

I. Family 701

Chapter 701: Xu Ruyin: Is This a Heaven Rank Demon Beast?!_2

Once, her goals were Foundation Establishment and family.

Now that she had achieved Foundation Establishment, her thoughts gradually focused on her family.

All she hoped for was a happy family and for Bi Lake Mountain and Qing Zhu Mountain to both prosper more and more.

...

Bi Lake Mountain.

“To have Miss Xu from the Xu Family stay at my Bi Lake Mountain for a few days?”

...

At the mountain gate, Lu Miaoyun looked at the Patriarch Zheng and Xu Ruyin before her, her delicate eyebrows slightly furrowed.

“Patriarch Zheng, Miss Xu, please wait a moment,” she said.

She passed the message on to Ling Zixiao.

If it had been an ordinary visit, she would have dared to make a decision.

But with the recent incident involving the Copper Bell Rogue Cultivator, she was unsure of what to do at the moment.

“To stay at our place for a few days?”

Ling Zixiao, upon hearing this, came to the mountain gate and appraised Xu Ruyin.

She had soft, shining, fiery red hair, a delicate and aloof face, a curvaceous figure, wearing a splendid dress interwoven with gold and red threads.

Her looks, figure, and temperament were all top-notch.

“My husband has been at home for all these years; it’s normal for him to attract a young lady on his rare outings,” Ling Zixiao remarked to herself as she observed Xu Ruyin.

Otherwise, why would a young woman come to their home seeking refuge from disaster?

And even if she did come to seek refuge, it wouldn’t be by herself, would it?

“Miaoyun, please arrange for Miss Xu to stay at Bi Lake Villa,” Ling Zixiao said with a slight smile.

Setting aside whether there was any relationship between Lu Changsheng and Xu Ruyin,

Given the relationship between the Lu and Zheng families, and considering the face of the Yu Shui Xu Family, it would be difficult to refuse such a request from the other party.

“Very well, Miss Xu, please follow me,” Lu Miaoyun said immediately after hearing this, leading Xu Ruyin to Bi Lake Villa.

Afterward, Ling Zixiao invited Patriarch Zheng into the mountain for tea, inquiring why he had only sent Miss Xu over.

“It was Miss Xu herself who insisted...” Patriarch Zheng explained with a wry smile.

He mentioned that his family originally planned to settle Xu Ruyin and several young family members in the Nine Dragons Market,

but Xu Ruyin expressed that Bi Lake Mountain was closer to Wugong Ridge, and she wished to stay there temporarily until her ancestors arrived.

“I truly apologize for bothering Senior Ling,” Patriarch Zheng said as he cupped his hands.

Had it not been for Xu Ruyin’s insistent request, he too would not have wanted to trouble Bi Lake Mountain.

After all, sending people to the Nine Dragons Market would also ensure their safety, and sending them to Bi Lake Mountain instead would mean owing a favor.

“You are too courteous, Patriarch Zheng,” Ling Zixiao replied on hearing this.

Almost convinced of her earlier guess, Ling Zixiao felt this young lady must have feelings for Lu Changsheng, or else she wouldn’t have taken such an initiative.

After a brief conversation, Patriarch Zheng did not stay for further discussion and took his leave.

...

Bi Lake Villa.

Lu Miaoyun settled Xu Ruyin in a tranquil attic.

She told her she’d be staying there and could seek her out for anything she needed.

“Thank you for your troubles, Mrs. Lu,” Xu Ruyin expressed her gratitude to Lu Miaoyun.

“Huh, so this is Bi Lake Mountain?”

“I wonder if Lu Changsheng’s Heaven Rank Demon Beast is on this Bi Lake Mountain?” Xu Ruyin looked out the window at the scenery, musing secretly to herself.

Since being at Zheng Family’s place, she had sensed the aura of a Heaven Rank Demon Beast from Lu Changsheng.

Therefore, she had been trying to find a way to get close to Lu Changsheng.

She wanted to see the state of Lu Changsheng's Heaven Rank Demon Beast and whether there was a chance for her to obtain it.

After all, her cultivation level was already at the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement, and it wouldn't take much longer before she could make a break for Foundation Establishment.

However, she didn't want to achieve it just like that.

Her desire was to contract a Heaven Rank Demon Beast first and then form a "Beastly Dao Foundation."

Only by doing so could she respond in kind at the family competition, exchanging tooth for tooth, blood for blood, returning all the hatred her father faced to those responsible!

The recent event with the rogue cultivator delivering the clock made her realize it was an opportunity.

So, she used it as a pretext to ask the Zheng family to send her to Bi Lake Mountain to see if she could detect the presence of a Heaven Rank Demon Beast.

"Senior Hong Lian, with you concealing my form and aura, is it possible to deceive the Great Formation of Bi Lake Mountain?" Xu Ruyin inquired in her mind.

"This Great Formation of Bi Lake Mountain is only of the Second Rank, and as long as it is not fully operational, it should not be a big problem," a serene, clear, and gentle voice replied in Xu Ruyin's mind.

"Hmm..."

Just then, the serene and clear voice paused.

“Hmm?” Xu Ruyin felt something at that moment, turning her gaze toward the sky outside the window.

“La la la~”

There she saw a young woman in a moon-white dress, flying towards Bi Shui Lake with a little girl of six or seven years old in a pink silk dress.

Xu Ruyin stared intently at the little girl’s seat – a plump, ice-blue turtle emitting a faint chill, looking utterly adorable.

“Is this... a Heaven Rank Demon Beast!?” Xu Ruyin was a bit bewildered.

She had been intending to use Senior Hong Lian’s power to conceal herself and investigate Bi Lake Mountain.

But unexpectedly, the Heaven Rank Demon Beast she had so longed for and thought about endlessly, she yearned for so greatly, appeared right before her eyes.

If not for the reaction of the Beast Technique, she would hardly believe that the turtle the little girl was riding was a Heaven Rank Bloodline Demon Beast.

“Senior Hong Lian...” Xu Ruyin reached out with her mind.

“Indeed, this is a Heaven Rank Bloodline Demon Beast,” the serene and clear voice spoke once again.

Not only was Xu Ruyin taken aback, but so was the voice in her head; both were astonished beyond belief.

It was hard to imagine that a Heaven Rank Demon Beast would be ridden and played with by a little girl.

...

Red Leaf Valley Market.

Since the Inverted Five Elements Formation that Ling Zixiao had set up was only a small formation, the required materials were not numerous.

Ling Zixiao had also taken into consideration the rarity of materials and listed all possible substitutes.

Therefore, it took Lu Changsheng just two days to gather all the materials needed for the formation in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

In those two days, Lu Changsheng also received feedback from the other three families regarding their stance on the rogue cultivator incident,

Which was to be vigilant, contact each other immediately if anything happened, and provide mutual assistance.

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After all, the Four Families couldn't possibly close off their mountains because of a single threat and abandon Red Leaf Valley Market.

Following that, the Four Families jointly reported the matter to Qingyun Sect.

Though the Sect would at most conduct a cursory investigation into such matters, they still needed to file a report.

“Sister Miaoge, if bandit cultivators really attack, send me a message right away,”

“If there's danger, use the talisman I gave you; your safety comes first.”

“Once I've settled some matters at home, I will come over,”

...

Lu Changsheng instructed Lu Miaoge.

“Okay, Changsheng, rest assured.”

Lu Miaoge’s beautiful eyes were gentle as water, as she smiled warmly.

Most of the time, it was she who told Lu Changsheng to be careful and watch out.

Now, to be cautioned by Lu Changsheng like a little child, she found it slightly amusing, and a warm current surged in her heart.

“Mm.”

Lu Changsheng hugged his wife, then concealing his true face, left Red Leaf Valley Market and returned to Bi Lake Mountain.

On the way, he was highly vigilant to guard against the bandit cultivator who could be lying in wait for him.

However, the journey was very smooth, and nothing unexpected occurred.

Once home, Lu Changsheng handed over the array materials to Ling Zixiao.

“My lord...”

At this time, Ling Zixiao conveyed a matter to Lu Changsheng.

“Xu Ruyin?”

At the mention of this name, Lu Changsheng’s brows furrowed.

“Correct, the Zheng Family currently has no Foundation Establishment Cultivators in residence and is afraid that bandit cultivators might visit after receiving the copper bell.”

“Thus, the day after you, my lord, had departed, Patriarch Zheng sent this Miss Xu to our Bi Lake Mountain.”

“Hoping that this Miss Xu could stay at our place for awhile and wait for someone from the Yu Shui Xu Family to come.”

Ling Zixiao said so, her posture full and graceful, speaking with dignified elegance.

“Where is she now?”

Lu Changsheng inquired.

“She has been arranged to stay at Bi Lake Villa.”

Ling Zixiao replied as such.

She noticed that Lu Changsheng’s expression was not quite right and asked, “My lord, is there a problem with this girl?”

“It’s not so much a problem, but when I previously visited the Zheng Family for the funeral, I saw this girl...”

Lu Changsheng made no secret of it before Ling Zixiao.

He indicated that while he was at the Zheng Family, she kept stealing glances at him, which was not normal.

“With a young and promising husband like yours, not only are you a Foundation Establishment Cultivator and a master of the Talisman Path, but you are also a mountain lord; and on top of that, you’re so handsome. It’s perfectly normal for a young girl to sneak peeks and fall in love,”

Ling Zixiao said, her tone half jesting.

“Are you making fun of your husband?”

Lu Changsheng naturally detected the playful tone in her voice and wrapped his arms around her full waist.

“Mm~”

Ling Zixiao let out a soft cry and then spoke earnestly, “Initially, I talked with Patriarch Zheng for a moment. His intention was to send the girl to Nine Dragons Market to stay temporarily, waiting for someone from the Yu Shui Xu Family to come.”

“But the girl, on her own accord, suggested coming to Bi Lake Mountain.”

“At that time, I thought this young girl had taken a liking to you, my lord. Now it seems she must have another motive.”

Ling Zixiao spoke, her elegant features revealing a hint of playfulness.

“But besides talismans, I haven’t revealed my alchemy skills, what can she be after?”

Lu Changsheng stroked his chin as he said this.

“I do not know that,”

Ling Zixiao gently shook her head.

She initially thought Lu Changsheng had some connection with Xu Ruyin seeing as in her eyes, Lu Changsheng was an ideal partner in all respects except one could not easily judge matters of the opposite sex.

“Alright, you can proceed with the array formation. I must ask Yun’er to keep an eye on this Miss Xu from the Xu Family,”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed as he spoke.

If before he was just being cautious around Xu Ruyin,

now he felt there was definitely something amiss about her.

“Alright.”

Ling Zixiao nodded her head, not wanting to delay.

She summoned the two Array Masters in the family to start setting up a formation on the summit of Bi Yun Peak.

“Yun’er, Yongwan, these next few days, you could go and see Miss Xu, chat with her from time to time.”

Lu Changsheng arrived at the Lu Family Mansion and said to Lu Miaoyun and Zheng Yongwan.

Both women, one as the Lady of the Lu Family and the other connected to the Zheng Family, visiting Xu Ruyin was normal, to see if they could catch any hint of intent.

“Yes, husband,”

Upon hearing Lu Changsheng’s words, both women nodded.

Upon his request, they subconsciously assumed their husband must have an unusual relationship with this Miss Xu from the Xu Family.

Especially Zheng Yongwan.

Although she lacked Lu Changsheng’s divine sense,

her female intuition made her take note of the Xu Family miss glancing at her husband from time to time while they were at the Zheng Family.

She couldn't help but speculate in her heart, wondering if this Miss Xu would become one of the sisters in the household.

She had inquired about this Miss Xu before; she was the pearl of the Yu Shui Xu Family, and it was unlikely she would marry easily.

However, considering how proactive this Miss Xu was, such an eventuality didn't seem impossible.

Chapter 703: The Tree King Appears, Within the Cave Heaven!_1

Blue Lake Mountain.

Inside the manor's grand hall.

"Ruyin has been troubling Lu Mountain Lord these past few days."

Xu Renguang said politely to Lu Changsheng.

He had just arrived at Wugong Ridge when he heard from the Zheng Family that his beloved granddaughter had gone to stay temporarily at Blue Lake Mountain.

Upon hearing this news, he was terrified and rushed to Blue Lake Mountain without stopping to take his precious granddaughter back.

...

After all, he had heard of the great reputation of Lu Changsheng.

Not only was he a son-in-law from Qingzhu Mountain who became a Foundation Establishment Great Cultivator, a master of the Talisman Path, and single-handedly killed three Foundation Establishment cultivators, but he also established the Blue Lake Mountain Lu Family.

Another thing that was widely talked about was his zeal for marrying and having children.

In just over twenty years, he had amassed over fifty wives and concubines and more than a hundred and fifty children, essentially creating a clan all by himself.

So hearing that his granddaughter had run off to Blue Lake Mountain, he was terrified that Lu Changsheng might lay his hands on her.

If anything were to happen between the two of them, he couldn't even bear to imagine it.

"Xu Dao You is too kind."

Lu Changsheng said with a chuckle.

"Grandpa."

At this moment, Lu Miaoyun and Xu Ruyin arrived in the hall.

Xu Renguang looked at his granddaughter with displeasure, then stood up and said with cupped hands, "Lu Mountain Lord, I have other matters to attend to and must not stay for long; I will take my leave now."

"If Lu Mountain Lord is ever free in the future, you are welcome to visit the Xu Family anytime."

After speaking and leaving a gift behind, he took his granddaughter Xu Ruyin and bid farewell, leaving Blue Lake Mountain.

"Xu Dao You, take care."

Lu Changsheng saw the two out of the mountain gate.

But seeing the other party's face filled with relief and haste in taking his granddaughter away, he felt a hint of inexplicable insult.

My family kindly took in your granddaughter with ulterior motives, and yet you behave like this, distrustful of my character, aren't you?

“Yun’er, have you or Xiaowan noticed anything amiss about Miss Xu in the past few days?”

At this time, Lu Changsheng turned to Lu Miaoyun, who was standing beside him, and asked.

“Nothing out of the ordinary, Miss Xu only went out to the lake once in these five days, the rest of the time she was cultivating alone in her room.”

Lu Miaoyun shook her head slightly and spoke, “Husband, what’s wrong?”

“Nothing, I just feel that Miss Xu is a bit of a problem.”

Lu Changsheng said casually.

“A problem?”

Lu Miaoyun’s face showed a thoughtful expression.

But after thinking for a long time, she couldn’t recall anything about Miss Xu that seemed problematic.

If she really had to say there was a problem, it would be her lack of interest in her own husband.

After all, according to Xiaowan, Miss Xu from the Xu Family might have developed feelings for her own husband.

But now that she’s come to Blue Lake Mountain, she hasn’t shown too much of it these past days.

...

Six days later.

At the summit of Bi Yun Peak.

“Inverted Five Elements Formation, activate!”

Ling Zixiao placed the flags and Array Plate properly, then went to the formation’s eye and inserted one spell after another into the Array Plate.

“Weng——”

The next moment, flags around the peak flapped in the wind, beams of light appeared, and the spiritual mechanism surged, forming a five-colored glass pillar.

“My lord, the formation is ready; you can give it a try,” Ling Zixiao said to Lu Changsheng.

“Okay.”

Lu Changsheng turned into a streak of light and flew out of the peak.

As the five-colored glass pillar on the peak twisted, it gradually vanished, turning into a hazy white mist.

The white mist swirled, and the peak reappeared, but everything on the mountain was gone—the trees, Ling Zixiao, Xiao Xiyue, Changsheng Hall, all invisible.

Lu Changsheng channeled mana into his eyes, hoping to see through the formation and make out the situation inside.

However, layers of fog-like obstruction shielded his view.

He could somewhat discern that the scene before him was an illusion but could not see clearly inside.

When he used his Divine Sense to probe, he felt an invisible barrier preventing the Divine Sense from penetrating.

Subsequently, Lu Changsheng descended back onto the peak.

The scene before him on the peak, the trees and all, felt as real as the actual landscape; the sensation was genuine.

Lu Changsheng tried to locate the aura of Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue but couldn't sense them at all.

"So this is the power of a formation; it seems I will have to learn some formation techniques in the future," Lu Changsheng mused.

"Otherwise, if I were to enter some formation, I might end up trapped and die within it."

Although he said this, he currently had two methods of breaking through formations.

One was to use an Unsealing Talisman to break the formation.

Another was the eighth Divine Skill of his Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone, the Unsealing Divine Light, which could break all sorts of formation restrictions.

Lu Changsheng strolled around the peak for a couple of rounds but no matter what, was unable to enter the real Bi Yun Peak summit.

He nodded in satisfaction and said, "This will do, Zi Xiao."

As his words fell,

the scenery before him began to shift and Lu Changsheng saw he was standing exactly in the center of the peak summit.

And Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue were close by.

"How was it, my lord?"

Ling Zixiao, holding the Array Plate with a light smile, asked.

“Good, the Inverted Five Elements Formation’s illusionary and confusing effects have no issues, though we still need to check on the aspect of the magic aura,” Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

Then he turned to Xiao Xiyue and said, “Xi Yue, I’ll release my mana aura in a moment, can you tell if you can sense it?”

“Okay,” Xiao Xiyue nodded lightly in response.

“Then, Dao You Xiao, I will start the formation for you,” Ling Zixiao said to Xiao Xiyue.

And then she activated the Array Plate with her mana.

Lu Changsheng could clearly see the top of the peak’s formation mechanism surging, a stream of five-colored glass light flowing, enveloping Xiao Xiyue.

“Changsheng, it’s ready,” Xiao Xiyue said.

She was in a moon-white dress, her face calm and tranquil, looking towards Lu Changsheng, her beautiful eyes as serene and clear as the moon in the sky.

“Okay.”

Upon hearing her, Lu Changsheng’s mana surged from his dantian.

His middle-stage Foundation Establishment mana, augmented by the Profound Origin Bead, surged like a raging river, surrounding him with an aura of late-stage Foundation Establishment pressure.

Chapter 704: The Tree King Emerges, Inside the Cave Heaven!_2

“This...”

Ling Zixiao stared at the scene in a daze, her beautiful eyes revealing surprise and doubt.

She knew that Lu Changsheng was breaking through to the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment on his way back from Jiuxiao Immortal City.

But at the moment, spiritual pressure surged around Lu Changsheng's body, far surpassing the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment and reaching the Late Stage.

"Xi Yue, can you sense my magic aura?"

Lu Changsheng asked Xiao Xiyue.

...

"My Lord, Xiao Daoist friend can't hear your voice right now,"

Ling Zixiao spoke out, then made a hand spell and conveyed the message to Xiao Xiyue.

"Changsheng, I can't sense your magical spiritual pressure, but somehow, I can feel where you are,"

Xiao Xiyue said.

"Somehow, you can feel where I am?"

Lu Changsheng raised his eyebrows upon hearing this.

He thought to himself that there was such a method.

"My Lord, do you have any means of communication with Xiao Daoist friend?"

"The Formation is primarily for hiding, illusion, and confusion. You and Xiao Daoist friend are both within the Formation. If there's some treasure, you can still sense each other's presence."

Ling Zixiao immediately said to Lu Changsheng.

“Means of communication, treasure?”

Lu Changsheng subconsciously took out a Yin Yang Sensing Talisman.

But in the next moment, he figured out what was happening.

Dao Foundation!

When he was condensing his Dao Foundation, he used Xiao Xiyue’s Supreme Yin Moonlight as the basis.

Therefore, there was an inexplicable connection between them.

That’s also why the dual cultivation effects between him and Xiao Xiyue were far superior to others.

Now, without the Jade Pendant to conceal his aura and running his magical spiritual pressure to its peak, and with them not being far from each other, Xiao Xiyue was able to sense him through the Dao Foundation.

“It’s okay, it doesn’t affect anything,”

Lu Changsheng said, then with a slight move of his Mental Spirit, he activated the Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone: “Nine Treasures Ruyi—Qi!”

“Boom!”

In an instant, the Mana in Lu Changsheng’s Dantian surged like a breached river and an erupting volcano, his spiritual pressure climbing steadily.

This spiritual pressure made Ling Zixiao beside him feel a certain pressure.

“This...”

Ling Zixiao looked at Lu Changsheng in front of her, her beautiful eyes filled with disbelief.

It was astonishing enough that Lu Changsheng had revealed the spiritual pressure of the Late Stage of Foundation Establishment.

But now, his spiritual pressure was still rising, almost surpassing the Foundation Establishment Stage.

The air around them felt dense and heavy, making it difficult to breathe.

“Having a contractual bond with a Third Rank Demon King, being in the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment, revealing a spiritual pressure that nearly surpasses the peak of Foundation Establishment...”

At this moment, Ling Zixiao didn't even know what to say about Lu Changsheng.

After many years of knowing him, she thought she had seen just the tip of the iceberg.

But now, she found Lu Changsheng as enigmatic as ever, shrouded in mystery.

Even if Lu Changsheng claimed to be the reincarnation of a great power or a True Immortal, she would believe it.

“Zi Xiao,”

Lu Changsheng slightly reduced the spiritual pressure directed at Ling Zixiao and called out to her.

He asked her to inquire with Xiao Xiyue if she could sense the magic aura.

Upon Ling Zixiao's questioning, Xiao Xiyue indicated that she could not feel the magic aura.

“Good, that's fine,”

Lu Changsheng said with a loud laugh.

He stopped the effect of the Nine Treasures Ruyi Bone, and his aura fell sharply, leaving him feeling empty.

“Changsheng,”

Xiao Xiyue’s cold and moon-like beautiful eyes softened a few degrees when she saw Lu Changsheng.

The next moment, she expressed her surprise, “Changsheng, you’ve just broken through to the Middle Stage of Foundation Establishment?”

She and Lu Changsheng had broken through Foundation Establishment together.

But she had only just reached the Third Level of Foundation Establishment not too long ago.

Yet Lu Changsheng was already at the Middle Stage, which was very surprising to her.

“I had a bit of fortune before,”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile, downplaying it.

Xiao Xiyue didn’t say much.

After all, compared to all the various mysteries surrounding Lu Changsheng, his Middle Stage Cultivation Level didn’t seem so remarkable.

“Since there is no problem, Zi Xiao, I’m going to release the Tree King. You two should move back a bit,”

Lu Changsheng said to Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue.

“Okay,”

The two women nodded and moved back to Changsheng Hall, full of anticipation and curiosity about what the Demon King contracted by Lu Changsheng would look like.

Even though they were both well-seasoned and knowledgeable, they had never been up close with such a formidable Demon King.

“Extract,”

Lu Changsheng focused his Mental Spirit and looked at the Mount Sumeru Tree King in the system.

The next moment.

“Boom!”

A towering ancient tree, dozens of meters tall and remarkably robust, appeared.

The ancient tree was entirely like gold and jade, with a brilliant lustre flowing all over it. Its roots emanated strands of auspicious air, making it seem extremely sacred.

The leaves of the tree crown were very peculiar; some were dazzling gold, some transparent as jade, and some a rich green, diffusing a rich fragrance and divine light.

With a gentle sway, it seemed like the chanting of Buddhist hymns arose, calming the heart and spirit of those who heard it.

Upon the Mount Sumeru Tree King’s appearance, auspicious air surged across the entire mountaintop like a vast ocean, almost filling the peak of Bi Yun Peak and releasing strands of its vast aura.

“So this is the Third Rank Tree King contracted by my Lord (Changsheng).…”

Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue were both full of wonder and amazement as they looked at the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

Even though they didn't know exactly what type of tree demon it was,

they could tell just by the appearance that it was no ordinary Third Rank Spirit Plant.

If someone told them it was some rare and ancient spirit plant of Heaven and Earth, they would believe it,

because the appearance of the Mount Sumeru Tree King was simply too extraordinary.

“Master,”

A pure and ethereal voice spoke.

The voice was soft, beautiful, lofty and ethereal, like a wistful celestial chant that could easily soothe the restlessness within one's heart and even prompt those full of sin to lay down their weapons in penance and sorrow.

This call of “Master” made Lu Changsheng's spirit ripple gently.

He hadn't expected the voice of the Mount Sumeru Tree King to be so pleasant; if it took human form, he speculated that its appearance would likely be as attractive as its voice.

Chapter 705: The Tree King Emerges, Inside the Cave Heaven!_3

He knew the Mount Sumeru Tree King was inquiring about whether he had made the decision to take root and settle down here.

Given the current situation of the Mount Sumeru Tree King, it was able to move for short durations.

“Let's just do it here. The palace takes up too much space; you can take it directly into the Mount Sumeru space,”

“But be careful not to damage the formation of the mountain.”

Lu Changsheng pondered for a moment before speaking to the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

Having extracted the Mount Sumeru Tree King, he now had a detailed understanding of it.

...

Third Rank early stage cultivation level, with a self-contained Cave Heaven within, nurturing its own expanse of the world.

This world could accommodate people, objects, demon beasts, or used for cultivation, and more.

Moreover, the Mount Sumeru Tree King could proactively bring people or items into the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

This was one of the skills of the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

If enemies were encountered, it could suppress and imprison them within the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven.

After speaking, he pulled Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue to the side.

“Yes, Master.”

The ethereal and pure voice rang out, and then a golden divine light descended, shining upon the Changsheng Hall.

Suddenly, the vast palace disappeared right before the three of them, leaving only an empty space.

“My lord, does this revered Tree King possess void divine skills?”

Ling Zixiao asked Lu Changsheng.

“Exactly, its name is Mount Sumeru. It has a world within it, nurturing a corner of the universe. We will be able to live directly within this Cave Heaven from now on,”

Lu Changsheng said aloud.

Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue looked at each other in silence.

The shock that Lu Changsheng had given them today was simply too great.

Previously, they had thought that the Tree King bound by contract with Lu Changsheng was just an ordinary Third Rank Demon King.

But now that they had seen the Mount Sumeru Tree King, they realized their thoughts were too simplistic.

Also, thinking about it, if Lu Changsheng valued it so greatly,

and even used formations to conceal it, how could it be just an ordinary Third Rank Demon King?

Nevertheless, Lu Changsheng had boldly revealed such a Tree King in front of them, making them feel trusted.

After the Mount Sumeru Tree King had taken the Changsheng Hall into the Mount Sumeru space, it began to root itself at the top of Bi Yun Peak.

Crystalline and translucent golden roots, as thick as a barrel, burst forth with vibrant vitality and splendid luster, slowly penetrating into the mountain to draw upon the Spiritual Mechanism of the Spirit Vein in Bi Yun Peak.

After a long while, the Mount Sumeru Tree King had completed rooting.

The crystalline radiance flowing on its body gradually retracted, standing on top of Bi Yun Peak like a golden towering ancient tree.

“Mount Sumeru.”

Lu Changsheng, with Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue, approached the Mount Sumeru Tree King and called out.

“Swoosh—”

The next moment, a golden gate of light appeared before them.

The three walked into the gate of light, passing through what felt like a layer of water curtain, entering the inner Cave Heaven of the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

Lu Changsheng surveyed the landscape within the Cave Heaven.

Looking at its size, it was only a few square miles in area, with mountains, rivers, rocks, and trees, but it resembled a wasteland with only a solitary Changsheng Hall.

At the heights above the Cave Heaven and at the ends all around, everything seemed a fuzzy grey, in a state yet to evolve.

After all, the Mount Sumeru Tree King was only Third Rank.

Although a world was self-contained within it, this world was still in the nurturing phase.

Only with enough strength could it truly evolve into a small world.

There was Spiritual Energy in the air, but it was very sparse, just slightly better than the secular world, not even comparable to a First Grade Spirit Vein.

“It seems some renovation is indeed in order,”

Lu Changsheng said, stroking his chin as he looked at the situation before him.

Although it was habitable now, he thought the conditions were somewhat lacking.

In the future, this would be his true core base, which of course had to be properly crafted.

“Master, please instruct.”

The voice of the Mount Sumeru Tree King sounded, gentle and pure, bringing peace to one’s Mental Spirit.

It indicated that it could expend energy to make some improvements to this piece of heaven and earth.

“Growing some grass and trees around the palace wouldn’t take too much energy, right?”

Lu Changsheng asked the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

He knew that whatever the Mount Sumeru Tree King wanted to do in the Cave Heaven would consume Spiritual Energy, even Origin Source.

“Yes, Master.”

The Mount Sumeru Tree King responded.

In an instant, golden specks appeared from all sides, suffusing the area around Changsheng Hall with vitality, as green grass began to grow.

“This looks much more pleasing to the eye,”

Lu Changsheng commented, nodding his head.

Then with a slight movement of his Mental Spirit, he looked at the Spiritual Eye Spring within his System Space.

“Extract!”

Chapter 706: Companion Spirit Plant, Divine Wood Great Formation!_1

A water vat the size of a vase, bubbling forth with spring water, emanating pure spiritual energy, appeared before Lu Changsheng.

“This is... the Spiritual Eye Spring!?”

Ling Zixiao exclaimed in shock upon seeing the Spiritual Eye Spring before her.

“Spiritual Eye Spring.”

Xiao Xiyue’s cold and stunningly beautiful face also showed a hint of surprise.

Although the Spiritual Eye Spring was not as staggering as a Third Rank Tree King,

...

it was still a rare treasure, coveted even by Nascent Soul Immortals.

After all, possessing a Spiritual Eye Spring was tantamount to having a Spirit Vein with rich spiritual energy wherever one went.

“Indeed, it is the Spiritual Eye Spring.”

“The amount of spiritual energy required by Mount Sumeru is significant; if we rely solely on Bi Yun Peak’s Spirit Vein for sustenance, it will be far from sufficient.”

“Therefore, placing this Spiritual Eye within the Cave Heaven can greatly alleviate the problem of insufficient spiritual energy.”

Lu Changsheng explained, looking at the Spiritual Eye Spring before him.

This was also his first time seeing what a Spiritual Eye Spring looked like.

He could distinctly feel that the water from the Spiritual Eye Spring, like spiritual liquid, was crystal clear and resplendent, diffusing strands of pure spiritual energy throughout the heavens and earth.

“With this Spiritual Eye Spring here, the issue with the Tree King’s spiritual energy is indeed greatly relieved.”

Ling Zixiao said after a moment of silence.

She had discussed the problem of the Third Rank Tree King with Lu Changsheng before.

At that time, she was curious about how Lu Changsheng would resolve it.

She had never imagined that Lu Changsheng’s solution would be so straightforward and forceful, placing a Spiritual Eye Spring within the Cave Heaven.

“So this is the taste of the water from the Spiritual Eye Spring; it’s my first time tasting it.”

Ling Zixiao approached the Spiritual Eye Spring, scooped up some water with her hand, and gently tasted it by her lips.

She only felt a surge of pure spiritual energy spreading within her body.

“Hehe.”

Lu Changsheng chuckled and also scooped up some water to taste.

He found the taste mediocre, nothing particularly delicious.

But such water, akin to spiritual liquid, transformed into pure spiritual energy as soon as it entered the stomach.

“Xi Yue, you try some.”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile to Xiao Xiyue, who was standing aside.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Xiyue stepped forward to lightly taste the spring water and spoke, “The taste is average, but the spiritual energy is very pure.”

“Indeed, this effect of the spiritual energy would be excellent for wine brewing,” Lu Changsheng commented.

Then he called out to the Mount Sumeru Tree King, “Mount Sumeru.”

“Master, please command me,” the voice of the Mount Sumeru Tree King echoed throughout the Cave Heaven.

Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue, hearing this voice as melodious as the sound of nature and seeing Mount Sumeru’s respectful demeanor towards Lu Changsheng, exchanged glances with each other, somewhat at a loss for words.

If they hadn’t known that this voice came from a Third Rank Tree King,

they would have thought it was a little maidservant raised by Lu Changsheng.

“Dig a small pit here for me; I shall plant the Spiritual Eye Spring.”

Lu Changsheng instructed aloud.

The Spiritual Eye Spring could merge with the earth’s veins, transforming into a true Spiritual Eye to nourish the abode.

If one wishes to take it away, one simply needs to dig up the Spiritual Eye again.

“Yes, Master,” the Mount Sumeru Tree King replied.

Instantly, a small pit appeared in front of Changsheng Hall.

Lu Changsheng placed the Spiritual Eye Spring into it.

Soon, the Spiritual Eye Spring slowly expanded, merging with the small pit, transforming into a small pond a zhang in size, continuously emitting thick and pure spiritual energy.

“In order to turn this place into a secret abode for daily cultivation, a single Spiritual Eye Spring is not enough.”

“We still need to acquire several more items related to the Spiritual Eye to create a spiritual vein here and elevate the Spirit Vein at Bi Yun Peak,” Lu Changsheng assessed the situation, stroked his chin, and thought to himself.

He then inquired about Ling Zixiao and Xiao Xiyue’s ideas and suggestions for constructing and modifying this place.

“Changsheng, you could treat this place as a miniature Cave Heaven for development, such as cultivating spirit fields, medicinal gardens, and raising Spiritual Beasts here...”

Xiao Xiyue expressed some interest as she looked at the scene before her.

In her view, this was Lu Changsheng’s new home, and naturally, she wanted to contribute some ideas for its design.

“For now, the spiritual energy from Bi Yun Peak and the Spiritual Eye Spring is just enough to supply the cultivation needs of the few of us and Mount Sumeru. If we were to cultivate spirit fields and medicinal gardens, we could have at most First Grade soil,” Lu Changsheng said.

He also felt that this place was a perfect base for himself.

He could confidently and freely use many core items in this world,

such as the Golden Armor Bean Mother, Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon.

Moreover, it's very convenient to farm and fish in the Cave Heaven.

With the Mount Sumeru Tree King as the lord of this world, as long as the power and nature's spiritual energy were sufficient, it could directly evolve Second Grade soil and Second Grade fishing grounds.

There was no need to cultivate the spirit fields slowly as with other Spirit Vein Lands, nurturing and sorting the earth's veins.

"Changsheng, if you need Spiritual Origin Pearls, the Qingyun Sect should be able to exchange them,"

"I will complete a few more tasks on my return, and the contribution should be enough to exchange for a Spiritual Origin Pearl," Xiao Xiyue said softly.

She had noticed that Bi Lake Mountain was currently under some strain regarding spiritual energy.

"No worries, for now we're managing. When we truly need them, I'll let you know, Xi Yue," Lu Changsheng felt warmed inside and held Xiao Xiyue's delicate hand, speaking affectionately.

Xiao Xiyue had already been delayed in her cultivation due to her pregnancy and the years spent accompanying Lu Wangshu.

He had no intention of troubling her to undertake missions for the sake of a Spiritual Origin Pearl, wasting her time.

"My lord, I wonder aside from ruling over this Cave Heaven, what other divine skills... does the esteemed Mount Sumeru possess?"

"Earlier, you said that Mount Sumeru was also going to be stationed at Bi Lake Mountain, didn't you?" Ling Zixiao, observing the state of the Cave Heaven, pondered before asking Lu Changsheng.

"Abilities?"

Lu Changsheng, hearing this, called out to the Mount Sumeru Tree King, “Mount Sumeru.”

“Master...”

The pure and ethereal voice of Mount Sumeru echoed through the heavens and the earth, beginning to introduce itself.

It expressed that its innate talent was nurturing an entire world within its body, becoming its own Cave Heaven, ever-creating and unceasing.

Chapter 707:

It grew by evolving its own body domain and, through that body domain, nourished itself in turn to accelerate its growth.

Apart from this body domain, it also possessed a divine skill, the Mount Sumeru Mandala Barrier!

Once the barrier was activated, it could seal and suppress enemies.

If it took action in the outside world, its combat power was at the early stage of the Third Rank, with an attack range that could cover almost the entirety of Bi Lake Mountain.

However, the greater the distance, the greater the consumption for it, and the lesser the power.

If within this domain, it would be invincible at the Third Rank!

...

Even those at the peak of Core Formation could be sealed and suppressed.

Beyond these two innate divine skills, it had another ability.

It could cleanse a person's heart, bringing tranquility to their Mental Spirit, somewhat suppressing the effects of Heart Demons.

This ability also extended to its entire being.

For example, cultivating next to the Mount Sumeru Tree King or carrying one of its branches could partially aid in focusing the mind and calming the spirit.

“Mount Sumeru, can your branches and sprouts be planted and grown?”

Lu Changsheng's heart thumped at the mention of branches and sprouts and he asked out loud.

He knew that some tree branches, when freshly broken and still full of vitality, could be cultivated and revived by a Spiritual Plant Master.

If the branches of the Mount Sumeru Tree King could be planted and nurtured back to life, then he wouldn't have to worry about his wives and children's future Cultivation of the “Heaven and Earth Longevity Technique.”

“Master, unless a great amount of Origin Source vitality is consumed, ordinary branches and sprouts cannot rejuvenate....”

The Mount Sumeru Tree King spoke thus.

It indicated that it could enable the branches to be planted and grown, but it would require a significant consumption of its life's Origin Source for nurturing.

This branch had already become an accompanying Spirit Plant, a part of its life.

“Consume Origin Source vitality, accompanying Spirit Plant.”

Lu Changsheng nodded upon hearing this.

He knew that the Mount Sumeru Tree King was capable of doing it, but the cost was too great.

He did not ask further.

He planned to wait until the Mount Sumeru Tree King's situation improved before considering whether to let it nurture an accompanying Spirit Plant.

“Zi Xiao, what were you about to say just now?”

At this moment, Lu Changsheng looked at Ling Zixiao and inquired.

“My lord, upon seeing the venerable Mount Sumeru, I thought of a Great Formation...”

Ling Zixiao's eyes, deep as autumn waters, were bright and full of spirit as she spoke.

“A Great Formation?”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow.

Xiao Xiyue also looked curiously at Ling Zixiao.

Through their time together, she knew Ling Zixiao to be an Array Master.

Her understanding of formations was extremely profound, almost on par with Mo Shouren, the Master they had invited before.

“Yes.”

Ling Zixiao wore a light smile, her voice crisp as she said, “I have a Second-tier Top Level formation called the Divine Wood Great Formation!”

“It is laid out using living Spirit Plants, spiritual trees, and demon plants as the foundation and focal points of the formation.”

“Seeing the venerable Mount Sumeru gave me an idea: to use it as the core and the Mount Sumeru Cave Heaven as the main with the formation as support, creating a Taboo Formation comparable to a Third Rank!”

“A Third Rank Great Formation requires a Third Rank Spirit Vein to maintain operation, but with the venerable Mount Sumeru present, there’s no need for the support of a Third Rank Spirit Vein.”

“Once the formation is complete, should danger arise, there’s no need for the venerable Mount Sumeru to act, as we could directly activate the formation and pull the enemy into its Cave Heaven.”

“Once they enter the Cave Heaven, the venerable Mount Sumeru can directly suppress the enemies without causing any disturbance externally.”

Ling Zixiao spoke with a bright gaze and vibrant spirit.

She was aware that once the Mount Sumeru Tree King took action, it could potentially make a significant commotion.

If it was turned into a formation, not only would there be an additional level of concealment, but the level of Bi Lake Mountain’s Great Formation would also rise another notch.

Moreover, as an Array Master, she wanted to realize her own ideas and formations.

Like the Divine Wood Great Formation, she had only ever laid out a weakened version of the Second Rank lower tier.

She had never set up a Second-tier Top Level Divine Wood Great Formation.

Now, upon seeing the Mount Sumeru Tree King, she aspired to use such a distinguished Third Rank tree king as the core focus of the Divine Wood Great Formation, and her heart was filled with immense expectation and desire to attempt it.

“The Divine Wood Great Formation, a Third Rank Taboo Formation!?”

Lu Changsheng's eyebrows raised upon hearing this.

He knew the difference between Second Rank formations and Third Rank was like heaven and earth.

A Third Rank Great Formation, known as a Taboo Formation, was self-contained, without weaknesses or flaws, and not comparable to any Second Rank formation.

Unexpectedly, Ling Zixiao claimed she could lay out a formation comparable to a Third Rank Taboo Formation.

"Zi Xiao, is this Divine Wood Great Formation troublesome, and will setting it up affect Mount Sumeru?"

Lu Changsheng inquired of Ling Zixiao.

"Extremely troublesome. First, Mount Sumeru must be the core when laying out the Divine Wood Great Formation. Then, through nested formations, overlaying method, it must be connected with the 'Bi Shui Qing Tian Great Formation' of Bi Lake Mountain."

"If the Great Formation is inactive on normal days, it will continue to appear to others as the current Bi Shui Qing Tian Great Formation. Once the Divine Wood Great Formation is activated, it will transform into the near Third Rank 'Divine Wood Great Formation' and catch people off guard..."

"However, the Bi Lake Mountain Great Formation and the Oceanic Grand Formation of Bi Shui Lake are currently overlaid and still not perfected. If we now attempt to connect with the Divine Wood Great Formation, some problems will arise during the process, so I am not one hundred percent sure of success."

"But this Divine Wood Great Formation will not affect the venerable Mount Sumeru; if there is any impact during the process, we can stop at any time."

Ling Zixiao said excitedly, her bright beautiful eyes sparkling with expectation of the challenge.

Being able to reach this stage on the Formation Path, aside from her exceptional talent, arose from her constant pursuit of breakthroughs and self-challenges.

“On normal days, showing the Bi Shui Tian Qing Great Formation to others, and once the Divine Wood Great Formation is activated, it becomes a Third Rank Great Formation...”

Lu Changsheng pondered for a moment before calling out to the Mount Sumeru Tree King, “Mount Sumeru.”

“Mount Sumeru will follow Master’s arrangements.”

The voice of Mount Sumeru was still so ethereal and pure, bringing tranquility to one’s spirit.

Chapter 708:

“Good, since that’s the case, we’ll do as you suggest, Zi Xiao.”

“However, your body has not yet recovered, so don’t push yourself. The formation can wait, there’s no need to rush.”

“If the setup process involves anything related to Mount Sumeru, you can communicate directly with it.”

Lu Changsheng spoke to Ling Zixiao.

He knew that setting up a great formation was extremely draining on one’s mental spirit and energy.

Ling Zixiao had just finished setting up the ‘Inverted Five Elements Formation’.

...

Now she was about to set up an even more complex and troublesome ‘Divine Wood Great Formation’, which made him worry about her health.

However, from the desire he saw in her beautiful eyes, he didn’t want to disappoint her.

“Thank you, my lord. I will take care of myself,” said Ling Zixiao, her elegant face breaking into a charming smile.

“Xi Yue, Zi Xiao, now that we have Mount Sumeru supporting us, I leave the family affairs in your hands.”

“I will be heading to Red Leaf Valley Market to oversee things for a while to prevent any danger to Qingzhu Mountain or the Red Leaf Valley Market.”

Lu Changsheng said.

Although the specifics of the robber cultivators’ incident were still unclear,

he planned to stay at the Red Leaf Valley Market for a while in case anything unexpected occurred.

“My lord, rest assured.”

“Alright, Changsheng, don’t worry.”

The two women responded upon hearing this.

Then, Lu Changsheng mentioned his trip to the Red Leaf Valley Market to Lu Miaoyun, Lu Miaohuan, and Qu Zhenzhen.

Upon hearing this, Lu Miaohuan expressed a desire to visit Qingzhu Mountain and take a stroll through the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Lu Changsheng did not object and agreed to take her along the next day.

After all, the Red Leaf Valley Market was not far from Bi Shui Lake, and he needed to return periodically to treat Ling Zixiao’s condition,

especially now that she was setting up a great formation and he needed to pay even closer attention to her health.

That night,

Lu Changsheng treated Ling Zixiao throughout the night, and the next day he took Lu Miaohuan to the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Due to the robber cultivators' incident, the Red Leaf Valley Market had seen a slight decline in foot traffic.

However, the market had been struggling for the last decade.

Ten years ago, a hard-won auction held by the four major families boosted name recognition and traffic, but a subsequent robbery by cultivators wiped out all those efforts.

And over the past decade, incidents involving the Demon Path and the families' internal struggles meant the market's reputation suffered, and few loose cultivators visited.

After all, when loose cultivators look for a marketplace to settle down, they generally prefer well-established and stable ones.

Despite offering many favorable policies to loose cultivators, the Red Leaf Valley Market still lacked competitiveness.

Now with some time to spare, upon arriving at the Red Leaf Valley Market, Lu Changsheng took Lu Miaohuan to inspect the family's properties and review the situation.

The talisman shops and the fishing stores were currently doing well.

The puppet shop had opened a month ago but had little business so far.

Lu Changsheng knew that such things required time to gain a reputation, so more customers would come as the name and quality became recognized.

After all, the Red Leaf Valley Market was only so big, and most loose cultivators belonged to the lower levels of the cultivation world, so asking them to spend two hundred spirit stones on a puppet was somewhat difficult.

After staying in the Red Leaf Valley for ten days, Lu Changsheng took Lu Miaohuan back to Qingzhu Mountain and then returned to Bi Shui Lake to treat Ling Zixiao.

Ling Zixiao also presented Lu Changsheng with a formation diagram to look over.

She said she had reorganized and adjusted the formation setup of Bi Shui Lake during this time.

The ‘Oceanic Bead’ formation set with thirty-six Oceanic Beads in Bi Shui Lake was no longer linked to the ‘Heavenly Azure of Bi Shui’ formation.

As an auxiliary formation on its own, it nurtures the spirit vein fishes and shrimp in the lake, promoting the rapid advancement of the lake’s spirit vein to the second rank.

Using the principle that water nourishes wood, the spiritual vein of Bi Shui Lake was connected to the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

Once the Great Formation was established, it could harness the spiritual energy of the spiritual vein of Bi Shui Lake to nurture the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

What’s more, the hazy mist over the waters could further conceal the condition of the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

As for the ‘Bi Shui Tian Qing Great Formation’ and the ‘Divine Wood Great Formation,’ those remain unchanged.

Under normal circumstances, the Great Formation will still be the ‘Bi Shui Tian Qing Great Formation,’ with the inner core being the ‘Divine Wood Great Formation,’ both of which can be switched via the Mount Sumeru Tree King.

“This is something you can handle yourself.”

Lu Changsheng said with a smile.

He did not understand formations, but he believed in Ling Zixiao.

Besides, if there were any issues with the Divine Wood Great Formation, the Mount Sumeru Tree King would detect and sense them.

After treating Ling Zixiao, Lu Changsheng spent some time with his wives and children, then returned to Qingzhu Mountain to preside over the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Thinking back to when the Elder Ancestor of the Xu Family had asked him to craft a ‘Mystical Frost Talisman’ for Xu Ruyin, Lu Changsheng thought it had been almost three months.

He immediately drew two Mystical Frost Talismans and had the people from Zheng Family at Red Leaf Valley Market notify Xu Renguang.

Meanwhile.

Nine Dragons Market.

In a small courtyard.

“Big brother, all four families have kept their doors closed, and even when they go out, they cover their tracks.”

“I think there’s no need to delay any longer. We should take care of them soon and avenge our fifth brother.”

A middle-aged man with a fair face and a soft, sinister look said.

“Indeed, the four families combined have only five individuals at Foundation Establishment, and they’re all just straw bag cultivators at the early stage of Foundation Establishment. Aside from Lu Changsheng, who possesses a legacy of talisman formations, the others are not worth mentioning,” a bald man with a rough face and a scar on his head said with a vicious laugh.

“Second brother, I’ve investigated, and although Wugong Ridge Zheng Family doesn’t have a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, they have invited a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator from Yu Shui Xu Family to guard the place,” Tao Xiaolan, who was dressed in a peach-colored gown, spoke up.

“Just a mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivator,”

“Moreover, this Xu Family cultivator may not even wish to get involved in this mess,” the bald man scoffed, clearly undervaluing the mid-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator.

“Indeed, there’s nothing worth dithering over. I see our fifth brother is also getting impatient these days.”

“Has there been any movement from Qingyun Sect during this time?” the red-robed big man sitting at the head of the table asked nonchalantly.

“Qingyun Sect has no time to worry about such matters. The beast tide has just ended; they must be busy,” the fair-faced, dark-browed middle-aged man snorted with disdain.

“Well then, let’s make it five days from now. It’s a good day for killing,” the red-robed man said with a sneer upon hearing this.

“Thank you, big brother!” Fang Yu’s eyes lit up with joy as he got up and bowed his thanks.

After returning to Qingyun Region, the seed of hatred in his heart had quickly sprouted, anxiously wanting to exact revenge.

Throughout these days, this seed of hatred had grown into a towering tree, causing images of his parents’ tragic deaths to frequently flash across his mind.

He knew that for these ten years, hatred had been the driving force propelling him forward, becoming his obsession, his Heart Demon; he must use this hatred to unravel the obsessions in his heart.

“Heh heh heh heh, in that case, five days from now, I will join our fifth brother in warming them up,”

“Once people from all four families gather, big brother and second brother can make their move, allowing our fifth brother to take his revenge joyfully.” The slender and shadowy figure in a black robe cackled with laughter.

Chapter 709: Ancient Relic Site, Robber Cultivator Causes Chaos!_1

Red Leaf Valley Marketplace.

The Lu Family’s Spiritual Talisman Shop at Bi Lake Mountain. “Daoist Xu, I must apologize. During this time, I have only managed to draw two Mystical Frost Talismans.”

Lu Changsheng looked at the Xu Renguang before him and bowed slightly, his voice tinged with a hint of embarrassment. “Two!”

Xu Renguang’s eyes brightened at these words, his face revealing a delighted surprise....

After all, in his opinion, the fact that Lu Changsheng could draw a Mystical Frost Talisman was already a surprise.

He hadn’t expected Lu Changsheng to actually draw two.

This gave him a clear recognition of Lu Changsheng’s talisman-making skill and innate talent for the Talisman Path.

He took out a gift box from his storage bag and said politely, “Thank you for the trouble, Lu Daoist. My Xu Family owes you a favor.”

Even though Second Rank Talismans could still be bought on the market, it was very difficult to purchase niche superior Second Rank Spirit Talismans like the Mystical Frost Talisman.

Since the other party was willing to help with talisman-making, he naturally wanted to show his appreciation properly. “Daoist Xu is too polite. I just happen to have a favor to ask of you. Does your noble family breed any aquatic demon beasts with dragon blood in them?”

Lu Changsheng received the gift box and spoke with a smile.

He was willing to help the other party draw talismans because of the face of the Beast Taming Xu Family.

He was thinking of getting some high-quality aquatic dragon-blooded demon beasts through Xu Renguang to refine the Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon.

Although during this time, he had already learned of several aquatic demon beasts capable of being refined into the Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon, the quality of these beasts was somewhat lacking.

To refine them into Spirit Weapons and nurture them would consume more time and resources.

If he could obtain high-grade, dragon-blood-rich aquatic demon beasts and refine them into Blackwater Jiao Dragon Spirit Weapons, then the nurturing process would be much simpler.

Lu Changsheng was even looking forward to directly drawing a Flood Dragon through the system lottery.

If so, he could refine it into a Blackwater Dragon Spirit Weapon and use this as a leader to cultivate other Dao Soldiers.

Since like attracts like, the bathwater and even a splash of urine from this Flood Dragon Spirit Weapon would benefit the other Dao Soldiers and aquatic demon beasts. “Aquatic demon beasts containing dragon blood...”

After hearing this, Xu Renguang fell into deep thought and said, “May I ask what the Mountain Lord needs them for, and how many do you require?” “Hehe, the Scarlet Blood Carps and Azure Blood Carps of my Bi Lake Mountain contain some dragon blood, do they not?” “I have obtained a breeding heritage and wish to improve the environment through aquatic dragon-blooded demon beasts to promote the growth of these two types of carps. Therefore, as for those beasts, the more, the merrier, and the stronger, the better,” Lu Changsheng explained nonchalantly. “Improve the ecology...”

Xu Renguang nodded slightly at these words, without asking any further, and then spoke, “Mountain Lord should also know that such beasts are difficult to nurture. As of now, my Xu

Family has Green Horned Fish with mid-grade inferior bloodlines and Ink Jade Serpents with mid-grade superior bloodlines.” “Both are aquatic demon beasts with a trace of dragon blood. For instance, when nurtured to Second Rank, Green Horned Fish become Green Horned Dragon Fish; Ink Jade Serpents become Ink Jade Flood Serpents.” “If the Mountain Lord is in need, my Xu Family can sell ten of each, Green Horned Fish and Ink Jade Serpents,” Xu Renguang said.

In the Cultivation World, no one liked to owe favors.

Therefore, he was also willing to sell a few beasts to Lu Changsheng to clear the debt of the talisman favor. “Only mid-grade inferior and superior...”

Upon hearing this, Lu Changsheng felt somewhat disappointed.

But a mid-grade bloodline beast was still acceptable.

He bowed and responded, “If that’s the case, I thank Daoist Xu.” “As for the price of these two types of beasts, just sell them to me at the normal rate. Of course, the stronger they are, the better.”

Lu Changsheng’s face showed a smile as he spoke. “In terms of price, it will be calculated based on the strength of the demon beasts.” “For example, a First Grade initial phase Green Horned Fish normally costs one hundred fifty Spirit Stones; a mid-phase one, four hundred twenty; and a late-phase one, fifteen hundred...” “If that’s what the Mountain Lord needs, how about all prices at a sixty percent discount?” Xu Renguang offered, full of sincerity. “In that case, thank you very much, Daoist Xu,” Lu Changsheng said with a bow and a smile.

He purchased ten Green Horned Fish and ten Ink Jade Serpents from Xu Renguang.

They included one late-phase First Grade, two mid-phase First Grade, and seven initial-phase First Grade.

As for Second Rank demon beasts, the Xu Family would not sell them to the public.

Or rather, the Yu Shui Xu Family did not even have many Second Rank demon beasts to sell. “The Spirit Stones can wait until after everything is settled; I will arrange for them when I return to the family,” Xu Renguang said aloud. “Alright, I’ll trouble Daoist Xu with that,” Lu Changsheng replied with a smile.

Xu Renguang then bade farewell and left. “Green Horned Fish, Ink Jade Serpent.”

Lu Changsheng murmured to himself, feeling somewhat expectant of the effects these two beasts would have when refined into Dao Soldiers.

Moreover, buying these beasts at a sixty percent discount meant that even if the results weren’t ideal, he wouldn’t stand to lose much. ...

That night.

The heavens were as dark as ink.

Red Leaf Valley Marketplace was silent.

At this time, in a small courtyard with bright lights, five men and one woman looked out at the night sky, chatting casually in the main hall. “Hehe, our fifth brother is getting impatient,” said the man in the red robe sitting at the head seat, noticing the restless and occasionally fierce-looking Fang Yu, and then he addressed the others, “Since that’s the case, third brother, fourth brother, Xiao Lan, you all go with the fifth brother.” “Yes, big brother!”

The few of them nodded in response. “Fifth brother, I’ll take care of the great formation of the Red Leaf Valley Market; you can do as you please with the others,” the middle-aged man with a gentle jade-like complexion and a sinister expression offered. “Kek kek kek kek, fifth brother, however you want to do it tonight, your fourth brother will follow,” the thin, gloomy-looking elder laughed eerily.

Chapter 710: Ancient Relic Site, Robber Cultivator Causes Chaos!_2

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“Brother Yu...”

“`

Tao Xiaolan, standing beside Fang Yu, said this as she held his hand.

“Okay, thank you for the trouble, brothers.”

Fang Yu held his partner’s hand, looked towards the old man and the man in red robes among others, took a deep breath, and nodded vigorously.

...

His eyes were then dark as ink, and his brows filled with ferocity.

His ability to become brothers with those four men was a testament to his extraordinary strength, having once gained a great opportunity.

“Little Fifth is too polite, I, as Third Brother, will head over first. Once the Great Formation is activated, you can make your move.”

The middle-aged man with a jade-like complexion and gentle brows patted Fang Yu on the shoulder.

Then, with a folding fan in hand, he flew towards the gate of the Red Leaf Valley Market.

“Fourth Brother, Xiaolan, let’s start from ‘Gathering Immortals Inn!’”

Fang Yu said in a cold voice.

Ten years ago, it was from Gathering Immortals Inn that he and his parents had begun to plunder the marketplace.

Now, he was about to face the events of ten years prior and relive those moments.

However, the difference was, back then, both his parents had lost their lives in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

But tonight, he intended to massacre the Red Leaf Valley Market and destroy the four great families!

After saying this, Fang Yu, Tao Xiaolan, and the old man left.

“I hope after we’ve avenged this lad, he’ll be willing to bring out the map and the token for the ancient relic site in the Myriad Beasts Mountain Range.”

Looking at the departing Fang Yu and others, a burly man with a scarred head drank deeply from a jug.

“This shouldn’t be a problem; Xiao Tao said Fang Yu’s loyalty is almost secured.”

“As long as the great revenge is settled, with the bond of brotherhood, he won’t forget us few when he explores the ancient relic site.”

“And given the danger of exploring that site alone with his strength, he would certainly require assistance.”

The man in red robes also took large swigs from his jug.

Traveling all across the land, pillaging and plundering, they naturally weren’t bound by brotherly affection but rather by shared interests.

After all, how much is brotherly love worth?

The reason they had traveled far, from Myriad Beasts Mountain Range and Azure Phoenix Immortal City to the Qingyun Region, was to avenge their ‘little brother’ but with an ulterior motive.

...

The moon was hazy, and all was silent.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, a thunderous and earth-shattering noise erupted in the Red Leaf Valley Market.

Under the night sky, the Second Rank Great Formation of the marketplace, 'Heavenly Cloud and Water Formation,' was enveloped in spiritual light, alternately bright and dark, as clouds and mist rolled turbulently.

“Seven Deadly Wolf-Smoke Gourds!”

Standing in front of Gathering Immortals Inn, Fang Yu saw the scene unfold and spoke fiercely.

A dark green gourd appeared in his hand, with dark light flowing over it.

“Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—”

A terrifying black mist erupted from the gourd like wolf-smoke, rising into the sky and forming seven black columns of smoke that seemed to pierce through heaven and earth.

“Kill!”

Fang Yu, looking at Gathering Immortals Inn, formed hand seals.

Immediately, the seven columns of wolf-smoke merged into a massive and terrifying human face that devoured the inn.

“Not good, it’s an enemy attack, enemy attack!”

“Quickly inform the ancestor!”

“How dare these bandit cultivators cause chaos in our Red Leaf Valley Market!”

The patrolling cultivators in the market saw this and immediately yelled, pulling the alarm and activating the market’s Great Formation.

“Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—”

The previously indifferent clouds covering the market started to gather quickly, becoming dense along with the flowing spiritual light, forming a cyan jade bowl.

However, at that moment, horrifying forces bombarded the cyan jade bowl, causing the glazed surface to shatter like porcelain with dense web-like cracks.

At the same time.

Inside a simple and elegant cave dwelling.

Lu Changsheng, Lu Miaoge, and Lu Miaohuan, who had just fallen asleep, woke up.

“Is someone attacking the market’s Great Formation?”

Lu Miaoge held a token and an array plate in her hands.

The light on them fluctuated, pulsing with spiritual light.

She immediately manipulated the array plate, powering the Red Leaf Valley Market’s Great Formation with all its might.

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Then she put on the snow-white gauze skirt, stockings, undergarments, and a chest piece embroidered with clouds and water, while her black hair was simply gathered and draped over her fragrant shoulders.

Now that she was in charge of the Red Leaf Valley Market, she naturally had to deal with such matters immediately.

“Could it be the robber cultivator who brought the bell before?”

Lu Changsheng furrowed his brows and said aloud.

He did not hesitate or delay; he immediately got up, dressed, and said to Lu Miaohuan, “Huanhuan, you stay inside the cave and do not go out. Sister Miaoge and I will go take a look.”

“Okay, Lu Changsheng, sister, be careful.”

Lu Miaohuan replied with a light pursing of her lips.

She knew that with her Seventh Level Energy Refinement cultivation level, she wouldn’t be of much help if she went out now.

It was in times like these that she felt the lack of her own strength.

Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge left the cave abode.

“Boom boom boom——”

They immediately saw countless rays of spiritual light bombarding the ‘Heavenly Cloud and Water Formation’ above the Red Leaf Valley Market.

This caused the entire great formation to surge with spiritual light, which flickered on and off in the night sky, accompanied by muffled thunderous sounds, eerie and astonishing.

Over in the commercial district, a gigantic and ferocious black face was howling and roaring.

The scene before him made Lu Changsheng feel a sense of déjà vu.

“It looks like it is most likely that robber cultivator who sent the bell before!”

Seeing this, Lu Changsheng said with a cold expression.

Without saying more, he and Lu Miaoge turned into beams of escape light and flew towards the commotion.

Back ten years ago, the indiscriminate looting by a robber cultivator caused the Red Leaf Valley Market to be greatly weakened, and it still hadn't fully recovered.

Furthermore, afterwards, the four big families had to make quite a lot of compensation to the many merchants and powers that had settled in.

Seeing this kind of trouble now, they naturally had to suppress and resolve it immediately.

Otherwise, if things got out of hand, the Red Leaf Valley Market might truly be ruined, and they could only rely on it as a spiritual land to make money.

“What’s going on!?”

“Is someone attacking the market’s great formation?”

“Damn it, I knew I shouldn’t have come to the Red Leaf Valley Market for some small benefits!”

“It’s over, it’s over. With only the Lu Family Ancestor, Lu Miaoge, presiding over Qingzhu Mountain’s section of the market, and she has only just broken through to Foundation Establishment, now with the robber cultivators causing trouble, they must be well-prepared!”

“This Red Leaf Valley Market has barely been open for more than ten years and already so many problems have arisen. Indeed, one cannot rely on a small market!”

“I wonder if the Lord of Bi Lake Mountain, who suppressed three Foundation Establishment cultivators by himself, will come!”

With the disturbance in the great formation and the commercial district, many cultivators awoke from their sleep or meditation, looking at the situation beneath the night sky with panic on their faces.

After all, relative to others, the Red Leaf Valley Market was just a small market, and most of the loose cultivators that came here were lower-ranked.

At the same time, some cultivators looked at the situation with greed, ferocity, and hesitance in their eyes.

“Swoosh! Swoosh!”

Two beams of escape light arrived above the commercial district.

Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge immediately saw a thin old man, a black-robed young man, and a woman in a pink skirt wrecking the shops of the market and slaughtering the cultivators in the inns.

“Foundation Establishment Fifth Level, Foundation Establishment Second Level, Ninth Level Energy Refinement.”

Lu Changsheng’s divine sense was comparable to the peak of Foundation Establishment, and he saw the cultivation levels of the three people at a glance.

Seeing their cultivation strength, his brows slightly furrowed, puzzled where these three got the courage to cause trouble.

And they even dared to carry out such a brainless act as sending the bell.

But looking up at the flickering great formation above, he knew there were Foundation Establishment cultivators hidden in the shadows.

He immediately said to Lu Miaoge, “Sister Miaoge, that black-robed young man is of Second Level Foundation Establishment; you handle him! Leave that old man to me!”

“Hmm, two Foundation Establishments?”

Fang Yu and his companions were surprised and puzzled upon seeing Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge arrive.

After all, according to the information he had, there was only one Foundation Establishment Cultivator, Lu Miaoge, presiding over the Red Leaf Valley Market.

But with the backing of his elder brothers, he wasn't afraid at all, and as malevolence surged between his brows, his hands formed a seal and he shouted, "Seven Evils Wolf Smoke, strike!"

"Awooo——"

The terrifying black smoke face in the air that was destroying buildings emitted a ghostly, wolf-like screech, charging at Lu Changsheng and Lu Miaoge.

"River of Qi, break!"

In Lu Miaoge's hands appeared a blue crossbow, with water-like ripples flowing through it. Channeling mana, she fired "swoosh, swoosh, swoosh" towards the ferocious wolf smoke in the air.

"Strike!"

Lu Changsheng also did not hesitate, summoning a low-grade spiritual sword.

The spiritual sword let out a clear ring, releasing a sharp sword rainbow that sliced through the air, heading straight towards the thin old man.