

## Protect OCL 101

### Chapter 101 Opportunity! Fire Spirit Vein and Spirit Fruit\_1

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"Thank you for protecting us Grand Aunt," Wang Xiaohan subdued his excited emotion and sincerely bowed to Old Ancestor Longyan.

"No need to be formal," Old Ancestor Longyan's voice also carried a hint of excitement, "You should thank Shouzhe instead. He went through a lot to bring back the Heavenly Spirit Pill."

"Of course," Wang Xiaohan turned and bowed deeply to Wang Shouzhe, "Shouzhe, I never dreamed that I could advance to the Spirit Platform Realm in this lifetime. Thank you, Shouzhe!"

"Ah, Grand Uncle, that is absolutely unnecessary. You are my senior, how could you bow like this? Please don't deprive me of my good fortune." Wang Shouzhe quickly supported him by the arm and said with a smile, "We Wang family members should support each other, what's there to thank for? Besides, now that you have become Old Ancestor Xiaohan, the burden on my shoulder is lighter.

I won't have to borrow the elders from other families anymore."

No matter how close you are with the elders of other families, in the end, they are still from other families.

Take Elder Mou for instance, he's more than happy to be close to Wang Shouzhe, and occasionally lends a hand. But we can't rely on him for every single issue. After all, Elder Mou has to look after his own Gongsun Clan too.

"Haha, your remarks are always interesting," Old Ancestor Xiaohan laughed heartily, "In any case, from now on, I will be your sword. Wherever you want to point, I will strike."

Just then, Wang Licui rushed over, knelt and embraced Wang Xiaohan's thigh: "Licui pays her respects to Old Ancestor Xiaohan. I wish that your cultivation rises steadily and that you ascend to become a Celestial Being."

"Oh, Licui, you know how to play the game", Wang Xiaohan chuckled as he tousled her hair, as if he could see right through her little scheming, "Did you upset your Fourth Uncle again?"

"Not at all, I'm genuinely happy for Old Ancestor Xiaohan," Wang Licui said earnestly, "Fourth Uncle loves Licui so much, how could I possibly upset him?"

Wang Shouzhe's mouth twitched a little, "You upset me? And that happens rather frequently, don't you think?"

"By the way, Grand Uncle," Wang Shouzhe continued, "Where did Licui get that Fierce Beast little tiger from?"

"For that, you'll have to ask her," Wang Xiaohan responded with a smile, "She sneaked out to the mountain not long after arriving at the farm. By the time I found her, she already had that little tiger with her. I've been busy with my recovery recently and haven't had the chance to ask her more about it."

"Awoooo, awooo!" At this moment, Little Tiger Huahua jumped out, rolling around on the ground as if to say, "You're talking about me!"

"You dared to sneak into the mountains again! Are you not afraid to lose your life? Have you forgotten the lesson from last time..." Wang Shouzhe's stern reprimand stopped halfway through as he realized something. Why did he say "again?"

Memories came flooding back. This girl had done something like this before. A little more than two years ago, she'd picked some unknown wild fruit from the mountains and even shared them with her two younger sisters.

All three of them ended up vomiting and having diarrhea for about a week and almost died.

The incident caused quite a stir. Wang Licui was grounded for three months afterward, and since then, the children in the family were forbidden from going to the mountains.

While Wang Shouzhe was processing the memories, Old Ancestor Longyan spoke, "Girl, come here and let me take a look."

Wang Licui was an expert at currying favor. Upon hearing Old Ancestor's summons, she rushed over swiftly to kneel and pay respects. She then jumped into Old Ancestor Longyan's arms and snuggled up to her, "Old Ancestor, Licui missed you."

"I've heard about your recent troubles. Your Fourth Uncle is only looking out for your best interest. You should listen to him more," Old Ancestor Longyan seemed to be in high spirits as she reached out and grabbed Licui's wrist, a tiny thread of Mysterious Energy then seeped into her body.

"Hiss, it's so cold." Wang Licui shivered, her face turning pale.

"Old Ancestor, what are you..." Wang Shouzhe felt a surge of anxiety. Old Ancestor's Mysterious Energy inherently held a powerful Mysterious Ice attribute. Recently, with the gradual refinement of the Yin Sha energy, her Mysterious Ice attribute was now mixed with some Yin Sha as well.

"Don't worry." Old Ancestor Longyan reassured, "Shouzhe, didn't you notice? The vital energy inside this girl is too exuberant."

"Huh?" Only then did Wang Shouzhe carefully observe Wang Licui. To his surprise, his brows furrowed as he exclaimed, "This vitality is so vigorous. Don't tell me this damned child has been eating only Spirit Food for every meal?"

He had noticed that her vitality was somewhat exuberant before, but he attributed it to a pampered lifestyle where she ate her fill every day. He didn't expect that on a closer look, her vitality was exceedingly exuberant.

Spirit Food was certainly wonderful, as it could quickly replenish vitality. However, if one consumes too much and does not have enough time to cultivate and assimilate it, it may instead cause irreversible damage to their internal organs.

Even with Wang Shouzhe's current Cultivation Realm, he dared not eat Spirit Food at every meal. It was best to eat it once every few days.

"Strange, this girl's Cultivation Realm..." Wang Shouzhe began, "It seems she has already reached the peak of Level Two, within just a month's time."

A month ago, she had not even reached the middle stage of Level Two. Even with vigorous vitality and diligent daily practice, it wouldn't have been possible to progress at such a fast pace. Her potential was tested when she was seven or eight years old, and it was only a low Class C.

This rate of cultivation was something even Wang Shouzhe himself couldn't achieve back in the day, no matter how abundant his resources were.

"It's not because she consumed too much Spirit Food." Old Ancestor Longyan's brows knitted slightly, "Her vigorous vitality contains a natural fire attribute. It's as if she's consumed some high-grade Fire Spirit Pill or some fiery Heaven and Earth Treasure."

#### Chapter 101 Opportunity! Fire Spirit Vein and Spirit Fruit\_2

Wang Shouzhe was taken aback by this. Neither of these things were to be eaten casually. He immediately reprimanded, "Young miss, what did you eat in the mountains?"

"I, I don't know. They were just some wild fruits." Wang Licui was so frightened that her legs went soft, almost in tears, "In addition, I found a beautiful red fruit tree when I found Huahua. There was a red fruit that looked delicious on it..."

"So, you ate it?" Wang Shouzhe was weary for a moment, how could this young girl be so reckless? She dared to eat wild fruits she didn't even know the name of?

"Huahua wouldn't let me eat it, so we had a fight." Wang Licui weakly said, "I couldn't beat it, so I traded half a fruit for some small dried fish. I swear, I only ate half."

Wang Shouzhe chuckled secretly, guessing that her "half" was likely more than that.

Standing nearby, Wang Xiaohan was also serious, "The red fruit tree was beautiful, bore flame-attribute fruits, and had only one fruit. Could it be, the Vermilion Fruit mentioned in the legends?"

"Most likely so." Old Ancestor Longyan solemnly responded, "The Vermilion Fruit is a high-level heaven and earth treasure, usually used as the main ingredient in refining Level Five Flame-attribute Spirit Pills. Young miss, you need to quickly enter the Qi Refining State, and try to break through to the Level Three Vital Energy Refining Realm. I'll help control your fiery Qi."

"Ooh~" Wang Licui knew she was in big trouble and hastily complied, sitting cross-legged in cultivation. Meanwhile, Old Ancestor Longyan used her Mysterious Ice and a bit of Yin Sha to suppress the fiery spiritual energy inside her.

To avoid disturbing them, Wang Shouzhe and Wang Xiaohan retreated a distance.

Seeing the serious look on Wang Shouzhe's face, Wang Xiaohan reassured him, "Shouzhe, don't worry. With Grand Aunt here, that girl turned misfortune into a blessing."

"Grand Uncle, that's not what I'm worried about." Wang Shouzhe said helplessly, "I'm afraid that Licui, this brat, will still eat things randomly. We had Old Ancestor to save her this time, but what if next time even Old Ancestor can't save her?"

"That should not happen." Wang Xiaohan responded, "The Vermilion Fruit, although a flame-attribute spiritual fruit, is quite moderate in nature. Even if Old Ancestor didn't intervene, she would have been fine as long as she diligently cultivated, while the Vermilion Fruit's spiritual energy remodeled her. It's just such a waste of the Vermilion Fruit..."

Wang Xiaohan was at a loss for words too. The Vermilion Fruit was the main ingredient of a Level Five Spirit Pill. A Level Five Spirit Pill was worth at least tens of thousands, or even more! The famous "Heavenly Spirit Pill" is a kind of Level Five Spirit Pill.

This treasure, in the hands of an Alchemy Master, would be considered a gem. However, it was eaten by a little girl and a little tiger.

There were only four words to describe it.

Such wasteful extravagance!

"Grand Uncle," Wang Shouzhe contemplated before speaking, "The Vermilion Fruit Tree is a perennial spiritual fruit tree, right? And such a high-level spiritual fruit tree must be growing in an extraordinary place."

"Yes, if we could find where the Vermilion Fruit Tree grows, it could greatly strengthen our family's foundation." Wang Xiaohan, suppressing his excitement and doubt, agreed, "There must be a rare fire spirit vein there. However, Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan checked the surrounding mountains in the past, but never found such a treasure.

I occasionally go up the mountain, but never discovered this place either..."

"It must be extremely hidden, or have a hidden entrance." Wang Shouzhe suggested, "The young miss is only at the Level Two Vital Energy Refining Realm, she doesn't move fast. It should be within twenty or thirty miles."

With that said, the two men stopped discussing this topic, waiting patiently.

In less than an hour, Old Ancestor Longyan and Wang Licui finished their cultivation.

At this moment, Wang Licui was radiant, and her body emanated a powerful Qi which hadn't yet dissipated.

It was clear that she had advanced to Level Three of the Qi Refining State.

Moreover, her body's energy remained very abundant... Apparently, she had not yet fully utilized the potential of the Vermilion Fruit. No wonder, the Vermilion Fruit was a high-level spiritual fruit used to refine Level Five Spirit Pills.

It had to be acknowledged that the luck of this lazy and gluttonous young girl was terrifying. It gave Wang Shouzhe the illusion that she was the protagonist.

As expected, Old Ancestor Longyan said, "Young miss, you must cultivate diligently close to me in the near future. Do not slack off, and strive to break through to the mid-stage of the Qi Refining State as soon as possible."

"Yes, Old Ancestor." Wang Licui knew she had created trouble, and was especially obedient and well-behaved at this moment.

"Young miss," Wang Shouzhe asked, "Do you remember how to get to that fruit tree?"

Wang Licui twisted her brain and thought hard, then shook her head in a daze, "I don't remember. I was just wandering at the time, and then felt there was something delicious over there, so I went."

I knew it!

Though he had expected this, Wang Shouzhe still had the impulse to tweak her ears. All she ever thinks about is how to eat.

"Maybe, Huahua remembers." Wang Licui's eyes lit up, shifting the blame to the little tiger.

Poor little tiger Huahua looked blankly from side to side, unaware of what to do as everyone's eyes fixated on her. It was as if she was expressing, "I'm just a freshly weaned kitten... Can you not expect so much from me? The pressure is overwhelming."

"Grandpa Liu, let's start by carefully searching around the spot where we found Licui last time," Wang Shouzhe said in resignation, given the unreliability of both man and pet.

"We have no other choice," Wang Xiaohan agreed with a nod.

Over the following few days,

Wang Shouzhe held onto Wang Licui as they began searching up the mountain. Wang Xiaohan and Old Ancestor Longyan also joined the search, not leaving any corner unexplored.

It was crucial to locate this Fire Spirit Vein. Its importance to the family was paramount, providing long-term benefits equivalent to adding another Spirit Platform Realm to the ancestors.

On the fifth day,

During their third search, they discovered a well-hidden entrance in a small hollow in the hill.

As they walked into the narrow entrance, they could vaguely feel a wave of heat.

"Yes, yes, this is the place," Wang Licui exclaimed with excitement, "Just a bit further and we will be there."

Wang Shouzhe gave her a stern glance. 'Only now you remember? Your sense of direction is utterly hopeless.'

"Everyone, be careful," Old Ancestor Longyan calmly warned. "Treasure lands often have fierce beasts guarding them. There's a decent chance this is Huahua's mother's territory."

Upon hearing this, everybody's nerves were on edge.

Wang Xiaohan was even more petrified; if there were a third-level fierce beast hidden here, it would pose a huge threat to the Prosperous Farm. Fortunately, third-level beasts, being highly intelligent, dared not enter human territories recklessly.

Too close for comfort!

Thankfully, two ancestors were accompanying them. Even if they encountered a third-level beast, they would not be afraid. Even a level four beast couldn't harm them if they planned to retreat immediately.

Such are the perks of having two ancestors in the family.

When an opportunity arises, they dare to compete for it.

Otherwise, they would have to borrow an ancestor from another family. In that case, they would have to share the benefits.

It is most fortunate if they can fully control the treasures within their own territories.

After travelling down a winding path, about hundreds of feet in distance, they were hit by a wave of heat. The dimly-lit scene suddenly became bright. Within the cave walls, flickers of red spirit light glowed like a brilliant crimson dawn, its scorching waves pressing onto them.

In the middle of the cave, where the red light was most intense, stood a crimson gem-like tree as tall as an adult, emitting an aura as intense as red coral. From within, it seemed like a flow of red fluid was circulating.

"A middle-grade Fire Spirit Vein!"

"The Vermilion Fruit Spirit Tree!"

Both the old ancestors of the family couldn't help but exclaim, hardly concealing the excitement and delight in their voices.

Such a valuable spiritual treasure is extremely rare, even in the Tianren family!

Wang Shouzhe suppressed his excitement and looked around the Fire Element Spirit Vein cave. Suddenly, he spotted a shape like a skeleton lying in a Magma Fire Pond, around which a swirl of firelight danced.

Old Ancestor Longyan held the Dragon Smoke Sword and performed a brief inspection. He finally relaxed, "It's a set of tiger bones that are almost burnt to ashes. I'm afraid, this place has no owner anymore."

Ownerless land!

Wang Shouzhe was overjoyed internally. An ownerless land was the best outcome. His biggest fear was that there was hidden danger in this treasure land. What if they manage the land for a long time, and then the big tiger returns?

With Ancestor Xiaohan just promoted to the Spirit Platform Realm and an additional treasure land for the family, it was truly a time of double happiness.

Chapter 102 Majestic! Young Empress~

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"Old Ancestor, theoretically, a Level Three Fierce Beast should have a pretty long lifespan, with many making it past two hundred years," Wang Shouzhe said, expressing some doubts about this. "How can you ascertain that this is Huahua's mother?"

His biggest fear was that his family had poured a large sum of money into this Fire Spirit Vein, only for the big tiger not to be dead. If it discovered its lair had been occupied, they'd be in a heap of trouble.

An adult Level Three tiger-like Fierce Beast shouldn't be underestimated in terms of intelligence and combat power.

"Shouzhe, look, this tiger's bones are coiled up in the fire pool, and its left femur and ribs are fractured in many places. Two sections in the middle of its spine have shattered," Elder Longyan calmly explained. "It is safe to say that, after being injured in combat and failing to recover, it jumped into the fire pool to incinerate itself when it was about to die."

"Furthermore, judging by its pelvic cavity, this was an adult female tiger. Its pelvic cavity is open, suggesting that it died shortly after giving birth," Elder Longyan judged. "Moreover, the temperature in the fire pool is high, so the bones would not be this intact if this had happened a long time ago."

Wang Shouzhe marveled at Elder Longyan. True to his reputation, the Old Ancestor was well-educated and experienced from his time at the Academic Palace.

"Aowoo, aowoo," Little Tiger Huahua seemed to possess some spiritual intelligence and seemed to have sensed something. She huddled in Wang Licui's arms, seeming a little down.

"Old Ancestor, it's heartbreaking. She died just after giving birth to Huahua," Wang Licui sighed. "I've made up my mind. I will treat Huahua well."

"Aowoo, aowoo." Huahua seemed to perk up a bit and rubbed her head against her a few times.

"Let's do this, I'll reduce your debt by two hundred... no, one hundred Qian Gold." Wang Licui generously offered. "As of today, you only owe me seven hundred Qian Gold."

Huahua was overcome with gratitude and behaved adorably.

Wang Shouzhe had a sneaking suspicion, um, didn't Huahua only owe six hundred Qian Gold before?

Oh well. Wang Shouzhe figured that the illiterate Little Tiger would never repay the Qian Gold in her entire life.

"Old Ancestor, the Vermilion Fruit is a relatively rare spirit seed and spirit fruit. Our family's manual on spirit fruits does not describe it." Wang Shouzhe curiously asked, "Do you know when the next Vermilion Fruit will be produced?"

"A mature Vermilion Fruit is worth around twelve to fifteen thousand Qian Gold," Elder Longyan said. "In a Middle Grade Fire Spirit Vein that suits its growth like this, a Vermilion Fruit can be produced approximately every hundred years."

As expected, it's over ten thousand!

Wang Shouzhe's eyes looked somber as he stared at Wang Licui. The damn girl was so lucky. She was only at the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Two and had already tasted a Heaven and Earth Treasure worth over ten thousand. This could be exchanged for over a thousand Little Pei Yuan Dan pills. It would be enough for her brothers and sisters to gobble them up like candy.

"Fourth Uncle! Fourth Uncle!" Upon hearing the price, Wang Licui's legs went weak, and she collapsed into Wang Shouzhe's arms. She was regretting so much that her intestines were turning green, and her face turned pale as she whimpered, "If I had known that the damned fruit was so expensive, I would never have eaten it."

"It's alright, it's alright. If you've eaten it, you've eaten it." Seeing her like this, Wang Shouzhe felt a twinge of sympathy and comforted her by petting her head. "This is your own opportunity. It's meant for you. Besides, haven't you added a valuable plot of land and Vermilion Fruit foundation to the family? This time, you've done a great service to the family."

"That's good then. Fourth Uncle, your gaze earlier was scary." Wang Licui took a breath, looking relieved. "I was really afraid that Fourth Uncle would sell me."

Wang Shouzhe's face darkened. As if anyone would have the bad luck of buying this troublesome girl.

He didn't bother dealing with her any further.

Wang Shouzhe figured, "If I were to develop this Vermilion Fruit Spirit Tree, it would look like a resounding success, but it only amounts to a little over a hundred Qian Gold a year when averaged out. For this valuable land of Fire Spirits, I need to plan well to maximize immediate returns."

"Fourth Uncle, why don't we plant another Vermilion Fruit Tree? The fruit is really tasty," Wang Licui said, taking a pigeon-egg-sized seed out. The seed was as transparent and red as jade, and it faintly radiated the power of a fire spirit.

"That's a good idea." Wang Shouzhe took the Vermilion Fruit seed from her and praised, "Smart thinking to keep the seed. If we're lucky, we can plant another tree."

Of course, they could never have too many Vermilion Fruit Trees. If they could gradually set up mass production of Vermilion Fruits, the Wang family would become wealthy.

"I originally wanted to crack open the shell to eat the nut inside, but I couldn't crack it," Wang Licui honestly replied.

Wang Shouzhe broke out in a cold sweat—this damned girl really only had food on her mind. Fortunately, she couldn't crack it open, otherwise, the seed would've been wasted. Presumably, a Vermilion Fruit seed could also be sold for a pretty penny.

"Shouzhe, if we want to make full use of this treasure land, we'll have to build a Spirit Gathering Array," Wang Xiaohan said from the sidelines. "Look at this Fire Spirit Vein, its spiritual power is evenly spread, unordered and quickly dissipating. With a Spirit Gathering Array, we can collect the Fire Spirit power, distribute it evenly and create a Fire Elemental Spiritual Field.

Planting some Fire Elemental crops would yield the quickest results."

Most undeveloped wild Spirit Veins are like this—chaotic. Many of the Spirit Plants are wild and sporadic, providing limited yields.

Spirit Fields didn't exist from the start.

Spirit Fields were simply a human invention, a method to utilize Spirit Veins to maximize economic benefits. With Spirit Fields, humans no longer had to awkwardly gather spiritual objects from the wild.

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"Two common fire element economic crops in the market are Red Crystal Rice and Flame Lotus, which both yield approximately similar economic benefits. Red Crystal Rice is especially suitable for the daily Spirit Food consumption of Profound Martial practitioners with fire element bloodlines and can be harvested once a year.

Flame Lotus matures every few years, producing Fire lotus seeds, a type of fire element medicine that is used in large amounts," Wang Xiaohan explained. "Of course, as an economic crop, it is more convenient to manage production and accumulate experience if only one type is produced."

Wang Xiaohan, an experienced spirit planter, gave very practical advice.

What are economic crops? They are crops that provide the highest return on investment.

Moreover, if they are commonly seen in the market, they must be crops that humans have domesticated to a high degree over the long course of history, and their seeds and complete cultivation techniques are widely distributed and easier to obtain.

The Baiyu ZhiLan Spirit Rice, for example, is one of the Spirit Seeds that humans have highly domesticated. Its cultivation is simple, its yield is high, and it is widely grown in the human world. In addition to meeting the daily consumption of their own family, there is no concern about not being able to sell the surplus.

In fact, if the Vermilion Fruits were all uprooted and sold off, in favor of planting solely economic crops, the resulting economic benefits would undoubtedly be much higher.

However, Vermilion Fruits are rare and once the family matures and grows, they can play a significant role. If the economy is a bit disadvantaged, then so be it, it can be considered a form of fundamental accumulation.

The only problem now is acquiring an Array Master!

The Array Master is a very demanding profession. All families and clans need an Array Master to develop. However, most of the lower clans do not have their own dedicated Array Master and need to hire externally when they want to construct any formations.

His cousin, Lu Xiaoxiao, is said to have talent as an Array Master, but she has only just started to learn about formations. Without years of accumulated experience, she won't be able to contribute much.

None of the families related by marriage, except for the Changning Xu Family, have an Array Master.

However, Wang Shouzhe did not want to publicize this middle-grade fire spirit vein, so he needs to think carefully when choosing to hire an Array Master.

Excited and hopeful, everyone agreed to preserve this valuable land for now and to activate it when everything is ready.

Having settled this matter,

Wang Shouzhe and his party temporarily left the Prosperous Farm.

Most of the spirit rats in the Spirit Field had been wiped out, ensuring peace for a while. As such, Wang Licui and the little tiger will also be taken back to the main residence. After all, now that Licui has consumed the Vermilion Fruit, the Old Ancestor must assist her in her cultivation.

Grandfather Wang Xiaohan, having just ascended, temporarily returned to the main residence as well in order to solidify his foundation. He needed assistance from the Old Ancestor, Longyan, and her vast experience.

The Old Ancestor, Longyan, had been in the Spirit Platform Realm for over eighty years and was incredibly experienced.

In the covered boat,

Wang Shouzhe apologized to Wang Xiaohan: "Grandfather, I'm really sorry about the Spirit Platform banquet."

When someone in the family reaches the Spirit Platform Realm, it's a joyful event. Usually, other families are informed, and a Spirit Platform banquet is held. The scale of the celebration isn't much different from a wedding banquet like Wang Shouzhe's.

This serves as a good opportunity for the family to demonstrate their power and raise their prestige. It's also the most glorious moment in the life of a Profound Martial practitioner, one that can bring substantial wealth just from receiving gifts.

However, Wang Shouzhe had his own considerations and plans. This wasn't quite the time for a Spirit Platform banquet.

"Haha, Shouzhe, you don't have to apologize again and again. My life is already fulfilled!" Wang Xiaohan laughed heartily. "Even if you plan to postpone, even if I become a hidden asset for the family for a lifetime, I won't mind. Besides, I really admire your practical and unpretentious temperament."

"Of course, that won't happen." Wang Shouzhe smiled. "When it's time for Grandfather to make an appearance, I will definitely hold a grand Spiritual Platform banquet for you. Perhaps in the future, there will even be the opportunity to hold a banquet celebrating becoming a Celestial Being."

"Let's not be too ambitious," Wang Xiaohan hurriedly shook his head. As for reaching the Heavenly Human Realm, he couldn't even bring himself to think about it. It felt far too distant and elusive. Just having the chance to ascend to the Spirit Platform Realm was already incredibly gratifying.

Wang Shouzhe just smiled, without adding anything more.

As the covered boat passed by the big construction site on its way to Zhuwei Lake,

The scale of the construction site was growing larger and larger, with dredging ships endlessly shuttling back and forth within the waterway, and a considerable number of workers on both riverbanks setting up work sheds, filling in soil, and building roads.

Besides the busy dredging ships, there were also some passenger ships going back and forth on the waterway, carrying people who were dressed well and appeared to be quite wealthy.

Upon setting foot on the makeshift dock, a neatly dressed, sprightly youngster would greet them immediately: "Welcome, honored guests, to the construction site of Phase I of Zhuwei Manor. I am the receptionist Ouyang Junyan."

As Wang Shouzhe's covered canal boat happened to pass by, witnessing this scene prompted him to stop and take a closer look. This matter was related to his grand money-making plan.

"Ouyang Junyan?" remarked a chubby, fair-skinned young man. "I know you. You're Gousheng from our neighboring village, Liuzi Gou. You came to our village to beg for food because your family was impoverished when we were kids, and I gave you a good beating. How audacious you are, Ouyang Gousheng, daring to fabricate a name and attempt to deceive people here."

At this statement, a commotion arose among the crowd and the faces of the wealthy onlookers changed.

"Oh, if it isn't Zhang Tiedan," Ouyang Junyan's eyes became stern, and he spoke in a severe tone, "Zhang Tiedan, watch your words. My new name was personally given by the Sixth Miss herself. As one whom the Sixth Miss greatly values, selling the properties of Zhuwei Manor here could hardly be called a scam."

His dominating aura left Zhang Tiedan's face changing instantly, and he asked in a low voice: "The Sixth Miss, which Sixth Miss?"

"Of course, it is Miss Wang Luoqiu, the Sixth Miss of the Luo generation of the Wang family! I am the receptionist who was personally promoted by her." Ouyang Junyan's eyes were filled with pride and self-satisfaction, "If you are not convinced by my name, feel free to get lost."

Miss Wang Luoqiu!

Upon hearing this name, the rich onlookers immediately fell silent, looking at each other while expressions of awe appeared on their faces. The renown of Wang Luoqiu, of the Luo generation of the Wang family, was widespread throughout Ping'an Town.

At the young age of eleven, she effortlessly defeated the heir of the Liu Clan, and boldly claimed to be invincible among peers under sixteen!

Such a prominent figure had become the idol many young people in Ping'an Town worshipped. Moreover, she was also the sixth miss of the Luo generation of the Wang family, and the younger sister of the current head of the Wang family, Wang Shouzhe.

"Gousheng, no, no, I was wrong, Junyan." Zhang Tiedan quickly crumbled, showing a fawning expression, "I saw it from a young age that you, Junyan, were not a commoner. And now you have even become the trusted aide of the Sixth Miss of the Wang family. Who could have foreseen your soaring to such a great height? Our Zhang family will buy a property in Zhuwei Manor."

Yet Ouyang Junyan wore a calm expression as he lightly said, "I don't dare to claim to be the Sixth Miss' confidant, as I am merely a little servant whom she happened to promote. As for Zhuwei Manor, it's not something that can be bought by just anybody."

"The Phase I property of Zhuwei Manor is located right alongside the Zhuwei Canal.

On the right, it is adjacent to the renowned Zhuwei Lake, and on the left, it overlooks the Wang family's longstanding Feng Shui treasure, the Prosperous Farm, and from a distance, it even faces the Wang family's main residence across the lake." Ouyang Junyan's face wore an increasingly proud and satisfied expression, "Such a unique, valuable Feng Shui property that can be passed down from generation to generation is surely not for common people to buy.

If you want to purchase Phase I's properties, you need to qualify. Zhang Tiedan, do you think money is the only requirement?"

"Yes, yes, yes, Junyan, you are right," Zhang Tiedan nodded and bent his waist while wearing a fawning smile, "For this matter, Junyan, as we have known each other since we were kids, can you do me a favor?"

"It depends. There is a qualification review process," Ouyang Junyan responded indifferently, "Some things are not solely determined by me."

Upon hearing this, the wealthy onlookers were filled with anticipation, their faces showing reverence and expectation. Just as they prepared to approach Ouyang Gousheng, no, Ouyang Junyan, to establish good relations.

Suddenly.

From the distance, a burst of commotion was heard. "The Sixth Miss is here, the Sixth Miss has come to inspect the construction site."

"No spectating allowed! Get back to work." "Everyone, perform well and show the Sixth Miss the spirit of our Fifth Squad." "The Sixth Miss is here; anyone who embarrasses me will have to answer to me."

Supervisors from every work crew began to roar in response.

Wang Shouzhe was left dumbfounded at this scene.

When did our Luoqiu acquire such prestige?

## Chapter 103: Big Profit Zhuwei Lake Spirit Beast Appears

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In the midst of conversation.

Escorted by several servants and a head of the household, Wang Luoqiu approached from afar, conducting inspections all the way.

Her hands behind her back, her small body extremely straight, her steps neither hurried nor slow, but steady and powerful, utterly calm and composed.

Looking left and right, her expression was gentle yet not lacking in seriousness.

Responding to the cheering from the team leaders, site managers—"Miss Sixth is here," "Miss Sixth brings good luck," and so on, she nodded slightly without losing her amiable demeanor.

This was indeed Wang Shouzhe's demeanor. No, she looked more like a high-ranking leader conducting inspections at the grassroots level.

Ouyang Junyan's heart pounded with excitement and apprehension when he saw Wang Luoqiu pass by. He bowed deeply to greet, "Hello, Sixth Miss." He is just a small fry, fearing that Miss Sixth might have forgotten his name.

Wang Luoqiu paused slightly. When she saw it was Ouyang Junyan, she showed a slight, encouraging smile: "Ah, it's Junyan. Keep up the good work."

"Yes, Miss Sixth." Ouyang Junyan felt a surge of warmth rush to his head, his body trembling and filled with strength. Not only did the Sixth Miss remember him, who'd been casually named and promoted, but she also paused to encourage him.

A knight would die for his loved one!

I, Ouyang Junyan, will definitely live up to Miss Sixth's high expectations.

However, Wang Luoqiu did not linger and continued inspecting the next part of the construction site. The project was huge, and she had to prioritize effectively while attending to all aspects.

Ouyang Junyan bowed deeply as he watched Wang Luoqiu's receding figure, "Take care, Miss Sixth."

Not until she disappeared from sight did Ouyang Junyan raise his head, his face flushed with excitement.

The rest of the wealthy households had been overlooked by Wang Luoqiu from beginning to end, as if she had completely ignored them.

But none of them held any grudges. Instead, they all began to discuss excitingly.

"She is the Sixth Miss of the Wang family's Luo generation, as expected, magnificent, like a phoenix in the making, graced with natural nobility."

"It's my honor, Zhang Tiedan, to have the opportunity to meet Miss Luoqiu."

"I heard that Miss Sixth was the reincarnation of an empress who descended from heaven to face trials in the Wang family. It seems the Wang family is going to prosper."

All kinds of voices praising Wang Luoqiu seemed to lift her up to the skies.

Even a scholar from one of the wealthy families was shaking his head and citing verses as proof.

An empress should dwell in heaven

Descending to the mundane world to face trials.

Suddenly, a gust of wind rises

To lift her back to the Lingxiao Palace

...

Wang Shouzhe on the wooden boat was stunned. Have those people lost all their decency? They only saw Wang Luoqiu in passing and started to puff her up and flatter her on a grand scale.

A scholar, who has no backbone or dignity? Do they know this called hype profile?

Wang Shouzhe really wanted to grab that shameless scholar.

Then let him write an adulatory verse to prove himself.

"Hehe~ Our Luoqiu is well-liked." Wang Xiaohan nodded, "It seems this girl has been working hard recently, all the site managers respect her."

Even Wang Shouzhe thought that though Luoqiu might be too sophomoric, she was actually quite capable.

It would be great if these younger brothers and sisters could grow up and take over the reins.

Meanwhile.

Ouyang Junyan, who was surrounded by the wealthy, felt as if he'd reached the peak of his life. Nonetheless, he insisted on following the teachings of Miss Sixth, neither arrogant nor humble, and doing his work well: "Regarding this phase of our project, the main focus is on river-view houses and irrigated upstream farms. Please take a look at the planning and effect drawings."

In reality, this marketing strategy was all part of Wang Shouzhe's planning. The source of the plan was quite simple; the marketing strategies for apartment buildings on Earth are everywhere to be found.

Planning charts and diagrams are the most basic. Just pay a little money, let the artists draw, making sure the effect is as good as possible. Most artists in this world also double as scholars and are cheap.

The most formidable part of Earth's real estate marketing strategies, in fact, lies in exploiting human nature: creating an aura of scarcity, reluctance in selling and inciting people towards panic buying to hype up the property.

"This house is in a good location, very beautiful. Not to mention it comes with a portion of the 200-acre prime farmland," Zhang Tiedan's eyes gleamed. "Brother Junyan, how much are you selling this house and its associated farmland?"

"Not for sale," Ouyang Junyan answered. "The first five sets are reserved for the Wang family. You can consider the second row. Though the location is not as good as the first row, the neighbors will be members of the Wang family."

"This one is a bit small, and it only comes with 80 acres of farmland," Zhang Tiedan hesitated.

"What kind of place is Zhuwei Manor? There's only one in the whole Ping'an Town, every inch is worth gold." Ouyang Junyan, facing a construction site freshly filled with earth, said with pride, "In the future, those living in Zhuwei Phase One will be the top elites and wealthy individuals of Ping'an.

I heard even the defense force commander of Changning also has a rich businessman who will come to buy. It will definitely appreciate in the future."

"Alright, I'll take this one, how much Qian Gold?" Zhang Tiedan was moved.

"This one, the location's pretty good, an early payment discount is available for only 888 Qian Gold," Ouyang Junyan said easily.

"What?" Zhang Tiedan was shocked. "Brother Junyan, are you robbing us? This house, at most is worth more than a hundred Qian Gold, plus the share of eighty acres of farmland, the most in other places would only go for more than two hundred Qian Gold. Combined, it won't exceed 350 Qian Gold."

"Hehe, can the farmland residential areas elsewhere compare with Zhuwei Manor?" Ouyang Junyan sneered, "Think of the status of the people who will live here. Furthermore, what's use of those hundreds of acres of land you own under Liu Clan control? Afraid...hehe~ But Zhuwei Manor is different. We are right at the heart of Wang family territory, with the Wang family soldiers patrolling day and night.

It truly is a millennium legacy."

### Chapter 103: Big Profit Zhuwei Lake Spirit Beast Appears

"Now, due to the propaganda battle and public opinion war, the reputation of the Liu Clan and Zhao Clan is extremely poor, even going so far as to employ independent cultivators to commit murder and seize property. This is why the wealthy folks are all looking to relocate."

With this statement, he inspired much desire.

It was a bit pricey, but after all, Zhuwei Manor is extremely prestigious, and living there would be a display of status. The most important thing, as Ouyang Junyan said, was safety!

In these times, just having money and property wasn't enough, a group of ruthless independent cultivators could wipe out your whole family. Only under the protection of the Wang family here could people truly live and work in peace and contentment.

"Alright, I'll buy it." Zhang Tiedan was moved and spoke resolutely, "Junyan, give me a discounted price."

"No can do, you don't yet have the qualifications to buy property." Ouyang Junyan shook his head.

"What? I need qualifications to buy property?"

"Your Zhang Family has never paid a penny in taxes to the Wang family, nor have you contributed anything. Why should you have the qualifications to settle in Zhuwei Manor?"

"So how do I qualify to buy a house?"

"For your Zhang Family's scale, you need to send at least five strong men to participate long-term in the bank-clearing and land-filling projects, or each member of your family has to pay an extra 10 Qian Gold in contribution tax." Ouyang Junyan said arrogantly, "The threshold for the first phase of Zhuwei Manor is quite high."

This threshold was really high!

However, Zhang Tiedan, after confirming that there would be a head of household who was a Profound Martial expert guarding and patrolling for security in the future, gritted his teeth and decided to send five strong men to work, just to qualify to buy a house.

The rest of the wealthy families either sent people or money.

The wealthy families, most of whom were shrewd, also spotted that the value of Zhuwei Manor, a land blessed by superior feng shui, would probably rise in the future! Even if they had to sell their properties and lands controlled by the Liu and Zhao clans, they still wanted to buy a place in Zhuwei Manor.

Living there felt too insecure.

Moreover, Zhuwei Manor would have walls in the future, with outsiders going in and out being closely questioned, and idlers were not allowed in.

There would also be Profound Martial experts patrolling day and night, acting as bodyguards, which not only ensured safety but also brought considerable prestige.

...

Wang Shouzhe's canopy boat was heading towards the river.

At this moment, Wang Xiaohan was still in a state of shock: "Eight hundred and eighty-eight Qian Gold, eight hundred.. Shouzhe, you actually sold eighty acres of property so expensively? And there are even people buying it!"

What boggled Wang Xiaohan most was that the place was just a leveled piece of land, the house hasn't even been built yet, and people were already rushing to pay.

"It's not my fault, mainly because the reputation of the Liu Clan and Zhao Clan is too bad." Wang Shouzhe laughed and said, "These wealthy commoners, they have been initially released from worrying about food and clothes. What they are seeking first is the promotion of their status and the feeling of being regarded highly. The second thing is absolute security.

As it happens, the first phase of Zhuwei Manor meets their needs."

"Fourth Uncle, are you really going to let the head of the household act as a gate guard and patrol?" Wang Licui was also shocked, "Many Profound Martial experts look down on commoners."

"Money can make the ghost work for you, we can recruit some independent cultivators with good character to act as security guards." Wang Shouzhe said indifferently, "For a bodyguard, ten or so Qian Gold a year is enough, there's no danger in this job and many independent cultivators are eager to do it."

"Is the money coming from our family?" Wang Xiaohan asked worriedly, "If this goes on for a long time, it will be a big expense."

"Sixth Uncle, there is a kind of expense called property management fee..." Wang Shouzhe laughed and said, "It's not much money when it's shared among all the homeowners."

Wang Xiaohan: "..."

...

The canopy boat gradually sailed into Zhuwei Lake.

At this moment, Zhuwei Lake has already become a huge construction site, with a total of several hundred boats participating in the work, and the number is still steadily increasing.

With such a huge workforce, the speed of the project has greatly accelerated.

Wang Shouzhe stood at the bow of the boat, looking spiritedly at the scene. This bank-clearing and land-filling project has developed to this stage and has gradually become a strategic project of the Wang family.

Just at this moment.

A speedboat rushed towards Wang Shouzhe. The man standing at the bow was the third among the Shou generation, Wang Shounuo.

Originally, Wang Shounuo was in charge of the whole project. But obviously, his limelight was far overshadowed by Wang Luoqiu.

"Fourth Brother, Fourth Brother, you're finally back." As soon as Wang Shounuo saw Wang Shouzhe, he exclaimed with surprise, "Quick, come with me, the fierce beast has appeared again."

Wang Shouzhe hurriedly had the boat follow him, and with a leap, landed on Wang Shounuo's boat. He asked with suspicion, "Third Brother, what does it mean that a fierce beast has shown up again?"

"You don't know," Wang Shounuo said anxiously. "During these days without you, a monstrous turtle appeared in Zhuwei Lake that specifically targets dredgers. I've organized several groups to chase it off, but without success. Fortunately, this beast has a relatively mild temperament and does not harm people."

"But even so, the fear has begun to spread. If it continues, many workers will be too afraid to work in the lake."

A monstrous turtle?

The expression on Wang Shouzhe's face hardened. He asked seriously, "Could it be the one from the legends?"

When he was young, he'd heard that in Zhuwei Lake, there lived a monstrous turtle. It was said to be a native of the lake and, despite its mild temperament, never harmed anyone. Thus, Elder Zhou Xuan did not eradicate it.

But those were merely rumors. Wang Shouzhe had never seen it and he'd heard conflicting stories from his clan members. Some said they had seen it, others said they hadn't.

As a result, Wang Shouzhe did not take this into account when planning the dredging and soil-filling project.

Could it be that the dredging project was so extensive that it had enraged this monstrous turtle?

While considering this, Wang Shounuo's boat had quickly reached the scene of the incident. A dredging boat had been damaged and all the boatmen and dredgers had fallen into the water.

And a giant monstrous turtle was drifting along the water's surface, occasionally using its head to mess around with the dredgers.

Fortunately, it did not seem to have any intention of hurting anyone, seemingly just venting its anger.

As soon as the turtle saw Wang Shounuo's boat, it swiftly cut through the water and charged directly at it, obviously aiming to sink the boat.

Wang Shouzhe's face grew grim, "You dare."

He drew his sword and leaped into the air. His steel sword was covered in a layer of white light, and with a thunderous force, he struck down at the turtle. Not escaping, the turtle curled up on the water's surface, its shell covered with a layer of water-blue light shield.

"Boom!"

His sword slammed into the light shield, the huge recoil made Wang Shouzhe's Mysterious Energy surge throughout his body, almost causing him to cough up blood. Meanwhile, the turtle's water-blue protective shield only rippled a bit, without any damage.

The turtle once again poked its head out, spraying a column of water towards Wang Shouzhe.

Top Level Two!

Wang Shouzhe felt a chill in his heart. He hadn't expected this turtle to have reached such a level. The water column was incredibly fast, and just as he was planning to dive into the water to evade it.

He heard a sudden roar in his ear.

"Impudent! Shouzhe, step back."

A strong force pulled Wang Shouzhe back onto the boat.

It was his sixth grandpa, Wang Xiaohan, the newly ascended Elder Xiaohan. With a casual punch, he broke the water column and lightly stepped on the water's surface, causing ripples to spread.

Subsequently, he treaded on the waves with an imposing air, his coarse clothing fluttering. He looked like a god standing on the ground. With every breath he took, he was able to leap towards the turtle looming over it, launching a punch down onto the turtle.

The turtle was terrified and instinctively curled up again, attempting to use its water-blue light shield for protection.

"Boom!"

With an overpowering force, the water-blue light shield was shattered and energy scattered in all directions.

The giant turtle was also knocked several feet away, plunging heavily into the water.

Seeing this scene, Wang Shouzhe was filled with awe and admiration. Even though he had already witnessed battles between Spiritual Platform Realm experts before, he was still overwhelmed.

However, that turtle was indeed clever.

Knowing it had encountered a strong enemy it couldn't handle, it instantly dove under the water and vanished out of sight.

Wang Xiaohan, however, walked on the water's surface, and after two or three steps, he returned to the boat. He asked anxiously, "Shouzhe, are you alright?"

"I'm fine, I just underestimated the situation. I had no idea that turtle had reached Top Level Two," Wang Shouzhe said with a serious face. "If we can't take it down or drive it away, I'm afraid our dredging and soil-filling project will have trouble continuing."

Chapter 104: Capture! The Guardian Spirit Beast

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Top Level Two, its overall strength is already comparative to the peak of the human Vital Energy Refining Realm.

Moreover, it is a fierce water beast, with an incredible combat power in water, and it can hide anywhere.

Given the vast expanse of Zhuwei Lake covering thousands of acres and the surrounding waterways leading everywhere, it would be hard to handle if this tortoise beast is determined to hide

"Shouzhe." Wang Xiaohan looks a little worried, "If this turtle dares to show itself, Sixth Grandfather is not afraid of it. But if it wants to hide or wage guerrilla warfare, even a Celestial being would be powerless. After all, everyone's Spiritual Sense has limits and can't conduct a large-scale search."

"Xiaohan is right." Old Ancestor Longyan landed gracefully on the boat, "If we can't accurately locate it, it won't be easy to handle."

Wang Shouzhe's expression gradually grew solemn. The Zhuwei Lake dredging and land reclamation project was a part of his grand plan, and it would be a great joke if it were disrupted by a tortoise.

"Shouzhe, if all else fails, Sixth Grandfather can organize some fishermen." Wang Xiaohan suggested, "We pretend to dredge the lake until the tortoise comes to us. We can briefly trap it in a net and then quickly eliminate it."

This plan is barely acceptable, albeit a bit passive, but it's better than being clueless.

At this moment.

"Thud!" Wang Licui jumped aboard, making the boat sway.

Wang Shouzhe's eyelids twitched as he stared at her with a strange look. Had this girl gained too much weight?

However, on closer inspection, she didn't seem too fat. Her face was just a bit chubby like a baby's, and her body was only slightly overweight. The problem must have been with her movement technique.

Immediately, he raised an eyebrow and said, "Little girl, can you properly cultivate your movement technique? Which Profound Martial female practitioner jumps like you, landing with a 'thud'?"

Wang Shouzhe was somewhat exasperated.

The Wang family's movement technique, even at the basic level, emphasized elegance and lightness. The advanced movement technique, Willow Catkin Body Method, was even more elegant and elusive, moving with the wind and unpredictable.

But in her case, it had turned into a "thud!"

"Fourth Uncle Fourth Uncle." Wang Licui complained pitifully, "I've advanced in cultivation too quickly and can't control my body well. Normally, my movement technique is very light."

Light? I don't believe you.

Also, that excuse of advancing too quickly in cultivation was particularly irksome to hear.

"Anyway, focus on your cultivation in the near future." Wang Shouzhe criticized seriously, "Don't get cocky just because your cultivation base has slightly improved. A Profound Martial practitioner needs more than just a cultivation realm, otherwise, you're just an empty shell with nothing to offer."

"Yes, Fourth Uncle." Wang Licui replied listlessly. Then she said, "Licui came to tell Fourth Uncle that Licui can sense the tortoise's location."

"?"

Wang Shouzhe's face darkened. Just as he finished saying that you're an empty shell, you pull this stunt? This damned girl, is she naturally inclined to oppose him?

Wang Licui shrunk her neck, looking at Wang Shouzhe pitifully. Where did I provoke Fourth Uncle again?

"Haha, ignore your Fourth Uncle." Wang Xiaohan was amused and pulled Wang Licui aside, "Little girl come, tell Your Sixth Great-Grandfather, where is the tortoise? Let's see how Sixth Grandfather plucks it out and makes soup for you."

At this, Wang Licui almost drooled, her spirits invigorated, "Sixth Great-Grandfather, it's over there. It's floating half a foot deep, sneakily listening to our conversation." She pointed to a place several feet away.

Wang Xiaohan's Spiritual Sense reached out in that direction and sure enough, he vaguely sensed the tortoise. He immediately leaped up and punched towards that location.

"BOOM!"

The lake exploded.

The figure of the fierce tortoise beast was revealed. It was stunned for a moment, and after enduring a punch, quickly dived back under. This time, it hid further away, burrowed in the mud.

"Sixth Great-Grandfather, it's over there, hiding in the mud." Wang Licui, manipulating the small boat, moved over and pointed at a spot.

This time, Old Ancestor Longyan swiftly flew over without waiting for Wang Xiaohan to move, launching a casual sword strike.

"Whoosh!"

The sword light flickered and the lake surface split as if cut by a knife, the water parting to both sides.

The entire depth of the lake, sludge and all, was exposed by this sword strike. The tortoise's body was hidden in the sludge, revealing only half of its head, its eyes rotund and surprised.

Who am I? Where am I? Why can't I see the water anymore?

But it ultimately was an ancient tortoise, and quickly burrowed rapidly in the sludge. In half a breath of time, it was back in the water.

"Splash!"

The separated water surface merged again, stirring up ripples. The tortoise disappeared again.

"This tortoise is quite clever." Wang Shouzhe was taken aback. He had always thought that tortoises were slow and lollygagging creatures. He didn't expect it could be so agile when fleeing for its life.

"Darn, it ran away." Wang Licui said helplessly, "It went in that direction, let's chase."

But this time, when they caught up, the two Old Ancestors didn't hastily act. If the tortoise truly wanted to escape in the water, they really didn't have a good plan to stop it.

Moreover, after being outwitted several times, it became even craftier. Whenever people approached, it would hide even further away.

"It seems we can only call in Uncle Dinghai Six's fishing team." Wang Shouzhe reluctantly thought of a solution, but he wasn't sure if those fishing nets could actually ensnare it.

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As long as we can trap it, it would only take a few breaths for the two old ancestors to inflict serious damage on it.

"Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, I have an idea that we can try," Wang Licui spoke, full of quick thinking.

"?"

Wang Shouzhe looked at her strangely; she never seems to have this many ideas normally. Did she come today specifically to oppose him?

"Alright, share your idea." Wang Shouzhe eventually decided to prioritize the bigger picture.

"Fourth Uncle, I can't guarantee anything," Wang Licui said, "But I was thinking, spirit beasts and all like tasty food. If we lure it to shore with delicious food, wouldn't it have nowhere to run?"

Lure with food?

Wang Shouzhe felt somewhat doubtful. This girl wouldn't assume that every creature in the world is irresistibly attracted by tasty food just because she herself likes to eat, would she?

"Fourth Uncle, that's how Hua Hua started following me," Wang Licui said earnestly, "It really loves my small dried fish."

Wang Shouzhe hesitated slightly, he knew he was convinced, "Then let's give it a try, after all, there is nothing to lose."

He had to admit, Licui was always capable of doing some unexpected yet uncannily successful things.

"What do you mean there's nothing to lose?" Wang Licui said indignantly, "I'm offering my dried fish, and I don't have much left in stock."

"Fine! Fourth Uncle will reimburse you," Wang Shouzhe gritted his teeth, "If you really make a big contribution, I will treat you to a grand meal at the Hundred Taste Pavilion in Changning, and you can order whatever you want, no ceiling price."

"Huh?"

Wang Licui's eyes lit up, she felt her blood boiling, and her whole body was filled with fighting spirit. She hit her chest and said, "Fourth Uncle, leave it all to Licui. I'm an expert at dealing with small animals."

After that, Wang Licui quickly got into the swing of things, and began instructing Wang Shouzhe and the two old ancestors.

"Fourth Uncle, the ambush spot is there at an isolated location, behind there's a forest for hiding," Wang Licui began to think rapidly, "Also, wasn't it you who caught an Eastern Sea Spearflag fish last time? Have someone cut a piece of it. The turtle has a big appetite, so we'll need at least thirty, no, fifty pounds."

"Do you know the oven? If there isn't one at your place, go and get it from my yard. I had several spare ones made by a blacksmith before."

"First-class fruit charcoal, various seasonings."

"You two old ancestors, you must keep a distance and concentrate."

...

Her various arrangements and instructions were impressive indeed.

Even Wang Shouzhe was somewhat stunned. The energy the girl was showing just because there was food involved was truly terrifying.

Though the fifty pounds of spirit fish made him a little hesitant, he eventually agreed to it.

Afterward.

Everything was ready.

Wang Licui, along with Hua Hua and a regular boatman, began to drift on the lake. She and little tiger Hua Hua enjoyed various delicious foods cheerfully, especially the small dried fish. As they ate, some small dried fish would accidentally fall into the lake.

More than an hour later.

The boat gradually moved closer to the shore, and the dried fish kept "falling".

"Hua Hua, Missy will roast fresh fish for you. This is sea fish, you've never eaten it before." Wang Licui, holding Huahua, went ashore and began to grill fish.

She was skilled and meticulous in her movements. In no time, the savory smell of grilled fish wafted about.

Even Wang Shouzhe and the others who were hiding in the woods were attracted by the smell of grilled fish. But Wang Shouzhe still had some doubts. Could they really lure the turtle onto the shore with this method?

The sky gradually grew dark.

The charcoal fire in the grill grew more blinding.

"Hua Hua, this piece is mine, don't snatch it!" Wang Licui and little tiger Huahua had already started to enjoy the delicious grilled spirit fish. It looked like they had completely forgotten about their plan.

As they each took turns eating with gusto.

In less than a quarter of an hour, one third of the fifty pounds of Eastern Sea Spearflag spirit fish meat Wang Shouzhe had brought, was eaten by the girl and the tiger!

What's more, they showed no sign of stopping, eating more joyfully than anything else - in a short while, half of it was gone!

Wang Shouzhe felt a sudden chill in his heart, he had a bad feeling.

Had he fallen into some kind of trap?

Did Wang Licui actually had no intention of luring the turtle onto the shore, and was simply tricking him into giving up his spirit fish...?

Afterward, she could just wipe her mouth and say that they were unlucky that day, the turtle didn't take the bait, maybe the turtle didn't like fish and so on.

The next day she would continue to wrangle tens of pounds of Spirit Horned Yak's meat.

The more Wang Shouzhe thought about it, the more alarmed he became. This Licui girl, she has a history of such antics! How could he have trusted her so easily?

It was not until she and the little tiger had consumed two-thirds of it.

Then Wang Shouzhe slapped his forehead.

Err...Alright, I believe in your wicked cunning, you little Grand Aunt.

Just at this moment, the water near the lake's edge stirred slightly, as a huge turtle slowly crawled onto the bank. Its mighty torso appeared quite frightening in the dim light, and it even bared its teeth at Wang Licui and the little tiger.

"A fierce beast."

Wang Licui shouted, picked up the Little Tiger Huahua, and ran disappearing into thin air.

Then the big turtle proudly shook its head, stepping with heavy steps. It swung over to the grill, tilted its head as if pondering, is this grilled fish really that delicious?

Once it took a bite, a pound of grilled fish was gone.

Then the big turtle seemed possessed. It began to eat in large bites, probably regretting its skepticism and not coming ashore sooner to eat.

Wuu wuu~ Oh, Old Turtle has lived in vain for three hundred years.

In the forest, Ancestor Xiaohan flew out and lunged towards the big turtle.

The turtle's head jerked, suddenly realizing that it had indeed fallen into a trap.

However, it seemed to be psychologically prepared for this. It didn't forget to take a big bite of the leftover grilled fish with a "rawr", spreading its claws and legs and dashing towards the lake.

Its running speed was at least tenfold faster than its pace when it crawled ashore. It covered the forty or fifty feet in just a couple of breaths.

It's not surprising, considering this big turtle has lived for so long, its wisdom isn't low. It had already estimated possible traps, but still dared to come ashore and eat, naturally, it had an escape route in mind.

It seemed to want to show humans that as a fierce beast-class turtle, not only could it run fast as the wind, but it could also leap into the air.

Taking advantage of the momentum of its swift run, while still a few feet away from the lake, it stomped its legs, and its massive, heavy turtle body indeed took to the air.

At this moment, it didn't forget to blink with its turtle head still chewing on the grilled fish. It taunted Wang Xiaohan, who was trailing behind.

As if expressing the sentiment, without risks, how dare your grandpa turtle climb Mount Liang?

Don't panic! Everything is under Grandpa Turtle's control.

The huge turtle, in the air making an unsightly posture, crashed head-first into the lake. Once in the water, the world is big, and Grandpa Turtle can go anywhere.

Humans, thank you for the delicious food.

If it weren't for a big chunk of grilled fish in its mouth, it could hardly resist the urge to cackle loudly to express its exhilaration.

Just when the big turtle was at its proudest moment.

Sudden!

A sneering light voice sounded.

"Haha, you're happy too soon." "Mysterious Ice Sword!"

In the night, a vague figure appeared, she swung her sword gently. But this sword isn't aimed at the turtle, but at the surface of the lake.

This sword, which seemed light and easy, was enveloped in countless ice crystals' frost.

When the sword fell on the lake's surface.

In an instant, the intense icy chill of the Mysterious Ice spread rapidly along the crust. It managed to freeze more than a foot long of the lakeside surface into ice thick as a foot. Of course: the water was shallow near the shore thus she could freeze it rapidly and solidly.

"Clang!" "Crack!"

The turtle's big head brutally hit the surface of the ice, crashing through the ice with its head and shoulder shells, shattering the ice surface.

Then, its head and front shell got stuck in the ice layer.

The four legs were in the air, desperately kicking!

This scene made Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but laugh.

This big turtle is really too silly and cute. If you're running, then run, why do you have to jump into the lake with such a graceful posture!

However, with Ancestor Longyan intercepting it, even if it didn't leap into the lake, it wouldn't be able to escape.

Wang Xiaohan charged forward, seized a claw, and fiercely yanked it back. He forcefully hauled it to the empty ground far away from the lake water.

"Haha~ you can run pretty well, why don't you run now?"

Wang Xiaohan was quite angry with it, he directly flipped it over. The turtle shell was facing downward and the four limbs were facing up. Originally, the turtle could flip its body using its neck and head; however, since it had hit so severely just now, both its head and neck were injured.

It could only lay obediently facing the sky.

It reminded Wang Shouzhe of a joke about a partying turtle that couldn't flip its body back...

Chapter 105: Step by Step, Strengthening Family Heritage\_1

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Moreover, this turtle is quite crafty and intelligent. When it realized it had been captured, it immediately portrayed a meek and obedient demeanor, making it seem as if it was willing to be butchered.

"Old Ancestor," Wang Shouzhe asked, "Do you recognize what kind of fierce beast this is? It seems like a Water Elemental Turtle."

Old Ancestor Longyan checked its shell, patterns, and shape and said, "Indeed, it's not a rare spirit species; it is simply a Water Elemental Turtle."

Hearing this, Wang Shouzhe was slightly disappointed. Seeing how lively it was, he had expected it to be some sort of ancient exotic beast.

However, he realized that most of the fierce beasts in this world were common spirit species. Where would one find so many ancient exotic beasts? As for the Water Elemental Turtle, Wang Shouzhe had seen its depiction in the Beast Atlas.

Water Elemental Turtles have a mild temperament; they prefer stillness and a tranquil lifestyle. They can live in water for a long time and mainly eat aquatic fishes, but a spirit species fish would be an even more delightful meal.

In the bloodline inheritance of this spirit tortoise, there is one or more water spirit metric technique. Based on its performance before, it had awakened at least two talents in its bloodline.

According to Wang Shouzhe's understanding, bloodline inheritance is like genetic transfer.

The creatures of this world have a habit of transferring some knowledge, metric techniques, and cultivation methods, etc., through genes in their bloodline. However, the amount they can awaken depends on the density of their bloodline—the denser it is, the more complete the inheritance.

Within humans as well, there is a situation of bloodline inheritance. The abilities awakened through this bloodline are referred to as talents, which stand in contrast to abilities gained through acquired learning.

"Shouzhe, I find this spirit tortoise quite interesting," Wang Xiaohan expressed with interest, "It's very smart and nimble. Why not tame it and make it the family's spirit beast?"

"What do you think, Old Ancestor Longyan?" Wang Shouzhe asked.

Old Ancestor Longyan slightly pondered, "Your grandfather didn't kill it before because he wanted to see whether this tortoise could be an asset to our family after it matures. There are two main benefits of a turtle class spirit beast: first, they have a gentle character and high loyalty, and second, they have a very long lifespan."

After pausing, Old Ancestor Longyan added, "But if it becomes a family spirit beast, there comes the ensuing obligation to nurture it. A spirit beast requires significant upkeep every year."

Considering this, Wang Shouzhe said, "Spirit Tortoise, I'm sure you can understand what I'm implying. If you become our family spirit beast, you can receive a hundred pounds of Spirit Fish Meat every year. If you are sent into battle, there will be extra Spirit Fish for you."

Unexpectedly, the Water Elemental Turtle refused to entertain Wang Shouzhe and turned its head away.

"Fourth Uncle, we can't treat a spirit beast like this." Wang Licui came running back, cradling Little Tiger Huahua, "Let me give it a try."

That might work.

Wang Shouzhe felt that she had a knack for dealing with animals.

Maybe his tone was too stern and lacked approachability. It's better to let Lici give it a try. After all, a girl is supposed to be gentler?

Wang Licui walked around the Water Elemental Turtle once, then said sternly, "Listen, Turtle, there are two paths for you. Either behave yourself and become our Wang family's spirit beast and live comfortably with your annual sustenance."

"Or, I'll let Fourth Uncle tear you apart. I, Wang Licui, have never eaten a spirit turtle before. Stewing this leg, steaming that leg, turning this one into a soup, leaving that one for a barbecue, why is this leg so small? Hmm, let's stir-fry this one..."

Little girl, I only have four legs; how did you count a fifth one?

The Water Elemental Turtle was utterly terrified.

It understood that the human girl was not joking.

She really wanted to eat him.

In fear, the Tortoise quickly nodded, indicating it was willing to become the family spirit beast, as long as it could occasionally eat the grilled fish it had tasted before.

"You can have the grilled fish, but only if you behave well," Wang Licui coldly threatened, "Behave, and you'll have everything. Otherwise, you know what's coming ..."

Understood, understood!

The Water Elemental Turtle frantically nodded.

"Fourth Uncle, flip it over," Wang Licui casually instructed.

"?"

Wang Shouzhe raised an eyebrow but still turned the Water Elemental Turtle over accordingly. This huge creature was actually quite heavy, probably weighing about a thousand pounds. "Little Miss, aren't you afraid it will take the chance to escape?" he asked.

Once the Water Elemental Turtle had all his feet on the ground, it felt a great sense of security. Retracting its limbs and lifting its tail, elongating its neck in relaxation. Hearing the word 'escape'," its eyes lit up, seemingly lost in thought.

"Run? Ha, I'd love to see it run. Zhuwei Lake only has tens of thousands of acres. Where can it go?" Wang Licui spoke nonchalantly, "If it tries to run, we can kill it and eat it. It weighs a thousand pounds, enough for us to feast on for some time. The shell can be used to make Turtle Jelly, which is great for cleansing and detoxing in the summer while also being beneficial for the complexion."

The Water Elemental Turtle immediately retracted its head. How could such a young human girl be so ruthless? She not only wanted to eat its meat but also planned to use its shell!

The tortoise then swayed its way to the bank.

Wang Shouzhe and Wang Xiaohan turned their attention to Wang Licui. Since they had trusted her with this task, they would let her take the lead.

Wang Licui waved her hands, signaling that there was no need to worry.

As expected, when the Water Elemental Turtle reached the shore, it did not leave the lake; instead, it sniffed around the remnants of the ice and gathered the leftover grilled Spirit Fish Meat. It then started leisurely enjoying its meal by the shore.

Seeing this relaxed behavior, Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but chuckle. This Water Elemental Turtle was indeed quite chill. It had just been caught and became a family spirit beast, but seemed to have already put all its worries behind and began enjoying its life as a turtle.

Chapter 105: Careful Tactics! Enhancing the Family Foundation\_2

"Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, I think we should take this opportunity to roast some more delights." Wang Licui suggested eagerly on the side, "For example, we could prepare another fifty kilograms of Spirit Horned Yak meat, to show this turtle the depth of our Wang family's barbecue skills. That way, it will never want to leave our Wang family again."

Little Hatchet Flower, standing aside, was all bright-eyed and excited, nodding in agreement. The master's ideas were always peculiar, yet so pleasing.

Damn barbecue depth?

You're just craving more aren't you?

Wait a moment!

This little girl and Little Tiger Huahua, they'd just eaten at least thirty kilograms, right? Aren't you afraid of bursting?

Even Old Ancestor Longyan couldn't bear it anymore: "Licui, although you're growing now and your cultivation increases rapidly, leading to a strong demand for Spirit Food. However, binge eating in a short period is ultimately not good."

"Yes, Old Ancestor." In front of the Old Ancestor, Wang Licui was always very obedient, even if her mood was a bit downcast.

"That's it, just roast fifty kilograms." Old Ancestor Longyan said, "You and Huahua should eat a maximum of ten kilograms."

"Thank you, Old Ancestor." Immediately, both Wang Licui and the little tiger had their spirits revived. They received the storeroom's seal from Wang Shouzhe and hurried off to begin preparations.

Life is hard for me.

Wang Shouzhe's head was buzzing. Fifty kilograms of Spirit Horned Yak meat, this household funds are not easy to manage.

"Shouzhe, don't misunderstand my favoritism towards Licui," Old Ancestor Longyan explained from the side, "This girl's bloodline is in the second awakening stage, and her cultivation is increasing so rapidly that her life factor is evolving swiftly. Even if our family is rather poor, we can't let her down at this time. Moreover, thanks to your merits, the family's situation is rapidly improving~"

"Second awakening stage?" The expression on Wang Shouzhe's face became serious, "Old Ancestor, are you sure?"

"I can certainly confirm this." A delight that Old Ancestor Longyan couldn't suppress flashed in his eyes, "I am also a person who has undergone two awakenings, so I am very clear about this. Although I was only able to achieve my second bloodline awakening through the advancement to the Spirit Platform Realm. Licui is already having her second awakening at such a young age.

If she awakens again when she advances to the Spirit Platform, it will be a threefold awakening of her bloodline. With the blessings of our ancestors, our Wang family will surely make a comeback."

The expression on Wang Shouzhe's face was bewildered and his heart was both happy and a bit bitter.

Will he, Wang Shouzhe, have one day when he might need to cling to his grandniece's golden leg?

But this is Wang Licui's own opportunity, although Wang Shouzhe is envious, he is ultimately happy.

"Grand Aunt." Wang Xiaohan, who was on the side, also expressed his surprise, "With Licui's double awakening, if she goes to the Purple Abode Academy, won't she be able to become a famous student? Among the younger generations, there must be very few who can rival her, right?"

"Xiaohan, Shouzhe." Old Ancestor Longyan's eyes were serious, "Don't become arrogant because our Wang family has made slight improvements. I won't even mention the entire Great Qian Land. Just the whole Longzuo County is very formidable overall."

"When I entered the academy as a mid-level constriction with a single bloodline awakening, I was just among the ordinary students." Old Ancestor Longyan said, "It was due to my own efforts, and

the substantial funding from our family, that before I turned thirty, I stepped into the Spirit Platform Realm.

My bloodline was upgraded to the Mysterious Ice bloodline and got recognized by Master Canlan, and was taken as his disciple. Only when I got to the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm and showed some talent, was I accepted into the core disciples."

"I have seen with my own eyes, a Sky Pride who had advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm at the age of sixteen. Yet even such a talent was not immediately expressed as a personal connection by the Master." Old Ancestor Longyan said seriously, "So, everyone must not get arrogant. Take this good opportunity to develop steadily."

Advanced to Spirit Platform Realm at the age of sixteen?

Wang Shouzhe was truly alarmed.

The Old Ancestor was right in his criticism, after all, the Wang family was just a common small family in the remote and poor countryside.

Being in such a situation, it inevitably falls into the pattern of a frog in the well.

How many higher-ranking prominent families are above them, how many peerless geniuses? Those large families with long histories, any one of them brought out a piece of their amazing foundations, could crush the entire Wang family.

"However, don't lose your confidence, Shouzhe." Old Ancestor Longyan encouraged, "Everyone has witnessed your abilities and scope. I strongly believe that under your leadership, the family will continue to prosper, and one day maybe we could even become a member of the Tianren Family and fulfill the wishes of Old Ancestor Zhou."

"Yes, Old Ancestor." Although Wang Shouzhe felt a bit reflective, he still had a lot of confidence in himself. He bowed and said, "Just as the saying goes, tall buildings rise from the ground, and those high-ranking families have also accumulated over hundreds or thousands of years to reach their current flourishing state."

"Shouzhe has always pursued steady progress, not instant success. Accumulating the foundation and strength of the family step by step will eventually allow us to hold supremacy." Wang Shouzhe spoke with calm conviction.

"Well said."

Both Old Ancestor Longyan and Old Ancestor Xiaohan praised Wang Shouzhe continuously.

This world has never been short of opportunities, nor is it scarce of individuals or prominent families who rise rapidly within a short period of time.

However, as the saying goes, 'Time and tide wait for no man.' Only those prominent families that remain steady as Mount Tai, unchallengeable in the face of adversity, can truly claim an everlasting legacy.

While they were conversing,

Wang Licui came running back out of breath, carrying a big bag of Spirit Horned Yak meat. Be it due to her fast-running, or excessive excitement, her chubby cheeks were tinged with red.

Little Tiger Huahua, full of energy, was darting around here and there, occasionally rolling around on the ground, as if complaining that Wang Licui was running too slowly.

Not even half an hour later,

Under Wang Licui's care, everyone was served sizzling delicious barbecue.

"Grandfather Six, the quality of Licui's barbecue is excellent. Please, eat more." Wang Shouzhe felt quite protective towards Wang Xiaohan, who had suffered hardships for the family all his life, even scrimping on his own food to leave more for the young ones.

"Indeed, Xiaohan should eat more." Old Ancestor Longyan also advised, "You've just advanced to the Spiritual Platform. Your body is still undergoing rapid transformation. Eating more Spirit Food will help you stabilize your realm."

At this point,

Wang Xiaohan no longer declined, heartily eating the barbecue. Having lived such a long life, he had never enjoyed Spirit Meat so freely before, truly a tear-jerking moment.

However, Wang Shouzhe was the head of the household.

He was keenly aware that the current state of the family's prosperity was dependent on resources. The rising of the elders and the accelerated growth of the younger ones couldn't be separated from resources.

The current rate of resource consumption far exceeded that of the Wang family's past penny-pinching days.

Excessive frugality was not the way for a family's growth, as it would only lead to a vicious cycle.

Increasing wealth, expanding the family's profits—that's the right path for a family to enter a positive cycle of growth.

"Old Ancestor, Grandfather Six." Wang Shouzhe said, "It's the end of summer now, and in another month and a half, it will be our Wang family's traditional autumn and winter hunting season. Our family is in a favorable situation this year, so we must seize this opportunity to hunt a few Fierce Beasts and restock our Spirit Food reserves."

"That's natural." Wang Xiaohan laughed heartily, "In previous years, we had no choice but to take a quick stroll around the outer regions and then return. This year is different. It's time for those Fierce Beasts to experience the might of our Wang family."

"Then, Grandfather Six, focus on consolidating your realm for now, and wait for the autumn and winter hunt to show off your prowess." Wang Shouzhe said with a double entendre in his smile.

"Great!" Wang Xiaohan was excited, "It's time for this old man to contribute more to the rise of our family."

Old Ancestor Longyan, however, remained silent but looked meaningfully at Wang Shouzhe.

After spending long periods of time with Shouzhe and witnessing his capabilities in turning the tides and making drastic changes time and again, she knew that this upcoming autumn and winter hunt would not be simple.

However, Old Ancestor Longyan was not fond of scheming and naturally left all the arranging to Shouzhe.

While Wang Shouzhe was eating the delicious barbecue served by Licui and observing the harmonious scene of the family, his mind was already sinking into deep thoughts.

The upcoming autumn and winter hunt would be the turning point for the Wang family to reverse its fifty-year decline and rise again.

Chapter 106 Taking Lici to Scrounge for Food! No Cap\_1

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Several days later.

The Main Residence of the Liu Clan.

Recently, for the Liu Clan, it has been like a living nightmare, with one piece of bad news after another relentlessly hitting them.

Nowadays, the internal environment of the Liu Clan is in a state of great anxiety.

All major industries are shrinking, whether it be the middle-level principals and chief principals, or the lower-level helpers and tenant farmers, they all have extremely low morale, and even regular tasks are not being performed well.

It's no wonder, as rumors are spreading everywhere that the Wang Clan is rising, and the Liu and Zhao Clans are on the verge of collapse.

Although the Liu and Zhao Clans seem to have been bewitched, not making any moves or counterattacks, as if they have already accepted this situation.

But only the true core members of the Liu and Zhao Clans know about their real plans.

A door to a secluded courtyard slowly opens.

A middle-aged man dressed simply walks out from within. He has a robust physique, and his stride is as forceful as a dragon's or tiger's steps, his eyes are blazing and carrying a strong aura.

He is Liu Shenghao, the successor to the Spirit Platform Realm that the Liu Clan has been carefully cultivating for decades.

The Family Head, Liu Shengye, who had been waiting there, brightens up on seeing Liu Shenghao. He steps forward and says, "Elder brother, if you come out at this time, does that mean you have a chance of breaking through? If it's not smooth enough yet, you should keep practicing. We, the Liu Clan, can still hold on."

"Shengye, you have had a hard time." Liu Shenghao's eyes are full of strong confidence, "I have been honing my skills for decades, and I am very confident that I can ascend to the Spirit Platform Realm. Bring me the Heavenly Spirit Pill and the auxiliary Spirit Pill. Today is the day I, Liu Shenghao, will achieve the Spirit Platform Realm."

"Good, good, good." Liu Shengye was quite overcome with emotion, teetering on the edge of tears. The recent days have been too hard for the Liu Clan. The common people from their territory even went to work on the Wang's Zhuwei Lake project.

Even some wealthy families are rushing to sell off their accumulated family property from generations past to go to the Wang Clan, eager to buy futures in Zhuwei Manor's fields and buildings. Even if there are some losses, they don't hesitate at all.

Under the intense propaganda and promotional campaigns, everyone regards the Liu and Zhao Clans as dangerous beasts, fearing that they won't escape in time.

Against this, the Liu and Zhao Clans are simply powerless to respond.

"As long as you become a Spirit Platform Realm practitioner," Liu Shengye says with a cold exhilarating laugh, "we Spirit Platform Realm powerhouses can seize the right opportunity to quietly kill the hateful Wang Shouzhe. All the unfavorable circumstances will be completely reversed."

In the eyes of the Liu and Zhao Clans, Wang Shouzhe has replaced Wang Longyan to become their number one enemy.

Once Wang Shouzhe is removed, the so-called rise of the Wang Clan would only be a baseless castle in the air, destined to collapse.

All those who have betrayed the Liu and Zhao Clans will eventually be settled with.

Liu Shengye leads Liu Shenghao to the courtyard of the Family Head's residence, smiling, "The Heavenly Spirit Pill is hidden in the secret chamber of my bedroom. Apart from the Old Ancestor, Liu Yonghao, and a few other close kin, no one knows the whereabouts of this item. I'll go get it for you now."

He enters the bedroom, triggers a concealed mechanism, and a wall slowly opens. He walks into the secret chamber, takes out a brocade box from a hidden cabinet inside, and hands it to Liu Shenghao, saying, "Elder brother, the hope of the family, all depends on you now."

"Shengye, you just relax." Liu Shenghao is slightly moved, taking the long-awaited brocade box and opens it to look. Sure enough, there are a few jade bottles inside.

He opens one of the jade bottles, just about to take a sniff at the aroma of the Heavenly Spirit Pill, when suddenly, his face dramatically changes, "What, what is this?" He tipped out its content and found that it was just a single ball of flour.

"Thump!"

Liu Shenghao has a moment of dread, hurriedly opens the bottles for the auxiliary Spirit Pills, and indeed, inside, all had been replaced with balls of flour. He screams, "Shengye, what is going on?!"

Liu Shengye, for the first time in his life, was completely flustered.

Sweating profusely, trembling all over, he stammers, "Impossible, impossible! There are only a few people who know about this secret chamber. Could it be, Yonghao? Summon him, bring Yonghao to me."

Not a moment later.

Liu Yonghao kneels in the courtyard, beaten to a pulp, vomiting blood, wailing miserably, "Father, I didn't take it, I really didn't take it."

"That's right, that's right, I remember now. Yongzhou, my fifth brother, invited me out for some wine. I drank a lot of it, I don't know what I said. Could it be..."

"Yongzhou?" Liu Shengye looks bewildered, "What would Yongzhou need the Heavenly Spirit Pill for? That's not right, Yongzhou hasn't been seen for several days now."

"Brother Yongzhou said he had to break through to the sixth level of the Qi Refinement Realm recently, to strive for the rise of the family, so he closed himself off for a while."

After a thorough inquiry,

The Liu Clan discovered that Liu Yongzhou had disappeared and what he said about seclusion was simply a façade.

At this moment, where would the Liu Clan not know that something was wrong with Liu Yongzhou. His mistake, perhaps, is tied with the Zhong Clan's Zhong Luoxian.

Moving quickly, members of the Liu Clan arrived at "The Summer Garden," to find the gates tightly shut, the place already empty, with no sign of Zhong Luoxian.

Back at the Main Residence of the Liu Clan,

An elder assembly, even the Old Ancestor, Liu Zhde, were all assembled together.

"Could it be, that Yongzhou was bewitched by Zhong Luoxian, stole the Heavenly Spirit Pill, etc., betraying the clan and defecting to the Zhong Clan?"

"Ah, the hardest to guard against is the thief within. Nephew Yongzhou was foolish!"

"Even if the Zhong Clan is a Celestial Family, they could not commit such an unscrupulous act, could they? We will go to the First Capital City of Changning Weicheng to make a complaint, making them hand Liu Yongzhou, the traitor, over."

"The Zhong Clan is a mighty family, and furthermore, part of the Hundred Islands Guard, a Celestial Family. Will they bother with us?"

Chapter 106 Taking Lici to Scrounge for Food! No Cap\_2

Just as everyone was trying to salvage the situation by arguing back and forth.

A domestic aide rushed back to report: "I was ordered to investigate Hundred Islands Guard, and I'm here to report. After a lot of effort, I finally found out. It turns out that among the direct descendants of the Zhong Family, there is no one named Luoxian. Family Head, we need to be careful, this might be a scam."

Getting this information from the Hundred Islands Guard wasn't easy, as many families are very protective of their offspring. The domestic aide does not yet know that a major event has happened at home.

"What!?"

Liu Shengye turned deathly pale, violently coughing up blood.

If Zhong Luoxian was truly a daughter of the Zhong Family, there was a glimmer of hope for securing the Heavenly Spirit Pill.

But now...

The elders of Liu Clan were filled with lamentations and fear.

What should we do next, what should we do?

Under such a huge blow.

Even Zhide, the old ancestor Liu Zhde, was rocking, seemingly unable to stand steady.

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While Liu Clan was in deep grief.

At Changning, the high and imposing city wall stood solemnly.

An ordinary carriage, after paying some city taxes, slowly entered Changning.

There were a few people sitting in the carriage.

One of the girls was rather chubby and could not restrain her curiosity. She secretly lifted the corner of the carriage curtain and peeked outside.

This young girl was naturally the eighth generation missy of the Wang family, Wang Licui.

Girls are naturally curious and lively. She had very few chances to visit the city from a young age.

Wang Shouzhe naturally wouldn't blame Wang Licui, he continued to meditate, almost as if he was an old monk in meditation.

The person sitting opposite Wang Shouzhe was the Old Ancestor Longyan, dressed in plain white. She also closed her eyes, appearing to be in a semi-meditative state.

However, she focused her spiritual sense outside the carriage, vigilantly alert to any adverse events. Shouzhe is too key to the future of the Wang family, they absolutely can't afford any mishaps.

"Old Ancestor, relax a little, you're getting too tired from always being on alert." Wang Shouzhe said gently, "The Liu and Zhao families do hate me to the bone, but the chances of them openly attacking me in public are too low."

Even so, Wang Shouzhe recently had been adhering to a policy of not leaving home whenever possible. Even when he was forced to venture out, like now, he wouldn't hesitate to ask for Old Ancestor Longyan to come along for protection.

Yes, he's very afraid of death.

What he's most afraid of is that the old ancestors of the Liu and Zhao families might suddenly go senile and do something maniacal that not only harms others but disadvantageous to themselves as well.

As the saying goes, one should always anticipate the enemy to be at their worst, Wang Shouzhe preferred to think of his enemies in the worst possible light.

In the past, it was the Liu and Zhao Families who were afraid of Wang Family causing havoc, leading to mutually assured destruction. But the current situation has completely reversed, now it's Wang Shouzhe who worried that the others would lose their minds and do something irrational.

"Hmm..." Once inside the city, Old Ancestor Longyan could relax a bit.

Even if the Old Ancestors of the Liu and Zhao families were crazy, they wouldn't dare attack leaders of other families within the city.

Moreover, their current outing, whether it's the route or other aspects, was done very covertly.

And they even simply disguised themselves, with the makeover done by Wang Mei, the family servant. With her skilled hand, everyone's appearance didn't change drastically, but unless known closely, they wouldn't be recognized instantly.

Especially Old Ancestor Longyan, her white hair was dyed black by Wang Mei, cascading down like a waterfall on her shoulders. Combined with her white attire and veil, she looked like a fairy who was untouched by the mundane world.

"Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle." Wang Licui smacked her lips, a look of craving on her face, "Over there they're selling roast ducks, why don't we buy a few to fill our stomachs."

The water route turned overland, and after swaying for quite a while, she was naturally very hungry.

Furthermore, she prepared extensively just for the chance to come to town today. And if you ask what she prepared, well... everyone can probably guess, haha~

"Licui, there's a saying that goes 'the last step stumbles the walker.' Are you going to be the walker who stumbles at the last step?" Wang Shouzhe teased, "Hundred Taste Residence is ranked among the top three restaurants in Changning."

"Gulp." Wang Licui swallowed hard, consolidated her determination, slammed the curtain down, then started acting coquettishly with Wang Shouzhe, "Fourth Uncle, how about we have lunch before we get down to business?"

At this moment.

The voice of Wang Yong, the coachman, came in, "Young Master, it's not far ahead to our Wang family's fish stall. Would you like to make a detour a for a quick inspection?"

Wang Licui's eyes spurted fire, even thoughts of murder crossed her mind.

Did he deliberately want to antagonize Miss Licui?

Luckily, Wang Shouzhe was afraid she would starve herself sick, so he immediately directed Wang Yong to the Hundred Taste Residence.

"Four Uncle is really thoughtful." Wang Licui's spirits lifted instantly.

Hundred Taste Residence.

The carriage halted at the backyard.

Under the guidance of the attendant, Wang Shouzhe and the others discreetly entered a luxurious private room.

"Oh wow, Four Uncle is truly generous." Wang Licui grinned even sweeter than honey upon hearing that the minimum consumption for a private room at the Hundred Taste Residence was not low.

Unexpectedly.

In the luxurious room, a middle-aged and chubby man was already waiting.

After signalling the attendant to leave, he bowed to Wang Shouzhe with a big smile, "Younger brother Shouzhe, long time no see, I heard your Wang family is doing well. Eh? Why are you dressed up like this? I could hardly recognize you."

"Old brother Qian," Wang Shouzhe returned the greeting with a smile, "It's all thanks to your guidance that our Wang family has reached today's height. It's just that I've made too many enemies recently, so I have to prioritize safety when I go out."

This middle-aged, chubby man, naturally, is Wang Shouzhe's ally, Qian Zhushi Qian Xuean. No, more precisely, he is now the Deputy Manager Qian.

"Shouzhe also congratulates older brother on becoming the shopkeeper and taking charge of one side."

Wang Shouzhe's current visit is naturally in response to an invitation he received from Qian Xuean. Although there were some twists and turns along the way, he eventually achieved his goal.

With the support of his family, he succeeded in advancing to the Spirit Platform Realm and obtaining the opportunity to control one side of the Changning Guard. However, Wang Shouzhe didn't feel any aura of a Spirit Platform Realm powerhouse from him.

"Deputy Shopkeeper, Deputy Shopkeeper. I'll have to get through this stage first before I can become a real shopkeeper," Qian Xuean said jovially with a booming laugh, "You and I are brothers in life and death, we don't need to be polite with each other. Who are these two family members?"

"This is my niece, Wang Licui," Wang Shouzhe introduced with a smile. "She's with me to see the world in the city."

"So, this is your niece. Brother Shouzhe's niece is also my niece." Qian Xuean pulled out a twenty Qian Gold Note. "Here, Niece, take this and get something to eat."

"No...", Wang Shouzhe began to protest. "Brother Qian just advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm and has also taken on the burden of managing the business. His finances must be strained."

"Shouzhe understands me, but I can afford this small red packet," Qian Xuean chuckled, "Besides, this is a lucrative opportunity."

He considered Wang Shouzhe as his closest ally, which was evident in his words.

"In that case, Licui, thank Uncle Qian," Wang Shouzhe smiled, indicating that they were solid allies despite what the future holds.

Later, Qian Xuean brought out another twenty Qian Gold, smilingly said to Luo Yi, "This must be Luo Yi, right? You must be wearing a veil because your wedding is around the corner, isn't it? Miss Luo Yi is indeed a phoenix amidst people, extraordinarily refined. Please accept this small token."

Wang Shouzhe broke into a cold sweat.

He knew that Luo Yi was a man of strong character and hated being complimented. If he angered the elder and drew his sword, it could be disastrous.

Just as he was about to intervene, Luo Yi reached out his slender jade hand, took the twenty Qian Gold Note, and casually said, "Thank you."

What's going on?

Wang Shouzhe was a bit confused. The elder had actually assumed a younger identity and accepted their meeting gift?

Later, Qian Xuean settled down next to Wang Shouzhe, "Brother Shouzhe, it's thanks to you that I have today. We must have a good drink today."

"Old brother Qian, I'm here with my family. It's my treat." The thought of Wang Licui made Wang Shouzhe anxious.

"How can you say that? Your family is also my family."

"No, no. My niece can really eat..."

"Haha... Don't tell me you're afraid she'll eat me out of home?" Qian Xuean laughed heartily, then, facing Wang Licui, he said in a high-spirited tone, "Niece Licui, order whatever you like and as much as you like. Today, the sky's the limit!"

Chapter 107: Exposed! Turns out I am the 8th Generation Rich\_1

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Qian Xuean's bold words shocked Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Licui naturally laughed until her eyes were almost closed and she said sweetly: "Thank you, Uncle Qian. You are a really kind person."

"Ahem!"

Wang Shouzhe quickly interrupted, "Brother Qian, since you are the host, how could you ask the guests to order?"

"Never mind, we are all family; these formalities aren't important. Let my niece order. Consider this meal as my way of congratulating you," said Qian Xuean. Having just promoted to the Spiritual Platform Realm and being promoted to deputy manager of Qian Family's Changning Branch, his future was filled with possibilities and therefore he was in high spirits.

Wang Shouzhe knew if he continued to dissuade, he would dampen Qian Xuean's spirits.

At once, he repeatedly hinted at Wang Licui, signalling her to hold back a little. At most, he could bring her for another meal tomorrow.

Luckily, despite Wang Licui's love for food, she understood from Wang Shouzhe's hint that she needed to restrain herself. Otherwise, she would definitely be punished when they went back home.

Shyly, she ordered two dishes that she had heard were delicious but had never eaten before; all cost just a few dozen copper coins.

"You're looking down on Uncle Qian? Cancel that order, cancel it. We only eat spiritual food today," Qian Xuean insisted.

Since Uncle Qian had invited her repetitively, Wang Licui finally 'hardened her heart' and ordered five or six spiritual foods. All of them were spirit fish and spirit meat she had never eaten before, along with a plate of spirit fruits worth several Qian gold pieces.

Qian Xuean raised an eyebrow.

Is that all?

In total, it was no more than twenty or thirty Qian gold.

Immediately, Qian Xuean took over the exquisitely carved menu, and with a wave of his hand, added another five or six dishes. These were the signature spiritual dishes of Hundred Taste Residence, alongside two types of spiritual wine.

One was the Red Flame Rosy Clouds, a fire spirit wine made with Red Crystal Rice and Spiritual Spring; the taste was fiery and was most suitable for men.

The other was Ice Crystal Dew fruit wine, made from the renowned water spirit Crystal Dew Grass. The alcohol content was low and tasted more like an iced beverage, suitable for women.

Crystal Dew Grass, although the name includes the word 'grass', is actually a water spirit fruit that must be grown in a water spirit field of the water spirit veins.

The Lu Clan of Yingxiu, to which Wang Shouzhe's mother belongs, produced a small amount of Crystal Dew Grass and made a decent profit from it.

All in all, the total is probably around seventy or eighty Qian gold.

In comparison, this bill might reach as high as a million on Earth.

Qian Xuean's high-spirited attitude was clear to see.

It was understandable given his promotion to the position of Deputy Manager in the Qian Family's Changning Branch was no easy feat.

Even the leaders of some of the more insignificant families would have a difficult time seeking an audience with him.

Qian Xuean typically would only meet with family heads if the seniors of their families requested for it.

"Brother Shouzhe, Niece Licui, and Miss Luo Yi," Qian Xuean said as he raised his cup, "Allow me to toast to the Ping'an Wang family for suppressing their enemies and increasing their prestige in Changning."

"Thank you, Brother Qian."

Everyone then drained their glass and started to eat.

One must admit that the dishes served at the Hundred Taste Residence were already top-tier within Changning.

Not only was Wang Shouzhe full of praise, but even the usually quiet Elder Luo was seen frequently picking up her chopsticks. This was proof of the dishes' exquisite quality.

As for Wang Licui, she seemed to have eaten to the point where her eyes were almost popping out.

She had eaten plenty of spiritual food lately, but she had never tasted dishes that were so varied and intricately prepared.

The cooks from the Wang family just didn't have this level of culinary skill.

These dishes were delicious, incredibly so.

"Brother Qian, allow me to make a toast in your honor, wishing you a prosperous future and constant promotion."

"Thank you for your kind words, Shouzhe."

The two men continued to drink heavily throughout their conversation, finishing several cups of alcohol.

Qian Xuean, slightly inebriated, began to express his feelings. "My dear brother Shouzhe, I, Qian Xuean, just a humble member of a side branch of the family, have come a long way to achieve what I have today. Being assigned as the deputy manager during a crisis was not easy, either."

"Oh, are the effects of the Insecticide Powder Muddle still persisting? Are the prominent families still obstructing you?" Wang Shouzhe had heard about the incident.

Now, the Wang family was no longer as ignorant as before.

"Right, specifically the Huangfu Clan and the Lei Family, two celestial families, have been very obstinate," Qian Xuean frowned, "They even demanded our Qian Family to compensate for last season's losses, or else they would no longer use the Insecticide Powder and would instead hire an Insect Master. Seeing this, the other prominent families also began to hesitate.

It's ridiculous, the Insecticide Powder is a product from the Purple Abode Academy; our Qian Family just sells it."

"Your Qian Family is not afraid of the Huangfu Clan and the Lei Family, are they?" Wang Shouzhe hesitated.

"Of course not, but as the saying goes, even a worm will turn. We Qian Family is here in Changning to do business, and doing business requires peace and goodwill. If we cannot get past this bottleneck, I'm afraid I'll never have the chance to become the actual manager," Qian Xuean laughed bitterly.

Wang Shouzhe understood.

This occasion by Qian Xuean to invite him held a hidden intention, hoping that Wang Shouzhe would help him come up with an idea. After all, Wang Shouzhe's performance had already greatly impressed Qian Xuean.

"Brother Qian, you're caught in the middle and can't see clearly," Wang Shouzhe mused, "This time, the Academy decided to sell the new Insecticide at a low price not only to reestablish its reputation but also to compensate the common people for their losses since they were the ones who suffered the most. Prominent families, no matter how poor, are still able to survive."

"You mean... operate around the prominent families?" Qian Xuean's eyes flickered slightly. Indeed, the prominent families were formidable, but the main sales of the Insecticide were from the common people.

Chapter 107: Exposed! Turns out I am the 8th Generation Rich\_2

"Work around the most obstinate prominent families," Wang Shouzhe suggested. "Your business thrives on harmony and wealth. You still need to give them secret benefits and unite the majority of the prominent families."

"Brother Qian, you can carefully calculate the big data of the whole situation. How much fertile land do we, Changning Guard, have and how many Insect Masters are available to exterminate the bugs?" Wang Shouzhe said with a smile, "Even if my Wang family has an Insect Master, it can currently tend to tens of thousands of acres at most in a season, and in the future, up to a hundred thousand acres."

The big picture still relies on the Insecticide Powder."

"Yeah, right." Qian Xuean's eyes flashed brightly, slapping his thigh, "I was blind. Even if the celestial being's prominent families invite Insect Masters from elsewhere, they still need Insect Masters... Under the big data, Insecticide Powder is still an irreplaceable item. In this way, I have enough confidence."

"You can hire someone skilled in the Nine Chapters Arithmetic to make a detailed chart with big data. Thus, more than 90% of the prominent families will not dare to blindly follow trends."

"Wonderful, wonderful." Qian Xuean repeatedly praised, "This longstanding problem of mine was resolved by Brother Shouzhe in a few words. No wonder you are so respected, Brother Shouzhe, your Wang family is destined to thrive."

"Brother Qian, it's just because you are involved in the affair and received threats from the celestial being's prominent family. It only blurred your sight." Wang Shouzhe changed the subject, "Now can you give me some information, in terms of the big picture, is this batch of Insecticide Powder high or low in quantity?"

"Of course, it's not much," Qian Xuean replied. "Even if the Purple Abode Academic Palace is strong, it's not easy to hastily improve the new Insecticide Powder and mass-produce it. How could it be excessive?"

"According to the Academic Palace compensation plan, is it buying at 30% of the original price? Then, I, Ping'an Wang, will take the amount needed for my 200,000 acres of fertile land. The original price is 2,000 Qian Gold. The discount price is 600 Qian Gold. I'll buy it."

Two hundred thousand acres?

Old Ancestor Longyan cast a different look at Wang Shouzhe, when did my Ping'an Wang family have so much fertile land?

Even if all the fertile lands of Ping'an Town were added up, they wouldn't account for half of this figure, right?

"What?"

Wang Licui, who was happily eating, also had some confused eyes. Did the Fourth Uncle's Nine Chapters Arithmetic not work anymore? Or have I, Miss Licui, gone from being poor for eight generations to rich for eight generations?

"Haha, your Nine Chapters Arithmetic isn't working, Brother. You've drunk too much. Where does your Ping'an Wang family have 200,000 acres of fertile land?" Qian Xuean shook his head, laughing.

Exactly, Wang Licui nodded repeatedly. She guessed that her fourth uncle, who had drunk too much Red Flame Rosy Clouds wine, couldn't even remember how many fertile lands there were in Ping'an Town.

"Your Ping'an Wang Family clearly has 300,000 acres of fertile land." Qian Xuean corrected seriously. "According to the 30% calculation, your Wang family should pay 900 Qian Gold."

"What?" Wang Licui's eyes were round in surprise. This Qian, no, Uncle Qian's arithmetic is even worse?

"Yes, yes." Wang Shouzhe slapped his forehead as if realizing it. "Brother Qian, look at my memory. Indeed, it is 300,000 acres of fertile land. Let's stick to this agreement. Here, Brother, I'll toast you."

The two began to cross their cups again.

And then, Wang Licui was stunned. Three hundred thousand acres, our family owns three hundred thousand acres of fertile land.

Wuwuwu~ The elders are all liars. They always fooled Licui, saying the family was very poor, and that good things were to be eaten sparingly.

Now, it's all out in the open!!!

It turns out that the elders just wanted to hone her, train her, to make her successful.

Now her status is revealed.

I, Miss Licui, really am a super-rich eight-generation heiress! I'm so happy.

Eat, eat, eat~ No need to worry about money anymore.

Eat hard.

Old Ancestor Longyan was also a little dazed. His own Shouzhe and that chubby Qian are clearly fleecing the wool of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, and they are shearing a lot...

As a former core disciple of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, how can he bear it?

But, the Wang family is too poor. If there's a little to shear, just shear a little. Look at our children, look how hungry our Licui is.

"Hm?"

Old Ancestor Longyan's brow twitched slightly.

The plates on the table had already been emptied.

When Qian Xuean was just about to serve food, he was stunned to see the empty plates. Then he looked at Wang Licui, his mouth twitching slightly, "Niece Licui, are you full?"

Wang Licui was about to say she wasn't full, but when she saw the look in her fourth uncle's eyes, she swallowed and nodded, "Yes, I'm full." She said this, but her expression and movements were suggesting she wasn't!

"Good, good, being able to eat is a blessing, this child is blessed." Qian Xuean called in a young servant, waving his big hand to order seven or eight dishes. Then, he started talking to Wang Shouzhe again.

"Brother Shouzhe, you said Red Crystal Spirit Rice Seeds, or Flame Lotus Seeds, are easy to find." Qian Xuean frowned slightly. "But the ones I can find are mostly ordinary varieties, and high-yielding quality breeds improved over generations are held by prominent families. They are not willing to let it go. I'm afraid I don't have enough influence."

"Ordinary grain is fine, how can my Wang Family dare to hope for exotic species?" Wang Shouzhe said with a smile. "Also, the Array Master needs to be found from a place that's a few towns away."

Qian Xuean glanced at Wang Shouzhe suspiciously. After a long time, he sighed, "Brother Shouzhe, you're lucky."

"Where, where, since I've asked for your help, I won't hide from you." Wang Shouzhe said laughingly. "It's just a small medium-grade fire spirit vein."

"That's pretty good. Most Rank 9 families don't have a small medium-grade spirit vein." Qian Xuean mused. "You don't want to publicize it... Alright, I'll think of a way to find someone from another place to hire an Array Master. If there's surplus in the future production, my Qian family can also help sell it."

"Thanks to Brother Qian for this, let me toast you."

"Please, please, as brothers, we should support each other."

They clinked glasses together.

Then, Qian Xuean felt the effects of the alcohol, and instinctively picked up some food to suppress his intoxication.

"Huh? It's all gone?"

He went to pick some more, but again, nothing was left.

"Um, dear niece Lici, have you eaten enough?" Qian Xuean suddenly felt a sense of foreboding that made his heart thump wildly.

"I am full, I am full." Wang Licui licked her lips, with a look of wanting more.

"Servants, bring more dishes, as the host, it's my duty to ensure my guests are fed well."

Half a quarter of an hour later.

"Servants, bring more dishes!"

Another half a quarter of an hour later.

"Brother Qian, that's enough, enough!"

"Bring the dishes, the good ones! Today, we must make sure our dear niece is full!"

This process continued on and off.

...

The sky was already dark.

"Brother Shouzhe, I will take my leave for today... It must not be easy for your family to raise this child..." Qian Xuean said with an indescribable expression on his face.

"Thank you, Brother Qian for the feast, take care on your journey home..." Wang Shouzhe also had an indescribable expression on his face.

...

After Qian Xuean left.

Wang Shouzhe helped Wang Licui onto the carriage. The girl was already too full to walk properly.

"Fourth Uncle, it's not my fault... I kept saying I was full, but Uncle Qian was too enthusiastic."

"Hehe." Wang Shouzhe coldly chuckled a few times, not wanting to entertain her, "Wang Yong, go to the other house."

"Yes, Young Master."

Wang Yong drove the carriage towards the other house.

Not yet halfway there, Wang Licui looked out of the carriage curtain excitedly, "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, the city is really lively. There is still food at this hour, let's go and see..."

Wang Shouzhe's eyelids twitched, thinking to himself, can this child still be kept?

...

Qian Xuean wobbled back to his mansion and plopped down on the Taishi chair in his study, still feeling drastically shocked.

Three hundred and thirty Qian Gold!

He never dreamt that a meal would cost him three hundred and thirty Qian Gold. His annual allowance from his family was only a total of five hundred Qian Gold.

Each time he thought about his niece Licui's satisfied look as she smacked her lips, he couldn't help but shudder.

Let it be!

He must find a way to make some extra money, or else, he won't be able to survive.

But to start profiteering just after becoming the Deputy Shopkeeper.....isn't that too much?

Suddenly.

He remembered the heavy congratulatory package Brother Shouzhe gave him before leaving.

When he opened it, he found five radiant Spirit Stones!

Qian Xuean's tears almost fell out in an instant.

As expected of Brother Shouzhe, so generous! It is truly worth it to have him as my brother.

Chapter 108: Level Three Promotion! Water Elemental Turtle\_1

...

The next day!

Just as Wang Shouzhe arrived quietly, he left just as quietly.

Besides Qian Xuean's feelings, he didn't leave a trace or ripple in Changning Guard City.

In addition, Wang Shouzhe took with him thirteen spirit stones that he had picked up for sixty Qian Gold. Putting aside the five given to Qian Xuean, he brought back an additional eight spirit stones.

You can't deny it. Although Lici is a big eater, her ability to earn money is top-notch.

After a round in the gambling stone circle, she had recouped all her expenses and had a significant extra income. After all, one spirit stone could typically fetch a hundred Qian Gold.

It was just a pity that the gambling stone market in every city was too small.

After a round of harvest, the industry would inevitably go into a period of slump. It was estimated that it would take a while to recover.

Once the Liu and Zhao Clans were eliminated and the situation was safer, Wang Shouzhe decided to take Wang Licui around Longzuo County and the surrounding areas. They would visit each Guard City in turn to boost the family's treasury.

The carriage rattled on for nearly two hours.

Upon stopping at a secret ferry, Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai had already brought over a brand-new boat to greet them.

Everyone boarded the ship.

The new ship slowly sailed into the river. After the sails were spread out, they sailed against the wind and waves.

Old Ancestor Longyan and Lici were resting in the cabin.

Meanwhile, Wang Shouzhe was chatting with Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai. He joked, "Sixth Uncle, you've been radiant recently, full of vigor. It seems you're making good money."

"That's right," Wang Dinghai laughed. "It's all thanks to your kindness, Shouzhe. You've helped me improve the fishing methods. Over the past two or three months, our catch has grown tenfold

compared to previous years, with profits soaring. And the family just happened to implement a merit points system. I've earned quite a few."

"This month, I caught a rare spirit fish, a level two Gold Spiritual Carp. It's a whopping eight feet long, round and robust, with golden scales all over its body. It's very beautiful. When weighed, it's nearly four hundred pounds."

Wang Dinghai was incredibly excited as he said, "You should know, Gold Spiritual Carp has a bit of dragon bloodline and is worth more than other spirit fish."

Congratulations, Sixth Uncle," Wang Shouzhe laughed. "What about the fishing fleets of the Liu and Zhao Clans?"

They have been dwindling for a while, not showing much enthusiasm," Wang Dinghai said, "Especially over the past half-month, their fleet hasn't been active. It seems that our Wang family has suppressed them, and their morale is gone."

Wang Dinghai didn't know that his old rivals, Liu Yongzhou and Zhao Dingtian, were already dead at the hands of Wang Shouzhe.

Nor did he know that his father, Wang Xiaohan, had been promoted to the rank of Old Ancestor Xiaohan.

Has Sixth Uncle taken the opportunity to expand his territory?" Wang Shouzhe asked.

Wang Dinghai laughed heartedly, "Your Sixth Uncle is not foolish, since our Wang family is powerful, naturally, we should suppress them. Have you not seen the recent family account book? I've purchased more than twenty fishing boats, hired over a hundred people from the families and locals, and have already taken over more than a hundred miles of the river!

Regardless of the harvest, grabbing territory is the first thing."

Wang Shouzhe, as the lord, wouldn't be staring at the account book every day. Whether it was Sixth Uncle who was in charge of the fishing industry, or his second brother Wang Shouyi who was in charge of the fish stalls, they were both mature adults.

He could offer advice at crucial times, but it was unnecessary to supervise them about their development all the time. It would also foster dependence and subdue their initiative.

Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai did extremely well in this aspect. He showed no mercy when it was time to expand, nor did he back down when it was time to seize territory. Now that the Liu and Zhao Clans are declining, it is the best time to expand the family business.

As they say, the history books are written by the victors, and territories are fought for.

After ten or twenty years, who will remember that these waters once belonged to the Liu and Zhao Clans? Travelers and locals will default to considering it as the Wang family's fishing territory.

"Shouzhe, the drag net technology you brought up is also superb. At present, we have two fishing boats, jointly using one small drag net. With one net, we have a full load of fish," Wang Dinghai could not stop grinning when he thought of the loads of caught fish, "If it weren't for the Old Ancestor accompanying you, I'd take you to see it, the scene is magnificent..."

Just then.

Suddenly!

A small boat raced over from a distance. On the bow of the boat, a young man was jumping up and down, yelling, "Sea Lord, Sea Lord, there's been a big problem. That aquatic beast has caused trouble again, it broke our trawl net."

Wang Shouzhe recognized the young man. He was called Wang Goudan, a branch member of the Wang family, who had been with Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai since he was young.

"What?"

The smile on Wang Dinghai's face froze, "That damn thing, I thought it was just passing through."

"Sixth Uncle, what happened?" Wang Shouzhe asked.

Wang Dinghai's face turned solemn. "About three days ago, one of our fixed beam trawlers caught a level three Fierce Beast called Jiaolong while pulling up the net at night. The beast easily broke free from the net. As per the rules, the boatmen abandoned the net and fled, so no one was hurt."

"A level three Jiaolong? Has it appeared before?" Wang Shouzhe immediately pulled up the memory of this beast from the Beast Atlas.

The beast looked somewhat like the crocodiles on Earth.

#### Chapter 108: Level Three Promotion! Water Elemental Turtle\_2

This creature is rugged and thick-skinned, as well as an amphibious fierce beast, not to be trifled with. It is said that when Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan was taming Ping'an Town, he had to kill two level three Fierce Beast Crocodiles, which took substantial effort.

"This Crocodile has appeared before," Wang Dinghai explained with a grave face, "Every year, it roams up and down the Peace River, covering hundreds of miles in its territory. No matter whose fishing fleet comes across it, they fearfully avoid it at all costs. Occasionally, some humans and livestock are injured along the riverbank."

"What? Did no families ever try to deal with it?" Wang Shouzhe frowned.

"Of course they did, all of them failed though," said Wang Dinghai. "The creature is very cunning and extremely difficult to deal with in the water. Even an ancestral figure wouldn't dare to jump into Peace River and wrestle with it. Moreover, it has a fierce temper. Whoever dares provoke it, it will retaliate relentlessly, disrupting the fishing business."

Indeed, level three fierce beasts are different. In terms of strength and wisdom, they are incomparable to level two.

Although the Crocodile is not as cunning as land-based fierce beasts like tigers, it is particularly troublesome and vengeful compared to ordinary sea creatures.

It is basically a pestilence.

As for seeking a Heavenly Human Realm to deal with it, that is even more unlikely. In Changning Town, there are only three Tianren Realm Cultivators.

Two of them are the old ancestors of the heavenly human prominent families, the other one is the Mansion owner of the first capital city. They are all individuals of extraordinary status and position.

Asking them to go underwater against a level three Crocodile, regardless of the potential danger, considering the crocodile's extreme cunningness, it could completely engage in guerrilla warfare under the water.

It comes and goes as it pleases, if you leave, it might return in a month or two.

Therefore, aquatic fierce beasts, especially vengeful ones, are the most difficult to deal with.

"This is troublesome," Wang Dinghai said with a bitter face. "Now is the end of the fishing season, I was planning to accumulate more resources for the family during this time. Being targeted by this pestilence would strictly disturb our plans for at least the latter half of the year."

Wang Shouzhe also felt a headache.

Lately, the family's spending has escalated rapidly, consuming Qian Gold and all sorts of resources steadily.

We are already in a state of deficit, if the fishing fleet and fish stalls, which are the two main pillars of cash flow, cease operations, it would be a fatal blow to the family's emergence and development.

The two old ancestors need to consume resources, right? We can't expect them to maintain their lives with the bare minimum, can we?

Several promising children in the family, as well as the young people, are at the critical moment of growth, cutting anyone's resources would be burying their future.

As the first-in-line, Wang Shouzhe naturally consumes a lot as well, but he can't stop his own resources, can he?

If he missed this crucial moment of growth, cultivating to the Spirit Platform Realm would likely take forever.

"Uncle, can you assure me that it will not return next year if we lay low for half a year?" Wang Shouzhe's eyes glinted ominously.

"Of course, I can't promise that," Wang Dinghai said helplessly. "Not to mention that even if it leaves, it might return one day. I estimate that several hundred kilometers of Peace River are within its territory."

"So it's truly a pestilence." After weighing the options, Wang Shouzhe finally made up his mind. "We must eliminate it, otherwise the momentum of our family's rise would be destroyed by it."

Eliminate it?

Wang Dinghai was dumbfounded.

When did our Wang family become so formidable?

We can just eradicate a level three aquatic fierce beast, just like that?

"Uncle, you and the others be careful these days," Wang Shouzhe warned. "In a few days, I will think of a way to eliminate it."

Although he didn't understand, Wang Dinghai still chose to trust his nephew who had repeatedly defied the odds.

...

A few days later, in the middle of Peace River.

A level three Water Elemental Turtle was swimming leisurely in the wide torrential river, as if it was experiencing the exhilaration of a dragon returning to sea.

With such a huge expanse of water, it is much better than that smaller area of Zhuwei Lake.

It surfaced, blowing out water, feeling contentment.

"Enjoy yourself, but don't forget the main task." On the boat, Wang Shouzhe, with his hands behind him, spoke to the Water Elemental Turtle casually, "You have already merged with my bloodline, and I have one strand of your divine soul in my hands. With just one thought, I can destroy both your body and soul."

The Water Elemental Turtle, which had levelled up to level three and grown much larger, shrank back at Wang Shouzhe's words, shivering in terror.

This young man was too much. Despite the turtle agreeing to be the spiritual beast of the Wang family, he still took its essence blood and refined it using an ancient dark art. The art, that can end its life and soul with just a thought, is terrifying.

Instantly, the Water Elemental Turtle gave an ingratiating grin to Wang Shouzhe, indicating if the family head commands, it the turtle, no, the little turtle would risk everything to obey.

"Stay under the boat, hide your figure." Wang Shouzhe instructed. "Be ready to ambush the Level Three Crocodile at any moment."

The Water Elemental Turtle obediently submerged and hid in the shadow of the boat.

To Wang Shouzhe, the best way to deal with an aquatic fierce beast was to use another aquatic fierce beast.

The Water Elemental Turtle naturally became his greatest assistance. However, as a top-level Two Turtle, it's impossible to compete with a level three crocodile. Forcing it to fight would be suicide.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe considered using his last Heavenly Spirit Pill.

This Heavenly Spirit Pill was an extra gain, accumulated over decades after Zhao Clan had stolen the basic resources of Wang family.

Wang Shouzhe had also pondered and calculated its use.

Chapter 108: Level Three Promotion! Water Elemental Turtle\_3

If he left it dormant for many years, waiting until he had cultivated to the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm before using it, wouldn't this resource valued at tens of thousands of Qian Gold be wasted? But if he sold it, there would probably be some losses.

After all, people had legitimate channels to buy Heavenly Spirit Pills, why would they risk buying his at the same price?

He had considered giving it to a top-level two Water Elemental Turtle.

But the Water Elemental Turtle was not yet fully domesticated, and its relationship with the family was not close. If he helped it to advance to level three too casually, there was a chance it could escape or betray them.

However, the level three Crocodile Monster Plague God has pushed Wang Shouzhe to place his bets on the Water Elemental Turtle.

Therefore, before taking any action, Wang Shouzhe had first used the ancient secret technique of "Blood Sacrifice Contract" with the Water Elemental Turtle.

Asked where he had got this secret technique of Blood Sacrifice Contract from, it was of course something he had fabricated.

Having read enough fantasy novels in his previous life, he just created a random ritual process. Then he poisoned it a bit, making it taste bitterness, making it seem like it was real.

No matter if others believed it or not, the Water Elemental Turtle did.

It now worships Wang Shouzhe like a god, fearing that if it upsets him, it will turn into ashes.

...

On the boat, the fishermen were casting their nets in a professional manner, just like they were continuing with their normal fishing operations. All other fishing activities had stopped and only this boat continued fishing for over a hundred miles on the river.

Two days later.

Just when everyone thought that the level three Crocodile Monster had already left.

Suddenly, Wang Licui whispered, "Fourth uncle, fourth uncle, I feel that there is something delicious coming, about twenty to thirty feet to the left."

She could sense fierce beasts and considered them delicious...

No one could understand this kind of bloodline talent, even Old Ancestor Longyan was at a loss for words.

Wang Shouzhe made a gesture with his hand, and many fishermen were on high alert. Following Wang Licui's constant distance reports, right when it was about to reach the side of the boat, Wang Shouzhe waved his hand.

Suddenly, several fishing nets, shaped like overturned bowls, fell into the water. With so many nets there was a chance that at least one could entangle it, if not completely then at least partially.

"I caught it, I caught it."

Wang Goudan exclaimed in surprise, and then he attached the specially thickened wrist strap to the bottom of the mast. The other two fishermen who also caught part of the crocodile monster did the same thing.

Right after that, Wang Xiaohan, Wang Dinghai, and Wang Shouzhe all thrust their fishing spears towards the direction of the taut rope.

"Thump, thump, thump!"

The spears plunged into the water, and with Wang Xiaohan, who was at the Spirit Platform Realm, one blow hit the Crocodile Monster entangled in the net. The long rope tightened, and a surge of red blood rose from the tumultuous water below.

If it were based on this, they would absolutely not be able to contain the Crocodile Monster. It could tear through the net and snap the ropes in a few movements, then it would flee and lie low for a chance at revenge.

That's not taking into account the level three Water Elemental Turtle hidden beneath the boat.

Without waiting for Wang Shouzhe's command, it rushed up and bit onto the net, skin, and meat of the crocodile, entangled with it briefly, then dragged it desperately toward the surface.

When they were just about to emerge from the water, the Old Ancestor Longyan had already soared into the air, plummeting towards the water's surface.

At the same time.

The Dragon Smoke Sword made a chilling hum.

Wang Shouzhe was sure that the level-three Crocodile Monster was doomed.

He thanked it for its contribution to the family's wealth.

As for Wang Licui, who acted as a human radar, she was already drooling.

Chapter 109 Achievement! Three Spiritual Platforms for One Sect\_1

...

Despite the fact that the Level Three Crocodile Monster Plague God was extremely ferocious and cunning.

After being struck by a sword from Old Ancestor Longyan, it still fought desperately to dive deeper into the Peace River. However, the Water Elemental Turtle, another creature equally adept at navigating both water and land, was also an extremely powerful Fierce Beast.

The Water Elemental Turtle didn't confront it directly, but instead consistently entangled it, preventing it from escaping.

In a short span of time, the Level Three Crocodile Monster Plague God fell, buried under the combined onslaught of two Spirit Platform Realm beings and a Level Three Spirit Tortoise.

With three against one, radar scanning and positioning, plus the fishermen casting their nets, it was truly a luxurious setup.

Under such circumstances, the Level Three Crocodile Monster Plague God's death was anything but unjust.

The fishers jumped into Peace River, wrapped its body and gradually hoisted it up with a winch. When its corpse was hung by the side of the ship, the vessel lurched significantly to one side.

This demonstrated the astounding weight of the Fierce Beast, the Crocodile Monster Plague God!

It was over ten yards long, covered in armor, rough-skinned, and thick-fleshed, with sharp claws and teeth making it exceedingly ferocious. Its appearance was akin to that of a crocodile but also somewhat resembled a sea dragon, likely weighing seven to eight thousand pounds!

This Fierce Beast was much stronger than any crocodile on Earth, far surpassing in both physical size and strength, and its bloodline also granted it special abilities beyond any crocodile.

It could effortlessly sink a merchant ship, then kill everyone on board.

Without the 'radar function' provided by Wang Licui revealing its location, and with all of their elite forces fully deployed, it wouldn't have been an easy task to take it down.

If it had been allowed to escape the first time, finding it again would've been extremely difficult.

The Plague God of the River, that had held sway over the river for many years, had been slain.

More than a dozen fishermen excitedly roared in celebration. From now on, they no longer had to fear encountering the Crocodile Monster Plague God while fishing in the Peace River.

Moreover, now that their main house was so powerful, even if similar Fierce Beasts appeared, they were not afraid.

However, an ordinary person couldn't accomplish the task of disassembling such a Fierce Beast. Its skin was so thick that it was considered one of the best materials for making armor. Even the sharpest sword would struggle to pierce through it.

Only Old Ancestor Xiaohan, Wang Xiaohan, could step in to skin and dissect it.

The Water Elemental Turtle on the side looked on at this entire episode. It saw how cruelly humans treated Fierce Beasts. It thought to itself, 'Well, I must be obedient and not follow in the footsteps of this Crocodile Monster Plague God.'

After much wrangling.

The spoils of the war were all transported into the Wang family's storeroom, some to be frozen and some to be tanned. The skin would later be shaped into armor by the armorers.

The sharp teeth and claws were also valuable materials. They could be crafted into short blades or arrowheads by the weapon masters.

Although these weapons and armors were far from reaching the level of a Spiritual Artifact, they were nevertheless rather effective.

The remaining bones could be ground into powder to fertilize the Spirit Field.

After all the matters were settled.

Wang Shouzhe said to Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai, "Sixth Uncle, the current high-end combat power of our Wang family should not be publicly known for the time being."

"I understand, I understand." Wang Dinghai exclaimed excitedly, "I will make sure those kids keep their mouths shut."

The injuries of Old Ancestor Longyan were recovering well, and it seemed that he could take action again. Moreover, his father, Wang Xiaohan, had surprisingly also broken through to the Spirit Platform Realm.

On top of that, the family now owned a Level Three Water Elemental Turtle.

The strength of the family had dramatically increased.

In a sense, their family now boasted the strength of three Spiritual Platforms.

How reassuring!

How comfortable!

"Simply doing this isn't enough, this matter is of great importance. We absolutely cannot reveal our trump card until we have completely defeated the Liu and Zhao Clans." Wang Shouzhe tapped his finger on the table, frowning in deep thought, "To prevent any leaks, we need to send away the fishermen."

Send them away?

Wang Dinghai was taken aback, looking at Wang Shouzhe in surprise. "Shouzhe, you, you, you, don't tell me you're going to..."

"Sixth Uncle, where are your thoughts going? My meaning is, send them away for a while, just in case someone gets drunk and lets something slip. This matter pertains to the turning point of our family's destiny. Being overly cautious can't hurt." Wang Shouzhe pondered, "Let's send the people to Donggang. Brother Chen is reliable and can handle arrangements."

You should personally make this trip, Sixth Uncle. Bring a letter to the Chen Clan's Young Clan Leader on my behalf, telling him that I have a profitable business proposal for him."

"Shouzhe's considerations are quite thorough." Wang Dinghai sighed in relief and bowed, "In that case, I'll make the trip."

Fortunately, Shouzhe didn't intend to silence the fishermen. Otherwise, he wouldn't know what to do.

"Along the way, cut a piece of the Crocodile Monster's tail for the Chen Clan's Young Clan Leader, as a return gift on my sister's behalf." Wang Shouzhe said with a smile, "We haven't even held the wedding yet, we can't just receive their gift of Iron-backed Wild Pig meat without returning a gift of our own. It's not proper."

He hadn't had a worthy gift to offer in return previously, but Wang Shouzhe remembered this matter. At the same time, it was also a metaphor to the Chen Clan.

The Wang family, even a Level Three Water Monster, can be slain by us.

Wang Shouzhe could already anticipate Chen Fangjie's shocked expression.

...

After dealing with the Level Three Crocodile Monster matter.

Wang Shouzhe went into a period of seclusion, spending his days cultivating, drinking tea, and casually dealing with other matters.

Then, he'd go to the lakeside to bond with the Water Elemental Turtle.

Just like humans, Spirit Beasts also needed to form bonds.

But there was one difference, human relationships could be complex, easily formed and easily broken.

However, the bonds formed with a Spirit Beast were pure. Once it truly acknowledged you and considered you a partner, it would be steadfast and loyal, seldom betraying you.

Of course, this process was not simple.

Chapter 109 Achievement! Three Spiritual Platforms for One Sect\_2

Fortunately, Wang Shouzhe and the Water Elemental Turtle shared a preliminary trust between themselves, due to their connection through the "ancient bloodline contract secret technique" and having already "merged their bloodlines."

Every day, they would soak up the sun, eat some Level Three Crocodile Meat, occasionally barbecuing Spirit Fish, dried small fish and drinking some Spiritual Wine.

Then, he would tell it stories; inspiring stories of historical figures who had been unwaveringly loyal, compassionate towards their spirit beasts, some even bringing tears to his eyes.

Occasionally, there'd be one or two spirit beasts who betrayed their masters, who met grisly ends and so on.

Similar stories were abundant on Earth.

Wang Shouzhe didn't need to spend any effort to find them and could keep them coming for a month without repeating himself. He was helping maintaining the Water Elemental Turtle's sense of what was morally right as a spirit beast.

The man and the turtle quickly warmed up to each other.

...

One day,

The head of household Wang Zhong came to report that Zhong Xingwang from the Zhong family had secretly come to visit.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe warmly welcomed Zhong Xingwang in the main hall. They had become close since the last time they had drinks together at Hundred Islands Guard.

After some small talk and drinking Spiritual Tea, they became even more amicable.

"Brother Shouzhe," Zhong Xingwang took out a jade bottle from his bosom and said, "You wrote to me a few days ago asking me to look for an 'Enlightenment Pill'. By chance, someone came to sell one, so I'm bringing it to you."

"Brother Zhong," Wang Shouzhe thanked him bowing, "You didn't have to personally deliver it for such a small matter."

The Enlightenment Pill was only a Rank 3 Spirit Pill, but its hard to manufacture due to low demand, which in turn inflates its price.

The market price now is around 800 Qian Gold each, and it's still relatively hard to get.

Most people see this pill as a trivial object. Spending a huge amount of money to slightly improve one's aptitude has a very low cost performance.

For many low-ranking families, it would be a major issue to save up 800 Qian Gold a year after covering all various expenses.

However, Wang Shouzhe's original talent was of a lower Class A, and it was very close to the middle talent among Class A. Only a thin line separated him from the Middle Class. If he could evolve into a Middle Grade talent with the help of this pill, it would be worth it.

"No problem, no problem, I'm just wasting my days in the family business." Zhong Xingwang laughed, "I'm free anyway, so I came to see you."

Come see me?

What's there to see about me?

Wang Shouzhe chuckled. Zhong Xingwang was obviously here for Old Ancestor Longyan. However, he understood that with Longyan Old Ancestor's temperament and perspective, he would never have any regard for Zhong Xingwang.

After receiving the Enlightenment Pill from Wang Shouzhe, he asked Zhongxing to pay him 700 Qian Gold. But despite this, Wang Shouzhe still gave him 800 Qian Gold Notes. It wouldn't be right to have a Realm Cultivator run an errand for nothing, would it?

Zhong Xingwang tried to refuse several times, but couldn't out argue Wang Shouzhe. After reluctantly accepting the 800 Qian Gold, he grew restless and hesitated before saying: "Brother Shouzhe, I was wondering how my senior sister is doing lately?"

"Brother Zhong," Wang Shouzhe spoke earnestly, "My family's Old Ancestor is now in good health, but she is currently in closed-door cultivation."

All these days, the Old Ancestor was actually helping Wang Licui digest the residual spiritual energy in the Vermilion Fruit. Furthermore, she needed to coach Sixth Grandfather Wang Xiaohan in stabilising his realm quickly, and imparted the knowledge of the Spiritual Platform Realm to him.

It was a bit busy, but she didn't actually close the doors for cultivation.

However, Wang Shouzhe had already visited Old Ancestor Longyan before seeing Zhong Xingwang, asking her for her opinion.

Clearly, Old Ancestor didn't want to meet him at all and had asked Wang Shouzhe to receive him on her behalf.

"Is that so?" Zhong Xingwang was slightly disappointed, but said, "Since senior sister is in closed-door cultivation, I might as well wait a few more days. Brother Shouzhe, could you arrange a guest room for me?"

Uh...

Wang Shouzhe had not anticipated that Zhong Xingwang would be so persistent.

However, he couldn't refuse his request. Immediately, he asked the servant Wang Gui to arrange a guest room for Zhong Xingwang and appointed two clever servants to attend to him.

After arranging for Zhong Xingwang,

Wang Shouzhe returned home, ready to take a bath and try the valuable Enlightenment Pill.

Unexpectedly, just as he was about to get into the bath tub,

Wang Licui came in hurriedly, "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, I've thought of it, I've thought of it."

"..." Wang Shouzhe let out a cold sweat, reminding her, "I'm taking a bath."

"I know, I'm not blind. Take your time, Fourth Uncle." Wang Licui found a stool and sat by the edge of the wooden barrel, excitedly, "Fourth Uncle, I've thought about that matter."

"Get out!"

"..."

...

From outside the house.

Wang Licui was urging, "Fourth Uncle, could you hurry up, I've figured out the location at such great hardship."

"Fourth Uncle, if you don't come out, I will forget."

"Never mind, you take your time bathing. I'll have some hotpot... The clear soup hot pot you made the day before yesterday was good."

Before she finished speaking, Wang Shouzhe had already come out, fully dressed, dark-faced, and glared at her.

"Fourth Uncle, you're done so quickly?" Wang Licui looked slightly disappointed.

"If I didn't come out now, you would have started cooking the hot pot." Wang Shouzhe retorted while adjusting his clothes. "Licui, you're a grown lady now. Didn't your elder brother and sister-in-law teach you... about the segregation between men and women? How can a girl casually walk into a man's bath?"

"I've been taught. That old scholar in school is always nagging about it." Wang Licui laughed carelessly, "But Fourth Uncle, you're not a man."

"?" Wang Shouzhe gave her a deadly stare.

"No, no, what I meant is, Fourth Uncle, you're family... and you have a good physique. I don't mind seeing you bathe."

Thank you for the compliment, but I do mind!

"Ahem!" Wang Shouzhe seriously said, "Licui, even if we're family, we need to observe the segregation between men and women. Next time, you should not barge in when I'm bathing."

Uh-huh! Wang Licui distractedly responded.

Fortunately, Wang Shouzhe knew this girl was careless, and her mind was full of thoughts of food. So he didn't dwell on it, "On another note, what did you think of? You made such a fuss about it."

"Oh, I almost forgot if you didn't remind me." Wang Licui looked around his room but found nothing tasty, so she had to pull out the melon she prepared, eating with a crunching sound, "Fourth Uncle, didn't you ask me before, what food did Luo Qiu, Luo Jing and I ate last time? Where did we find it?"

Wang Shouzhe brightened up, "Did you remember it?"

"I remember it was in the fall, many fruit trees in the mountain bore fruit." said Wang Licui, "I picked some wild fruits and brought back half a bottle of mountain spring water. I thought, I'm their big sister, I need to bring something home for the children. Shu Yong and Shu Lian didn't dare to eat, but Luo Jing and Luo Qiu ate heartily."

You brought something back for the children? You're so thoughtful.

"Do you remember anything special about those wild fruits?" Wang Shouzhe asked, "For example, strange shapes, or special ones like Vermilion Fruit?"

"No, they were just ordinary wild fruits." Wang Licui thought hard and said, "I have been picking and eating these fruits in the past, nothing special. Oh, the water... I collected it from a cave, it was sticky, like transparent milk."

Sticky? Like transparent milk?

Wang Shouzhe's face darkened, and you call that mountain spring water?

However, his heart thumped as he suddenly thought of something, he said aloud: "Could it be Stone Marrow?"

The Stone Marrow sounded very ordinary.

However, it's anything but ordinary. It's known as the essence of earth's veins and is an advanced Heaven and Earth treasure occasionally coagulated in the mountains.

The greatest effect of it is that it can be combined with other Heaven and Earth treasures to make a Level Six Spirit Pill - the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill.

Human body generates blood from the marrow, which is the basis of the bloodline. The Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill can stimulate the potential within the marrow, thoroughly improve the bloodline talent, and activate the ancient recessive bloodline in the body.

It is not ordinary, definitely not like the trivial Enlightenment Pill. Its price and rarity surpass those resources the Spiritual Platform Prominent Family can access.

Even the Tianren Family would suffer great losses if they were to strive for a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill.

With this thought, Wang Shouzhe was overjoyed.

His mediocre talent can finally be saved!

Chapter 110 Awakening! Wang Shouzhe's Bloodline Talent\_1

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In fact, Wang Shouzhe's talent is quite decent in comparison to scions from other Rank 9 prominent families.

But with such talent, reaching the Spirit Platform Realm and living almost two hundred years would already be considered pushing his limits.

If he wants to advance further, given his current talent and potential, even if he piles up resources, the chance is rather small. Of course, it's not to say that piling won't work, it's just that the chances of breaking through the celestial being realm are small.

"Lici, take your Fourth Uncle with you to check it out," Wang Shouzhe tried hard to suppress his surprise, "You should remember where it is, right? After all, you are familiar with these family back mountains."

"I sort of remember, haven't been up the mountain for two years though," Wang Licui said nonchalantly, "Fourth Uncle, many wild fruits are not ripe this season, they taste bitter and astringent."

Who wants those wild fruits? Your Fourth Uncle wants Stone Marrow!

His eyelids twitched, what on earth is she thinking?

Well, regardless, he would take her and slowly find the place.

Subsequently, he pulled up Wang Licui and went to find Old Ancestor Longyan and Old Ancestor Xiaohan.

When they heard that there might be Stone Marrow in the back mountain, they were immediately astonished. This item can be considered priceless. Even if all Wang family properties were sold, they couldn't afford a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill.

The four of them climbed the mountain.

The Wang family main residence was located at the foot of a branch of Liuan Mountain.

Although it's just a branch, it is still majestic and extensive with stacked peaks. The terrain is very steep, and common fierce beasts would find it very hard to cross, providing a natural barrier for the Wang family's main residence.

When Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan chose to build the main residence here, he initially considered the terrain which was easy to defend and hard to attack. Secondly, the location was geologically excellent being near the mountains and waters.

Of course, Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan had cleared the surrounding fierce beasts several times, so overall it could be considered safe.

Considering Wang Licui's limited mobility when she was young, she could not have crossed the steep mountain streams and dangerous lands.

So, the search area was significantly reduced.

Two days after the search...

Wang Licui suddenly remembered: "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, it's there. Follow the brook at the bottom of the valley, there's a small waterfall upfront. The cave is behind the waterfall."

Everyone acted according to her description and indeed found a hidden cave behind a small waterfall.

Since they were prepared, Wang Shouzhe lit a few torches, followed the winding and twisting cave route, and not long after, the view in front of their eyes became bright. They had entered a wide cave.

Many stalactites hung from above the cave, dripping some fluid.

"Fourth uncle, don't look at these ordinary mountain spring waters, they are not delicious." Then Wang Licui, led everyone forward until they reached an ordinary-looking stalactite.

"Fourth uncle, look here. Only the mountain spring water dripped from this stalactite tastes good." Wang Licui said excitedly.

"?" Wang Shouzhe looked closely but couldn't see any special features in this stalactite. However, it was hanging quite high, about tens of meters from the ground.

And directly beneath it, the stone had been dripped into a fist-sized depression. That spot was crystal clear, just like jade.

In that depression, there was a drop of semi-transparent milky white liquid that emitted a faint starlight.

"It really is Stone Marrow, how beautiful." Old Ancestor Longyan was slightly excited, "I've only seen it in the academy's atlas, never seen it in person."

"Only one drop?"

Wang Shouzhe felt a jolt in his heart, then raised his head to look at stalactite above. The tip of it was also crystal clear, as if something was going to drip from it.

Old Ancestor Longyan took out a jade bottle, respectfully collected the drop of Stone Marrow, and handed it to Wang Shouzhe, "Shouzhe, Stone Marrow is the essence of Earth Vein, even one drop is extremely valuable. You keep this one for your own use, it should help you breakthrough the Bloodline."

"Wang Licui, why is there only one drop?" Wang Shouzhe asked.

Wang Licui blinked her eyes and touched Wang Shouzhe's forehead with concern, "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, you are not silly, are you? Because the previous ones, have all been taken by me and shared with Luo Qiu and Luo Jing."

"This one must have dripped down later. I saw something hanging on it last time, it was just a bit high, and I couldn't lick it, so it must be this drop for you, Fourth Uncle."

Wang Shouzhe slapped his forehead, so Fourth Uncle should thank you for sparing this drop, huh. His heart was bleeding a little, "Lici, last time you took them, how big was the bottle?"

"The bottle was not big, but the depression was full." Wang Licui said carelessly, "It was too little, the three of us had two mouthfuls each and it was gone."

The depression was full? Two mouthfuls per person and it was gone?

Wang Shouzhe felt he was wrong, he shouldn't have asked. Asking only added to his frustrations.

"Yo, our Lici really has good luck." Old Ancestor Xiaohan said on the side, "She always finds good things to eat wherever she goes, even Stone Marrow is eaten by mouthfuls. No wonder, all the girls in our family are extremely capable."

It hurts, Old Ancestor.

Then, Wang Shouzhe stared at the stalactite and asked, "Old Ancestor, do you think there would be more Stone Marrow if we cut that stone open?"

"Shouzhe, you mustn't exhaust the pond just to catch all the fish," Old Ancestor Longyan said, "There might be a few drops inside, but ultimately it would destroy this precious land. The appearance of Stone Marrow is the result of the essence of Earth Vein gradually fermenting, no one knows where it will appear next."

Wang Shouzhe was only joking. This precious land, the family's foundation, how could it be wantonly destroyed?

Chapter 110 Awakening! Wang Shouzhe's Bloodline Talent\_2

Besides, he had gained a certain level of acceptance regarding certain things. Everyone has their own opportunities. This was Lici and her friends' opportunity, and though envious, he didn't harbor any jealousy. After all, even if his sisters gained strength, he could benefit from it too.

And see, he was also glowing with Lici's light, having obtained a drop of it, and also added a new foundation for the family.

Afterward, the two old ancestors decided to seal this cave and check its conditions every few years to see how long it would take to accumulate another drop of Stone Marrow.

This item was an extraordinary Heaven and Earth Treasure. Even if it took twenty years to gather another drop, it would be worth it.

Upon returning,

Wang Shouzhe refused all other affairs and locked himself in his room.

After earnestly taking a bath, he began attempting to break through his bloodline. Of course, he didn't use the Stone Marrow right away. The Stone Marrow was valued highly. Saving more for refining into Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills would be much more beneficial than just swallowing it.

He opened the jade bottle, swallowed an Enlightenment Pill, and then started Qi Refinement in meditation.

Two hours later, Wang Shouzhe concluded his cultivation.

His face expressed a degree of disappointment. After taking the Enlightenment Pill, he did indeed feel a slight warming sensation throughout his body, as if there was some change happening.

However, in the end, he didn't transform from low grade to middle grade, and there was no change in his bloodline either.

As expected, the Enlightenment Pill is just an Enlightenment Pill. It can't even aid someone like him, who is on the brink of transitioning into the middle grade. It's no wonder it's considered a comparably useless Spirit Pill.

Of course, it's not entirely useless. Even a minute improvement in talent will, in the long term, be efficient in cultivation and resource consumption

Especially for someone like Wang Shouzhe, who uses up resources at a significant rate to speed up cultivation. A small improvement in his talents may indeed save up many Qian Golds over decades

"It seems I must hope for results from this drop of Stone Marrow," Wang Shouzhe said as he pulled out the jade bottle.

Swallowing it directly was obviously not as effective as refining it into a pill, but a single drop of Stone Marrow couldn't be filtered into any pill.

However, the efficacy of this drop of Stone Marrow was surely far superior to the Enlightenment Pill.

After a moment of consideration, Wang Shouzhe swallowed the drop of Stone Marrow. It felt slightly cool as it entered his mouth but instantly transformed into the purest energy inside his body.

Without hesitation, he once again entered a state of cultivation.

It's as if he'd entered into a state of tranquility.

A quarter of an hour passed.

Two hours passed.

Fog began to envelop his body, and his skin reddened and became hot.

After an unknown amount of time, he slowly opened his eyes. In his clear and distinguishable pupils, a trace of an unusual color was emerging. From the pores on his skin, black substances were being released.

He was excited, this was a result of marrow cleansing.

These black substances were not impurities being purged out of his body, but dead cells that were being expelled from the skin through metabolism.

This process is usually quite slow. But after a marrow cleanse, a lot of cells would be replaced, causing such a reaction.

He was in high spirits, feeling that he had made a breakthrough in his bloodline, and his cultivation base had also improved slightly.

After ordering his servant Wang Gui to boil some water, he took a bath, and he felt refreshed. He looked in a bronze mirror and felt that he had become more handsome.

He used to be only superior to Chen Fangjie, but now he had surpassed him significantly.

Yet, it was difficult for Wang Shouzhe to notice which bloodline he had awakened. He would have to perform a series of experiments to get a rough idea.

After all, with generations of intermarriage and propagation, human bloodlines had become complex.

Even if the first ancestor was a figure like the Flame Emperor, it wouldn't be surprising for him to awaken the ice-type bloodline of some other ancestor after generations had passed.

"Fire." Wang Shouzhe first prepared a piece of paper, then tried to ignite it with Mysterious Energy, but unexpectedly, the paper didn't burn up. It directly turned into fragments without making a sound.

It seemed he didn't have a fire-type bloodline constitution.

Wang Shouzhe was slightly disappointed.

A bloodline like fire has a lot of advantages in battle, explosive power, and damage are both strong, and it is easier to have side occupations like Artifact Refiner, Alchemist, and so on.

Furthermore, when he looked at his Mysterious Energy, which was quite pure after practicing the Xuan Yuan Technique. But at this moment, it faintly held a trace of green.

Could it be...?

Like the Water Elemental Turtle, do I have a water-type bloodline constitution? This, of course, would be a good constitution. Offense and defense are all balanced. There's also a strong water escape technique, making it much more convenient for underwater treasure hunting.

He immediately asked his servant to bring a basin of water, placed his palm inside, and circulated his Mysterious Energy. The water in the basin was thrown about due to the energy's disturbance. Yet, there was no sign of control over it.

Pity~~ It was not a water-type bloodline constitution.

Subsequently, he began testing bit by bit.

There was no significant increase in power or burst power, and there was no hot-blooded feeling when his little universe exploded.

Considering all the signs, he could almost rule out all war-type bloodlines.

Well, that's good, he won't have to compete with Wang Luoqiu anymore for advancement in position. Besides, as a clan leader, being at the front line of battle isn't exactly the best idea.

Earth based?

He quickly ruled it out, which was a good thing anyway, seemingly, Xiaohan's old ancestor had awakened the earth-based bloodline.

Thunder? Ice? Wind?

These belong to the three major unusual attribute types, the advantage being their powerful combat abilities, but the drawback is that future cultivation techniques may be hard to come by.

Old ancestor Longyan possesses an ice bloodline. Today, she is at the second layer of the ice bloodline and her battle power is incredibly explosive.

After the test, Wang Shouzhe discovered that he had no connection to these three variant attribute bloodlines.

A mysterious energy lightly tinted green.

Could it be wood-type?

He brought over a potted plant with an unusually shaped pine tree, strong and powerful, plain and completely unadorned.

If placed on Earth, it would be worth some money, but in this Profound Martial world, it was just something Wang Shouzhe found and took home for appreciation.

Wang Shouzhe had been busy, so the plant hadn't been well taken care of and had begun to wither.

Wang Shouzhe held the pine tree with one hand and slowly infused it with the mysterious energy.

Suddenly, a miracle occurred.

The wilting pine tree was as if covered in a layer of vibrant green radiance, the dull roots became full of lustre as though life had been infused into them, new tender branches and leaves sprout on its twigs. The dying aura was gradually replaced with a vigorous vitality, and it radiated life in every possible way.

"Spring revived the withered tree!"

For the first time, Wang Shouzhe experienced his bloodline's special ability, it felt as effortless as manipulating water in a tide, without any awkwardness.

This ability to control the vitality of plants, was as if inherently integrated into his blood, becoming an instinct.

No wonder Lici didn't know what type of bloodline talent she had, because everything just seemed so natural to her.

Similarly, Wang Luo Jing unknowingly embarked on the path of becoming an Insect Master, because that was the inborn talent in her bloodline.

It was the same with Wang Luoqiu. She was passionate about battle and every time she fought, her blood would boil. That was her battle body bloodline talent, subtly influencing her to act in such a way.

What is bloodline talent?

It's the ability passed down by the ancestors through genes which can be used naturally and effortlessly once activated, like eating and drinking, there's no need to learn to use it.

This is talent.

Wang Shouzhe was ecstatic for the first time since his transmigration.

At last, Wang Shouzhe had released himself from the shackles of being a low-aptitude practitioner and had his own bloodline talent.

As a transmigrator, not having a cheat code, or a system, or a natural talent, was really embarrassing.

He then experimented with other abilities of his bloodline talent.

For example, he made a potted flower bud bloom in the blink of an eye, filling the entire pot with exquisite flowers.

Wood-type is mainly about life restoration.

excitedly, he remembered this.

So, he immediately had the servant Wang Gui come and made a small cut on his arm with a sword.

Then, under Wang Gui's terrified and shocked gaze, he exercised his bloodline talent. The wound on Wang Gui's arm healed visibly fast with no scar left, and his skin was even smoother than before.

Amazing!

Wang Shouzhe was somewhat shocked. If this was on Earth, wouldn't he be much more powerful than a doctor? Who would need surgery? Or plastic surgeons?

With just this talent, he would surely make pots of money, and have countless girlfriends.

Satisfied with such a distinctive and powerful bloodline talent, Wang Shouzhe felt incredibly satisfied. Undoubtedly, this type of bloodline talent significantly increased his chances of survival.

Even if his sisters get hurt in a fight in the future, he can easily heal them.

Wait!?

Wang Shouzhe suddenly felt something wasn't quite right?

After he furrowed his brow and thought for a while, he had an epiphany.

For the love of %#¥#, this isn't a healing specialized position, is it?