

## I. Family 451

Chapter 451: Arriving at Jiuxiao Immortal City, Meeting Meng Xiaochan Again\_1

The Qing Zhu Grand Hall.

The War Council Chamber.

Lu Yuanzhong, the Lu Family Ancestor, was discussing with all the Lu Family senior members and elders about the Qingyun Sect's campaign against the Xiahou Clan.

Now that the Supreme Sect had issued an order, their Qing Zhu's Lu Family must send people to obey the summons and participate in this war.

For these family powers, the war, though dangerous,

was also an opportunity.

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As long as they made military contributions, the Qingyun Sect would also reward them according to their achievements afterward.

Spirit Stones, Magic Artifacts, Elixir Medicines, secret cultivation techniques and other rare resources that usually couldn't be purchased could all be obtained in exchange for military contributions.

"Since that is the case, let's settle on this."

"In three days, Uncle Yunhan, Uncle Yunfei... Yuan Shan, Yuanhua, Yuan Ling, Miaofeng... will accompany me to participate in this battle."

Lu Yuanzhong announced decisively.

Then, turning to Lu Yuanding and Lu Miaochang, he said, "Yuanding, Miaochang, you both take care of the family."

“Although it is said that during the war, all family powers must not engage in conflicts, there’s no guarantee that robber cultivators won’t take the opportunity to cause trouble.”

“So, during this time, you must all be on alert, increase the patrol frequency of the family, and if necessary, use thunderous methods to suppress any disturbances.”

Lu Yuanzhong commanded in a deep voice.

“Yes!”

“As you command!”

“Please rest assured, Ancestor!”

In the hall, numerous figures rose to their feet and respectfully responded to Lu Yuanzhong.

“Miaoge, do you know where Changsheng has gone, and if he can return to oversee the family?”

After the discussion had ended, Lu Yuanzhong looked towards Lu Miaoge and sent a telepathic inquiry.

As the family Ancestor, he now had to lead a part of the elders, senior members, and elite forces away from home.

This would surely lead to a considerable weakening of the Lu Family’s internal strength.

If Lu Changsheng, the Second Grade Talisman Master, were there to oversee things, it would add an extra layer of security.

Moreover, having achieved the Foundation Establishment and being an Ancestor, he was naturally not foolish.

Through Lu Changsheng's various actions, his children, and his spiritual pets, he had long since realized that Lu Changsheng was not as simple as he appeared on the surface.

He hid many secrets, and it was very possible that his cultivation level was much higher than just the Seventh Level of Energy Refinement.

Thus, having Lu Changsheng in Qing Zhu Mountain to oversee things would make the family much more secure.

"Ancestor, Changsheng has gone out on a matter with a friend and estimates that it will take at least a year before he can return," Lu Miao replied, pursing her lips lightly.

She had not expected that just three months after Lu Changsheng had left, such a situation would arise.

However, Lu Changsheng had not told her where he was going on this trip.

"Alright."

Lu Yuanzhong sighed slightly upon hearing this. He knew that Lu Changsheng wouldn't be able to come back soon to oversee the family.

He then said to Lu Miaoge, "Miaoge, for the time being, the affairs of the Red Leaf Valley Market will be your responsibility."

"Yes, Ancestor."

Lu Miaoge nodded earnestly.

With the Second Elder, Lu Yuanling, also accompanying Lu Yuanzhong on the trip,

the responsibility for the Red Leaf Valley Market had fallen upon her.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Miaoge telepathically conveyed, “Ancestor, Changsheng has a Foundation Establishment friend from the Qingyun Sect. Before he left, he said if we run into any trouble, I should seek out his friend. So please rest assured, Ancestor.”

Not long ago, Xiao Xiyue had come to the Red Leaf Valley Market to see her daughter, Lu Wangshu.

She had also made the acquaintance of this Xi Yue fairy.

So, to reassure her own Ancestor and considering that if the family really faced a great crisis or trouble, she thought of seeking help from this Xi Yue fairy.

In the bottom layers of the Cultivation World, having a relationship with a Foundation Establishment friend from the Immortal Sects was considered a very dependable background to rely on.

It could act as a deterrent and solve many problems.

“A Foundation Establishment friend from the Qingyun Sect!?”

“Very good, very good.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Yuanzhong’s eyes immediately showed a hint of pleasant surprise.

He had not expected that Lu Changsheng would have such a connection.

Knowing that even just a visiting Foundation Establishment cultivator from the Immortal Sects could have a certain deterrent effect when visiting Qing Zhu Mountain.

However, thinking back to the previous battle with the Chen Family, when the Chen Family’s betraying Foundation Establishment female cultivator was present, Lu Yuanzhong suddenly became curious to ask whether Lu Changsheng’s friend from the Immortal Sects was also a female cultivator.

Still, as the family Ancestor, he restrained his curiosity and didn’t delve into such gossip.

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Two months later.

“We’ve finally arrived.”

Lu Changsheng stood on the deck of the Spiritual Vessel, overlooking the sea of clouds.

He could faintly make out a towering Immortal City shrouded in multicolored light below.

As the Spiritual Vessel slowed down, the grandeur of Jiuxiao Immortal City grew larger in Lu Changsheng’s view, so magnificent that the surrounding mountains seemed like mere hills to set it off.

“Jiuxiao Immortal City, so this is what an Immortal City looks like!”

“No wonder, in the vast Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, with many marketplaces, there are only three Immortal Cities.”

Lu Changsheng marveled inwardly at the ever-clearer and extremely majestic Jiuxiao Immortal City.

This Immortal City occupied hundreds of miles, several times larger than the Qingyun Market.

The surrounding towering mountains seemed to be cleaved by a sword to create spacious and flat roads.

On the roads, one could see many beasts of burden and cultivators coming and going as if they were merchant convoys from the secular world.

But in the skies above, many cultivators were constantly moving about.

Magic Artifacts, Flying Boats, Spiritual Artifacts, Escape Lights—all dazzling, indicating that this was not any secular world, but a world of immortals.

Foundation Establishment Great Cultivators, rarely seen on a daily basis, were quite common here.

From time to time, Escape Lights from Foundation Establishment Cultivators could be seen.

Half an hour later.

The massive Spiritual Vessel slowly hovered in front of the gate of Jiuxiao Immortal City.

“Fellow Daoists, we have arrived at Jiuxiao Immortal City,” said Chiyun True Immortal as his voice echoed on the Spiritual Vessel.

All the passengers came to the deck, ready to disembark from the Spiritual Vessel.

“Han Daoist Friend, this is the thirty percent refund of the boat ticket due to the travel delay.”

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At that moment, a Qingyun Sect disciple named Xuanfeng took out three middle-grade spirit stones and handed them to Lu Changsheng.

“Thirty percent of the ticket price.”

Lu Changsheng remembered what Chiyun True Immortal had said earlier, that due to deviation from the course, delaying the journey, thirty percent of the ticket price would be refunded as compensation.

That meant his ride on the spiritual vessel cost him a thousand spirit stones.

However, when Xiao Xiyue had given him the ticket earlier, she did not mention anything about spirit stones.

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This indicated that Xiao Xiyue had paid for the spirit stones herself.

It made sense too.

Even though Xiao Xiyue was a core disciple of the Qingyun Sect, it wasn't possible to ride the spiritual vessel without paying.

"Thank you, Daoist Xuanfeng."

Lu Changsheng accepted the spirit stones.

He couldn't help thinking to himself how expensive the ticket actually was.

Even a regular cabin ticket cost a thousand spirit stones.

Not to mention a luxury cabin ticket, which must be three to four thousand spirit stones.

But he also understood that this price was probably just to cover the travel expenses.

A vessel like this, traveling from Qingyun Market to Jiuxiao Immortal City, consumed a significant amount of spirit stones.

Moreover, through conversations over these days, Lu Changsheng also learned that this spiritual vessel mainly ferried between the Jiuxiao Immortal City for Qingyun Sect and Heavenly Sword Sect's business or strategic exchanges.

Carrying other passengers was just incidental.

"Daoist Han is too polite."

Due to the matter with Chu Qingyi, Xuanfeng was very courteous to Lu Changsheng.

After giving a polite bow, he went to return the spirit stones to the other passengers.

“Daoist Han, if in the future you wish to return to Qingyun Market, you are welcome to board the spiritual vessel again.”

At this time, Chiyun True Immortal also came up on deck and, looking towards Lu Changsheng with a smile, said.

“Thank you, True Immortal.”

Lu Changsheng returned the greeting with a bow.

Afterward, he flew down from the spiritual vessel and arrived at the entrance of Jiuxiao Immortal City.

As soon as he descended, without the Formation’s spiritual light from the vessel enveloping him, he felt an intense oppressive force in the air.

It was the third-rank Great Formation of Jiuxiao Immortal City!

“The rumors say that a third-rank formation, having fully connected with the spirit veins and becoming one with them, possesses the capability to create its own domain.”

“Attempting to disturb such a Great Formation with a single attack or using talismans for breaking prohibitions is hardly effective.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the city walls covered in various rune imprints and glowing with formation light, contemplating inwardly.

Because of his family’s formation, he had spent a considerable amount of time learning about formations.



He knew that once a formation reached the third rank, it underwent a qualitative transformation.

It could fully connect with the spirit veins and create its own domain.

This not only allowed the locking of spirit veins easily but also the distribution of spiritual energy concentration among different areas.

It also meant that the Great Formation had no weak points.

Any assault or prohibition-breaking measures would have their power drastically reduced.

All attacks would be distributed through this domain by the Great Formation.

To such a domain, even the attacks of Nascent Soul Immortals were limited.

If a third-rank formation master presided over the Great Formation, maximizing its might, the power would be truly astonishing.

Lu Changsheng did not linger.

Following the crowd, he entered a side hall at the city gate, registered his information, paid spirit stones, and got his identity token.

“This Immortal City charges only ten spirit stones annually, which isn’t expensive at all.”

After handling his identity token, Lu Changsheng took the token and entered the Immortal City.

As soon as he entered the city, he felt a sudden weight on him, a mysterious pressure descending upon him.

“Is this, a flying prohibition?”

Lu Changsheng's eyebrows knitted slightly.

He immediately knew it was the effect of the Celestial City Formation.

Preventing Foundation Establishment cultivators from flying within the city.

In places like Red Leaf Valley Market or Nine Dragons Market, although using artifacts to fly and riding spiritual beasts were prohibited,

Once one became a Foundation Establishment cultivator, they could fly within the marketplace.

But Jiuxiao Immortal City's Great Formation directly imposed a flying prohibition, preventing even Foundation Establishment cultivators from easily flying within the city.

"It makes sense, for a city like this with numerous Foundation Establishment cultivators, allowing unrestrained flying would greatly affect the order."

"And with the flying prohibition, if someone caused trouble in the city, facing the Enforcement Team, escaping would be difficult."

Lu Changsheng murmured to himself, growing even more appreciative of the might of the third-rank Great Formation.

Without delay, he began to stroll through Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Jiuxiao Immortal City was divided into three major areas.

The Outer City District, Inner City District, and Jiuxiao Mountain.

True large shops and businesses were all located in the Inner City District.

However, the city's Outer District was far more bustling than many marketplaces.

Here, Lu Changsheng also spotted several familiar signs.

It seemed that these family powers had extended their shops and businesses into Jiuxiao Immortal City.

After a brief look around, he headed towards the Inner City District.

To make purchases, one must go to the Inner City District.

Meanwhile, at the same time,

Just as Lu Changsheng arrived in Jiuxiao Immortal City,

At the base of Jiuxiao Mountain, within a cave abode,

A girl dressed in snow-white robes, with delicate features and an ethereal aura, opened her eyes.

“Hmm? What’s happening? Why do I feel an inexplicable impulse, an unaccountable palpitation?”

The girl frowned her beautiful brows and muttered to herself.

When cultivators experience a sudden impulse or palpitation, it often signifies that something is about to happen.

“Xiao Chan.”

Just then, a beautiful woman walked into the room.

The woman was dressed in a well-tailored, tight-fitting black gauze long dress.

The dress hugged her curvaceous and enchanting figure, with her shoulders exposed, smooth and fair.

It made men naturally want to embrace her shoulders in their arms.

Her slender waist accentuated prominent curves that led to a full and ample bosom.

Long, straight, and fair legs peeked out slightly under the hem, standing in a pair of slender, heel-stiletto black shoes with a faintly pink sole.

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She exuded seduction with every fiber of her being, with every gesture and step.

“Master.”

Meng Xiaochan looked at the beautiful woman before her and immediately called out.

“You little girl, I told you to call me mother now,”

Nangong Mili looked at the girl before her, her lips curving into a charming smile, and pinched her fair and tender face.

As if that wasn't enough, her soft, rosy lips kissed Meng Xiaochan's fair and delicate cheek.

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“Mother.”

Meng Xiaochan smiled sweetly and called out affectionately.

On this trip outside with her master, the two had disguised themselves as mother and daughter.

“Good girl, come here, open your mouth~ ah~”

The beautiful woman sat down beside the bed, her ample buttocks pressed into a bountiful pastry.

She pinched a red Spirit Fruit between her fingers and fed it to Meng Xiaochan.

With a gentle smile, she radiated an alluring charm, yet amidst this enticing aura, she did not lose her mature and elegant demeanor.

Meng Xiaochan couldn't help but sigh to herself, her own master was truly a seductress.

The allure was irresistible to both men and women alike, difficult for anyone to withstand.

She obediently opened her mouth and ate the red Spirit Fruit.

Seeing her disciple's adorable appearance, Nangong Mili let out a soft, coquettish laugh.

She picked up another red Spirit Fruit and placed it into Meng Xiaochan's mouth, “Come on, good girl, have one more.”

As she spoke, her fair fingers touched the disciple's red lips, and only after the small mouth and teeth bit down on the Spirit Fruit in her hand and the little tongue rolled it into her mouth did she gently withdraw her moist finger.

“Mother, did you need me for something?”

Seeing Nangong Mili holding another Spirit Fruit, ready to feed her, Meng Xiaochan immediately asked.

“Can't a mother find her good daughter to chat without reason?”

The beautiful woman put on a tearful and aggrieved expression, appearing just like a coquettish young girl, pitiful to the point where even steel could turn tender.

“Master...”

Meng Xiaochan called out, exasperated.

At first, when she met her master, the Nascent Soul Immortal maintained a sense of authority in front of her.

But as they spent more time together, she discovered her master’s playful and capricious nature, finding amusement in teasing her along the way.

“Alright, down to business,”

“As the Sect Hierarch and the Heavenly Corpse Sect Master’s big battle with Li Duanxuan is about to begin, our side should also make some moves.”

Nangong Mili’s gorgeous face showed a dignified expression.

“Which family are we contacting this time?”

Meng Xiaochan asked.

She had come to Jiang Country with her master, Nangong Mili, to contact the sleeper agents embedded there by their sect.

If the Five Poisons Cult Leader and Heavenly Corpse Sect Master could repel Jiang Country Cultivation Realm’s number one, Xuanjian True Monarch Li Duanxuan, then Jin Kingdom would initiate the great battle and invade Jiang Country.

At that time, those like them who had already infiltrated the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm would gather their sleeper agents and cooperate with the Jin Kingdom’s forces both from within and without.

“We’ve almost contacted everyone we need to. Since we’re taking action, naturally we have to target Jiuxiao Immortal City, create chaos in Jiang Country, and strike at the morale of Jiang Country,”

Nangong Mili said softly, pinching her face.

“You mean to act directly against Jiuxiao Immortal City!?”

Upon hearing this, Meng Xiaochan’s eyes widened, her mouth slightly agape.

Although Nangong Mili before her was a Nascent Soul Immortal,

Jin Kingdom’s three great demonic sects had also dispatched other Nascent Soul and False Core Immortals to Jiang Country.

But the thought of striking such an Immortal City was utterly delusional.

After all, Jiuxiao Immortal City also had Nascent Soul Immortals in residence.

Moreover, Jiuxiao Immortal City was protected by a Third Rank Great Formation.

If a Nascent Soul Immortal skilled in Formation were to command it, within the city they would be unrivaled.

Unless a Nascent Soul True Lord descended personally.

“Of course, it’s not what you’re thinking. You’ll know when the time comes,”

Nangong Mili saw her disciple’s expression and guessed her thoughts, pinching her face with a slightly amused air.

She then affectionately took Meng Xiaochan’s arm and walked out of the cave dwelling.

“Wan’er, you’re here.”

The moment the two stepped out of the cave, a tall and authoritative man with a hint of ferocity in his eyes brightened up and approached them.

He looked at Nangong Mili, his imposing demeanor melting away as the ferociousness in his eyes disappeared, leaving only infatuation.

“Did you buy the things I asked for?”

Nangong Mili looked at the middle-aged man before her with a cold expression, void of charm, and asked in a cool voice.

“I have, I have bought everything.”

The middle-aged man pulled out a Storage Bag and stepped forward eagerly, his face filled with an appealing look.

“Hmm, not bad,”

Nangong Mili took the Storage Bag, glanced at it, and nodded indifferently.

Then, continuing to hold Meng Xiaochan’s wrist, she proceeded toward the Inner City.

“Mother, isn’t True Lord Xiang coming with us?”

Meng Xiaochan asked her master.

But as soon as she spoke, she saw the middle-aged man looking at Nangong Mili with deep infatuation, keeping his distance from them while following closely.

Recalling how Nangong Mili had told True Lord Xiang to maintain a certain distance from them,

Meng Xiaochan hardly knew what to say.



A Nascent Soul Immortal, so humble in the presence of her master.

The two made their way from Jiuxiao Mountain to the Inner City District.

Walking down the bustling streets, Meng Xiaochan felt a premonition and looked ahead to a tall, robust middle-aged man with a heroic countenance.

For some reason, upon seeing this middle-aged man, her heart fluttered with an inexplicable familiarity.

“Hmm?”

At this moment, Lu Changsheng also seemed to sense something.

He turned his head to look in the right front direction.

He immediately saw a black-clad beauty and a white-dressed girl walking hand in hand.

The beauty was stunning, her body sinuous in a black gauzy dress.

Indeed, her entire being exuded an irresistible alluring charm.

Even Lu Changsheng, battle-hardened as he was, found the beauty to be exceedingly lovely and enchanting.

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Naturally stunning, a peerless charm.

However, his gaze first fell upon the white-dressed girl next to the woman in black.

The pure and innocent face of this white-dressed girl, along with her ethereal aura, formed a sharp contrast with the voluptuous woman.

Her slightly petite figure was also developing nicely, curvy in all the right places.

But walking hand in hand with the woman in black, she seemed somewhat slight, not quite as eye-catching.

When Lu Changsheng looked towards this girl, for some reason, he felt an inexplicable and familiar sense of wonder.

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“My dear daughter, what’s wrong?”

Nangong Mili observed Meng Xiaochan suddenly pause in her steps and gaze toward somewhere not too distant, then followed her line of sight with a glance before leaning down slightly and asking softly.

“It’s nothing.”

Meng Xiaochan immediately snapped back to reality and shook her head.

But in her heart she couldn’t help but ponder, who was that person?

She had great faith in her own intuition.

If she felt familiarity, then she must have met this person before.

But no matter how hard she tried, she couldn’t remember having met such an individual before.

However, Nangong Mili brought her to a courtyard where many were discussing matters, interrupting her train of thought and preventing her from dwelling on it further.

Lu Changsheng watched as the woman in black and the girl in white left and was somewhat puzzled.

Because having broken through to the Foundation Establishment realm, he shouldn't have inexplicable feelings or whims.

“Could it be the influence of a Peach Blossom Gu?”

Lu Changsheng's brows furrowed slightly as he queried the Peach Blossom Gu.

He wanted to know if the strange and familiar feeling had any connection to the Peach Blossom Gu.

After all, aside from the bewildering and mysterious influences of a Peach Blossom Gu, he could think of no other reason.

“Affection...”

The Peach Blossom Gu conveyed a thought.

It informed Lu Changsheng that this peculiar feeling did not originate from itself.

But from another Gu.

The backlash of the Gu in the past.

“Could it be her?”

Lu Changsheng, upon receiving the thoughts from the Peach Blossom Gu between his brows, felt somewhat surprised.

He immediately realized that the white-dressed girl was Meng Xiaochan, who had once cast a love Gu on him that backfired.

“Who would have thought that after more than ten years, I would encounter her here.”

Lu Changsheng's brows lifted, and he let out a light chuckle.

No wonder he had felt that inexplicable sense of familiarity just now.

As for meeting Meng Xiaochan, he wasn't particularly moved.

The battle between the Lu Family and the Chen Family back then happened to owe much to Meng Xiaochan.

Moreover, after the event, Meng Xiaochan had given him two Foundation Establishment Elixirs and one Foundation Establishment Spirit Object; thus, in his mind, any debt of gratitude or grievance with Meng Xiaochan was settled.

So he harbored no resentment toward Meng Xiaochan.

And he didn't dwell on her too much.

At most, he wanted to ask Meng Xiaochan about the effects of the Gu that he had seized from her.

"She seemed to glance this way just now, probably due to the love Gu, right?"

"But now that I have the Misty Sky Bead masking my aura, I wonder if she can recognize me."

Lu Changsheng mused to himself.

Meng Xiaochan had disguised herself.

If not for the peculiar familiar feeling just now and the hint from the Peach Blossom Gu, he would never guess who she was.

Thus, he was curious whether Meng Xiaochan could recognize him upon seeing him.

"If she did recognize me, would that be considered Peach Blossom Luck?"

Lu Changsheng stroked his chin, recalling when Meng Xiaochan had departed.

She had said she had urgent matters to attend to and couldn't stay by his side, but once those were resolved, she would spend the rest of her life with him.

“She must have been young then; to have reached the Foundation Establishment at such an age suggests that her Spiritual Root Talent is above average.”

“If we were to have children, their Spiritual Root Talent would likely be quite exceptional.”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

Although in the Cultivation World age is not easily discerned by examining bones, and it's difficult to tell one's true age,

not everyone in the Cultivation World's lower echelon can afford to take Elixirs of Youth or practice Preserving Appearance Techniques.

Therefore, by one's outward appearance, a general estimate of their age can still be made.

He remembered when he first encountered Meng Xiaochan, she was at the late stage of Energy Refinement, disguised as a young man, and later on, always appeared as a young girl.

It suggested that she wasn't too old.

Later, her ability to achieve Foundation Establishment on her own indicated a rather impressive Spiritual Root Talent.

“There's no use counting my chickens before they hatch.”

“And the beautiful woman by her side didn't look simple; could she possibly be her mother?”

Lu Changsheng shook his head, deciding not to dwell on it any further.

When he had encountered Meng Xiaochan in the past, she was always quite resourceful.

The first time, she managed to survive under his Talisman Treasure, the Golden Light Brick.

The second time, if not for the Peach Blossom Gu on his side, he might have fallen into her hands.

The third time, she had even become a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Furthermore, she was able to offer him two Foundation Establishment Elixirs and a Foundation Establishment Spirit Object.

Such generosity was not something many Foundation Establishment Families could afford.

It revealed to him that Meng Xiaochan was no ordinary individual.

Though he's now at Foundation Establishment, with methods comparable to those with False Cores, his main purpose this time was to purchase goods.

There was no need to complicate matters by contemplating taking Meng Xiaochan back for the purpose of bearing children.

Moreover, as long as the love Gu provided a connection, he and she were bound to unite sooner or later; there was no need to rush.

Without delay, Lu Changsheng arrived at an inn, booked a room,

altered his appearance with the Misty Sky Bead within the room, changed into a blue magical robe, and headed to the largest merchant house in Jiuxiao Immortal City, the Jiuxiao Merchant House.

This trip was all about making major purchases.

Even with the Misty Sky Bead in use as a disguise, it still paid to be cautious.

Besides, his identity as Han Li was known to some from the Qingyun Sect and other passengers aboard the Spiritual Vessel.

“Welcome to Jiuxiao Merchant House; may I know if the guest is looking to buy or sell?”

Upon arriving at Jiuxiao Merchant House, a beautiful female Cultivator dressed in a uniformed skirt came forward to greet him.

“Do you have Third Rank Talisman Making materials?”

Lu Changsheng asked.

“Third Rank Talisman Making materials?”

The hosting female Cultivator showed a hint of surprise upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s words.

Chapter 455: Arriving at Jiuxiao Immortal City, Meeting Meng Xiaochan Again\_5 “The guest jests, third rank materials are strategic resources, extremely scarce and seldom sold to the outside,” “Such as third rank Talisman Making materials, our commerce guild currently does not sell them to outsiders.” “If you, guest, are a second-tier top-level Talisman Master, and if you are willing to become a guest elder offering services for our commerce guild, we would have third rank Talisman Making materials available for you.”

The receptionist cultivator smiled kindly as she spoke. “Not for sale to outsiders.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng’s heart sank slightly, a sense of disappointment washing over him....

Before, he had guessed that Jiuxiao Immortal City wouldn’t have too many third rank materials on offer.

But he had absolutely not expected that the Jiuxiao Commerce Guild wouldn’t sell third rank Talisman Making materials to outsiders at all.

However, Lu Changsheng also understood when he thought about it.

Materials of this level are precious and rare.

Most are used to cultivate their own Talisman Masters.

How could they possibly sell them to outsiders?

Moreover, the great Immortal Sects also monopolize resources in this manner, forcing artisans of a certain level to choose to join a power.

Otherwise, limited by material channels, their skills would scarcely advance.

Ordinary Loose Cultivators, of course, would be happy to join a major power and enjoy the benefits.

But his current situation didn't allow the convenience of joining the Jiuxiao Commerce Guild. "It seems I can only go through Qingyun Sect for this." "But even entering Qingyun Sect, obtaining third rank materials will not be simple."

Lu Changsheng inwardly sighed. "I wonder if your guild may have these materials."

He took out the list of materials required for crafting the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy and asked.

The second-tier auxiliary materials for the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy artifact had already been completely purchased through Nine Dragons Market and Qingyun Commerce Guild.

He still lacked four main third rank materials. "Please wait, guest."

The receptionist said immediately upon hearing this.

She took out a Jade Scroll and began to check the various materials listed for Lu Changsheng. "Guest, our guild currently has a piece of Dark Essence Steel and Blue Lapis Goldwood,"



After a while, the female cultivator took out the Jade Scroll and spoke to Lu Changsheng. “Dark Essence Steel, Blue Lapis Goldwood.”

Lu Changsheng’s face immediately revealed a joyous expression upon hearing this.

He thought it’s indeed worthy of a big commerce guild from the Immortal City, to have two pieces of third rank materials available at once.

And this Dark Essence Steel was even one of the most precious materials for crafting the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy.

He had thought that acquiring Dark Essence Steel would be the most troublesome. “May I ask the price of these two materials?”

Lu Changsheng inquired. “Dark Essence Steel, twenty-one thousand Spirit Stones,” “Blue Lapis Goldwood, thirteen thousand Spirit Stones,” the receptionist announced the prices. “Hiss.”

Even though Lu Changsheng was quite wealthy, he still couldn’t help but gasp at these prices.

Because they were indeed expensive.

At this rate, just purchasing the artifact Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy alone would cost him sixty to seventy thousand Spirit Stones.

This price had already surpassed that of a Spiritual Artifact. “Agreed, bring me these two materials.”

Lu Changsheng said aloud.

Expensive or not, there was no choice.

After all, he had come all the way here.

Moreover, with the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy artifact in hand, the power and techniques he could wield from the Ninety-Nine Mystical Talisman Scripture through the Talisman Refinement Formation would greatly increase.

So, in Lu Changsheng's view, the expense was still worthwhile.

Immediately after, the receptionist invited him to a room, where an advanced level receptionist conducted the transaction with him.

For materials of third rank, which are expensive and rare, ordinary receptionists did not have the authority to withdraw them from inventory. "Does your guild accept Spirit Talismans?"

After inspecting the two materials and when he was about to pay, Lu Changsheng took out a stack of Second Rank Talismans and asked.

Over the past three-plus months of his visit, he had drawn many Second Rank Talismans.

It was to avoid running short on Spirit Stones.

So now, at the time of payment, he directly took out some Talismans to use as a discount off the Spirit Stones. "Second Rank Spirit Talisman?"

The advanced receptionist examined the Talismans and agreed to purchase them at sixty percent of the market price.

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng used thirty Second Rank lower-grade Spirit Talismans and ten Second Rank middle-grade Spirit Talismans to discount ten thousand and eight hundred Spirit Stones.

After paying the remaining Spirit Stones, he left the Jiuxiao Commerce Guild.

Then, he inquired about other materials, third rank Talisman Making materials, in the shops of Jiuxiao Immortal City one by one.

Jiuxiao Commerce Guild not selling third rank Talisman Making materials to the public didn't mean all shops wouldn't sell them.

Furthermore, Lu Changsheng also began to inquire about third rank Spiritual Wood, third rank Spiritual Blood, and so on.

If there were no third rank Talisman Making materials for sale, then he would purchase third rank Spiritual Wood and Spiritual Blood to craft his own Talisman Paper and Spirit Ink.

After shopping around the Immortal City for two days, Lu Changsheng had some gains.

He managed to purchase some third rank Talisman Making materials and a few rare Alchemy Spirit Medicines.

The materials for the Ninety-Nine Mysterious True Strategy were only one item short of completion. “An auction event?”

At this point, Lu Changsheng learned some news.

In a month and a half, there would be a semi-annual small auction event in Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Upon hearing this news, he became interested and thought he might attend to see.

One reason was, items he needed might appear at the auction.

Another was that after the auction ended, there would be a transaction event, allowing cultivators trade amongst themselves.

This kind of direct trading often featured rare items. “But before that, I need to earn some Spirit Stones,”

Lu Changsheng exhaled lightly.

The shopping of the past couple of days had nearly depleted the Spirit Stones he had with him.

So naturally, if he wanted to participate in the auction, he needed to prepare some Spirit Stones.

On this trip, he not only purchased a large quantity of Talisman Materials but also many Alchemy materials.

These Alchemy materials were sufficient for him to craft Harmonizing Energy Elixir, Three Suns Elixir, and a myriad of other Second Rank Elixir Medicines.

Thus, Lu Changsheng decided to spend some time trying out the Second Rank Alchemy Skills he had drawn but had never used before, to replenish his Storage Bag.

Chapter 456: The Great Formation of Myriad Corpses and Profound Darkness, Alchemy!\_1

Blackwater Pool, Xiahou Family.

“Boom, boom, boom—”

The entire Blackwater Pool was enveloped by the “Blackwater Profound Wind Formation.”

Above the formation, gray and black mists converged, resembling a vision of mountains of corpses and seas of blood, with the sounds of ghosts wailing and wolves howling.

Around the formation, numerous flying boats blocked off Blackwater Pool such that not even water could escape.

Atop these spirit boats, formation patterns twinkled, with a great convergence of spiritual light transforming into thick bolts of lightning that bombarded the Blackwater Profound Wind Formation, causing a tremendous commotion.

...

Not only that, but from all directions, multiple cultivators under the guidance of array masters, executed their techniques and manipulated magic artifacts, attacking the weak points of the formation.

Two months ago, Qingyun Sect publicly declared the Xiahou Family of Blackwater Pool to be aligned with the Demon Path, calling all forces within its jurisdiction to crusade against the Xiahou Clan.

In less than a month, all subordinate family forces and marketplace scions affiliated with the Xiahou Family encountered strikes, being swept clean.

And for the Xiahou Clan's main stronghold, Blackwater Pool, Qingyun Sect even dispatched Nascent Soul Immortals to lead the crusade.

However, to everyone's surprise, the Xiahou Family's original clan-protecting "Blackwater Profound Wind Formation" unexpectedly transformed into the Third Rank "Blackwater Profound Wind Formation."

Even with a Nascent Soul Immortal from Qingyun Sect present, they could not break through the formation for a while.

Inside Blackwater Pool.

"Elder, I'm afraid it won't be long before Qingyun Sect sets up their formation, uses it to break our formation, affecting the ley lines of our Blackwater Pool, thus breaking through the grand formation,"

the Xiahou Clan leader said to Xiahou Wuwo with concern.

He could clearly see that on several surrounding mountains, Qingyun Sect's array masters were setting up their formations.

"Rest assured, with the elder ancestor securing the formation, unless Qingyun Sect brings two more Nascent Soul Immortals, they won't be able to easily breach the great formation,"

"Moreover, as long as we drag out the time, once Jin Kingdom makes a move, the Heavenly Corpse Sect, Five Poisons Cult, and Yiming Ghost Sect will also take action. By then, Qingyun Sect will be too busy to care about us,"

Xiahou Wuwo said with an indifferent expression, calming his mental spirit.

But in his eyes, a trace of worry was revealed.

Because all of this was predicated on the assumption that the Sect Hierarchy of the Heavenly Corpse Sect and the Five Poisons Cult Leader could repel the Xuanjian True Monarch Li Duanxuan.

If Jin Kingdom failed in their invasion, their Xiahou Family would become a disposable pawn of little significance.

Outside the great formation.

A massive spiritual vessel, a giant ship, loomed in the sky.

On the deck of the spiritual vessel, a peerlessly beautiful woman clad in palace attire stood.

Her eyebrows were like distant dais, her eyes deep like autumn waters, her nose high, her lips red and luscious, attractive as a fresh bloom.

Her raven-black hair was coiled up into a cloud bun, with a phoenix hairpin slanted across it, exuding an aura of nobility and grace.

“How much longer until the Earthshaking Formation is complete?”

Yun Wanshang stood with her hands behind her back, high above, her gaze filled with an indescribable coldness, as if looking down upon all beings, surveying Blackwater Pool below.

“Reporting to Caiyun True Immortal, we estimate it will take one more month for the Earthshaking Formation to be completed,”

an array master replied as he flew onto the spiritual vessel.

Gazing at the awe-inspiring beauty, astonishment shone in his eyes as he bowed respectfully and spoke.

“Make it faster,”

Yun Wanshang commanded coldly upon hearing this.

She radiated an intangible majestic aura that shook one’s soul.

“Yes!”

The array master shuddered upon hearing her command, answering with a reverent tone.

...

Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Inside an inn.

“Alchemy first requires a pill furnace,”

“As a Second-tier Top Level alchemist, I can’t believe I don’t even have a pill furnace,”

Lu Changsheng thought about making a quick profit through alchemy,

Only to remember that he didn’t even own a pill furnace.

“Alchemy is unlike talisman making, it’s very time-consuming,”

“If I use my Foundation Establishment Spirit Flame for alchemy, I cannot be distracted and do other things,”

“So, the best approach is to rent an alchemy chamber that has an earth fire for alchemy,”

“This way, I can save money on buying a pill furnace and also make talismans while doing alchemy,”

Lu Changsheng silently concluded and left the inn,

Preparing to see if there were alchemy chambers for rent in the Immortal City.

After all, he was currently short on money,

And had many pending expenses that required spirit stones.

If he spent twenty or thirty thousand spirit stones just to temporarily get a pill furnace, it truly wouldn't be worth it.

It was completely reasonable to wait until he had the spare money to purchase a good furnace outright.

Furthermore.

As a top-tier alchemist, he didn't need to constantly watch over the pill furnace like most alchemists,

He could engage in other activities while the alchemy process was underway,

And even operate several furnaces simultaneously.

If he relied solely on his Foundation Establishment Spirit Flame for alchemy, he wouldn't be able to divert much attention to other tasks.

That's why he opted to rent an alchemy chamber instead,

Otherwise, spending the whole day by the furnace was too much of a waste of time; he might as well earn money making talismans.



“May I know if your esteemed establishment has second rank pill furnaces and alchemy chambers for rent?”

After inquiring around briefly, Lu Changsheng approached an alchemy workshop and asked.

“Second Rank pill furnace and alchemy chamber?”

“What we currently open to the public are merely near-second rank alchemy chambers,”

The attendant of the workshop replied, shaking her head.

“We don’t have a second rank chamber for rent,”

“And pill furnaces are not available for rent externally,”

“If you are a second rank alchemist and willing to become our Guest Elder, we are prepared to provide a pill furnace and a second rank alchemy chamber for your use,”

Lu Changsheng asked five or six different alchemy workshops and stores,

All indicated that they didn’t have second rank chambers for rent.

Even in Jiuxiao Immortal City, second rank alchemists held a status,

Such alchemists did not have the need to rent a second rank alchemy chamber,

As they possessed their own alchemy chambers.

Chapter 457: The Great Formation of Myriad Corpses and Profound Darkness, Alchemy!\_2

And these Alchemy Workshops and Alchemy Stores mostly provide Second Rank Alchemy Chambers for their own Alchemists and do not lend them out to outsiders.

“Do I really have to buy a Pill Furnace and make elixirs at home.”

“In that case, I’d be better off making money through Talisman Making.”

After walking out of an Alchemy Workshop, Lu Changsheng shook his head slightly.

He had originally thought that with the high profits from Alchemy, he would easily make a fortune.

However, he didn’t expect to be stumped by such a trivial issue.

...

“Forget it, this is the last place. If it doesn’t work out, I’ll put Alchemy aside for the time being.”

“When I return, I’ll see about setting up an Alchemy Workshop in the Hongye Marketplace, hiring a couple of fire-stoking boys and Alchemy Apprentices.”

Lu Changsheng gazed at the Alchemy Pavilion ahead, musing to himself.

He then stepped forward and walked in.

Inside the store, there was only one girl around fifteen or sixteen years of age.

The girl was dressed in a goose-yellow gown, with a shidare hairstyle, eyes like pools of water, a cute nose, and rosy lips.

Propping her fair little hand against her cheek in boredom, her small feet in delicate embroidered shoes swung under the goose-yellow gown.

Upon seeing Lu Changsheng, she immediately perked up and inquired, “Welcome, may I ask what kind of Elixir Medicines the customer wishes to purchase?”

“I’d like to ask if you have a Second Rank Pill Furnace and Alchemy Chamber for rent?”

Lu Changsheng asked, looking at the girl.

“A Second Rank Pill Furnace and Alchemy Chamber, that’s not something we offer to the public...”

The girl shook her head subconsciously in refusal upon hearing this.

Every Alchemist dislikes others entering their own Alchemy Chamber or using their Pill Furnace.

Moreover, lending it out to the public is dangerous, as mishaps such as explosions in the furnace could occur.

But as soon as she spoke, she looked at Lu Changsheng and asked, “May I know if the customer is a Second Rank Alchemist?”

“If you are a Second Rank Alchemist, our store does have a Second Rank Pill Furnace and Alchemy Chamber available!”

The girl gazed at Lu Changsheng with bright, hopeful eyes.

“I’m a Second Rank Alchemist, but I’m not currently interested in serving as a Guest Elder and being an Alchemist exclusive to a store,” Lu Changsheng said with a smile, shaking his head.

A couple of the stores he had visited earlier were also willing to provide a Second Rank Pill Furnace and Alchemy Chamber.

But the condition was signing a Spiritual Contract to become a Guest Elder or an Alchemist exclusive to the store.

Although he possessed the Misty Sky Bead, which could deceive a Spiritual Contract.

The basic ethics in his heart prevented him from doing such a thing.

“Is that so...”

The girl fell into thought, biting her finger upon hearing that.

“Since it’s not available for public rental, then I won’t disturb you anymore.”

Lu Changsheng didn’t mind, slightly bowing his hands towards the young girl.

“Senior, please wait.”

“Our store’s Pill Furnace and Alchemy Chamber are currently unused, and we can rent them to the senior.”

“But the price is fifty Spirit Stones per day, with a minimum rental period of ten days, and the Spirit Stones consumed by the Earthfire Array need to be provided by you, the senior,” the girl in the yellow gown called out as Lu Changsheng started to leave.

“Oh?”

Lu Changsheng paused in his steps, nodded to the girl, and replied, “No problem.”

Fifty Spirit Stones a day was not expensive.

After all, buying a Second Rank Pill Furnace would cost at least ten thousand Spirit Stones.

And a top-grade Second Rank Pill Furnace, twice as expensive as a Talisman Brush, would cost thirty to forty thousand Spirit Stones.

That was also the reason Lu Changsheng was hesitant to buy a Pill Furnace for himself at the moment.

“Let’s start with ten days then, and if I need to continue later, I can top up, can I?”

Lu Changsheng took out five hundred Spirit Stones and spoke to the girl.

“Mhm mhm, no problem, senior, please follow me,” the girl nodded vigorously, a smile spreading across her face as she accepted the Spirit Stones.

She then led Lu Changsheng to the backyard of the store, in front of a house built of black bricks.

Lu Changsheng touched the black wall, feeling its chill.

He knew it was made of bunka stone.

This type of brick withstands high temperatures very well.

Most Alchemy and Artifact Refinement Rooms are constructed of this material.

Otherwise, the mere heat from Earth Fire alone would melt most materials.

“Senior, this is our Alchemy Chamber. The fire is very stable, enough to produce most types of Elixir Medicines,” said the girl as she took out a Token and unlocked the chamber’s restraint.

The interior wasn’t large, only forty to fifty square meters, clean and simple.

On each of the four walls hung a gourd the size of a fist.

In the center of the room lay a flat circular stone platform about a meter wide made from bunka stone, only half a foot tall.

Around the outer edge of the round platform were inlaid eight small, fiery red dragon heads, lively and vivid.

Their mouths were slightly raised, pointing directly at the space above the center of the platform, poised as if to spout fire.

“How is this used?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Alchemy Chamber, knowing that the round platform was the mouth of Earth Fire, and asked aloud.

“The senior doesn’t know?”

The girl tilted her small head, looking somewhat surprised.

In Jiuxiao Immortal City, anyone wishing to open an Alchemy or Artifact Refining shop that requires access to Earth Fire must apply through the city administration.

Thus, the Alchemy Chambers in Jiuxiao Immortal City are mostly similar.

“It’s my first time in Jiuxiao Immortal City,” Lu Changsheng explained.

“So that’s how it is,” the girl said, understandingly.

Then she comprehended why Lu Changsheng needed to rent the Alchemy Chamber.

She immediately stepped forward adorably and pointed at the round platform, explaining, “This is the Earth Fire mouth of the Alchemy Chamber; the Earth Fire needed for Alchemy is spouted from these eight dragon heads.”

“Senior, here you can adjust the size and height of the flames.”

“For the specific method of operation, the senior can check this Jade Slip,” said the girl as she finished her brief introduction, handing Lu Changsheng a Jade Slip.

“Good,” Lu Changsheng took the Jade Slip and quickly glanced over it.

It contained a basic introduction on how to operate and use the Earth Fire Array.

He looked at the girl and asked, “Where is the Alchemy Furnace?”

Chapter 458: The Great Formation of Myriad Corpses and Profound Darkness, Alchemy!\_3 “The alchemy furnace has been put away upstairs; please wait a moment, senior. I’ll go get it.”

Upon hearing this, the girl slapped her forehead and immediately responded.

She then hastened out of the room, taking quick steps with her small legs. “It seems that this shop must seriously mismanaged,”

Lu Changsheng said as he watched the girl, shaking his head slightly.

Only the girl was in the shop....

Considering her bored demeanor a moment ago and the display case in the shop with mostly First Grade Elixir Medicines, he roughly judged that the current situation of the shop was not very good.

The few alchemy shops he had just visited, no matter how poor, all had one or two reception apprentices.

Moreover, looking at the clean state of the alchemy chamber and the pill furnace being put away, it meant there probably was no alchemist present either. “Senior, the alchemy furnace,” the girl returned to the room in a short while, taking out a half-man-tall, reddish-bronze cloud-patterned alchemy furnace from her storage bag. “Thank you very much,”

Lu Changsheng said as he looked at the pill furnace in front of him, mana flowing within his body, immediately causing the furnace to steadily land atop the eight fire-breathing dragon heads. “Oh, senior, inside these gourds is Mars Sand, which can temporarily strengthen the power of the Earth Fire,” “If you find the temperature of the Earth Fire insufficient and need a greater blaze to increase its power, feel free to add Mars Sand. This is complimentary,” the girl said, pointing to the gourds on the wall. “Thank you very much,”

Lu Changsheng nodded and said with a smile. “Alright, senior, please proceed with your alchemy, I won’t disturb you any further,” “I’ll be in the front shop all the time, just call me if you need anything,” “By the way, my name is Li Xingyu.” the girl in the yellow skirt voiced. “Ha ha, thank you for your trouble, Miss Li,”

Lu Changsheng replied, nodding.

After speaking, he added, “My name is Ye Fan.” “Alright, Senior Ye,”

Upon hearing this name, the girl’s eyes instantly curved into crescents, beaming with a smile.

She knew that since the other party was willing to share his name, it meant that their relationship had also become closer. “This Senior Ye seems easy to talk to; I wonder if my sister can recruit him as a resident alchemist,” “If we haven’t managed to invite a resident alchemist, I wonder if I could ask Senior Ye for this favor,” thought the girl as she left the alchemy chamber. “Huff.”

After the girl left, Lu Changsheng closed the door to the alchemy chamber and began to prepare for alchemy.

He first embedded three Middle Grade Spirit Stones into the Earthfire Array.

Then, following the spell from the Jade Slip, he cast eight streaks of red light upon the dragon heads. “Pfft!”

The dragon heads immediately absorbed the red light, then spouted streaks of purple flames from their maws.

The alchemy chamber was filled with a surge of intense heat. “Let’s start with a furnace of Harmonizing Energy Elixir to warm up the hands.”

Lu Changsheng prepared to first refine a furnace of Harmonizing Energy Elixir, which aids those at the Foundation Establishment Cultivation. “Rise!”

He looked at the pill furnace and with a hand gesture, cast a ray of Spiritual Light.

Behold,

The lid of the furnace flew up, and a stream of Spiritual Water rushed into the pill furnace, cleaning it thoroughly.



Then, with a slap to his Storage Bag, multiple Spiritual Medicines flew one by one into the pill furnace for refinement. “Blue Moon Grass, Citrus Ghost Flower, Bamboo Cloud Juice...”

Although it was his first time performing alchemy, Lu Changsheng was not the slightest bit nervous, exuding a quiet calm.

With his Second Rank Alchemy Skills, a common Second Grade Elixir like the Harmonizing Energy Elixir was something he could handle with ease.

Just like that, Lu Changsheng placed all the required Spiritual Medicines into the pill furnace, then replaced the lid perfectly.

This step was executed flawlessly, without a single mistake.

Watching the flames slowly burning and refining the Spiritual Medicines, Lu Changsheng casually took out a talisman brush, talisman paper, and Spirit Ink and began drawing.

Taking advantage of the free time during alchemy, he started crafting a few Spirit Talismans.

If anyone were to witness this scene, they would likely be too astonished to speak.

Chapter 459: The Pitiab! Pair of Sisters\_1

Jiangzhou, Dongning City.

“Lu Ping’an, it was really nice meeting you.”

“Don’t worry, once I become a disciple of the Heavenly Sword Sect and a Great Sword Immortal, I’ll bring you along for cultivation.”

A girl in black stood on tiptoe, patted the shoulder of the boy who was a head taller than her, and said goodbye to him.

“If that’s the case, then I wish Miss Qin a safe journey.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Ping'an cracked a smile.

...

Then, he took out a stack of Talisman Elixirs and three porcelain bottles from his chest and said, "Right, the road is long and arduous, these are for you."

"For me?"

The girl looked at the Talisman Elixirs and porcelain bottles in the boy's hands, her little face frozen in surprise.

She knew he had many Spirit Talismans and Elixir Medicines at his side.

But she didn't expect him to give them all to her at this moment.

Qin Yi sized up Lu Ping'an and said, "Lu Ping'an, did you get your head caught in a door when you were little?"

"Not really, but when I was little, I chased after Xiao Hei every day and often got flung around by its tail," Lu Ping'an said, scratching his head.

The girl in black knew that Xiao Hei was a big wolf dog raised in Lu Ping'an's family.

She raised an eyebrow, her small face wrinkled slightly, crossed her arms, and turned slightly to the side, squinting at Lu Ping'an, "Lu Ping'an, do you like me or something?"

Lu Ping'an was stunned upon hearing this, as if turned into stone.

"Hehe."

The usually expressionless cold-faced girl, much like Lu Ping'an, cracked a smile, her eyebrows lifting.

She then gave Lu Ping'an a thumbs up, complimenting, "Not bad taste."

"However, I, Qin Yi, plan to be a peerless sword immortal in the future, so the man I, Qin Yi, like must be the most formidable Sword Immortal in the world!"

"Lu Ping'an, I can only let you down, sorry about that," she said, chin up and chest out.

"Miss Qin, you've misunderstood, I don't have feelings for you."

"It's just that going to the Heavenly Sword Sect is perilous and far..."

Lu Ping'an waved his hands hurriedly, trying to explain.

"Hmm?"

The girl raised an eyebrow, looking into Lu Ping'an's eyes, leaning in slightly and holding out her arm with thumb and forefinger almost touching, she asked, "Not even a little bit of liking?"

"None! Miss Qin, please be assured, I absolutely don't have feelings for you!"

Lu Ping'an leaned slightly back, his denial coming firm and decisive.

The girl withdrew her hand, heaving a deep sigh as she looked at Lu Ping'an.

She shook her head, "Lu Ping'an, oh Lu Ping'an, you're such a simpleton. If you ever get married, you'd be the kind of husband that would drive someone to want to smack you dead."

"How could that be!?"

"I'm not stupid, if I really got a wife, that would be a different story. I definitely wouldn't let her be wronged," Lu Ping'an earnestly replied.

"Not stupid," Qin Yi said with disbelief, her face full of irony.

After a year together, she thought Lu Ping'an was just like a foolish son of a landlord.

If she hadn't met him, he probably would have been cheated into working in mines.

"Miss Qin, just take them."

"I promised my dad and mom I'd be out for at most three years."

"It's been two years since I left, and I should be heading home. I won't need these things."

Lu Ping'an passed the Talisman Elixirs to Qin Yi.

After speaking, he said with a smile, "Consider it an early investment in you, the future Great Sword Immortal."

"Alright, since that's the case, I'll accept it," Qin Yi said after hearing this, pursing her lips.

"Be careful on the road. If you can't beat them, run, and don't get into fights with others."

Lu Ping'an said with a smile as he watched the girl accept his items.

"Lu Ping'an, what kind of talk is that? The person in front of you is me, Qin Yi, the future Great Sword Immortal, remember that," the girl said, looking up and staring at Lu Ping'an.

"I get it, I get it, that's why you should be more careful."

"If you die before you even reach the Heavenly Sword Sect and become a Great Sword Immortal, that would be a real pity."

"I'm still waiting for you to become a Great Sword Immortal so I can bask in your glory," Lu Ping'an said with a laugh.

He, influenced by his father Lu Changsheng, also enjoyed smiling a lot.

However, his smile gave others a feeling of honesty and straightforwardness.

“Lu Ping’an, you really act like a nagging old lady. You’re just like a woman,” the girl in black said irritably.

“Hehe.”

Lu Ping’an didn’t argue, just smiled.

“Lu Ping’an, what are your plans for the future?” Qin Yi asked.

“Hmm...”

“My mother has always hoped that I would settle down early. If my dad hadn’t agreed, she wouldn’t have let me travel.”

“Now that I’m returning, I should listen to my mom, get married, have children, and take care of family matters,” Lu Ping’an said after some thought.

Yet as he spoke, his face revealed a tinge of wistfulness.

He had always yearned for the path of cultivation.

Especially this year, traveling the secular cultivation world with Qin Yi.

Experiencing many things he had never seen before.

Made him yearn even more for this fascinating world.

But without a Spiritual Root, he was destined to be unable to cultivate and could only remain a mortal.

Moreover, as the eldest son in his family, he had to set a good example and not disappoint his parents.

Both his parents hoped he would marry and establish himself soon.

So after being away for so long, it was time to return home and follow their plans.

The girl in black listened to this and fell silent for a moment.

She naturally knew the divide between immortals and mortals.

Without a Spiritual Root, one couldn't embark on the path of cultivation.

As for her earlier words about taking Lu Ping'an to cultivate once she became a Great Sword Immortal, she couldn't bring herself to say it now.

After all, she was just a cultivator who had recently broken through to the Fourth Level Energy Refinement.

"Well, take care," Lu Ping'an said with a smile after seeing Qin Yi's expression.

"I'm off, until we meet again."

The girl looked up at the earnest and handsome young man before her and said aloud.

"Until we meet again..."

Chapter 460: The Pitiable Pair of Sisters\_2

Lu Ping'an spoke softly.

Just like that, Lu Ping'an watched as Qin Yi left.

Qin Yi didn't look back.

She knew Lu Ping'an was watching her.

But she dared not turn around and just walked away briskly.

With the separation, both of them felt a void in their hearts.

...

...

Jiuxiao Immortal City.

Treasure Elixir Pavilion, inside the Alchemy Chamber.

“Hoo hoo hoo—”

Eight miniature dragon heads were spewing out purple flames, refining all the Spiritual Medicine in the Pill Furnace into Spiritual Liquid, filling the room with a faint medicinal fragrance.

Lu Changsheng sat by the side, calmly finishing a Talisman.

Then he lifted his hand, porcelain vases opened one after another, several drops of Spiritual Liquid and powder flew into the Pill Furnace, then he cast a spell.

After finishing, Lu Changsheng picked up the Talisman brush again and continued crafting Talismans.

A day and a half later.

“Condense!”

Seeing the aqua-purple medicinal liquid in the Pill Furnace slowly turning into a deep purple, with Spiritual Light emerging, Lu Changsheng seized the right moment and cast a Spiritual Art.

The deep purple medicinal liquid continuously thickened, with the color shifting between blue and purple, emitting a rich medicinal scent.

This time, Lu Changsheng did not continue Talisman Making.

Instead, he quietly watched the crimson Pill Furnace, using a fire-controlling technique to manage the intensity of the flames.

“Open!”

As soon as the Spirit Pills in the Pill Furnace took shape and the Spiritual Light blossomed, Lu Changsheng shouted clearly, forming hand seals to employ the Furnace-Opening Spell.

“Hum—”

The lid of the furnace flew off, and steam diffused out, with strands of aqua-purple light swirling around, spreading the medicinal scent in all directions.

“Whoosh whoosh whoosh—”

With a wave of heat, Mana enveloped nineteen Elixir Medicines, which flew into Lu Changsheng’s hands.

“Not bad, nineteen Elixirs produced, thirteen of fine quality and six of exceptional quality,” Lu Changsheng said as he inspected the lustrous Elixir Medicines in his hand and nodded slightly.

Elixir Medicines varied in quality.

They could generally be classified as inferior, standard, fine, and exceptional.

Inferior Elixir Medicines are considered substandard.



Although consumable, their effectiveness is poor, and they contain high Elixir Toxicity. Excessive use can harm the body.

Fine and exceptional Elixir Medicines not only have better efficacy but also contain less Elixir Toxicity.

The Elixir Medicines sold in the marketplace are mostly standard or fine quality, with exceptional Elixirs being quite rare.

Yet, for Lu Changsheng's first time refining Elixirs, he produced nineteen, with thirteen of fine quality and six of exceptional quality, which was truly remarkable.

"The cost of this batch of Elixir Medicines is roughly a hundred Spirit Stones," Lu Changsheng mused.

"Nineteen Elixirs, if calculated like this, the profit is actually about the same as what I get from making Second Rank Talismans."

"However, since the Elixirs I've refined are either fine or exceptional quality, their price can be quite a bit higher," he added.

Lu Changsheng briefly calculated the profit from this batch of Elixir Medicines.

Back then, at the 'Elixir Cauldron Pavilion' of Qingyun Market, he had purchased a bottle of Harmonizing Energy Elixirs, spending one thousand two hundred Spirit Stones.

A bottle contained ten Elixir Medicines.

That is to say, this batch could sell for over two thousand Spirit Stones, almost twenty times the profit.

But the Harmonizing Energy Elixirs he purchased were all standard quality.

If they were of fine or exceptional quality, the price could be expected to be two to three times higher, or even more.

After all, there are always wealthy individuals willing to spend more for that extra bit of efficacy and a little less Elixir Toxicity.

“Of course, Harmonizing Energy Elixir is just the most common type of Second Rank Elixir. If high-difficulty Elixirs like Three Suns Elixir or Breakthrough Elixir are refined, the profit margin could be considerably higher,” he continued.

“And if it’s possible to concoct Foundation Establishment Elixirs or Coagulation Crystal Elixirs, the profits would be even more substantial,” he noted.

“However, the materials for these Elixirs are quite rare, and they can’t be produced in large quantities.”

“Moreover, one of the reasons Alchemists are so sought-after is that many Cultivators are willing to provide their own materials and pay for Elixir concoction services.”

“If the Alchemy fails, there’s no need to compensate, and if it succeeds, not only do the excess materials go into your pocket, but there’s also a generous bonus—that’s what makes the Alchemists in demand.”

Having been in the Cultivation World for a while now, Lu Changsheng understood the reasons why Alchemists hold a slightly higher status than Talisman Masters.

It’s because the demand for, and the rarity of, certain Elixirs exceeds that of Talismans.

An Alchemist who earns a good reputation will have an endless stream of Cultivators seeking his services for pill concoction.

There’s no need to busy oneself with daily Alchemy to earn Spirit Stones.

“When I return, and reveal my Foundation Establishment strength, I can also gradually show off my Alchemy Skills,” he planned.

“After a few years, once I’ve built a reputation as “Master Lu, the Dual Expert of Elixirs and Talismans,” not only will wealth flow in, but numerous people will also come seeking my services for Talisman Making and Alchemy,” he envisioned.

“And I can recruit loads of Talisman Apprentices and Alchemy Apprentices to work for me.”

Lu Changsheng contemplated in his heart.

Although he now had more than thirty children with Spiritual Roots,

He planned for those without the talent to follow the path of craftspeople.

But with the high barriers to entry in the hundred arts of Cultivation,

It’s not likely that every child could achieve success.

Even if all did become craftspeople, Lu Changsheng certainly wouldn’t exploit his children, having them toil day in and day out concocting pills and crafting talismans for money.

Who would build their development on internal exploitation?

He established the Family with the intention of providing an excellent environment for his descendants to grow.

If he resorted to internal exploitation, that would be a deviation from his path.

Thus, he intended to train a few talented apprentices to work for his Family once it was established.

In the Cultivation World, people are the least valuable commodity.

Even if they have Spiritual Roots or talent, it remains the same.

Given his current Second Rank Talisman Master status, if he were willing to recruit Talisman Apprentices from outside, countless individuals would be eager to apprentice and sign Spiritual Contracts.

“Sigh, I never thought I’d take the path of exploitation,” Lu Changsheng exhaled lightly, shaking his head.

He took out a White Jade Porcelain Vase and put all the Elixir Medicines into it.

Afterward, he looked at the Pill Furnace in front of him, formed hand seals for controlling fire, cleaned the furnace, and had various Spiritual Medicines enter the Pill Furnace, continuing with Alchemy.