

I. Family 661

Chapter 661: Refining the Dao Soldier, Transmitting the Method to Bai Ling!_1

“

After experiencing the cultivation speed of a second-grade Spiritual Root, Lu Changsheng then attempted to condense the “Blackwater Dragon Spell.”

This “Blackwater Dragon Spell” was somewhat similar to the Divine Sense Attack secret technique “Soul Dispersion Needle” that he had practiced before.

Through visualization, the circulation of mana, and the internal condensation of runes, he eventually forged a “Blackwater Jiao Dragon” figure spell formation.

Under normal circumstances, it would be very difficult to comprehend and forge the “Blackwater Dragon Spell.”

However, with system-assisted enlightenment, it was naturally a piece of cake for Lu Changsheng, who did not have to torture himself as he did when initially practicing the Soul Dispersion Needle.

...

As his mind visualized and mana circulated and converged, seventy-two ancient runes shaped by the Seven Luminaries Mana within his Dantian came together to form a mysterious pattern of runes.

Five days later,

seventy-two ancient runes appeared in Lu Changsheng’s Dantian, creating a mystical Daoist charm.

These seventy-two runes moved slowly like fish, forming a Jiao Dragon pattern spell formation, which was exactly the “Blackwater Dragon Spell!”

With the formation of the “Blackwater Dragon Spell,” Lu Changsheng immediately used his mana to continuously forge it, turning it into a small Talisman seed.

“The Blackwater Dragon Spell is complete!”

Two more days passed, and Lu Changsheng opened his eyes, his face revealing joy as he exhaled a long breath.

He swallowed an Elixir Medicine and began to sit cross-legged to recover his mana.

After his internal mana was restored, Lu Changsheng stood up and walked out of his seclusion cave.

He planned to catch a Green Blood Carp and a Red Blood Carp to try to convert them into a Flood Dragon Dao Soldier.

However, the moment he stepped out of the cave, Lu Changsheng thought about his Flawless Heavenly Fragrance Body, which emitted a faint natural fragrance from his body.

“Speaking of which, can this fragrance be concealed? Otherwise, it’s odd for a man like me to always have such a scent on my body,”

Lu Changsheng tried to contain the fragrance emanating from his physique.

The fragrance was not intense and was very pleasant to smell.

Through Xiao Xiyue’s previous remarks, he vaguely felt that this fragrance might also have some enticing effects.

So, he thought it best to conceal it if possible.

There was no need to emit charm all the time.

By running his Cultivation Technique, Lu Changsheng could feel that the fragrance of his body had faded significantly.

If there wasn’t close contact, it was almost impossible to smell it. He nodded slightly, feeling much more at ease.

He stepped out of Changsheng Hall and came to his family's fish pond.

“Mountain Lord!”

“Greetings, Mountain Lord!”

“Husband!”

“Daddy!”

Around the fish pond, numerous water pavilions had been built. The cultivators who worked at the fish farm lived in these pavilions, keeping an eye on the situation of the fish farm.

Seeing Lu Changsheng arrive, the cultivators in the water pavilions immediately saluted him with cupped fists.

“Zhong Yu, fetch me one Green Blood Carp and one Red Blood Carp,”

Lu Changsheng said to Zhong Yu, the manager of the fish farm.

Then he smiled and nodded to his concubine Yun Qianqian and his daughter Lu Xiaoru as he approached them with a smile, asking how they felt about the fish farming.

“`

The concubine and daughter took some interest in fish cultivation, so Lu Miaoyun arranged for them to learn here.

“Mountain Lord,”

Before long, steward Zhong Yu came with a Red Blood Carp and a Green Blood Carp.

These two carps were clearly selected carefully, weighing about twenty to thirty jin.

Lu Changsheng took the carps, said a few words, and then turned into a streak of light, returning to Changsheng Hall.

“Blackwater Dragon Spell!”

Once inside his hall, Lu Changsheng held the Red Blood Carp, circulated the Blackwater Dragon Spell in his dantian, and let the Talisman Seed enter the Red Blood Carp’s body.

“Hummm—”

The Talisman Seed was extraordinarily mysterious, and in an instant, it entered the Red Blood Carp’s body without any obstruction, burrowing into its heart.

“Thump thump thump—”

Upon contact with the “Blackwater Dragon Spell,” the Red Blood Carp’s heart seemed to beat violently. Its mouth opened and closed as if roaring, and it began to struggle fiercely.

After a while, the Red Blood Carp no longer struggled; it lay motionless, its flesh shrunken as if it had been dead for some time.

“Is the dragon blood too diluted, lacking potential?”

Lu Changsheng eyed the Red Blood Carp in front of him, eyebrows lifting.

According to the “Black Dragon Codex,” to cultivate a “Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon,” one must first have an aquatic demon beast with dragon blood in its body.

Then, by casting the “Blackwater Dragon Spell,” one could temper the demon beast’s dragon blood, enhancing its potential.

This step is also called leaping through the Dragon Gate.

Only by integrating the “Talisman Seed” and leaping over the Dragon Gate could one hope to advance to a “Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon.”

This Red Blood Carp had failed to survive this test, thus meeting a dead end, with its vitality exhausted.

“It seems that this Red Blood Carp is too inferior to be used to cultivate a ‘Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon.’”

Lu Changsheng looked at the shriveled Red Blood Carp and shook his head.

He wasn’t too concerned.

After all, a Red Blood Carp was worth just about a dozen Spirit Stones.

Indeed, it was somewhat wishful thinking to use it to cultivate a Spirit Weapon.

He turned his gaze to the other carp in his hand, the Green Blood Carp.

Compared to the Red Blood Carp, the Green Blood Carp was much more precious, valued at about twenty to thirty Spirit Stones.

With a try-it-and-see attitude, Lu Changsheng cast the Blackwater Dragon Spell into the Green Blood Carp.

However, just like the Red Blood Carp, this Green Blood Carp also withered and died.

“Hmm, this is... Dragon Blood Essence?”

At that moment, Lu Changsheng noticed a strand of golden, crystalline substance inside the dead Green Blood Carp.

Through the “Black Dragon Codex,” he clearly recognized it as a strand of Dragon Blood Essence.

The Blackwater Dragon Spell tempered the demon beast's dragon blood and stimulated its potential.

But since the beast hadn't survived the ordeal, all its vitality coalesced into this strand of Dragon Blood Essence.

This strand of Dragon Blood Essence could be used to concoct the "Ascending Dragon Elixir."

Chapter 662: Refining the Dao Soldier, Transmitting the Method to Bai Ling!_2

The Ascending Dragon Elixir was also part of the process to cultivate the 'Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon.'

After all, how could cultivating a Third Rank Dao Soldier be simple?

The first step was to select the Dao Soldier seeds through the 'Blackwater Dragon Spell.'

Afterwards, the seeds had to be constantly nurtured with various elixirs and techniques such as 'Spirit Nurturing Elixir,' 'Wisdom-Opening Elixir,' 'Ascending Dragon Elixir,' 'Spiritual Light Method,' 'Blackwater Method,' and 'Nine Transformations Method,' a total of nine pills and twelve methods were used, before one could finally be promoted to a 'Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon.'

This process was somewhat similar to cultivating Spiritual Beasts.

But compared to Beast Taming, this cultivation of Dao Soldiers was obviously more profound.

...

This was also why small family forces had no Dao Soldiers.

Not to mention whether they had the methods to cultivate Dao Soldiers, just the various expenses involved in the process were more than ordinary forces could afford.

"Although this Red Blood Carp cannot be used to cultivate a Dao Soldier, refining a strand of Dragon Blood Essence from it is still quite good."

“In the future, if Dragon Blood Essence is needed to refine the ‘Ascending Dragon Elixir,’ one could extract it by refining Red Blood Carp.”

Lu Changsheng took a porcelain bottle out of his Storage Bag and stored away the strand of Dragon Blood Essence.

Though this strand of Dragon Blood Essence was minuscule and trivial, even a mosquito’s worth of meat was still meat.

“However, if the Red Blood Carp can refine Dragon Blood Essence, then perhaps the Red Blood Fish King might be able to endure the Blackwater Dragon Spell.”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed slightly as he muttered to himself.

This Red Blood Carp was just an ordinary First Grade spirit fish.

Whereas as a Second Rank spirit fish, there was a not-so-small chance that the Fish King could integrate with the Blackwater Dragon Spell.

No sooner said than done, Lu Changsheng went to the fish cultivation area and inquired with Zhong Yu whether there was a Fish King in the fishery.

“Mountain Lord, there are currently one Red Blood Fish King and one Bi Shui Fish King in the entire fishery,”

Zhong Yu voiced aloud.

She naturally wouldn’t keep a detailed count of ordinary carp.

But Fish Kings were not only highly valuable, they also aided in the ecological growth of other carps.

Therefore, after being appointed as the fishery manager, she had cultivated two Fish Kings at the first opportunity.

“Will using one have any impact?”

Lu Changsheng asked.

“Not really, but it will take some time to cultivate a new King, and the cultivation costs will be relatively higher,”

Zhong Yu hesitated for a moment before saying.

“Alright, fish up the Bi Shui Fish King for me,”

Lu Changsheng said, nodding at the response.

He knew that there would indeed be some impact, but he couldn't resist the urge to experiment right now.

“Yes, Mountain Lord,”

Upon hearing this, Zhong Yu didn't say much more and went to look for the Bi Shui Fish King in the fishery.

As the bait was scattered, the surface of the lake rippled and shimmered, and countless carps converged.

But soon, the water churned and the other fish dispersed, and a gigantic Bi Shui Fish King over a meter long emerged to eat the bait.

“Take action!”

Zhong Yu shouted to the other fishermen.

Immediately, several fishermen threw out their large nets, attempting to catch the Red Blood Fish King.

But the Red Blood Fish King, already possessing a certain level of intelligence, saw the fishing net and immediately flicked its tail, diving into the lake in an attempt to escape.

Seeing this, the other fishermen hurriedly cast their techniques to try to stop the spiritual fish.

“Heh, interesting.”

Lu Changsheng watched this scene, chuckled lightly, and mana surged from his hand with a wave.

A mana-filled hand reached down and directly captured the Red Blood Fish King in the lake.

“Not bad, there might really be a chance to refine it into a Dao Soldier.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Red Blood Fish King before him, chuckled lightly, and flew towards Changsheng Hall.

All the cultivators and fishermen in the fish farm watched this scene with eyes full of reverence and respect.

Upon reaching Changsheng Hall, the Red Blood Fish King still struggled continuously, its eyes filled with fear towards Lu Changsheng.

Lu Changsheng did not pay much attention, placed his hand on the fish king, and cast the “Blackwater Dragon Spell” into its body.

“Hiss hiss hiss—”

At that moment, the Red Blood Fish King emitted a painful hiss, struggle surged, its heart thumped loudly, and a faint black luster flickered on its scales.

“It seems there’s quite a bit of hope.”

Lu Changsheng, seeing this, revealed a slight smile on his face.

Observing the Red Blood Fish King with the “Blackwater Dragon Spell” surging through it, becoming increasingly emaciated and the black qi flowing, Lu Changsheng thought for a moment and flicked a strand of Dragon Blood Essence he had just harvested towards the Red Blood Fish King.

He then took out a Spirit Nurturing Elixir, crushed it into powder, and mixed it with Spiritual Liquid to pour into the mouth of the Red Blood Fish King.

Since there was hope of success, he was naturally willing to lend a hand.

As time passed, the body of this Red Blood Carp became more emaciated, its form much longer, resembling more the body type of a catfish or an eel.

“Boom!”

After a long time, the Red Blood Fish King suddenly let out a high-pitched hiss; its heart merged with the Blackwater Dragon Spell, demonic energy surged around its body, pulling at the Spiritual Energy.

At this moment, its scales had almost completely turned from azure to a dark black color, growing two long catfish whiskers, with the teeth in its jaws becoming significantly sharper.

“It’s done!”

Lu Changsheng, seeing this, revealed joy in his eyes.

The Red Blood Fish King before him had been tempered by the “Blackwater Dragon Spell” and transformed into a ‘Blackwater Dragon Fish Spirit Weapon’.

Its strength was still quite weak, roughly equivalent to a First Grade Middle Stage Demon Beast.

But to transform from a spiritual fish into a First Grade Middle Stage Demon Beast was a significant upgrade.

“It seems that this Red Blood Fish King did have some difficulty in fusing with the ‘Blackwater Dragon Spell.’ If I want to cultivate it, I should try to use a better breed of dragon-kind aquatic creatures.”

“I wonder what the effect would be of the dragon carps in Bi Shui Lake that appear once every ten years.”

Lu Changsheng checked the condition of the Blackwater Dragon Fish.

It was evident that although it had merged with the Blackwater Dragon Spell, it was still somewhat forced.

Chapter 663: Refining the Dao Soldier, Transmitting the Method to Bai Ling!_3

Bloodline refinement, the process of potential awakening, had left him extremely weak, with only half a life remaining.

“But at least it’s done,”

“Next, as long as I cultivate it slowly, and awaken its spiritual intelligence, this Blackwater Dragon Fish will cultivate the Blackwater Flood Dragon Spell on its own, constantly evolving into a Blackwater Flood Dragon!”

Lu Changsheng, with the Blackwater Dragon Fish in tow, contemplated quietly.

After a brief moment of thought, he went to Bi Shui Lake and released the Blackwater Dragon Fish directly into its waters.

With the Blackwater Flood Dragon Spell, he could roughly sense the whereabouts of the fish and issue commands to it.

...

Observing for a while, he noticed that as soon as the Blackwater Dragon Fish entered Bi Shui Lake, it immediately started hunting for the fish and shrimp in the lake, even attempting to eat the lake’s Blue Blood Carps.

“Releasing such a Blackwater Dragon Fish won’t disrupt the ecosystem, will it?”

Lu Changsheng’s brow furrowed slightly.

Although Bi Shui Lake was vast, if the Blackwater Dragon Fish continued to feed like this, there might be problems.

“Forget it, I better keep it in the storage bag for now, and wait until I’ve made the Dao Soldier Talisman, then have someone take care of it,”

“Otherwise, with the current strength of this Blackwater Dragon Fish, it might even harm the fishermen,”

Lu Changsheng thought for a moment, then placed the Blackwater Dragon Fish into the storage bag.

After all, fishermen came to Bi Shui Lake every day to fish, and his own children would also come to fish.

If they encountered a First Grade Middle Stage Aquatic Demon Beast like this Blackwater Dragon Fish, there could be danger.

The Dao Soldier Talisman was similar to the Beast Control Token.

Through the talisman, one could communicate with the Dao Soldiers and instruct them in their formations.

If one cultivated the “Black Dragon Codex,” they could even integrate the Dao Soldier’s demonic aura with their own mana, significantly increasing their strength.

“Daddy, brother!”

As Lu Changsheng was about to leave with the Blackwater Dragon Fish, he suddenly heard someone calling him.

Turning his head, he saw Lu Wangshu and Bai Ling waving at him from a distance.

“Wangshu, little Ling’er.”

Lu Changsheng looked towards Lu Wangshu, who was sitting cross-legged on the Mysterious Turtle wearing a fisherman’s hat, looking adorable.

Bai Ling was on a small boat beside him, accompanying Lu Wangshu fishing.

After all, with Lu Wangshu’s small frame, someone always needed to be with him when fishing.

“Brother.”

Bai Ling looked at Lu Changsheng, her peach blossom eyes immediately filled with joy, misty and sweet, her voice meltingly soft.

After Lu Changsheng’s day and night nourishment, she had become even more enchanting and charming, a natural beauty with charming bones.

However, compared to Nangong Mili’s demonic allure, she possessed a naturally beautiful purity, giving an impression of innocence and vulnerability that was pitiable and endearing.

“Daddy, look at me, I caught so many fish today!”

Lu Wangshu pointed at a nearby basket, enthusiastically sharing his joy with Lu Changsheng.

“That’s wonderful.”

Lu Changsheng glanced at the basket, thinking to himself that his daughter’s fishing talents were indeed remarkable.

Moreover, through the system, he knew that after all this time spent fishing, Lu Wangshu’s fishing skills had improved by 3%.

This left him quite speechless, worried that his daughter would become obsessed with fishing all day and lose interest in cultivation and talisman making.

Looking at his daughter, Lu Changsheng suddenly smiled and said, “Little Wangshu, Daddy also caught a big fish just now, do you want to see it?”

“Eh, Daddy, you can catch fish too?”

Lu Wangshu tilted her head and said so.

Lu Changsheng: “???”

Damn, how could such words come out of my daughter’s mouth.

Shouldn’t she be saying things like ‘I want to see, I want to see’, ‘Wow, Daddy is amazing, Daddy is incredible’?

This little cotton-padded jacket has a leak!

“Hehe, since you want to see it, Daddy will show you,”

Lu Changsheng slapped his storage bag and released the nearly two meters long Blackwater Dragon Fish, saying, “How about that, the fish Daddy caught is big, isn’t it?”

“Wow, such a big fish!”

Lu Wangshu was stunned by the Blackwater Dragon Fish in front of her, her mouth agape in awe.

She had never seen such a big fish before.

It was twice her size.

Bai Ling also looked at the Blackwater Dragon Fish with some astonishment.

However, with her Energy Refinement Late Stage cultivation level, she knew that Lu Changsheng hadn't really been fishing just now.

"Daddy is amazing, isn't he?"

Lu Changsheng said casually.

"Yes, yes, yes, Daddy is really amazing!"

Lu Wangshu nodded repeatedly, her gaze fixed on the Blackwater Dragon Fish.

Without a hint of suspicion, she believed the fish was caught by her father from a fishing ground.

"Hehe."

Seeing this scene, a smile appeared on Lu Changsheng's face.

He thought to himself that the little cotton-padded jacket hadn't completely fallen apart after all.

After chatting with the two girls for a while, he passed a message to Bai Ling with his mind, "Little Ling'er, wait for me tonight."

The "Black Dragon Codex" cultivation technique, when mastered, allows one to transform into a black dragon.

Currently, Bai Ling was cultivating the most basic technique, "Returning Origin Technique."

Therefore, Lu Changsheng planned to teach Bai Ling the "Black Dragon Codex."

One reason was that, given Bai Ling's talent, she indeed needed a better cultivation technique.

Another was, Bai Ling exhibited a return to ancestry with demon race bloodline, most likely that of the snake clan.

In the cultivation world, snakes and dragons had somewhat similar properties.

Ling Zixiao had once told him that in Bai Ling's case, if she cultivated snake or demon clan techniques, her bloodline might manifest itself to some degree.

"Mhm."

Bai Ling, hearing Lu Changsheng's mental message, immediately lowered her eyelashes with a blush, flustered at heart.

She glanced at Lu Wangshu, then softly replied, "I... I'll wait for brother."

After chatting with the two girls for a while, Lu Changsheng went to the Lu Family Mansion.

He asked his wife, Lu Miaoyun, to procure materials for Elixir Medicines like "Spirit Nurturing Elixir," "Wisdom-Opening Elixir," "Ascending Dragon Elixir," as well as aquatic demon beasts with dragon blood.

"Alright, husband,"

Lu Miaoyun would never question Lu Changsheng's requests, simply nodding in agreement.

...

Chapter 664: Refining the Dao Soldier, Transmitting the Method to Bai Ling!_4

Late at night.

The room was quaint and ancient in style.

On the bed, Bai Ling's slender and exquisite ketone body was covered with crystal-clear, slippery white scales, making her appear as if she were wrapped in a layer of soft scale armor.

The enticing, graceful figure was fully displayed, while her entire being exuded a bewitching and wild beauty.

As her delicate body undulated, the glistening white scales flowed like the Milky Way, radiating specks of crystal-pink light, resembling adorned gems, looking exceptionally dazzling.

At this moment, Bai Ling was the epitome of temptation from head to toe.

...

Her peach blossom eyes were especially alluring, misty as if drunk yet not drunk, dreamy and entrancing, stirring the most primal desires within others, making their hearts flutter.

This often made Lu Changsheng wonder if Bai Ling were to cultivate the Bewitching Technique, she might not be inferior to Nangong Mili.

Afterward!

“Brother~”

Bai Ling snuggled into Lu Changsheng's embrace, like a well-behaved kitten.

Her pure and alluring face blushed like the rosy clouds, her peach blossom eyes squinting into curved crescents, looking up at Lu Changsheng with a coy and satisfied expression, tugging at his heartstrings.

“Little Ling'er...”

Lu Changsheng held Bai Ling's soft and silky enticing jade body.

The scales on her skin to the touch were extremely comfortable, making Lu Changsheng unable to let go.

The two continued to cuddle affectionately, savoring the afterglow, before Lu Changsheng began to ask about Bai Ling's cultivation progress.

Bai Ling indicated that she was currently at the peak of the Seventh Level of Energy Refinement and would soon make a breakthrough to the Eighth Level Energy Refinement.

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng felt a wave of emotion.

He had brought Bai Ling home less than a decade ago.

And Bai Ling had only truly begun cultivating about nine years ago.

In nine years' time, she was almost ready to break through to the Eighth Level of Energy Refinement, which was incredibly astonishing.

He had seen Bai Ling's status through the family system interface.

Under the talent column, there was only a Fifth Grade Spiritual Root.

But Bai Ling's speed of cultivation could not be explained by a mere Fifth Grade Spiritual Root.

Therefore, Lu Changsheng knew that Bai Ling's bloodline was even more extraordinary than he had imagined.

He told Bai Ling about the "Black Dragon Codex" Cultivation Technique, mentioning that since she was in the late stage of Qi Refinement, she should also consider the matter of Foundation Establishment.

"It will affect having babies..."

After learning about the Cultivation Technique, Bai Ling's first concern was its side effects.

She had always grown up on Qingzhu Mountain and had seen Lu Miaoyun and others give birth to children for Lu Changsheng.

So she had always hoped to bear children for Lu Changsheng.

Her initial inability to conceive had left her deeply sad and distressed; it was Lu Changsheng who had comforted her for a long time.

“The matter of having children, let this brother figure out how to solve it. Of course, if Little Ling’er doesn’t want to cultivate this technique, brother will teach you others,” he said immediately.

Lu Changsheng contemplated teaching Bai Ling the “Black Dragon Codex” also because of their bloodline situation, making it difficult for them to conceive children.

In such a case, one more such Cultivation Technique would not make a difference.

Perhaps cultivating the Black Dragon Codex might just reverse the situation with a poison-against-poison approach.

If that failed, he could only look for a solution later, checking whether the system could draw elixir medicines or heavenly treasures that included pregnancy.

“I’ll listen to brother,” Bai Ling said softly, her voice tender and soft.

“Good, tomorrow brother will teach you to cultivate this technique,” Lu Changsheng said, holding Bai Ling in his arms with a warm voice.

...

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

Under Lu Changsheng’s guidance and clarification of doubts, Bai Ling had already begun to switch her cultivation to the Black Dragon Codex.

With her excellent talent and Lu Changsheng's teachings, she picked it up very quickly.

This made Lu Changsheng look forward to whether Bai Ling's cultivation of this technique would reveal any aspects of her bloodline.

During this time, through Lu Miaoyun's acquisitions, Lu Changsheng bred a 'Blackwater Dragon Fish Dao Soldier' and a 'Blackwater Dragon Serpent Dao Soldier' from aquatic demon beasts imbued with dragon blood.

After much deliberation, he designated an area in the fish farm for these two dragon fish and one dragon serpent to dwell.

Otherwise, putting them in Bi Shui Lake was somewhat hazardous and could affect the ecosystem.

As for the matter of oversight, he temporarily entrusted it to his daughter Lu Xiaoru.

He asked her to take care of feeding them while looking after the fish farm, and to notify him if any issues arose.

Not long ago, through his concubine Zheng Yongwan, Lu Changsheng learned that the Zheng Family had negotiated with the Xu Family and was about to become a vassal to the Xu Family.

When the time came, the Zheng Family would marry off a legitimate daughter to the third son of the Yu Shui Xu Family, while the Yu Shui Xu Family would in turn marry a side branch female to the young master of the Zheng Family.

Hearing this news, Lu Changsheng didn't say much.

When Zheng Yongwan first told him about it, he had guessed that there was a good chance it would happen between the two families.

But he hadn't expected the Xu Family to marry a side branch female to the Zheng Family.

After six days, on that day, the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family was officially established for one year.

Lu Changsheng also initiated the first family conference to summarize the year's developments.

Chapter 665: Year-End Statistics, Family Atmosphere!_1

Lu Family Mansion, Council Hall.

Lu Changsheng sat in the main seat, with Lu Miaoge and Ling Zixiao sitting on either side.

Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, Qu Zhenzhen, and other wives and children, including Lu Ping'an, Lu Xianzhi, and Lu Ruyi, were seated on both sides.

The entire council hall was nearly full.

"Husband, the family has a total of one thousand four hundred and thirty acres of ordinary spiritual fields, where Spiritual Mulberry Trees, Red Flower Grass, Green Seed Fruit, Azure Moon Flowers, and White Jade Corn are planted."

"These spiritually imbued crops are harvested once a year, and we currently have nine thousand two hundred catties of Spirit Mulberry Leaves, twelve thousand two hundred catties of Red Flower Grass, twenty thousand and fifty catties of Green Seed Fruit, eleven thousand three hundred catties of Azure Moon Flowers, and twenty-three thousand six hundred catties of White Jade Corn."

...

"One thousand acres of First Grade spiritual fields are planted with the premium 'Jade Marrow Rice,' which is harvested once every one and a half years, and all of it has recently been reaped and threshed, yielding twenty-four thousand six hundred and thirty catties of Jade Marrow Rice and one thousand one hundred and fifty catties of rice bran..."

"The remaining one hundred and fifty acres of Second Rank spiritual fields are planted with Bi Shui Paddy, which matures once every two and a half years, and are not yet ripe..."

"As these crops were originally planted by the Yu Family, our yields have decreased by thirty to forty percent due to labor shortages and lack of familiarity since taking over. However, with additional labor, quantities are projected to gradually increase next year..."

Lu Miaoyun held an account book and reported on the matters concerning the family's spiritual field crops in a clear voice.

"Will the shortfall in production of Spirit Mulberry Leaves, Red Flower Grass, Green Seed Fruit, and Azure Moon Flowers affect the fishery?"

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng inquired.

These crops were all used as feed for raising spiritual fish.

If there was a shortfall, it could impact the conditions of Bi Shui Lake and the fish farms.

"I have confirmed this with Zhong Yu and others. Currently, it won't be too big of an impact. There are prepared fish feeds stored in our warehouses. But, if it continues like this next year, it will cause some impact," Lu Miaoyun said.

"Alright," Lu Changsheng nodded and motioned to continue.

"Regarding the spiritual fish, this year's yield is eleven thousand three hundred catties, including two hundred and nineteen Red Blood Carps totaling two thousand eight hundred and ninety catties, and eighty-six Green Blood Carps weighing one thousand two hundred and ten catties."

"As for spiritual medicines, none have matured yet."

Lu Miaoyun continued, "The expected income from the spiritual fields is nineteen thousand Spirit Stones, and the fishery income is projected at six thousand seven hundred Spirit Stones."

"Why is the fishery income so low? Shouldn't the revenues from fishery be higher than that of the spiritual fields?"

Lu Changsheng raised his eyebrows in surprise upon hearing this.

He knew that the fishing produce from Bi Lake Mountain was the main source of income.

“Husband, the income from the spiritual fields is only projected to be that high. Spirit Mulberry Leaves, Red Flower Grass, Green Seed Fruit, and Azure Moon Flowers are primarily produced for in-house use as feed for raising spiritual fish, so they aren’t actually profit-making.”

“Besides, the Yu Family had just sold a batch of spiritual fish, and the lack of Carp Kings in the fish farms affected the ecological balance and disrupted sales channels. All these factors led to a significant decrease in fishery income.”

“Otherwise, under normal circumstances, the income from the fish farms should be around twenty thousand Spirit Stones,” Lu Miaoyun explained.

“I see,” Lu Changsheng said, understanding that the income from the Lingtian District seemed high, but after deducting the costs of labor, seeds, and the four kinds of spiritually imbued crops, it was actually average.

Furthermore, due to various factors, the fishery income had drastically decreased.

“In the future, we will just calculate the total income, expenses, and net profit. Then compare yearly growth or decline with the previous year and identify the causes for these changes,” Lu Changsheng instructed.

Feeling that there was no need to complicate these matters.

“Understood, Husband,” Lu Miaoyun nodded in agreement.

She then looked towards Lu Miaohuan, signaling for her to report.

Lu Miaohuan was in charge of managing the family’s spiritual fields, spiritual medicines, and fisheries.

Meanwhile, the income from external shops and business partnerships was controlled by Lu Miaohuan.

The remaining Puppet Workshop, Talisman Workshop, and Wine Brewery were each supervised by Lu Xianzhi, Lu Ruyi, and Lu Quanzhen, respectively.

“Currently, the family owns eleven shops, including three Talisman Shops, two Rice Shops, two Fish Shops, one Spiritual Medicine Shop, one Elixir Shop, one Magic Artifact Shop, and one Tavern.”

“The main profits come from the Talisman Shops and Fish Shops. The other shops are operated externally under a partnership model, bringing in a total income of thirty thousand five hundred and ninety-three Spirit Stones.”

“Additionally, we have three mining veins, currently being exploited in partnership with the Hundred Birds Lake Bai Family, the Ji Family from Xiao Jing Mountain, and the Zhao Family from White Tiger Mountain, with an expected income of one thousand one hundred Spirit Stones...”

“The share from the Red Leaf Valley Marketplace is five thousand nine hundred and sixty-one Spirit Stones,” Lu Miaohuan reported, holding the account book and Jade Scroll.

“What is the percentage of the Talisman Shops’ income, and what is the net profit?” Lu Changsheng asked, looking towards Lu Miaohuan.

“Talismans account for over forty percent of the income, at thirteen thousand five hundred and sixty-six Spirit Stones. With your Second Rank Spirit Talismans, Husband, the profit margin is high at forty percent, amounting to five thousand four hundred Spirit Stones,” Lu Miaohuan replied.

“Huanhuan, in the future, also calculate the expenses and profit directly in this area,” Lu Changsheng said softly.

After finishing, he turned to his children and said, “Continue please.”

“Father, currently the Puppet Workshop has thirteen apprentice students and sixty-one workers. They have crafted thirteen Beast Type No. 1, eleven Flying Eagle Type No. 1, and two humanoid puppets. The total cost of materials amounted to two thousand eight hundred and thirty-two Spirit Stones,” Lu Xianzhi stood up and reported.

“Hmm, let me know when you can proficiently make humanoid puppets,” Lu Changsheng said.

“Also, when it comes to training personnel, don’t worry about the extra expense as long as they have potential in this area,” he added.

Chapter 666: Year-End Statistics, Family Atmosphere!_2

Lu Changsheng nodded and then said.

“Beast Number One, Bird Number One, Humanoid Number One” were the three blueprints he provided to Lu Xianzhi, instructing him to bring people up to speed on them.

The follow-up plan was to continuously upgrade these puppets and create advanced models.

“Yes, Father.”

Lu Xianzhi bowed respectfully and then sat down.

Standing to the side, his daughter Lu Ruyi got up and said crisply, “Daddy, the main business of the Talisman-Making Factory currently revolves around subcontracting work to produce ordinary talisman paper and spirit ink for Qingzhu Mountain. This year, we produced a total of nine hundred sixty-two sheets of ordinary talisman paper and one hundred fifteen boxes of spirit ink, earning a total of sixty-three spirit stones.”

...

“Haha, not bad, to have made money in the first year.”

Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but laugh cheerfully when he heard this.

However, if labor and production costs were deducted, there was actually no profit, and in fact, it was operating at a loss.

“Father, the wine-making workshop produced nine hundred fifty catties of White Jade Wine and four hundred sixty catties of Spirit Mulberry Wine this year.”

“These drinks used up four thousand nine hundred twenty catties of white jade rice and two thousand one hundred catties of spirit mulberry leaves, with the remaining ingredients costing a total of eight hundred sixty-three spirit stones...”

“If all the alcohol was sold, the expected revenue would be one thousand four hundred spirit stones.”

At that moment, Lu Quanzhen reported.

“Mm, not bad, next year we should be able to break even and start making a profit.”

Lu Changsheng nodded in approval upon hearing Lu Quanzhen’s words.

“Husband, the family currently has two hundred forty-one members, including three Foundation Establishment Cultivators, three at the Late Stage of Qi Refinement, twenty at the Middle Stage of Qi Refinement, and twelve at the Early Stage of Qi Refinement.”

“According to family rules, for the birth of newborns, the family provides encouragement. This year, thirty-one newborns have been born in the family....”

Xiao Yueru said aloud.

The duties she was responsible for were relatively simple, involving the management of family juniors’ conditions, providing rewards for family concubines and children.

Her main focus currently was distributing rewards for newborns.

“Mm, not bad.”

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly.

Out of the thirty-three newborns, besides the eight that were his own, the remaining twenty-five were all from the third generation of the Lu Family.

Through the system, he knew that none of these twenty-five individuals possessed a Spiritual Root.

He wasn't too concerned about this.

After all, aside from Lu Xianzhi, none of his children had a Spiritual Root.

The chances of giving birth to offspring with a Spiritual Root were incredibly slim.

In fact, once the offspring reached twenty, the system ceased to provide any "Child Money," leaving Lu Changsheng feeling slightly disappointed.

He had thought he could earn a substantial amount of "Child Money" through his children.

"This year, the family's profit was fifty-four thousand six hundred eighty-eight spirit stones."

After everyone had finished reporting, Ling Zixiao, holding a jade scroll and looking graceful and dignified, began to speak.

Her first sentence instantly surprised everyone present, as they had not expected the family's profit to be so high this year.

"Aside from talismans, fishery products, mines, shop rentals, and marketplace fees, the primary income came from the sale of assets, garnering thirty-one thousand five hundred spirit stones."

Ling Zixiao continued, "This year, the family expenditure was eighty thousand six hundred forty-nine spirit stones."

"This includes one purchase of the Ji Family Spirit Land which cost sixteen thousand spirit stones, tribute to the Qingyun Sect at twelve thousand spirit stones, family members' salaries and rewards at twelve thousand seven hundred sixty spirit stones."

"The family Guest Elders' offerings amounted to one thousand two hundred spirit stones, and recruiting apprentices, spiritual farmers, and fishermen, amounted to a total of one hundred twenty-three people, altogether costing one thousand eight hundred thirty-nine spirit stones."

“In terms of family construction, the Great Formation cost twenty-four thousand eight hundred ninety-one spirit stones; the fisheries cost one thousand five hundred sixty-one spirit stones; the Spiritual Medicine cost two thousand three hundred spirit stones; the workshops cost three thousand six hundred ninety-two spirit stones; external purchases cost one thousand two hundred fifty-one spirit stones; and social interactions cost three thousand one hundred fifty-two spirit stones.”

Ling Zixiao spoke in a clear and melodious voice, calmly and elegantly.

“Hiss!”

“We spent so much this year!”

“We lost over ten thousand spirit stones!”

“If it weren’t for the sale of assets, wouldn’t we have lost over fifty thousand!”

“This, this, this...”

In the meeting hall, all the concubines and children were stunned upon hearing this.

They had not expected that after establishing the Bi Lake Mountain, the spending and consumption would be so significant.

Not only were they shocked, but Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, and even Lu Miaoge were taken aback upon seeing the expenditure of spirit stones.

The costs were simply too extravagant.

“Hehe, I didn’t expect us to spend so much this year.”

“However, it is mostly due to the expenses of the Ji Family Spirit Land and the family’s Great Formation. Next year, once the family stabilizes, and we reduce overhead for labor and family construction, and as the fishery and workshops start to profit, things will gradually improve.”

Lu Changsheng chuckled lightly upon seeing this.

His approach to spending money was always extravagant and carefree, without a notion of frugality and never bothered with meticulous calculations or awareness of the amount spent.

Additionally, during this period, he had privately commissioned the Ji Family and Xiao Xiyue to purchase Spiritual Materials for his personal use; many such transactions did not go through the family's ledger.

Otherwise, the expenditure would have been even more exaggerated.

“Of course, this year I made quite a sum selling Second Rank Talismans, but that income also went into my private coffers.”

“You all should strive harder, too. The wealth I have accumulated over the years is almost depleted.”

“If we keep incurring losses, the family will struggle to function with such a deficit.”

Lu Changsheng turned to his children Lu Ping'an, Lu Xianzhi, Lu Ruyi, and others as he continued.

“Father, the family is currently in the initial stages of development, and there are many areas where money is needed.”

“We siblings are not yet able to create a stable income. You may consider adjusting and reducing the family's expenses until the family stabilizes and gradually becomes profitable, after which we can readjust.”

Chapter 667: Year-End Statistics, Family Atmosphere!_3

At this moment, Lu Quanzhen stood up, his expression serious, and looked towards Lu Changsheng. With a slight bow, he said in a deep voice.

In his opinion, although the expenses for the Family's Great Formation and the Ji Family Spirit Land were high, the allowances for himself and his siblings, including the concubines, were also obviously excessive.

"Father, I also think so."

Seeing this, Lu Ping'an quickly stood up and said.

He knew that this kind of issue could easily upset his other brothers and sisters or concubines, so as the eldest brother, he spoke up to take some of the pressure off Lu Quanzhen.

Witnessing this, a few more children stood up and said the same.

...

"We'll maintain the status quo for this year. If the Family is still running at a severe loss next year, with expenses exceeding income, I will consider this matter."

Lu Changsheng raised his hand, indicating for everyone to sit down, and proceeded to say.

"Miaoyun, next year's main expenditures should be on talent development, especially in Puppetry and Wine Brewing. We can increase the recruitment and training of talents in these areas."

"As for Alchemy, Talisman Making, and Formation, these fields require precision rather than quantity. We will train those within the Family who have the ability, and if there is nobody talented in these areas, we don't need to force it."

Lu Changsheng addressed Lu Miaoyun.

In his view, relying solely on spiritual fields and fisheries, as well as the medicinal herb gardens, was certainly inadequate.

These three could only be considered primary industries, forming the basis for Bi Lake Mountain.

To earn money, it was necessary to depend on secondary industry, manufacturing.

Within Lu Changsheng's plan, once the secondary industries like Puppetry and Wine Brewing were on a stable footing and turned profitable, it would be about time to allow his children to venture out.

Start expanding through the Red Leaf Valley Market and the Family's current shops, and begin to branch out into the tertiary industry through their revenue.

"Yes, my husband."

Lu Miaoyun responded, nodding at his words.

This Family meeting was primarily to ensure that the concubines and children had a general understanding of the Family's current situation.

Otherwise, when it came to the Family's overall arrangements, Lu Miaoyun was already well aware.

"Alright, does anyone have anything to say? Any suggestions or ideas for the Family, feel free to speak up."

Lu Changsheng looked towards his concubines and children and said.

"Father, I have something to say..."

Lu Quanzhen stood up, bowed, and said.

He stated that the current situation of the Family was somewhat lax and casual, with all the children choosing their studies and tasks at will.

This was normal, but the Family should have regulations, requiring that after breaking through to the Fourth Level of Energy Refinement or reaching a certain age, one should start contributing to the Family.

Especially since the Family was newly established and expenses exceeded income, it was even more necessary for the Family's children to work and contribute to the Family.

After all, with spiritual fields, fisheries, and spiritual medicines inside, and stores and mines outside, there were many tasks that could be arranged.

Lu Changsheng looked at his son.

There was nothing wrong with what he said.

However, he hadn't given much thought to the harmony between brothers and sisters.

After all, the Family had quite a few children, as Lu Quanzhen described, with mediocre Spiritual Root Talent who did not take cultivation or tasks seriously.

"Quanzhen, you do have a point in this matter."

"However, it's only been a little over a year since the Xiahou Monie incident, and there might still be other Xiahou remnants watching our Family, so let's put the matter of going out on hold for the moment."

"As for the arrangement of internal affairs within the Family..."

Lu Changsheng, turning to Lu Miaoyun, continued, "Yun'er, for Family children who are sixteen years old and have not yet breached the Fourth Level of Energy Refinement, arrange tasks for them. These tasks will not only count towards Family contribution but also be assessed annually to decide the Family's allowance for the next year."

Since Lu Quanzhen had spoken to this extent, he felt that the ethos indeed needed to change.

After all, if there were too many lazy children, it would not only affect the ethos of the Family and the attitudes of others but would also upset those children who were seriously working.

While he could afford to support them, the Family was newly established, and the ethos had to be kept under control to prevent any problems.

"Yes, my husband."

Lu Miaoyun nodded and responded.

Chapter 668: Family System_1

“This family council shall come to an end here,”

“If there is anything else, you may come to see me directly.”

Lu Changsheng looked towards his wives, concubines, and children, and said aloud.

He was also aware that in such a setting, his wives, concubines, and children all had difficulties speaking freely.

If a concubine raised an issue related to the family system, it would reflect poorly on him as the head of the household and as a father, and on the aunts for failing to discipline properly.

If the children spoke up about some issues, it could affect sibling relationships and family harmony.

...

“Yes!”

The others, upon hearing this, all stood up and responded.

After that, Lu Changsheng, along with Ling Zixiao, Lu Miaoge, and others, left the council hall.

“Sister Miaoge, Zixiao, do you think there are any issues that still need to be improved in the family system?”

Back at the Changsheng Hall, Lu Changsheng looked at Lu Miaoge and Ling Zixiao and inquired.

He felt that aside from profit-making, his family needed to pay attention to the atmosphere and the system.

At present, the family rules were roughly similar to those of the Lu Family of Qingzhu Mountain.

But Lu Changsheng was very clear in his understanding that his family was entirely different from the Lu Family of Qingzhu Mountain.

The Lu Family of Qingzhu Mountain had a history of several hundred years, and because of this, family affection and blood ties tend to be much weaker, making them place more emphasis on rules and clan regulations.

Whereas his own family was still everyone's family.

To call it a family would be more accurate than to call it a clan.

As the head of this family, he did not usually interfere much in affairs, being rather casual toward most matters.

Lu Miaoyun, Qu Zhenzhen, and others had also watched the children of the house grow up.

In such a situation, they were not too strict with the children, not following the rules entirely.

"My lord, in terms of family system, I think there are a few points that need attention,"

Ling Zixiao said with a slight smile after glancing at Lu Miaoge.

"Zixiao, feel free to speak your mind."

Lu Changsheng said aloud.

He knew that his ability to manage family affairs was average, so he was very willing to listen to suggestions.

"My lord, I think tasks like farming the spiritual fields, fishery, the herbal garden, and managing the family shops, cooperations, and so on, should all be handed over to the children to manage."

“This way, not only will all the children have work to do, they will also get the experience they need and improve the family atmosphere.”

“Otherwise, if we let Miaoyun and the others handle these matters all the time, it’s not good for the family.”

Ling Zixiao spoke.

“Why?”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow and asked.

“My lord, if Miaoyun and the others make mistakes in some family affairs, would you punish them?”

Ling Zixiao asked with a half-smile.

“Uh...”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng paused, immediately realizing some of the problems.

He shook his head, and said honestly, “Probably not, at most I’d say a few words.”

“That’s exactly it. Miaoyun and the others are already responsible for many things in the house, and now they have to take on these as well. They are very busy, and it’s very possible that they make some small mistake or handle family affairs inadequately.”

“In such cases, if you, my lord, don’t say anything, others naturally won’t either. Over the long term, this will make the family’s rewards and punishments unclear.”

Ling Zixiao sat down by the table with dignified and graceful bearing, poured a cup of tea, and continued to say, “Now, there are quite a few children in the house who have reached fourteen or fifteen years of age and can be arranged to work.”

“Failing at the beginning is not to be feared; the family can give them enough leeway for trial and error.”

“Furthermore, if children make mistakes or fail in their tasks, we, as elders, can teach and admonish them, without causing resentment among the children in the house.”

“If the children see their elders making mistakes or doing poorly and you don’t say anything, how could they dare to speak up?”

Ling Zixiao drank her tea, saying with a smile.

“Changsheng, Sister Ling has a point,”

Lu Miaoge said, also taking a seat and joining in.

“Indeed,”

Lu Changsheng nodded.

With Ling Zixiao pointing it out this way, he clearly recognized the issue.

“These tasks will eventually have to be taken over by the children, so we might as well let them do it now.”

“During this period, if someone does a good job, we should reward them more, which can also encourage the other children in the family to get more involved.”

“As for the children with excellent Spiritual Root Talent or skill talents, they should focus solely on cultivation or refining their skills, or do some lighter work without spending too much time on tasks.”

“As for those with no talent or capability, we can arrange for Miaoyun to find them a spouse sooner, as it’s no problem to have a few idle members of the household.”

“Besides, having more children also counts as contributing to the family,”

Ling Zixiao said, her face showing a light smile as she continued.

“Changsheng, the work done by Xianzhi, Ruyi, Quanzhen, and the others is quite good, so we can let all the children try to take over these tasks.”

“If they do well, it can serve as encouragement and play a leading role.”

“And Miaoyun, Huanhuan, and the others can also then focus on domestic affairs and cultivation.”

Lu Miaoge nodded slightly, agreeing with Ling Zixiao’s opinion.

“Alright, I will talk about this with Miaoyun and Huanhuan later,”

Lu Changsheng said after hearing this, nodding his head.

As Ling Zixiao said, now the family could afford it, having enough margin for trial and error.

This would also make it easier for him to arrange things based on the children’s abilities, customizing his teachings to each child’s capacity.

Otherwise, like now, after making a simple arrangement, he hadn’t paid much attention to follow-ups, which not only affected Miaoyun’s planning but also failed to fully tap into the children’s talents.

Moreover, he had also come to realize an issue.

Many of the tasks carried out by his children were determined by him and Lu Miaoyun.

Over time, some concubines and children might harbor some dissenting thoughts.

According to Ling Zixiao's proposal, all tasks could be subdivided and assigned according to ability.

Chapter 669: Family System_2

“`

Perform well and there will be rewards; fail to meet expectations and someone else will take your place.

If you can't do anything right, then you'll just take the basic welfare at home.

Let the family arrange your marriage, settle down early, and have more children.

After chatting for a while, Lu Changsheng summoned Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, and Qu Zhenzhen.

Whether it was him, Ling Zixiao, or Lu Miaoge, none of them really intervened or paid too much attention to the internal affairs of the family.

...

So although the three of them talked, they still called Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, and others to understand the actual situation of the family.

After Lu Changsheng expressed his thoughts, Lu Miaoyun and Lu Miaohuan naturally had no objections to this.

Just as Ling Zixiao said, as the main housekeepers of the family, they were naturally inundated with numerous miscellaneous duties.

Now also in charge of a plethora of family affairs, they were indeed very busy and had no time for cultivation on regular days.

For Lu Miaohuan, it was still alright as she advanced to the Seventh Level Energy Refinement with a High Rank Breakthrough Elixir.

Lu Miaoyun has not yet broken through to the Seventh Level Energy Refinement.

“Alright, Yun’er, Huanhuan, Zhenzhen, you must pay more attention to the internal and personnel affairs of the family,”

“As for the spirit fields, fishery, medical gardens, shops, cooperative businesses, etc., there’s no need to rush. You roughly divide it up, and we’ll review it later to see how to arrange it.”

Lu Changsheng spoke up, saying this.

“Yes, my lord,”

the women responded.

After discussing the situation, they began to talk about the personalities of the children at home.

Lu Miaoyun said that children in the family, like Lu Ping’an and Lu Xianzhi, were still quite reliable.

But nowadays, some of the younger children were indeed a bit more mischievous.

On one hand, there were so many children in the family, and it was impossible to teach and nurture each and every one of them.

On the other hand, it’s also related to the family’s growing environment.

Back when Lu Changsheng was a son-in-law at Qingzhu Mountain, the children at home were somewhat restrained in their lives.

Now, with Lu Changsheng’s rise in status, the status of his wives and children also soared, affecting the children’s characters to some extent.

After chatting with his wives, Lu Changsheng stepped out of Changsheng Hall to have a heart-to-heart talk with his children.

In his view, as a father, his main work in the family was coordination.

He first sought out his eldest son, Lu Ping'an.

He asked his son for his views and feelings about the current situation of the family.

Lu Ping'an, though somewhat reserved and upright, still had a clear view of many things.

In his opinion, the biggest problem of the family was the harmony among brothers.

With so many brothers in the family, it was difficult to say they were close and friendly.

"Sigh."

Hearing this, Lu Changsheng let out a light sigh.

He was more than aware of the issue.

Not to mention being close and friendly, and harmony among brothers, he reckoned that some of his children might harbor resentment due to his partiality, selfishness, and unfairness,

but they wouldn't show it in the face of the family's core interests.

After chatting with Lu Ping'an for a while, he then conversed with his son Lu Xianzhi and daughter Lu Ruyi.

Lu Xianzhi's views were somewhat similar to Lu Ping'an's.

He felt a sense of responsibility as the eldest in the family,

expressing guilt that, despite his average talent and capability, he was so favored by Lu Changsheng.

His daughter Lu Ruyi, on the other hand, didn't feel much and thought the current situation wasn't bad; she was quite happy.

When he found Lu Quanzhen, the latter was with Lu Caizhen in Hushan Town, taking two other younger siblings out to play.

"Father, your son greets you!"

"Daddy, Daddy, why are you here?"

Seeing Lu Changsheng, the four immediately greeted him.

Lu Quanzhen and his son Lu Huaizhen were relatively mature and greeted him respectfully.

Lu Caizhen and Lu Yuzhen, the two daughters, were much more affectionate and approached with laughing faces.

"Hehe, there was a big family meeting today, and I thought the family indeed neglected many aspects, so I came over to have a talk with you and hear your thoughts,"

"And I noticed that Quanzhen seemed to have something to say at the meeting today."

Lu Changsheng looked at his children, smiling as he spoke.

Turning to Lu Quanzhen in a gentle voice he said, "Quanzhen, you can talk to me privately or use a voice transmission if you have such concerns in the future. There's no need to speak of such things in public, as it impacts the harmony between you and your brothers."

"Daddy, brother had good intentions, there were no other meanings,"

"`

Lu Caizhen thought that his father came to lecture him and, while holding Lu Changsheng's arm coquettishly, said,

“Father, I believe that it is only effective to bring up such matters on occasions like this.”

Lu Quanzhen, upon hearing this, showed a serious expression and said in a deep voice,

“Are you not worried that your words might provoke the displeasure of others?”

Lu Changsheng smiled and said,

He knew that his son was mature for his age and had a mind of his own.

In the preceding years, he had sent Lu Quanzhen to work under Hong Yi in Ruyi Prefecture, and Hong Yi had nothing but praise for him.

He said that Lu Quanzhen was steady in his work and decisive in killing.

But in fact, as his son grew older, he realized that he didn't really understand him as much as he thought.

“I'm not worried. If they feel displeasure or resentment because I brought up this matter, it shows that these people do not share the same heart as the family and do not consider me a brother, so why should I care about their opinions?”

Lu Quanzhen, with deep eyes and a composed expression, said.

Lu Changsheng, hearing his son's words, raised his eyebrows, roughly understanding his son's ideas and thoughts.

He continued to ask, “Then, what other thoughts do you have about this?”

“Father, in my view...”

Lu Quanzhen slightly raised his eyebrows and slowly articulated his thoughts.

Lu Changsheng listened quietly.

His son, Lu Quanzhen's ideas about the family were different from his own.

Essentially, it was about valuing rules over familial affection.

As Lu Quanzhen said, as a member of the family, one should share in its hardships and contribute to the family.

If one lacks this mindset, it indicates a lack of belonging to the family and not considering oneself a part of the family; in such cases, strict punishment should be administered to improve the moral climate.

This rationale even formed a loop—you contribute to the family, you are part of the family.

If you don't contribute to the family, you are not considered one of us, and there is no need to be polite to such people.

"Brother, we're all one family, you don't have to be so strict."

"Besides, everyone has different ambitions, and Daddy has always said that being happy is what matters."

Lu Yuzhen stuck out her tongue and said so.

"No demands, being happy is what matters."

Lu Changsheng, hearing these words, thoughtfully looked at his daughter.

Upon reflection, he realized that he had never had any particular demands on his children; as long as they were happy, that was good enough.

Even though he could see his children's abilities through the system, he still tended to follow their own desires in many things.

He thought back to when his son Lu Wuyu spoke to him about the matters of the Lu Family in Ruyi Prefecture.

His son had stated that the Lu Family disciples were bound to produce arrogant individuals who needed to be strictly controlled.

Actually, the current situation in his own Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family also had tendencies in this respect.

“As their father, I indeed have been too permissive in this regard.”

“If we were just a large ordinary family, it wouldn't matter, but now that we've established a cultivation family, we should still resemble a family to some extent.”

“After all, my original intention to establish the family was to provide a better environment for my children to grow up in and allow them to continue growing through the family.”

“It's not about leaning on me alone to sustain the family and everyone in it.”

Lu Changsheng pondered in his heart.

He turned to Lu Quanzhen and said, “Your thoughts, your father has roughly understood, but such things can't be accomplished all at once.”

“Your father has also discussed these matters with your mother and several of your aunts today...”

Lu Changsheng slowly conveyed his thoughts to Lu Quanzhen.

Since his son had ideas, he was willing to share more with him.

However, his own thoughts were still as Ling Zixiao had said, aiming for change through guidance.

After all, the family's current situation hadn't reached the point where it needed to rely wholly on clan rules as Lu Quanzhen had suggested.

After chatting with his son Lu Quanzhen, as the evening grew dark, Lu Changsheng took his children to the Lu Family Mansion for a meal.

As a cultivator, he naturally didn't need to eat or drink, but occasionally he still indulged in satisfying his palate.

Moreover, cultivators eating Spirit Rice and spiritual meals also helped with their cultivation.

In the following days, Lu Changsheng had conversations with his children, showing concern for their situations and also preparing for the upcoming changes in the family's system.

Half a month later, Lu Changsheng issued new family rules: all family disciples who reached the age of fourteen could apply to take part in family affairs.

If they hadn't achieved the Forth Level Energy Refinement by the age of sixteen, they would be assigned by the family.

The family would calculate the next year's salary and benefits annually based on cultivation progress, family contributions, and moral conduct.

Chapter 670: Family Great Formation Completed, Planting Trees!_1

“`

Time flew, and two months had passed.

With the new rules of the family, all Lu Family members aged fourteen had the option to actively apply for family affairs.

Although not everyone could be like Lu Xianzhi, Lu Ruyi, and Lu Quanzhen, directly in charge of a workshop.

Each person was assigned spirit fields, fishing zones, shops, and other business matters.

They could also choose to enter one of the three major workshops to manage certain projects or select a skill from the family to improve upon.

...

If the family school didn't offer the skill and you had ideas and the courage to go for it, the family would provide the relevant inheritance and some funds for you to learn through trial and error.

In such circumstances, these children were filled with enthusiasm.

After all, they themselves understood that at the current stage of the family, if they worked hard, they could still compete for a place.

If they waited until the family continued to grow in size, with more people and talents like Lu Qingxuan and Lu Wangshu coming of age, without a special skill of their own, they would truly only be able to serve as drones at home.

Moreover, even if the children were still young and ignorant, their mothers were aware that the family was in its early stages of establishment, which was precisely the opportunity for their own children.

If their children demonstrated exceptional talents and abilities, they might get Lu Changsheng's attention and cultivation.

Even if their own children lacked talents, as long as they were diligent and practical, they could still gain control over part of the family's industries, which would significantly benefit their future cultivation and family establishment.

Seeing the bustling activity among the family's children, Lu Changsheng did not continue to monitor it closely.

He had delegated these affairs to Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, Qu Zhenzhen, Bai Feifei, and Zheng Yongwan.

After all, besides the day-to-day cultivation, talisman-making, refining the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi, and healing Ling Zixiao's injuries, he really did not have much spare time to worry about so much.

One day, Ling Zixiao informed Lu Changsheng that the Great Formation of the Bi Lake Mountain family had finally been completed after a year and two and a half months.

"Has it finally been completed?"

Upon hearing this news, a faint smile emerged on Lu Changsheng's face.

Since he occasionally chatted with Ling Zixiao, he was well aware of the reasons why the family's Great Formation had taken so much time and consumed so many spirit stones to repair.

Now that he had heard the Great Formation was completely refurbished, he was somewhat expectant of this new formation.

Both of them left Changsheng Hall and headed to the mountain gate.

Mo Shouren and others were waiting; upon seeing Lu Changsheng, they politely said, "Lu Daoist, the great formation of your esteemed family has been repaired. We are now waiting for your inspection."

"Master Mo and everyone have worked hard."

Lu Changsheng bowed in respect.

Since the formation was supervised and participated throughout by Ling Zixiao, he was quite confident about its completion.

However, as the Mountain Master, he still needed to inspect the formation so Mo Shouren could report back.

“Hehe, Lu Daoist flatters me.”

“This great formation has been almost completely overhauled based on the original Bi Shui Qing Tian Formation. Not only have the weaknesses been adjusted and reduced, upgrading it to a second-tier top-level formation, but it also has been enhanced with three layers of variations.”

As the Array Master took out the Array Plate and began to explain, he demonstrated to Lu Changsheng.

Instantly, the originally faint mist of Bi Lake Mountain thickened at a visible rate, turning a deep blue color. Besides the runic symbols swimming like fish, there was also a faint presence of thunder permeating the air.

“This first layer of variation is named ‘Depths Water True Thunder’!”

“The great formation can summon Depths Water True Thunder for attacks, with each strike comparable to a Foundation Establishment Cultivator’s hit, and the strongest can summon Depths Water True Thunder comparable to a full-blown strike from a Nascent Soul Immortal!”

As the Array Master spoke, his hands formed a spell, and he took out a small blue flag and waved it vigorously.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, the spiritual pressure of the formation surged, numerous blue thunder orbs appeared, and in the sky, dark clouds gathered, a massive azure lightning bolt fermenting, filling the air with a fearsome aura.

“This Depths Water True Thunder is more suitable for large-scale attacks, right?”

Lu Changsheng lifted his head and looked at the thunder brewing in the sky and commented.

“Indeed, the third-tier Depths Water True Thunder consumes a lot and is only suitable for widespread attacks. If a group of enemies were to invade, and the Depths Water True Thunder fell, all would be reduced to ash.”

So spoke the Array Master.

Then, with his hands forming a spell, he continued to showcase and explain: “This second layer is called ‘Bi Water Current Flow’. It can manipulate the water veins of the lake, not only to wield the lake’s water against enemies but also to raise a layer of mist to obscure divine sense.

As the formation rumbled to life, the thunder previously filling the air dissipated, and the calm waters of Bi Shui Lake began to surge with waves. Columns of water shot up into the sky and a veiling mist spread, making parts of the formation seem to be covered with layers of flowing water and mist.”

“Using the water veins against the enemy might affect the family’s Bi Shui Lake, so I won’t demonstrate too much.”

“This layer of lake water can increase the defense of the formation by about thirty percent. As for the mist, it not only boosts the defense of the formation to some extent but also has the effect of obscuring the divine sense.”

“Many Array Masters use techniques like eye skills and divine sense to find the weak points in a formation and break it. With this layer of mist, it can effectively obscure and make it difficult to find flaws.”

With the Array Plate in hand, the Array Master explained aloud.

Lu Changsheng looked towards the area covered by the formation’s water mist and investigated with his divine sense.

He discovered that his divine sense was indeed somewhat blocked, but the effect was not too significant.

However, considering that the Great Formation was not operating at full power, and that his divine sense had already reached the late stage of Foundation Establishment, it seemed normal.

“The third layer is called ‘Heavy Water Suppressing Technique’. Thanks to Daoist Lu’s quasi-magical treasure ‘Heavy Water Bead’, as the central piece of the formation, it creates a layered array, adding a kind of restriction effect within the formation.”

“When the formation is active, ordinary Energy Refining Cultivators entering it can’t fly with treasures, and Foundation Establishment Cultivators who wish to fly will have to spend twenty to thirty percent more mana.”