

I. Family 691

Chapter 691: The Xu Family has a Daughter, the Dragon Emperor Body!_2

“I wonder if Master Lu can draw a talisman. If it’s possible, I’d like to trouble Master Lu to do so.”

Xu Renguang said politely.

“Heavenly Fire Mink, Mystical Frost Talisman?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng glanced at the redhead woman next to him.

He knew that Beast Tamers subdue Pet Beasts mostly through various means to make them submit.

Methods such as the Blood Covenant, contract documents, Beast Control Tokens, and the like are all considered inferior.

...

“Could it be that she was looking at me earlier because of the talisman?”

Lu Changsheng pondered to himself.

Looking at Xu Renguang, he showed a hint of regret and said, “Lu Daoist, regarding the Mystical Frost Talisman, I have never drawn it before, and I am not very confident.”

The Mystical Frost Talisman is a Second Rank high-grade Spirit Talisman, which Lu Changsheng could naturally draw with ease.

However, he seldom drew such a Spirit Talisman, and those booking Second Rank Talismans from him were already scheduled into next year.

Without the other party promising any benefits, they expect me to help draw talismans?

“I wonder how much confidence Master Lu has.

“If you can draw it, my Xu Family will certainly be very grateful.”

Xu Renguang continued to say.

“This...”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng glanced at the redhead woman again.

He didn’t expect that this person could actually make the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family promise a handsome reward.

It seemed that this redhead woman’s status and identity within the Xu Family were quite extraordinary.

After mulling it over for a moment, he said, “Well then, I shall try when I return.”

“If there is any news, I will reply to Lu Daoist within three months. How about that?”

Lu Changsheng said this.

“In that case, thank you, Lu Daoist!”

“I raise a glass to you, Lu Daoist!”

Xu Renguang lifted his cup and expressed his thanks with a bow.

Many people in the grand hall saw this scene and revealed a touch of envy in their eyes.

They envied the Xu Family for being able to easily request Lu Changsheng to help draw talismans and envied Lu Changsheng for his identity as a Second Rank high-grade Talisman Master.

“Lu Daoist is too polite.”

Lu Changsheng lifted his cup and said.

After he had eaten and drunk his fill, Lu Changsheng also learned about the identity of the redhead woman.

The granddaughter of the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family, Xu Ruyin.

Not only did she possess a Fourth Grade Spiritual Root, but she also had an excellent talent for Beast Taming.

Having just broken through to the Energy Refinement Late Stage, she tamed an Earth Grade Bloodline Monster Beast, the Fire Python Tiger.

She could be said to be the current gem in the palm of Yu Shui Xu Family.

Moreover, when Bai Yunyang mentioned this gem of the Xu Family, he also told an interesting story.

After Xu Ruyin tamed the Fire Python Tiger, people from the main Beast Taming Xu Family came wanting to take her back to the main family to cultivate.

But Xu Ruyin's father, Xu Renguang's son, had once been crippled by a direct descendant in the family competition, who took away his Spiritual Pets, thus Xu Ruyin refused to go back to the main family to cultivate.

Furthermore, she declared her intention to seek justice for her father in the future.

...

The Xu Family and others were arranged by the Zheng Family in a quiet courtyard.

Inside the courtyard's building.

“Hong Lian senior, can you confirm it?”

Xu Ruyin asked inwardly.

“You are not wrong in your perception, this person indeed has the aura of a Heavenly-Rank Bloodline Demon Beast, clearly, he has been in contact with Heavenly-Rank Demon Beasts for a long time.”

“Moreover, this aura is somewhat mixed, this palace suspects he has more than one Heavenly-Rank Bloodline Demon Beast.”

An ethereal, elegant, and gentle voice, like music from the heavens, rang out in Xu Ruyin’s mind.

“More than one!?”

Xu Ruyin showed a look of surprise in her beautiful eyes upon hearing this.

She was well aware of the preciousness of Heavenly Grade Bloodline Spiritual Beasts.

Not to mention her Yu Shui Xu Family.

Even the main family, Beast Taming Xu Family, would find it extremely difficult to acquire a Heavenly Grade Bloodline Spiritual Beast.

And now, a mere Foundation Establishment Family actually had multiple Heavenly-Rank Demon Beasts.

“If I could contract a Heavenly-Rank Demon Beast, then the ‘Beast Technique’ could advance further, evolving into an Orthodox Level Cultivation Technique, forming the ‘Beastly Dao Foundation’!”

Xu Ruyin’s beautiful eyes shone with hope and desire.

Her family was happy and complete when she was young.

But when she was seven years old, and accompanying her father to visit the main Beast Taming Xu Family for the family competition,

she saw her own father being defeated by a direct descendant of the family, and even his Spiritual Pets were taken away.

That battle also left her father crippled, dejected, and nearly reduced to a wastrel with no hope of Foundation Establishment.

From that moment on, her heart harbored an additional goal.

To seek justice for her father righteously in the family competition!

Now, with supreme opportunity within her, she could see the hope of avenging her father!

She inquired respectfully: “Senior Hong Lian, do you have any way?”

The Cultivation Technique she practiced was called ‘Beast Technique’.

This technique was highly esoteric, enabling her to enhance the power of her technique by the grade of contracted Spiritual Beasts.

Moreover, it also allowed her to improve her own talents, foundation, and potential through contracting Spiritual Beasts.

“This person is not simple. I perceive a terrifying aura coming from him. He must have great fortune and secrets.”

The ethereal voice like the music of the heavens continued.

“This...”

Xu Ruyin was shocked upon hearing this.

She knew the prowess of Senior Hong Lian.

This Lu Changsheng actually made Senior Hong Lian feel a terrifying aura.

“Senior Hong Lian, I have heard some rumors about this person...”

Xu Ruyin immediately recounted some information about Lu Changsheng.

“Lower Grade Spiritual Root, son-in-law living off his wife’s family, many wives and concubines, numerous offspring, a master of the Talisman Path, and such rapid Cultivation speed... Could it be the legendary Dragon Emperor Body!”

The ethereal voice conveyed a hint of surprise and curiosity.

“Dragon Emperor Body?”

“Senior Hong Lian, what kind of Spiritual Body is that? I’ve never heard of it.”

Xu Ruyin asked.

“I have also heard of this body. In the Central State Great Qian Dynasty, there was a Saint King who had one hundred and eight Heavenly Consorts and three thousand beauties in his harem.”

“It is said that this Saint King’s constitution was known as the ‘Dragon Emperor Body’. Not only was dual cultivation with men and women harmless to him, but it also allowed his thoughts to become clear, his Cultivation to progress swiftly, with no bottlenecks to hinder him, and this constitution was most conducive to having children; his offspring were also more likely to be extraordinarily talented!”

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The ethereal voice spoke in such a manner.

“There is actually such a physique in the world.”

Xu Ruyin, upon hearing these words, also showed a look of surprise and doubt.

Although she did not know much about spiritual bodies, she had heard and understood common physiques, including the Five Elements Spiritual Body.

She had never heard of such a mysterious spiritual body before.

After all, most cultivators practice abstinence as part of their cultivation regimen.

...

Only a small number of heretic cultivators or those who practice dual cultivation, by harvesting others' essence, would choose to indulge in desires.

But such individuals would eventually have their foundations weakened by excessive dual cultivation and harvesting, and at a certain realm, they would find it difficult to make any progress.

“This palace has only heard of such matters and is speculating as such. However, if this child is as you say, he must surely be a person with great fortune,” said the voice.

“Such characters have many tricks up their sleeves. If you are trying to get a Heaven Rank demon beast from him, I'm afraid it will be extremely difficult,” the ethereal voice said.

Xu Ruyin heard this and fell silent, her beautiful eyes deep in thought.

...

The Zheng family's funeral lasted for three days.

During this period, many matters were handled by the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family.

This was also a way for the Xu Family to show their stance to the outside world; the Zheng family was under the protection of the Yu Shui Xu Family.

Although this Xu Family was not the Beast Taming Xu Family, it was still strong enough to make many other forces weigh their decisions carefully.

“Lu Daoist, my granddaughter will be staying at Wugong Ridge for a while,” said Xu Renguang to Lu Changsheng politely.

“If you manage to inscribe the Mystical Frost Talisman, just send someone to inform us at Wugong Ridge,” he said.

Lu Changsheng, hearing this, glanced at Xu Ruyin next to him, who had a delicate face, fiery red long hair, and a graceful figure, and nodded with a smile.

Because of Zheng Yongwan, he had attended many ceremonies of the Zheng family’s funeral over these three days.

During that time, he keenly noticed that Xu Ruyin looked at him from time to time.

This kind of looking was different from the scrutiny in the great hall at the beginning.

It contained a few indescribable meanings.

This made Lu Changsheng feel that there was something off about Xu Ruyin.

It wasn’t because he was so charming that she looked at him from time to time.

Although he didn’t know what was going on with her,

Lu Changsheng became extra cautious and wary of Xu Ruyin in his heart.

...

As the funeral of the Zheng family came to an end, Lu Changsheng also took Zheng Yongwan back to Bi Lake Mountain.

Just after returning to Bi Lake Mountain, Lu Changsheng received some news.

The dragon carp in Bi Shui Lake had emerged!

And it was caught by his daughter, Lu Wangshu.

At this, Lu Changsheng looked at the system interface to see that his daughter Lu Wangshu already had 41% fishing talent, leaving him somewhat at a loss for words.

He could only hope that his daughter would also have this much interest in the Talisman Path in the future.

Lu Changsheng looked at the dragon carp.

It was currently the size of a forearm, with its entire body covered in scales emanating a golden luster, appearing quite extraordinary.

Seeing this dragon carp, Lu Changsheng very much wanted to refine it into a Blackwater Dragon Fish Dao Soldier.

But remembering his promise to his wife and children, that the first dragon carp caught would be cooked at home,

He considered that the dragon carp was still too small, enough for perhaps a three-person family meal at best.

So, Lu Changsheng decided to keep the dragon carp in the fish farm, planning to raise it for a few years.

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

[Congratulations to the host for the birth of a Spiritual Root descendant. You have earned one lottery opportunity]

That day, a system notification sounded, accompanied by a faint tremor.

“

“This seems to be the thirty-ninth, isn’t it?”

“Thirty-nine, and only the first child with a Spiritual Root?”

“And this Spiritual Root fluctuation, it should also just be a Lower Grade Spiritual Root.”

Upon hearing this system prompt, Lu Changsheng’s brows furrowed slightly.

He felt that the chance for his third generation to have a Spiritual Root was too low.

However, thinking of his own children who were giving birth, none of whom had a Spiritual Root, his heart felt slightly relieved.

Under the circumstances where neither parent had a Spiritual Root, having a Spiritual Root in the thirty-ninth child was already considered a decent probability.

Perhaps it was thanks to the Spirit Rice that his children ate regularly, constantly nourished by Spiritual Energy.

“System, draw a prize!”

Without overthinking it, Lu Changsheng opened the system to begin the draw.

[Ding, congratulations to the host for obtaining a Fourth Rank Elixir Medicine: Soul Fusion Resurrection Elixir]

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

An elixir icon emerged from the big wheel, accompanied by a system notification tone.

“Soul Fusion Resurrection Elixir?”

When Lu Changsheng saw the prize he drew, his eyebrows raised.

This was an elixir he had never heard of before.

With a slight stirring of his mental spirit, he looked toward the System Space for the effects of this elixir.

[Elixir: Soul Fusion Resurrection Elixir]

[Quality: Fourth Rank]

[Description: As long as a cultivator’s soul has not dissipated, upon taking this elixir, one can regenerate flesh from bones and fuse the soul back to life]

“Fourth Rank Elixir!”

When Lu Changsheng saw the grade and effect of this elixir, he couldn’t help but inhale sharply.

Most of the rewards he had obtained so far were of the Third Rank.

It was only the Life-Substituting Talisman he drew earlier, with good luck, that he had obtained a Fourth Rank reward.

He didn’t expect to draw another Fourth Rank elixir today.

And certainly, the effects of this elixir were extraordinary.

After a cultivator dies, the soul can still exist for a period of time.

Thus, high-rank cultivators, when killing, aim to destroy both the body and soul to ensure there are no future troubles.

Especially in the Demon Path, after killing someone, they capture the victim's soul for cultivating techniques or for refining Magic Artifacts.

And with this elixir, even if a person is dead, as long as their soul hasn't been completely annihilated, taking the elixir would allow them to regenerate from their bones and come back to life.

This effect is simply terrifying!

It can be said to be a truly life-saving miracle medicine!

"However, being ranked as a Fourth Rank elixir makes it seem somewhat redundant."

"In battles between Nascent Soul Immortals, one has to strike down the opponent until both body and soul are dispersed, and a Nascent Soul True Lord wouldn't possibly allow someone..."

"Eh, I've heard that a Nascent Soul True Lord not only has a lifespan of over a thousand years but also possesses all sorts of inconceivable methods."

"One such method is known as Body Seizure Reincarnation."

"The books say that all the mana and divine skills of a Nascent Soul True Lord are contained within the Nascent Soul itself, and even if their body is completely destroyed and their soul shattered, as long as the Nascent Soul survives, they can seize another body and be reborn..."

"And Nascent Soul True Lords have mastery over the power of the void, their Nascent Souls capable of escaping into it, with no restrictions or techniques able to hold them back, possessing an extremely strong ability to preserve their own lives!"

Lu Changsheng muttered to himself.

Knowledge about the Nascent Soul mainly came from his usual reading.

On the other hand, it was through the Cultivation Techniques he obtained from the system draws, knowing a thing or two from their descriptions.

“Nevertheless, as precious and powerful as it is, it’s somewhat redundant for me at the moment.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Soul Fusion Resurrection Elixir, sighed deeply,

and simply placed the elixir in the System Space to collect dust.

Planning to take it out only when there was a need for it.

“

Chapter 693: The Demonic Seven Sects, Sending a Clock to the Four Great Families!_1

This day, Lu Changsheng learned of the news about Azure Phoenix Immortal City through Xiao Xiyue.

They too faced a surge of demon beasts, and even three Heaven Rank Demon Kings attacked Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

This battle nearly resulted in the city being breached.

However, the most reclusive loose cultivator of Jiang Country, the Azure Phoenix Immortal, re-emerged into public view after many years of silence.

With a Third Rank Qing Luan, five hundred Qing Luan Dao Soldiers in tow, she ferociously battled the three great Heaven Rank demon animals.

After months of intense fighting, the Azure Phoenix Immortal finally killed the Ironback Kui Bear and severely wounded the Diamond Ape King, bringing an end to the beast tide.

...

“The message indicates that if the beast tide hadn’t been so severe, nearly breaching Azure Phoenix Immortal City, with the strength of the Azure Phoenix Immortal and riding the wave of victory with five hundred Qing Luan Dao Soldiers, there was even a hope to kill the Diamond Ape King,”

Xiao Xiyue spoke out, saying thus.

Even she was astonished upon receiving this news.

For the bloodline grade of demon beasts determines the upper limit of their strength.

Like a Third Rank Demon King with a Heavenly Grade bloodline, whose strength corresponds to a Nascent Soul Cultivator with a Superior Gold Core.

Each one possesses frightening combat power.

Yet the Azure Phoenix Immortal fought three alone, managing to slay one and severely wound another; it was nothing short of astounding.

“Three Heaven Rank Demon Kings almost breached Azure Phoenix Immortal City....”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng drew a deep breath, understanding how fierce and perilous the battle was.

He looked at Xiao Xiyue and continued to ask, “Xi Yue, the strength of this Azure Phoenix Immortal must not be far from making a breakthrough to Nascent Soul, right?”

“I’m not sure about that. There are rumors that the Azure Phoenix Immortal has been in closed-door cultivation these years, preparing for the assault on Nascent Soul,”

“There are also rumors that years ago, the Azure Phoenix Immortal delved deep into the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range and suffered severe injuries, spending these years to recuperate,”

“However, judging from the strength she displayed now, it’s estimated she’s not far from a breakthrough to Nascent Soul,”

Xiao Xiyue said in a low voice.

“If this Azure Phoenix Immortal breaks through to Nascent Soul, I fear the entire situation in Jiang Country will undergo change,”

Lu Changsheng said with some emotion.

In the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm now, only the Heavenly Sword Sect had a Nascent Soul True Lord to preside over it.

If the Azure Phoenix Immortal, a loose cultivator, achieves Nascent Soul, it's feared that not just the whole of Jiang Country, but even the neighboring cultivation realms would be shaken.

After all, each Nascent Soul True Lord can influence the landscape of a country, of a cultivation realm.

This made Lu Changsheng think of the Xuanjian True Monarch of the Heavenly Sword Sect, also a fierce figure.

In the beginning, facing the invitation to battle from the three Great Demon Sects of Jin Kingdom, he fought alone against two Nascent Soul True Monarchs.

The result being he almost slew the Five Poisons Cult Leader, possessing truly astonishing combat power.

“This Azure Phoenix Immortal seeking a breakthrough to Nascent Soul must be immensely difficult,”

“Azure Phoenix Immortal City only has a Third Rank Spirit Vein, which is simply inadequate for assaulting Nascent Soul,”

“Even if she temporarily elevates the Spiritual Energy to Fourth Rank through methods, it is still quite forced,”

“Moreover, with Azure Phoenix Immortal City close to the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range, once she attempts to attack Nascent Soul, there will definitely be Demon Kings attacking,”

“And the Four Great Immortal Sects – Heavenly Sword Sect, Qingyun Sect, Spirit Taming Sect, and Luoxia Sect – wouldn’t want to see the Azure Phoenix Immortal achieve Nascent Soul,”

“Unless she is willing to join one of the Four Great Immortal Sects,”

Ling Zixiao held her teacup, her demeanor dignified and elegant, her voice clear as she spoke.

“Indeed,”

Lu Changsheng nodded, understanding the principle.

It’s already quite remarkable for the Azure Phoenix Immortal to rise powerfully as a loose cultivator and establish Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

As a loose cultivator, no power wanted to see her break through to Nascent Soul.

Because resources in the cultivation world are limited.

With each new person, a share of the bounty must be divided up.

“Yet this beast tide should have a major issue; as far as I recall, there hasn’t been such an exaggerated beast tide for nearly a century,”

Ling Zixiao frowned slightly, saying so.

“Indeed, there is a problem. The main target of this beast tide was the Spirit Taming Sect, not Azure Phoenix Immortal City,”

“The news I received indicates that the Spirit Taming Sect suffered heavy losses in this battle,”

“Not only were several lines of defense breached, innumerable disciples died or were injured, but also two Nascent Soul Immortals and one Sect Guardian Spiritual Beast were killed, a massive blow to their strength!”

“Were it not for the support from the Qingyun Sect, Luoxia Sect, and Heavenly Sword Sect, the defenses might have been breached,”

“I even suspect that a Fourth Rank Great Demon King has emerged within the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range; only such a force could stir up such a beast tide,”

Xiao Xiyue said out loud.

“Two Nascent Soul Immortals have died? I had heard that the Spirit Taming Sect only had six Nascent Soul Immortals to begin with? Now two have died?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but click his tongue.

In the Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, Nascent Soul Immortals are top figures wherever they are.

Like families and powers presided over by a Nascent Soul Immortal, they are known as cultivation noble houses.

But now the Spirit Taming Sect has lost two Nascent Soul Immortals and a Third Rank Spiritual Beast in just one battle, which is absolutely dreadful.

“Yes, now the Spirit Taming Sect only has four Nascent Soul Immortals left,”

“However, the Spirit Taming Sect also has two Third Rank Sect Guardian Spiritual Beasts; the Sect’s foundation is deep,”

Xiao Xiyue said thus.

“The cultivation world in these years is truly in an era of frequent turmoil, the invasion incident of the Jin Kingdom Demon Path hasn’t passed long, and now such a horrific beast tide has risen....”

Lu Changsheng took a deep breath and sighed.

In earlier years, he thought the cultivation world was relatively stable.

It seems now that the cultivation world has never been at peace, always churning with undercurrents.

It's just that his strength was too low before, and his channels of information were limited; he was unaware of many things.

Just like the news from the direction of Azure Phoenix Immortal City,

Had he not asked Xiao Xiyue to pay more attention, he would still be unaware now.

“My Lord, turbulence is the norm in the cultivation world...”

“In our Jiang Country’s west, called the Western Region, it belongs to a chaotic area with a hundred nations existing together, humans and demons cohabiting, with wars and chaos every year, nations being destroyed,”

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“Our Jiang Country, fifty years ago, also waged war with Yue Country and invaded Yan Country,”

Ling Zixiao spoke, saying so.

“That’s right, in the Cultivation World, wars tend to break out every few decades, but the geographical location of our Jiang Country is quite advantageous.”

“To the west, we have the Western Regions; to the north, the natural barrier of the Great Dream Marsh; to the south, Yue Country is a righteous nation friendly to us and also guarded by the natural barrier of the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.”

“The only threats to be wary of are the Demon Path of Jin Kingdom and the tide of demon beasts from the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.”

Xiao Xiyue said, speaking out loud.

...

“So, as long as there is no major war, our Jiang Country is relatively safe,”

Lu Changsheng heard this and chuckled lightly.

“Indeed, as long as there isn’t a war on the scale of the past conflict with the Demonic Seven Sects, the impact on Jiang Country shouldn’t be too great.”

“Of course, if Jin Kingdom were to produce another Nascent Soul True Lord, the situation might change.”

Ling Zixiao said with a light smile.

“Demonic Seven Sects?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng showed a hint of surprise on his face.

He had read many books and knew a bit about the Southern Wilderness Cultivation Realm, but he had never heard of these Demonic Seven Sects.

“Yes, the Demonic Seven Sects.”

“I once read in a notebook that eight hundred years ago, seven powers from the Southern Wilderness Cultivation Realm formed an alliance, waged war, and invaded other countries.”

“That war was incredibly brutal, nearly affecting half of the Southern Wilderness Cultivation Realm, with countless countries and powers falling. Not only did Nascent Soul Immortals fall, but even Nascent Soul True Lords perished!”

Ling Zixiao picked up her tea, took a light sip, and said with a hint of emotion.

“I seem to have read about this war in the histories of the Southern Wilderness, which mentioned it was a great battle between righteousness and the demonic path, with the demonic path eventually being repelled by the united righteous powers?”

Lu Changsheng said, frowning slightly.

“Yes, that’s the war.”

“I saw in the notebook that in just a few years, the Demonic Seven Sects conquered several countries, sweeping through and nearly claiming a quarter of the Southern Wilderness Cultivation Realm, forcing many countries and Immortal Sects of the righteous path to form an alliance and unite to rebuff the Demonic Seven Sects.”

“The war was exceptionally brutal, ending only when the ‘Demon Witch Sect’s’ Nascent Soul elder perished, prompting the remaining six sects to retreat.”

Ling Zixiao recounted slowly.

“The Demon Witch Sect, an elder in the later stages of the Nascent Soul perished!?”

Lu Changsheng realized the extent of the war’s ferocity only after hearing these words.

The history book he read about the Southern Wilderness mentioned the war only briefly.

He hadn’t realized it ended with the fall of a late-stage Nascent Soul Great Cultivator.

“Zi Xiao, besides the Demon Witch Sect, what were the other six sects called?”

Lu Changsheng asked curiously.

“They seem to be named the Demonic Sect, Holy Lotus Cult, Blood Sea Sect, Myriad Beasts Demon Sect, Netherworld Ghost Sect, and Azure Sky Demon Sect,”

Ling Zixiao said after a moment of contemplation.

Due to her Dragon Roar Physique, she often read a wide variety of books, but even so, she couldn't remember these details very clearly.

"In the eight hundred years since then, these Demonic Seven Sects must still exist, right?"

Lu Changsheng continued to inquire.

"I'm not too sure either; I only came across this part of history in the notebook."

"Sects like the Heavenly Sword Sect and the Qingyun Sect have legacies spanning thousands of years. Even though the Demonic Seven Sects suffered heavy losses back then, except for the 'Demon Witch Sect,' the remaining six sects all had Nascent Soul stage elders, so it's hard to imagine their legacies coming to an end,"

Ling Zixiao elaborated.

"Let's hope a war of that scale doesn't happen in the future,"

Lu Changsheng sighed.

He felt that if such a major war were to break out, he would need to be at least at the Nascent Soul Stage to protect his family.

Otherwise, even a Nascent Soul Immortal might perish in such a conflict.

At that moment, Lu Changsheng recognized that his power, when compared to the entire Qingyun Region, was quite commendable.

But when considering the entire Jiang Country Cultivation Realm, or even the whole Southern Wilderness Cultivation Realm, it was not sufficient.

“Nascent Soul...”

Despite his confidence in his future,

He couldn’t predict when he might achieve a Nascent Soul breakthrough.

After all, the entire Jiang Country Cultivation Realm currently only had one Nascent Soul True Lord, which spoke to the difficulty of reaching that stage.

He didn’t ponder long and continued chatting with Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue about matters of the Cultivation World.

Even though he read quite a lot of books regularly, compared to Ling Zixiao, he felt rather inferior.

So talking with Ling Zixiao was also an opportunity to gain much knowledge.

...

Azure Phoenix Immortal City.

Despite the heavy casualties in the onslaught of the beast tide, Azure Phoenix Immortal City managed to recover its usual bustle and hustle within a few months.

After all, to Loose Cultivators, death was a norm.

As long as Azure Phoenix Immortal City and the Azure Phoenix Immortal existed, offering second and third rank cave dwellings, Foundation Establishment Elixirs, and other rare elixir medicines and treasures, there would always be a steady stream of cultivators arriving at Azure Phoenix Immortal City, forming the foundation of the city.

Moreover, not everyone shares the same joy and sorrow; those cultivators who survived the beast tide gained substantially, with faces alight with joy.

In a humble courtyard of the outer city,

“This Three Suns Elixir truly deserves to be a second rank rare spirit pill; it not only allowed me to break through to the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement but has also healed all the hidden injuries and issues I accumulated over the years...”

In the practice room, Li Feiyu opened his eyes, and his handsome face revealed a trace of happiness.

He had been seriously injured in the battle of the beast tide but managed to survive with his Body Refinement.

Now that the beast tide had subsided, Azure Phoenix Immortal City fulfilled its promise of rewarding based on merit, settling the dues for everyone involved.

With these merits, he exchanged for a Three Suns Elixir.

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Not only had his cultivation level advanced further, but he had also resolved the hidden dangers from his injuries and the consumption of a Second Rank Monster Core during previous battles.

“Although this merit is not small, it’s still far from enough to achieve Foundation Establishment...”

As Li Feiyu thought about the path ahead, a sense of gravity appeared on his face.

Through his endeavors in Azure Phoenix Immortal City, he had gained some understanding of Foundation Establishment.

He came to a profound realization of the difficulty he would face in attempting to break through to Foundation Establishment.

...

He possessed only a Seventh Grade Spiritual Root.

With a Lower Grade Spiritual Root, when breaking through the three barriers of Foundation Establishment and transforming Spiritual Power into Mana, the conversion efficiency is too slow, proving to be a burden.

Therefore, for those with a Lower Grade Spiritual Root to break through to Foundation Establishment, they must have a Foundation Establishment Elixir and Foundation Establishment Spiritual Objects linked to the Magic Barrier with only a ten to twenty percent chance of success.

And with his current merits, he could at most exchange for one Foundation Establishment Spiritual Object.

“Changsheng has already achieved Foundation Establishment, how can I allow myself to fall behind.”

“I still have more than ten years, what difficulty would there be in striving to procure a Foundation Establishment Elixir in this time?”

Under Li Feiyu’s dark brows, his eyes were deep and bright, exuding an unstoppable determination.

...

The vast clear sky was as pure as a washed sapphire, the azure heaven untouched by a single cloud.

Among the cloud borders, a Spirit Boat shuttled along with six cultivators aboard, men and women alike.

Leading them was a man with a rebellious face and a physique as imposing as a mountain, who radiated a fierce and bandit-like aura in his red robe.

He looked at a youth aboard the Spirit Boat, around twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, with a hint of violence between his brows, and said, “Little brother, in half a month, we will arrive at the Red Leaf Valley Market you spoke of.”

“Have you thought about how to resolve it?”

The brawny man said with a sonorous voice and a wild look on his face.

“Big brother, my parents died in that Red Leaf Valley Market, so I want the entire market and the four major families backing it to accompany my parents in death as a sacrifice to their spirits!”

Upon hearing this, Fang Yu’s brows were filled with violence, and hatred flickered in his eyes.

Ten years ago, his parents, in order to prepare Foundation Establishment Resources for him, chose to loot the Marketplace.

As a result, both of them perished at Red Leaf Valley Market.

While he was fleeing alone, the blood feud of his parents constantly spurred him on.

Through countless brushes with death, he finally made some gains, chancing upon an opportunity in an ancient cave dwelling, breaking through to Foundation Establishment.

Later, he even gathered several sworn brothers and a Dao companion in the Imperial Spirit Sect’s Domain due to a beast tide.

Especially after the eldest brother and his Dao companion learned of his thirst for revenge, inquired about the cause, and expressed a willingness to help him avenge his parents, he was deeply moved.

“Good, worthy of little brother indeed, truly domineering, let’s do it the way you suggested!”

A rough and unrestrained voice echoed.

“This Red Leaf Valley Market, as little brother said, is just made up of a few Foundation Establishment Families. With all of us brothers going there, aren’t they easy to manipulate!”

Another voice, leaning towards the cold, rang out.

“With our older brothers present, surely they will be easy to manipulate, but these families all have Great Formations protecting them. If we make consecutive moves, we might even attract people from Qingyun Sect.”

“Brother Yu, do you have any tokens to send to these four families to let them know you’ve returned, to keep them constantly anxious? Once they gather, or if we manage to lure them together, we’ll find an opportunity to eradicate them all in one fell swoop!”

The peach-dressed woman by Fang Yu’s side spoke out.

“Little sister, this proposal isn’t bad at all. In that case, when the time comes, we’ll send a clock to these four families and tell them little brother is back, to let them know they will repay their debts in blood, to get cleaned up and wait for death, kekekek!”

As someone heard the suggestion, they immediately laughed boisterously.

“Alright, then, when the time comes, we’ll send a clock to these four families as a harbinger of their end!”

Fang Yu, hearing this, displayed a cruel smile.

Then, looking at the sky with eyes full of malevolence, he muttered, “Dad, mom, your son will use Red Leaf Valley Market, the four major families, to sacrifice to your spirits in heaven!”

...

Bi Lake Mountain.

Changsheng Hall, inside the cave dwelling.

“Clang, clang, clang——”

“\

Lu Changsheng heard the noise and gazed at the golden cocoon.

As the clear and resonant sounds of clinking and clashing rose incessantly, the golden cocoon began to crack.

“Boom!”

The golden cocoon exploded with a bang, and infinite radiance surged forth.

A six-winged golden silkworm, its body shimmering with golden light, appeared.

After its promotion to the second rank, there had been no significant change.

Its body had grown from the original two inches to four or five inches, glistening throughout, and its wings, thin as cicada’s, sported strands of golden patterns.

The whole gave off the impression of an invincible and indestructible aura.

“After advancing to the second rank, what changes are there?”

Lu Changsheng looked at the six-winged golden silkworm in front of him and asked aloud.

Though the six-winged golden silkworm was known for its ferocity and brutality, with hardly any spiritual intelligence to speak of,

through systematic training, Lu Changsheng could still communicate simply with it.

But as soon as the six-winged golden silkworm heard Lu Changsheng’s words, it spat out a beam of golden light, sharp as an arrow.

“Boom!”

The beam struck the wall of the cave abode, leaving behind a black, scorching gap.

“As expected of an ancient rare insect species, just having ascended to the second rank, it boasts such an attack power!”

“This cave abode was constructed mainly from void xuan stones and inscribed with spiritual pattern formations; while not as hard as spiritual artifacts, it’s comparable to a magic artifact.”

“Moreover, within this golden light, besides its sharpness, there’s also a True Fire essence that can scorch and corrode one’s body and soul!”

Lu Changsheng examined the spot where the six-winged golden silkworm attacked, his face showing delight.

He clearly recognized the terror of the six-winged golden silkworm’s offensive capabilities.

An average Foundation Establishment cultivator facing such attacks would likely disintegrate body and soul if careless.

As if understanding Lu Changsheng’s encouragement, the six-winged golden silkworm shook its body, and the gold light around it exploded exponentially, taking on the appearance of a massive golden cup.

“Clang, clang, clang—”

Lu Changsheng tapped on the six-winged golden silkworm’s body with his finger.

He then pulled out a superior magic artifact and chopped at the six-winged golden silkworm.

But the magical sword collided with the golden silkworm, resulting only in a noise reminiscent of clashing metal.

“Slash!”

Lu Changsheng circulated his mana and spurred the magical sword to continue slashing at the six-winged golden silkworm.

Yet, like a golden cup, the golden silkworm remained completely unyielding.

Even after being chopped twice, the golden silkworm became slightly restless, its body emanating a ferocious and savage bloodthirsty aura.

This was Lu Changsheng, its master, and it was able to control itself.

If it were anyone else, it would have attacked by now.

“Such a physique is not weaker than a lower grade spiritual artifact, even stronger than average spiritual artifacts by a margin.”

Lu Changsheng put away the magical sword and took out a gourd filled with spiritual blood to feed the six-winged golden silkworm.

After a simple test, he had gained a clear understanding of the six-winged golden silkworm’s strength.

For the likes of the Yu Family, Lu Yuanzhong, Bai Yunyang, and those at the Foundation Establishment level, facing the six-winged golden silkworm meant almost certain death.

Because their cultivation level and strength were unlikely to break through the six-winged golden silkworm’s defenses.

And facing its attack, they would have difficulty defending.

However, if they fled immediately upon encounter, there was still a good chance they could escape.

After the six-winged golden silkworm had eaten its fill, Lu Changsheng put it back into the spiritual pet bag and walked out of Changsheng Hall.

“Husband...”

Just at that moment, Lu Miaoyun rushed over hurriedly to inform Lu Changsheng of a piece of news.

Chapter 696: I Contracted a Rank 3 Spiritual Beast Before!_1

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“The remnants of the Robber Cultivator from the Red Leaf Valley Market?”

“Sending a bell? Blood for blood, may you journey well in the Yellow Springs.”

As Lu Changsheng heard Lu Miaoyun’s words and looked at the copper bell in his hand, with residual Foundation Establishment Late Stage mana, his brow furrowed slightly.

He thought to himself, do Robber Cultivators nowadays play like this?

Facing such a situation, should I shout, ‘Aside from Nascent Soul Immortals, who dares to act against our four major families? Who dares to curse me with a bell? Investigate this for me!’

...

“Yun’er, did you see who brought this bell here?”

Lu Changsheng asked aloud.

“Xiao Yu was guarding the mountain gate when the bell directly smashed in front of it, and no trace of a person was seen.”

“So this is most likely the doing of a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.”

Lu Miaoyun replied with pursed lips.

“Hmm.”

Lu Changsheng nodded thoughtfully after hearing this.

A Foundation Establishment Cultivator coming to do this and deliberately leaving behind a trail of Foundation Establishment Late Stage magic aura was obviously not a mere prank.

Although such an event wasn't taken seriously by Lu Changsheng, even to the point of thinking the other party had issues in the head,

this matter was not aimed at Bi Lake Mountain.

Rather, it was targeted at the Red Leaf Valley Market and the four major families!

Therefore, Lu Changsheng still had some worries for Qingzhu Mountain and Lu Miaoge.

After all, if the other party indeed had a Foundation Establishment Late Stage Cultivator, they posed a certain threat to Qingzhu Mountain and Red Leaf Valley Market.

Especially the Red Leaf Valley Market.

The market was always open to the public; if a Foundation Establishment Robber Cultivator infiltrated, it would be quite troublesome.

"Yun'er, send messages to Qingzhu Mountain, Hundred Birds Lake, and the Zheng Family to see what they think,"

Lu Changsheng suggested after a moment's thought.

If our family received this bell, the other three families surely did as well.

"Yes, my lord,"

Lu Miaoyun responded, nodding her head and going to send a Communication Talisman.

Afterward, Lu Changsheng, holding the copper bell, went to consult Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue for their opinions.

“This person dares to act this way, either because they’re pretending to be mysterious or they truly possess extraordinary strength, completely disregarding our families,”

Ling Zixiao said calmly and elegantly after examining the bell.

She was aware of Lu Changsheng’s strength and was not particularly concerned about the matter.

Moreover, her health had improved a lot over the past few years of treatment.

Combined with the newly repaired family’s Great Formation, unless it was a Nascent Soul Immortal attacking the formation, there was nothing to fear.

“Changsheng, if you need it, I can report this matter to the Sect and request that they send someone to investigate,”

Xiao Xiyue said softly.

Although matters like this were generally not managed by Qingyun Sect unless they escalated,

if she went to report it, they could still send someone to investigate.

“These people dare to act in such a way; obviously, they’re not afraid of Qingyun Sect coming to investigate.”

“Moreover, Qingyun Sect would probably only send one or two Foundation Establishment Cultivators to oversee and investigate, right?”

Lu Changsheng said aloud.

Through the previous incident with Xiahou Monie, he knew the Sect would get involved in such matters,

but they usually only handled it after the fact.

After all, causing a big incident within one's own territory was equivalent to slapping Qingyun Sect in the face.

But if there's just a threatening bell and nothing has actually happened, expecting Qingyun Sect to send someone to resolve it would likely be extremely difficult.

Given the vastness of the Cultivation World, and enemies not yet revealing themselves, finding someone is very difficult.

Qingyun Sect likely wouldn't bother.

"Hmm, for matters like this, the Sect usually only sends Foundation Establishment Cultivators to investigate or to be stationed,"

Xiao Xiyue said, lips slightly parted.

"These Robber Cultivators might be bold and arrogant, but not a single one is foolish."

"They dare to act this way because they're not afraid of the Qingyun Sect's investigation. Now that the enemy is hidden and we are exposed, we can only wait for them to show themselves."

Ling Zixiao spoke out loud.

"I'm not so worried about this matter; I'm mainly concerned about Qingzhu Mountain, Hundred Birds Lake, and Sister Miaoge's situation,"

Lu Changsheng said.

"This is indeed troublesome,"

Ling Zixiao nodded slightly, propped up her chin with her jade arm, and mused, “My lord, in my view, there are three possibilities why this Robber Cultivator acts this way.”

“One is that they possess absolute power and completely disregard us, using this method for revenge.”

“After all, many madmen seeking revenge like to display themselves in this way.”

“Another is that it’s all smoke and mirrors.”

“Considering this person’s identity, a remnant of the Robber Cultivator from ten years ago, the fact that they didn’t show themselves indicates that at the most, they were at the peak of Qi Refinement. Ten years have passed, and even with some opportunity, they could at most be at Middle Stage Foundation Establishment.”

“Such strength is insufficient for revenge; hence they use these tactics to intimidate and trouble us.”

“Lastly, it might be a method to confuse us, keeping us worried and alert for some time until we let our guard down, and then strike unexpectedly, either against Red Leaf Valley Market or one of the families.”

Ling Zixiao stated slowly.

“I think there’s another possibility,”

Xiao Xiyue, with her cool and noble demeanor, said, “Considering the current information, this remnant of the Robber Cultivator is likely not alone; they want revenge against Red Leaf Valley Market and the four families behind it.”

“But in the Qingyun Region, annihilating someone else’s family without cause is viewed as an act of the Demon Path, especially if they act against the marketplace.”

“So these people wanting to act against both the marketplace and the four families simultaneously is difficult, they can only target one family.”

“Once they make their move, the other families will be on alert, drawing Qingyun Sect’s intervention.”

“So even if they possess absolute power, it would be troublesome to continue targeting the remaining major families after, only to flee and hide under Qingyun Sect’s pursuit.”

“Their actions, aside from arrogance and mystery, could also be a way to prompt consultations among the four families or to increase security at Red Leaf Valley Market, followed by their revenge?”

“\

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Xiao Xiyue voiced her analysis.

“Not impossible,”

Upon hearing Xiao Xiyue’s words, Ling Zixiao nodded slightly.

Lu Changsheng, listening to the conversation between the two women, pondered for a moment before looking at Ling Zixiao, “Zi Xiao, how is your injury now?”

“My lord, rest assured, my body has already recovered quite a bit. Should I encounter a situation like with Xiahou Monie in the past, I am now well able to cope.”

“Moreover, with Daoist Xiao at home, along with the Golden Armor Bean Mother, Second Rank Puppets, my lord can rest assured to head to Qingzhu Mountain and Red Leaf Valley Market.”

...

Ling Zixiao, hearing Lu Changsheng’s words, showed a slight smile and said so.

Her complexion was still pale, but not as devoid of blood as before.

With the treatment from the Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone, her meridians and dantian's recovery was limited, but the overall situation had improved markedly.

“Changsheng, if you're going to Qingzhu Mountain and Red Leaf Valley, you still need to be careful,”

“If it really comes down to it, I can ask for assistance from the Qingyun Sect to station someone at Qingzhu Mountain.”

Xiao Xiyue said.

She knew that Lu Changsheng was quite exceptional.

Having just broken through to Foundation Establishment, he had been able to slay Meng Yibai, who was at the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment.

But the true extent of Lu Changsheng's power remained unclear to her.

With the current situation of the enemy hidden and us exposed, she did not want Lu Changsheng to take any risks.

“Xi Yue, rest assured,”

Lu Changsheng smiled slightly, holding Xiao Xiyue's hand, and then turned to Ling Zixiao, “It's not about that, Zi Xiao, do you remember I mentioned before about wanting you to set up a Formation at the summit of Bi Yun Peak?”

He had always wanted to plant the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

However, considering Ling Zixiao's physical condition, he had not raised this request.

Now, encountering such an incident, if Ling Zixiao's body had mostly recovered; he planned to plant the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

This way, he wouldn't need to worry about home theft when he was away.

Although at home, with Xiao Xiyue, Ling Zixiao, the Golden Armor Bean Mother, Third Rank Talismans, and Second Rank Puppets, they were unlikely to encounter any danger,

But Ling Zixiao had only just started to recover, and he did not wish for her condition to worsen due to any situation.

And Xiao Xiyue would also be leaving next year.

"Of course, I remember. My situation now is such that, as long as it is not the setting up of a large-scale Formation, there shouldn't be any significant problem."

"My lord, what sort of Formation do you want?"

Upon hearing these words, a stream of warmth flowed through Ling Zixiao's heart, and she answered with a gentle smile.

"This Formation mainly needs to be able to conceal the situation at the mountain summit and the aura of a Third Rank Demon."

Lu Changsheng spoke.

"Third Rank Demon aura!?"

Both Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue were startled upon hearing this.

Third Rank Demon aura implied the presence of a Third Rank Demon King!

Such level of Demon Beasts were revered as clan-guarding Spiritual Beasts wherever they were!

By saying this, did Lu Changsheng possess a Third Rank Spiritual Beast!?

The two women looked at Lu Changsheng with shocked and incredulous expressions.

Seeing the astonishment and uncertainty in the eyes of the two women, Lu Changsheng chuckled, “That’s right, I happened to fortuitously contract a Third Rank Tree King by chance.”

“Right now, this honored Tree King resides within a certain extraordinary treasure, and once it is released, it will no longer be moveable.”

“Hence, I thought, Zi Xiao, now that you can set up a Formation to conceal its aura, we could settle it at the summit of Bi Yun Peak.”

“That way, I wouldn’t have to worry about any danger befalling the house.”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

“A Third Rank Demon King...”

Both Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue found it hard to believe and were momentarily at a loss for words upon hearing this.

Even though they were aware of the great fortunes and secrets Lu Changsheng possessed, that he was quite extraordinary,

binding a Third Rank Demon King as a Spiritual Beast during the Foundation Establishment Phase was simply too astonishing.

You must know, that was a sovereign Demon King!

To make such a majestic being submit and become a contracted Spiritual Beast was nearly as difficult as ascending to divinity.

Especially when there was such a discrepancy in strength, with Lu Changsheng only at Foundation Establishment.

With Lu Changsheng having such a Third Rank Spiritual Beast to protect his family, he could quite confidently claim to be a Cultivation clan!

However, upon hearing Lu Changsheng's words, the two women also understood the problem.

The Tree King!

Unlike plant Demon Beasts, such as tree and vegetation spirits, which differ from furry, feathered, scaled, or insectoid Demon Beasts,

if they haven't achieved transformation, they cannot move about freely.

Therefore, contracting such a plant-based Spiritual Beast would be somewhat less deterrent in its external influence.

Indeed, it might even invite trouble due to this factor.

"My lord, how strong is this Third Rank Demon King's power and aura?"

Ling Zixiao came back to her senses and asked Lu Changsheng.

"This is something I can't quite describe, but it is among the stronger ones within the Third Rank,"

Lu Changsheng pondered slightly.

Although he did not know the exact strength of the Mount Sumeru Tree King,

the words 'low-grade True Spirit' already said everything.

When a Demon Beast with a Heavenly Grade Bloodline grows to the Third Rank, it is equivalent to a cultivator who has condensed a Superior Gold Core.

As such, being a True Spirit Level, the Mount Sumeru Tree King should be undefeatable among its rank, shouldn't it?

"If it's just about simply concealing the Tree King's true form and aura, I can modify the 'Inverted Five Elements Formation' to accomplish that,"

"But once the Tree King takes action, its aura will be no longer concealable,"

Ling Zixiao said after a moment of consideration.

"That will be enough; this kind of thing is just a precaution after all,"

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

Though the exposure of the Mount Sumeru Tree King would likely cause him troubles,

if it came down to such a dangerous situation, there would be no other choice.

After all, revealing the Tree King was still better than being robbed at home.

Moreover, by then, with the Mount Sumeru Tree King at hand and his own power through the Nine Treasure Jade Ruyi comparable to Core Formation, he reckoned that unless there was an attack from a Nascent Soul True Lord or the Immortal Sects, there wouldn't be too great a danger.

"And besides, I think I might even be able to summon a Nascent Soul Immortal..."

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Lu Changsheng thought about the promise from a Nascent Soul Immortal he still held.

Although twenty years had passed, he didn't know if this Nascent Soul Immortal would still honor their previously made agreement.

Besides these, he also had his connection to Xiao Xiyue.

The master of the other party also seemed quite decent, previously willing to help when he encountered trouble in Qingyun Sect.

Should it come to that, he might be able to rely on this connection to seek refuge with Qingyun Sect.

As Lu Changsheng calculated in such a manner, he suddenly felt that if he were to let loose completely, his strength would be sufficient to carve out a territory in the Qingyun Region.

...

However, such matters were only a thought to him.

Unless absolutely necessary, he couldn't possibly reveal everything.

After all, wasn't it better for him to develop peacefully and steadily?

"Alright, since it is so, I will set up a small-scale 'Inverted Five Elements Formation' here,"

"I will weaken and simplify the defensive, prohibitive, and enemy-confining effects of the formation, and enhance all of its concealing, illusory, and confusing effects. This way, we could shield the situation of the Third Rank Tree King,"

Ling Zixiao said this.

After speaking, she looked at Lu Changsheng and said, "However, my lord, you still need to consider one thing, if this Tree King starts to inhale and exhale spiritual energy, I'm afraid it will consume the entire spirit vein of Bi Yun Peak."

"I have already thought about this problem, you can rest assured, Zi Xiao,"

Lu Changsheng replied with a smile.

“Then I am relieved, but I will need my lord to prepare some materials for the formation,”

Ling Zixiao said with a faint smile.

“Alright, no problem.”

Lu Changsheng nodded, immediately asking Ling Zixiao what materials were needed and how long it would take to set up the formation.

“Our family still has two Array Masters, so it won’t take long to cover the peak of Bi Yun Peak; it can be done in about ten days,”

Ling Zixiao stated.

“Alright, no problem,”

Lu Changsheng nodded, checked what materials were missing, then concealed his form and went out.

He prepared to make a trip to Qingzhu Mountain and the Red Leaf Valley Market to purchase all the materials.

Meanwhile.

Nine Dragons Market.

In a small courtyard.

“The message has already been sent to the four major families. Let them fall into chaos for a while, and when the time is right, we’ll go rob the Red Leaf Valley Market,”

“Once the four families’ Foundation Establishment members come to support, we’ll be able to kill them all in one fell swoop and avenge Yu brother’s parents!”

Tao Xiaolan, wearing a peach-colored dress, said.

She wanted her partner to achieve clarity of thought and be freed from hatred, even considering replicating actions from the past.

“It’s a pity that the Yu Family has been destroyed. I still wanted to flay and dismember that person, to offer my parents’ spirits in heaven!”

Fang Yu said bitterly.

Among the four major families, he hated the Yu Family the most.

Because it was the Patriarch of the Yu Family who interfered with his parents, otherwise they still had a chance to escape.

Although he hated the Nameless Sword Cultivator who killed his parents, this hatred had nowhere to vent.

He planned to investigate the information and seek revenge once he advanced further in strength.

“I’ve inquired a bit about the four families, and we need to be a bit wary of Lu Changsheng from the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family,”

“This man once used a Talisman Formation to kill three of the Yu Family’s Foundation Establishment cultivators. Although they were only one Middle Stage and two Early Stage cultivators, he’s not someone to be underestimated,”

A middle-aged man with a fair complexion and a soft, feminine brow said.

Although they did not view the Red Leaf Valley Market or the four major families seriously,

As Robber Cultivators who had traveled far and wide, they still maintained a level of caution.

Upon arriving at the Red Leaf Valley Market, they also discreetly learned about the situation of the four major families.

“Talisman Formation? This thing is indeed out of the ordinary,”

“Once in Yue Country, I encountered a kid from the Beast Talisman Sect. He sacrificed a pile of talismans, forming a Talisman Formation, and nearly caused me, the Buddha, to capsize in the gutter and fall into his hands,”

A burly, bald man with a scarred head said this.

“Oh, second brother actually encountered such a matter? What was the kid’s cultivation level that he nearly tripped you up?”

Upon hearing this, Fang Yu asked.

He knew well his second brother’s prowess, who had just broken through to the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment,

but long possessed a corporeal body of the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment.

“That kid was at the Early Stage of Foundation Establishment, but he sacrificed a hundred talismans in an instant, forming a strange beast. If it wasn’t for Buddha’s Vajra Overlord Body and Talisman Treasure for protection, I really wouldn’t have been able to break his Talisman Formation,”

The bald man touched the scar on his head, recalling with unease.

“Talisman Formation technique is indeed powerful, but this method has a fatal flaw!”

At this moment, the red-robed man, sitting upright and dominating at the head of the table, said,

He propped up his thick and muscular legs on the table, continuing, “All the might of this Talisman Formation lies in the talismans. Ordinary cultivators don’t snatch them; talismans rely on being purchased with money, or drawing them themselves, so how many talismans can they have?”

“So indeed, such techniques can only serve as a trump card, a life-saving means. That kid used the Talisman Formation to kill three Foundation Establishment members back then, which means this is his ace in the hole,”

“Only a few years have passed, how many talismans could he possibly have left on him? So when the time comes, just pay a little more attention to this youngster,”

“However, for someone of his inheritance to have such ability is also good news for us. This kind of Talisman Formation inheritance is worth a lot of money!”

The red-robed man, large and imposing as a mountain, took out a wine jug, took a swig, and spoke loudly.

“Heh heh, Talisman Formation inheritance, I’ve got to study that well when the time comes,”

The bald man said, smiling at the thought.

“Not only that, I’ve inquired slightly, and this fellow’s fortunes are quite extraordinary...”

The fair-skinned middle-aged man showed a sly smile, and continued.

“Kakakaka, it seems we’ve found ourselves a fat sheep, thanks to our fifth brother,”

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“Not to mention anything else, the opportunities this lad has had alone make our trip worthwhile,”

a thin, sallow-faced elder in a black robe cackled with laughter.

As the others chatted and conversed, a burst of cheerful laughter filled the hall.

...

Qingzhu Mountain, Qingzhu Hall.

“Changsheng, how about I go to the Red Leaf Valley Market to watch over things, and let Miaoge stay at home to hold the fort?”

...

Lu Yuanzhong suggested to Lu Changsheng.

“Uncle, there’s no need for that. With this Second Rank Communication Talisman and these three, if anything comes up, contact me immediately, and I will rush over as fast as I can,”

Though Lu Changsheng thought the proposal was good, after consideration, he still declined.

After all, he had a rough idea of Lu Yuanzhong’s combat abilities.

Let alone being affected by injuries, even in his prime, his strength was quite average.

Lu Miaoge might only be at the first layer of Foundation Establishment,

but with her practice of the Water of Virtue Technique and her perfect foundation base, her mana is powerful.

And with the Second Rank Talismans, Third Rank Talismans, and Talisman Treasures he had given her,

her strength was sufficient to deal with anyone at the middle stage of Foundation Establishment.

She could even slay those at the late stage of Foundation Establishment if they were weak enough.

Plus, if she couldn’t win, she could still escape with the help of the talismans.

“Alright, Changsheng, you also need to be extra careful,”

Lu Yuanzhong nodded upon hearing this and said no more.

Having seen how Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge treated him earlier, he knew their mana was far stronger than his.

If it weren't for the fear of losing face, he would even consider sparring with Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge to gauge the gap between them.

"Rest assured, uncle,"

Lu Changsheng nodded.

He then went to pay respects to his father-in-law, Lu Yuanding, and the Fourth Elder.

Years had passed, and Lu Yuanding had aged considerably, with much more white hair.

Looking at his father-in-law, Lu Changsheng felt quite nostalgic.

He vividly remembered how the man had taken him back to the Lu Family at the foot of the Qingyun Sect.

After paying his respects, Lu Changsheng prepared to leave.

At that moment, a woman was supporting an old, stooped man nearby; the two were talking about something.

The old man looked at Lu Changsheng and immediately called out, "Greetings to Lu Mountain Lord."

"Uncle Gui,"

Upon seeing the elder, Lu Changsheng stopped, nodded with a smile, and greeted him.

This old man was the Qingzhu Villa's Hundred Treasures Pavilion shopkeeper who had taken good care of him in the past.

"Greetings to Lu Mountain Lord,"

The woman beside him looked at Lu Changsheng with a complex expression and respectfully greeted him.

"Little Moon, long time no see,"

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly, recognizing her as Uncle Gui's granddaughter.

After a brief exchange with the two, he took out a bottle of elixir medicine from his storage bag that could nourish the flesh and gifted it to Uncle Gui.

Although the man possessed the cultivation level of Qi Refinement, fifth layer, his years of hard work had taken a toll on his health.

If he could nourish himself with the elixir medicine, he would be able to live a few years longer.

"Please accept it, Uncle Gui. You took good care of me in the past,"

"I'll trouble you to pass these two bottles of elixir medicine to Uncle Fu and Lu Bo on my behalf,"

Lu Changsheng said, taking out two more bottles for the other two stewards.

"Thank you, Lu Mountain Lord!"

Both expressed their gratitude, and watching Lu Changsheng walk away, they were filled with emotion.

They had never thought that the once son-in-law, who had become a formidable ancestor and master of a mountain, would still remember the kindness they showed him and display such warmth.

Upon arriving at the Red Leaf Valley Market, Lu Changsheng met with Lu Miaoge and spoke about the matter of the robber cultivators.

Lu Miaoge had already received the news and said she would increase patrols and be more vigilant in the Red Leaf Valley Market during this time.

Afterwards, Lu Changsheng also asked Lu Miaoge to help see if they could gather all the materials needed for the family's array in the Red Leaf Valley Market,

so he wouldn't have to make another trip to any other marketplaces.

Chapter 700: Xu Ruyin: Is This a Heaven Rank Demon Beast?!_1

Night.

Enveloped by the hazy moonlight and the powerful formation, the entire Red Leaf Valley Market appeared as if draped in a thin, light veil, lending it a mysterious and solemn air.

At this late hour, silence reigned, save for the rustling of the red maple trees and the faint sounds of patrolling guards.

In a simple yet elegant cave dwelling.

Lu Changsheng caressed Lu Miaoge's flawless jade body, which was flushed pink from warmth, and covered in fine beads of sweat, completing the last step of the Tender Embrace Technique.

He merged the dual cultivation's Yin essence with his own Yang essence, thereby transforming one into two, two into three, and returning it all back.

...

"Hmm~"

Lu Miaoge's beautiful face, fair as snow, blushed like the dawn, as radiant and vibrant as peach blossoms, while her delicate body trembled gently as if it were mud softened by water.

Lu Changsheng embraced his beloved wife, his palm gently caressing her soft and smooth skin, akin to mutton-fat jade.

After breaking through Foundation Establishment while practicing the Water of Virtue Technique, not only Lu Miaoge's temperament but also her physique became even more perfect and flawless.

After a moment, Lu Changsheng tenderly inquired, "Sister Miaoge, how long until you break through to the second level of Foundation Establishment?"

"I currently have one hundred and twenty-six drops of liquefied mana, and I estimate it will take another two to three years to break through to the second level."

Lu Miaoge's beautiful eyes shimmered like water, and her rosy cheeks seemed to burn with fire, making her graceful and gentle face indescribably radiant.

"Two to three years."

Lu Changsheng nodded slightly upon hearing her words.

He knew that Lu Miaoge's progress was delayed by everyday trifles, as well as by treating Lu Yuan Zhong and Ling Zixiao.

Otherwise, with the aid of the elixir medicines he had provided, her cultivation would not be so slow.

With his hands feeling the supple smoothness, he inhaled the orchid-musk fragrance of his wife and posed another question, "Sister Miaoge, currently in Qing Zhu Mountain, who do you think is suitable for attempting Foundation Establishment?"

There was just one ingredient missing for the concoction of the Foundation Establishment Elixir.

If he was not able to acquire it this year, Lu Changsheng planned to have Xiao Xiyue exchange for one from the Qingyun Sect.

Therefore, by next year at the latest, he should be able to gather the necessary ingredients and refine the Foundation Establishment Elixir.

He had long decided on how to distribute the Foundation Building Elixir.

With his alchemy skills, he could stably produce three pills.

Out of the three Foundation Establishment Elixirs, one would go to Qing Zhu Mountain, and another to Bai Ling.

As for the remaining one, he would decide based on the situation at the time.

“Attempting Foundation Establishment?”

Upon hearing this, Lu Miaoge’s face showed a hint of contemplation as she said, “Currently, only Miao Feng and Mu Ping in our family are capable of attempting Foundation Establishment.”

“If I were to choose, Miao Feng is definitely more suitable than Mu Ping. Not only has he had one attempt at Foundation Establishment, but he has also gone through more tempering and has a more steadfast Dao heart.”

“Changsheng, what’s the matter?”

Lu Miaoge looked at Lu Changsheng, asking him.

“I previously obtained a special Second Rank monster core, and I have been collecting ingredients for the Foundation Establishment Elixir over the past few years.”

“Now, I have almost all the ingredients I need. If all goes well, I should be able to gather them all next year and refine the Foundation Establishment Elixir.”

“Thus, I am thinking of giving one Foundation Establishment Elixir to Qing Zhu Mountain, so someone from the family can break through to Foundation Establishment, and you, Sister Miaoge, won’t have to strain yourself so much.”

“You can then cultivate in peace at Bi Lake Mountain.”

Lu Changsheng said while shaping a snow figure with his hands.

“Foundation Establishment Elixir...”

Upon hearing this, Lu Miaoge’s face showed surprise, her heart throbbing.

She had already been deeply moved by Lu Changsheng preparing a Foundation Establishment Elixir for her.

She had not expected that Lu Changsheng could obtain another Foundation Establishment Elixir and had even planned to give one to Qing Zhu Mountain for her sake.

For a moment, she didn’t know what to say.

After all, she wasn’t the kind of family’s missy who had never experienced hardship.

She knew all too well how difficult it was to acquire a Foundation Establishment Elixir.

Moreover, Bi Lake Mountain was currently running at a loss, relying solely on Lu Changsheng, the head of the household.

In such a situation, Lu Changsheng was still thinking about her and Qing Zhu Mountain.

“Changsheng, if it is convenient, I will speak to my uncle later, so that the family can prepare Spirit Stones or write an IOU.”

Lu Miaoge lightly bit her lip, her eyes brimming like liquid.

Although she had an inextricable emotional attachment to Qing Zhu Mountain and wished for it to improve continuously,

As Lu Changsheng's wife, she felt she already owed him enough and didn't want her husband to keep giving so much.

If Lu Changsheng obtained a Foundation Establishment Elixir and privately sold it to Qing Zhu Mountain, in her eyes it was already a great gesture.

After all, it was very difficult for ordinary loose cultivators and families to acquire a Foundation Establishment Elixir; outside of chance and luck, or the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, they could only hope to buy it at auctions in the Three Great Immortal Cities.

"The Foundation Establishment Elixir is not yet refined, so you don't need to speak explicitly about this matter."

"But you can hint at it, so the family can make preparations and try to purchase ingredients suitable for their Foundation Establishment."

Lu Changsheng said with a smile, inhaling the fragrance of his wife's hair.

Money wasn't his main concern.

After all, he had received a lot of support from the Lu Family, and he had connections with Lu Miaoge, Lu Miaohuan, Lu Miaoyun, Lu Lanshu, and so forth.

What he truly cared about was whether the Foundation Establishment would be successful after giving away the elixir!

Although Miao Feng and Mu Ping both had Middle Grade Spiritual Roots,

With a Foundation Establishment Elixir, their chances of successful Foundation Establishment were around forty to fifty percent.

But frankly, this rate wasn't considered very high.

He didn't want to give away the elixir only to have Qing Zhu Mountain fail at Foundation Establishment.

“Alright, I will speak to my uncle about this later and have Miao Feng and Mu Ping make the necessary preparations too.”

Lu Miaoge replied softly, her eyes full of tender affection.

“Once we have a new Foundation Establishment in the family, Sister Miaoge, you can also settle down and cultivate properly.”

“After a few more years, when the situation is stable, we, along with Huanhuan, will visit Qing Shan and Little Zhu at the Jinyang Sect.”

Lu Changsheng held his wife and spoke.

“Okay~”

Upon hearing these words, Lu Miaoge’s face lit up with smiles, looking stunningly beautiful.