

I. Family 941

Chapter 941: Repeat Rewards, Head to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm!

In a certain valley,

A tall and robust figure was practicing martial arts.

His black hair was thick, his body nimble, and as the sunlight shone upon him, his muscles appeared to gleam with a thin layer of gold, as if they were cast in gold.

“Wham! Wham! Wham!”

The man’s punches and kicks flew, creating whooshing and whistling sounds as they moved through the air.

Nearby trees and giant stones shattered under the force of his blows, exploding like dynamite, turning into dust, wood chips, and stones filling the air.

Although Lu Ping’an had already reached the pinnacle of the martial path, with no further steps to climb, he still persisted in his martial arts practice.

One reason was the habit he had formed since childhood.

Another reason was that he found many martial techniques to be particularly effective in close combat against cultivators, yielding unexpected results, so he continued practicing to integrate and master them.

The final reason was that he discovered that practicing martial arts could speed up the refinement of the magical treasures within his body, making it a form of cultivation.

“Open Mountain!”

After practicing for a while, Lu Ping’an’s breathing suddenly changed, sounding like the roar of a dragon or bellow of an elephant, his breath heavy as if his body was as majestic as mountains and as

grand as peaks, with all his tendons and bones singing harmoniously and his internal organs rumbling.

Then his right fist swung out like a dragon-snake taking flight, slamming forward ferociously.

If someone observed with the Spiritual Spring technique, they would see a giant axe appearing faintly behind Lu Ping'an, chopping down forcefully.

“Boom!”

In an instant, the mountain range in front of him erupted with a thunderous noise under the overwhelming force of the punch, echoing throughout the valley and startling birds and beasts with shrieks.

After a while, once the dust settled, the mountain seemed to have been split by a giant axe, leaving behind a deep, charred, and smoldering crevasse.

“I’ve finally mastered it.”

Lu Ping'an exhaled a heated breath, his majestic physique now charged with a more wild and domineering presence, intimidating to those around.

This punch was a result of his enlightenment through the nurtured Treasure Bones.

Using the Treasure Bones as a medium, he fused the Spirit Meat with them to borrow a fraction of the power and presence from the magical treasures within his body.

Previously, due to his physical limitations, he couldn't grasp this power.

But now, at the Energy Refinement Late Stage, having broken through to the fifth layer of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, he finally mastered this power through continuous familiarity.

“Ping'an brother, Ping'an brother...”

At this moment, a crisp female voice rang out.

A petite figure in a red dress approached, curious and playful, calling out as she ran.

“Jiu’er.”

Lu Ping’an saw Su Jiu’er and immediately reigned in his aura, turning his head to look and greeted her cheerfully.

Out of guilt for accidentally killing her pet after she had saved him, he felt particularly indebted to her.

So, seeing Su Jiu’er all alone and lonesome, he stayed to keep her company and to chat, brightening her spirits.

Usually, he would practice martial arts in his spare time, slowly becoming familiar with and integrating the power of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art.

As their interactions increased, their relationship grew more cordial.

He treated her as his little sister, and at some point, she started calling him ‘Ping’an brother’ all the time.

“Ping’an brother, Xiao Bai has given birth. She had three little Xiaobais.”

Su Jiu’er’s eyes curved into crescents, her face full of joy as she spoke to Lu Ping’an.

“Oh, let’s go have a look.”

Lu Ping’an said with a smile.

Su Jiu’er’s life was quite monotonous and dull.

Her days consisted of looking at plants, playing with crickets and bugs, or casually strolling through the forest.

So, Lu Ping'an caught a few Demon Beasts for her, cleared a vegetable garden, and dug a pond.

At least then she would have something to do: feed the Demon Beasts, tend to the garden, watch the frogs in the pond, and go fishing.

These trivial and mundane tasks were full of fun for Su Jiu'er, and she felt very happy and content with them every day.

Soon, the two of them arrived at a small bamboo grove where they lived.

The place had taken on more of a lived-in feel since Lu Ping'an had cultivated and improved it.

Then, they went to a nest built of stone, where two white tigers lay.

Upon seeing Lu Ping'an, the two tigers immediately showed fear.

Although Lu Ping'an knew some basic Beast Taming knowledge, it was only theoretical.

So, to subdue these two tigers at first, he used the most ancient and simple method and fought them for half a month.

This caused the tigers to fear him deep down.

Now, you could see one of the tigers lying exhaustedly with three newborn tiger cubs suckling on her.

The two did not disturb them and just quietly observed the tigers.

After a while, Lu Ping'an took one of the tigers, Da Bai, out hunting.

“It’s been about half a year, hasn’t it?”

That night, Lu Ping’an, Xiao An, and Su Jiu’er gazed at the stars in the night sky.

He remembered that it had been about half a year since he arrived here.

He had been thinking of returning home for a while.

After all, he had told his father that he would return once he reached the Seventh Level Energy Refinement.

But he also felt that leaving would make Su Jiu’er very lonely and sad.

Lu Ping’an took a deep breath, realizing that this matter had to be addressed sooner or later.

He couldn’t stay here with her forever.

He clenched and then unclenched his fists, mustering his courage, and turned to the girl, “Jiu’er.”

“What is it, Ping’an brother?”

Su Jiu’er crouched on the ground, hugging her knees, smiling as she looked up at Lu Ping’an.

“That, that...”

Lu Ping’an looked at the girl’s cheeks and suddenly didn’t know how to start.

After scratching his head and with an apologetic expression, he said, “I actually have some other matters and can’t stay here all the time.”

Su Jiu’er felt a tremor in her heart upon hearing this and a sense of loss.

After a while, she finally spoke softly, “Ping’an brother, will you come back to see Jiu’er in the future?”

She might be naive, but she understood that Lu Ping’an couldn’t stay with her forever.

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He had his own matters to attend to, just like his parents had theirs to do.

“Yes, I’ll come visit Jiu’er when I have time.”

Lu Ping’an quickly nodded and said.

He planned to take care of the Parasitic Cultivators who had tried to kill him before, then return home.

When he headed for Jiuxiao Immortal City, he would come to see his sister.

“Brother Ping’an, you can’t lie to me. Come see me when you have time; let’s pinky swear.”

The girl’s eyes seemed to twinkle with a bright glow as she stretched out her fair finger and solemnly said.

“Okay.”

Lu Ping’an grinned and extended his finger to pinky swear with the girl.

“Brother Ping’an, when do you plan to leave?”

After the pinky swear, Su Jiu’er smiled with her eyes squinting, appearing radiant and moist under the night sky.

“Uh, in a few days.”

Lu Ping'an thought it over, feeling he should spend a little more time with Su Jiu'er.

"Mhmm, Brother Ping'an, please take good care of yourself when you leave. Grandma says it's very dangerous outside."

Although Su Jiu'er felt quite disheartened, she tried to appear as natural as possible.

She knew that showing her sadness would affect him.

That night, the two talked for a long time until the grandmother reminded Su Jiu'er to go to bed, and she returned to her bamboo house to rest.

Lu Ping'an also returned to his own room to rest.

"Lu Ping'an."

At this moment, an old woman with white hair, a withered face, holding a serpent-headed cane, appeared in the room.

"Grandma."

Lu Ping'an looked at the old woman and called out.

After spending so much time together, he knew that this grandmother was a cultivator.

But her specific name and cultivation level were unknown to him.

He only knew that she was taking care of Su Jiu'er.

Otherwise, he would have considered taking Su Jiu'er home with him, so she wouldn't be so lonely and bored.

“When you leave this place, you must not speak of Jiu’er’s matters to anyone.”

The old woman’s voice was aged as she said this.

“Please rest assured, Grandma. I will certainly not speak of your and Jiu’er’s matters.”

Lu Ping’an might have been a bit naive, but he wasn’t foolish.

He was aware that Su Jiu’er and the grandmother must have some secret, which was why they lived here.

After some thought, he took a Heart Demon Oath on the spot.

Because words alone were not reliable, for cultivators, this oath was extremely solemn.

“Good, you can come see Jiu’er when you have the time.”

Seeing this, the old woman’s voice softened slightly, and she vanished.

Through her observations over the past six months, she saw that Lu Ping’an was forthright and not a malevolent person.

Otherwise, even if he appeared to be a descendant of a True Monarch, she wouldn’t have let him leave so easily.

However, throughout these six months, she felt that Lu Ping’an didn’t seem like the descendant of a True Monarch at all.

He seemed more like an ordinary martial artist who had come upon a great fortune.

Otherwise, how could it be that one on the Immortal Path still practiced everyday, crude martial arts?

Seven days later.

Lu Ping'an bid farewell to Su Jiu'er.

He wanted to say something but felt that anything he said would be superfluous.

Eventually, he merely scratched his head and softly said, "Jiu'er, take care."

"Brother Ping'an, this is the peace charm I made for you, I hope everything goes your way, safe and sound!"

The girl's eyelashes trembled slightly as she nodded with a smile, taking out a talisman pouch.

"Thank you, it's very pretty."

Lu Ping'an received the talisman pouch and earnestly said.

He had noticed, days earlier, that the girl had been clumsily making the talisman pouch, obviously putting in a lot of effort.

"I'm off."

Taking a deep breath, he waved his hand and said.

"Mhmm."

Lu Ping'an took large strides without looking back, knowing that Su Jiu'er must be watching him.

But at that moment, he couldn't help remembering his own parting with Qin Yi years ago.

Back then, like Su Jiu'er, he had bid farewell.

Only at that time, they were divided by their mortal and immortal realms.

She was headed for the distant Heavenly Sword Sect, while he had chosen to return home to take over the family business, so their chances of meeting again were virtually nonexistent.

But now, it was not a farewell forever!

Suddenly, Lu Ping'an turned around, his face beaming with a smile, and loudly said, "Jiu'er, don't worry, I'll come back to visit you when I have time!"

"Brother Ping'an, have a safe journey!"

The girl's face showed a smile.

"Whew!"

At that moment, Lu Ping'an felt his heart was much more relaxed and carefree.

Then, with a light step, his figure blurred like a phantom towards the direction of the cliff and the ruined temple.

...

Time flew quickly, and in the blink of an eye, three months had passed.

Originally, Lu Changsheng had planned to take Lu Wangshu to the Luoyun Mountain Range during this time to visit Xiao Xiyue.

But because of the opening of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, and the return of Lu Qingshan and Lu Qingzhu to the family, this plan was naturally postponed.

He planned to wait until the matters of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm were finished before taking his daughter Lu Wangshu out for a trip.

As the time for the Purple Shadow Secret Realm's opening drew near, many family forces and Loose Cultivators headed towards the realm.

During these times, though sales of Elixir Medicines, Talisman, Puppets, and Magic Artifacts had increased, it wasn't by a staggering amount.

One reason was that everyone was aware of the Secret Realm and would have made preparations in advance.

Another was that, although there were many going to the Secret Realm, once averaged out, the numbers seemed quite ordinary.

However, sales of the Puppets from Bihu Mountain had seen a significant increase over these months.

In the Puppet Workshop, within a side hall.

Lu Changsheng was crafting a custom-made Puppet for his beloved daughter.

His daughter, Lu Wangshu, was helping by taking care of the children, playing with Lu Lingxiao and Lu Linghe.

"Biu!"

Lu Wangshu made a gesture towards Lu Linghe, who paused for a moment before "Ah, awoo" collapsing to the ground.

Sitting beside them, Lu Lingxiao watched the scene with disdain and speechlessness, feeling that the two were exceedingly childish, while focusing on their father engraving Spiritual Patterns.

Lu Linghe, however, was having a great time, and then looking up with a 'sister, sister', he called out to Lu Wangshu for some candy.

"Wangshu, eating too much candy is bad for your teeth."

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Lu Changsheng looked at the two sisters and spoke up to remind them.

“Daddy? Since when do cultivators have bad teeth?”

Lu Wangshu revealed her own snow-white, neatly arranged teeth.

Then, with a flick of her index finger and thumb, she popped a candy into her little sister’s mouth, saying, “Right, Xiaohe?”

“Mmm-hmm.”

Lu Linghe nodded vigorously.

Watching this scene, Lu Changsheng couldn’t help but wonder.

Was having Lu Wangshu spend more time getting close to these siblings a good thing, or a bad thing? Could it lead them astray?

He felt it was necessary to seriously consider this issue.

Long after, Lu Changsheng finished polishing a puppet part and stood up, calling it a day.

Although he said he was making a puppet for his daughter,

such a project with its great scope would certainly take a year or two to deliver.

Lu Changsheng, with his children in tow, left the Puppet Workshop and returned to the Lu Family Mansion.

“Husband, today I saw a young woman who I think would be very suitable for Quanzhen...”

Qu Zhenzhen approached Lu Changsheng as soon as she saw him, eager to share.

Because of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm matter, Lu Changsheng had not asked Lu Quanzhen to return to White Tiger Mountain to take charge, instead leaving the matter to his son Lu Qingsong.

And during these days, Qu Zhenzhen's routine marriage pushing had resumed.

After all, with four children, Lu Yuzhen, Lu Caizhen, and Lu Huaizhen all settled down,

it was natural for her to put her heart and soul into getting the eldest son, Lu Quanzhen, married.

"Mmm, alright, Zhenzhen, you make the decision. As long as Quanzhen agrees, I will go propose immediately."

Lu Changsheng smiled and nodded, wanting nothing to do with these matters.

"But Quanzhen is avoiding me, and I don't know where he's gone."

Qu Zhenzhen said, feeling somewhat aggrieved.

Two months ago, Qu Zhenzhen had finally cultivated the Auspicious Tree as her life-bound Spiritual Root.

The effect was a few notches below Lu Miaoyun's, boosting her only to the Eighth Level Energy Refinement.

However, she did undergo quite a change.

Not only did she look a few years younger, but she also gained a somewhat ethereal and natural aura.

That night, Lu Changsheng attempted dual cultivation with Qu Zhenzhen to see if he could gain any special traits from the Auspicious Tree.

At the end of their dual cultivation, Lu Changsheng's mental spirit was utterly calm, free of all distractions, as if he'd entered a sage-like state.

Because of this, he immediately gave up on practicing the Tender Embrace Technique with Qu Zhenzhen — in the long run, who could withstand such tranquility?

“Ha, it's good that Quanzhen is dedicated to his cultivation, and getting married later is no problem. Let him be.”

Lu Changsheng said offhandedly.

Although he encouraged his children to procreate,

he still maintained an attitude of letting nature take its course.

After all, he would still support them if the children wished to pursue cultivation diligently.

“But getting married doesn't affect one's cultivation.”

Qu Zhenzhen replied.

Although she had heard that getting married could hinder cultivation,

her own husband, with a bevy of wives and a house full of children, didn't seem to be affected in the least.

Thus, clearly, that rumor was false!

“Hehe, children and grandchildren have their own luck. If Zhenzhen likes children so much, we could have a few more.”

Lu Changsheng wrapped his arm around his petite wife and whispered in her ear.

“Husband~”

Upon hearing this, Qu Zhenzhen’s cheeks flushed with embarrassment.

Such an old couple they were, with children already so grown, and yet they were contemplating more kids.

But Qu Zhenzhen thought of the books that stated if both parents were formidable, the children they bore would be clever and formidable, with exceptional talents.

If she could become a Foundation Building Great Cultivator like her sister Miaoyun, the child she and her husband would have might be as outstanding as Qingshan, with exceptional talent.

At this moment, she felt a twinge of anticipation.

After all, her husband truly adored children.

And she could see that he showed a bit more affection for those with extraordinary talents.

...

That day, a system notification resounded in Lu Changsheng’s mind.

[Congratulations, Host, for a hundred of your progeny breaking through to the Martial Dao Innate, granting a Bloodline Effect: a 3% increase in the probability of offspring having Spiritual Roots, and a chance for one lottery draw!]

“Mm? It’s changed from fertility probability to offspring Spiritual Root probability...”

Lu Changsheng noticed a change in the bloodline effects granted by the system.

It had previously been about the probability of him having more descendants.

Now it was about the probability of his offspring having Spiritual Roots.

“3%; not bad at all...”

Lu Changsheng didn’t feel the probability was small.

On one hand, there was still potential for improvement in the future.

On the other hand, the probability of mortals giving birth to offspring with a Spiritual Root was exceedingly low.

The Lu Family’s third generation numbered over two hundred and forty people now.

Yet among them, only nineteen children had a Spiritual Root.

The reason was simple; when it came to childbirth, even with policy encouragement, the primary population still came from the secular world, without Spiritual Roots.

On Bi Lake Mountain’s side, only a few obedient children like Lu Yun and Lu Xianzhi started families early and had offspring.

Few other children chose to marry.

Lu Changsheng was roughly aware that it should be because of himself, a father with a Ninth Grade Spiritual Root, having achieved so much.

Therefore, even the children in the family with Lower Grade Spiritual Roots still harbored some dreams of Foundation Establishment, striving as much as possible while they were young.

“Not even a hundred, and it’s just a normal lottery.”

Lu Changsheng, seeing it was only a normal lottery, felt somewhat listless.

Having experienced several Advanced Level lotteries, he gradually became somewhat disdainful of normal lotteries.

However, since he had already received the Child Money, he naturally wouldn't waste it.

“System, draw the lottery.”

As his words fell, the System's Great Roulette began to spin rapidly.

Then it slowly stopped at the 'Elixir Medicines' category.

[Ding! Congratulations to the host for obtaining a bottle of Purple Mansion Elixir!]

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

An image of an elixir appeared from the roulette accompanied by a system notification sound.

“Purple Mansion Elixir? The system rewards can draw duplicate rewards?”

Lu Changsheng's eyebrows raised.

He had drawn the lottery over forty times now.

This was the first time he had drawn a repeated reward.

[Elixir Medicine: Purple Mansion Elixir]

[Quality: Third Rank]

[Description: Can purify the soul, clarify the physical body, strengthen the divine sense and physique.]

“Indeed exactly the same, but this Purple Mansion Elixir is still quite good.”

Lu Changsheng pondered about the Purple Mansion Elixir in his System Space.

Although the Purple Mansion Elixir was not as good as the Coagulation Crystal Elixir,

a bottle of ten pills could still be considered top-tier elixir medicines.

Originally, after he had consumed ten Purple Mansion Elixirs, not only was his physical body enhanced, but his divine sense jumped from the Initial Stage of Foundation Establishment to the Foundation Establishment Late Stage!

This improvement could not be said to be small!

“Now that Quanzhen and Qing Shan are about to break through Foundation Establishment, this Purple Mansion Elixir will be used by them when the time comes.”

Lu Changsheng thought to himself.

Now that his physical body and divine sense would get limited effects from consuming the Purple Mansion Elixir, it would be better to let his children consume it.

After all, when they broke through their realms, it would also reflect back onto him.

Immediately, Lu Changsheng extracted the Purple Mansion Elixir from the System Space and placed it into his Storage Ring.

“Looking at the time, the Purple Shadow Secret Realm should also be about to open.”

Lu Changsheng thought of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm and prepared to send Lu Quanzhen there.

As for Lu Qingshan, his master Tianyuan True Immortal had already indicated he would come to receive him, so it was unnecessary for Lu Changsheng to escort him.

Soon after, Lu Changsheng explained things to Lu Miaoge, Ling Zixiao, and Lu Qingshan, and then took Lu Quanzhen away from Bi Lake Mountain toward Ziyun Gorge, where the Purple Shadow Secret Realm was located.

The distance from Bi Lake Mountain to Ziyun Gorge was not very far.

Heading north, it was approximately a month's journey by controlling a Spirit Boat.

Just as Lu Changsheng was sending Lu Quanzhen to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm,

in a mountain range,

“It seems to be in this direction, right? Ping'an, look, am I going the right way?”

Lu Ping'an, tall and robust in a green outfit, rode on a black spirit horse, holding a map and asking Ping'an beside him.

Ping'an looked at the map for a long time, then nodded, indicating it should be correct.

“Since it's right, then let's set off again!”

Lu Ping'an promptly packed up the spirit horse and continued on his way.

Three months ago, he had been continuously investigating and had blasted to death several Parasitic Cultivators who had ambushed him.

During this time, he heard the news that the Purple Shadow Secret Realm was opening.

Having long known of the famous Purple Shadow Secret Realm,

Ping'an knew that it was most renowned for producing primary Spiritual Medicine for Foundation Establishment Elixirs, the Heavenly Spirit Fruit!

Thinking of his current strength, an idea suddenly sprang to mind to take a trip to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.

He hoped to see if he could gain anything and find a few Heavenly Spirit Fruits.

In this way, not only would his own future Foundation Establishment be hopeful,

but he could also prepare Foundation Establishment Elixirs for his aunt and siblings.

So, he bought a map, and instead of going home, he changed his course toward the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.

Chapter 944: Ping'an, how did you get here?

Ziyun Gorge.

The entire gorge extended for hundreds of miles, flanked by vast and lofty mountain ranges.

Due to the presence of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, there were almost no traces of Demon Beasts along this section of the gorge.

Even if a few Demon Beasts occasionally appeared, they would be hunted by passing Cultivators and nearby Family Forces.

On this journey, what one truly needed to be cautious of was other Cultivators.

Because the Purple Shadow Secret Realm opened once every thirty years, it was common knowledge.

Many chose not to venture into the secret realm but instead turned into Robber Cultivators, lying in wait to ambush and kill here.

At this moment, Lu Changsheng was steering a Spirit Boat, taking Lu Quanzhen into Ziyun Gorge.

He wore luxurious dark robes, standing tall and straight on the Spirit Boat with his hands clasped behind his back, exuding an aura of profound stability and confidence, emitting a faint Foundation Establishment Spiritual Pressure.

Facing such a spiritual pressure, naturally, no Robber Cultivator dared to act recklessly.

After all, most Robber Cultivators were merely Energy Refining Cultivators.

They would only target seemingly easy-to-bully Loose Cultivators.

This made Lu Changsheng muse whether there might be Foundation Establishment Cultivators intentionally disguising themselves, coming here to fish for law enforcement.

After all, the Cultivation World never lacked such idle people.

Moreover, instead of robbing poor Loose Cultivators, it was better to rob Robber Cultivators.

...

Soon after, Lu Changsheng drove the Spirit Boat through the gorge and arrived at the end.

Ahead was a vast expanse of yellow soil slope.

At the center of the slope seemed to be a large purple altar.

Scattered around the altar were numerous Cultivators, numbering in the hundreds; it was quite bustling.

Ninety-nine percent of these Cultivators were Energy Refining Cultivators.

However, most of them possessed the Cultivation Level of the Energy Refinement Late Stage.

Most Foundation Establishment Cultivators, like Lu Changsheng, were sending Family juniors or descendants.

However, they mostly had three or four, or even seven or eight Energy Refining Cultivators by their side.

Like Lu Changsheng, who only brought one person, was rather rare.

Seeing Lu Changsheng's Spirit Boat slowly descend, a few nearby Energy Refining Cultivators immediately showed a respectful demeanor and moved aside to make room.

To avoid offending Lu Changsheng, or being deemed displeasing by him.

After all, the moods of Foundation Establishment Cultivators were unpredictable.

If one was in a bad mood and found them bothersome, attacking them would leave them nowhere even to cry.

"This Purple Shadow Secret Realm really is lively."

Lu Changsheng put away the Spirit Boat and looked at the scene, clicking his tongue.

Although he had visited Jiuxiao Immortal City and Azure Phoenix Immortal City,

he had never seen such a gathering of hundreds of Cultivators ready for action like in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.

At this time, he spotted people from Qingzhu Mountain and Hundred Birds Lake in the crowd.

Qingzhu Mountain was led by someone he knew, Lu Miao Feng.

In total, there were four people, besides Lu Miao Feng who was at Ninth Level Energy Refinement, the other three were only at Eighth and Seventh Level Energy Refinement.

Lu Changsheng did not go up to greet them.

He came here incognito this trip and had disguised himself along with Lu Quanzhen.

After all, concealing one's identity made things more convenient, as showing one's true appearance easily invited trouble.

Not just him, many Cultivators present had disguised themselves.

“Quanzhen, if you wish, you could later join Miaofeng and the others,”

Lu Changsheng transmitted a message to his son Lu Quanzhen at his side.

He had previously learned about the Purple Shadow Secret Realm from Qingzhu Mountain.

Everyone entering it would appear randomly within the realm.

But they could meet up immediately using Transmission Talismans, Yin-Yang Sensing Talismans, and other such items.

Thus, at this moment, one could see many Loose Cultivators and Family juniors recognizing each other and forming groups.

After all, besides seeking opportunities, the Purple Shadow Secret Realm also served as a trial site for the disciples of Immortal Sects.

Disciples of Immortal Sects may not be bloodthirsty.

But who could say in such situations, one must prepare for the worst.

“Mhm.”

Lu Quanzhen, dressed in black robes with a scholar-like demeanor, nodded in agreement.

The two of them rested on the spot, waiting for the Four Great Immortal Sects to open the secret realm.

As time passed, more and more Foundation Establishment Cultivators with their disciples and successors arrived.

At that time, Lu Changsheng saw an elderly man with a majestic appearance stepping down from a golden Spirit Boat with six Energy Refining Cultivators.

“Golden Dragon Ridge...”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed slightly as he saw the newcomers.

He then said to his son beside him, “Quanzhen, if you encounter people from Golden Dragon Ridge in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, join up with Qingshan and slaughter them all.”

Despite the Jin Family Patriarch coming forward to apologize and make amends,

it was purely to save face!

Moreover, they had been suppressing the business interests of White Tiger Mountain openly and secretly over the past year.

Faced with this situation, he could not do much directly, but with such an opportunity, naturally, he would not be polite.

Of course, the main reason was his confidence in his son’s abilities.

Even if Lu Qingshan was not there, Lu Changsheng was quite reassured about Lu Quanzhen’s situation.

Second Rank Puppet, a full set of top-tier magical artifacts, Talisman Treasure Bronze Ge, a pile of Second Rank Talismans.

In such a situation, how could a few Energy Refining Cultivators be his match!?

Even Foundation Establishment Cultivators would get a headache encountering Lu Quanzhen.

Lu Quanzhen was somewhat surprised by his father's words,

but he merely smiled and squinted his eyes, glanced at the people from Golden Dragon Ridge, and responded softly, "Father, rest assured."

...

Time passed bit by bit.

As more and more people gathered, Lu Changsheng learned that many Family Forces' Foundation Establishment Cultivators came to buy resources, Heavenly and Earthly Treasures.

After Loose Cultivators exited the secret realm, they would conduct transactions.

Because the Four Great Immortal Sects only collected some rare resources.

The remaining resources, which most Loose Cultivators didn't need, were directly traded here.

Or they would use resources to hire someone to escort them to the Marketplace.

"Never thought this Purple Shadow Secret Realm would have so many ins and outs."

Lu Changsheng clicked his tongue in realization, now understanding why many Family Forces openly came.

Chapter 945: Ping'an, How Did You Come Here?_2

Because the Family had a good reputation, people were willing to trust them even if their purchase prices were cheaper by a few percentages.

However, he was now disguised, which made it inappropriate to engage in purchasing activities.

“Hmm!?”

Just then, Lu Changsheng suddenly opened his eyes as if he sensed something.

He saw a tall, burly, dust-covered man looking like a wanderer of the rivers and lakes who had found a spot to sit down in the distance.

Lu Changsheng instantly sensed a familiar aura from the person.

“Ping’an?”

Lu Changsheng swept his divine sense and immediately saw through the disguise.

“Isn’t Ping’an supposed to be traveling? Why has he come to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm?”

A trace of surprise appeared in his eyes as he transmitted his voice, “Lu Ping’an, come here.”

“Ah?”

Lu Ping’an, upon hearing this, was startled and looked around in confusion.

He didn’t return home this trip, knowing that if his father knew he was aiming for the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, he would likely disagree.

So, he decided on his own to come here secretly.

Unexpectedly, he had just arrived at Ziyun Gorge when he heard his father’s voice.

He looked around but did not see his father, Lu Changsheng.

Moments later, he saw a man in his thirties, with a dignified appearance and a profound aura, wearing a dark robe, walking toward him accompanied by a scholarly young man in a black robe.

“You are... Father?”

Lu Ping'an asked, somewhat unsure.

The man in the dark robe looked nothing like his father as he usually appeared.

“Indeed.”

Lu Changsheng answered, nodding slightly. His current disguise tactic wasn't as simple as his early years' disguises.

Not only was he using a Fate-Defying Robe to mask and contain his aura, but he also wore a specialized disguise mask.

Unless a Nascent Soul Immortal used divine sense to investigate, it would be hard to discern his real face.

Lu Quanzhen was also disguising his appearance and aura.

“Ping'an, why are you here?”

Lu Changsheng brought his son to the side and asked.

“I heard that the Purple Shadow Secret Realm was opening, so I thought I'd come to check it out. Maybe I could find something...”

Lu Ping'an scratched his head, looking somewhat sheepish.

As if worried his father might misunderstand, he hastily explained, “Father, I’m not overestimating myself. I had some fortuitous encounters before, and I’ve reached the fifth level of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art, so I dared to come here.”

“Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art’s fifth level!?”

Lu Quanzhen next to him narrowed his eyes in surprise.

In his younger years, Lu Changsheng had taught him the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art.

However, he didn’t excel in it and eventually abandoned this cultivation technique.

Unexpectedly, his elder brother had advanced this technique to the fifth level, which meant his physical body was comparable to a Spiritual Artifact?

“Since you are already here, would I blame you?”

Lu Changsheng said to his son, sounding a bit irritable.

“Thank you, Father.”

Lu Ping’an immediately relaxed and nodded.

It was usually fine dealing with Lu Changsheng.

But in his current disguised form, with an inherent authority that commanded respect, it genuinely made him nervous.

“Father, why are you here?”

Lu Ping’an continued, looking at Lu Quanzhen, eager to know who this was.

“I came to bring Quanzhen here.”

Lu Changsheng answered.

“Big brother.”

Lu Quanzhen called out with a smile, his demeanor gentle and scholarly.

“You’re Quanzhen?”

Lu Ping’an looked at Lu Quanzhen, surprised.

Then he said, “Father, isn’t the Purple Shadow Secret Realm quite dangerous? Quanzhen coming here...”

He did not know much about Lu Quanzhen’s situation.

Only that this younger brother’s cultivation level wouldn’t be much higher than his own.

“Quanzhen too has had some opportunities; he is now at the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement.”

“When you both enter the secret realm, you can contact each other through your identity jades and look after each other.”

Lu Changsheng instructed.

“Energy Refinement Ninth Level.”

Lu Ping’an looked surprised, not expecting his younger brother to have reached the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement.

However, considering he himself had encounters, it was quite normal for his siblings to have some fortuitous adventures.

“Rest assured, Father!”

“You have any preparations for entering the secret realm?”

Lu Changsheng asked.

“Uh... I did inquire about the Purple Shadow Secret Realm and learned some information about it.”

Lu Ping'an said somewhat awkwardly.

“Sigh.”

Lu Changsheng shook his head helplessly.

He then took them to a secluded spot and took out a stack of talismans and a couple of bottles from his storage ring to give to his son.

In the past, he would have carried a plethora of magical artifacts and heavenly and earthly treasures on him.

But now, with a family to care for, the previously acquired magical artifacts and treasures were all placed in the Treasure Pavilion at home for the family to manage.

Therefore, he only had elixir medicines and talismans, with no spare magical artifacts.

Otherwise, he would have equipped his son with a complete set of magical artifacts.

“Thank you, Father.”

Lu Ping'an's heart warmed as he thanked his father.

“Big brother, do you need any magical artifacts? See if there's anything you could use?”

At this moment, Lu Quanzhen took out several top-tier magical artifacts and asked.

These artifacts had been prepared by Lu Changsheng for him, complete for offense, defense, escape, and support.

“Uh, no need, no need, I have magical artifacts.”

Lu Ping'an quickly waved his hands, feeling awkward about taking his younger brother's artifacts.

“Big brother, I have a robe, and I won't be using this Spiritual Armor. Take it.”

Lu Quanzhen, knowing his elder brother practiced body cultivation, handed Lu Ping'an a piece of Spiritual Armor.

“Since Quanzhen is offering it so kindly, then accept it. Be extra cautious on this trip into the secret realm...”

Lu Changsheng, pleased to see his sons getting along well, said with contentment.

He then informed Lu Ping'an about some points to be wary of in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.

Although Lu Ping'an mentioned he understood the realm's situation...

Chapter 946: Ping'an, How Did You Come Here?_3

“But he knew without thinking that most of it was just baseless gossip spread by Loose Cultivators, with truth and falsehoods intermingled; it was better not to believe in them at all.”

After Lu Changsheng had finished speaking, he continued to instruct, “By the way, if you see any rare Spiritual Medicine, like Heavenly Spirit Fruits, just uproot them completely, and later put them into Quanzhen's Spirit Plant Bag.”

This trip to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, he naturally thought of the Heavenly Spirit Fruits that were abundant within.

Though the Heavenly Spirit Fruit was only a Second Rank Spirit Fruit, aside from in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, it was practically impossible to grow elsewhere.

But for such a situation, Lu Changsheng thought of his little green bottle.

He believed that he could try to cultivate Heavenly Spirit Fruits using the Myriad Spirits Bottle.

If he could successfully grow and harvest them, his family wouldn't need to worry about Foundation Establishment Elixirs in the future.

“Alright, father.”

Lu Ping'an nodded his head.

His main purpose before was the Heavenly Spirit Fruits.

He now firmly committed these words to memory.

Encountering any rare Spirit Flowers or Spirit Grasses, he would uproot them all!

“By the way, what's going on with you having broken through to the fifth layer of the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art?”

At this time, Lu Changsheng became concerned about his son's Second Order Body Refining.

At the time he found out that Lu Ping'an had a Body Refinement breakthrough, he was flabbergasted for quite a while.

“Uh...”

Lu Ping'an scratched his head and shared his experience.

He mentioned that he previously encountered an ambush and coincidentally, an Ironback Centipede and a Vermilion Toad entered his body.

At that time, he was almost unconscious, about to pass out.

But the light had appeared before and the Hundred Refinements Treasure Body Art had run automatically, refining the magical treasures and both poisons inside his body, so he broke through the fifth layer.

As for the matter with Su Jiu'er, because he had previously promised her and sworn an oath that bound his Heart Demon, he didn't mention it too much.

"Be more careful in the future."

Lu Changsheng patted his son's shoulder and said solemnly.

The process might sound simple.

But he could hear the danger in it.

Because he knew that the Hope Gu worked only when encountering a hopeless situation.

This indicated that, at that time, Lu Ping'an was actually on the verge of death.

"Father, I understand."

Lu Ping'an nodded again and again. He himself was quite frightened after the fact.

...

After explaining everything, the trio returned to the area around the altar.

"Hmm, the presence of a False Core Immortal..."

Just as they sat down, Lu Changsheng sensed a dominant aura coming from the south.

Soon after, a White Jade Tower Ship with intricately carved beams and lavish decorations approached from the sky.

At the forefront of the ship's deck, stood a long-haired woman, enchanting in appearance, exuding charm in every gesture.

She wore a light pink sheer palace dress, which made her graceful figure distinctly visible.

Especially her pair of snow-white beautiful legs, lightly covered by the sheer dress, revealed their shape, yet added a hazy temptation.

"It's Huan Yin Sect!"

"It seems to be the Bewitching Melody Real Person from Huan Yin Sect."

People immediately loudly exclaimed and observed the magnificent ship.

"The False Core Immortal from Huan Yin Sect?"

Lu Changsheng glanced a few times but did not look anymore.

Though this False Core Immortal was overflowing with allure, capturing the unwavering attention of many who wanted to look but dared not stare.

To Lu Changsheng, she was quite ordinary.

The reason was simple; a dignified False Core Immortal actually had an air of vulgarity about her.

This behavior, however, seemed to surprise Lu Quanzhen who was next to him.

After all, his father was famously fond of women.

And as one of Jiang Country's top Family Forces, Huan Yin Sect was known for its Female Cultivators, Music Mastery, dance, Bewitching Technique, and beauty.

The fact that his own father showed so little interest in Huan Yin Sect was unusual.

Seeing the dust-covered figures on the deck of the ship, he also showed disdain.

The Huan Yin Sect's ship did not descend but hovered silently in midair, waiting for the Secret Realm to open.

Such behavior was extremely disrespectful to the cultivators below, akin to trampling on their heads!

Yet, none of the cultivators present dared to say anything.

After all, the Huan Yin Sect possessed Nascent Soul level strength, with a False Core Immortal leading the group.

Not long after the Huan Yin Sect arrived, another sect from the duo of sects and trio of cities and Great Clans, Danxia Mountain, made its appearance.

It was a sect that specialized in Alchemy.

The famous Elixir Cauldron Pavilion was a business under Danxia Mountain.

"Rumble rumble rumble..."

Suddenly, clouds churned in the distance, and thunder roared, followed by a massive commotion.

A Divine Vessel, pulled by nine Nine-Headed Wind-Thunder Steeds, cut through the air and approached.

All of the Second Order Monster Beasts soared across the sky amidst clouds and thunder, their imposing manner stunning.

On the Divine Vessel flew a flag with the dancing character “Xu.”

“Beast Taming Xu Family!”

“What a grand display, using nine Second Order Monster Beasts to pull the chariot!”

“Which ancestor of the Xu Family has come in person?”

Many cultivators whispered upon seeing this, their eyes filled with apprehension and respect.

After all, as one of Jiang Country’s three Great Clans, the Beast Taming Xu Family had deep roots and a far-reaching reputation.

“Beast Taming Xu Family...”

Lu Changsheng’s eyes narrowed slightly as he saw this display.

He remembered Xu Ruyin mentioning that the Beast Taming Xu Family had taken notice of him.

However, the person leading the group on the Divine Vessel did not seem to be the third ancestor of the Xu Family mentioned by Xu Ruyin.

As these Nascent Soul level forces hovered in the air, conversing across the distance, each seemed more grandiose than the last, inspiring awe and envy in the cultivators below.

After all, most people cultivated not only for longevity but also to someday ascend to such levels of lofty eminence.

“No wonder the presence of a Nascent Soul Immortal signifies a top-tier force...”

At this moment, Lu Changsheng truly understood why a clan or power with a Nascent Soul Immortal at its helm was considered top-tier.

Without a Nascent Soul Immortal, such a family power could hardly accumulate any heritage.

Just like White Tiger Mountain.

Despite its lineage reportedly spanning a thousand years, its foundations were quite limited.

Once faced with risk or crisis, it could be destroyed at any time.

Like Huan Yin Sect, Danxia Mountain, and Beast Taming Xu Family, these powers,

could at the very least sustain several False Core Immortals to stabilize the situation, waiting for the birth of a new Nascent Soul Immortal.

...

As the opening of the Secret Realm approached, Qingyun Sect, Luoxia Sect, and Spirit Taming Sect arrived almost on time.

All three sects were led by Nascent Soul Immortals.

Apart from the Spirit Taming Sect, which rode a formidable Quasi-Third Order Golden Sculptor Spirit Beast,

Qingyun Sect and Luoxia Sect respectively traveled in giant ships and magical towers, seeming much more unpretentious.

However, despite the ordinary displays of these two Great Immortal Sects, none in the field dared to underestimate them.

As the time for the Secret Realm's opening drew near, the Nascent Soul level sovereign of Jiang Country, the Heavenly Sword Sect, arrived fashionably late.

The sect's flying magical treasure was simple: a gigantic Flying Sword that tore through the sky with tremendous Spiritual Pressure.

Standing on the Flying Sword were about thirty Qi Refinement disciples, all clad in white sword attire, carrying Magical Swords on their backs, their expressions stoic, radiating sharpness.

Leading them was a stern-looking teenager of about fifteen or sixteen, dressed in a plain white robe and with ordinary features.

If not for the immense Spiritual Pressure emanating from his body and the boundless sharp aura, it would be hard to tell he was a Nascent Soul Immortal!

“Heavenly Sword Sect! Yujian Zhenren!”

All cultivators of Ziyun Gorge gazed at the arrival from the Heavenly Sword Sect, their faces showing a respect.

The several Nascent Soul level powers that had arrived earlier all stepped forward to greet them.

“Huh!?”

Lu Ping'an looked at the newcomers from the Heavenly Sword Sect, and when he saw a slender figure on the Flying Sword, his expression suddenly froze.

Chapter 947: First Love, Lu Family's F3 Attacks!

“Qin Yi...”

Lu Ping'an hadn't expected to run into Qin Yi here.

Seeing her successfully join the Heavenly Sword Sect and become one of its disciples, he felt genuinely happy for her.

After all, from their early conversations, he knew it was her dream to join the Heavenly Sword Sect and become a Sword Immortal!

“Hm?”

Lu Changsheng, noticing his son’s sudden change of expression, immediately looked towards the huge Flying Sword of the Heavenly Sword Sect.

The disciples standing on the Flying Sword were both men and women, most of them quite young, in their twenties or thirties.

“Ping’an, do you know someone from the Heavenly Sword Sect?”

Lu Changsheng looked at several female disciples, asking aloud.

Lu Ping’an hesitated for a moment before retracting his gaze and calming his emotions, saying, “Yes, an old acquaintance from the past.”

“A woman?”

Lu Changsheng raised an eyebrow, continuing his inquiry.

“Uh...”

Lu Ping’an’s face showed surprise, momentarily at a loss for words.

But under his father’s gaze, he eventually nodded his head.

“The same young girl you met during your travels years ago?”

Lu Changsheng’s face suddenly showed a hint of playfulness.

He thought to himself that after so many years, his son still remembered that young girl.

Indeed, first love is hard to forget.

Without experiencing three or five romances, this first love is not easily forgotten.

He figured it would keep fermenting in his heart, becoming ever more idealized and unforgettable.

Lu Quanzhen, by his side, showed a hint of gossip upon hearing this.

He had interacted with Lu Ping'an numerous times.

Thus, he understood a bit about his older brother's character, knowing him to be very diligent and upright.

Now, it seemed he was also a man of deep feelings.

Though he had no experience with love,

having such a father, he always found it odd that their family would produce such a devoted and passionate individual.

"Hmm..."

Under these teasing gazes, Lu Ping'an nodded with a somewhat heavy heart.

"Which one? Point her out to your father."

Lu Changsheng, as a father, immediately took interest in his son's romantic affairs.

"Um... that might not be appropriate..."

Lu Ping'an said with some embarrassment.

It had already been more than ten years since they last met, and back then, neither had expressed their feelings.

Now, the way his father was acting made him feel awkward.

“What’s there to be embarrassed about? Your father just wants to take a glance, not immediately ask for your hand,” Lu Changsheng said, seeing his son act so coy. He slapped him lightly on the head.

At such an age, and yet so little progress in matters of the heart.

Under his father’s pressure, Lu Ping’an reluctantly pointed out Qin Yi.

“So, Ping’an, you like this type?”

Lu Changsheng looked at a female disciple standing on the enormous Flying Sword – a woman around twenty-five or twenty-six with slender eyes, ruddy lips, a straight nose, wearing the robe of the Heavenly Sword Sect and with a high ponytail, radiating a heroic spirit.

Lu Ping’an remained silent.

Though he was somewhat happy to see Qin Yi, he didn’t want to reunite.

Years of cultivation had taught him that the issue of his Spiritual Root was of great importance.

If Qin Yi were to learn that he had stepped onto the Immortal Path, it could bring trouble to his family.

“If you like her, pursue her boldly,” Lu Changsheng said as he patted his son’s shoulder.

However, seeing his son’s somewhat sombre and silent demeanor, he paused and guessed his son’s thoughts.

Back then, Lu Ping'an felt he was a mere mortal, and immortals were different, so he didn't want to hold her back.

Now that Lu Ping'an had embarked on the Immortal Path, the matter of the Spiritual Root was ultimately significant. If it were known, it might cause trouble.

"Sigh."

Lu Changsheng sighed in his heart.

His son was very responsible, which caused him to overthink many things.

He thought that maybe when they returned home, he should ask his wife, Lu Miaoyun, to find a few women with similar charm and temperament for his son to meet, in hopes to help him move past these feelings.

"Sometimes, you can be bolder."

Lu Changsheng stopped teasing his son and spoke seriously.

Then, turning to Lu Quanzhen beside him, he said, "Quanzhen, if you meet someone you like, remember to be bold. Your mother has been nagging you about this recently."

"Uh... I understand."

Lu Quanzhen hadn't expected the conversation to turn to him and replied helplessly.

"Qingshan, how come you're not here yet?"

At that moment, Lu Changsheng, seeing that all Four Great Immortal Sects had arrived, indicating that the Secret Realm would soon open, wondered why Tianyuan True Immortal hadn't yet brought Lu Qingshan.

Concerning this, he could only think that Tianyuan True Immortal lived up to his stereotype of being unreliable.

However, just as he had this thought, he saw a Divine Rainbow shooting down from the clouds above, carrying an astonishing momentum that made everyone look up.

“Is that a Nascent Soul Immortal!?”

“If all Four Great Immortal Sects are already here, why is a Nascent Soul Immortal coming!?”

A cultivator exclaimed upon seeing the Divine Rainbow.

Besides for events like the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, Nascent Soul Immortals rarely appeared in public.

To suddenly have five Nascent Soul Immortals appear today was extremely rare!

The Divine Rainbow was fleeting and soon settled in mid-air.

Once the brilliant light dispersed, a giant gourd appeared before everyone’s eyes.

Standing atop it was a stunning woman in her thirties, wearing a lavish scarlet gown, and sitting beside her was a young man in his twenties with star-like eyes and sword-like eyebrows, dressed in white and gold.

The woman was none other than Tianyuan True Immortal.

Unlike her usual casual demeanor, today her hair was neatly tied up, her gown tidy, and her entire demeanor exuded a noble and majestic aura as she said to the Yujian Zhenren of the Heavenly Sword Sect, “Yujian Zhenren, I trust you’ve been well.”

“Tianyuan True Immortal, what brings you here?”

Yujian Zhenren, with a stern face, looked at Tianyuan True Immortal.

“I was just passing by. Hearing about the opening of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, I thought to send my disciple here for some experience,” Tianyuan True Immortal said with lightly parted red lips.

Chapter 948: First Love, Lu Family's F3 Takes Action!_2

As the words were spoken, the four Nascent Soul Immortals and the disciples of the Four Great Immortal Sects present all turned their attention to Lu Qingshan.

Faced with such scrutiny, an ordinary person would have felt like they were being pricked by thorns, their complexion turning pale and showing an ugly demeanor.

But Lu Qingshan stood up with a calmness that was unparalleled.

An invisible pressure allowed the aura that had merged into his blood and bones from Sword Charging Bull's Might to slowly rise, giving Lu Qingshan an indescribable power that surged within.

He stood with a straight back, and it seemed as though there was a sharp sword inside his body, capable of piercing the heavens and swallowing the stars.

It gave off a sense of fearlessness, lawlessness, and a firm belief that he could overcome all, both in spirit and in momentum.

Just this spirit and momentum alone made all the disciples of the Four Great Immortal Sects reveal a look of solemn respect on their faces.

Especially the disciples of the Heavenly Sword Sect!

As sword cultivators, they felt an unstoppable, domineering sword intent from Lu Qingshan!

Immediately, several disciples of the Heavenly Sword Sect looked at Lu Qingshan full of fighting spirit, wanting to spar with him in a match.

“What a Sword Dao seedling!”

Yujian Zhenren praised, gazing at Lu Qingshan, who stood upright like a sword atop the gourd.

As a Nascent Soul Immortal from the Heavenly Sword Sect, he had seen many talented sword dao geniuses.

But people like Lu Qingshan could be counted on one hand in hundreds of years!

“What’s your name?”

Yujian Zhenren asked.

Ordinarily, let alone an Energy Refining Cultivator, even a Foundation Establishment Cultivator would not be worthy of him personally asking their name.

But he took a liking to a sword cultivator like Lu Qingshan.

He believed that as long as the other did not die prematurely, he would certainly become renowned in the Cultivation World!

“Lu Qingshan, I’ve seen the True Immortal.”

Lu Qingshan spoke neither humbly nor arrogantly, giving a cupped fist salute.

“Good, Lu Qingshan, I shall remember you. You may come to our Heavenly Sword Sect to challenge us in the future.”

Yujian Zhenren nodded and said so, tossing an identity token to Lu Qingshan.

A challenge among sword cultivators was their way of sparring!

As the representatives of the Martial Cultivator Faction, sword cultivators were always known for their powerful combat abilities and combative fighting techniques.

Moreover, fighting technique, apart from cultivation, also needed to be built up through battle after battle.

Thus, many sword cultivators, after reaching a certain stage in their cultivation, would travel far and wide to challenge others, to refine their Sword Heart and Sword Intent.

“Many thanks, True Immortal!”

Lu Qingshan graciously caught the token, replying with a cupped fist salute.

“Tianyuan True Immortal has taken a good disciple.”

A Nascent Soul Immortal from the Luoxia Sect voiced their admiration from the side.

Jiang Country and Yu Country neighbored each other, and there were many interactions on regular days.

Thus, the Nascent Soul Immortals from the two countries, even if they hadn’t met, generally recognized each other.

“More tempering is needed.”

Tianyuan True Immortal’s face showed a hint of a smile while saying so.

She was willing to spend so much time running around because her disciple, Lu Qingshan, greatly satisfied her.

After all, when she accepted Lu Qingshan as her disciple in the early years, it was simply because she valued his Gengjin Body Constitution and wished to continue the legacy.

But now, as Lu Qingshan increasingly demonstrated astonishing talent, she began to truly cultivate him as her personal disciple.

As the four True Immortals conversed, several powers led by False Core cultivators also looked towards Tianyuan True Immortal, sizing up Lu Qingshan.

They knew that in this trip to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, another formidable opponent would be added.

As for the cultivators below, they only looked up into the sky from afar, not knowing what was going on.

“Qingshan...”

Among the crowd, Lu Miao Feng and others recognized Lu Qingshan.

But at this moment, for them, Lu Qingshan could only be looked up to; they weren’t even qualified to have a face-to-face conversation.

However, seeing Lu Qingshan standing high above them, they also felt a sense of pride and shared glory.

“Indeed, the big shots all have to step on something.”

Lu Changsheng sighed upon seeing this scene.

He then turned to Lu Ping’an beside him and said, “The one above is your younger brother Lu Qingshan. After you enter the Secret Realm, you can contact Qingshan through your identity token.”

On Lu Qingshan’s return this time, he naturally made identity tokens for Lu Qingshan and Lu Qing Zhu.

Through the token, the Lu family disciples could sense each other, communicate, ask for help, confirm identities, and more.

“Ah, younger brother Lu Qingshan?”

Lu Ping'an was taken aback upon hearing this.

When Lu Qingshan was born, he was already living a secular life.

And by the time he came to Qing Zhu Mountain, Lu Qingshan had been accepted as a disciple by Tianyuan True Immortal.

Therefore, he had never seen his younger brother, Lu Qingshan.

Leaving aside Lu Qingshan, of the more than two hundred siblings in his family, he was somewhat blind and couldn't recognize them.

So, when walking around Bi Lake Mountain, as long as someone called him brother, he would just treat them as his siblings.

“Dad, what's this situation with brother Qingshan?”

Confusion was written all over Lu Ping'an's face as he looked up at Lu Qingshan in the sky.

He was unaware of why his brother had such a grand scene and there were even Nascent Souls seeing him off.

“He was previously taken in as a disciple by a true immortal of Yu Country's Jinyang Sect, and this time he just happened to come to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm for the trial,” explained Lu Changsheng.

“This is his master, Tianyuan True Immortal.”

“Ah, I see.”

Lu Ping'an looked at Lu Qingshan and nodded.

He had just learned that he had such an outstanding younger brother.

However, when he thought about his father's divine skills, it seemed normal for the family to have several strong siblings.

Still, when he looked up at Lu Qingshan and then at Lu Quanzhen, who had reached the Ninth Level of Energy Refinement, he felt a certain pressure in his heart.

It wasn't out of a desire to compete.

As the eldest brother, he felt that even if he was to fall behind, he couldn't afford to fall behind too much.

After the immortals in the sky had chatted enough, or when the time to open the secret realm arrived,

the Nascent Soul immortals leading the Four Great Immortal Sects, headed by the Heavenly Sword Sect, came forward to the purple altar in the center, each holding a purple-gold token.

Mana of the Nascent Soul Level was poured into the tokens.

"Buzz, buzz, buzz—"

On the altar, purple light emerged, interweaving enigmatic and unpredictable runes, glittering ceaselessly like stars.

All the runes interwove, gradually forming a pentagram formation map, making the earth tremble.

Then, several massive pillars of light soared into the sky, tens of meters in height, awe-inspiring, turning heaven and earth into a shade of purple and green.

While countless people were terrified, feeling the air getting heavier, a huge void portal slowly appeared above the altar.

The portal, like a black hole vortex, was unclear inside.

Yet, it emanated an ancient and vicissitudinous air, seemingly from another world, out of place here.

“So this is the secret realm...”

Lu Changsheng was shaken as he stared at the portal in front of him.

This was his first time seeing a secret realm.

According to ancient records, most secret realms in the Cultivation World were handed down from antiquity, opened by great spiritual adepts.

But for some reason, they reappeared in the world and could be accessed through certain methods, entering the secret realm.

Secret realms could vary widely, some being desolate, with even the risk of spatial collapse at any moment.

The Purple Shadow Secret Realm in front of them belonged to the rare kind that contained great opportunities.

However, only Energy Refining Cultivators could enter.

If Foundation Establishment Cultivators attempted to enter, it would destabilize the secret realm and result in their expulsion.

Not just Lu Changsheng, many others were also shaken at the sight.

“The Purple Shadow Secret Realm will last for one month.”

“All may enter the secret realm, but must follow these rules.”

Yujian Zhenren of the Heavenly Sword Sect's calm and indifferent voice spread throughout the valley.

A huge yellow list appeared in the air, its golden characters delineating the rules of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.

All cultivators entering the secret realm must surrender half of their findings afterward.

Various heavenly and earthly treasures appeared, indicating that these could only be traded with the Four Great Immortal Sects.

You were only allowed to take them with you if you acquired multiple rare heaven and earth spiritual materials.

“We will strictly obey the immortal's decree!”

The cultivators in the field responded in unison.

The rules of the Purple Shadow Secret Realm were well known to everyone.

And even if they weren't, there was no room for dissent.

Then, the cultivators from the Heavenly Sword Sect, Qingyun Sect, Luoxia Sect, and Spirit Taming Sect successively entered the portal.

Shortly after, several Jiedan forces and False Core level forces followed.

At this time, Lu Qingshan entered the secret realm on his sword.

“Father, we're going.”

After most had entered, Lu Ping'an and Lu Quanzhen addressed Lu Changsheng.

“Be very careful.”

Lu Changsheng advised.

“Father, rest assured!”

The two nodded, then directly entered the portal.

“Phew!”

Lu Changsheng watched his sons Lu Ping’an and Lu Quanzhen enter the secret realm, taking a deep breath, his heart feeling somewhat heavy.

Even though he had confidence in his sons, it was their first time, and he couldn’t completely stay detached.

“Swish, swish, swish—”

About half an hour later, nearly ninety percent of the thousand Energy Refining Cultivators had entered the secret realm.

The once-teeming hillside was suddenly empty.

Only a few Foundation Establishment Cultivators remained, along with some large boats, ships, and treasure pavilions floating in the air.

“One month.”

Lu Changsheng looked around, exhaled softly, and sat down cross-legged to rest and rejuvenate, waiting for his sons to emerge from the secret realm.

Chapter 949: Three Brothers Explore the Secret Realm!

Lu Ping'an and Lu Quanzhen entered the portal and immediately felt the world spinning around them.

Every direction turned into void, pitch-black, unable to use any mana at all.

“The legend says that entering the Purple Shadow Secret Realm feels similar to the long-lost Teleportation Array, and indeed it does...”

Lu Quanzhen muttered to himself, trying to make out his surroundings.

But darkness enveloped him on all sides, endless and colorless.

Had he not been forewarned, encountering such a situation suddenly would have sent shivers down his spine.

After a moment, he felt a bit sore all over and dizzily opened his eyes.

“So this is the Purple Shadow Secret Realm.”

Lu Quanzhen rubbed his temples and surveyed the area.

He found himself in a forest dense with Spiritual Energy, mist swirling around.

Most striking was the purple gloom covering the sky dome.

After ensuring he was in a safe area, he gently tapped his Storage Bag, setting up a simple Formation to regulate his condition.

Although the teleportation hadn't affected him much,

since he was now in the Secret Realm, it was natural to maintain the best condition at all times.

After all, with so many cultivators entering the Purple Shadow Secret Realm, conflicts and killings were inevitable.

And the acquisition from the realm, amounting to fifty percent, was to be handed over to the Four Great Immortal Sects.

This included Spiritual Herbs and Medicines, and Heaven and Earth Spiritual Material tainted with the essence of the realm.

Assets pilfered from other cultivators, such as money, Magic Artifacts, and Spiritual Objects, were not included.

Thus, most people in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm died not at the hands of Demon Beasts, but at the hands of other cultivators.

“Hmm?”

At that moment, Lu Quanzhen felt something and pulled out his Family Token from the Storage Bag.

It indicated someone was within the range of the token’s sensing.

He immediately knew it was his elder brother, Lu Ping’an.

After all, without even thinking, he knew his younger brother Lu Qingshan wouldn’t likely seek him out immediately upon entering.

The two had agreed that after entering the realm, they would see about meeting up in the central area, treating the outer zone like a trial area.

Lu Quanzhen infused Spiritual Power into the token, responding to Lu Ping’an.

This elder brother, with a steady nature, was not overly competitive and wouldn’t be a hindrance.

Moreover, being a practitioner of Second Order Body Refining, he was reliable and provided an additional layer of security.

As Spiritual Power was infused, the two Identity Tokens gradually formed an invisible connection, sensing each other remotely.

They could discern each other's rough location through the tokens.

After recuperating for a long time, Lu Quanzhen's condition fully recovered, and he lightly lifted his hand to retract the Formation Flags, starting to explore the Secret Realm.

He chose not to fly with his artifact, nor did he hasten on his way.

Instead, he carefully headed towards the direction of Lu Ping'an.

After all, the Secret Realm was dangerous, and flying recklessly was like making oneself a live target.

Moreover, the realm was filled with opportunities that needed to be slowly explored.

"Hmm?"

After walking several miles, Lu Quanzhen spotted over a dozen light cyan-colored fruits, the size of a thumb, growing on rocks in the distance.

"Stone Cyan Fruit."

Lu Quanzhen immediately recognized what they were.

However, by their color, these Spiritual Medicines were not quite ripe yet.

But having encountered them, who cared if they were fully matured?

Especially since he had prepared a Spirit Plant Bag in advance, allowing him to maintain some vitality of the Spirit Plants, which he could then transplant back home.

Slapping his Storage Bag, a Low Grade Puppet appeared.

He then operated the Puppet to go and pluck all thirteen Stone Cyan Fruits clean.

After completing the task, he continued moving cautiously.

“Hmm, so soon there is slaughter...”

After a long walk, Lu Quanzhen suddenly smelt blood and abruptly halted, casting an invisibility technique.

Carefully peering in the direction, he immediately spotted two corpses beside a dark pool;

one decapitated,

another stabbed through the heart.

They lay on the ground as if mutually annihilated, with a strong stench of blood permeating the air.

In the calm center of the adjacent dark pool, there was also a palm-sized white lotus, glimmering with a blue luster.

“Mutual destruction? Water Cloud Lotus.”

Lu Quanzhen’s eyes narrowed, filled with caution.

After observing for a moment and seeing no movement, he tentatively sent a Low Grade Puppet out to approach the two bodies.

However, just as the Puppet approached the bodies to retrieve a Storage Bag,

‘Whizzing!’

From the dark pool, silver needles shot towards Lu Quanzhen.

“Clang clang clang!”

Lu Quanzhen was well prepared, forming swirling vortexes of five colors around him, and a small dark shield appeared, blocking all the silver needles.

Then, with a sudden slap of his hand, a five-colored torrent blasted towards the dark pool.

“Boom!”

The dark pool erupted with a loud noise, sending unknown amounts of water flying into the air.

Suddenly, a beautiful girl in a light yellow dress emerged from the pool, coldly saying to Lu Quanzhen, “You’ve got some skill, now scram!”

She was here fishing, and seeing that Lu Quanzhen was quite strong and cautious, she didn’t want to waste time and energy.

“Luoxia Sect disciple.”

Lu Quanzhen’s eyes slightly narrowed, showing no sign of backing down.

He had always wanted to gauge the gap between himself and a disciple of the Immortal Sects.

His previous sparring with Lu Qingshan was mere practice and didn’t reveal much.

Now encountering a Luoxia Sect disciple, he naturally wouldn’t miss the chance to test his skills.

“Courting death!”

Seeing that Lu Quanzhen showed no intention of leaving, instead looking at her as if she were prey, the girl's face flushed with anger, and she slapped her pale palm.

“Whizzing!”

In an instant, countless silver needles shot towards Lu Quanzhen, densely packed and nearly impossible to defend against.

The ground, where a corpse with a heart-pierced chest was, also buzzed as the sharp cone spun madly, rushing towards Lu Quanzhen like a frenzied drill.

“Five Elements Kunpeng Technique!”

Chapter 950: Three Brothers Explore the Secret Realm! _2

Lu Quanzhen formed a gesture incantation with both hands, and suddenly, a five-colored fish appeared from the depths of the Black Pool, darting towards the girl in the yellow dress.

“Not good!”

The girl hadn't expected that Lu Quanzhen's previous attack still held a hidden maneuver. She immediately formed a protective aura around her body.

But in an instant, the five-colored fish shattered the protective aura piece by piece, frightening the girl into abandoning her offensive and urgently driving her defensive magic artifact.

“Clang, clang, clang!!!”

A purple shield orbited around Lu Quanzhen's body, forming a purple-colored shield that enveloped him completely. With both hands performing a gesture incantation, he fiercely unleashed a five-colored torrent, sweeping grandly through the air.

“Boom!”

Struck by this onslaught, the girl was sent flying backwards explosively.

However, as a disciple of the Luoxia Sect, she was evidently not weak and was not defeated just like that, though her face looked rather embarrassed.

“Who are you, for an independent cultivator to possess such strength?”

The coldness in the girl’s eyes was evident as she spoke.

Though it was true that a few formidable figures occasionally emerged among independent cultivators, like the Qing Luan Immortal, the number one independent cultivator in Jiang Country!

But such instances were rare; in nearly a thousand years, there had only been one Qing Luan Immortal!

Ninety-nine percent of independent cultivators had strength far inferior to the disciples of the Immortal Sects.

Seeing that Lu Quanzhen did not speak, she produced a small yellow mirror in her palm.

The mirror radiated a golden light towards Lu Quanzhen, while the previously used silver needles and sharp spikes continued their assault towards him.

But just in that moment—

“Puchi!”

A dazzling five-colored fish directly penetrated the girl’s protective aura, piercing her heart with the speed of lightning.

“Ergh—”

The girl’s body shook violently, her eyes filled with disbelief as she stared at her own chest.

She could only feel a surging, overwhelming force shredding her internal organs as blood gushed out.

“How could this be...”

Her gaze fixed on Lu Quanzhen, but before she could finish her words, her body heavily collapsed to the ground.

Bright red blood pooled around her, her beautiful eyes wide open in death.

“So this is a disciple of the Immortal Sects...”

Lu Quanzhen looked at the deceased girl with a calm and indifferent expression.

If this was all that an Immortal Sect’s disciple amounted to, then it truly was too uninteresting.

Confirming that she was dead, Lu Quanzhen stepped forward and burnt all three corpses to ashes, then briefly dealt with the storage bags.

For example, he tossed their sect tokens, magical robes, and so on into the Black Pool.

Though entering the Secret Realm implies taking responsibility for one’s own life and death,

Everyone knew to avoid getting entangled with disciples of the Immortal Sects or major clans to avert trouble.

After finishing, he plucked the Water Cloud Lotus from the Black Pool, stored it in the Spirit Plant Bag, and continued towards the direction of Lu Ping’an.

...

In a dense forest.

“No wonder it’s called the Purple Shadow Secret Realm; Spiritual Medicines can be found everywhere.”

Lu Ping’an uprooted a Spirit Plant, placing it into his storage bag with a face full of joy.

Though he had never lived in poverty,

He was well aware of the hardships at the base of the Cultivation World, where Spirit Stones were hard to earn.

His family managed to maintain a balanced expenditure solely because of his father’s support.

Thus, seeing so many Spiritual Medicines on this trip, and reaping Spiritual Medicines worth several hundred Spirit Stones in a short time, his heart was overjoyed.

He felt that going forward like this, he could gather tens of thousands of Spirit Stones from this trip to the Purple Shadow Secret Realm!

Although in the end, he had to hand over fifty percent to the Four Great Immortal Sects,

He was satisfied to keep the other half.

Lu Ping’an continued towards Lu Quanzhen’s direction.

Though he wished to reunite with his younger brother soon, he knew the dangers of the realm and that he shouldn’t be reckless or impatient.

In the blink of an eye, half an hour had passed.

Lu Ping’an had initially felt that he was quite lucky, stumbling upon Spiritual Medicines as he walked.

But now, having gained nothing for so long, his mood was rather depressed.

Just then, suddenly, a roaring bellow of a demon beast came from the side.

This sound immediately caught Lu Ping'an's attention.

"Is there a battle going on, or..."

Lu Ping'an knew that although there were not many demon beasts in the Purple Shadow Secret Realm,

Wherever there were demon beasts, there were usually rare Spiritual Herbs.

With this thought, Lu Ping'an immediately headed towards the direction of the sound.

Before long, he saw a golden giant bear chasing an old man and a young boy.

The two did not confront the giant bear directly but skillfully entangled it, wearing it down.

The old man, seeing Lu Ping'an, immediately appeared alert through his slightly cloudy eyes.

But seeing Lu Ping'an's Seventh Level Energy Refinement strength, he shouted, "Daoist, there are several Seven-Star Grasses in this Vajra Bear's cave. If you help us deal with it, we will share the Spiritual Medicines equally!"

While trust was rare among cultivators in the Secret Realm, many still grouped together for mutual benefit.

Besides, with the grandfather and grandson, one at the Ninth Level and one at the Eighth Level, and Lu Ping'an merely at the Seventh Level,

In such a situation, they naturally did not fear how Lu Ping'an might act.

If Lu Ping'an turned out to be wealthy, they could even possibly seize all his possessions.

“Seven-Star Grass!?”

Hearing this, Lu Ping’an’s eyes immediately lit up.

The Seven-Star Grass was a main ingredient for the Lifespan Extension Pill, extremely valuable.

He immediately responded loudly, “Agreed! Let’s do it!”

With his words, he shot out like a cannonball towards the Vajra Bear.

“Daoist!?”

The old man and the boy were stunned by Lu Ping’an’s actions, utterly bewildered.

What was happening?

Facing a demon beast, he was charging right towards it?

Could it be that he intended to fight the demon beast in close combat?

However, before they could finish their sentence, they saw Lu Ping’an reaching the Vajra Bear. With fists clenched, he leapt up, his right arm shimmering with a golden glow like a divine drum, breaking through layers of air, and solidly smashing into the Vajra Bear’s head.