

I. Family 431

Chapter 431: Mount Sumeru Tree King, a Cave Heaven unto Himself!_2

But Lu Ping'an's terrifyingly powerful punch also made the White Tiger wail, a sound of bones shattering echoing within its body.

"Die!"

At that moment, the girl seized the opportunity, forming seals with her hands, causing her flying sword to burst forth with sharp energy, slashing toward the White Tiger's neck.

She aimed to decapitate the White Tiger with a single sword stroke.

"Pff!"

However, the flying sword failed to sever the head, the blade stuck in the White Tiger's bones, causing it to howl in pain and struggle in the throes of death.

...

"Secret Technique—Primordial Chaos Extreme."

Seeing this, Lu Ping'an's true qi surged within him, he took a step forward, his fists like twin dragons leaving the sea, pummeling the White Tiger with relentless force.

One punch!

Two punches!

Three punches...

"Boom boom boom—"

A moment later, the White Tiger wailed, its eyes dimming.

“Hello, thank you for your help.”

“My father’s surname is Qin, my mother’s surname is Yi, so my name is Qin Yi.”

The girl in black stepped forward, looked at Lu Ping’an, and said with an expressionless face.

Upon hearing this self-introduction, Lu Ping’an grinned and replied, “Hello, my dad’s surname is Lu, my mom’s surname is also Lu, so, my name is Lu Ping’an.”

“Pfft.”

The girl, previously without expression, suddenly smiled at these words.

But the laughter caused the blood in her body to roll and surge, ‘cough cough cough’ spitting out fresh blood.

The blow from the White Tiger had been hard on her as well.

“Miss, are you alright? I have some medicine for healing here.”

Seeing this, Lu Ping’an took out a porcelain bottle from his bag, poured out an elixir medicine, and handed it to the girl.

“You used two talismans to save me just now; I already owe you a favor.”

“So I can’t take this spirit pill, and I don’t have money to repay you.”

The girl in black instantly recognized that this was not a mundane elixir medicine but a spirit pill.

She thought to herself, what kind of a naive boy is this?

A man without any signs of spiritual power, a martial artist, yet possessing talismans and elixir medicines.

Moreover, a complete stranger, and yet he casually took them out to help.

“One should help out in the face of injustice, miss, you don’t have to worry about it.”

“You need not repay for the pill either.”

Lu Ping’an grinned and waved it off with his hand.

Upon hearing this, the girl in black looked at the Lu Ping’an before her, her face showing a hint of conflict and distress.

Then she firmly said, “I, Qin Yi, do not owe anyone favors. I will accept this spirit pill. You take the White Tiger, and with this, we are even.”

“I said there’s no need to repay, and besides, what would I want with the carcass of the White Tiger?”

Lu Ping’an shook his head.

“This White Tiger demon could sell for more than twenty spirit stones, and you’re saying you don’t want it?”

“Aren’t you here specifically to hunt this White Tiger demon?”

The girl asked with a somewhat astonished expression upon hearing this.

“No, I came to the mountain because I heard from the villagers that there was a White Tiger Great Demon eating people. I wanted to see for myself and thought of getting rid of the White Tiger, so the villagers could hunt with peace of mind,” said Lu Ping’an with a smile.

Hearing this, the girl in black looked at the Lu Ping’an before her as if she was looking at an idiot.

She didn't expect that such people existed in the world.

A stranger to her but willing to use expensive talismans to help, and even offering elixir medicines for free.

And the reason he ventured up the mountain was because he heard about a White Tiger eating people.

"Regardless, I, Qin Yi, do not owe people favors, and you should take this White Tiger demon so that we are square," she continued to say, her face tight and devoid of expression.

She had already pegged Lu Ping'an as a fool from a landowner's family and did not want to take advantage of an idiot.

"Miss, you said this White Tiger demon is worth more than twenty spirit stones."

"My elixir medicines and talismans are not worth this much."

"If you feel uneasy about it in your heart, just sell the demon and give me the equivalent in spirit stones."

Seeing the girl was resolute, Lu Ping'an suggested this.

Having experienced life in the Crimson Whale Gang, and his interactions with Hong Yi, he had come to know some basic information about the prices in the Cultivation World.

He knew his two talismans and one elixir medicine were worth about seven spirit stones.

The girl felt tempted upon hearing this.

She had expended a lot of time and effort trying to hunt down this White Tiger demon.

Moreover, she couldn't bear to hand over all the spirit stones she obtained to someone else.

If they were to split the proceeds now, at least she would gain something.

And she wouldn't need to feel like she owed a favor.

"Fine, there's a gathering spot for loose cultivators on Cangya Mountain about five hundred miles from here," she said.

"Come with me, and I'll sell the White Tiger demon there. We can split the spirit stones."

"If it's inconvenient for you, just give me an address, and I'll deliver the spirit stones to you later," she offered crisply.

"A gathering spot for loose cultivators?"

"Alright, I'll go with you."

Lu Ping'an's eyes lit up at this.

He had always held a deep fascination for Cultivation, harboring intense interest in it.

It was only because he knew he had no Spiritual Root and thus no opportunity for Cultivation, that he never mentioned it back at home.

Now, hearing the girl mention a market for loose cultivators immediately sparked his curiosity, and he wanted to see for himself.

Soon after, once the girl had rested and healed her wounds, the two set off together.

....

Time flew swiftly, and in the blink of an eye, half a year passed.

Two months prior, the once bustling rumors about the Black Cloud Mountain ruins had also died down.

This had been only a small secret realm.

And within half a year, it had been completely scavenged, left as a desolate wasteland.

The Lu Family's venture into this secret realm had not been fruitful, and they had suffered losses including one Energy Refinement Late Stage and one Energy Refinement Middle Stage cultivator, a not insignificant setback.

However, Lu Changsheng had heard from Lu Yuanding that the Bai Family had quite the harvest from this expedition.

It was even possible that they would witness the birth of a new Foundation Establishment.

The Lu Family was pleased to hear this.

After all, the Bai Family and the Lu Family had a friendly relationship.

Now, as the Bai Family Ancestor's lifespan was dwindling, with only a bit more than ten years left,

If a new Foundation Establishment did not emerge, they would face the same peril that the Lu Family once did.

Chapter 432: Mount Sumeru Tree King, a Cave Heaven unto Himself!_3

“`

And the cooperation of the four major establishments in Red Leaf Valley Market will also face problems because of this.

[Congratulations to the host for reaching a progeny count of one hundred and fifty, you have been awarded an advanced level draw]

On this day, Lu Changsheng's one hundred and fiftieth child was born.

This child did not have a Spiritual Root.

But as this child was born, a system prompt sounded.

...

“Advanced draw!”

When Lu Changsheng heard this system prompt, his heart surged with surprise.

He had previously thought that he would need two hundred children to qualify for the draw based on the quantity of his offspring.

He did not expect that one hundred and fifty would suffice.

And it was an advanced draw, no less.

This made him extremely pleased.

After all, from a previous advanced draw, he had obtained a Heaven-reaching Spiritual Treasure.

Although this Heaven-reaching Spiritual Treasure was somewhat lacking, without an Artifact Spirit, it was still a Heaven-reaching Spiritual Treasure.

It had greatly expedited his progress with the Hundred Treasures Body Refinement Technique, and he estimated that in another year's time, he would be able to break through to the fifth layer.

At that time, he would be able to refine this Heaven-reaching Spiritual Treasure and transform it into his Life-bound Treasured Bone.

“System, draw!”

Without further thought, Lu Changsheng inwardly chanted.

He wanted to see what he could obtain from this advanced draw.

After all, ordinary draws were now hardly surprising to him.

Instantly, an advanced draw wheel with only four options emerged.

As Lu Changsheng's mental spirit slightly stirred, the draw immediately commenced.

Before long, the golden light slowly diminished, eventually stopping on the 'Spiritual Pet Treasure' section.

"Another Spiritual Pet Treasure?"

Lu Changsheng's heart skipped a beat as the golden light halted.

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for obtaining the Spiritual Pet: Mount Sumeru Tree King!]

[The reward has been dispatched to the System Space, the host can inspect it at any time]

A divine tree pattern, resplendent with gold and jade, shimmering with the light of dawn, emerged from the draw wheel, accompanied by a system prompt.

"Spiritual Pet, Mount Sumeru Tree King?"

Lu Changsheng furrowed his brows slightly when he saw the reward from his draw.

He immediately realized that he must have drawn a spiritual pet related to the celestial and earthly spirit plants.

“I wonder if this Mount Sumeru Tree King, like the Nine Netherhound and Six-Winged Golden Silkworm, requires my nurturing,” he mused.

“If it requires my nurturing, even with a True Spirit Bloodline, it would be quite useless to me at the moment.”

Lu Changsheng pondered as he looked at his draw reward.

The Nine Netherhound he obtained from his first draw was still a first grade middle stage demon beast.

It was estimated that it would take another one or two years to advance to the late stage of the first grade.

Even though the fighting prowess of the Nine Netherhound far surpassed that of other demon beasts of the same grade,

it could only serve as the guardian spiritual beast of the secular Lu Residence.

The Six-Winged Golden Silkworm he drew the second time had slightly more combat power than the Nine Netherhound, but there was no telling how long it would take to grow its second pair of wings.

Having raised it for eight or nine years now, its combat power was still at the peak of the first grade.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng didn’t harbor too many thoughts about Spiritual Pets.

His mental spirit stirred slightly as he looked towards the Mount Sumeru Tree King in the System Space.

[Spiritual Pet: Mount Sumeru Tree King]

[Grade: Lower True Spirit]

[Description: In ancient times, the Lotus Lamp Buddha obtained a half-branch of the ‘World Tree’ and planted it on Mount Sumeru, nurturing it to life. It currently possesses the strength of the third rank, harbors a world within its body, forming its own Cave Heaven, and thrives continuously.]

“Hiss!”

Lu Changsheng was taken aback as he read the description of the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

A strength of the third rank meant that this Mount Sumeru Tree King did not require slow nurturing like the Nine Netherhound or the Six-Winged Golden Silkworm.

It had the strength of the Core Formation Stage right away!

Not only that, this Mount Sumeru Tree King also harbored a world within its body, forming its own Cave Heaven, thriving continuously.

This ability genuinely excited Lu Changsheng.

In the Cultivation World, there is a kind of treasure known as ‘Cave Heaven Treasure.’

Such a treasure constitutes its own space and can be fashioned into a small secret realm-like Cave Heaven, housing cultivators and spiritual beasts.

It can even nurture treasures like the ‘Spiritual Eye Spring’ to form spirit veins, allowing cultivation within, as well as the planting of spiritual medicine and spirit fields, serving as a mobile dwelling.

And now, this Mount Sumeru Tree King possessed such an effect, harboring a world within its body, inherently forming a Cave Heaven.

“~

“~

“The Cave Heaven inside the body of the Mount Sumeru Tree King can completely serve as the core land for our future family,”

“It’s just uncertain whether this Mount Sumeru Tree King can currently transform.”

“If it can’t transform, then we must find a piece of land rich in spirit veins to plant this Mount Sumeru Tree King.”

“Moreover, the strength of this Mount Sumeru Tree King requires a high grade of spirit veins, at least Second Rank, or even Third Rank Spirit Vein.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Mount Sumeru Tree King in the System Space but did not extract it.

Just looking at the description alone, he felt that this tree was many times larger than the Luminous Treasure Tree he had obtained before.

Once extracted, it would be revealed outright.

If it couldn’t transform and move, such a heavenly spirit plant, once noticed, would likely shake the entire Qingyun Sect and the Cultivation World of Jiang Country.

Moreover, the higher the grade of the demon beast, the harder it is to transform, so he felt that this Mount Sumeru Tree King probably couldn’t transform.

“It seems that securing the spirit land and establishing the family must be accelerated.”

“Only by establishing our own family and owning our own family spirit land, can we conveniently release this Mount Sumeru Tree King.”

“And by then, having a Great Demon at the Core Formation Stage in the family will allow us to develop with peace of mind.”

Lu Changsheng took a deep breath and exhaled long.

He knew that this Mount Sumeru Tree King must be planted at his home and then hidden well with a formation.

Otherwise, such a plant could easily attract trouble.

“Xi Yue had sent a letter before, asking if I wanted to participate in the Hundred Arts Conference, and I chose to defer,”

“It seems that at the next Hundred Arts Conference, I must enter the Qingyun Sect in this way, and then see if I can obtain a top-quality spirit land through the sect.”

Lu Changsheng murmured to himself.

For acquiring the family spirit land, he still preferred to go through Qingyun Sect.

See if he could obtain a top-quality spirit land through the sect.

If that didn’t work out, then he would consider the Red Leaf Valley Market.

After all, with so much effort and many family powers settling in the Red Leaf Valley Market now, it wouldn’t be easy to secure it through the Lu Family without paying a significant price.

“I’ve already stored over two hundred Second Rank talismans, and the Spirit Talismans for the Lu Family and the Peace Talisman Hall are also ready,”

“After Wuyu’s wedding, I can almost set out for Jiuxiao Immortal City.”

“In Jiuxiao Immortal City, after completing the procurement of materials for the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy, Third Rank Talisman materials, and Second Rank Alchemy materials, my overall strength will also rise to another level.”

“When I return, Sister Miaoge will also be almost ready for Foundation Establishment.”

“I can also take this opportunity to state outwardly that this trip is to go to the Immortal City for Foundation Establishment, thus revealing my Foundation Establishment strength.”

“Afterwards, through Xi Yue, get the slot to participate in the Hundred Arts Conference, enter Qingyun Sect, and secure spirit land.”

“By then, the children at home should almost be ready to manage the family affairs for their old father.”

“Regarding the establishment of the family, we only lack an array now. If we still haven’t drawn an array by then, I’ll hire an Array Master from Qingyun Sect and then study some simple formations myself.”

Lu Changsheng was calculating his future plans in his mind.

Through half a year of Talisman Making, he had stored over two hundred Second Rank Spirit Talismans on his person.

Due to material reasons, most of these talismans were of low and middle grade, with only a small portion being Superior Grade Talisman.

But it was already sufficient.

If all these talismans were to be used, Lu Changsheng felt that even a False Core Immortal would certainly meet their death.

So this trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City for a major procurement would basically be free of danger.

“There are still half a month until Wuyu’s wedding day, I should almost head over,”

Lu Changsheng stopped pondering and rose from his study.

In the courtyard, Lu Miaoyun and her children were feeding a big bird that was pure like green jade.

This bird was the Green Jade Luan Bird that had hatched not long ago.

Since it had just been born, it couldn't serve as a mount in the short term.

So Lu Changsheng candidly gifted it to Lu Miaoyun, to her delight, and to the envy of Qu Zhenzhen, Lu Miaohuan, and the others.

“Yun'er, since Wuyu's wedding day is approaching, call Zhenzhen and Huan'er over, and let's all go together,”

Lu Changsheng said to Lu Miaoyun.

After all, it was his son's first wedding.

As a father, he naturally had to attend the wedding.

And with Lu Miaoyun, Qu Zhenzhen, and Lu Miaohuan being the principal wives, he felt it was appropriate for them to be involved in such an occasion as well.

“Yes, husband,”

Hearing this, Lu Miaoyun immediately handed the bird feed to the children and went to notify Qu Zhenzhen and Lu Miaohuan.

The other children, upon hearing the news, all expressed keen interest and the desire to join.

But Lu Changsheng's Spirit Boat could only carry twelve people.

So he decided to take along his sons Lu Yun, Lu Huaizhen, Lu Qingshan, Lu Qingzhu, and a few others.

Chapter 433: The Misty Sky Bead, The Transformation of Bai Ling!_1

Half a month later.

On the day the second young master of the Lu Residence got married, the whole Ruyi County City was bustling and sensational.

With the wedding procession stretching for ten miles, thousands of banquet tables were set up both inside and outside the city, free for all the guests to enjoy as they pleased.

The month-long feast meant that for a hundred miles around, there was no need for cooking fires, and even beggars became plump with satisfaction.

During this time, Lu Changsheng took a little more interest in the martial arts training of his children.

He could understand that children of that age were playful and not diligent in their martial practice.

...

But he was willing to spend more money to nurture those who were willing to train.

On this day, as the tenth child broke through to the Martial Dao Innate level, a system prompt sounded in Lu Changsheng's mind.

[Congratulations to the host for ten descendants breaking through to the Martial Dao Innate, earning the Bloodline Effect: a 5% increase in the probability of siring offspring and a chance for a lucky draw!]

“Indeed, it’s ten.”

Lu Changsheng was not surprised by this system prompt.

When the first five children broke through to the Martial Dao Innate, there was no system prompt for a lucky draw.

He had guessed that perhaps it would take ten children breaking through to the Martial Dao Innate to trigger the achievement reward.

After all, although the Martial Dao Innate was harder to reach than Qi Infusion, it was not limited by the Spiritual Root.

As long as one was willing to spend money, practically anyone could break through to the Martial Dao Innate.

So, it made sense that the requirements were slightly higher than for Qi Infusion.

“System, draw the prize.”

Lu Changsheng didn’t think too much, silently mouthing in his mind.

The light red roulette wheel emerged in a glimmer of golden light, spinning immediately, and finally landing on ‘treasure.’

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for obtaining the rare treasure: Misty Sky Bead!]

[The reward has been sent to System Space, the host may check it at any time.]

A pattern of a bead shrouded in grey mist emerged, accompanied by the system prompt sound.

“A rare treasure, the Misty Sky Bead?”

Lu Changsheng’s eyebrows rose at the sight of this reward.

He was quite fond of rare treasures.

After all, the rare treasures ‘Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates’ and ‘Profound Origin Bead’ he got from previous lucky draws were very impressive.

The ‘Book of Malevolent Curses and Fates’ might have been gathering dust.

But it had given him the confidence to curse a Nascent Soul Immortal to death.

As for the Profound Origin Bead, it hardly needed mentioning.

For Lu Changsheng, it was simply a priceless treasure.

It not only boosted his combat power by a level but also made his Talisman Making much more convenient on a daily basis.

Lu Changsheng's mind stirred slightly as he looked into the System Space to check the effects of this rare treasure Misty Sky Bead.

[Misty Sky Bead]

[Grade: Third Rank]

[Description: Crafted from a millennium-old illusionary demon's pearl, possesses the Misty Sky Illusion Ability. It can change one's appearance and conceal one's magic aura at will. It can also fully disguise one's identity, even deceiving Spiritual Contracts.]

“Can change appearance at will, hide one's magic aura, fully disguise one's identity, deceive Spiritual Contracts?”

Seeing the description of this Misty Sky Bead, Lu Changsheng's eyebrows rose, and a hint of joy appeared on his face.

He had the habit of disguising himself whenever he went out.

His current tool for disguising was a high-quality mask, a magic artifact acquired from a Robber Cultivator.

This mask was but a high-grade magic artifact, so naturally, it was nothing special.

If a Foundation Establishment Cultivator inspected it with the Spiritual Eye Technique, they might be able to see through his real appearance.

As for concealing his cultivation level and magic aura, he had been relying on a jade pendant given to him by a Nascent Soul Female Cultivator when he arrived.

This jade pendant should be a rare treasure.

After reaching Foundation Establishment, he had examined the jade pendant.

He knew that not only could it conceal his aura, but it also had certain effects in obstructing Divine Sense.

“Now that I have this Misty Sky Bead, disguising myself has become much more secure and convenient.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Misty Sky Bead inside the System Space, his Mental Spirit stirred, and he extracted it.

Immediately.

A bead the size of an egg, shaded in grey with a mist enshrouded around it, appeared before him.

Simultaneously, a detailed explanation of the effects of the Misty Sky Bead emerged.

“It can change appearances and conceal aura, making it difficult for ordinary Nascent Soul Cultivators to see through it.”

“Moreover, it can consume Divine Sense and Mana to disguise as another person, making one’s appearance, temperament, and magic aura similar to the other party.”

“Additionally, the Misty Sky Bead can absorb the essence blood and soul of others or Demon Beasts, thereby completely disguising oneself as another person or a Demon Beast.”

“This type of disguise possesses the true ability to bewilder; not only the face and appearance are the same, but also the temperament and magic aura, including the bloodline and soul aura, deceiving first and second rank Spiritual Contracts.”

Upon learning of the effects of the Misty Sky Bead, Lu Changsheng’s eyes showed a trace of delight.

The abilities of the Misty Sky Bead were completely beyond his expectations.

Not only did it allow one to change appearance and aura so that ordinary Nascent Soul Cultivators would have a hard time seeing through it,

but it also provided a remarkably astonishing disguise effect.

So comprehensive a disguise that it could even deceive a Spiritual Contract.

It was known that in the Cultivation World, when cultivators conduct transactions, the most commonly used method is Spiritual Contracts.

When Lu Changsheng first arrived at the Lu Family, he had also signed a Spiritual Contract with them.

But this Misty Sky Bead could even deceive Spiritual Contracts.

Using a disguised identity to sign a Spiritual Contract, one could later break the contract without worrying about the cost of breaching the agreement.

“Doesn’t this mean that as long as one understands a person through soul-searching techniques, and then slays them, followed by using the Misty Sky Bead to absorb their essence blood and soul, one would be able to thoroughly disguise oneself as that person, making it hard for even those close to them to notice any difference?”

Lu Changsheng suddenly felt a chill about the capabilities of the Misty Sky Bead.

According to the introduction, such a level of disguise could be considered perfect.

Not only could it deceive Spiritual Contracts,

but many techniques that sense bloodlines would also struggle to unearth any loopholes, real or fake.

Of course, this kind of disguise was not without its flaws.

The process of disguise consumed both Mana and Divine Sense.

Therefore, it was not possible to maintain the disguise all year round.

And during the disguise, one could not use full power.

Once one exerted full power, the disguise's magic aura would be difficult to maintain, and flaws would be exposed.

Chapter 434: The Misty Sky Bead, The Transformation of Bai Ling!_2

But as a third-rank exotic treasure, this effect was already quite astonishing.

“Shi!”

Right then, Lu Changsheng sat cross-legged and began to refine the Misty Sky Bead in his hand.

He wanted to experience the effect of this Misty Sky Bead.

After spending three days, Lu Changsheng refined the Misty Sky Bead into his body.

In his mind, he imagined a cultivator he had seen before and then activated the Misty Sky Bead.

...

Instantly, Lu Changsheng's facial features and body began to change.

He transformed into a youth who was skinny, with ordinary looks, and seemed somewhat solitary.

"The changes of this Misty Sky Bead not only cover one's facial features and body shape but also hide one's aura and temperament, making it look flawlessly concealed."

Lu Changsheng tapped his mana, and a water mirror appeared before him.

Looking at his reflection in the water mirror, he nodded slightly.

The original superior quality magic artifact mask could only change one's facial appearance.

It could not modify one's body shape or temperament.

One could only alter those by consuming one's mana, suppressing or transforming it.

The next moment, Lu Changsheng's mental spirit moved slightly.

A wave of spiritual power at the beginning level of Qi Refinement emanated from his body.

This wave of spiritual power rose steadily, advancing from mid-stage Qi Refinement to late-stage and then to the initial stage of Foundation Establishment.

Ultimately, it emitted a wave of mana in the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

The changes in the mana aura of the Misty Sky Bead were determined by the upper limit of the user's divine sense.

Lu Changsheng's divine sense had by now reached the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

Therefore, through the Misty Sky Bead, he could directly simulate the mana fluctuations of the late stage of Foundation Establishment.

Immediately after, Lu Changsheng took out a coffin from a storage bag.

He opened the coffin.

Inside were two bodies, a male and a female.

They were, in fact, the bodies of the two robber cultivators who had caused trouble in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Since he planned to take the bodies to the Jiuxiao Immortal City to claim the reward, and to avoid the bodies decaying in the storage bag, Lu Changsheng had purchased a Yin Coffin to store them.

“The Misty Sky Bead can devour others’ essence, blood, and soul, achieving a perfect disguise and deceiving the Spiritual Contract.”

“Besides devouring others’ essence and soul, the Misty Sky Bead can also merge with others’ blood and mana aura, thereby elevating the disguise to yet another level.”

Lu Changsheng summoned the Misty Sky Bead from his body.

He took some blood and mana aura from the two bodies of the robber cultivators and fused it into the Misty Sky Bead.

Then, he reintegrated the Misty Sky Bead into his body, and his whole appearance and body shape pulsed for a moment.

In an instant, he turned into a burly middle-aged man with scars all over his face.

It was precisely the appearance of the gray-robed robber cultivator in the coffin.

“Cough cough!”

Lu Changsheng looked at the water mirror in front of him, coughed lightly, and then mana surged within his body.

His face, body shape, voice, temperament, and even his mana aura were exactly like the gray-robed robber cultivator in the coffin.

“This effect is simply astounding.”

“Now that I have this Misty Sky Bead, my journey to the Jiuxiao Immortal City will be much more convenient.”

After a brief experimentation with the Misty Sky Bead, Lu Changsheng was very satisfied with its effects as an exotic treasure.

“Now that the preparations are nearly complete, I can get ready to head to the Jiuxiao Immortal City.”

Lu Changsheng returned to his true appearance.

Considering that his trip out would take a long time, Lu Changsheng also arranged and handled some family affairs for the time ahead.

First, he went back to Qingzhu Mountain with his wives, Lu Miaoyun and Qu Zhenzhen, and then he went to the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Through a shop subdued by the Lu Family,

“Lu Xianzhi, from now on, this shop will be under your full management,”

“In this storage bag, there are five hundred spirit stones; you can buy whatever puppet materials you need, and if there are any issues, go to Gao He or your Auntie Miaoge.”

“If you ever run short on spirit stones, you can get an advance from your Auntie Miaoge.”

Lu Changsheng took his son to the shop they had acquired, pulled out a storage bag, and spoke.

The location of this shop was not great.

It was of almost the same grade as the shop Hong Yi had bought before.

However, Hong Yi had only spent one thousand eight hundred spirit stones to acquire his shop.

Whereas Lu Changsheng had spent two thousand three hundred spirit stones on this shop.

This price, even with the Lu Family's influence, was discounted.

That is to say, the price of shops in the Red Leaf Valley Market had risen by five hundred spirit stones in the past eight years.

"Thank you, Father!"

Lu Xianzhi looked at the shop before him and the storage bag, beaming with excitement.

Although Lu Changsheng had mentioned getting him a shop before,

At this moment, seeing such a shop and so many spirit stones, he was somewhat overwhelmed.

However, upon hearing Lu Changsheng's following words that he should go to Gao He or Lu Miaoge for anything, he couldn't help but ask, "Dad, do you have something busy to attend to?"

"Yes, your father has some matters to attend to and needs to go out for a while, so I won't be around for the coming time," Lu Changsheng nodded and said.

"Dad, will you be out for a long time?" Lu Xianzhi continued to inquire.

He knew that his father seldom travelled far.

Apart from occasional trips to Ruyi Prefecture, he was usually either at Qingzhu Mountain or at the Red Leaf Valley Market.

“About a year,” Lu Changsheng responded directly, without hiding anything.

He patted his son’s shoulder and continued, “That’s why you need to be careful with everything in the coming time.”

“Later, when Ruyi breaks through to the middle stage of Qi Refinement, she will come over too.”

“You don’t need an entire shop for your puppetry at this stage, so when the time comes, you can share half with Ruyi and let her bring some talismans from the Lu Family to sell and learn to manage these affairs.”

Lu Changsheng instructed.

His third child with a Spiritual Root, Lu Ruyi, was currently at the bottleneck of the third level of Qi Refinement.

It was estimated that in a few months, or half a year, she might break through to the fourth level.

By then, in his absence, Lu Miaoge would bring her over and entrust her to Lu Xianzhi.

Chapter 435: The Misty Sky Bead, The Transformation of Bai Ling!_3

“Dad, don’t worry, I will take good care of Ruyi when the time comes.”

When Lu Xianzhi heard this, he nodded immediately in response.

Among the descendants with a Spiritual Root, he was also considered an elder brother, hence he felt a certain sense of responsibility.

“Dad, what about Brother Yun?”

Lu Xianzhi thought of his younger brother Lu Yun, who was also at the Third Level Energy Refinement.

He figured that Lu Yun would probably reach the Energy Refinement Middle Stage around the same time as Lu Ruyi.

...

“As for Yun’er, Grandmother will arrange everything when the time comes.”

Lu Changsheng patted his son’s shoulder and said.

As the son of Lu Miaoyun, the Fourth Elder naturally doted on this important grandson a lot and would arrange for his care.

Lu Changsheng wouldn’t refuse such kindness from an elder.

“Yes, Dad.”

Lu Xianzhi, having heard this, immediately nodded.

He knew his brother Yun had another layer of backing at Qingzhu Mountain and was even more spoiled.

Regarding this, he harbored no jealousy.

After all, his own father was quite fair to them.

Moreover, as Lu Changsheng’s first son with a Spiritual Root, he also received a lot of privileges and affection.

He was very clear about this in his heart.

Therefore, his sense of responsibility grew even stronger.

“Alright, if you want to go back to Qingzhu Mountain, find the Second Elder, or go back with your Auntie Miaoge.”

“Don’t leave the Marketplace alone, just focus on running the shop in the Marketplace, understand?”

Lu Changsheng continued to instruct, telling his son not to run around.

After all, his son was not like him with a bunch of tricks up his sleeve.

If he encountered a Robber Cultivator, it would be a dead end.

“Dad, rest assured, I know all this.”

“You also need to be careful when you go out.”

Lu Xianzhi smiled when he heard his father’s instructions.

He felt that this was what his father emphasized the most.

But he wasn’t annoyed in his heart.

He knew his father was concerned about his safety.

In the two years at Red Leaf Valley Market, he had also witnessed such things.

Some people, feeling that they couldn’t earn Spirit Stones through apprenticeship work, would go out on adventures with others and never return.

“If you understand, that’s good.”

After instructing his son, Lu Changsheng went to the Lu Family's Spiritual Talisman Shop to spend some quality time with Lu Miaoge.

Afterwards.

“Sister Miaoge, I need to prepare for a trip outside...”

Lu Changsheng quietly held Lu Miaoge in his arms, expressing his plans to go out.

Lu Miaoge didn't ask too many questions.

She knew Lu Changsheng had many secrets.

This trip out should be similar to the previous one with Xiao Xiyue, with something that needed to be done.

She reassured Lu Changsheng that when Lu Ruyi broke through to the Energy Refinement Middle Stage, she would take her in and settle things.

She would take care of the Peace Talisman Hall and the children.

“Sister Miaoge, you've worked hard.”

Lu Changsheng held Lu Miaoge's silky shoulders, speaking softly.

He then asked about Lu Miaoge's cultivation level and how long it would take for her to reach Energy Refinement Perfection.

“In about two years, my cultivation level should reach Energy Refinement Perfection,” Lu Miaoge replied softly, her lips slightly pursed.

Energy Refinement Perfection meant that one could start preparing for Foundation Establishment.

But under the current circumstances of the Lu Family, acquiring a Foundation Establishment Elixir was very difficult.

The only way was to bid for one at Immortal City.

But the Foundation Establishment Elixirs that surfaced in Immortal City were also very rare.

The price every time it was auctioned was extremely high.

Moreover, Immortal City was far away, and if the family's ancestor left to bid for a Foundation Establishment Elixir, it would leave the family in a precarious position during that period.

"Sister Miaoge, you keep cultivating diligently, and when I return, I'll give you a surprise," Lu Changsheng said with a smile, caressing her.

He planned to reveal his Foundation Establishment strength upon his return from Immortal City.

At the same time, he would give the Foundation Establishment Elixir and Foundation Establishment Spiritual Objects to Lu Miaoge to help her establish her foundation.

"A surprise? What surprise?" Lu Miaoge asked, her beautiful eyes looking at Lu Changsheng.

She knew the surprise Lu Changsheng mentioned wouldn't be simple.

She couldn't help but guess at several possible surprises in her heart.

"When the time comes, you'll know,"

Lu Changsheng didn't reveal the surprise but rather kept them guessing.

The next day, Lu Changsheng handed the talismans he had prepared in advance to Lu Miaoge.

Although he relatively trusted Gao He,

he still felt uneasy about handing over so many talismans to Gao He at once.

“Changsheng, you must be careful on the road,”

Seeing so many talismans, Lu Miaoge knew that Lu Changsheng had been preparing for this trip for quite some time.

Otherwise, it would have been impossible to draw so many talismans in such a short period.

If she knew that Lu Changsheng had also drawn over two hundred second-rank talismans at the same time, she would probably be too shocked to speak.

“Don’t worry, Sister Miaoge,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile, planting a kiss on Lu Miaoge’s fair and delicate face, then waved his hand casually.

He did not set out directly after leaving the Red Leaf Valley Market.

He still hadn’t said his goodbyes at Qingzhu Mountain.

Back at Qingzhu Mountain, he informed his wife, Lu Miaoyun, Qu Zhenzhen, and Lu Miaohuan about his departure.

These wives of his had different temperaments than Lu Miaoge.

They let him know of their reluctance and asked him to be careful on the road while inquiring about the matter.

Lu Changsheng naturally couldn’t say that he was heading to Jiuxiao Immortal City.

If he mentioned going to Jiuxiao Immortal City, his wives would definitely say it was dangerous and try to prevent him from going.

So he said it was just a gathering with old friends, and then some business.

After that, he took care of all his concubines and children.

“On this trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City, I can also buy a large amount of high-rank breakthrough elixir materials. Once I return, I will refine a few batches myself, and let Yun’er, Huanhuan, Zhenzhen, and Zhiyue all break through the Energy Refinement Late Stage,”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself as he looked at his wives’ cultivation levels.

Since they hadn’t been having more children in recent years, Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, Xia Zhiyue, and the others had time to practice cultivation.

All of them had reached the Sixth Level Energy Refinement.

That bottleneck from the Middle Stage Energy Refinement to the Energy Refinement Late Stage...

If they did not have the help of breakthrough elixirs, breaking through would be difficult.

As for Qu Zhenzhen, since she wasn’t very attentive to cultivation and spent most of her time on the children, she was still at the Fifth Level Energy Refinement.

Lu Changsheng didn’t say much about this, letting her be herself.

After all, if it came down to serious practice, most of his wives and concubines weren’t exactly ardent in their efforts.

Like Lu Miaohuan, for instance.

With her talent, if she had been diligently practicing, she should have broken through the Energy Refinement Late Stage by now.

“At this rate, I’m afraid the person with the second-highest cultivation level in my backyard will be Bai Ling,”

Lu Changsheng thought as he looked at Bai Ling.

Bai Ling had an exceptional talent and listened to Lu Changsheng very well.

He had told her to practice cultivation earnestly, so she had been diligently practicing every day.

By now, she too was at the Sixth Level Energy Refinement.

She probably could break through the Energy Refinement Late Stage on her own, without needing a breakthrough elixir.

“Brother,”

Upon learning that Lu Changsheng was leaving, Bai Ling also showed a face full of reluctance and hugged Lu Changsheng tightly.

The once frail and delicate little girl was now seventeen years old.

She had blossomed into an elegantly upright figure.

Her face, shaped like a melon seed, was breathtakingly beautiful.

Her delicate little features were assembled just right, pure yet subtly enchanting.

Especially the girl’s big, clear eyes, like peach blossoms, seemingly drunk yet sober, misty, seductive as silk, captivating and beguiling, stirring one’s heart and soul.

This enchantment, perfectly harmonized with her overall innocence and loveliness, seemed neither conflicting nor conspicuous. It portrayed an alluring yet forbidden temptation.

Adding to that, Bai Ling's naturally timid and well-behaved demeanor made one want to tease her even more.

"Good girl, Ling'er,"

Lu Changsheng had watched the little girl grow up and, out of habit, fondly rubbed her small head.

Over the years, he had clearly seen Bai Ling become more and more charming and enchanting.

This allure was, seemingly, innate to her.

And as she grew older, the white scales on her body continued to grow as well.

Her tender white arms, slender neck, flat abdomen, smooth back, and well-shaped straight legs were all covered with a dense layer of white snake scales.

To this day, Lu Changsheng still hadn't figured out what was the deal with Bai Ling's snake scales.

But these scales, much like Bai Ling's pure allure, blended perfectly with her fair and delicate skin, not looking out of place at all, as if she was wearing a form-fitting scale armor dress, an exotic charm of its own.

It led Lu Changsheng to speculate whether Bai Ling had Demon Race bloodlines.

As far as he knew, some people with Demon Race bloodlines in their ancestry would occasionally have a slim chance of their bloodlines reverting.

If bloodline reversion occurred, signs of demonic traits would appear.

So on this trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City, Lu Changsheng also wanted to see if he could find any related information.

After all, the grand Immortal City is bound to have a broader range of material and information than a small marketplace.

Chapter 436:

After leaving Qingzhu Mountain, Lu Changsheng transformed into a robust, valiant-looking middle-aged man and flew towards the Nine Dragons Market on a Spirit Boat.

This trip was indeed heading towards Jiuxiao Immortal City.

But he also took the opportunity to pay a visit to the Nine Dragons Market along the way.

To see if White Jade Tower had any decent maids.

And to buy and handle some materials as well.

The various items he had acquired from Meng Yibai and two robber cultivators at the Foundation Establishment stage had yet to be dealt with....

He had decided to take care of them now.

Two days later.

A Spirit Boat descended outside of the Nine Dragons Market.

Lu Changsheng, seeing the Nine Dragons Market standing tall and straight with nine peaks piercing through the clouds, felt a sense of returning to a familiar place.

When the great battle between the Lu and Chen Families erupted, he left Nine Dragons Market. Apart from returning once to retrieve the maids, he hadn't visited since.

Following the crowd, he queued up and, after handing over a Spirit Stone, he got a temporary identity card and entered the Marketplace, heading straight for White Jade Tower. "What would you like to know, sir? Whether to take a wife or a concubine, or to purchase a maid?"

A red-dressed woman greeted him with a beaming smile as soon as he entered.

Giving Lu Changsheng a nostalgic feeling.

He hadn't been to White Jade Tower for ten years. "Is Feng Jiuniang, the manager, available?"

Lu Changsheng then asked.

Recalling that utterly charming manager. "Sir, Manager Feng was reassigned and left seven years ago. Now the establishment is under the management of Manager Xia," the receptionist replied respectfully. "Oh, reassigned,"

Lu Changsheng raised his eyebrows upon hearing this.

He didn't expect that Manager Feng was no longer here.

But it didn't bother him much.

Organizations like White Jade Tower operated branches in many places, so reassignments and promotions were quite common.

Shortly thereafter, under the reception of the red-dressed woman, he went to the second floor to meet Manager Xia of the White Jade Tower.

This Manager Xia was of superior beauty and form, and her pleasant demeanour made others feel at ease.

One could only say that White Jade Tower truly excelled in their services. "Does your establishment have any Middle Grade or Higher Grade Spiritual Root maids available?"

Lu Changsheng picked up the tea, took a light sip, and stated his needs. "Middle Grade or Higher Grade Spiritual Root maids?"

Manager Xia showed a hint of surprise in her beautiful eyes upon hearing this.

Realizing she had encountered a major client.

With a dignified face and graceful posture, her voice soft and melodious, she said, “Mr. Han, both Middle Grade and Higher Grade Spiritual Root maids are quite rare in our White Jade Tower.” “They are only supplied during our members-only events or the White Jade Tower auction.” “If Mr. Han is willing to take a wife or a concubine, we do have a few female cultivators with Middle Grade Spiritual Roots that I can introduce to Mr. Han,”

Manager Xia said. “Taking a wife or a concubine,”

Lu Changsheng, as a regular customer of White Jade Tower, well understood that this was White Jade Tower acting as a marriage broker intermediary.

Although it came with a certain guarantee, it wasn’t like purchasing a maid where the transaction concluded with a binding Spiritual Contract, life and death at one’s whim.

So, he had no intention of taking a wife or a concubine from White Jade Tower. “I do not currently have any plans regarding taking a wife or a concubine,” “How often does your auction take place?”

Lu Changsheng asked thoughtfully.

He was quite familiar with the member-only supply at White Jade Tower, knowing that every year they offered a batch of top-quality maids.

Not only were these maids attractive and well-shaped, but most also possessed Spiritual Roots and even cultivated certain Dual Cultivation Techniques, suitable for use as alchemic cauldrons.

However, due to the exorbitant price, starting at several thousand Spirit Stones, he merely gleaned basic information and refrained from further inquiry.

Now, hearing this, he knew that the only way to purchase a Middle Grade Spiritual Root maid was through such means.

This was to be expected.

Although White Jade Tower was powerful, rumored to be overseen by a Nascent Soul True Lord, they couldn't possibly sell Middle Grade or Higher Grade Spiritual Root maids without limit.

After all, in the Cultivation World, ninety percent of cultivators possessed Lower Grade Spiritual Roots.

Owning a Middle Grade Spiritual Root indicated a certain worthiness for cultivation. "Our White Jade Tower auction occurs once every three years, and it has been one year since the last auction," "If Mr. Han is interested, I can send someone to notify you when the time comes,"

Manager Xia spoke. "Alright, thank you, Manager Xia,"

Lu Changsheng nodded upon hearing this, planning to check out the members-only supply and the auction when he had the time.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng bid farewell to White Jade Tower, and proceeded to Qingyun Commerce Guild, Myriad Treasures Pavilion, and other major shops to purchase Second Rank talisman-making materials, Second Rank elixir materials, Third Rank talisman-making materials, and the black essence iron and five metals iron needed to forge the talisman artifact "Ninety-Nine Profound Truth Strategy."

As expected, after inquiring shop by shop, aside from Second Rank talisman-making materials and some alchemy materials, none of the Third Rank materials were available in the Nine Dragons Market. "Third Rank heavenly and earthly treasures mostly belong to the category of strategic resources, only available in places like Immortal Cities," "In Nine Dragons Market, selling such high-level treasures not only proves challenging but can also attract trouble,"

Lu Changsheng exhaled lightly.

He had already speculated about this and was not disappointed.

After purchasing the talisman-making and alchemy materials, he sold those materials he himself did not need.

As for the ordinary magic artifacts, he didn't sell them, since with so many children, he would eventually need the artifacts.

Selling these miscellaneous materials fetched him nearly ten thousand Spirit Stones.

Just as Lu Changsheng was finishing his business and preparing to leave, he sensed a covert Divine Sense stealthily scanning him. “Hmm? Foundation Establishment early stage?”

Chapter 437: Instant Kill Foundation Establishment, The Best Use of the Misty Sky Bead!_2

“Is this an attempt to murder for loot?”

“I never expected Myriad Treasures Pavilion, with its big name, would actually engage in murder and robbery.”

Lu Changsheng’s divine sense was comparable to that of a Foundation Establishment Late Stage, and he had the Misty Sky Bead to conceal his magic aura.

Therefore, the Foundation Establishment early stage cultivator was completely unable to detect his disguise.

Upon using his divine sense to inspect, he only took him for an Energy Refinement Late Stage cultivator.

He then quietly left a divine sense mark on the hem of his clothing for tracking purposes.

...

“Indeed, my extravagant purchases and spending tens of thousands of Spirit Stones, not to mention fencing goods of equal value, would tempt even Foundation Establishment cultivators into greed,” he mused.

With the Misty Sky Bead and his strength as a foundation, Lu Changsheng was not as cautious this time as he usually was.

After completing a transaction, he would go to an inn and change his disguise.

The whole time, maintaining a single identity.

“If one wishes to be a robber cultivator, one must be prepared to pay the price.”

Lu Changsheng’s expression remained calm, seemingly unaware he was being targeted, and he quickly left Nine Dragons Market.

Upon exiting the marketplace, Lu Changsheng took out a superior magic artifact.

He flew at the speed of an ordinary Energy Refinement Late Stage cultivator.

“Being followed.”

Before long, Lu Changsheng could sense, a hundred zhang behind him, a figure dressed in black vestment robes and wearing a mask.

This person was a manager from the ‘Myriad Treasures Pavilion’ of Nine Dragons Market.

The other party must also be concerned about their reputation.

Therefore, they planned to wait until he was a good distance away from Nine Dragons Market before making a move.

After Lu Changsheng flew nearly a hundred miles away from Nine Dragons Market, the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion openly pursued him with escape light, not bothering to conceal his intentions.

“Young one, don’t blame this old man, blame your own lack of restraint!”

He unleashed the grandeur of a Foundation Establishment cultivator, brandishing a Spiritual Artifact Flying Dagger, aiming to kill Lu Changsheng in one blow.

“Hmph!”

Looking at the oncoming manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion, Lu Changsheng let out a cold snort.

He activated the ‘Soul Dispersion Needle’ with his divine sense, allowing this divine sense attack to suddenly pierce into his opponent’s sea of consciousness.

“Pu!”

The manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion had no defense against the divine sense attack and was caught completely off guard.

He immediately felt his sea of consciousness being pierced, his face paled, his brain spun in dizziness, he raised his hand to his forehead, and let out a muffled groan.

“Bad news! A Divine Sense Attack!”

“This person is a Foundation Establishment cultivator! A Foundation Establishment Late Stage Great Cultivator!”

The manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion barely freed himself from the divine sense attack, his heart filled with shock and terror.

He had never expected his greed for killing and looting

to be exactly what the other party was angling for.

His whole body surged with Spiritual Light as he hurriedly shouted, “Fellow Daoist, it’s a mis...”

But before he could finish,

several sharp and domineering beams of the Seven Luminaries Sword cut through the air, shooting towards him simultaneously.

“Pu pu pu—”

The beams from the Seven Luminaries Sword penetrated the protective Spiritual Light around the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion.

Then they pierced through his forehead, leaving a bloody hole.

A Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator thus fell!

“This Divine Sense Attack technique is really useful,”

“When it’s unexpected, it leaves one with no chance to defend.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion whom he had just instantly killed and mused to himself.

Immediately, he raised his palm and the Misty Sky Bead appeared inside his body.

“Go!”

The grey mist from within the Misty Sky Bead stirred, like a great grey snake, sweeping towards the corpse of the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion.

In a short while, the body was drained of flesh and blood under the grey mist, turning into a pile of dry bones.

“It looks so much like a technique from the Demon Path.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the skeleton that remained after the Misty Sky Bead had devoured the body and couldn’t help but comment.

He then gestured with his hand to withdraw the Misty Sky Bead back into his body.

The next moment, his entire body fluctuated.

His face, physique, temperament, magic aura, all became identical to that of the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion.

“So this is the perfect disguise of the Misty Sky Bead.”

“Although the flesh, soul core, and cultivated techniques remain unchanged, the effect and appearance presented are as if I’m a completely different person.”

Lu Changsheng quietly experienced this new state.

The Misty Sky Bead inside him seemed to be imprisoning the flesh and soul of the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion, thus making his appearance identical to his.

“If I now return to Nine Dragons Market, wouldn’t I be able to use this identity to glean a fortune from Myriad Treasures Pavilion?”

Lu Changsheng stroked his chin, contemplating.

He may have understood the best use for this treasure.

That is, to become a thief.

Even Nascent Soul Immortals would typically not realize the effects of the Misty Sky Bead.

If he wished, he could completely transform into someone with status and position from a minor family or small force and use this method to plunder.

But the next moment, Lu Changsheng shook his head, dismissing the thought.

Inside a chain store like Myriad Treasures Pavilion, there would surely be various prohibitions and secret signals.

Being unfamiliar with these aspects, he could easily commit a blunder and be exposed.

If he were to be found out within the shop, provoking the Foundation Establishment Great Cultivators stationed at Nine Dragons Market to take action, it would be very dangerous and troublesome.

Moreover, in Lu Changsheng's view, such actions are like becoming addicted to impersonation and robbery.

If one starts doing it too often, they might end up on a path of no return.

Since he had the system to rely on, he did not need to engage in such deeds.

After all, those who often walk by the river rarely manage to keep their shoes dry.

The Misty Sky Bead might be powerful, but it's not omnipotent.

Perhaps some family or power has treasures or secret techniques that can counter this ability.

Immediately, Lu Changsheng changed his appearance again, adopting another look.

He reached out, collecting all the magic artifacts and the storage bag of the manager from Myriad Treasures Pavilion into his possession and turned into a streak of escape light as he left.

...

Half a month later.

"This is Green River Marketplace."

Lu Changsheng operated his flying boat, arriving at a medium-to-large-sized marketplace built along a river.

Chapter 438: Instant Kill Foundation Establishment, The Best Use of the Misty Sky Bead!_3

Xiao Xiyue was serving as the Record Chief in this marketplace.

The two hadn't seen each other for so long, and now that he was going out, Lu Changsheng naturally took the chance to visit Xiao Xiyue.

He took a Sensing Talisman out of his storage magic artifact.

Before long.

An escape light flew out of the core area of Green River Marketplace, landing outside the marketplace.

Her face was cold and remote, her skin surpassing the whiteness of snow, clad in a moon-white dress, her figure graceful, her temperament holy and pure, as if a fairy from the Moon Palace had descended upon the mortal world.

...

"Xi Yue Fairy."

"Xiao Martial Uncle!"

"Xi Yue Martial Uncle!"

The Qingyun Sect disciples guarding the entrance to the marketplace bowed and saluted upon seeing this fairylike figure.

They weren't aware of what significant business had brought the esteemed Record Chief here.

And the originally somewhat noisy and bustling area outside the marketplace quieted down as everyone saw this stunning figure.

On one hand, they were captivated by her remote and absolute beauty, her nobility, and the sanctity of her fairylike appearance.

On the other hand, they were overawed by her aura as a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator.

“Xi Yue.”

Lu Changsheng gazed toward Xiao Xiyue, who stood calmly with an ethereal and delicate bearing, and communicated with her through divine sense.

Now he was masked by the Misty Sky Bead, which concealed his appearance, temperament, and magic aura.

Even Xiao Xiyue could not recognize him at a glance.

“Changsheng.”

Xiao Xiyue, hearing the divine sense communication and showing a rare emotional response on her cold and proud face, immediately noticed Lu Changsheng not far away.

Surprise and bewilderment filled her eyes.

Had it not been for Lu Changsheng’s divine sense message, she wouldn’t have recognized that it was him.

“It’s me.”

Lu Changsheng nodded.

Xiao Xiyue didn’t ask further.

She instructed a Qingyun Sect disciple to directly handle an identity plaque for Lu Changsheng and then let him into the marketplace.

“Sss!”

“Who is this person that Xi Yue Martial Uncle personally welcomed?”

“Could it be an elder from the sect?”

“But from what I see of his cultivation aura, he seems to be at the Energy Refinement Late Stage.”

“Energy Refinement Late Stage? How could that lead to Xi Yue Fairy personally receiving him? He must have concealed his true cultivation strength.”

“Right, I’ve heard that some bigshots like to disguise their cultivation to fish for information.”

Witnessing this scene, the surrounding people sighed and murmured amongst themselves.

Xiao Xiyue had a reputation for being cold and aloof as Record Chief in Green River Marketplace.

Aside from the False Core Immortal who presided over the marketplace, she showed no favor to anyone.

And yet now, she personally went out to welcome an Energy Refining Cultivator.

If word of this got back to the Qingyun Sect, it would likely cause a sensation.

“Changsheng, why have you come?”

Once they entered an inn, Xiao Xiyue’s cold face softened, her voice full of joy.

“I’m planning to make a trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City, so I thought I’d come to see you first,” said Lu Changsheng openly.

As he spoke, his figure transformed, removing the disguise and reverting to his true appearance.

“Heading to Jiuxiao Immortal City?”

Xiao Xiyue, a bit taken aback by his words,

immediately remembered the two Robber Cultivators Lu Changsheng had killed in Red Leaf Valley Market.

The two were wanted by the Heavenly Sword Sect, and one could take their heads to the sect or Jiuxiao Immortal City to claim the reward.

“Yes, I want to buy some materials which aren’t available in this marketplace, so I thought of looking in Jiuxiao Immortal City.”

“Also, to claim the rewards for those two Robber Cultivators.”

Lu Changsheng explained.

“Changsheng, if you need any materials, I can help you purchase them through Qingyun Sect,”

Xiao Xiyue said immediately upon hearing this.

“If possible, could you help me acquire some Third Rank Talisman materials?”

Lu Changsheng said after a slight pause.

Although he was heading to Jiuxiao Immortal City to buy Third Rank Talisman materials,

how much he could get was still uncertain.

After all, Third Rank materials were much rarer than Second Rank ones.

And he would never complain about having too many Third Rank Talisman materials.

They were always welcome in abundance.

As for the mild Second Rank Spiritual Blood, an ingredient for crafting the “Ninety-Nine Profound Truth Talismans,”

as well as materials needed for refining Breakthrough Elixirs, Three Suns Elixirs, or even Foundation Establishment Elixirs, he couldn’t just impose all of it on Xiao Xiyue at once.

After all, Xiao Xiyue was just a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Even with the channel of Qingyun Sect, she didn’t have that much influence.

He planned to ask for her help if he didn’t get results in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

“Third Rank Talisman materials!?”

Xiao Xiyue’s beautiful eyes revealed a look of surprise upon hearing this.

Then she asked, “Changsheng, can you really draw Third Rank Talismans now?”

“What are you thinking about?”

Lu Changsheng looked at Xiao Xiyue’s surprised face and pinched her fair and delicate cheek with a smile.

Then he sat on the bed beside him, pulled Xiao Xiyue’s soft and fragrant body into his arms, and spoke softly, “I have a Talisman Nurturing Secret Technique that can nurture Second Rank Spirit Talismans into Third Rank ones.”

“But it requires the use of Third Rank Talisman materials to draw them.”

“That’s why I’m preparing to buy some Third Rank Talisman materials for making talismans.”

“Later, with the nurturing method, the Second Rank Talismans will unleash the power of Third Rank Talismans.”

Lu Changsheng, embracing Xiao Xiyue's graceful and curvaceous fairy-like body, inhaled the heart-pleasing fragrance from her hair and continued slowly.

"Such a talisman nurturing secret technique exists?"

Xiao Xiyue snuggled in Lu Changsheng's arms, saying in surprise.

She had never heard of this before.

"Yes, after I draw the talismans, I will teach you this talisman nurturing method so you can nurture spirit talismans regularly,"

Lu Changsheng said with a light chuckle.

This kind of spirit talisman nurturing could only be done for two or three at a time.

If too many were nurtured, it would affect one's own cultivation.

Therefore, he didn't mind teaching this secret method to Xiao Xiyue, giving her a few talismans to nurture herself for protection.

"Then, thank you very much, Lu Lang,"

Xiao Xiyue said with a beaming smile.

She knew Lu Changsheng's personality.

If he said he would give something, he didn't like others to refuse.

Besides, she wouldn't decline Lu Changsheng's kindness.

"Xi Yue,"

Lu Changsheng said, looking at the beauty in his arms.

He thought of Xiao Xiyue's proud and untouchable demeanor when she stepped out of the marketplace earlier, like the noble fairy from the Moon Palace, and felt a surge of heat in his heart.

“Hmm?”

Xiao Xiyue lifted her head slightly.

The next moment, Lu Changsheng captured her rosy and luscious lips, full of juicy temptation.

“Mmm~”

The familiar pressure and plunder overwhelmed her, causing Xiao Xiyue to soften in his arms, her heart to tremble, and a sultry moan escaped her nostrils.

After a long while, Lu Changsheng released Xiao Xiyue, whose face was flushed like the rosy clouds and whose body was warm and moist, leaving her gasping for breath.

He chuckled and said, “The taste of Xi Yue is still so sweet and rich.”

Xiao Xiyue's clear eyes were slightly dazed.

She placed her hands on Lu Changsheng's shoulders and offered her lips again, expressing her longing.

Chapter 439: Draw for Spiritual Pets! Colluding with the Demon Path!_1

The room was clear after the rain, and a faint fragrance filled the air.

Xiao Xiyue's black hair was disheveled, her forehead nestled in Lu Changsheng's arms, whispering sweet nothings.

Lu Changsheng held her tenderly, his palm lightly lifting to take out a memory stone from his storage bag.

It contained recordings of their daughter Lu Wangshu's everyday life.

Knowing Xiao Xiyue would miss their daughter, he had prepared for this in advance.

Xiao Xiyue watched the small moments of her daughter in the memory stone, who could already call out for her parents, prompting waves of longing to see her child.

...

"Xi Yue, if you miss Wangshu, you can go to Red Leaf Valley Market to find Miaoge and have her bring Wangshu over."

"I have already discussed our matters with her."

Lu Changsheng said tenderly, caressing her soft and smooth skin.

"Hmm~"

Xiao Xiyue acknowledged softly, with a light hum.

Having spent nearly a year in Green River Marketplace, she could make time to visit her daughter.

"By the way, Changsheng, the journey to Jiuxiao Immortal City from here is long, and even if you hurry, it will take four to five months."

"There is a spiritual vessel from Qingyun Market that goes to the Three Great Immortal Cities once a year."

"I remember there's one heading to Jiuxiao Immortal City next month; you could take that vessel. It's not only convenient but also much faster."

That's when Xiao Xiyue spoke softly, lifting her beautiful head.

"Oh, a spiritual vessel?"

Lu Changsheng's eyebrows raised at that.

He knew that many businesses in the Spiritual Boat Pavilion did this, traveling between various marketplaces and Immortal Cities to make money from passage fares.

But those were all medium and small-sized spirit boats.

In his view, taking such boats was less convenient than piloting one himself.

Now, hearing Xiao Xiyue's words about a huge spiritual vessel specifically bound for Jiuxiao Immortal City, he became quite interested.

"That's correct, this huge spiritual vessel from Qingyun Market to Jiuxiao Immortal City only takes three months."

"Not only is there a False Core Immortal overseeing it, but there are also private rooms, so you, Changsheng, can cultivate and make talismans in peace."

Xiao Xiyue said with a soft laugh.

Her eyes and brows exuded a captivating charm that only Lu Changsheng was privileged to see.

"Such a spiritual vessel must not be available to just anyone, right?"

Lu Changsheng spoke out.

"You need to purchase a ticket, but if you need it, Changsheng, I can secure one for you."

Xiao Xiyue spoke softly.

As the Record Chief in Green River Marketplace and holding some influence within the sect, she could secure a ticket.

“Since that’s the case, then I’ll trouble you to do so, Xi Yue.”

Lu Changsheng did not refuse, accepting the offer right away.

Setting aside other factors, the fact that the huge spiritual vessel only took three months and provided private rooms to comfortably make talismans made it very appealing to him.

If he were to pilot a spirit boat himself, not only would it waste time, but he might also encounter troubles that would prevent him from focusing on cultivation and other tasks.

Three days later, Xiao Xiyue handed Lu Changsheng a green-jade token with cloud patterns etched into it.

She told him that Qingyun Sect’s giant spiritual vessel would depart in twenty-four days.

Once in Qingyun Market, he could board the spiritual vessel to Jiuxiao Immortal City by showing this jade token.

To find out how to board, he simply had to ask one of Qingyun Sect’s reception disciples with the token in hand.

The trip from Green River Marketplace to Qingyun Market would take nearly half a month as well.

So, after spending three days with Xiao Xiyue, Lu Changsheng set out for Qingyun Market.

In order to avoid trouble on the way and to board the spiritual vessel easily, he used the Misty Sky Bead to suppress his magic aura to the level of a mid-stage Foundation Establishment.

...

Half a month later.

Lu Changsheng safely arrived at Qingyun Market.

Looking at the marketplace before him, he was reminded of six years ago when he and Xiao Xiyue had broken through to Foundation Establishment here.

And when they had slain a grandson of a False Core Immortal.

While registering his identity, Lu Changsheng presented the jade token and inquired about the giant spiritual vessel.

The Qingyun Sect disciple, upon seeing the token, immediately told Lu Changsheng that the spiritual vessel would be landing at the north gate of the marketplace in three days.

Lu Changsheng should go there early to wait, and someone would make the necessary arrangements.

After understanding the general situation, Lu Changsheng began to stroll around Qingyun Market.

This trip was mainly for purchasing.

As a major marketplace second only to the Immortal Cities, Qingyun Market naturally had many materials for sale.

After two days of busy shopping, he roamed the marketplace thoroughly and indeed found some treasures.

He had not only bought many second-rank materials for Talisman Making and rare medicinal herbs, but he had also acquired the spirit blood of a demon beast called 'Jade Sun Deer.'

This spirit blood had mild properties and could be used in medicine making.

It was more than suitable for awakening Lu Wangshu's Blood Talisman Spiritual Body.

The only downside was that there was too little of the spirit blood.

The store sold it in portions rather than in full gourds.

“My spending is like water flowing; I guess I’ll have to sell some spirit talismans and elixir medicines on this trip to Jiuxiao Immortal City.”

“Otherwise, the remaining spirit stones may not be enough for me to forge the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy and purchase a large number of third-rank Talisman Making materials.”

In two days, Lu Changsheng had spent over twenty thousand spirit stones.

It made him lament that money indeed flowed like water.

This was also because his second-rank talismans were selling well at ‘Peace Talisman Hall,’ which brought in a profit of nearly three thousand spirit stones a month.

Otherwise, no Foundation Establishment Cultivator could afford such spending.

Like the time at Nine Dragons Market, the steward from Myriad Treasures Pavilion who tried to rob him had only over three thousand spirit stones in his storage bag.

All his possessions combined were worth just a little over twenty thousand spirit stones.

Yet, Lu Changsheng’s expenses during this period amounted to over thirty thousand spirit stones.

Despite this, he still had over forty thousand spirit stones left.

Moreover, he had many precious materials and spiritual artifacts that were not easy to sell.

If he were to liquidate everything, he could instantly exchange them for seventy or eighty thousand spirit stones.

Chapter 440: Draw for Spiritual Pets! Colluding with the Demon Path!_2

If the Spirit Stones were still insufficient, he could also draw Spirit Talismans and refine Elixir Medicines to quickly gather funds.

The next morning, as the sky began to show the first light of dawn.

Lu Changsheng arrived outside the northern gate of Qingyun Market.

At this time, there were already many Cultivators waiting, including several Qingyun Sect's patrolling law-enforcement Cultivators.

It seemed they were all waiting for the arrival of the Qingyun Sect's Spiritual Vessel.

"Han Senior, when the Spiritual Vessel arrives, please line up here and board the second floor of the vessel,"

...

a Qingyun Sect disciple inquired about Lu Changsheng's situation. Seeing the green Jade Token in his hand, he briefed him on the general situation.

"Okay."

Lu Changsheng nodded his head.

After waiting for nearly an hour.

A three-level tall, fifty to sixty zhang long Spiritual Vessel, wrapped in luminous Formation light, slowly descended from the high clouds.

This Spiritual Vessel was not only inscribed with Formation Runes but also had several artillery turrets, which made one feel insignificant while also imparting an indescribable sense of oppression.

“How powerful could these turrets be? Are they comparable to a blow from a Core Formation?”

Lu Changsheng wondered to himself as he looked at the Spiritual Vessel.

He had heard that some large Spirit Boats would be inscribed with Attack Formations and equipped with large-scale Magic Artifacts.

During major power conflicts and battles, they would use Spiritual Vessels to transport resources and manpower to the battlefield.

Such Spiritual Vessels also belonged to the category of strategic Magic Artifacts.

Ordinary powers simply couldn't afford them, nor did they have channels to purchase them.

“Everyone present yourself with the token in hand, and line up in order to board the Spiritual Vessel.”

“If you disrupt the order, boarding qualifications will be revoked!”

The Spiritual Vessel was hovering in mid-air as two Foundation Establishment Cultivators came out and spoke, their voices booming.

As soon as their words settled, a rainbow light descended from the Spiritual Vessel, forming a series of steps.

At this time, the Qingyun Sect's law-enforcement Cultivators ordered people to line up and board the vessel in sequence.

Having observed and understood the situation, Lu Changsheng knew that the tickets for this massive Spiritual Vessel came in three tiers.

The first tier was the Purple Jade Token, for luxury upper-class rooms.

The second tier was his type, the Green Jade Token, for ordinary guest rooms.

The third tier was the White Jade Token, where all passengers shared a hold without private space.

There were only three persons holding Purple Jade Tokens on this trip on the Spiritual Vessel.

They appeared either rich or noble, likely descendants of Nascent Soul Immortals or members of large aristocratic families.

After these three boarded the Spiritual Vessel, Lu Changsheng also started lining up to board.

“Recommended by Xi Yue Junior Sister? May I ask how to address you?”

After boarding the Spiritual Vessel, a Foundation Establishment Cultivator checked Lu Changsheng’s Jade Token and asked.

“Loose Cultivator Han Li,”

Lu Changsheng made a bow with hands folded in front.

“Alright, Daoist Han, Room No. 9, please enter.”

After a simple log-in by this Foundation Establishment Cultivator, he didn’t inquire further.

“Alright, thank you.”

Lu Changsheng nodded, making his way to the guest rooms on the second floor of the Spiritual Vessel.

The room wasn’t large—

Just a single room of about ten square meters.

For Lu Changsheng, it was more than enough.

He had purchased quite a lot of Talisman making materials in Nine Dragons Market and Qingyun Market.

Over these three months, he could calmly draw Talismans on board the Spiritual Vessel.

Half an hour later, the Spiritual Vessel rose high into the sky and set off for Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Lu Changsheng brewed a pot of Spiritual Tea and quietly watched the sea of clouds outside the window.

He had long since grown tired of such scenery.

But his first time on a Spiritual Vessel was like the first time he had flown on a plane in his previous life, somewhat novel.

He couldn't help but think to himself when he would be able to own a Spiritual Vessel like this.

After all, such a Spiritual Vessel truly exuded dominance.

Having finished a pot of Spiritual Tea and watched the clouds for a while, the novelty of riding the Spiritual Vessel had almost vanished.

Lu Changsheng exhaled softly, took out a talisman brush and paper, and began to draw Spirit Talismans with his mind tranquil.

...

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

[Congratulations to the host, ten offspring have completed the 'Qi-Introduction into Body' and stepped onto the path of cultivation, earning a 5% increased probability for offspring to have a Spiritual Root, and receiving one chance to draw a lottery!]

“Hmm, ten now,”

Lu Changsheng, who was making Talismans, heard the system alert and a faint smile appeared on his face.

His children were now starting cultivation in an orderly manner.

In the next three years, another ten children would step onto the path of cultivation.

These children would be the foundation of his future Family.

“^

“The probability effect of having offspring with a Spiritual Root, if kept on increasing like this, wouldn’t it guarantee that all my future children will possess a Spiritual Root?”

Lu Changsheng, observing the 5% increase in the probability of siring offspring with a Spiritual Root, mused to himself.

After several enhancements, the chance for his offspring to have a Spiritual Root had already risen to 15%.

This probability was far from low.

You see, when two cultivators have children, the chance that the child will have a Spiritual Root is only about ten to twenty percent.

“But I would also need a sufficient number of wives and maids to maximize this passive effect.”

Lu Changsheng exhaled lightly.

He was now ready to stream in more resources and focus on selectively breeding.

There weren't many pregnant wives or maids left in his backyard.

Apart from the seven new concubines and maids, many had already given birth among his wives and maids.

Thus, aside from Xia Zhizue, Lu Miaoge, and Xiao Xiyue, Lu Changsheng didn't really want to keep having them bear children.

"However, once I establish my family and reveal my Foundation Establishment strength, these matters should resolve themselves."

Lu Changsheng contemplated privately.

Merely by revealing his Second Grade Talisman Master abilities, he already had many people willing to send their family juniors to be his concubines or maids.

If he were to reveal his Foundation Establishment strength, then even more families and powers would likely be willing to send over their talented juniors.

"Indeed, in the Cultivation World, as long as you have strength, many problems cease to be problems."

Lu Changsheng shook his head and sighed, then silently commanded in his mind.

"System, draw the lottery."

A pale red wheel of fortune emerged, bathed in a golden light that began to spin rapidly.

After a moment, the light slowed and rested on 'pet'.

[Ding! Congratulations Host, you've obtained a Spiritual Pet: Cold Blue Dark Turtle!]

[The reward has been distributed to the System Space, the Host can check it at any time.]

An image of a dark blue turtle radiating a chilly aura appeared from the wheel, accompanied by a system notification sound.

“Cold Blue Dark Turtle? A turtle species Spiritual Pet?”

Lu Changsheng scrutinized his lottery prize, frowning slightly.

His first impression of turtle species beasts was that they had long lifespans and slow growth.

So seeing this Cold Blue Dark Turtle, he immediately felt the Spiritual Pet was of limited use, somewhat mediocre.

Immediately, Lu Changsheng’s Mental Spirit flickered, turning his attention to the Cold Blue Dark Turtle in the System Space.

[Beast: Cold Blue Dark Turtle]

[Rank: Heaven Rank Lower Grade]

[Description: A lower-grade beast with the True Spirit ‘Dark Mysterious Turtle’ bloodline. It can grow to its peak in a thousand years, becoming a Fourth Rank Demon Beast]

“Truly a case of raising a turtle for three generations, people pass away, but a turtle remains.”

“Though a thousand years to grow into a Fourth Rank Demon Beast is already very fast for a turtle species beast.”

“But this rate of growth would exhaust even a Nascent Soul Immortal.”

Lu Changsheng, seeing the description of the Cold Blue Dark Turtle, couldn’t help shaking his head.

Although he was confident that he could outlast this turtle.

With a Nine Netherhound in his house that could grow into a Fourth Rank Demon Beast in five hundred years, he was already dissatisfied with its slow growth.

Now this Cold Blue Dark Turtle would take a thousand years to reach the Fourth Rank, which made him not want to even comment.

“Forget it, that’s the nature of a lottery, always ups and downs, might as well treat it as a common pet.”

Lu Changsheng exhaled and didn’t concern himself too much.

Although the Cold Blue Dark Turtle’s growth was slow, it also represented a future potential.

After all, a beast’s lifespan is several times that of a human being.

And the lifespan of a turtle species beast is generally several times that of other beasts.

If he took good care of this Cold Blue Dark Turtle, maybe it could accompany him for tens of thousands of years.

Lu Changsheng decided not to take the Cold Blue Dark Turtle out from the System Space for the time being.

He planned to leave it in the System Space until he disembarked from the Spiritual Vessel and arrived at Jiuxiao Immortal City, then take a good look at the situation of this Spiritual Turtle.

...

Blackwater Pool, Xiahou Family.

“How dare you infiltrate the Xiahou Family!”

A loud roar resounded, piercing the sky.

The next moment, a sword light broke through the void, leaving a crack in the great formation above the Xiahou family estate.

Then an escape light flew swiftly through the crack, soaring into the sky, disappearing into the clouds.

“She must not be allowed to escape!”

“This woman might very well be an agent of the Qingyun Sect, infiltrating our Xiahou family to investigate any potential collusion with the Demon Path.”

“Now that our Sect Master is challenging Li Duanxuan to a duel, and we’re on the brink of war with Jiang Country, we cannot afford any missteps!”

In the depths of the Xiahou estate, several voices exchanged words.

Immediately, a figure rose into the sky, transforming into a black divine rainbow, chasing after the escape light that had just fled.

This figure was emanating a terrifying spiritual pressure, characteristic of a False Core Immortal.