It could only be said that some children’s temperaments might be influenced innate to some extent.

“Zhenzhen, as long as you want, we can come and see Quanzhen often,” Lu Changsheng said to his wife.

After settling down Lu Quanzhen, Lu Changsheng also took Qu Zhenzhen to stay at the Lu Residence for a while.

His eldest son, Lu Ping'an, had experienced a year with the Crimson Whale Gang before really going out on his own to wander the Jianghu, and he had not yet returned.

His second son, Lu Wuyu, had gone to a county in Nanyu Prefecture to become a county magistrate, arranged by Hong Yi.

His daughter, Lu Wuyou, also clamored every day about becoming a female hero and venturing into the Jianghu, but her mother Lu Zi'er wouldn't allow it.

And Lu Changsheng, fearing his daughter would be at a disadvantage, acted as if he didn't know about it and did not agree to his daughter going out to venture.

Now that Lu Changsheng and Qu Zhenzhen had come to the Lu Residence, his wife Lu Lanshu, Lu Qing'er, Lu Zi'er, and other concubines also talked with Lu Changsheng about their children's marriage affairs.

Like Lu Wuyou, Lu Wuyu, and Lu Xile, these children were all seventeen or eighteen years old, the age for marriage, and it was time to consider matchmaking.

Regarding this matter, Lu Changsheng also felt quite emotional.

He still vividly remembered the birth of these children.

Unknowingly, they had grown up and were about to get married.

In this regard, he let Lu Lanshu, Lu Qing'er, Lu Zi'er, and others handle the arrangements.

But the marriage should be agreed upon by his children.

After all, given his current situation, there was no need to consider weighing benefits in his children's marriages.

The main thing was to let the children be happy and like it, and choose for themselves.

Chapter 430: Mount Sumeru Tree King, a Cave Heaven unto Himself!_1

Lu Changsheng and Qu Zhenzhen stayed in Ruyi Prefecture for a little over a month.

During this period, the marriage of their son, Lu Wuyu, was also settled.

The other party was the daughter of Li Feiyu, Li Xue'er.

Previously, Lu Lanshu had wanted her son, Lu Ping'an, to marry Li Xue'er.

One reason was that Li Xue'er's appearance, looks, and personality were all good.

Additionally, they had watched her grow up.

...

Furthermore, Lu Changsheng and Li Feiyu were good friends, so naturally, they thought about matching the two.

However, since Lu Ping'an had no such intentions and had gone away,

Lu Qing'er then began to inquire about the relationship between her son, Lu Wuyu, and Li Xue'er.

Regarding this marriage arrangement, both Lu Wuyu and Li Xue'er had no objections and were mutually satisfied.

Seeing that both of them agreed, Lu Changsheng decided on the matter.

Most marriages in this world were like this.

There were not so many cases of mutual affection between couples.

Being mutually satisfied was already considered quite good.

Immediately, the two families arranged the marriage, selected an auspicious date, and planned to hold the wedding in half a year.

During the engagement, Lu Changsheng also met Li Feiyu's father, Li Zhengyang.

Sixteen years had passed, and the once valiant and imposing leader of the Crimson Whale Gang had become an old man with graying hair.

His face bore traces of illness.

"I pay my respects to Uncle Li."

Lu Changsheng approached and greeted him.

"I pay my respects to Immortal Master Lu."

Li Zhengyang looked at the man before him, still handsome and appearing to be in his twenties, who had seemed even more otherworldly and immortal than he did more than a decade ago, and respectfully bowed.

When Lu Changsheng first arrived at the Crimson Whale Gang, he immediately realized Lu Changsheng was destined for great things.

Now, more than a decade later, his hunch had been confirmed.

It was evident from the respect shown to Immortal Master Lu by the Marquis of Ruyi, the Crown Prince of Ruyi, and the Loose Cultivators attending the engagement banquet.

“Feiyu and I are good friends, and now that my son Wuyu and Xue’er are engaged to become relatives by marriage, it’s a matter of close kinship, so Uncle Li need not be so courteous with me. Just call me Changsheng,” Lu Changsheng said to Li Zhengyang with a smile.

Li Zhengyang saw that Lu Changsheng had none of the airs of an immortal master and was touched in his heart.

He thought to himself that his son had made a good friend.

Li Zhengyang then addressed Lu Changsheng as his “wise nephew” and introduced his eldest son, Li Feihong, who was the current leader of the Crimson Whale Gang.

During their casual conversation, the matter of marriage was confirmed, and Li Zhengyang also inquired about Li Feiyu’s situation.

When Li Feiyu had left, he had only briefly mentioned that he was heading to the Cultivation World to make his own way, without saying much more.

When faced with this topic, Lu Changsheng only mentioned that Li Feiyu was fine and was cultivating in an Immortal City.

He then presented Li Zhengyang with a bottle of Healing Pills.

He could tell that Li Zhengyang must have either overexerted himself in martial training when he was young or suffered some internal injury, leading to his poor health now.

This engagement banquet brought much joy to the Lu Residence.

After all, it was the Lu Family’s first engagement and wedding preparations.

“I wonder how Ping’an is doing.”

“It’s been over a year, and he hasn’t even written a letter home.”

Seeing that Lu Wuyu had become engaged and would be married in half a year, Lu Lanshu began to mention her son Lu Ping'an.

"Ping'an said he would be out for at most three years, so I estimate he will return in another year or two," Lu Changsheng voiced comfortingly.

He knew that his wife was still not in agreement with Lu Ping'an going away.

Her mention of it now made him think of his eldest son as well.

He wondered where Lu Ping'an was traveling now and how his journey was going.

...

In Jiang Country, Jiangzhou, Guangling County.

"That White Tiger Demon must be on this mountain, right?"

As Lu Ping'an passed through a village, he heard that there was a white tiger living on the mountain that frequently attacked humans.

It had scared the villagers to the point where they dared not go into the mountains to hunt anymore.

So, he decided to take a look and rid the people of this threat.

As he reached the middle of the mountain, he heard a deafening roar from a fierce beast.

He rushed towards the sound in the mountains.

In a short while, he saw a ferocious white tiger, about three meters tall, chasing after a girl clothed in black.

But this was not a one-sided pursuit.

The girl in black was a Cultivator.

As she ran, she controlled a pitch-black Flying Sword, attacking the white tiger.

This caused the white tiger to be covered in blood and maddened with rage, lashing out to bite anyone it could.

“This white tiger must be the White Tiger Demon the villagers spoke of; it seems to have truly become a Demon Beast!” exclaimed Lu Ping’an upon seeing such a ferocious creature.

He realized that this white tiger had evolved beyond a mere wild beast and had become a Demon Beast.

However, the Jiuyou hound he usually fed was much more ferocious than this white tiger.

Therefore, seeing this fearsome white tiger did not frighten him in the least.

“Be careful!”

At that moment, he saw the white tiger’s chilling claws pin down the girl’s Flying Sword.

Then its tail suddenly lengthened, stretching out like a long stick, swinging horizontally toward the girl.

Taken by surprise by this sudden strike, the girl was hit hard and sent flying backwards with a muffled groan.

Seeing his chance, the white tiger opened its gaping jaws and leapt towards the girl in black.

“No good!”

Lu Ping’an acted quickly, taking a Fire Blast Talisman from his chest, focusing his energy, and turning the talisman into a blazing projectile, shooting it towards the white tiger.

“Bang——”

The fire blast hit the white tiger with precision.

It plunged to the ground with a ‘thump’, letting out a mournful howl, its body scorched by the blast, its flesh torn and skin charred.

“Roar!”

With its body blackened and oozing blood, its eyes glowing red with fury, the white tiger turned its gaze on Lu Ping’an and roared angrily, charging at him.

“Secret Technique—Primordial Chaos Extreme!”

Facing the pouncing white tiger, Lu Ping’an immediately took out a Golden Light Insignia, making golden light appear all around his body.

Then, as he roared, the muscles of his entire body were activated with powerful energy, and he launched a fierce punch.

“Boom——”

The white tiger’s attack caused Lu Ping’an’s legs to sink, and the golden light around his body dimmed.