

## Protect OCL 61

Chapter 61 "Old Ancestor Luo Qiu"\_1

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All the younger brothers and sisters at the scene were stunned.

Especially Wang Licui, her eyes were blinking and she was amazed beyond belief. Is that even possible?

One moment everything was fine, and the next moment they started fighting?

But Wang Shouzhe was impressed with Luo Jing's strategy. It's hard for ordinary people to think that it's the perfect timing to strike immediately after their secret plan has been exposed. The less others expect it, the more successful it can be.

Unfortunately, she underestimated Wang Shouzhe.

"Luo Jing, let big brother teach you a lesson." Wang Shouzhe said with a grin, "Next time you sneak attack, make sure to control your breathing and calm down. Your performance just now was decent, but your breathing was too tense, your heartbeat was too fast, and the way you threw the centipede was a bit sloppy.

However, from a tactical awareness and idea aspect, it was not bad at all, and deserves praise."

This mysterious magical world is very dangerous. A single battle could often determine life and death, even possibly affecting the rise and fall of a family. Wang Shouzhe did not wish to engage in battles but if a fight was inevitable, he wanted the survivors to be his own.

"Xiao Hong!" Luo Jing suddenly burst into tears, "Sniff sniff, fourth brother you're too mean. I worked so hard to catch Xiao Hong."

Um...

It seems he was a bit too heavy-handed this time. It wasn't easy for Luo Jing to domesticate a poisonous insect like a centipede.

Just as Wang Shouzhe was about to comfort her,

Suddenly, his right arm hurt, and a tingling sensation traveled up his arm, numbing his whole body instantly. He knew in his heart that he had fallen for the trick! With a quick shake of his hand, a thumb-sized colorful spider flew out.

"Luo Jing! You..." Wang Shouzhe gasped in disbelief. He never expected the red-headed centipede to be nothing more than a distraction.

"Fourth brother, let Jing'er teach you a lesson as well." Wang Luo Jing hopped back, and only after she was about six meters away did she say with a giggling smile, "First lesson, never underestimate any Insect Master. Their tactics can be very strange and unpredictable. Not all insects are bigger and more venomous. Some insects are so small that they can't even be seen."

"Second lesson, don't underestimate any little girl. Their harmless and innocent appearance is just their best protective shell. In the future, when fourth brother is out and about, be careful of everyone, especially those quiet, obedient little girls."

Upon hearing what Luo Jing had to say, Wang Shouzhe's face reddened. He drew in a deep breath and said, "I have learned a valuable lesson from you, Jing'er. I will be more cautious in the future. Hey, what kind of spider is this? Its poison is quite potent...quickly give me the antidote."

Wang Shouzhe sighed. Both Luotong and Shounuo had warned him not to underestimate Luo Jing, and now he has personally experienced how tricky she can be.

Tsk, tsk, when this girl grows up, she will undoubtedly be a handful. No, she's already a handful right now.

"Antidote? What's that?" Luo Jing asked innocently.

The look on Wang Shouzhe's face was frozen, he was very close to spitting out blood. Wang Luo Jing, were you messing with me? You didn't bring an antidote for a poisonous insect, and you carry it around with you?

Weren't you afraid of getting bitten?

The most important thing is, you even dared to let it bite your brother...

"Luo Qiu, Fifth Brother, Sixth Brother, why are you still standing there? Hurry up and move! Don't give Fourth Brother time to force out the poison with his Mysterious Energy." Luo Jing shouted crisply, "Otherwise, you'll just have to obediently stay in the clan school for a year."

Of course, she was aware that this level of poison was not enough to do anything serious to her fourth brother.

"Fourth Brother, the Great Demon King, take my fist." Her youngest sister, Wang Luo Qiu, who was only eleven, with her eyes shining brightly, stepped forward and used Wang's Basic Boxing Method to attack Wang Shouzhe. Her boxing stance was impeccable and even better than many men's.

She was a force to reckon with, her mastery in body movement and the boxing technique surprised Wang Shouzhe. Not only did the fifth sister Luo Jing trick him, but the sixth sister Luo Qiu also showed impressive skills. Also, unlike other girls who only focus on cultivating for higher levels, these two gave importance to body techniques, fighting techniques, swordsmanship, and even archery.

He had seriously underestimated Luo Qi.

At the same time, Wang Shou Yong and Wang Shouliao also rushed towards Wang Shouzhe: "Fourth Brother, forgive us, we were forced to do this. "

Even Wang Licui screamed and set out to attack Wang Shouzhe, "Overthrow the Great Demon King." It's a pity that her movement and boxing skills were way too weak and it was clear that she hadn't had any real practice.

"Good, good, good, your courage, has surprised me." Wang Shouzhe started to laugh, "Unfortunately, you underestimated me. Allow me to show you what a true Great Demon King looks like."

"Boom!"

As Wang Shouzhe was speaking, he turned his hand and the burst of Mysterious Energy sent Wang Shou Yong, who had reached the High Level Two of Qi Refinement Realm, flying.

When it comes down to mastering the basic skills, not even a few individuals from the older generation could compete with him.

Despite being the most gifted son, given tons of resources, and nurtured as a future ancestor-level character, how could he just be an empty shell with a high realm level?

Amidst the onslaught of his brothers and sisters, he moved as if he were a willow catkin in the wind – elusive and free-floating.

"Our family's mid-level Profound Martial - Willow Catkin Body Method." Wang Luo Jing, who was watching the fight, was astounded. Her fourth brother had hidden his skills too well, refining this movement technique to such a magnitude.

What astonished her more was Wang Shouzhe's resistance to poison. Her colourful little spider, though not of the spirit insect level, could render a boar of two hundred and fifty kilograms unconscious with just a bite. Yet it seemed to have no effect on her fourth brother. He was a real monster, as expected of someone at the Great Demon King Level. We are really powerless against him!

We lost!

This bunch of brothers and sisters, plus a niece, were utterly defeated. They slumped to the ground, groaning in agony. The girls were in better shape, at least their faces were not hit.

Wang Shou Yong and Wang Shouliao, being young patriarchs of the family at fourteen and fifteen respectively, naturally got some extra 'attention' from Wang Shouzhe and were left battered and bruised.

"Haha, since we had an agreement, let's gentlemanly accept our loss." Wang Shouzhe said smugly, with hands on his back. "Do your homework well for the whole year. I believe that the children of our Wang family are all promising and responsible."

Upon his words, all their faces contorted bitterly. This meant they were going to have a tough life ahead.

"Humph." Wang Luoqiu, the youngest, was brimming with determination. "I'll study hard and refine my cultivation this year and take you on again next year."

"Bravo, I welcome your challenges next year. Luoqiu, I saw that you are the most vigorous. Keep it up and spur everyone on." Wang Shouzhe gave a relaxed smile, his hands still on his back, and left gracefully.

Once he was gone...

The siblings and a niece staggered to their feet, looking at each other helplessly. Wang Shouzhe, that Great Demon King, was indeed difficult to handle!

"Cheer up, everyone." Wang Luoqiu began, "No matter how powerful our fourth brother is, he is just one person. We have five. If we each level up once a year, things will be different next year"

Leveling up once was easier said than done. They all rolled their eyes at Wang Luoqiu. Did she think everyone else was a monster like her, being at the second level of Qi Refinement just at eleven?

"Either way, I won't tolerate it. Whoever lags behind will get beaten up," threatened Wang Luoqiu. "I will set a goal for everyone. Wang Luojing, you should at least get to the high segment of Level Two next year and become a real first-ranked Insect Master, managing two spirit insects, including the Purple Crystal Spirit Bee.

Then your fighting strength will have the upper hand, even against those at Level Four."

Wang Luojing's eyes sparkled. It was true. If she really reached that step, even her twenty-year-old brother Wang Shounuo wouldn't stand a chance against her. She heard that he finally progressed to the Level Four of Qi Refinement a few days ago. It was time for a friendly match.

"Wang Shou Yong, you're at the high segment of Level Two now and ashamedly at fifteen. Worse, your basics are weak," Wang Luoqiu criticized. "I don't ask much. Next year, you should at least

reach the Mid-Level Three and work on solidifying your basics. Otherwise, don't blame me for beating you up every time I see you."

Doesn't ask much? Wang Shou Yong nearly broke into tears. It's was so embarrassing to be lectured by his younger sister. But Luoqiu was indeed intimidating. He already didn't stand a chance against her now. If he didn't pull himself up, he might get beaten up daily.

"Wang Shoulian, where is the spirit of our Wang man? Stop sulking!" Wang Luoqiu grabbed him by the collar. "You're my blood brother. We were born of the same parents. How come you're only at Level Two at fourteen? Ahh, it's all my fault as your sister.

I didn't push you enough."

Wang Shoulian was on the verge of tears. Though being in Level Two at fourteen was a bit slow, it wasn't that disgraceful, was it? Look at our big cousin, Wang Zongwei. At twenty, he was only at the high segment of Level Two. How did I end up with a monster-like sister! The pressure was enormous.

"I don't care. That's your task for next year. If you can't get to the third level of Qi Refinement by then, just wait and see how I crack down on you!" Wang Luoqiu forcefully assigned him the task. "Also, remember to practice the movement technique and fighting technique with me every day."

Reaching the third level of Qi Refinement... that's a lot of pressure! But he didn't have the option to refuse. He couldn't lodge a complaint if his sister beat him up.

"What about me? What about me?" Wang Licui asked. "Do I also have to strive for the mid-segment of Level Three next year?"

"You?" Wang Luoqiu examined her from head to toe, then shook her head helplessly. "You eat too much, weak in punches and kicks. Even if you reach the third level of Qi Refinement, it's useless. Okay then, next year, you just cheer for us and manage the logistic."

How irritating!

Wang Licui pouted her lips. She was supposed to be the eldest sister!

Hmph, Wang Luoqiu, I won't forget this! It's cyclical - some time you're up, and sometimes you're down. I'll seek our old ancestor's advice to up my game. I will definitely reclaim my position as the elder sister.

At last, Wang Luoqiu, with hands on her back, mimicking Wang Shouzhe's walking posture, said, "As for me, Wang Luoqiu, a talented young girl who appears only once in a century, bearing the heavy pressure for the rise of our family, I will set a small goal now. By next year, my cultivation base will be at the High Level Three."

What?

Are you out of your mind, Wang Luoqiu? This is a SMALL goal? Are you aiming to fly to the sky? At twelve, being at the high segment of Level Three, are you planning to compete with our Great Demon King, Fourth Brother?

"Haha, I heard a rumor that the family sequence road is about to open." Wang Luoqiu, with her hands on her back and innocent face turned towards the sky, said, "I, Wang Luoqiu, a lonely genius girl, shoulder the hope and destiny of our family's rise. In the future, I am bound to become a goddess like Longyan Old Ancestor.

By then, even the Great Demon King Wang Shouzhe will respectfully call me Old Ancestor Luoqiu. Hahaha~"

Chapter 62 True· Steel Straight Man Wang Shouzhe\_1

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Eh...

Wang Shouzhe actually didn't go far. He was secretly watching from a distance. He still cared a lot about his younger siblings in the clan.

At first, he frequently nodded in agreement. With Wang Luoqiu present, all these younger siblings were under immense pressure. This pressure, if transformed into motivation, could be a good thing.

However, upon hearing that damn girl spouting big words that even he, Wang Shouzhe, needed to suppress, he couldn't hold back his laughter.

Heh, Wang Luoqiu, Wang Luoqiu, your eldest brother here will make sure to apply some pressure on you so that you can experience what is truly a brother's care.

However, on the other hand, Wang Shouzhe did feel some pressure. He needed to cultivate diligently. It would be humiliating if he lost to them next year.

With a significant amount of resources being invested in the new generation of the family, and Wang Luoqiu stirring up things, the growth rate of these little brats couldn't be slowed down.

Regardless, Wang Shouzhe was still very comforted. If a family wants to be strong, could it all rely on one person? Indeed, it would be exhausting. Continuous outstanding children from the family were the true foundation of a family.

The young generation of the Wang family was experiencing their optimal growth period.

Only in the past, the family was too poor to support his cultivation to the ninth stage of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. It was a very close call. The thirty-year sprint process consumed nearly 10,000 Qian Gold's worth of cultivation supplies. As his cultivation level increased, so did the need for resources.

The rest of his siblings, even the children of the eighth generation, no matter how talented they were, could not be trained like him. The family couldn't afford a second Wang Shouzhe.

Therefore, resources for the younger generation declined after twelve years old. The boys received a little more than the girls, but the difference was minimal.

The children now relied on the elders to save resources for their cultivation. Take Wang Shounuo for example, he barely reached the peak of the third stage of Vital Energy Refining Realm at the age of twenty, squeezing his sister's Little Pei Yuan Dan to sprint forward.

Wang Shouyi, his second brother, only reached the fifth stage of the Vital Energy Refining Realm at thirty-three years old. Why is that? While his talent was mediocre, the lack of resources was the greatest sin.

Wang Shouzhe remembered Minister Zhong Xingwang. His natural aptitude was far inferior to Wang Shouzhe, and even placed among the Wang family, it was mostly mediocre. But now he is a proud cultivator of the Spirit Platform Realm!



Why is that?

Because he is from the direct bloodline of the Tianren Family. Unless one is a waste with no bloodline, with enough resources piled up, they can reach the Spirit Platform Realm.

In other words, if Wang Shouzhe had an extremely vast and endless supply of resources, each of his siblings could reach the Spirit Platform Realm.

If they had the same amount of resources as Wang Shouzhe, by his age, although not close to the seventh stage of Vital Energy Refining Realm, they would at least be at the fifth or barely the sixth stage.

Wang Shouzhe's life was originally arranged clearly. He was expected to impact the Spirit Platform at around thirty-eight to forty years old. His siblings with lesser talent, maybe fifty, sixty years old?

Of course, because the slower overall cultivation due to low aptitude, the longer the sprinting period and the great amount of resources invested. Therefore, most families prefer to select children with good aptitude for the journey to the Spirit Platform.

Let's leave the idle chat for now.

After Wang Shouzhe secretly labeled Wang Luoqiu for "special attention", he walked several dozen feet, took a few turns, and arrived at a pond. That's when he called Wang Gui over.

He took off his outer garment, tore a corner of the shirt on his arm, showing an obviously swollen lump on the outside of his arm.

The little colorful spider's poison was really potent. It's estimated that Profound Martial practitioners of the second or third stage of the Vital Energy Refining Realm, if bitten, would be incapacitated for a while.

"Family Head!"

Wang Gui was surprised, "I will get a doctor."

"No need. This bit of poison... I have already controlled it." Wang Shouzhe said calmly. He made a small cut in the wound, used his mysterious energy to expel all the controlled poison.

Luckily the fight was resolved quickly. If he was stuck in a drawn-out battle, he might have lost control of the poison.

And this is just the poison of an ordinary venomous insect, not a ferocious one. Otherwise, even Wang Shouzhe might not be able to control it.

This event was a lesson for him. He absolutely must not underestimate anyone. Moreover, he should put some effort into poison resistance in the future. There are many different, strange venomous insects in this world.

After Wang Gui helped him clean the blood stain, he put his clothes back on.

Then, he arrived at the entrance of the courtyard where Wang Luoyi lived.

Wang Xiaoyu had been waiting for Wang Shouzhe and welcomed him inside.

At this moment, Wang Luoyi also came out from the main hall. As soon as she saw her brother, her face was full of smiles: "Shouzhe, you're finally here. Little sister Luomei has been waiting till she's hungry."

Wang Luoyi is twenty this year, a full sister to Wang Shouzhe, naturally a beautiful goddess-like figure. She has a calm and natural temperament, with moderate manners, exuding the noble air of a daughter from the direct line. However, she is not particularly devoted to cultivation, despite the abundance of resources, she is just at the peak of Level Four in the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

No wonder, most girls from prominent families tend to be the same when it comes to their cultivation, unless they are girls who want to walk the Spirit Platform path. Otherwise, even if they are from the direct line, their achievements are not high.

For example, when their aunt, Gongsun Hui, married their father Wang Dingyue at the age of nineteen, she was only at the mid-Level Four of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. And even now at the age of thirty, she's only reached level six, not to mention her combat ability!

Neither the Gongsun Clan nor the Wang family have the resources to support Gongsun Hui to impact the Spirit Platform Realm. Similarly, under normal circumstances, the Wang family and the Chen Clan of Donggang don't have the resources to support Wang Luoyi in impacting the Spirit Platform Realm.

Unless Wang Luoyi's aptitude is excellent, the family would nurture her at all costs, but then she would be walking the Spirit Platform path similar to Elder Longyan.

"Shouzhe pays his respects to elder sister. I ran into Shu Yong, Luo Jing, Luo Qiu on the way and chatted with them for a while." Wang Shouzhe bowed in salute and smiled, "I made you wait for a long time, let's go and meet sister Luomei."

At the same time, Wang Gui gave the gifts to Wang Xiaoyu and then accompanied her to the side hall for dining and waiting.

"You, still bringing gifts when you come to visit your sister." Wang Luo Yi softly complained. "Better save some money, your cultivation is also lacking resources. Here, I have saved up fifty Qian Gold, you can use it first." She didn't handle the family's finances and was unaware of the large influx of capital and resources into the Wang family.

"Sister, you keep this money for your own use." Wang Shouzhe said seriously, "And, sister, you have to work harder in your cultivation. Considering the rise of the Chen Clan, Chen Fangjie's probability of achieving the Spirit Platform Realm in the future is not low."

Upon hearing the name Chen Fangjie, Wang Luoyi's face turned slightly red, she slightly snorted, "Why do you mention him in vain?" After a pause, she said helplessly, "No matter how hard I cultivate, I can't walk the path of the Spirit Platform."

"That's not necessarily true, sister. The future is long. You should grasp the present well." Wang Shouzhe said, "Maybe one day, the situation will change."

"Fine, I'll take your advice." Wang Luoyi agreed as she listened to his earnest words, then took Wang Shouzhe's arm and said, "Let's go, let's not keep Auntie and sister Luomei waiting for dinner any longer."

"Alright." Wang Shouzhe didn't say more, and accompanied her to the inner hall. He knew that Wang Luoyi was gentle and soft on the surface, but very strong at heart.

If she promises you something, she will find a way to do it.

As they entered the inner hall, an adorable eight or nine year old little girl with braids came running over, bouncing up and down: "Brother, brother. Why did you just arrive? Little Luomei's stomach is already hungry." As she spoke, she rubbed her little belly with a pitiful look.

"Oh, our little princess Luomei is so hungry that her stomach is shrinking. That's a bad thing." Wang Shouzhe laughed and picked her up with one arm. "Brother will perform a magic trick for you, as an apology. Watch closely, don't blink."

While speaking, Wang Shouzhe flipped his right hand and suddenly a bag of dried sea treasures appeared. The snacks had a good flavor, the little girls at home seemed to like it quite a bit. He assumed Luomei would also be fond of it.

"Wow, little dried fish." Wang Luomei seemed quite disappointed, "I have loads of these."

Wang Luoyi, who was standing nearby, also covered her mouth and giggled: "Shouzhe, your way won't work. Wang Licui has already sent a lot of these dried fish. I have some too."

Eh hehe~

Wang Shouzhe scratched his nose, feeling slightly embarrassed. Had Wang Licui "embezzled" the resources of dried fish to win allies? That made sense. She wouldn't dare to offend Luomei and Luoyi, after all, they were the biological sisters of Great Demon King Fourth Uncle.

Alright, that girl has... quite a survival philosophy.

Hmm, the recent tutoring for her was not in vain. He would have to continue with it later.

"You should put more thought into teasing your little sister, Luomei is already eight years old." Wang Luoyi laughed gently at his embarrassment.

"Yes, yes, Luomei is already eight, not a naive little girl of four or five." Wang Luomei blinked her sparkling eyes and said, criticizing, "Brother, can't you be more thoughtful?"

"Alright, then brother will perform a set of boxing techniques for you." Wang Shouzhe said helplessly, "You little girl, you're becoming more and more difficult to please."

"Slap"

Wang Luomei slammed her small hand on her forehead, showing a resigned expression. She looked at Wang Shouzhe with disdain: "Brother, which girl would like to watch a boxing performance? If you can't please a girl, you're going to have a hard time when sister-in-law Ruolan comes in. Fortunately, our ancestors arranged your marriage early, sigh~~"

As she was speaking, she shook her head and sighed, quite disapprovingly.

Wang Shouzhe's mouth twitched, this little brat was suggesting that if it weren't for the family's arranged marriage, he wouldn't be able to get a wife?

Chapter 63 Luomei! Come on, let's hurt each other \_1

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On the side, Wang Luoyi and Gongsun Hui were both just taking in the show and even laughing heartily. It was rather special to witness Wang Shouzhe get schooled and keep his silence - made the whole thing quite interesting.

"Alright, alright, I won't compete with you today, let's quickly have dinner," Wang Luomiao waved her hand and sighed, then took her place at the table, "When we have time later, I will slowly enlighten you about this. Sweet-talking girls is a profound knowledge, you will gradually understand it, Wang Shouzhe."

"My lady, where did she learn all this from?" Wang Shouzhe sat weakly at the dining table.

Gongsun Hui gave him a glance and laughed, "Who made you put no effort into sweet-talking your younger sister, you had it coming."

"I will take the lesson to heart, and I will upgrade my skills to sweet-talk my younger sister later," Wang Shouzhe wiped off his cold sweat. Indeed, he shouldn't have underestimated those little girls.

They were quite problematic. Lu Xiaoxiao, Wang Luo Jing, Wang Luoqiu, Wang Licui and even the young Wang Luomiao were extraordinary.

His younger brothers were probably not too clumsy either. In front of him, the eldest son of the direct line, they must be reluctant to speak. They probably wouldn't dare to stand up to him, otherwise, the embarrassment they received would be even worse.

The strict attitude of the Wang family towards men was much stronger than for girls.

"Let's eat first, lest Miaomiao gets hungry," Wang Luoyi laughed and called Wang Xiaoyu to serve the meal. She even managed to bring out some spiritual wine, not the usual White Jade Spiritual Rice Wine, but spirit fruit wine that was of a green colour.

Spirit fruit was even rarer than White Jade Spiritual Rice, and it had health beneficial properties that maintain the beauty of the skin. It was more popular amongst the women of Xuwen prominent family.

The dishes were not complex, most of them were fresh vegetables from the farm, eating them went down easy and it was quite appetising. To cater to Wang Shouzhe whose requirement for replenishing his vitality was high, a large bowl of braised pork and some other meat dishes were specially prepared.

"Huh? This isn't Spirit Horned Yaks meat." Wang Shouzhe stared at the bowl of meat, quite surprised.

The Changning area also had two powerful celestial prominent families, where one of them, Changning Huangfu had an exceedingly large animal farm. They raised not only normal cows, horses, pigs, and sheep but also bred the well-known Spirit Horned Yaks.

The major source of meat for each family was mostly purchased from Huangfu Clan. Especially, Spirit Horned Yaks, which is the mainstream source of spirit meat for all the major families. By relying on this animal farm, the celestial Huangfu Clan earned a fortune, not to mention they also had other industries. Thus, the comprehensive strength of any celestial family was daunting.

"This is the meat of a wild top Level Two beast - the Iron-backed Wild Pig," Wang Luoyi said, "The vitality contained within is much stronger than that of farmed Spirit Horned Yaks, and since you've been quite hardworking recently, it will be good to replenish your vitality."

My goodness, a top Level Two beast — that's equivalent to a peak human Qi Refinement practitioner. Under normal circumstances, a peak Qi Refinement practitioner would have a hard time defeating a same-level wild beast on one's own.

You could say that it's almost impossible to go it alone with the beast. If they lose, they lose their lives. Even if they win, they would probably also be half exhausted.

Landside beasts often excel at wild fights, their strength is fearsome. Speaking in terms of our Earth, that Iron-backed Wild Pig is like a rampaging tank, its skin is thick and tough and is very hard to deal with.

To hunt this kind of beast, in addition to the necessary martial power, humans also have to consider strategies and traps. The Wang family's ship crew in the river hunting Spirit Fish also needs to use strategies and techniques.

"Sister, you have a spirit fruit wine here, and Level Two beast meat there," Wang Shouzhe was a little surprised, "Where did you get all these? Did you strike it rich, sister?"

Wang Luoyi's face turned slightly red and she said in a low voice, "It was all sent by Chen Fangjie, who asked us to try it. They said that their ship team found a lone Iron-backed Wild Pig in the wilderness not far from the opposite bank of the river. The old ancestor of the Chen Clan, Jun Yao, led the team to decisively strike and hunt down that Iron-backed Wild Pig."

A lone Iron-backed Wild Pig?

Wang Shouzhe had an envious look on his face. This was a great thing for replenishing vitality. This Iron-backed Wild Pig was worth a lot more money than the East Sea Arrow Flagfish he had hunted. Although that beastfish was also Level Two, it didn't reach the top of Level Two.

However, if a Level Two top tier beast actually appeared nearby, it would absolutely be a disaster for the Wang family. When their old ancestor couldn't easily make a move, to hunt it down, feared that there would be a lot of casualties.

He was envious that they have an old ancestor who could lead the team to hunt in the wild.

Fortunately, in the Wang family, Old Ancestor Longyan was now transforming the Yin Sha energy and actively treating her injury. Once her injury healed, her comprehensive combat power would probably be unparalleled by the one held by Old Ancestor Jun Yao.

"Clang, clang."

Two crisp sounds of the bowl being struck interrupted Wang Shouzhe's thoughts.

"Wang Shouzhe, my dear brother." Wang Luomiao was knocking her bowl and saying, "Listen and see how Chen Fangjie does it. He has not married yet, but he's already courting his future wife by sending gifts to please her. I tell you that, for a relationship, it has to be cultivated before getting married. You mustn't neglect our Ruolan (sister-in-law)."

Wang Shouzhe couldn't help laughing and pinched her cheek, "What do you understand as a little girl? The Liu Family is much stronger than our family, what can't they have? Also, it's not allowed to knock bowls during meal times." Chen Fangjie gave a gift to his sister, however, this little girl set fire to his own head.

"Miaomiao, your brother is right, no knocking on the bowl. However, Shouzhe, Miaomiao does have a point," Gongsun Hui carefully replied, "Although you and Miss Liu are in contact privately before getting married, which is somewhat inappropriate. However, Ruolan will be the Wang family's daughter-in-law sooner or later, so it's nice to show concern in advance.

Zhe Er, didn't you just catch a Level Two Spirit Fish? Pick out the best parts and have a female house servant deliver it."

"Yes, Auntie." Wang Shouzhe felt there was no need, but he still acted on her words.

"It'd be best to personally write a letter included inside." Wang Luomiao excitedly suggested, "To show sister-in-law Ruolan your intentions."

"Don't spout nonsense and she hasn't married into our family yet, stop shouting sister-in-law recklessly." Wang Shouzhe gave her a light rebuke, "What sort of extravagant stories have you been reading recently? Let me tell you, at your age, you should be taking care of your health, solidify your foundation, do your homework, and learn basic arithmetic."



Wang Shouzhe also knew that the youngest girl in the family loved to read random history books, all about love and romance. Boys, on the other hand, mostly preferred to read heroic adventure stories involving conflicts.

These were all small books and were privately circulated among the siblings of the major families. Despite being only eight years old, children of the Profound Martial prominent family usually start learning early. The more intelligent children can already understand quite a few characters at the age of eight.

"Wah~" Wang Luomiao burst into tears, "Mother, Brother is bullying me."

"Your brother is right to admonish you." Gongsun Hui also became serious, "At your age, you shouldn't be reading such absurd stories. When we get back, give them all to me. Furthermore, this family tradition needs to be rectified."

"Mother, I was wrong." Wang Luomiao pleaded for mercy, while secretly casting a resentful glare at Wang Shouzhe, her teeth grinding in anger.

"Mother, these young girls these days are very precocious. Don't underestimate them. Miaomiao is a clever and witty girl, she must have hidden the books thoroughly." Wang Shouzhe immediately advised, "We have to search everywhere. Under the mattress, on the beams, under desks, every hidden corner must be checked. Oh, we can't forget to check the maids who take care of her!"

"Zhe Er is right." Gongsun Hui wholeheartedly agreed with a serious expression.

"Wah!"

Wang Luomiao's soft spot was hit, and she burst into tears, "Mean brother, bad brother, always bullying people. No wonder Xiaoyu calls you a big bad guy, a terrible Great Demon King."

Hehe~

Xiaoyu's continuous charges against his reputation are indeed relentless. Along with the spread of her snack, his "infamy" reached every corner.

Then, while he sipped on the Spirit Fruit wine and munched on Spirit Meat, he calmly said, "If Mother intends to correct this behavior, it's necessary to suppress it at its source and cut off the channels of propagation. At the same time, we should prepare more famous works from ancient times, so that the children of our family can be properly influenced by the timeless works of the ancients.

I think the ancient work 'East Town Tower Records' is quite good. It is full of grand ambition and exquisite language. Miaomiao using it for recitation and memorization to accumulate cultural enlightenment would be the best."

"Huh?" Wang Luomiao stopped crying, her eyes wide open. What the heck? She had never even heard of that terrible book... Wang Shouzhe, this is revenge, revenge!

"Uh..?" Gongsun Hui hesitated, "That renowned work is indeed wonderful, but it's too heavily steeped in ancient language, so the language is deep and profoundly enigmatic. Even I struggle to read it. Can your sister Miaomiao handle it?"

"Wu wu, Mother is the best. She knows how to cherish me." Wang Luomiao smiled happily. She had no interest in that shoddy 'Tower Record', filled with profound, complex language.

How good is the circulated pamphlet 'Dominant Senior Brother and Pretty Junior Sister'? The story is full of twists and turns, and tragically beautiful.

"It doesn't matter. Miaomiao is an intelligent girl from an early age, and she is unlike ordinary girls." Wang Shouzhe smiled lightly, looking at his sister "fondly," "At first, transcribing and reciting might seem a bit difficult. But as they say, if at first you don't succeed, try again. If it still doesn't work, try a hundred times. After a while, you will get the hang of it."

"Are you kidding?"

She has to copy it a hundred times? What does he mean by 'after a while, you will get the hang of it'?

Wang Luomiao shivered with fear, looking at her gentle and beautiful mother. Her frantic heart became calm again. Yes, yes, she is so obedient, and her mother cherishes her so much. She would surely not...

"Zhe Er is right indeed, your sister Miaomiao is clever ahead of her time, but when it comes to studying, she lacks patience and tends to quit early." Gongsun Hui agreed solemnly, "She does need to be trained thoroughly and understand the principle that constant dropping wears the stone."

"Wa~" Wang Luomiao cried again. Her crying was incredibly forlorn and desolate.

Wang Luoyi at the side looked at Wang Luomiao, then turned to Wang Shouzhe who was wearing a "doting" expression for sister Miaomiao and felt a throbbing pain in his heart.

It's no wonder that whenever Xiaoyu hears "Fourth Uncle," she trembles all over, her face turns pale, and she can't even stand properly.

At this moment, she was very relieved that she was Wang Shouzhe's older sister, and not his younger sister or niece. Otherwise, wouldn't she also be shrouded in darkness and fear?

Chapter 64: Family Cultivation Technique Heritage

...

Aunt Gongsun Hui, born to a prominent family, was of course not going to spoil Wang Luomiao without principle.

She ignored her, letting her be angry on her own.

Then she shared a cheerful meal with Wang Luoyi and Wang Shouzhe, their jovial idle chat making the atmosphere very agreeable.

"Aunt, this is the belly of an Iron-backed Wild Pig. It's been boiled to perfection; fat but not greasy, tender but not mushy, it just melts in the mouth. Please have a taste." Wang Shouzhe used public chopsticks to take a piece of nice meat for Gongsun Hui, and he vividly described its flavor.

"Gulp..." Wang Luomiao, off to the side and sulking, swallowed her saliva involuntarily.

"Sister, did you make this fried pork tenderloin yourself?" Wang Shouzhe praised while eating, "The degree to which it's cooked is like a masterstroke, fresh and delicious, as if savouring the taste of an immortal's delicacy."

"Just eat, why do you talk so much?" Wang Luoyi rolled her eyes impatiently, then glanced at Wang Luomiao sympathetically, her little mouth almost drooling.

"Big brother, Miaomiao wants to eat too." Unable to resist any longer, Wang Luomiao cried out and pounced toward the dining table.

Unfortunately, her little head was held back by Wang Shouzhe's finger, he grinned and said, "Say 'good big brother', otherwise you get nothing."

"Good big brother." Unable to resist the temptation of food, Wang Luomiao finally surrendered.

Only then did Wang Shouzhe laugh and pick her up, put her on the chair, and start to pick meat and vegetables for her. The little girl had been starved, she gulped down her food. The meal was incredibly delicious.

After dining to their hearts' content, the entire family sat and chatted while sipping tea.

When Wang Shouzhe was about to leave, Wang Gui, the young servant boy, carried many things, all meat, clothing, shoes, and so on.

Wang Luoyi usually has quite a leisurely life, she recently has not ventured far from home, and in her spare time, she sewed several clothes for him. While gratefully accepting, Wang Shouzhe again urged Wang Luoyi to take cultivation seriously.

Furthermore, he even asked Gongsun Hui to focus on cultivation, not to delay her cultivation base.

That night.

Wang Shouzhe sat cross-legged in his room, entering cultivation mode.

Daily cultivation of 'Xuan Yuan Technique' is an indispensable routine. The path to the Spirit Platform has always been a step by step process, and there is no room for slackening.

However, today's cultivation was different from usual.

He usually uses the Xuan Yuan Technique to circulate his inner energy, refine his bodily fluids and energy, and strengthen his body and Xuanqi (mysterious energy). At most, he might take a 'Little Pei Yuan Dan' once a month as a supplement to his cultivation. However, this time, he held a Spirit Stone in his hand.

The Spirit Stone felt slightly cold in his palm, and he could sense some mysterious and mystical energy contained within.

He circulated his Xuanqi, let it interact with the Spirit Stone.

Suddenly.

The energy within the Spirit Stone was activated, and it emitted a faint light. Wang Shouzhe quickly sucked in his palm and drew the energy into his body.

"Hiss! This is unbelievable!"

The energy had an intense stimulating effect on his body, causing tremors throughout his body for several moments. Not wanting to waste it, he forcefully suppressed the peculiar sensation, enveloped the energy and began to circulate his inner energy.

At the end of each cycle, his internal energy and blood surged, as if it was a complete cleansing, and the Xuanqi gushing in his Qi Sea became stronger and purer by a point.

After more than two hours and four cycles later.

Wang Shouzhe's meridians and acupoints were hurting to the point of swelling, he slowly stopped using the technique, not daring to cultivate any more. The swelling and pain in the meridians and acupoints indicate a certain limit.

If he insisted on cultivating more, it would not only be unprofitable but also harmful to his body. It's essential to rest and let the body gradually recover, before conducting the next round of cultivation.

Therefore, when cultivating internals, it can only be done at a pace of once a day. In Wang Shouzhe's understanding as a transmigrator, the body needs time to cool down and recover, needs to replenish with meat to strengthen its energy and blood, and should not be overexploited.

But the result of this round of cultivation was very satisfying to Wang Shouzhe, though a large part of his internal energy was consumed, the newly generated Xuanqi in his Qi Sea became even more robust and pure.

It's noteworthy that his diet has been so good recently that his internal energy and blood remained at their peak. Even if he cultivated relentlessly every day, it was still impossible to completely deplete his energy and blood.

Yet this round of cultivation gave him a vague sense of deprivation of his energy and blood.

This must be the result of the Spirit Stone's energy aiding cultivation, Wang Shouzhe looked at the Spirit Stone that was slightly dimmed, he sighed in his heart, the energy of the Spirit Stone was an enormous help to him, it can both replenish part of his energy and blood, and stimulate his body's acupoints together with Xuanqi, achieving the purpose of strengthening himself.

If this goes on, it won't take long to reach the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Six and he can try to break through to Level Seven.

It's a pity, although there's a significant improvement, this method of cultivation is very extravagant.

A single Spirit Stone is worth over a hundred Qian Gold, how long can he use it for? Although he cannot estimate this at present, he believes that long-term use of Spirit Stones for cultivation would definitely be a significant expense.

However...

Wang Shouzhe thought of his grandniece, Wang Licui. Recently, under his relentless "encouragement", she not only began to show ambition, but also awakened a unique talent for food.

With this thought, he couldn't help but smile in satisfaction.

He took a bath and went to bed.

As dawn approached the next day, Wang Shouzhe got up and practiced his movement techniques, fighting techniques, swordsmanship, and archery. As a young clan leader, he had a small martial arts practice field not far from his courtyard where he spent his entire childhood.

His achievements at such a young age were not just attributed to his bloodline talent or his role as a young clan leader. His basic movement techniques, fighting techniques, swordsmanship, and archery were all refined to perfection.

Even more, he had achieved little success in the secret techniques of the Wang family, the middle-grade Willow Catkin Body Method and the middle-grade Mysterious Element Sword.

This was a result of his stern father Wang Dingyue's urging, as well as his own hard work.

The family's techniques, movement methods, fighting techniques, etc., were all brought out of the Longzuo Wang family by Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan when he headed south with the Expansion Order.

Techniques and fighting methods passed down are equally very important to a family's foundation. For example, the Wang family's main cultivation method, the "Xuan Yuan Technique", consists of the Qi Refining Chapter and the Spirit Platform Chapter. This is enough for family members to follow to the end of the Spirit Platform path and step into the path of celestial beings.

However, the transmission of such inheritance is extremely strict. Firstly, family members are forbidden from spreading it outside. Secondly, if someone who has stolen the inheritance is discovered, it would be a serious matter.

Women who marry into other families are also not allowed to teach these techniques to their husbands' families. Any family with a little bit of sense would never make such a request, but would instead prevent such things from happening.

If they didn't, conflicts would arise between the two families. In the worst-case scenario, the perfectly good relationship between families would be completely broken, turning both sides into bitter enemies.

The family caught stealing another's techniques and fighting methods would lose all credibility, unable to find a footing anywhere. Who would dare to intermarry with this kind of family that doesn't understand the rules? No family wants their secret techniques to become someone else's simply because of a marriage.

Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan came from the Longzuo Wang family, and a thousand years ago, the ancestors of the Longzuo Wang family were a branch of the Great Qian Wang clan. Therefore, although the Wang family's Xuan Yuan Technique is just a middle-grade cultivation method, it is considered good within the Changning Garrison region.

At most, only one-third of the families there possess a core inheritance cultivation method of middle grade.

As for Old Ancestor Longyan, she used to practice the "Wang Family Xuan Yuan Technique". After she eventually advanced to the Spirit Platform in the Purple Abode Academic Palace, she was taken in as a disciple by Master Binglan and started practicing the top grade "Mysterious Ice Technique".

Since the mysterious energy refined by the Wang Family's Xuan Yuan Technique is harmonious and neutral, it's not too difficult to switch to other cultivation methods.

However, Longyan, a person of capricious strength, didn't dare to pass the "Mysterious Ice Technique" to the family at all. Doing so would not help the family, but instead, would lead them to destruction.

With the means of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, they could wipe out the Ping'an Wang family, and no one would dare to say a word.

As for the inheritance of cultivation techniques, we'll leave it aside for now.

Wang Shouzhe had been busy with clan affairs recently. While he managed to cultivate in meditation consistently, he indeed neglected many of his physical techniques and fighting skills. Concentrating on cultivation base without practicing physical techniques and fighting skills would only make one a hollow shell.

Not to mention Wang Shouzhe, who is the pillar of the family and is walking on the path of the Spirit Platform. Every male member of any bloodline of the family must diligently practice these physical techniques and fighting skills.

Previously, the girls in the family were required to practice a little less, explaining why gluttonous Wang Licui, who had reached the high segment of level two in the Vital Energy Refining Realm, was just an empty shell, and could only bully commoners.



However, Wang Luoqiu gave him a lot of pressure and motivation. Her adolescent energy was quite scary, and she undoubtedly spent a lot of time practicing every day.

In the future, if she accidentally turned the tables, where would his pride, Wang Shouzhe, be? Seeing how she lambasted her own brother, Wang Shouliao, one could tell it wouldn't end well.

Fight on!

Wang Shouzhe began to practice, drenched in sweat.

His personal servant, Wang Gui, also started to cultivate with him. For some reason, his motivation to cultivate was even stronger than before, and he gave it his all.

...

Meanwhile.

At the biggest martial practice field in the main residence, a group of young boys and girls were also pouring out their youth and sweat.

Wang Luoqiu's youthful and somewhat domineering voice echoed, "Wang Luo Jing, why are you slacking off? Is being an Insect Master such an extraordinary thing? If you don't properly practice your fighting techniques and body skills, once my unmatched imposing body gets near you, I'll suppress you in minutes."

"Wang Shou Yong, Wang Shouliao, the family rankings are about to start, the future Emperor's Road is looming, if you don't fight, how can you compete with the various Sky Prides for that glint of divine knowledge!"

"I, Wang Luoqiu, will surely sweep through my generation, fight through the Sky Prides, and dominate the world."

Oh, my sister!

Wang Shoulian's tears were streaming down his face, full of regret. He really shouldn't have given Wang Luoqiu the handwritten copies of the legendary stories that were circulated among the boys.

Just look at her and how much she's into it now? She keeps talking about "suppressing Sky Prides", and "sweeping through the world".

We are just a Rank 9 uncelebrated prominent family from the countryside.

Shouldn't our life goals be set a little smaller?

Chapter 65: Saved a Damsel in Distress \_1

...

A few days later.

There were already signs of chaos in the Changning Garrison's jurisdiction.

Wang Shouzhe would receive a letter from Wang Shouyi every couple of days describing events happening in Changning. The city defense office had reached an agreement with two Celestial being families, several top Spirit Platform families including the Xu family in Changning, as well as Qian's trading company and other forces. They had begun to open their granaries for disaster relief.

However, the city is populated with many people; it is a large city with a population of over 100,000. The amount of grain consumed daily is astronomical.

Some audacious merchants had even hatched a plan to hoard supplies and sell grain to the city's residents at five to six times the price secretly. Their scheme was discovered by the city defense bureau, who not only executed them but also confiscated their hoarded grain.

Furthermore, rumors surfaced that the disaster had spread beyond Longzuo County. Therefore, it would be difficult to transport grain from outside the county to curb the grain shortage. As a result, even the grand county town was experiencing a grain shortage.

It is said that the county town of Longzuo State surpasses a hundred thousand residents. A grain shortage in such a city is a massive disaster. It also speaks volumes about the deteriorated state of affairs in Longzuo County.

Now, many rumors and whispers were circulating. Some said that the Purple Abode Academy was failing to gather food outside. Others claimed that the county town had commanded its cities to collect grain to ensure the county town's grain supply.

The most prominent rumor even claimed that Emperor Changlong's lifespan was nearing its end, and the Da Qian Empire was going to befall an apocalypse. The insect plague was just the beginning. This rumor sent a chill down Wang Shouzhe's spine. It seemed that whenever there was chaos, all sorts of bizarre rumors would emerge.

However, those who dared to announce that Emperor Changlong was dying were quickly apprehended by the city defense bureau, hanged at the city gate, and executed in a most cruel way.

Wang Shouyi only dared to vaguely express these matters in his letters. Wang Shouzhe was informed of them by the messenger of the head of household, who whispered them to him secretly.

In a word, it was chaos!

And the Wang family of Ping'an, amidst this chaos, could only obey the rules superficially. They had to collect the taxes due and pay the food required, not coming up short even by a bit for the garrison. In fact, even if the Wang family wanted to pay a bit less grain, they couldn't do it.

Even if their uncle, Wang Dingzu, was serving as a deputy garrison commander in the garrison, he would not dare to be biased at this critical juncture. This was because people from the city defense office had come down a long time ago to supervise the grain collection process. At such a time, who would dare to favor?

This summer, the Wang family had to pay a considerable amount of grain as tax.

The grain, load by load, was loaded onto the carriage and transported to Pudukou. Under the supervision of the city defense office, it was weighed by the garrison, and then loaded onto the grain ships.

Three big farms together had a total of 7,650 acres of good land registered. Each acre was taxed at 4, so a total of 3,060 loads of wheat needed to be paid as the land tax for one season. Fortunately, the overall harvest this time was good, aside from the problem of honey insects overrunning the area.

This year was indeed a year with plentiful rainfall in the early stage and good sunlight in the mid-late stage, which was very conducive to the maturation of wheat.

Therefore, the total wheat production of three big farms reached more than 26,000 loads, with an average yield of about three and a half loads per acre, barely reaching a good harvest.

Subtracting the summer tax, the previous "insecticide tax", the apportionment of the seed bull investment, the sharing with tenant farmers, there was still a pure profit of 14,500 loads remaining. Of course, the actual number of grains was much more.

This is because the previous expenses of the insecticide, etc., were paid with Qian gold, and there would be no subsequent purchase of the labor-intensive insecticide. And this was just the income of one season.

By the way, the batch of insecticide that Grand Elder Four had been hoarded was sold off at three times the price when the price was high, making a considerable profit.

This made Wang Xiaozhi, Grand Elder Four, extremely proud, boasting to everyone that he had made a "large sum" of money for the family with his excellent judgment and made a significant contribution.

In addition to the summer tax on the wheat fields of the family farm, the taxes from other industries in the farm were paid before the year. And because they are not for the production of grain crops, there is no need to use grain to contribute.

Besides, it was about the taxes collected on behalf of the Wang family within their territory.

Due to the small scope of the Wang family's influence, the peasant land under their rule is listed as only 16,000 acres. These are all under the five-tax system. However, the Wang family, considering the self-farming peasants in their territory, had also greatly suffered, although less than outsiders.

Therefore, they decided to collect only four-tax grain. The world family tax, which made up one tax, could be offset with copper shillings. This time, the Wang family struggled to collect 6,400 loads of grain. It was all loaded onto carts and transported to Pudukou, and then shipped away by each boat.

Under the protection of the head of household, Wang Shouzhe stood at the bustling and bustling Pudukou and couldn't help but feel a thousand emotions. In this era, when Profound Martial families and free people worked hard to farm, their income was far less than taxation.

These grains would likely be distributed as the rumors mentioned, some being transported to the garrison's cities, and some being used to "relieve" the people in higher-level states and counties. Keep in mind, the living conditions of the people over there were far better than those of Ping'an Town.

In a way, it was ironic.

Considering that such boats full of grain were transported away, this would add frost to the existing grain shortage in Ping'an Town.

Especially for many that had invested their savings in purchasing agricultural land, or spent a lot of money sending progeny to study, or had just experienced big-spending events such as marriages and funerals in self-farming families, this crisis would be particularly difficult.

The living conditions for self-sufficient farming families were generally not bad, but their consumption standards were much higher than those of tenant farmers. The costs for essentials like oil, salt, soy sauce, and vinegar, and for expenses for clothing, food, shelter, and transportation as well as weddings and funerals, were all higher.

Furthermore, most self-sufficient farmers, if they had some savings, would try to expand their farmland, build houses, and educate their children in reading and art etc. These activities consumed a lot of money, and most of them didn't have much savings.

None of this was a problem under normal circumstances, but who could have expected such a fierce and sudden insect plague this time.

Nevertheless, even so.

Except for a few self-sufficient farmers, most looked for ways to endure the hardship and hold on until the next season's grain was produced. Then they could consider themselves out of the woods. But lurking among them were those who caused havoc.

Every time there was a natural or man-made disaster, there would always be some insatiable power-holders who took the opportunity to monopolize and exploit the common people to fatten up themselves.

Wang Shouzhe looked afar at the never-ending line of tax-bearing carriages from the Liu and Zhao clans. His eyes squinted slightly. Initially, he had only been guessing at their actions based on the behavior of the two predatory families of Liu and Zhao, as well as some rumors going around.

But as the intelligence work unfolded, some concrete information gradually reached Wang Shouzhe. He could almost confirm that they were indeed planning a major action.

...

The Liu clan of Ping'an

In the main hall of the Liu family's main residence, the head of the Liu family, Liu Shengye, was hearing reports from several clansmen, including the promising young man Liu Yongzhou.

His brow furrowed. "What's going on with the Sun family of Changning? They clearly agreed to lend us fifteen thousand baskets of wheat, and we would pay back thirty thousand baskets of rice after the autumn harvest. Why are they not honoring it now? Isn't doubling their return enough of a satisfaction?

"The Sun family of Changning said they barely saved some output by buying the insecticide powder," a man in his fifties replied. "They claimed that the Sun family suffered huge damages."

"So what exactly do they want?" Liu Shengye's face had a touch of gloom. The losses suffered by the Liu family this time were too great. If not compensated, it would deplete their vital energy.

The clansman's face was also stern. "The Sun family don't want us to pay back in double; they said inflating the prices is illegal. They think bartering would be better, and they want to exchange 1,500 acres of good farmland."

1,500 acres of prime farmland?

Liu Shengye went pale and almost fainted. "Have they gone mad? Using fifteen thousand baskets of food for fifteen hundred acres of land?" The Liu family, having accumulated over many years since their old ancestor, only had just over ten thousand acres of good farmland.

This extortion of a seventh of their farmland assets was an outrageous, ruthless measure that was certain to generate a profit several times over.

"Head of the family, shall we... let it go?" the member of their clan, not seeing any other way out, advised, "According to our original plan, we could only have acquired about two thousand acres of good farmland. But with the Sun family's move, we would bear the stigma while they profited. Is it worth doing?"

"We cannot let it go. The Liu clan has suffered too great a loss this time," Liu Shengye said, his eyes cold and ruthless. "This time, why not venture everything at once and aim to acquire three thousand acres of farmland. Even if we have to mortgage or loan or exchange with people, we will be making a huge profit."

His elder brother, Liu Shenghao, was at a critical point in his attack on the Spirit Platform realm. There was still a gap in their resources. As soon as he broke through to the Spirit Platform realm, as the family with two Spirit Platforms, they could compete with the Sun Family.

Liu Shengye was good at managing economics and was meticulous about money matters, never willing to suffer a loss. Moreover, the family had devoted themselves to accumulating wealth over the past fifty years. Wasn't the purpose alongside creating a powerful family to nurture a second ancestor from the Spirit Platform?

"Head of the family, I'm afraid this could cause a public outrage," a clansman worriedly warned. "Besides, the Wang family's leftover grain is bound to be quite a lot, as they have a Insect Master that protected them from the disaster. Can they take advantage of this..."

"They won't dare!" Liu Shengye confidently asserted. "Our Liu clan and Zhao clan are working together. How could the vulnerable Wang family even dare to move a finger against us? Moreover, I have heard that the Wang family has shipped over their surplus grains to Donggang, exchanging them for cultivation resources at a high return. That's a wise move.

Keeping the surplus grains in hand until the next season definitely won't be as attractive."

"How can you be so sure about it, head of the family?" The clansman was perplexed. "Given the current trend, surely not every family would need the doubled dose of the insecticide powder."

"I, the head of this family, have received information—the Academic Palace of the Purple Abode has already begun improving the next generation of insecticide powder. And to express their apology, they will distribute it to the affected families next season at just a tenth of the price," he informed.

This news might be somewhat confidential, but everyone in this conference hall was part of the core of the Liu clan, and they didn't need to worry about any information leaks.

"As it turned out, this is an opportunity that we can't afford to miss," said the clansmen, expressing their approval. "But the Sun family's move is too cunning," they complained.

Liu Yongzhou, who hadn't spoken up till now, suddenly interjected: "Head of the family, and all my uncles. I have an idea whereby we wouldn't have to collaborate with the Sun Family. Sometime ago, my fishing boat saved a distressed young lady by the river..."

At the mention of this young lady, Liu Yongzhou's eyes couldn't help but reveal a hint of burning desire, fascination, and even fanaticism...

Chapter 66 Hidden Perils of Dangerous Thunder\_1

...

In the eyes of Liu Yongzhou, Miss Zhong was the most flawless young lady he had ever seen. She was gentle and captivating, but in every word and every frown, she exuded a touch of ethereal, immortal charm.

Although she never revealed which Profound Martial aristocratic family she came from, she must belong to a very noble clan, as evidenced by her aura.

The eldest daughter of the Liu Clan certainly looked remarkable, and two prominent families had proposed marriage to her. However, compared to Miss Zhong Luoxian, she seemed like a farm girl who reared chickens and ducks at home.

Luoxian.



What a beautiful and ethereal name. She indeed appeared like an immortal girl who accidentally fell from the celestial palace.

Even when she was eating the Spirit Fish, she unintentionally ate only the tender parts like the belly and cheeks, often just tasting it for its fresh flavor.

He didn't dare offer the White Jade Spiritual Rice Wine which he used to consider precious. Its faint disdain and disdain in her eyes, was still fresh in his memory.

The only thing that vexed him and filled him with regret was: why on earth did he drink wine on the boat with that damned Zhao kid, Zhao Dingtian, that day? If not for that, he would have been the only one to save Miss Zhong.

Damn Zhao Dingtian, Luoxian doesn't like you, but you still dare to pester her every day.

However, his contact with Luoxian would probably end soon. The head of household from Zhong's family had already found her and was preparing to take her back.

However, this also conveniently informed him that Miss Zhong's family seemed to be in need of food, and was buying food from a large family in Donghaei. Their relationship seemed very close, and the additional conditions of the other party were not high.

"Yongzhou, tell us the situation." Liu Shengye interrupted his reverie with a slightly knitted brow.

With his emotions quelled, Liu Yongzhou reported the general situation.

"Could it be a swindler?" A senior member raised a doubt, "There aren't so many destitute young ladies in this world."

"Third Uncle!" Liu Yongzhou was somewhat angry, "You should not randomly slander the lady. I just happened to hear about this matter, and Miss Zhong never actively mentioned it. I thought that since Sun Clan is avaricious, I might as well ask Miss Zhong if she could help us buy some supplies."

Zhong Clan? Which prominent family named Zhong is near Changning? Could it be from somewhere else...

"Yongzhou, even if they are willing to sell, we don't have enough Qian Gold to buy." Liu Shengye was somewhat embarrassed, "I wonder if we can still buy on credit and repay double after the autumn harvest."

"Family Head, why can't we take out a thousand or two thousand Qian Golds? I can't handle this." Liu Yongzhou was now embarrassed. He usually portrayed himself as a wealthy young master to impress Luoxian, but now he had to owe money, especially to his goddess, and he didn't know how to speak up.

"This..." Liu Shengye pondered for a moment and refused to speak.

Upon a little consideration, Liu Yongzhou suddenly exclaimed with joy, "Could it be that great uncle he..."

His great uncle, Liu Shenghao, was the first in the Spirit Platform sequence that the Liu Clan had been heavily cultivating. The clan had expended a great deal of financial and material resources for this.

Luckily, the overall conditions of the Liu Clan were superior to the Wang Family, and when cultivating the Spiritual Platform Sequence, it did not squeeze the resources of other clan members. Therefore, Liu Yongzhou was able to perform so outstandingly among the younger generation.

If his great uncle advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm, the family would inevitably expand its territory and, as an excellent junior of the Yong generation, wouldn't he... also have a chance?

He was overjoyed.

Liu Shengye said solemnly, "Since you have guessed the general situation, you are after all part of the core of the Yong generation, so I might as well not hide it from you. However, you must keep it a secret. Yes, your great uncle is making final preparations. The key "Heavenly Spirit Pill" has been purchased. But to ensure absolute success, two more auxiliary spirit pills are still needed.

If you accomplish a great feat... you know what that means."

"All right." Liu Yongzhou suddenly perked up, "Even if this matter is somewhat embarrassing, I am willing to give it a try."

It's normal for the family resources to be slightly tight because they want to advance an ancestor. This wouldn't be too embarrassing.

Moreover, once the family has more Spirit Platform ancestors, the family's situation will be greatly improved. If the clan resources increase, from the tone of the Family Head, the next candidate for cultivation may be Liu Yongzhou himself.

Once a family flourishes, it may continue to accelerate its development like compound interest. On the other hand, if a family declines, it will likely become increasingly unlucky and be obstructed everywhere.

In Liu Yongzhou's view, the Liu Clan is a family that is gaining momentum, while the Wang Family is sinking deeper and deeper into the mire and is unable to extricate itself.

He is full of confidence. After accomplishing this great feat, his future achievement will be unlimited.

...

Two days later.

In the side hall of the Wang family main residence, upon hearing some news, Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but chuckle, putting down the secret letter in his hand. Immediately, he bowed his hand to the visitor and said, "Brother Chen, you've worked hard on this matter."

"Leader Wang." The man hurriedly returned the courtesy, his expression slightly apologetic, "During the last visit to the Hundred Islands Guard, I was not aware of your identity, please forgive any unintended slight."

This man was Chen Fanghua, an elite member of the Chen Clan who had accompanied him to meet the Hundred Islands Guard. With his extensive sea-faring experience, sharp interpersonal skills, and tactful demeanor, he was an exceptionally talented individual.

This time, in a bid to strike at the Liu and Zhao clans, besides Wang Mei, the head of household, other household guards could not be used.

Fortunately, the plan required the strength of the Chen Clan. After much thought, he wrote a letter to Chen Fangjie, seeking his support in carrying out his scheme. In exchange for his help, a share of the profits would be guaranteed upon the plan's success.

Given Chen Fangjie's personality, he naturally wouldn't refuse to collaborate with Wang Shouzhe.

Even if the plan were to fail, given the influence of the Chen Clan of Donggang, and its unique yet far geographical location, he truly had no fear of offending the Zhao or Liu clans.

Once Chen Fanghua arrived, Wang Zhong integrated him into the plan. He and another relatively unknown Chen Clan member, disguised as the head of household for Zhong Luoxian, came to find the missing young lady.

The plan was carried out successfully. The so-called "best friends" Liu Yongzhou of the Liu Clan and Zhao Dingtian of the Zhao Clan, had both been ensnared. The operation had now progressed to phase two.

"Brother Chen, don't be too formal." Wang Shouzhe said with a smile, "During our last trip to the Hundred Islands Guard, I was totally dependent on your help. It should be me apologizing to you for concealing my identity. Let that be water under the bridge. For now, during this operation, it is utmost important for you to ensure your safety, Brother Chen.

If anything goes wrong, I would rather abort the mission than risk any safety issues."

"This plan is ingenious, and our part of it is quite simple, nothing could go wrong." Chen Fanghua said in admiration, "Leader Wang really found an amazing ally, a woman with the grace of a fairy. Fortunately, I am already married and know she belongs to you, or else I might have fallen for her."

A fairy? Haha~

Wang Shouzhe chuckled to himself. If you, Chen Fanghua, saw her real face, that would truly shock you.

Huh?

Not quite, Wang Shouzhe strained to recall what Wang Mei looked like, but he couldn't even remember her face. A dry smile twitched at the corner of his mouth. True enough, household head Wang Mei was so ordinary, her true face had almost no presence and was easily forgettable, even more so than that of a passerby.

After Chen Fanghua had left.

Wang Shouzhe opened the secret letter from Wang Mei again. The seared lacquer seal had already been broken by him, but the astonishing news had led him to put it aside temporarily.

Now, after reading it carefully again, he knitted his brows tightly, this situation was troublesome indeed.

The progress of Liu Shenghao of the Liu Clan along the Spirit Platform path was not much of a secret. However, he always kept a low profile, and many times his existence was overlooked. Moreover, not long ago he had just revealed that he had barely reached the Level Nine of the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

But now, in the blink of an eye, he had already quietly reached the Peak Level Nine, and was secretly preparing for the last step, even securing a Heavenly Spirit Pill.

The Wang family originally estimated that it would be at least five years before Liu Shenghao took the final step.

The Liu Clan, which had been independent for only fifty years, is growing stronger. Apart from satisfying the development of the family, they had managed to save up a Heavenly Spirit Pill so quickly, and was indeed not to be underestimated.

The talent of the Liu Clan's Family Head, Liu Shengye, was mediocre, but his ability to earn money was truly great.

Wang Mei's information should not be wrong, it was a truth Liu Yongzhou had spilled in his drunken state.

This is a common mistake among many men. In front of a woman they admire but feel inadequate to woo, they would attempt to boost their own worth.

If the Liu Clan could produce a Spirit Platform Realm elder at any time, what about the Zhao Clan?

The Zhao Clan had always been even more low-key than the Liu Clan. Perhaps at this moment, their journey to the Spirit Platform had also reached a key junction.

Wang Shouzhe's face was solemn, tapping on the table, lost in thought. After a long while, he wrote a secret command and sealed it with melted wax before sending it secretly to Wang Mei.

This matter couldn't be taken lightly. If not handled properly, it could spell the end of the Wang family. But if it worked out, it could deliver a fatal blow to their enemies.

Chapter 67: Hundred-Year Plan\_1

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As the clan leader, Wang Shouzhe spends much of his time orchestrating everything from the center, thus he doesn't need to involve himself in every step of the plan.

So during this period, he has spent his time mainly in the main residence, practicing cultivation every day or 'teasing' a younger brother or sister.

With abundant resources, his cultivation has progressed rapidly and has reached the peak state of the sixth level. He needs only a few more days of refinement and he will be able to try advancing to the seventh level of Qi Refinement realm.

However, he needs to take action today.

After arranging with Wang Gui, he summoned a child from the family.

Not a moment later.

A graceful woman in her thirties, leading a boy of about ten, entered Wang Shouzhe's side hall.

"Madam Chen pays respect to the family head," the woman politely saluted. The boy, however, seemed a bit fearful and hid behind his mother.

"No need to be so formal, Auntie Six, just call me Shouzhe," Wang Shouzhe returned the salute, inviting her to sit down, "Please, sit."

This Madam Chen was the wife of Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai and she is descended from the Chen Clan of Donggang, directly related by blood.

In the sixth generation of the Wang family directly related lines, marriages with Chen Clan had been very frequent. Two of the Ding line men have married Donggang Chen Clan women, and two ladies of the Liu line got married into the Donggang Chen Clan.

Nowadays, both families have started intermarriage between their direct heirs, which shows how intimate their relationship is.

After Wang Gui served tea and fruits, he recoiled to one side.

Wang Shouzhe then had a small chat with Madam Chen. After exchanging courtesies, he turned his eyes towards the young boy and said with a smile: "Shouye, how have you been doing with your studies recently?"

This boy, Wang Shouye, is currently the youngest male of the seventh Shou line generation. He is just ten years old and the seventh elder in birth order.

The reason I said 'currently' is because some of the older Ding-line predecessors from the sixth generation are still young and strong. For example, Third Uncle Wang Dingzu and Sixth Uncle Wang Dinghai. It's possible they might have more, younger children.

There are precedents. Just consider our eldest uncle, Wang Dingchuan, who fathered Shou-line fifth child, Wang Shou Yong, when he was fifty. It's true that age gets stronger.

Of course, credit also has to be given to the elder sister-in-law who could still have a baby in her forties - and she is an excellent child-bearer at that.

Let's not digress.

Wang Shouye was evidently somewhat shy and fearful of Wang Shouzhe. As soon as he heard him, his face turned pale, tightly gripping Madam Chen's clothes and stuttering, "Fo... Fourth bro... I'm... I'm okay."

"Shouzhe, please don't blame him. He's been timid since childhood," Madam Chen explained with a hint of embarrassment, "But he has been studying harder recently..."

While she was speaking, she stole a glance at Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe understood that Little Seven had heard about the fearsome reputation of the Examination Demon King and was so afraid of getting grilled that he began studying harder in advance.

This is a good thing.

Drinking his tea, Wang Shouzhe was more and more satisfied with the reputation of the Exam Demon King. It was like the Sword of Damocles, constantly hanging over the heads of his younger siblings and the younger generations.

Alright, let's just go along and grill him a little.

Wang Shouzhe began to examine Wang Shouye's performance, from basic literature and calculation skills to understanding of movement techniques and fighting techniques.

At first, Wang Shouye was terrified, stuttering and tripping over his responses. After a short while under Wang Shouzhe's encouragements, his answers started flowing smoothly - his basic skills were indeed solid and he had really been studying hard recently.

"Very good, very good." Wang Shouzhe gave a satisfied smile and said, "Shouye, you've done well. This is your reward." Wang Shouzhe directly rewarded him with ten whole Qian Gold as an encouragement for the first child to successfully pass his examination.

"Thank you, Fourth Brother." Wang Shouye's small face reddened with excitement, and his gaze and speech grew much more confident.



The pressure from the recent Exam Demon King had been making the young generation and the juniors restive. Now, rewarding the excellent ones will certainly attract envious gazes.

Wang Shouzhe believes that the carrot-and-stick policy will make the young children in the family improve progressively.

Wang Shouye's good performance also made Madam Chen very pleased. After all, which mother wouldn't hope her son would turn out to be outstanding?

After the examination was over, Wang Shouzhe turned to the main topic, saying, "Later, I will have Shouye accompany me to the Prosperous Farm to visit Sixth Grandfather." The implication was that she didn't need to come along.

It wasn't that Wang Shouzhe objected to Madam Chen accompanying them. He simply thought Shouye, as a male in the family, seemed overly dependent on his mother.

Look at Wang Luoqiu, who's only one year older than Wang Shouye, she has already started challenging the heavens, the earth and the air, loudly proclaiming her intention to kill gods and Buddha, shouldering the heavy responsibility of the family's rise alone.

Although Wang Shouzhe couldn't understand the inevitable connection between family rise and killing gods and Buddhas ... in addition, the thick naïve, childish sentiment emanating from her so-called "lonely girl" carrying the fate of the family... also left him with an uncontrollable urge to smack someone, was she treating the entire family as a bunch of incoherent teammates?

But that didn't stop Wang Shouzhe from admiring Wang Luoqiu's full-on, aggressive spirit.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe still wants to make the seventh youngster leave his mother's bosom earlier and quickly grow into a young man.

"Everything is up to Shouzhe." Although Aunt Chen, the sixth's wife, felt a little sorry for the seventh kid, she did as she was told.

Right after that.

Wang Shouzhe took Wang Shouye with him, using the waterway in the backyard to head for the Prosperous Farm. He was becoming more and more fond of taking the water route: it's peaceful and natural, with an open view, and it allowed him ample time to plan his family's future.

For example, on the waterway leading to the Prosperous Farm, both sides of the path were low-lying swamps; filled with reeds at this time of the year. Some of the farmers from nearby villages, took advantage of the mud and came to harvest the reeds.

Reeds, although cheap, have many uses. They could be used to roof houses or weave reed mats to cool off in the coming summer, or dried for firewood.

However, reed catkins were not very useful. They looked like cotton but provided no warmth. Back on Earth, reeds could also be used to make paper.

Some information that had settled in the brain was triggered by this scene and began to emerge.

Wait a minute?

Cotton, papermaking?

Cotton has been planted in the Great Qian Land for a long time, with some prominent families making their livelihood by growing cotton. Stepping into this field was not an easy task for Wang Shouzhe, as these families are highly skilled at cotton farming.

But what about papermaking?

Of course there's paper in this world, used extensively for books, letters, everywhere. The quality of paper ranges from high to low, and they are mostly quite expensive. The reason being -- the paper-making technique is monopolized by a few powerful factions.

He searched through his memory and couldn't recall any prominent family in Changning who had mastered the paper-making technique.

The paper everyone used was shipped in by the Qian Trading Company from afar.

The principle of making paper is very simple, much easier than producing mono sodium glutamate or a Jenny Loom. Wang Shouzhe even had a rough idea of the steps involved in papermaking.

There's potential in this.

Wang Shouzhe quietly recorded this idea and incorporated it into his future plans. In the meantime, he also had some thoughts about the vast swamps on both sides of the riverbank.

The ancestors used to choose the easier areas when opening up new farmland. For example, they looked for regions that were rich in water sources, flat in terrain, fertile in soil, and adaptable. This was done to reduce the cost of land development.

As generations of pioneers occupied and expanded these advantageous zones, the remaining undeveloped territories were disadvantaged for some reasons or others.

For instance, these swamps on both sides of the riverbank were of low-lying terrain. Whenever it rained, extensive swamps were created. Even during the dry season, the area was pockmarked with muddy patches.

If you wanted to turn it into farmland, you would have to fill it up with soil to raise the overall terrain. This would be a massive project even in an era of mechanization, let alone in a world with underdeveloped productivity.

But now it's hard to find large, easily reclaimable areas of land in the secure territories of Ping'an Town. The only options were to annex the lands of the individual farmers, or to encroach upon the living space of rival families.

Therefore, whenever Wang Shouzhe passed by these two large wastelands, he would think about how to exploit them.

If he were to employ the fill-up strategy, where would the soil come from? How would it be transported?

In addition, once the two large swamps were filled up, their water storage capacity would disappear during the rainy season. With the total volume of water remaining constant, this water would flow into rivers and lakes such as Zhuwei Lake.

If the rainfall were heavy enough, the water levels of the rivers and Zhuwei Lake could overflow, leading to flooding.

The best option would be to undertake large-scale dredging of Zhuwei Lake, filling the swamp with silt. In this way, not only would the water storage capacity of Zhuwei Lake increase during the rainy season, but it would gradually turn the swamp into arable land.

Additionally, the deepened Zhuwei Lake could be used for the artificial breeding of large fish. It would truly be killing several birds with one stone, brilliant beyond words.

But there's one problem!

This project was too big, requiring more manpower, resources, and time than the initial efforts to develop Fenggu Farm by their ancestors.

Chapter 68 Rise! Salted Fish Elder\_1

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A quick calculation would reveal that Zhuwei Lake isn't that big and covers about ten thousand acres of area. Dredging to an average depth of one meter would yield six or seven million cubic meters of sediment.

Wang Shouzhe had seen dredging boats in this world.

They operated manually, using dredging forks to scrape sediment onto the boat. Each boat can only hold about ten cubic meters of this muck.

Ordinary cleaned sediment is inherently rich in organic matter and makes excellent farmland fertilizer, replenishing soil fertility, once composted and mixed with other substances.

After all, in this era, the silt at the bottom of rivers and lakes doesn't contain any heavy metal accumulation.

However, the challenge lies in the quantity, as six or seven million cubic meters means six or seven hundred thousand boatloads! If ten dredging boats work without interruption throughout the year,

each cleaning and transporting three boatloads daily, it will take approximately twenty thousand days or sixty to seventy years!

After drying, the volume of the sediment substantially reduces. Considering that the marshland is primarily soft mud, it's estimated that at most it could provide two to three thousand acres of fertile farmland. The entire project is expected to cost more than ten thousand Qian Gold.

Given the extensive investment in human and material resources along with the time spent, earning only three to four Qian Gold per cultivated acre seems uneconomical.

If one were to dredge two meters deep into Zhuwei Lake, the costs would more than double and cleaning would become increasingly difficult. Even if one were to buy fertile land, it would only cost two to three Qian Gold per acre.

However, the actual calculations are not so simple. With large-scale sediment removal, Zhuwei Lake's water storage capacity will increase, allowing for fish farming, even including spirit fish. Relying solely on wild fishing is not a long-term solution as the income source is unstable when considered over the long term from the perspective of the family.

If it is possible to cultivate commercial fish species, or even Spirit Fish species on a large scale, this would be the correct way to benefit the family's long-term basic industries. Although such an investment would be massive and time-consuming, once successfully implemented, it would provide a steady stream of financial resources for the family.

Moreover, to encourage the Xuanwu Family to open up new fields, the government has made the first ten years of new farmland reclamation exempt from grain tax. This would result in significant savings.

Of course, given Wang Shouzhe's temperament, even if he were to undertake this extensive dredging and land reclamation project, he wouldn't commit to a sixty to seventy-year timeline. By that time, even his great-grandsons would have come of age...

This plan had been brewing in his mind for a long time.

He initially thought of implementing a small-scale version of it next year, gradually scaling up the project, striving to deepen Zhuwei Lake by two meters in ten years and transform the marshland into four to five thousand acres of fertile land, gradually establishing the family's next major farm, with tens of thousands of acres for fish farming and several thousand acres for crops.

The annual output value would certainly be significant, and the total project cost should be under thirty thousand Qian Gold.

But now, the plan has slightly changed!

Standing on the awning boat, Wang Shouzhe looked at the wilderness along the shores with his hands clasped behind him, appearing as though he was overseeing his territory and devising a long-term plan for the family's future.

Seventh among the 'Defender' generation males, Wang Shouye, was sitting inside the cabin and feeling less anxious. Seeing his eldest brother standing tall and majestic, a sense of admiration and respect surged within him.

I, Wang Shouye.

In the future, I will be just like Big Brother, a towering and magnificent man.

...

The boat docked at the Prosperous Farm's small pier. Led by the anxious manager of the Wang's remote branch of the family living here, Wang Shouzhe and Wang Shouye found Wang Xiaohan.

At this point, Wang Xiaohan was tending to the precious twenty acres of Spirit Field, carefully removing weeds that sprouted in the fields. He removed them as soon as they sprouted, not giving them any additional opportunity to absorb nutrients and spiritual energy.

Even for the same Spirit Field, if one were to farm it meticulously, even an extra half-percent yield would be a substantial resource.

Wang Shouzhe didn't interrupt him but waited patiently.

This 'Prosperous Farm' was the second farm established by the Old Ancestor, Zhou Xuan. It contained two thousand mu of fertile land, a small livestock farm, a small field specifically for planting fruits and vegetables, and most importantly, the farm opened up twenty mu of Spirit Fields.

The terrain here was surrounded by a small branch of the remnant Six Flat Mountain Range. The original land had a lot of boulders and was not ideally suited for farming at first glance.

However, Zhou Xuan chose this place for farming and was determined to introduce a water source and open a farm here, because there was a Spiritual Spring here among the ravines and mountain streams.

Having a Spiritual Spring indicates there's a small Spiritual Vein here.

Building a Spirit Gathering Array around this Spiritual Vein would allow the spiritual energy from the vein to condense and not dissipate, nourishing the land. Following this, one could use the spring to irrigate the land, combine it with various farming techniques to enrich the soil, and gradually open up a Spirit Field suitable for the cultivation of various spiritual things.

With their own Spirit Field, they would have their own yield of Spirit Rice. That's when a Xuanwu Family can truly consider having its own foundation.

Hence, Ancestor Zhou Xuan named this farm [Prosperous Farm], implying his hope for the prosperity of the family.

This spiritual spring, coupled with a small spirit vein, can maximally support about sixty acres of spirit field. However, at that time, the Wang family was not quite familiar with the techniques of planting spirit rice, so to avoid unnecessary consumption of the spirit veins, they temporarily built only one spirit gathering array, and developed twenty acres of spirit field.

The Wang family originally planned to develop the remaining forty acres of the spirit field after the cultivation techniques of spirit rice became matured. Yet, before that plan could be enacted, the Wang family encountered a major disaster.

Afterwards, the family was both fretful and short on resources.

Investing in the spirit field was indeed a project requiring a large investment with slow return. The family primarily thought about cultivating an old ancestor at the spirit platform level first, then slowly saving up the money to develop the spirit field and gradually accumulate the foundation of the family.

Unexpectedly, the eldest son of the family, Wang Dingtian, who was first meant to be trained, either suffered from psychological trauma due to the huge disaster he experienced at the age of five, or was too anxious due to the high pressure from the elder family members, he unfortunately lost his mind and died in cultivation at the age of twenty.

It should be noted that the Wang family's "Xuan Yuan Jue" is known for its calmness. Even if calculated from the Longzuo Wang family a thousand years ago, there are only a few who have lost their minds in cultivation.

After mourning, the family shifted their focus to the second son of the Wang family, Wang Dingyue, and the sixth son Wang Xiaohan. The older generation who had learned their lesson, didn't put too much pressure on Wang Dingyue, but rather cultivated him in a methodical way.

More pressure was actually on Wang Xiaohan, who had extraordinary talent among the direct descendants. However, it was a bit late when he walked on the path of the spiritual platform. Until nearly twenty years ago, Wang Xiaohan, in a confidential manner, took the [Heavenly Spirit Pill] which was obtained after the family sold many assets in secret.

He failed to promote to the higher level of cultivation!

Later, Wang Dingyue died in a foreign region.

Speaking of this, it's quite strange. Originally, Wang Shouzhe thought that the family had truly run out of resources and could no longer afford the Heavenly Spirit Pill for Wang Dingyue. But after thinking it over carefully recently, Wang Shouzhe felt that something was not quite right.

The Old Ancestor Longyan could sell her personal spiritual treasure [Turtle Scale Treasure Shield] to raise resources for him, Wang Shouzhe. Why didn't she buy the pill for his father, Wang Dingyue?

Moreover, after the former head of the household's death, Old Ancestor Longyan didn't even show up. Did she fear that someone would see something wrong? There is a high possibility that she forcibly took action during this period.

If the Old Ancestor took an action, who did she act with? Could it be that the one who went to the foreign region was not only my father Wang Dingyue, but also the Old Ancestor?



If the speculation matches the actual situation, why would the Old Ancestor and former head Wang Dingyue go to the foreign region at such a critical moment? Was it really just to raise resources to seek opportunities, as it was propagated outside?

It certainly was not.

Wang Shouzhe had reasons to believe that the Old Ancestor and the seniors of the clan concealed a great secret from him. And that secret should be very important to the Wang family! Maybe, there was also an opportunity to promote to the Spirit Platform stage in the foreign region, but it was because my father Wang Dingyue failed?

The more he thought about it, the more he felt so. Otherwise, the Old Ancestor Longyan would definitely choose to sell the Turtle Scale Treasure Shield to buy a Heavenly Spirit Pill for his father Wang Dingyue, rather than both of them risking going to the foreign regions to seek some broken opportunity.

If there was an opportunity, he would try to pry some information from the Old Ancestor's mouth.

As Wang Shouzhe was pondering, the Sixth grand elder emerged from the spirit field after weeding out the miscellaneous grasses. Seeing Wang Shouzhe and Wang Shouye waiting outside, he couldn't help but smile: "Shouzhe, how come you are here? Have you been waiting for a long time? Why didn't you call me earlier?"

Although Wang Shouzhe couldn't see his cultivation base, he could feel a sense of lingering sadness from his mental state. Clearly, he had not yet come out of the failure of his huge expenditure and the attempt to reach the Spirit Platform stage. He was only sixty-five years old, but he appeared older than the Fourth Grand Elder Wang Xiaozhi, and looked like a real old farmer.

"Greetings to you, Sixth Grand Elder." Wang Shouzhe saluted him.

"Grandfather." Wang Shouye then pounced on him.

"Ah, you little guy, why did you come to visit your grandfather with Fourth Brother?" After Wang Xiaohan held Wang Shouye and teased him for a while, he let the person in charge of the side branch take him elsewhere to play.

Afterwards, Wang Xiaohan invited Wang Shouzhe to drink a cup of ordinary tea in front of his humble thatched cottage, "Shouzhe, did you come here to urge me to walk the path of the Spirit Platform again?"

Previously, Wang Shouzhe dispatched a household head to send the [Cultivation Pill] and spiritual stones, and wrote a letter to Wang Xiaohan outlying his plan. However, Wang Xiaohan refused, saying that his ambition was old, and he only wished to build a thatched house in front of the spirit field and protect it for a lifetime.

He did not blame Wang Xiaohan for his defeatist attitude.

After sipping the ordinary tea, Wang Shouzhe looked around and glanced at his shabby thatched cottage. Leaning back slightly, he smiled and said, "No, Shouzhe just came to bid farewell to the Sixth Grand Elder, and to take one last look at the Spirit Field left by Ancestor Zhou Xuan. After all, I am just a dying man."

"What?"

Wang Xiaohan almost crushed the cup, and exclaimed in shocks and anger, "Wang Shouzhe, what is this nonsense you're uttering?"

An astounding aura erupted from him.

Chapter 69 The Family Heritage Passed Down by the Old Ancestor\_1

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The momentum he exploded with was quite extraordinary, more intense than what he had seen from Principal Qian a while ago.

It was evident that Wang Xiaohan was endowed with solid foundations.

Only because he had failed before, his will had become too depressed, and he had resigned himself to guarding his twenty-acre Spirit Field until his death.

"Hehe~" Wang Shouzhe ignored his momentum and rage, calmly saying, "Liu Shenghao of the Liu Clan and Zhao Daoyuan of the Zhao Clan. You're familiar with these two names, right?"

Wang Xiaohan, taken aback, slowly withdrew his momentum, reverting back to his humble farmer's demeanor. He said solemnly, "Both of them have taken the path of the Spirit Platform. There's a rumor that within five years or so, they will both attempt to impact the Spirit Platform Stage. They represent the biggest trouble for our family.

"However, Shouzhe, there's no need to worry too much. Once you marry Miss Liu and have offspring, the Liu Family — boasting three Spirit Platform elders — will surely find ways to protect us. All our family needs is for you to reach the Spirit Platform, and we'll have a firm foothold."

The three Spirit Platform elders of the Liu Family are intimately connected to the Wang family by blood, especially Liu Xuanfu who has been developing vigorously in the Purple Abode Academic Palace for many years. Her power is already unfathomably deep.

Moreover, she is the cousin of Elder Longyan.

So, this was what they were relying on. No wonder they were content to be idle.

Wang Shouzhe deduced that Wang Xiaohan, after his failed attempt, indulged in self-blame and as a response, stuck his head in the sand, refusing to shoulder any further responsibilities. This kind of behavior commonly appears in modern society on Earth — for instance, some entrepreneurs lose their self-confidence after a failed startup never to recover.

The best way to deal with such people is to eliminate all their hopes, cutting off the last psychological straw they cling onto for solace.

A playful smile emerged at the corner of Wang Shouzhe's mouth as he toyed with his simple teacup, "It's a pity that I already have firm news. The Zhao Clan and the Liu Clan have both secretly prepared the Heavenly Spirit Pills. Liu Shenghao and Zhao Daoyuan have been polishing themselves. At any moment, they could attempt to impact the Spirit Platform Stage.

If either family succeeds, our Wang family will lose its foothold."

"If I were the head of the Liu or Zhao Clan, once my family has two Spirit Platform elders, I would certainly first conceal this fact, then look for opportunities to secretly take risks and kill Wang Shouzhe during his mourning period." Wang Shouzhe said indifferently, "My marriage to Miss Liu is merely a signed agreement.

Even if the Liu Family feels humiliated and angered, they probably wouldn't help me avenge."

He knew very well that both the Liu Clan and the Zhao Clan saw him, Wang Shouzhe, as a thorn in their side. The only reason they hadn't started anything was either because the time wasn't right or because they can't afford to retaliate against Elder Longyan.

If one family had two Spirit Platform elders working together, why would they fear the frenzied retaliation of Elder Longyan, who was half a step away from the grave?

Of course, they would prefer to wait for Elder Longyan to succumb to natural causes by herself, that way the risk would be smaller.

But how long could their patience last? Nobody knew.

The moment a clan gets their second elder, along with a boost to their morale, ambition inevitably starts simmering.

"How is it possible, how is it possible! How can they be so quick?" Wang Xiaohan's face turned pale with shock and despair, in his viewpoint, Wang Shouzhe was the last hope for their family.

If he died, the Wang Family would truly be finished.

"As long as they are willing to invest resources, accelerating the cultivation progress is normal." Wang Shouzhe said nonchalantly while sipping his tea. "If I were the head of the Liu or Zhao Clan, I would make the same choice. It's but a common strategy to confuse the enemy with smoke bombs while secretly making full efforts."

"Such cruelty, such ruthless tactics." Wang Xiaohan trembled all over, but his eyes gradually gained conviction. He abruptly stood up, "The only plan left for now is to sell our family heirloom and exchange it for a Heavenly Spirit Pill. I, your sixth grandfather, will stake my old life on attempting the Spirit Platform again, hoping that the Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan would bless our Wang family."

I, Wang Xiaohan, am going to tread the path to the Spirit Platform again — succeed or perish!"

He stood erect, like a pillar holding up heaven and earth. His air of hopelessness and defeat had completely vanished. Regardless of success or failure, this sixty-five-year-old man finally stood up again and bore the weight of the world on his shoulders, just like before.

Family heirloom?

Wang Shouzhe asked quizzically, "Could it be that you, sixth grandfather, intend to sell off the Zhou Xuan Sword? That is the only relic from Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan, placed as an offering in our ancestral shrine. Selling this off would mean dooming our family, regardless of its success or failure."

"Of course not, how could we sell off the Zhou Xuan Sword? It symbolizes our family's standing!" Wang Xiaohan, now emanating sharpness from head to toe, had this sharpness suppressed within him for almost twenty years under deep regret and repression.

At this critical juncture for the family's survival, his sharpness that he thought long lost finally unsheathed anew. Even Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but feel a constriction in his heart. Truly worthy of the sixth grandfather—a person who once attempted to reach the Spirit Platform Stage.

"We, the Ping'an Wang Family, owe our founding to Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan's every punch and kick." Wang Xiaohan confidently stood, his back facing his hands, "Although we are now decayed and dormant, our profound foundation is still incomparable to the treacherous families of slave origins like the Liu and the Zhao Clans."

Having experienced the rebellion incident, Wang Xiaohan naturally harbored deep hatred for the Liu and Zhao Clans even though they were only subsidiary families, not slaves.

"So our family does have some hidden potential?"

This made Wang Shouzhe even more resolute. His late father, Wang Dingyue, must have used the excuse of seeking opportunities in foreign realms when he died. Even his own son had been kept in the dark, let alone his mother.

"Shouzhe, do not take it to heart. I intended to show you all this in person after you returned to the Prosperous Farm," said Wang Xiaohan apologetically, "But you've been too busy lately, and there hasn't been an opportunity."

Wang Shouzhe did not mind this. He used to be a minor member of the family, so it was not possible for him to know everything. Besides, the more hidden secrets and potentials a family had, the better. He would be thrilled if there were a dozen undisclosed trump cards.

In this way, the pressure on him as the clan leader would be greatly alleviated, and it might not be a bad thing to comfortably play dead.

Wang Xiaohan led him past the twenty acres of Spirit Fields, across the trickling clear Spiritual Spring, where he opened a secret door camouflaged as a rock by the mountain stream.

Once inside, they found that both sides consisted of blade-like cliffs, and only a narrow and cramped path led to the end.

Following Wang Xiaohan through the narrow path, their vision suddenly brightened. This was a secluded place that looked like a heavenly abode, with sunlight shining through the roof of the cave, illuminating the hidden interior.

The interior was not that spacious, only about a thousand square meters, roughly the size of two acres. However, the family had built a Spirit Gathering Array here. In the Spirit Gathering Array were two acres of Spirit Fields, shrouded in misty fog.

These two acres of Spirit Fields, judging from the rich concentration of Spiritual Energy, were far superior to the twenty outside. And the crops were not the traditional White Jade Spiritual Rice.

They were precious spiritual medicines!!!

"These two acres of Spirit Fields, they are actually mid-grade?" Even Wang Shouzhe could not help but be a bit astonished.

"Yes," Wang Xiaohan showed a trace of pride on his face. "When Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan founded the Prosperous Farm, he discovered this hidden, independent space in the mountain stream, which happened to be the starting point of a small Spirit Vein, and a tiny Spirit Cave.

He personally expanded and chiseled this place with a few family members, spent a vast amount of resources to build the Spirit Gathering Array, and put in a lot of effort to open up two acres of Spirit Fields. After being nourished by the Spirit Gathering Array for a long time, it gradually became two mid-grade Spirit Fields."

Spiritual medicines usually grow in places with Spirit Veins and Spirit Caves, nurtured by Spiritual Energy over many years, progressively producing the effects of plant essence. The more abundant the Spiritual Energy, the higher the chances of Spiritual Medicine growth.

Anyway, until now, Wang Shouzhe had not yet encountered any Spiritual Medicine in the wild.

"Shouzhe, look here. This area has ten-year-old Purple Leaves, planted ten years ago. Here we have twenty-year, thirty-year, fifty-year-old ones." Grandpa Wang Xiaohan pointed to an area covering one acre of Spirit Field, which was divided into five sections from small to large, each planted with Purple Leaves of different ages.

The older the Purple Leaves, the larger the area they occupied.

Wang Shouzhe knew that Purple Leaves was a common and easily cultivated root-type Spiritual Medicine. Once it matured to the age of fifty years, it could be used in Alchemy.

The main ingredient of the renowned and popular Little Pei Yuan Dan is the fifty-year-old Purple Leaves.

A fifty-year-old Purple Leaves weighed about a pound, and together with other auxiliary materials, it could be used to produce five to ten Little Pei Yuan Dan. If fewer than five were produced, it indicated an immature Alchemist. More than ten, and the Alchemist was a true master.

However, the profit margin for producing Little Pei Yuan Dan was relatively small, so few master alchemists would bother to do so.

Therefore, if a fifty-year-old Purple Leaves were to be sold, it would be worth about fifty Qian Gold. Alchemists would break even if they produced six pills, and anything beyond seven would mean profit.

"If this one acre of land is rotated this way, our family will receive a batch of fifty-year-old Purple Leaves every ten years." Wang Xiaohan said proudly, "Every ten years, we can harvest an average of eighty mature Purple Leaves."

Eighty?

Wang Shouzhe was silently astonished. Wouldn't that sell for about four thousand Qian Gold? This could be considered a substantial income.

And this was just the yield of one acre of the mid-grade Spirit Fields.

Chapter 70: Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng\_1

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However, though four thousand Qian Gold might sound substantial, it is in fact the total output over a span of ten years.

Also, the amount consumed in the process is massive.

Just the Spirit Gathering Array alone requires a replacement of Spirit Stones every five years, with each replacement costing five Spirit Stones. That averages out to an expenditure of one Spirit Stone per year.

In addition, maintaining the vitality of the Spirit Field is a tremendous issue. A Spirit Field without vitality is akin to a human body lacking various vitamins; it is very easy for the Spirit Medicines to grow poorly, even die.

The best source of vitality comes from the fermented materials imbued with spirituality, such as rice straw from the harvested Spirit Rice, leftover purple leaves from the Purple Leaf, and residuals from Spirit Fish and Spirit Meat.

The primary source of vitality, however, comes from the feces of the nurtured Spirit Beasts.

For instance, the Imperial Family raised many Spirit Horned Yaks, producing a great quantity of feces each year. After reserving a portion for their own Spirit Fields, they sold the rest externally, mitigating the costs of raising the Spirit Beasts.

Given the expensive cost of Spirit Horned Yak's meat, it only makes sense - the cultivation cost is exorbitant. They're required to plant a vast amount of Spirit Grass in the Spirit Fields and occasionally purchase residuals of Spirit Beans that have been pressed for oil or rice bran left from Spirit Rice threshing, and so on.



Even the Prominent Celestial Family would need to budget carefully to ensure continuous profits.

Similarly, maintaining a Spirit Field can be extraordinarily troublesome, dealing with the gathering of spiritual energy, replacing the Spirit Stones in the Spirit Gathering Array, the construction and maintenance of the Spiritual Spring irrigation system, supplementing the Spirit Field's vitality, and managing pests and diseases are all costly affairs.

But, if the Spirit Field is cultivated well, not only does it produce high value, it also forms the foundation of a clan.

Wang Shouzhe dismisses his wandering thoughts, asking, "These trades of Purple Leaf aren't reflected in the clan's account books, right?"

He had carefully studied the structure of the clan's accounts and found no record of the output or expenditure of these two acres of Spirit Field.

"You can rest assured about this," Wang Xiaohan quickly explains, "The income and expenses of these two acres of middle-grade Spirit Fields are accounted by myself. The other Elders and the Clan Leader can check the accounts at any time. When I return to the cottage later, I'll show them to you."

"Part of the output is used to offset the costs of these two acres of middle-grade Spirit Fields. Some are traded for Little Pei Yuan Dan and some Spirit Beast meat, gradually incorporated into the clan's accounts and inventory through the repayment of old debts from other clans, transforming into long-term consumption for the clan."

Wang Shouzhe suddenly realized that indeed in the clan's accounts, there were some cryptic entries about income which mentioned that certain clans had owed us money decades ago and had been paying it back in installments, and so on.

At the time it seemed rather strange, but looking back now, it must have been related to the output of this secret Spirit Field. The aim was probably to keep these two acres of middle-grade Spirit Fields hidden.

"Nevertheless, I do trust Grand Elder." Wang Shouzhe waved his hand, laughing. "But, Grand Elder should start grooming someone to inherit the Spirit Field related tasks. Otherwise, it won't be proper for you, as a future Old Ancestor of the Spirit Platform Realm, to be tending the fields every day."

"Finding a successor is indeed a matter that needs early attention, but..." Wang Xiaohan furrowed his eyebrows slightly, "Among the youth who have just reached maturity in the family, there is only Zongwei!"

Wang Zongwei!

Despite the glory of the Wang Family and their strictness toward males, they produced an individual like him. Recently, he seemed to have mellowed down quite a bit after being beaten up and having recovered from his injuries.

But how could someone of Wang Xiaohan's character ever trust a gambler?

Even if he seemed reformed, the Spirit Fields of the clan are of paramount importance. What if that bastard sold them?

"We're in no rush, we can first pick out a few from the younger generation and have them try it out, to see who has more talent," said Wang Shouzhe, "Shu Yong, Shu Lian, and Shou Ye can also give it a go. For something like Spirit Fields, they can't just put in ten or eight years."

To get Wang Zongwei to manage Spirit Fields, it was not just Wang Xiaohan who would disapprove, but even Wang Shouzhe would not allow it.

Wang Xiaohan opened his mouth, intending to ask what would happen if he couldn't reach the Spirit Platform Realm?

But on second thought, if he doesn't reach the Spirit Platform Realm, the clan would most likely be in danger...

If that happens, they could only think of other ways to save the clan, save Wang Shouzhe. But many clan assets, including the Spirit Fields, could probably not be saved, there is no point in thinking too much about it at this point.

"Shouzhe, the majority of the profits generated from the Purple Leaf has been poured into this acre of middle-grade Spirit Field." Wang Xiaohan pointed to another middle-grade Spirit Field.

The other Spirit Field was also divided into different sections. The smallest was barely ten square meters, the largest took up around a third of the entire field and was over two hundred square meters.

In it, there was only one Spirit Medicine planted, with its massive leaves greedily absorbing both sunlight and spiritual energy within the Spirit Field.

Wang Shouzhe, having been schooled from a young age to learn the Beast Atlas and the medicinal herb charts, instantly recognized it as a Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng. Given the size of its leaves, this ginseng must have quite some age to it.

A regular hundred-year-old ginseng could cost tens of Qian Gold.

But a Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng was the epitome of ginseng, even a hundred-year-old Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng could cost up to thousands of Qian Gold because it was an ingredient for various Level Three Spirit Medicines.

Just like the Sacred Healing Medicine, Creation Pill, which Old Ancestor Longyan used to recover from his injuries, it also required a two hundred-year-old Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng, thus resulting in an exorbitantly high price. However, its effects of healing injuries and replenishing stamina were extremely powerful!

Even a high-ranking commoner, on the brink of death, could make a comeback with a Creation Pill. However, wealthy ordinary people rarely could afford to buy a Creation Pill.

The more Wang Shouzhe looked, the more his heart trembled. There was something odd about this Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng.

"When our old ancestor first discovered this Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng in foreign territories, it was already almost 500 years old," explained Wang Xiaohan. "So, he decided to plant it in our Spirit Field to nurture it."

Five hundred years old?

Wang Shouzhe was shocked by the depth and richness of his family's resources. Indeed, this is the family's cherished treasure. He had a rough understanding that one of the main ingredients in the legendary Heavenly Spirit Pills was a 500-year old Nine-Leaf Spirit Ginseng.

The value of it must be worth more than 50,000 Qian Gold. Indeed, if the ancestors were remarkable individuals, the foundation they left for the clan was not something ordinary families could compare to.

"It's just a pity, a Middle-Grade Spirit Field provides very little aid to it," Wang Xiaohan said with regret. "Its growth is extremely slow now. It's been growing here for 70 years, and it has yet to transform into a 500-year-old spiritual medicine."

Er...

Approaching 500 years old 70 years prior and still having not undergone transformation 70 years later, that was indeed slow. Wang Shouzhe was speechless. High-grade spiritual medicines were indeed extraordinary, not something average families could afford to cultivate.

It occupies more than a third of the land. If the past 70 years were spent cultivating Purple Flower Spirit, the profit would have been at least a few thousand Qian Gold. But it only grew a small bit.

The age of spiritual medicine is not as simple as how many years it's been cultivated. Can the same spirit medicine grown in a Lower-grade Spirit Field and a High-grade Spirit Field be the same?

The so-called 100-year spiritual medicine means that the spirit medicine has transformed at that stage, and both its essence of life and medicinal properties have greatly progressed to the next stage.

This is somewhat similar to humans transitioning from the Vital Energy Refining Realm to the Spirit Platform Realm.

The value increases by multiples.

The higher the medicinal age, the more difficult it is to cultivate, as its demand for spiritual energy and nutrients becomes greater. Impoverished Spirit Fields simply lack the power to nourish it thoroughly.

In some superior Spirit Fields, the growth speed of spiritual medicine is much faster. However, when planting spiritual medicine, it's best not to let it grow too fast beyond its normal growth rate.

For example, enhancing spiritual energy concentration and fertility to produce a hundred-year-old spiritual medicine in fifty years.

This type of spiritual medicine is called Rapid Growth Spirit Medicine in the market, and its actual medicinal usage and value will be significantly reduced.

Aside from factors like spiritual energy and fertility, the actual age of the growth of spiritual medicine is also important. Some experienced spiritual medicine merchants, owners of pill-making shops, alchemists, and other professionals can instantly identify whether a medicine is a Rapid Growth Spirit Medicine.

"Based on my estimate, after 70 years of cultivation, its age should have increased by about seven years. But it's quick, I predict that in another twenty years, it will transform into a 500-year-old spiritual medicine." Wang Xiaohan said both excitedly and regretfully, "It's a pity our family does not have a High-grade Spirit Field, otherwise, it could grow normally."

A High-grade Spirit Field?

Wang Shouzhe looked at Wang Xiaohan, our Sixth Grandfather dares to dream bigger than me.

We're already struggling to manage our Middle-Grade Spirit Field, dare we wish for a High-Grade Spirit Field?

"Shouzhe, this was originally intended to be preserved for you just in case," Wang Xiaohan said reluctantly. "The family invested a lot of resources and effort in it. Selling it now before it transforms would result in substantial losses. If the family were not in crisis, I would absolutely not sell it to get Heavenly Spirit Pills. I truly feel sorry for you."

"Indeed, selling it now would be a great loss," Wang Shouzhe said with a smile. "However, Sixth Grandfather, don't use it for now. I'll think of a solution to the Heavenly Spirit Pills issue."

"What?"

Wang Xiaohan was astonished, "Shouzhe, where would you get so much money to buy Heavenly Spirit Pills?"

A Rank 9 clan that's on the decline, using decades of accumulated wealth to trade for a single Heavenly Spirit Pill, it's already considered extraordinary.

Clans that can achieve this level are often able to maintain and prolong the clan's life indefinitely.

As for independent cultivators, unless they come across a significant opportunity, they would not be able to afford a Heavenly Spirit Pill in their lifetime. Moreover, general Academic Palaces, Sects, and other powers, are rather cautious towards rootless independent cultivators.

Even if the talent of these cultivators is exceptionally good, far surpassing Wang Shouzhe, the academies would carefully consider and investigate before making a decision. If there is any suspicion, they would rather miss out.

Having no background means one can fabricate a background, and lethal problems could arise in the future. Who knows if they are spies sent by enemy forces or carry heavy grudges that could involve innocents?

This is why Wang Xiaohan was so shocked, resources are difficult to acquire.

"Sixth Grandfather, you should focus on recuperating your body with the Cultivation Pill and quickly recover to prepare for breaking through into the Spirit Platform Realm," Wang Shouzhe did not directly answer, but merely cautioned. "As for me, I'll just test my chances. If we get lucky, hehe~"

From Wang Shouzhe's point of view, the Liu Clan and Zhao Clan achieved their current status from the spoils of war won by the Wang ancestors through their lives. Since he knew that they held the 'fruit' of accumulated wealth of decades on hand.

Given his temperament, why wouldn't he consider trying his luck?

Even if he didn't strike it lucky, Wang Shouzhe didn't want to make it easy for them to digest the fruit of wealth.