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Chapter 1: The Eighth Grade Prominent Family

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Spring of the year 3153 of Great Qian Longchang.

Almost eight years have passed since Wang Shouzhe's time travel.

It is a season of blooming flowers and rejuvenation.

Dingpu Ferry Terminal.

A large ferry slowly docked in the deep-water port area.

As soon as the docking bridge was leveled, the crowd orderly disembarked holding a card, passing through the gate in succession.

The card, the size of a child's palm, is exquisitely crafted, seemingly gold but not gold, resembling jade but not jade, presenting a faint purple color in the sunlight.

Inside the card, there appears to be an inlaid piece of paper, inscribed with the holder's birthplace, name, age, and basic physical characteristics.

As long as the one holding the card passes through the gate, the fully armed gatekeeper merely inspects it briefly before expressing their welcome with a smile, "Welcome home."

The one passing through, would also express their gratitude, "Thank you for your protection."

However, those without a card need to go through another gate. That gate is more crowded, the gatekeepers sternly inspecting those passing, requiring an official Da Qian guide. Without the guide, they are immediately sent back.

Even if they have a guide, a dedicated person will interrogate them about their origins, purpose, and how long they plan to stay in Ping'an Town. The interrogation is strict, and if anything feels off, they are sent back immediately.

After passing the interrogation, they are given a thick card with a warning that they can't stay in Ping'an Town for more than a month, and a processing fee of a single copper coin is charged.

They may refuse, but then they will have to pay for their own return on the next ferry.

On the ferry, a few men dressed as peddlers formed a small caravan. Since they have a horse carriage with them, they were arranged to disembark last.

At this moment, a young peddler in his twenties looked at the scene in the distance and asked, "My brother, what's with those pale purple cards?" Obviously, it was his first time coming to Ping'an Town to trade.

The peddler caravan was loaded with goods like refined salt, coarse salt, crude iron, and copper, all best-sellers in Ping'an Town. Especially refined salt and crude iron, which were bought up at high prices by smithies and general stores as soon as they disembarked.

And they would buy some snow candy, coarse cotton cloth, patterned cotton cloth, ordinary porcelain, and other high-priced items from Ping'an Town. After a hard trip, they would make quite a profit.

"The purple card?" An old peddler in his forties or fifties looked envious, "That is the identity card of the locals in Ping'an Town. Nowadays, outsiders who want to migrate to Ping'an Town are required to buy at least twenty acres of land and a set of houses to get an identity card. With an identity card, they can come and go freely in Ping'an Town."

"Dear me, I heard the prices for fields and houses in Ping'an Town are very high now." the young peddler said enviously, "Don't tell me even those lowly tenant farmers are given identity cards?"

"Watch your words." The old peddler hurriedly stopped him.

But it was too late.

A few rough men dressed in fine cotton clothes stared at them fiercely, "What's wrong with us tenants? How are we inferior?"

The old peddler apologized on behalf of the young man, "I apologize for the young man's ignorance. He doesn't know the high status of the Wang family's tenant farmers now."

Their high status came from their high income and the Wang family's attention to them.

Now, the average annual income of the Wang family's tenant farmers has exceeded 30% of the income of the independent farmers in Ping'an Town. The only explanation for such an upside-down situation is that the income of the Wang family's farms has become very high, and the tenant farmers have benefited.

It must be known that the independent farmers in Ping'an Town, because they are farming Wang's No.9 Good Variety and can enjoy the Insect Master's preferential extermination prices, are already much higher in yield than the independent farmers in other places.

From this, it can be seen that the income of the Wang family's tenant farmers is higher than many people's imagination.

The tenant farmers of the Wang family waved dismissively, too lazy to argue with them. They began a casual conversation, "I heard that Old Zhang's daughter got married to an independent farmer's family? I remember that girl used to work in Silkworm Manor, right? I don't know what he was thinking, allowing his daughter to marry beneath her."

"Their family has fifty acres of good land? That boy is a blacksmith's apprentice? In that case, they are well matched."

"Old Liu, I heard your family bought a storefront outside of Zhuwei Manor Phase Two? This is all your family's savings from over the years, right?"

"Yes, you're right, my third son has some talent in sewing, and he'll be ready to work in a couple of years. Opening a tailoring shop can sustain him. Our Liu family can't be farmers throughout all generations, can we?"

"What's wrong with farming? Becoming a tenant farmer for the Wang family isn't easy now. They need to verify your background, assess your skills, and work in the outer farms for a few years..."

"That's true, but having a tailoring shop plus a craft, the income isn't low. It's also good investment owning a storefront."

The tenant farmers talked about profits and investments once they opened their mouths.

This frightened the young peddler. Are these tenant farmers? The confidence and tone sound like rich farmers from other places.

He felt odd hearing them disdain the match with independent farmers.

"Is the storefront in Zhuwei Manor very expensive?" The young peddler asked weakly.

"Well, it's a little over a hundred Qian gold coins." Old Liu said, "We poured all our family's savings into it and borrowed quite a bit."

"That expensive?" The young peddler was shocked, "If this were another town, you could buy more than thirty acres of land. The Wang family sells the shops at such high prices?"

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"Young man, if you don't understand, don't talk nonsense." Tenant farmer Old Liu scolded, "Pearl Orchid Mansion is a place worth its weight in gold, both land and property prices are rising every year, many wealthy people in Changning also come to Pearl Orchid Mansion to buy houses and land as second homes.

Leaving aside other matters of fengshui, the presence of the Level Three Guardian Spirit Beast at Zhuwei Lake alone is enough to justify the high prices there."

A Level Three Guardian Spirit Beast?

The young peddler was horrified, but couldn't resist his curiosity and began chatting with Old Liu, the tenant farmer. The more they talked, the more shocking it was; Ping'an Town was much more powerful and wealthy than he had imagined.

"Do you see that young gentleman clad in brocade cloth?" Tenant farmer Old Liu pointed at a young man patrolling the docks. Wherever he went, soldiers would salute him.

"Is that... a direct descendant of the Wang family?"

"Indeed, he is a young master of the Wang family, from a branch lineage."

"My goodness, even a branch lineage carries such power. This Ping'an Wang family is truly extraordinary."

"Of course, our Ping'an Wang Family is an Eighth Grade Prominent Family, and the clan leader's wife also comes from the Eighth Grade Prominent Family of Shanyin - The Yinyu Family. A strong union like this is not going to be simple."

The young peddler was suddenly filled with reverence. An Eighth Grade Prominent Family should have at least three Spiritual Platforms, and the combined strength of these two families should include at least six Realm Cultivators. Truly powerful indeed.

The visitors on the ferry, independent cultivators, peddlers, etc. were orderly checking or preparing their paperwork while going through the gate.

Suddenly,

An unexpected event occurred amid the orderliness.

From a distance, a stout Profound Martial expert rushed towards a ferry about to leave the port. None of the soldiers who tried to stop him could match him; they were all punched and kicked away.

"My goodness, that's an expert, probably on the Seventh Level of the Qi Refinement Realm."

The crowd was astounded and discussing fervently. It was extremely rare for an Independent Cultivator to have reached such a stage, and it appeared that he had significant fighting ability.

Suddenly!

"You injured someone in my Ping'an Town, and you dare to run?"

A young man, chasing even faster, intercepted him. Not only was this young man extremely quick, but while flying over, he was like a willow catkin in the wind. He was very elegant and spirited.

While the soldiers were hindering.

In just a few breaths, the young man caught up with the middle-aged independent cultivator. The young man's blade moves were like strong gusts of wind, opening with strong bright white light radiating.

This handsome young man's movement technique and fighting technique, was the Wang family's secret transmission, the middle-grade body method "Willow Catkin Body Method", and the middle-grade sword technique "Wang Family's Xuan Yuan Sword".

His fluid performance, making it apparent that he was at a stage of minor accomplishment.

"Wang Shou Yong!"

The middle-aged independent cultivator shouted angrily, "So what if I injured someone while eating? You chased me for several ten miles, do you take me for a pushover?"

He drew a blade, his blade style was brutal and dominating, evidently not someone to be trifled with.

This person, among Independent Cultivators, was not weak in both Martial Techniques and cultivation levels.

The two were battling fiercely, seemingly evenly matched.

Some soldiers and guards of lower strength did not dare to interfere.

"That's young master Wang Shou Yong from the Wang Family, the fifth son!" Many people recognized the young man's identity and were cheering him on, "Go on, fifth young master, take down that independent cultivator!"

"My, my." The young peddler was astounded, "This Fifth Young Master looks just about twenty years old, right? He is already at the Seventh Level of Qi Refinement Realm, and his cultivation technique is so solid. He could probably reach the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm by his forties. He may very well reach the Spiritual Platform in his lifetime."

"Of course, the young masters and young ladies of our Wang Family are all top-notch."

Encouraged by the crowd, Wang Shou Yong got braver and braver in the battle, slowly gaining the upper hand.

Wang Family's Xuan Yuan Secret Technique was a middle-grade cultivation method. As it progressed, the mysterious energy became more profound and powerful, and he could continue to battle without fatigue, showing astonishing endurance.

The independent cultivator saw that he couldn't hold on much longer,

Suddenly, he pulled out a handful of red sand from his pocket and flung it, shouting, "Take this, Poison Sand!"

Wang Shou Yong was taken aback and quickly retreated. His swordplay didn't allow even a drop of water to pass through and he precisely blocked the Poison Sand. Unfortunately, he was tricked. The so-called Poison Sand were nothing more than ordinary red sand particles.

The Independent Cultivator had already taken the opportunity to flee, charging towards a ferry which had already left the port.

"Damn it!" Wang Shou Yong realised the trick too late, it was too late to chase him. If he rushed onto the ferry to fight with him, he was afraid he would hurt the innocent.

"Hahaha!" The Independent Cultivator laughed maniacally, "Let's see if you dare chase me onto the boat. Once I'm out of here, I'll never set foot in Ping'an Town again..."

But his words were abruptly cut off, and his mad dash came to a sudden halt.

His face was filled with shock and fear, and cold sweat trickled down his forehead.

A young girl, about eighteen or nineteen, dressed in a yellow martial arts robe, stood in between him and the ferry.

She stood with her hands behind her back, her casual presence alone put a stop to all the Independent Cultivator's movements.

Her expression was calm and indifferent, not even giving the Independent Cultivator a second glance. The invisible pressure made him feel weak at the knees.

"Wang... Wang... Wang Luoqiu!" The Independent Cultivator's eyes were filled with terror and despair.

"The sixth Miss has come!"

Someone in the crowd immediately cried out excitedly, "That Independent Cultivator is really unlucky to have bumped into the sixth Miss. I heard the sixth Miss has already reached the eighth level of the Qi Refinement Realm!"

"That's old news, the Sixth Miss had already reached the eighth level of Qi Refinement Realm before the new year."

"My goodness, Sixth Miss was only eighteen last year. Her Cultivation speed is terrifying!"

"Not only is the Sixth Miss cultivation quick, her Profound Martial Fighting Technique is even more dangerous. She's said to possess the terrifying strength to fight beyond her level."

The murmurs did nothing but sink the Independent Cultivator's heart even lower.

Having hung around Ping'an Town for over a year, he was no stranger to the name of Wang Luoqiu, the sixth child of the Wang family's Luo Generation.

However, he had no intention of surrendering. With a wave of his steel knife, he lashed out at Wang Luoqiu: "Wang Luoqiu, if you want to live, step aside!" He didn't believe that this young girl possessed outstanding combat abilities.

No matter what, he had killed Fierce Beasts in the outer regions before. His Profound Martial Fighting Techniques were naturally ferocious!

"Sigh, idiot."

Wang Luoqiu sighed, shaking her head as she leisurely stepped forward.

With each step, Wang Luoqiu seemed to close the distance instantaneously. She was already in front of him and effortlessly landed a punch on his chest.

"Boom!"

The Independent Cultivator was knocked back up in the air as if he had been hit by a heavy blow from a Fierce Beast. He flew back several meters before crashing into the ground. His chest was sunken in, and he was unable to get up, twitching on the ground and continuously coughing up blood.

The spectators gasped in surprise, going silent. They all knew that Sixth Miss Wang Luoqiu was formidable, but no one had imagined just how formidable she was.

With a single punch...

Just one single punch, and she completely defeated the formidable Independent Cultivator.

At that moment, the young hero Wang Shou Yong rushed over and said awkwardly, "Thank you for your help, Miss Luoqiu. It would've been troublesome if that thief had managed to get on the boat."

"Wang Shou Yong, you were fooled by such a simple thing?" Wang Luoqiu was disappointed, her eyebrows knitted together. "You have disappointed our fourth brother's expectation, go and apologize to him."

"Yes, I'll lock this man up in the prison first, and then immediately go and apologize to my fourth brother." Wang Shou Yong nodded solemnly, his face bitter.

"Hmph." Wang Luoqiu snorted, turned her back on him, and walked away.

Wang Shou Yong knew his sister's temper and didn't dare to delay. He quickly captured the man and threw him into the town guardhouse prison.

Then, without stopping, he returned to the Wang family's main residence and rushed to his fourth brother's courtyard.

As soon as he arrived at the courtyard, he was filled with fear and humiliation, and his pace faltered.

But even before he could decide what to do, a gentle but authoritative voice resounded from within the courtyard, "Fifth child, how long do you intend to stand outside my courtyard pondering. Come in."

Wang Shou Yong trembled, hastily straightened his posture and responded with respect, "Yes, fourth brother."

As he walked into the courtyard with mixed feelings, he couldn't help but think how his brother, more than ever, was becoming more powerful and inscrutable.

It felt like the more he chased, the more unfathomable his fourth brother became.

He was standing outside the courtyard, and was easily noticed by his brother.

Chapter 2 The wife is a hidden Boss_1

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Barely past his twenty-third birthday, he had already achieved the seventh level of Vital Energy Refining Realm!

His mastery of all basic skills was solid, and he had achieved a beginner's success in Liu family's secret techniques - the Willow Catkin Body Method and the Mysterious Element Swordsmanship.

He was even better than most direct heirs that the Rank 9 families carefully cultivated.

The effort and hard work of Wang Shou Yong were evident.

It was a pity that there were too many prodigies in the family. Wang Shou Yong felt a sense of powerlessness as the gap only widened the harder he tried.

With a mixed feeling of anxiety, he walked into his fourth brother, Wang Shouzhe's courtyard.

The courtyard was filled with all kinds of flowers and plants, a picture of vivid, thriving life everywhere he looked, with various exotic flowers competing to show their splendor.

Such a spectacle at the beginning of spring was extremely rare indeed.

A young man around twenty-five or twenty-six was lying casually in a Taishi Chair, basking in the sun, seemingly at complete ease as he told stories to the children.

Two children surrounded him.

The older one was a girl, about six or seven years old, exquisitely adorable.

The younger one was a boy, about four years old.

He had placed a stool beside him and was sitting on it, his small body as straight as could be, with eyes wide open and his mouth gaping, completely engrossed in the story.

Seeing that his fourth brother was telling stories to the children, Wang Shou Yong didn't interrupt and just stood aside patiently.

"Daddy, Zhu Ba Jie is too gluttonous, right? Just like big sister, very good at eating," the pretty little girl reclined in Wang Shouzhe's arms and said with a giggle.

"You can't say that about your sister Lici." Wang Shouzhe lightly tapped her forehead and smiled, "Otherwise, she won't share any good stuff with you in the future."

Speaking of which, Wang Licui was very fond of these two children. Whenever she had any delicacies, she would excitedly present them to her younger siblings.

For the food-loving Wang Licui, this was already quite rare. Even Wang Shouzhe himself didn't receive such treatment.

However, considering that Wang Licui once nearly choked the children with food, Wang Shouzhe had ordered that before the children could eat anything offered by their elder sister, it must first be approved by either he or their mother.

"I understand, Daddy, I still love sister Lici," the small girl apologized and then coquettishly said, "Daddy, I want to hear the story of Sister Chang'e. I don't like Zhu Ba Jie."

Then, the little boy who had been sitting straight-backed on his stool quickly added, "Daddy, I don't like Zhu Ba Jie either, I want to hear the story of Sun Wukong."

Then, Wang Shouzhe lovingly stroked his daughter's hair and said, "OK, OK, I'll tell you the story of Sister Chang'e."

The little boy, used to being overlooked, sighed subtly and decided that he would offer some candies to his sister later and let her ask their father to tell the story of Sun Wukong so that their daddy could tell more stories about Sun Wukong.

Just then,

A glamorous and captivating woman in her twenties, who walked with a natural grace, walked out from the house and reproached Wang Shouzhe, "Wang Shouzhe, what kind of nonsense stories are you telling the kids again?"

"It's making them neglect their studies, filling their minds with these magical and mysterious things. That's enough, your fifth brother is waiting to talk to you."

This beautiful and charming woman was none other than Liu Ruolan, the wife of the current clan leader of the Wang family.

"Ah, the time for joy ends here. Lici honey, go back to your room with mother and read or write something. Daddy will talk with Uncle for a while and then I'll come back to be with you," said Wang Shouzhe as he caressed his daughter lovingly.

Then, the daughter and the son got up obediently.

They bowed formally to Wang Shou Yong, "Liyao, Zong'an, greeting fifth uncle."

Wang Shou Yong greeted his niece and nephew with a wide smile. He then took out some trinkets and said, these are some novelty items that your uncle found in the town and bought for you.

Wang Liyao and Wang Zong'an were delighted and thanked their fifth uncle again.

After that, Wang Shou Yong formally greeted Liu Ruolan, "Shou Yong greets fourth sister-in-law."

Liu Ruolan returned the greeting, "Greetings, fifth uncle, I've told Qiao'er to bring some tea. I need to guide the children in their studies, so I won't disturb your conversation."

"Please, sister-in-law," Wang Shou Yong cupped his hands in salute.

After Liu Ruolan elegantly curtsied, she led the two children away.

Wang Shouzhe entertained Wang Shou Yong in the pavilion in the courtyard.

At this time, Liu QiaoEr had, following her mistress's instructions, brewed a pot of Spirit Tea.

"This is the new Cloud Mist Spirit Tea your sister-in-law brought back from her recent visit to her maiden home. Taste it, Shou Yong," Wang Shouzhe said as he took a seat, smiling.

The Cloud Mist Spirit Tea was grown in the Spirit Field in the Liu Family's Cloud Mist Cave and harvested in winter.

Every time Liu Ruolan returned to her parental home, she would bring back a considerable amount for Wang Shouzhe.

"Thank you, fourth brother."

The two of them took their seats, sipping tea while they chatted.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, Wang Shou Yong awkwardly aired his apology, "Fourth brother, I have encountered an issue..."

Before he could finish, Wang Shouzhe waved his hand and chuckled, "I already know about it."

A chill ran down Wang Shou Yong's spine. He knew that his fourth brother had a secret intelligence department under his command. It was said that this intelligence organization had practically the entire Ping'an Town under its surveillance.

Initially, he had thought that it was an exaggeration. Now it seemed that the actual situation was probably even more dramatic than rumored. The incident that had recently occurred at Dingpu Ferry had already reached his fourth brother's ears.

In fact, Wang Shou Yong had heard rumors that this intelligence organization was constantly expanding its scope. However, he had no idea of its extent.

Chapter 2 The Wife is a Hidden Boss_2

"Fourth Brother, this matter was handled improperly by me. I was too careless and nearly let a disaster occur because of that thief. I am ashamed for not living up to the years of cultivation you've given me, please punish me." Wang Shou Yong said remorsefully.

Wang Shouzhe didn't give a direct reply but said, "By the way, your wedding to your fiancée from the Chen Clan of Donggang is drawing near, right?"

Wang Shou Yong's face turned slightly red as he replied, "Yes, the marriage is set for May."

"Good, I will prepare a grand gift for you when the time comes," Wang Shouzhe said with a smile.

Wang Shou Yong immediately thanked him, "Thank you, Fourth Brother."

Afterwards, Wang Shouzhe casually said, "Our family has always executed a system of merit in these past years. When a mistake is made, punishment follows, when achievements are made, reward follows."

"Here I have two pieces of information about some spies from families with ill intentions. Handle them, and consider it as making amends for your previous error."

"Thank you, Fourth Brother." Wang Shou Yong gratefully took the information. This was his fourth brother looking out for him, not only giving him the chance to redeem himself for his mistakes but also to improve himself.

With his fourth brother's methods, he could easily deal with spies that had already been discovered without making a sound.

"Shou Yong, you have to do well, you are the future backbone of our Wang family," Wang Shouzhe encouraged.

At the mention of 'backbone',

Wang Shou Yong let out a sigh and said, "Fourth brother, setting aside the gap between you and me, even compared to sisters Luo Qiu and Luo Jing, I fall far short. They are the future pillars of our family." He wasn't very confident when he mentioned this.

"Shou Yong, don't belittle yourself. I have seen the hard work you and Shu Lian have put in over the years," Wang Shouzhe personally poured him a cup of tea and smiled, "As for Luo Qiu and the others, they are undoubtedly the cream of the crop. But do you think our small Ping'an Town can really raise a true phoenix?"

"Fourth brother, you mean..." Wang Shou Yong asked with a serious face.

"This world is vast, and our small Ping'an Town is just an insignificant corner," Wang Shouzhe said calmly, "Can we tie their wings with ropes and lock them up in cages? No matter where they may soar in the future, we, as their brothers, will always support and protect them."

Wang Shou Yong took a deep breath, his expression solemn, "Fourth brother, I understand. I will strive hard to help you protect our home."

That's right, since a pioneering figure has appeared in the family, there must also be those who play the role of a preserver. Shou Yong and Shu Lian, with their good natures, must take up the responsibility towards the family.

After the two brothers chatted for a while, Wang Shou Yong left with his mind full of confidence. Now that he understood his position, he would no longer feel lost.

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After Shou Yong left, Wang Shouzhe sat alone in the courtyard, slowly sipping his tea, his emotions waxing and waning.

Eight years had passed in a blink of an eye since he arrived in this world.

Leading a small, crisis-ridden family, step by step out of danger and into prosperity today was a challenging task indeed.

Despite the rough journey, he harvested great rewards.

Not only did the family thrive, and Ping'an Town, under his management, became more and more solid, almost like a privately owned land. He also gained a gentle, virtuous, and powerful wife, as well as a pair of precious children.

Besides, his greatest achievement was the advancement in his cultivation base. After awakening his bloodline once, his bloodline talent jumped a level, improving not only his fighting strength but also the speed of his cultivation.

The twenty-year cultivation plan set by the family was completed by him in just eight years.

His cultivation has now reached the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm, just shy of touching the Spirit Platform Realm.

With just two or three more months to go, it would be perfect.

However, there is a big issue in front of him.

That is, whether to take the Heavenly Spirit Pill to advance to the Spirit Platform Realm directly or further refine his bloodline before trying to reach the Spirit Platform Realm.

Having awakened his bloodline once, if he directly ascends to the Spirit Platform Realm, he could awaken his bloodline for the second time.

This situation and the results are similar to those of the old ancestor Longyan.

But this situation is quite different from that of Lici.

Wang Licui is already at the second awakening. Once advanced to Spirit Platform Realm, it would be the third bloodline awakening.

The future is truly boundless.

Of course, Wang Shouzhe can't help but feel envious of this.

Therefore, over the years, he has been continually amassing wealth and consistently probing for heavenly treasures that could possibly awaken his bloodline for a second time.

Unfortunately, despite consuming countless heavenly treasures and spirit pills over the years that could enhance the talent of his bloodline,

He felt like there was some improvement.

However, the second awakening of his bloodline still seemed far off in the future.

Could it be that he could only enter the Spirit Platform Realm first and then find a way to slowly awaken for the third time? But if so, the difficulty would be even greater.

As the saying goes, once you fall behind, you are always behind.

Whilst in the midst of his slight frown, Liu Ruolan brought over some snacks and said, "My lord, are you still wavering about the second awakening of your bloodline?"

"Let it be, we can only do our best and accept our fate. If it is not in my destiny, there is no point in forcing it," Wang Shouzhe said in a carefree manner. "Besides, even if I'm not strong enough in the future, I still have you, my wife, to protect me."

Protection!

Yes, that's right.

When he married Liu Ruolan, Wang Shouzhe always thought that she was just an ordinary legitimate daughter.

But, what he consistently overlooked was the fact that he had never truly seen through her cultivation base; he just vaguely felt that his delicate wife Liu Ruolan seemed to be carrying a small spiritual treasure that concealed her energy.

Such an oversight was only normal.

Because Wang Shouzhe never could've imagined that the Liu Family would willingly marry off a legitimate daughter with such high bloodline awakening level to him.

Forget about marrying him; even if it was the Tianren Family who came to propose, they wouldn't marry off such a highly talented legitimate daughter.

"Ruolan, I still cannot understand why the Liu family agreed to your marriage to me, especially since you, with your bloodline talent, should have been studying at the Academic Palace and competing against the world's best. Could it be that you secretly fell in love with me early on and insisted on marrying me?"

Wang Shouzhe asked this question for the umpteenth time.

"Hehe, my lord, don't overthink it. It was the Old Ancestor's idea to betroth me to you. Of course, it also has something to do with my reluctance to go to the Academic Palace. If I didn't want to marry, the Old Ancestor wouldn't force me." Liu Ruolan had also answered this way several times before,

only followed by a frown, saying, "Perhaps it was out of consideration for the Old Ancestor Longyan.

But it's quite good this way since the pressure and competition in the Academy Palace is quite large."

Wang Shouzhe shook his head in denial, "That's impossible. You've said yourself that the Old Ancestor incidentally obtained an Innate Taoist Embryo spirit seed years ago, which was priceless and she dared not announce it. She used it on your mother, which resulted in your exceptional talent."

Wang Shouzhe knew that the Old Ancestor, who had already reached the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm, had been lucky to find a Innate Taoist Embryo spirit seed during an explorative trip to some ancient ruins with her Master.

"The Old Ancestor must have high hopes for you, so how could she marry you off for just a bit of face?" Wang Shouzhe had pondered this for a while, but couldn't figure it out. Perhaps Old Ancestor Longyan had some secret deal with the Old Ancestor?

He had asked the Old Ancestor Longyan, but the latter merely said that the time was not ripe.

"I don't know about this either. However, the Old Ancestor said she would come over soon, so why don't you ask her yourself when the time comes?" Liu Ruolan said in a casual manner.

"Ruolan, why did you initially hide it from me?"

Upon thinking of this, Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but feel a wave of emotions.

Just after their happy honeymoon period following their wedding.

Wang Shouzhe had a bit of an emotional clash with his wife over a certain "rare" "position" issue.

In a burst of male chauvinistic mentality, someone was somewhat forceful.

As a result, he almost fell victim to a tragic scene of domestic violence. Only after Old Ancestor Longyan was alarmed did he narrowly avoid the tragedy of turning his young wife into a widow.

It was then that he suddenly realized that his wife was actually a hidden powerful figure.

And only then did he understand why Ruolei, Yuanrui, and those younger brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law were all so frightened of Liu Ruolan.

From then on.

Wang Shouzhe and Liu Ruolan began to live a harmonious and respectful married life, never "arguing" again!

Chapter 3: My Daughter Has the Demeanor of a Great Emperor

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However, there was a positive side to this—it established a good atmosphere within the family.

Even the Clan Leader and his wife loved each other deeply, treated each other with mutual respect, and maintained perfect harmony.

The other couples in the clan naturally followed their example.

What Wang Shouzhe found most exasperating was that every time he advanced and became stronger, Liu Ruolan would always surpass him one step ahead, and he still couldn't defeat her!

Wasn't it still a few months until Wang Shouzhe could fully polish the Vital Energy Refining Realm?

And yet, Liu Ruolan, who usually took care of the children and didn't seem to work hard, actually achieved perfection one step ahead of him.

Perhaps this was one reason why Wang Shouzhe wanted to enhance his bloodline for the second time.

At least, he could ensure that he wouldn't accidentally overuse his power and leave his wife a widow.

"Husband, I made this lotus seed soup just for you, have a try first. Actually, it's not that I intended to hide it from you, it's just that you never asked," Liu Ruolan said innocently. "Besides, didn't you also hide your own bloodline? On our wedding night, those vines of yours definitely gave me a fright."

Liu Ruolan was quite reasonable when she was not provoked.

This one pleasant aspect made Wang Shouzhe feel somewhat relieved.

So, Wang Shouzhe drank the lotus seed soup with joy. Even though it should have been sweetened, his wife accidentally added high-quality salt, and quite a bit at that.

He still smiled and praised his wife's excellent cooking skills.

"Thank you for your compliment, husband. Oh right, Ruotong reported earlier that the Spirit Testing Platform—a project that you commissioned an Array Master to purchase and supervise at the Academic Palace—has been completed. Perhaps we could find some time in the next few days to check it out. Conveniently, our daughter Liyao is also at the age to test her aptitude.

"If Liyao has a Profound Martial aptitude, we should start nourishing her meridians and prepare her for cultivation," Liu Ruolan gently reminded him, truly a wise and virtuous lady.

When their beloved daughter was mentioned, Wang Shouzhe was visibly excited: "My precious daughter, I'm sure she has extraordinary talents."

The Spirit Testing Platform was a huge investment made by Wang Shouzhe. Including the cost of the Platform and labor, it probably cost around ten thousand Qian Gold.

Normally, a family would need to go to the official Spirit Testing Platform at the Changning Guards Government Office to assess their children's aptitude.

That Spirit Testing Platform was open to the entire world. Even commoners could apply. However, each test costs ten Qian Gold, and it can't be used at will—it's only open after a accumulated batch of applications.

Now, it's not that the Wang family can't afford the test fee.

It's just that there are many unusual bloodlines in the family, and Wang Shouzhe didn't want their special bloodlines to be a common topic of discussion.

Most ordinary families, on one hand, couldn't afford to set up a Spirit Testing Platform. On the other hand, even if they occasionally tested a child with a particularly good aptitude, it would be an occasion for family-wide celebration. Hence, they didn't share Wang Shouzhe's concerns.

Moreover, Wang Shouzhe had some other ideas regarding the Spirit Testing Platform.

Therefore, it was deemed necessary to build a Spirit Testing Platform in the family home, even if it costs a large sum of Qian Gold and a lot of favors.

Upon this thought, Wang Shouzhe said, "Let's go tomorrow then, we can use this opportunity to notify my siblings and have them retest their aptitudes."

Wang Shouzhe last tested his aptitude when he was seven, so he isn't sure how his aptitude has changed after the fluctuations in his bloodline intensity.

After deciding on this matter,

Wang Shouzhe looked left and right, seeing nobody around, he lowered his voice and said, "My dear, ever since your 'Mysterious Water True Verses' was cultivated to the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm, we haven't sparred for a long time."

Liu Ruolan blushed slightly, a hint of spring appeared in her almond eyes, and she said shyly, "My dear, your 'Longevity Youth True Verses' are about to reach perfection. It's true that I indeed haven't had a taste of your power in a long time."

"However, the children are still studying in the study... it might be inconvenient," she said with some reservations, blushing.

Wang Shouzhe laughingly said, "No worries, we can go to the Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion."

Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion.

This was a small residence that Wang Shouzhe had built over the years, on a small island in the center of Zhuwei Lake. After expanding the island through land filling, it became a lovely retreat for the couple.

The main purpose of its construction was to provide a place for the couple to temporarily escape from their children. The couple could appreciate the moon and the lake together in peace. If they felt like it, they could even spar using their Profound Martial fighting techniques.

There was no other meaning, it was simply what it was.

Liu Ruolan's beautiful eyes twinkled, clearly she was also very intrigued. After a little hesitation, she agreed in a low voice, "Alright, I will follow your arrangements, husband."

And so,

After giving Qiao'er a few instructions, the couple disappeared.

Two hours later,

The two children who had been studying diligently in the study,

Suddenly,

Realised that they hadn't seen their parents for a good while.

Wang Liyao pouted, "Daddy promised to come and tell us the story of Chang'e, why hasn't he come yet?"

"Mama also said she would come to check our homework, but she hasn't come either," Wang Zong'an rolled his eyes and said, "I bet they went to practice their Profound Martial fighting technique again."

"Probably, Mom and Dad have been pretty persistent in their training recently."

On the side, Qiao'er was sweating profusely.

...

The next day, in the backyard of Wang family's main residence,

A vacant, uninhabited courtyard was transformed to accommodate a Spirit Testing Platform.

The Testing Platform, shaped like the Eight Trigrams, was carved out of white jade stone and decorated with many complex and intricate runes.

Chapter 3: My Daughter Has the Demeanor of a Great Emperor

There are five pillars, each erected in one of the cardinal directions, all decorated with various runes of formation masters. In the middle of the array platform, a crystal ball is placed.

This spirit testing platform was uniformly manufactured and sold by the Celestial Academy, and the formation masters merely installed it after purchasing it.

The main driving force of it is the spirit stone, which needs to be installed on each of the five pillars.

Each time it is activated and deactivated, it consumes quite a few additional energy.

Therefore, once the official spirit testing platform is activated, it will not be deactivated and will continue to consume the energy of the spirit stone. Hence, each clan is encouraged to approximate the numbers who need testing and apply en masse.

Even so, the consumption of energy from the spirit stone is quite severe. Five spirit stones probably only provide energy for about a hundred tests. When averaged per person, the pure cost of each test is five pieces of Qian Gold.

However, the official price is ten pieces of Qian Gold per person. After deducting the long-term maintenance costs of the Spirit Testing Platform and other fees, the authorities barely make a small profit.

Today.

Some of the younger brothers and sisters of the Wang family are gathered in front of the Spirit Testing Platform.

At the same time, in the empty rooms in the rear courtyard, a group of little boys and girls are concentrated.

They are all age-appropriate children that the Wang family has collected recently through various channels such as lateral branches, house servants, tenant farmers, etc. Moreover, they are the children who seem to be endowed with spiritual energy, carefully selected.

The primary reason for doing this is to not waste spirit stones and to see if they could get lucky and find one or two children with a Profound Martial talent.

Statistically speaking, the side branches tend to have the highest instance of this, as the blood of the branch families is closest to that of a Profound Martial practitioner.

As for the ordinary families, it purely depends on luck.

Who can say how many generations in their family have lived without ever producing a Profound Martial practitioner? Or, even if they have had a member with Profound Martial bloodline, perhaps they missed the chance to identify it due to lacking a means of testing?

As far as Wang Shouzhe knows, the Celestial academy has conducted similar tests.

Among the children of ordinary families, if the child is not pre-selected based on various indicators such as intelligence, then on average, one out of three hundred children might have the Profound Martial bloodline.

These are staggering costs indeed.

If they undergo strict selection, first eliminating eighty percent who seem less bright, are physically inferior, lack intelligence and other factors, the chances can be significantly increased to one in a hundred or two hundred children.

Of course, such a selection process could inadvertently eliminate those children who do have talent, but it is the optimal strategy for cost control.

As a result, the majority of prominent families are unlikely to devote money and resources to this.

Most family clans have a hard enough time supporting their own bloodline members, who could afford to search for bloodline pearls in the civilian populace?

But Wang Shouzhe is different.

Perhaps it is his lingering prejudice towards undisciplined cultivators, having once been bitten by them.

If he wishes to strengthen the family clan, other than expanding the scale of his bloodline family members, he must also consider the issue from the perspective of enhancing the strength of the head of the household.

If you can find children with bloodline talent from the civilian population, they would be even more highly malleable and would have stronger identification and dependence on the Wang family.

Though it may seem like a loss-making transaction in the short term.

This sort of thinking involves planning for a hundred, or even more far-reaching and higher levels, which has enormous strategic significance. Even if only one is discovered every year, year after year, the Wang family will continue to grow stronger as a result, and the children born to those bloodline household heads will typically have decent talent.

However, only a tycoon like Wang Shouzhe with a highly profitable revenue stream could pull this off.

The small savings of an ordinary Profound Martial family wouldn't be enough to cultivate their own bloodline members, let alone pull something like this off.

This time, only eighty or ninety children were collected, mainly to test the Spirit Testing Platform, and Wang Shouzhe was prepared to gamble on not finding even one person with Profound Martial bloodline.

Under the guidance of the formation master.

The Wang family members activated the Spirit Testing Platform, and the transparent crystal ball in the middle slowly floated up.

A child from an ordinary family was first arranged to test. The child placed his hand on the crystal ball, and a shining light enveloped the child. Then, the crystal ball emitted a faint red glow.

Those with testing experience would know that it means failure. The bloodline concentration is extremely low, far from reaching the standard of a low-ranking talent level, and it is difficult to cultivate mysterious energy.

Next was the second child, who performed slightly better, but was still far from approaching a lower-grade talent.

Damn it, that's ten Qian Gold down the drain in no time.

Wang Shouzhe was beginning to doubt whether the Spirit Testing Platform was faulty and decided to have Wang Shou Yong, who had a low-grade Class C talent, to give it a try. Wang Shou Yong had consumed some Dan medicine over the past two years that slightly improved his talent.

When he performed the test, the crystal ball lit up brightly, with abundant red light. According to the scale, his talent remained at the low-grade Class C level, but he was almost touching Grade B.

It seemed that there was nothing wrong with the Spirit Testing Platform.

He had members of his family accompany the Array Master for a glass of Spiritual Tea and a rest, then began to test his own family members.

Wang Luotong was the first to go up. Mmhmm~, her talent was at low-grade Grade B, slightly outstanding. After consuming some Stone Marrow, she might reach Grade A.

The rest of the family members tested one by one; it was quite lively. However, besides Wang Luomiao, who scored a lower-grade Grade A, the rest at most only reached Grade B.

Finally, it was Wang Luoqing's turn. When she performed her test, the crystal ball burst into a beautiful red light. At the same time, mysterious twinkling spots hovered in the red light, as if indicating a special bloodline talent.

Medium-grade Grade A!

Wang Shouzhe gasped in surprise. Even though he was aware of the result, he was still astounded. He wondered how many Stone Marrows she must have consumed in the past.

Next came Wang Luoqiu, who also scored a medium-grade Grade A. However, there were golden specks swirling within her red light, which obviously represented her War Body Bloodline.

Usually, once an individual reaches the mid-grade level, unique bloodline phenomena start to appear.

Then Wang Shouzhe himself went to join the excitement, and the result was a medium-grade Class C, a bit outstanding! There were also cyan spots swirling within his light. Achieving a Class C wasn't solely due to the Stone Marrow drop he had consumed back then.

Over the years, Wang Shouzhe had used plenty of resources to make an attempt at the Double Bloodline Awakening. The outcome was probably that he only managed to barely squeeze into a medium-grade, Fourth Rank, gaining a small rank, and the Double Bloodline Awakening was still far away.

However, compared to the old ancestor Longyan, he had made minor progress. The Double Bloodline probably only awakens for those with top-grade talent. This level of talent, even in all of Longzuo County, is a rare genius.

Wang Shouzhe's knowledge had broadened by now, and he could roughly understand the situation. Generally, if you can reach medium grade at the Qi Refinement stage, it's almost certain that you will reach the Spirit Platform Realm.

With the advancement to the Spirit Platform Realm and the awakening of another bloodline, someone would then be eligible to challenge the Heavenly Human Realm, although it's just a matter of probability.

If someone has two awakenings during the Qi Refinement stage, and awakens the third fold with the Spirit Platform Realm, if they don't lack resources, then reaching the Heavenly Human Realm is a certainty. In the future, they may have a chance to challenge the Purple Abode Realm, where it's possible to nurture a mini person within the Purple Abode.

(This can be roughly understood as forming a Yuan Infant).

Such talented people are specifically cultivated by the Academic Palace, and are usually trained as Purple Abode Seeds, as the direct disciples.

As expected, when Wang Licui went up for the test... Top Grade Class D!

Apparently, she had probably consumed more than Luoqiu and Luo Jing when they shared the Jade Marrow.

Otherwise, it would've been extremely difficult for her to struggle into the Double Awakening with just one Vermilion Fruit!

Wang Licui immediately began to swagger about, behaving as though she was the boss, which made Wang Shouzhe want to punch her.

Unfortunately, this girl has extraordinary talents, but is incredibly lazy when it comes to cultivation. She is barely at the peak of the Qi Refining stage.

"Let Li Yao give it a try." Liu Ruolan suggested with a twinkle in her eyes, "According to what I've heard, the Innate Dao Fetus Spirit Seed should have a significant influence on the first child. You can tell by comparing how much less talented Yuanrui and Ruolei are than me."

Unfortunately, her brother Liu Yuanhui didn't have the benefit of the Innate Dao Fetus Spirit Seed... But this was also fortunate for Wang Shouzhe!

Wang Shouzhe immediately perked up, he lifted his precious daughter onto the stage and taught her how to test.

Then, a dazzling red light blinded Wang Shouzhe. Within the brilliantly shining red light, there was an extremely strong blue water elemental force. Clearly, she had a Water Element Bloodline Physique.

Wang Shouzhe was stunned!

After what seemed like ages, he suddenly burst into a joyful and hearty laughter.

"Daddy, why are you laughing?" His precious daughter, Wang Liyao, asked innocently. She was too young to understand what it meant.

"I'm laughing, of course, because..."

My daughter has the potential to become a Great Emperor!

Chapter 4: Longyan's Advancement to the Advanced Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm_1

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"Hahaha."

Wang Shouzhe was elated, feeling as if his blood was ablaze.

This was his precious daughter, whose bloodline talent was so abundant.

Born with a top-grade Class B talent, and a water elemental bloodline so rich, it was as if she had a natural water-elemental spiritual body.

It was hard to imagine how high her future growth potential could be!

Standing beside them, Liu Ruolan was also smiling happily, even her eyes forming a curve. If their daughter had a high starting point in talent, both parents would naturally be delighted; it was their joint masterpiece, after all.

Wang Licui excitedly ran over to join in the excitement and commented, "As expected of my Sister Wang Licui, she indeed has the posture of a Great Emperor."

Wang Shouzhe pushed her aside with a sidelong glance. What did it have to do with her? He was very protective of his daughter and was afraid his niece would lead her astray. What if she became as idle as herself?

Holding Wang Liyao, Wang Shouzhe descended from the Spirit Testing Platform and told Liu Ruolan, "My dear, you should also go and test, let me see how amazing your bloodline talent is."

In truth, he wondered about the gap in their abilities, virile as he was for certain positions. It was something absolutely not to be mentioned until safety could be ensured.

"I don't really need to take the test," Liu Ruolan replied nonchalantly, and with a smile added, "As long as I have my husband and children to protect me."

Wang Shouzhe felt slightly disappointed but didn't force her.

He thought to himself that Ruolan's level of bloodline awakening might not be far off from Luo Qiu and Luo Jing's, it could at most compare with Licui. But to compare with his darling daughter Liyao, there would be some noticeable gap.

Since there was still quite a bit of spirit stone energy left in the Spirit Testing Platform, Wang Shouzhe ordered to bring the remaining children out of their rooms for testing.

Regrettably, their luck didn't reach its peak, out of the seventy to eighty children tested, only one child was found to have a lower Ding grade bloodline talent. But this was within reasonable parameters, and it was already considered good luck.

This child would naturally be taken in by the Wang family as a seed for the head of household and incorporated into the cultivation process. The other children wouldn't suffer either; they would be

admitted to the school run by the Wang family to learn some cultural knowledge, and the excellent ones would be retained for future integration into the Wang family's various systems.

This group of selected children had indeed taken the Wang family a lot of effort to gather.

Afterwards, the young people of the Wang family dispersed. Everyone went about their own business, except for Licui, who was busy with hers.

With no one around.

But as there still seemed to be a hint of energy left in the Spirit Testing Platform, Wang Shouzhe, not quite resigned, suggested again, "My dear, why don't you give it another try, so as not to waste the spirit stone."

"Okay, since you insist." After a slight hesitation, Liu Ruolan agreed and took the test.

Afterward.

Wang Shouzhe came to regret his suggestion.

He left quietly holding his daughter.

At the same time, he was more determined in his heart to enhance his own bloodline talent.

...

The days went by uneventfully for a few days.

This day.

Inside the Longyan Habitat.

Old Ancestor Longyan sat crossed-legged in the secret chamber.

She closed her eyes, circulating the top-grade cultivation technique, the Spirit Platform chapter of the Mysterious Ice True Verses.

Around her delicate body fluttered strange frost snowflakes which circled around her continuously. The scene was incredibly beautiful.

Suddenly, the atmosphere changed.

The snowflakes instantly condensed into dozens of ice blades, which spun furiously around, emitting piercing sounds.

What was more terrifying was.

Not only was the chill of the ice blades extremely deep, but they were also mixed with some Yin Sha energy, lending the secret chamber an added sense of gloom and coldness.

If an ordinary martial artist were to enter this ice array,

They'd fear they'd either be torn to shreds or fall gravely ill from the Yin Sha energy entering their bodies.

After a long time, Old Ancestor Longyan stopped her cultivation exercise. At her wave, the haunting ice blades disappeared without a trace.

She opened her deep and profound eyes, a hint of joy crossed her gaze. Her cultivation base had broken through again.

This was not a fruitless retreat after all.

When she left the secret chamber,

She found Wang Shouzhe awaiting her outside in the yard.

All he saw was Wang Shouzhe warmly gesturing and saying, "Just a moment ago, I sensed your energy surge. I wish to congratulate Old Ancestor on her profound achievement."

Old Ancestor Longyan replied calmly, "I've only just managed to break through to the advanced stage."

She spoke modestly, but her eyes couldn't suppress a hint of joyful excitement.

Ever since the great disaster nearly sixty years ago, her cultivation base had never advanced a single step.

More so, day and night, she was tormented by the nefarious Yin Sha energy. Her organs and body were deteriorating day by day.

Even so, she endured the pain to protect the family.

Things took a turn for the better when she absorbed and refined all the Yin Sha energy.

With the help of the Creation Pill and Wang Shouzhe's occasional healing of her internal injuries, her bodily functions not only fully recovered over the years, but they also became much stronger than before.

No wonder, how vicious could the Yin Sha energy be? She was tormented for fifty years, always fighting against it.

In this way, it made her meridians, body, and every life factor extraordinarily tenacious.

Who knew what Shouzhe's talent was?

After long-term treatment, the help to her was not small, it was definitely not just simple wood type bloodline talent.

Under various reasons, her recent years of cultivation have been progressing exceptionally fast.

"Shouzhe, all these are thanks to you." At this thought, Old Ancestor Longyan was filled with emotion. She never dreamed that she would see this day.

Chapter 4: Longyan's Advancement to the Advanced Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm_2

"Old Ancestor, please do not say such things." Wang Shouzhe spoke solemnly, "If it weren't for Old Ancestor's meticulous efforts over the past decades in upholding our clan, we of the Wang family would have perished long ago. Where would the likes of us juniors be?"

Wang Shouzhe was greatly relieved that the Old Ancestor Longyan was able to reach the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm so quickly. He felt a deep sense of accomplishment and security.

With a powerful cultivator at the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm presiding over them, they would be as secure as Mount Tai, unless a powerhouse from the Tianren Realm were to attack.

Throughout the whole of Changning, there were only three powerhouses at the Tianren Realm.

And they generally wouldn't leave their homes unless necessary, preferring to stay indoors.

They wouldn't recklessly take action, fearing that a single moment of carelessness could lead to their downfall and bring catastrophe to their entire family. The power of a Tianren Realm cultivator was immense, however, the burden they carried on their shoulders was equally heavy. They naturally valued their lives.

Saying more on the matter would be pointless, as they were all family supporting each other.

The Old Ancestor Longyan did not continue to speak on the subject, instead he asked with concern, "Shouzhe, how have things been in the past two years after you switched to practicing the Longevity Youth True Verses? Does it suit your bloodline?"

At the mention of this, Wang Shouzhe started to speak, "Old Ancestor, I have been feeling great after the switch. It has made my mysterious energy much more concentrated and pure. I am also stronger and more adept at controlling plants. The Longevity Youth True Verses are truly a top-grade cultivation technique."

Only then did the Old Ancestor Longyan finally relax, remarking, "It seems that your talents are closely related to the wood-type bloodline, even if they do not belong to it. Until you find a more suitable cultivation technique, the Longevity Youth True Verses can serve you well."

Indeed, the cultivation technique that Wang Shouzhe was currently practicing was the Longevity Youth True Verses, a secret cultivation method passed down by Master Changchun of the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

However, he only had the Qi Refinement Chapter of the Longevity Youth True Verses.

The Spirit Platform Chapter, which followed the Qi Refinement Chapter, had to be taught after reaching the Spirit Platform Realm. This could only be accomplished by passing the Purple Abode Academic Palace's assessment.

Do not look down on the Qi Refining Chapter.

Even the Qi Refinement chapter of such an exceptional cultivation technique wouldn't be taught randomly outside by the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

Only after Old Ancestor Xuanfu managed to arrange for him to receive the status of an external disciple of the Academic Palace was he granted the qualification to practice this cultivation technique.

The so-called external discipleship referred to the strategy used by the Academic Palace to recruit some talented young individuals who, due to various reasons, couldn't join the palace.

According to Wang Shouzhe's understanding, the fully enrolled disciples of the palace were equivalent to full-time undergraduates, while the external disciples were akin to distance learning students.

While the Palace acknowledged external disciples and allowed them to request to study a certain cultivation technique, it wouldn't provide them with resources for their cultivation.

If they had any questions about cultivation, they could write a letter to the Palace, but whether they would receive a response was uncertain.

Naturally, even becoming an external disciple of the Palace was not an opportunity granted to anyone. One must be of genuine lineage and have a guarantor.

The so-called "genuine lineage" referred to the fact that you could not be just any independent cultivator or rankless Profound Martial family. They would need to verify your ancestors for several generations. Only then would the Palace consider trusting you.

Moreover, external disciples should be properly positioned. There is no room for collateral family members; even direct descendants go through more rigorous assessments.

Wang Shouzhe, as the clan leader of an Eighth Grade prominent family, possessed a verifiable lineage that could be traced back to the ancestors of the Great Qian Wang Clan.

Moreover, he had awakened the "wood-type" talent of his bloodline once and passed the initial selection of the Academic Palace's disciples.

Furthermore, with the guarantee of the core disciple of the Academic Palace, Liu Xuanfu, he was able to smoothly gain the status of an external disciple of the Palace, gaining the authority to practice the Qi Refinement Chapter of the Longevity Youth True Verses.

However, he could only practice the Longevity Youth True Verses by himself. If he dared to expose or teach it to others, he would face severe punishment from the Palace, which could extend to the entire family.

There were also certain restrictions, such as if the Palace required your help and summoned you, you could not refuse. You had to respond and help.

However, such a summoning would only take effect when the state was facing life or death situations or confronting tremendous external enemies. Under ordinary circumstances, the Palace wouldn't require your assistance.

Similarly treated was his wife, Liu Ruolan.

However, what Liu Ruolan practiced was the Mysterious Water True Verses, another top grade cultivation legacy of the Academic Palace.

Let's not digress.

Once assured that Wang Shouzhe's cultivation technique was fine, the Old Ancestor Longyan asked, "Shouzhe, do you have something urgent to discuss with me at my Long Yan Habitat?"

As of late, the Old Ancestor Longyan had been closing himself off to work towards progressing to the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. Usually, clan members wouldn't disturb him.

Wang Shouzhe must be here for something important at this time.

"Ancestor, Liu Xuanfu's Old Ancestor is back from the Academic Palace." Wang Shouzhe softly said, "Right now, Ruolan is accompanying her and it seems she wants to discuss something major with you."

Liu Xuanfu and Wang Longyan were known as the 'Two Beauties of Changning' in their youth.

They were unrivalled in their popularity during those times.

The two were rivals in the Academic Palace, both driven by the desire to outshadow each other.

On the whole, however, Old Ancestor Longyan was a bit more dominant.

Their relationship was still quite close, nonetheless.

But then Old Ancestor Longyan suffered a huge mishap and ended up staying in Changning for fifty years without stepping out of the Wang family's domain.

This eventually led to a growing distance between the two.

In truth, Old Ancestor Longyan didn't want to meet Old Ancestor Xuanfu. Considering her current condition which couldn't be cured, what's the point of having her heart pained by seeing Old Ancestor Xuanfu thriving?

Until later, when she wanted to arrange a marriage for Wang Shouzhe and preserve their family line.

That's when she braced herself and paid a personal visit to Old Ancestor Xuanfu when she returned to the Liu Family

Who knows what they negotiated, but in the end, Old Ancestor Xuanfu agreed to the marriage.

Wang Shouzhe didn't think much of it then, attributing it perhaps to Old Ancestor Xuanfu being moved by old sentiments. However, he is now sure that there was more to it.

Now that he and his wife, Liu Ruolan, have both reached the pinnacle of the Qi Refining Realm, and Old Ancestor Xuanfu has returned from the Academic Palace, it was only a matter of time before the truth of the past got unveiled.

Old Ancestor Longyan stayed silent for a while before saying in a light tone, "Yes, it is time for her to return. Shouzhe, go and invite Old Ancestor Xuanfu and Ruolan over."

"Yes, Ancestor." Wang Shouzhe carried out the instruction as ordered.

Not too long afterwards,

Old Ancestor Longyan, Old Ancestor Xuanfu, Liu Ruolan and Wang Shouzhe, the four of them, had a meeting at the Long Yan Habitat.

It was only at this point,

that Wang Shouzhe had the chance to take a good look at the renowned Old Ancestor Xuanfu.

She was dressed in a water-blue palace attire, her face veiled, making it impossible to discern her age or features. However, she must have a technique to maintain her youthful looks given that her figure still appeared to be quite good.

The only difference was that Old Ancestor Longyan's aura contained a sharpness akin to a sword's edge, as opposed to Old Ancestor Xuanfu's temperament, which was gentle and flowing like water, giving off an overwhelming sense of vastness. It was clear that she had cultivated her 'Mysterious Water True Verses' to an extremely profound level.

"Cousin Longyan, congratulations on your breakthrough; you have finally reached the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm." Old Ancestor Xuanfu's gaze was as gentle as water, somewhat similar to Ruolan's.

Yet, Old Ancestor Longyan simply responded, "Compared to Cousin Xuanfu, I am far from being noteworthy."

"Cousin, having overcome this difficult period and with your current cultivation base, you are sure to progress smoothly. It's possible you may even step into the Heavenly Human Realm before me. If Master Binglan were to receive this news, he will be immensely pleased. Cousin, have you considered returning to the Academic Palace? I can offer some support."

Old Ancestor Longyan frowned slightly and responded, somewhat displeased, "No need for you to interfere with my matters with Master."

It was apparent that the relationship between Old Ancestor Longyan and Old Ancestor Xuanfu, these two cousins, was quite complex.

No wonder though, Old Ancestor Longyan had always been ahead of Old Ancestor Xuanfu in their younger days. But now, the tables were turned and it was certainly hard for the proud Old Ancestor Longyan to admit.

"Let's move on to the main matters at hand." As if not wanting to linger on this topic, Old Ancestor Longyan then looked at Wang Shouzhe and said, "Shouzhe, I didn't mention this to you before because I didn't want you to be distracted and it had no significance at that time."

Wang Shouzhe straightened his posture, listening attentively in anticipation of hearing the secret.

"This is the greatest secret of the Ping'an Wang Family." Old Ancestor Longyan's eyes seemed somewhat distant as if reminiscing, "Shouzhe, do you know why Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan opened up this place in Ping'an Town?"

Chapter 5 "Afraid of Death" Wang Shouzhe_1

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Wang Shouzhe had a thought and said, "Could there be any hidden story behind this?"

"Longzuo County was originally a pioneering county, and there were many directions for reclamation. The reason why Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, chose this place to establish the family was his own consideration."

"Looking back at that time, Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, was just a direct descendant of the Longzuo Wang family. The Longzuo Wang family was not doing well at that time, it was constantly declining, and even the transition of Celestial beings was very difficult, let alone having too much strength to cultivate its clansmen."

"However, Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, was born with a blood awakening, qualifying him to impact the Heavenly Human Realm. Therefore, he was not willing to be mediocre for a lifetime."

"So, Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, went out seeking opportunities. In the foreign land, he found a very hidden relic belonging to the Divine Martial Dynasty of the Middle Ages. It was because of this relic that Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, managed to ascend to the Spirit Platform Realm."

"But when Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, found the relic, he did not receive the biggest opportunity there. Therefore, he established the Ping'an Wang Family in this area with the Expansion Order in hand, anticipating that his descendants could gradually control that relic and constantly benefit from it. Now, that relic is only about a thousand miles away from our Ping'an."

With Longyan, the ancestor's story, one could understand why Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, moved southward back then.

"So there's this secret." Wang Shouzhe suddenly realized, and then a thought crossed his mind, he asked with a slightly changed face, "Then my father back then..."

The former Family Head, Wang Dingyue, died while seeking opportunities in the foreign land. Wang Shouzhe had always suspected that something was wrong with it. After all, the family still had some surplus back then. If they sold it at a loss, they could exchange it for a Heavenly Spirit Pill.

"Ah, speaking of this, it's all my fault." There was a hint of bitterness in the eyes of Longyan, the ancestor. "Yes, when Dingyue reached the peak level nine of the Vital Energy Refining Realm, I discussed this matter with him. After all, opportunities are rare, and both Qiongyuan and I had entered that relic and benefited from it."

"Unfortunately, luck was not on our side. We encountered a level four fierce beast on the way there. Even though I did my best to protect him, I still couldn't save his life." Remembering this, a look of gloom and guilt appeared in Longyan, the ancestor's eyes. It was clear that she was greatly saddened by Wang Dingyue's death.

"Ancestor, those things are in the past. Besides, you were not in good condition at that time and your injuries worsened because of it." Wang Shouzhe comforted in a gentle voice. "But Ancestor, what exactly is that relic? How can we benefit from it? And what are the dangers?"

Wang Shouzhe asked several questions in a row, express his doubts.

He thought that no matter how good the ancient relics are, one must be alive to enjoy them.

If he had to venture into the foreign land for a small Heavenly Spirit Pill, it wouldn't be worth it. He would rather to farm slowly and accumulate gradually over time.

Given the current wealth of the Wang family, purchasing a Heavenly Spirit Pill would not cause a big loss.

If it is not clear, or if preparations are not adequate, he would not dare to venture deep into the foreign land without a high degree of certainty.

"That relic is a trial land opened up by Divine Martial Dynasty, with the aim of recruiting potential youngsters for the dynasty. It is not dangerous itself, even if one fails the trial, there is no danger to life."

"Back then, when Zhou Xuan, the ancestor, was at the peak of level nine in the Qi Refining realm, he passed the first trial and received a consolation award...a Heavenly Spirit Pill."

"Uh..."

Wang Shouzhe was instantly drenched in cold sweat. What kind of relic was that? They referred to a Heavenly Spirit Pill as a consolation prize...

No wonder at that time, the former head, Wang Dingyue, wanted to venture to the foreign land.

Given the condition of the Wang family at that time, if they could earn a Heavenly Spirit Pill, it would be worth risking everything.

"The difficulty of the first test is not big or small." Longyan Ancestor explained, "The gatekeeper is a level nine peak demonic puppet beast in the Qi Refining Realm. As long as it is defeated within the rules, it is considered a pass. If Profound Martial Fighting Technique is cultivated very solidly, it can barely pass this level."

"As for the Heavenly Spirit Pill, I heard that the Divine Martial Dynasty is extremely powerful and its peak territory spanned hundreds of thousands of miles. A mere Heavenly Spirit Pill is really nothing. The reward for passing the second level is really substantial."

Longyan Ancestor continued, "The second level is to confront two peak level nine puppets of the Qi Refining Realm at the same time! Once passed, you will receive a pill that improves bloodline talent."

"Improve the bloodline talent pill?" Wang Shouzhe's eyes lit up. This was exactly what he most lacked right now. It was actually easier to get a Heavenly Spirit Pill than this.

"Back then, I barely made it through the second level by the skin of my teeth, obtaining the bloodline-improving pill and the Heavenly Spirit Pill," Longyan, the ancestor, continued to say, "It's a pity that my bloodline talent was not high to begin with, it was just a Middle-grade, Fourth Rank. After taking the pill, it only reached around Mid-Rank 'A' Level, and no second bloodline was awakened."

"But even so, when I ascended to the Spiritual Platform Realm, my Vital Water Bloodline was mutated into Mysterious Ice Bloodline. Moreover, in terms of talent, I am much stronger than ordinary double-blooded individuals."

With the explanation from Longyan, the ancestor.

Wang Shouzhe finally understood why the fighting power of Longyan, the ancestor, was so strong.

And besides, after her ascension to the Spiritual Platform realm, she rapidly advanced, constantly suppressing Xuan Fu, the ancestor.

If it had not been for the accident that year, Longyan, the ancestor, might have already been in the Heavenly Human Realm by now.

Chapter 5 "Fear of Death" Wang Shouzhe_2

Moreover, as it is widely known, the Mysterious Ice Bloodline is one of the three abnormal attribute bloodlines, the destructive power is far stronger than that of the pure Primary Water Bloodline. However, it does have a disadvantage. It isn't as efficient in self-recovery as the Primary Water Bloodline.

Despite having heard about it from Old Ancestor Longyan before, Old Ancestor Xuanfu's eyes still welled up with emotions. When Old Ancestor Longyan broke through to the Spirit Platform Realm, she was the star for three decades and left Old Ancestor Xuanfu far behind.

This had once led her to question her life's worth. Now that this topic came up again, she couldn't help feeling a little sour.

"Old Ancestor, if the second challenge is fighting two at the peak of the Qi Refinement Level Nine, does the third challenge involve fighting three?" Wang Shouzhe joked.

"Precisely, the third challenge is as such. That's why I only managed to clear the second challenge," Old Ancestor Longyan replied somewhat helplessly, "Those demonic creature puppets are very tricky. I barely made it past the second challenge by fighting them with my life on the line."

Wang Shouzhe was left speechless. The designer of these trial challenges was really thoughtless. Did it suggest that the fourth challenge would involve four opponents? This was ridiculous.

However, upon hearing Old Ancestor Longyan's words, Wang Shouzhe was intrigued.

But defeating two powerful opponents of the same level wouldn't be an easy task, let alone three. With his current level of strength, it was simply impossible!

Upon hearing this,

Liu Ruolan blinked and asked: "Old Ancestor Xuanfu, did you sell me to the Wang family for this secret?"

Old Ancestor Xuanfu coughed awkwardly and said: "Don't get me wrong, Ruolan. I did this purely for your own good."

"Your talent is already top-notch. But the higher your talents, the more you can't afford to miss these opportunities. Besides the Spirit Pill from the second challenge that'll surely benefit you, the key is to win the third challenge!

According to the remnants' implications, once you're through the three challenges, you'll be eligible to become a disciple of the Divine Martial Dynasty, and initiate the cultivation in the Divine Martial Dynasty."

However, Wang Shouzhe furrowed his brows and asked, "Didn't the Divine Martial Dynasty collapse over a hundred thousand years ago?"

Old Ancestor Xuanfu shook her head, "Although the Divine Martial Dynasty has collapsed, its remnants still exist in many places. The heart of the prestigious Divine Martial Dynasty remains a mystery."

"Even the Purple Abode Academic Palace values the remnants of the Divine Martial Dynasty highly, so we can't miss this chance. Besides, the Innate Dao fetus spirit seed that I obtained in the past was from one of the remnants of the Divine Martial Dynasty. If we could find the core area...."

So this explains it. Old Ancestor Xuanfu had such ambitious plans.

Wang Shouzhe silently nodded in agreement, however, he pondered: "One more question, why didn't Sixth Grandfather Wang Xiaohan participate in the trial in those remnants?"

Old Ancestor Longyan explained, "Not everyone is allowed to participate in the Divine Martial trials. One has to be below the Spirit Platform Realm, and no older than forty. Back then, Xiaohan had already passed the age limit. Your father, Wang Dingyue, barely qualified."

Okay, it seems that the Divine Martial Dynasty has quite high standards. Those who fall a little short are not even given the opportunity to participate in the trials.

"Can you participate in the trials if you haven't reached the peak level nine?"

"Probably. The problem is, if you haven't reached the peak, it would be tough to defeat a demon puppet at the peak. It would be futile to go."

"If you win two rounds, can you wait a few years before going again?"

"Well... As far as I heard from the trial Artifact Spirit, you'd have to start over if you come again, and the rewards would not be duplicated."

As Wang Shouzhe kept throwing out questions, he continually broadened Old Ancestor Longyan's worldview.

Meanwhile Old Ancestor Xuanfu, who was standing by their side, started to gradually grow impatient. "Well, Shouzhe, are you done with your questions? We should prepare. We'll set off in a couple of days."

"Wait! Old Ancestor Xuanfu, are you leaving just like that?" Wang Shouzhe was stunned. "This seems a bit too hasty."

"Shouzhe, are you not ready yet?" Old Ancestor Xuanfu asked with a puzzled look on her face.

What a joke, what does she mean by 'not ready yet'?

I haven't even started to prepare, okay?

With a cold sweat dripping, Wang Shouzhe found Old Ancestor Xuanfu to be a bit hasty. Then, he questioned: "Is Old Ancestor Xuanfu's plan really to go with just us four?"

"No, Liu Yuan Hui will also join us," Old Ancestor Xuanfu replied calmly. "Don't worry, if we encounter a Level Four Fierce Beast, two of us, myself and Cousin Longyan, will be enough."

That's a high level of confidence.

Wang Shouzhe touched his chin and pondered, "A Level Four Fierce Beast is not too bad, but what if we encounter two Level Four Fierce Beasts? What if we encounter a Level Five Fierce Beast? Does Old Ancestor Xuanfu have any preemptive strategies?"

Old Ancestor Xuanfu's eye twitched, and she snapped, "How could there be so many Level Five Fierce Beasts in the world? According to Cousin Longyan, it's just a thousand li away."

"A thousand li away into the outskirts is already quite deep, hence we need to be fully prepared," said Wang Shouzhe.

"What do you mean by 'be fully prepared'...?" Old Ancestor Xuanfu suddenly had a bad feeling.

"At least if we encounter a Level Five Fierce Beast, while we may not be able to kill it, we could at least deter it."

"Furthermore, my bloodline talent is not sufficient. I barely won in the second level, absolutely cannot win in the third."

"Once I break through to the Spirit Platform Realm, I won't be able to compete again. This opportunity comes only once in a lifetime. Therefore, I'm planning to gather some treasures that can enhance my bloodline talent, as well as those that can deter a Level Five Fierce Beast."

"Then, when do you plan on finishing these preparations?" Granny Hsuanchu's eyelids began to twitch, struggling to suppress her urge to beat someone up.

"There's no rush. Preparation should be taken slowly, I won't risk it unless I'm completely sure. By the way, my wife, you cannot go either."

"Opportunities like these come to those who are alive to seize them. We can buy most of these Heaven and Earth Treasures with money. If that doesn't work, we can slowly accumulate wealth by farming. Then, buy, buy, buy!"

Liu Ruolan obediently nodded her head and said, "Okay, my husband, I'll listen to you."

Granny Hsuanchu nearly fainted from the frustration, she stared blankly at Granny Longyan and said, "This boy of yours, is he really so scared of death? All the hard work we've put in is to seek opportunities for the younger generation. Those talents would risk their lives for such opportunities, wouldn't they?"

Granny Longyan felt somewhat embarrassed, her great-great-nephew indeed didn't possess the kind of spirit the talents had, that drive to push forward regardless of what comes.

"Well... Wang Shouzhe, he isn't scared of dying. Instead, he plans for the worst in all situations."

"However, I believe Shouzhe's approach is correct. It was my insufficiency in thoughts that led to Ding Yue's death. Shouzhe, you make the decision regarding this matter. After you're ready, we will depart."

"Kid, if you don't want to go, that's fine too," Granny Hsuanchu said frustratedly, "I will take Ruolan and Yuanhui myself."

"Old ancestor, if my husband says we can't go, then I definitely can't. I am, after all, a daughter-in-law of the Wang family..." Unexpectedly, Liu Ruolan instantly shook her head and said, "Besides, my husband is right. It's always good to have more preparation and we must consider our children."

"My dear wife, you're so obedient!"

"My husband, you're the best, always thinking of our family."

"Marrying you is the happiest thing I've ever done in my life."

"Being married to my husband is the greatest blessing in my life, Liu Ruolan."

The couple continued their sweet talk, not forgetting to show off their love.

The two old ancestors, both of whom had been single for over a hundred years, turned their heads away at this display of affection.

It felt too nauseating...

Then, Granny Hsuanchu reluctantly said to Wang Shouzhe, "Alright, you can go and prepare. But hurry..."

"Old ancestor, first give me the map. I can plan the route earlier." Wang Shouzhe got to the point. For such an adventurous action in the foreign land, he would never let others control the pace and give the orders.

Granny Longyan did as told and gave an ancient map to Wang Shouzhe.

Then Wang Shouzhe began his preparations.

One month later, when Granny Hsuanchu asked him if he is ready?

Wang Shouzhe calmly replied that they are not ready yet.

During the second month, they were still not ready.

During the third month, when Granny Hsuanchu went looking for him again, she was shocked to discover that Wang Shouzhe had gone out to shop.

"Old Ancestor, my husband said he found a connection through a friend and went out to buy something that might kill a Level Five Fierce Beast. Moreover, he found the Spirit Pill Cleansing Marrow Pill that will help evolve our bloodline." Liu Ruolan, carrying her first and second babies. continued in a calm voice.

"And, my husband said that if I don't have a Storage Ring, I wouldn't be able to carry my change of clothes, daily necessities, and my favorite snacks. So, he said he'd buy a storage ring for me on the way."

Facing this piece of news, Granny Hsuanchu was left in shock. She barely managed to keep her eyes in place... 'Oh, and buy a Storage Ring on the way'...

I couldn't bear to buy a Storage Ring...

Bringing everyday items before heading out? Are we going on a picnic?

This little fellow Wang Shouzhe, how can he be so overbearing and inconsiderate?

For a moment, Granny Hsuanchu felt sour in her heart.

How did she, as a core disciple of the Academic Palace, become a poor figure overnight?

Chapter 6: Domination! Celestial Being from the Prominent Family_1

...

The Eastern Sea.

The vast, magnificent ocean, its blue-green waves surging endlessly.

A gigantic sailboat is sailing through the billowing sea with the wind in its sails. The ship is made of hefty wood, its hull and crucial parts covered in a layer of iron replete with rivets, imbuing it an aura of sturdiness.

It is approximately ninety feet long and stretches over twenty-four feet wide. This indeed is a massive cargo ship.

At the bow, stern, and sides of the ship lie massive crossbows, each of their arrows more than three feet long, portraying an air of formidable dread. Once released, even a level three fierce beast would be in imminent danger from such a crossbow arrow.

The ship is loaded with massive amounts of cargo, including precious items made of glass, paper, and rock candy. However, the most abundant cargo is something called cement.

Cement is a type of construction material. Some prominent families in the Profound Martial world would use a kind of building material called oyster cement to construct critical structures such as dwellings, gates, and city walls.

Oyster cement is a high-quality adhesive for the construction, its only downside being the exorbitant cost. The price of a single load of oyster cement is comparable to that of a corresponding load of ordinary grain.

Such a price is not something ordinary households can afford. Even the Profound Martial families would only use this material for crucial structures due to its costliness.

On the contrary, cement is an affordable construction material that doesn't lose to oyster cement in any way. It costs only two copper coins per load which is much cheaper than oyster cement. Therefore, as soon as cement was introduced to the market, it became widely popular, and many Profound Martial families began using it as a substitute for oyster cement.

Even some ordinary civilian families would use cement for constructing their homes, despite its initial costliness, simply because it would make their homes more sturdy and durable.

This large ocean-going sailboat is loaded with a total of a hundred thousand loads of cement, with a total value of two thousand Qian gold. Even so, these hundred thousand loads of cement hardly make a dent.

Upon arrival at Donghaei, it would be sold out instantly.

Chen Clan of Donggang owns five such large sailboats, delivering five hundred thousand loads of cement, as well as other items like glass products and rock candy every three months to Donghaei.

Just this one trip would result in a total value surpassing thirty thousand Qian gold.

At the bow of the ship, an elegant young man, Wang Shouzhe, stands with his hands behind his back, gazing out at the sea and listening to a report from a person beside him. As the waves rise and fall, he stands as steadily as if he were on solid ground.

Surrounding him were two elder men of extraordinary stature and a man in his thirties.

The man was also extraordinary, dressed immaculately in long robes, and a dashing face adorned with two small mustaches. He said with a smile, "Shouzhe, this is mainly the trading situation regarding cement. The biggest problem is that the production is insufficient. Otherwise, we could transport the cement even to more distant counties."

Cement is a basic construction material, widely used in markets, and regardless of the amount produced, it will always be sold out. The handsome young man was indeed Wang Shouzhe. The other man is Chen Fangjie, Shouzhe's brother-in-law.

"I will notify the Gongsun Clan and Liu family about the production and urge them to arrange manpower for the excavation of raw materials," quotes Wang Shouzhe calmly. "The most important

thing for you is to keep it a secret, and never let anyone know that the cement comes from our Changning."

"Rest assured, Shouzhe. The names like cement and foreign glass are all carefully chosen. People only know that our Chen Clan of Donggang imports it from overseas," Chen Fangjie confidently said, "We, Chen Clan of Donggang, have over a hundred years of experience in overseas trade, and a unique shipping route that will never give us away."

Wang Shouzhe nodded in approval. Over the years, Chen Clan of Donggang had performed exceptionally well in this field.

Only because they were still weak and feared people would covet their industry, did they choose this alternative tactic.

However, the main purpose of his trip to Donghaei was not to inspect the industries. He was here because he heard about a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill being available at the Auction House of the Hundred Treasures Pavilion in Donghaei.

"Shouzhe, I have already prepared the funds you need to allocate. This time, I prepared a hundred thousand Qian gold for you," said Chen Fangjie, full of pride. "Our Old Ancestor Ruhong said that, as long as Shouzhe needs money, even if we have to put the industry as collateral, we should raise the money. If that's not enough, I'll find another way."

"That's about enough," says Wang Shouzhe, in a calm and composed tone.

On this trip, he took thirty thousand Qian gold with him, which was the most that the Ping'an Wang Family could afford to divert at present. Any more, and it would affect the operation of various industries.

To prevent any unforeseeable circumstances, he had the Chen Clan of Donggang, Gongsun Clan, Liu Family, and Lu Family all prepare a sum of backup funds. After all, the items they planned to purchase were quite pricey. It never hurts to have too much money since they were determined to acquire the items.

With the backup funds prepared by his allies, the total sum amounts to seven hundred thousand Qian gold. With such a tremendous magnitude of capital, even the wealthiest of families would be cowed to compete with him.

Yes, this is the strength of the Wang family and their allies currently. Everyone involved focused on their respective parts of the joint industries, with Wang Shouzhe being the core figure in all of them.

This initiative was a part of Wang Shouzhe's long-term plan. The Wang family alone was too weak, and any signs of change posed risks. It was better for allies to share benefits, develop together, and survive as a group.

Not only did the Wang family grow rapidly because of this, but so did their allies.

A while back, Gongsun Qiang of the Gongsun Clan and Lu Zhengjie, two of the uncles, successfully advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm, adding two more warriors to the alliance. These two new forces would not stay in their own families but would join the industries of the alliance, safeguarding the alliance's industries.

Chapter 6: Domination! Celestial Being from the Prominent Family_2

Believing in the alliance of interests centered around Wang Shouzhe, it would surely grow more unified and powerful, even capable of contending with the Tianren Family.

Following the path of the sailing ship, they docked in the deep-water port of Donghaei.

A well-dressed young man in his thirties was waiting on the dock, accompanied by several attendants.

As soon as he spotted Chen Fangjie, he greeted him warmly: "Brother Fangjie, long time no see."

Then he turned his gaze to Wang Shouzhe, and a flash of surprise appeared in his eyes. He hadn't expected such a young man to have already reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

Moreover, the two elderly guards by his side were not easy to deal with, either. Their aura was profound and deep, even he, who had just ascended to the Spirit Platform Realm, found it unfathomable.

Immediately he showed a warm smile: "I suppose this must be Young Master Wang from Lingbei? I am Dantai And Jade, you can just call me Jade."

"I am Wang Teng, it's nice to meet you, Brother Dantai." Wang Shouzhe gracefully saluted, appearing every bit the refined nobleman.

After some small talk.

Dantai And Jade led them into the best restaurant in Donghaei.

What followed was an enthusiastic reception.

The details of what transpired are not elaborated on further.

A few days later.

Donghaei, Hundred Treasures Pavilion.

Arranged by Dantai and Jade, Wang Shouzhe and his party were naturally in one of the best private rooms, waiting for the upcoming auction.

At the same time, distinguished guests from all sides rushed over.

There were many rare objects in this auction, attracting many prominent families from the nearby cities. However, most of them could only settle for the second-best private rooms.

Only two groups drew Wang Shouzhe's attention.

The leader of one group was a middle-aged man adorned in fine clothing, exuding a formidable air, and was accompanied by two Spirit Platform Realm cultivators.

The other group was led by a woman of enchanting appearance, equally extraordinary in demeanor, surrounded by a multitude of guards.

When these two groups met outside the private rooms, tension sparked between them.

The enchanting woman sneered first: "Oh, isn't this the Family Head of the Liu Clan of Chu Yun, Liu Kangping? Are you also eyeing the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill? I advise you to give up. Your worthless son would be better off being reborn."

The Liu Clan, from the city of Chu Yun, is a renowned Tianren family that has a long history and strong power.

The middle-aged man, Liu Kangping's face turned chill: "I was wondering who it was making such big talks. Turns out it's Lady Bilian. Have you laid your eyes on another young man again? Willing to buy a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill to entice him."

Lady Bilian cackled: "Whatever I do, your worthless son won't have his turn, anyway."

Liu Kangping sneered: "Let's wait and see. Hope Lady Bilian brought enough money."

After a brief verbal battle, both groups returned to their private rooms.

Their conversation was not concealed, so Wang Shouzhe heard it all clearly. Unquestionably, these two groups would be his strongest competition.

However, he had been waiting for several years for news about the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill and he was determined to have it. Even if it meant competing against the Tianren families. And, with the enhancement to his bloodline from the pill, he was confident in achieving victory in the second round, ensuring he wouldn't make a loss.

The Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill was extremely expensive. Even the Tianren families struggled to purchase it. If one were to purchase the pill with indifference, they risked depleting their resources.

The auction began promptly.

One by one, the expensive treasures appeared. From several hundred Qian Gold to several thousand Qian Gold, each item was quickly auctioned off.

This time, the Hundred Treasures Pavilion of Donghaei did bring out quite a few excellent items to build a reputation.

Wang Shouzhe and the other two groups did not make any moves.

Two hours later.

The auctioneer began to auction off the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill.

"The Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, a six-rank spirit pill, starting bid is one hundred thousand Qian Gold."

"One hundred and twenty thousand Qian Gold." Before the auctioneer could finish, Liu Kangping instantly raised the price.

"One hundred and thirty thousand." Lady Bilian was obviously determined too, having prepared a substantial sum.

The two of them quickly pushed the price to a hundred and fifty thousand.

Only then did they begin conservatively raising the price, bit by bit.

Under normal circumstances, a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill could be sold for around two hundred thousand. But if one could get a bargain, why not go for it? What if the opponent hadn't prepared an ample amount of Qian Gold?

Even for the Tianren families, gathering two hundred thousand Qian Gold at once isn't an easy task.

"Two hundred thousand."

Wang Shouzhe could no longer bear their tortoise-like bidding and directly raised it to two hundred thousand.

What?

Both parties were obviously unprepared. There was a third party bidding for the bone marrow cleansing pill, and their faces of anger were obvious. But the bidding voice also came from the best box.

The Hundred Treasures Pavilion had rules. Unless it was a Celestial Family, you absolutely couldn't sit in the best room.

This made them full of dread.

"Which prominent family is the friend from?" Liu Kangping said, "How about giving me face, quit now, I'll go as high as two hundred thousand and one thousand."

"Hehehe~ Liu Kangping, you're really bold, I bid two hundred and ten thousand." Lady Bilian also spoke, "I am determined to get this pill, you two should back down."

"Two hundred and Fifty thousand." Wang Shouzhe was too lazy to bid slowly with them, "It's fair competition, you can continue to bid."

As these words came out, Liu Kangping and Lady Bilian's faces changed drastically.

Which young prince from the Celestial Families was too extravagant? This price made them hesitant. The bone marrow cleansing pill was indeed precious, but it seldom reached such a price.

Nobody's money was just picked up by the wind, how many Heavenly Spirit Pills could this buy?

And what if this guy is just a decoy? Once a higher price is called, and the opposition instantly withdraws, wouldn't that be a fool's errand?

There was still some money left, but to continue bidding would hurt their vital energy.

Liu Kangping coldly hummed and angrily left the Hundred Treasures Pavilion. Although he was a member of the Celestial Family, he didn't dare to cause a scene in the Hundred Treasures Pavilion.

But Lady Bilian laughed and said: "This young gentleman is indeed generous, which prominent family's prince is he? I don't know if I can have the honour of chatting with him."

Knowing Lady Bilian's reputation, Wang Shouzhe naturally didn't want to interact with her. What if that got back to his wife, and he ended up getting killed?

Wang Shouzhe immediately sneered and said: "I am not destined for you."

"Hmph." Lady Bilian coldly snorted. "Doesn't appreciate kindness." Then she left angrily.

Naturally, the bone marrow cleansing pill fell into Wang Shouzhe's hands! After getting the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, he couldn't help but sigh. After eight years in this world, he finally had a chance to put some pressure on the Celestial Families, pushing them down.

And he has to admit, it felt pretty good.

After obtaining the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, Wang Shouzhe didn't delay and immediately went to get the next thing.

...

Three months later.

At the end of August in the Frontier, the weather was gradually turning cooler.

A Spirit Tortoise, larger than a small car and weighing several tons, was briskly running on a dirt road. Even though it was carrying tons of weight on its back, it was still full of vigor.

No choice, its master was too bold.

The rewards for its mission were extremely generous this time, spirit meat and spirit fish, they were supplied without limit.

Following the Spirit Tortoise, the Old Ancestor Xuan Fu's eyes were filled with gloom.

Six months!

Wang Shouzhe had actually been preparing for six months.

Was he going to the Frontier or the Demonic Realm?

And what has he prepared? A litter made from vine, securely tied on the Spirit Tortoise's body, forming a mobile house. The inside was covered with soft goose down cushions, and there was even a small table set up.

The table was filled with snacks.

Her highly anticipated great-great-granddaughter was lazily lying on the goose down cushion, occasionally eating a piece of fruit, looking completely content.

"Madam, it's tough on you this time going to the Frontier." Wang Shouzhe apologized, "There wasn't much time, and I didn't prepare enough. The conditions are quite humble, and you are indeed wronged."

"No problem, no problem, even if it's hard, it's worth it to help my husband with a dungeon run." Liu Ruolan pinched a snack and put it in Wang Shouzhe's mouth, "My husband had been preparing for this trip recently, that's really laborious." Dungeon runs were something she learned from Wang Shouzhe.

The two of them were throwing around their sweetness, showing off their love.

It made Old Ancestor Xuan Fu's anger rise up, puff puff puff. In her day, she was lucky enough to get an Innate Dao fetus spirit seed, which was intended to cultivate a peerless prodigy.

But now this precious prodigy was tamed by that hateful young Wang Shouzhe into a delicate little princess.

The worst part was, they were enthusiastically throwing around their sweetness all the way.

Dang it, how could a 120-year-old single woman like her bear this?

Chapter 7: Great Opportunity! The Legacy of the Wang Family's Old Ancestor_1

...

This time, the expedition to the outer region included quite a significant number of people.

From the younger generation,

there was Chen Fangjie, Liu Yuanhui, Gongsun Yan, Lu Xiaoxiao, Wang Luoyi, and Liu Ruolei.

There were also Wang Shouyong, Wang Shoulian, Wang Luotong, Wang Shounuo.

Let alone the Wang family's little Sky Prides: Wang Luoqiu, Wang Licui, and Wang Luo Jing.

Basically, an entire household seemed to have made the journey.

Many clan elders also came along, including the venerable Ruhong, Mingsheng, Mang, Longyan, Xuanfu - a total of five Realm Cultivators from the Spiritual Platform.

Such a extravagantly assembled team made Venerable Xuanfu's eyelids twitch. She intentionally dropped to the back and said to Venerable Longyan, "Cousin, what's going on? We had clearly agreed that this relic site was to be shared between our two families, so why are there so many people here?"

Venerable Longyan casually responded, "Indeed, that's what I said."

"But all the big and small matters within the family are now presided over by Shouzhe. Why don't you ask him?"

Venerable Xuanfu grimaced, "Cousin, you can't just cross the river and tear down the bridge like this. For this relic, I even married Ruolan off to your family."

The Gongsun Clan, Chen Clan of Donggang, and Lu Clan of Yingxiu. They didn't have to pay any price to join this feast.

Venerable Longyan had no choice but to call down Wang Shouzhe to clarify things with Venerable Xuanfu.

"Venerable Xuanfu, we are all family. Shouldn't we all share the good things? Why bother brooding over it?" Wang Shouzhe calmly stated.

What does he mean by 'why bother brooding'?

Venerable Xuanfu felt utterly short-changed, muttering in discontent, "Why didn't you share the good things years ago? You had to wait until Ruolan was married off before you started sharing."

"Perhaps it's because Ruolan and I were meant to be in a previous life," said Wang Shouzhe.

Sheesh- meant to be in a previous life my foot!

The corner of Venerable Xuanfu's mouth twitched uncontrollably. He truly wanted to smack the young man who now had two children with Ruolan.

Unfortunately, there's no use regretting it now. Besides, she had heard that the Liu family and Wang family had collaborated, and made quite a bit of money.

Even her own brother and nephew, both venerable ancestors, did nothing but praise Wang Shouzhe.

Well, it's useless to dwell on it anymore. It only serves to distress.

In resignation, Venerable Xuanfu waved her hand dismissively at Wang Shouzhe, indicating for him to stay away — seeing him just made her want to punch something.

With that, Wang Shouzhe returned to the coach, continuing to lovey-dovey with his wife disregarding others.

It wasn't until Wang Luoyi, who was likewise in the coach, could bear it no more and kicked Wang Shouzhe out.

Only then did the group continue their journey in peace.

Wang Shouzhe had already studied the map of the thousand miles intensely, cross-referencing it with the maps established by the Wang family in the outer region over the past eight years. He had found the safest and most straightforward route to take.

The group traveled light and fast.

They covered vastly more ground each day than a hunting party would and only had to stop four nights for the journey of more than a thousand miles.

However, the coach could only carry two people – Wang Luoyi and Liu Ruolan. Despite Wang Licui's longing to ride, she had to traverse the journey on foot.

Even for a delicate cousin like Lu Xiaoxiao, Wang Shouzhe was rather strict.

Luckily, Wang Shouzhe accompanied everyone on foot, preventing the sisters from rebelling.

Typically, the Xuanwu elite families would not venture so far out for hunting. Thus, for the first two nights, they had campsites, but eventually, they had to break their own ground in uncharted wilderness.

Due to the well-planned route and a touch of luck,

they didn't encounter any danger along the way, not even a fifth-level Fierce Beast, let alone a fourth-level one.

At most, they ran into a third-level pig-type Fierce Beast.

Poor third-level Fierce Beast.

A host of venerable ancestors swarmed it, no doubt they achieved victory, and accumulated plenty of Spirit Meat for everyone.

All of those present were Xuanwu elites, and the ancestors were all big eaters. If they were to eat freely, this third-level Fierce Beast would supply enough food for seven or eight days.

But the calmer things are, the better. Wang Shouzhe had merely prepared for the worst. Not encountering a fifth-level Fierce Beast is normal. Meeting one would be strange. But, if one is unprepared and something unforeseen occurs, Wang Shouzhe would not be able to bear the consequences.

They managed to arrive at their destination without much fuss. This place was ordinary and very well concealed.

If not for Venerable Longyan, who had visited this place nearly a hundred years ago,

nobody would find it. Because one has to traverse through a narrow canyon fissure, zigzagging in and out, twisting and turning before finally arriving at the inconspicuous canyon.

Back in the day, Venerable Zhou Xuan had accidentally stumbled upon this place while being chased by a third-level Fierce Beast.

Such is destiny.

If this place were easy to find, how would it be Venerable Zhou Xuan's lot?

Unfortunately, Venerable Zhou Xuan did not manage to ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm, despite having this opportunity.

All the hard work put into planning only benefited future generations.

This is the principle of one generation planting trees for the next generation to enjoy the shade.

Moreover, this relic site did not appear directly in the canyon but was buried in the cliffs alongside the canyon. You needed to crawl through a hidden natural crevice to get inside.

As they say, times change, and so does the landscape.

Over a hundred thousand years, everything has changed.

Most of this relic site had collapsed. Many of the buildings had merged with the mountains, leaving only a space akin to a gladiatorial arena in the center.

"Welcome to the thirty-seventh Divine Martial Army recruitment point."

Chapter 7: Great Opportunity! The Legacy of the Wang Family's Old Ancestor_2

As everyone entered the ruins, a voice that sounded sweet yet mechanical rang out from nowhere.

A recruitment point for the Divine Martial Army?

Wang Shouzhe was slightly taken aback. This was not quite what the Old Ancestor had described.

All eyes focused on Longyan, the Old Ancestor. She was the only one who had been here before, so naturally, they were all waiting for her to act.

"Hello, Artifact Spirit, my name is Wang Longyan." Old Ancestor Longyan took out a black token.

"Hello, Elite Militia Wang Longyan. There are no Merit Points detected in your Militia Token. Please continue to strive and contribute to the Divine Martial Dynasty."

Elite Militia Wang Longyan.

All eyes once again focused on Old Ancestor Longyan. Our prestigious Old Ancestor Longyan was mistaken by the Artifact Spirit for an elite militia.

Old Ancestor Longyan felt somewhat embarrassed.

"Is this not the same as the selection of disciples for the Divine Martial Army as you said, Cousin Longyan?" Old Ancestor Xuanfu asked, slightly puzzled.

Old Ancestor Longyan gave her a slightly dissatisfied glance: "Isn't it the same? The legendary Divine Martial Army is the core force of the Divine Martial Dynasty, they aren't into the whole disciple stuff. In any case, if you pass the test, the reward will not be less."

Her tone sounded slightly annoyed. Obviously, she hadn't anticipated that the Artifact Spirit would reveal her identity as an Elite Militia.

Wang Shuzhe was chuckling quietly to himself,

But at the same time, he was also terrified. The Divine Martial Dynasty, which collapsed a hundred thousand years ago, seemed terrifying indeed.

Old Ancestor Longyan, a core disciple of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, was considered only an Elite Militia?

How dreadful was the Divine Martial Dynasty when it was in its prime?

"Alright, let's not get hung up on these details." Wang Shouze tried to defuse the situation, "Old Ancestor, is there anything else we should be aware of during this trial?"

"Nothing in particular to note. Simply tell the Artifact Spirit that you want to participate in the test, and it will start. If you feel that you can't win, feel free to surrender." Old Ancestor Longyan replied.

Wang Shouzhe mulled over this, looked around the crowd, and fixed on the first target: "Fine, brother-in-law, you are the oldest, you go first."

Chen Fangjie was startled: "I understand now, Shouze, your kindness in inviting me to participate in the trial is to have me probe the way forward first, isn't it?"

"Brother-in-law, you're nearly thirty, and you've just barely entered the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Nine. I suspect you might not be able to win this round, so why not take this chance to test the waters? This way, I can plan our combat strategy accordingly." Wang Shouzhe said mercifully, "If you're not willing, do you want me to have my sister go first?"

Before Chen Fangjie had a chance to reply,

Old Ancestor Ruhong hit him on the head: "You ingrate! You should feel honored that Shouzhe invited you. If you are not successful, there will always be another opportunity. Besides, isn't the reason why you've been able to quickly reach this state is because Shouzhe helped earn money?"

Are you kidding? How awesome is Shouzhe?

He's the God of Wealth of the Chen Clan of Donggang, their income has increased a lot under his influence.

Whether Old Ancestor Ruhong could earn enough resources to advance to the Heavenly Human Realm in his lifetime, depended on how much Shouzhe could help.

Chen Fangjie had a bitter look on his face.

When did being nearly thirty and at the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Nine become so worthless that I deserve to be scolded?!!

I remember Old Ancestor Ruhong used to say, "Fang Jie, oh, you've got a great potential, worthy of being a descendant of our Chen Clan."

Now, I've turned into a good-for-nothing whelp.

It's not that I, Chen Fangjie, am not working hard, it's just that times change too fast.

Alright, compared to Shouzhe, as well as those demonically talented kids.

He really could only... take the lead and scout the path.

Before long, Chen Fangjie called out: "Artifact Spirit, my name is Chen Fangjie, and I want to participate in the trial."

"Commoner, your name doesn't mean anything. Speak your name again after you pass the first test." The Artifact Spirit said.

Chen Fangjie felt a chill, he was, after all, the Young Clan Leader of the Chen Clan of Donggang, a Level Nine Vital Energy Refining Realm practitioner, and yet he had just been reduced to a commoner. However, before he could complain,

In the center of the trial field, space fluctuated.

Chen Fangjie's opponent appeared, a monstrous demon almost two meters tall. It had an intimidating figure, seemed to be wearing scale armor, and had a spiked tail.

Its eyes were cold and piercing. A single glance at Chen Fangjie made him shiver and a sense of fear welled up within him.

He had only heard of demons in ancient texts.

"Don't be scared, Fangjie! This is just a puppet demon." Old Ancestor Longyan encouraged, "In terms of fighting ability, it's not too dissimilar to an ordinary Peak Level Nine Spiritual Platform Seed from any clan. Not particularly difficult to deal with."

Chen Fangjie almost fainted. Old Ancestor Longyan, you have a strange notion of 'not particularly difficult to deal with.'

Without waiting for him to react, the demon puppet seemed to have perceived that Chen Fangjie was a trialist. It moved at a quick pace towards him, leaving a shadow trail in its wake.

It swung its claw, causing a gust of wind. The air echoed with a piercing sound.

Chen Fangjie hurriedly backed away, a silver long spear in hand, exchanging blows with the demon puppet. Unfortunately, there was a significant power gap between the two. Chen Fangjie held up for only about twenty moves before being sent flying by a swipe of the demon puppet's claw, hastily yelling his surrender.

As soon as he shouted, the demon puppet immediately ceased its attacks.

Chen Fangjie was soaked in sweat, his hands trembling, he moaned, "This is your version of not particularly difficult to deal with?"

Wang Luoyi rushed over to help Chen Fangjie up, a worried look in her eyes. Their marital relationship was rather good, mainly because Chen Fangjie was exceptionally obedient to his wife.

Chapter 7: Great Opportunity! The Legacy of the Wang Family's Old Ancestor_3

With his brother-in-law's loss, Wang Shouzhe's expression became serious.

The fighting power of this demon puppet was even more formidable than he had imagined.

Indeed, just as Master Longyan had said, it was approximately as strong as some of the peak Vital Energy Refining Realm seed cultivators.

Even the ancestors were looking at each other in dismay. This trial was more challenging than they had expected.

Only Wang Luoqiu's eyes sparkled as if she had met her favorite opponent, making her blood boil with excitement.

"Fang Jie," Old Master Ruhong said, "Even if you've reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm, you must still perfect your Profound Martial Fighting Technique before you can have a chance to win."

"Yes, Old Ancestor," Chen Fangjie said with a pained smile, deciding to improve his Profound Martial Fighting Technique once he returned home.

Next up was Wang Shounuo. At 28 years old, he had worked hard for the family over the years and reaped numerous rewards. His diligent cultivation had got him to Level Eight in the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

Still, he went up just to try the waters, unable even to withstand the puppet's fourth strike.

Then came Wang Lutong, Wang Shoulian, Wang Shou Yong, Gongsun Yan, and Lu Xiaoxiao, who all went up to get a feel for the fight.

Only Lu Xiaoxiao seemed somewhat promising, using a tiny Five Elements Array Plate to hold off the demon puppet for 20-30 moves. After all, Xiaoxiao was just 19 years old and had awakened the

Lihuo Bloodline once, only recently reaching Level Seven in the Vital Energy refining realm. Considering these, her performance was quite decent.

Although his elder sister Wang Luoyi had also enjoyed many resources from the Chen Clan and reached Level Seven in the Vital Energy Refining Realm, she was just a cultivator with no real power. Wang Shouzhe simply didn't let her compete, suggesting they buy a Heavenly Spirit Pill instead, given how well off the Chen Clan was at the moment.

After her came Liu Ruolei. Having awakened the Yuan Water Bloodline once, she possessed similar potential to the famed Old Ancestor Xuan Fu. By now, she was 22 years old and no longer the girl she once was.

After four years learning in the Purple Abode Academic Palace, she trained to the Middle Segment of Level Eight in the Vital Energy Refining Realm. Clearly, she had been groomed with care by Old Master Xuan Fu.

Upon entering the ring, her bout with the demon puppet was quite evenly matched, to everyone's surprise.

Unfortunately, an hour later, she was caught off guard by a surprise attack from the puppet and was defeated, much to Master Xuan Fu's disappointment. She was sternly admonished for her lack of real fight experience, despite being capable of winning.

Liu Ruolei felt wronged, yet Liu Ruolan comforted her in a soft voice, "It's all right. It's normal for a girl to lose. You can always try again next time."

Upon hearing this, Old Ancestor Xuan Fu's eyelid twitched again. What exactly had this boy fed her to raise her like this? Was there any hope for her?

Wang Shouzhe was speechless. Why was he being blamed while keeping silent?

"Humph." Luo Qiu stepped forward, "This is quite interesting. You're worthy of being a stepping stone on my path to becoming an emperor."

The nineteen-year-old was brimming with vitality, her initial aspiration of becoming an emperor undiminished.

As soon as Luo Qiu appeared, Wang Shouzhe immediately became serious.

It was normal for the others to lose, but he had high expectations for Luo Qiu. Her combat power was now at a level where even Wang Shouzhe couldn't measure it.

"Luo Qiu, add oil!" Even Liu Ruolan was smiling as she cheered for her.

"Don't worry, Fourth sister-in-law. It's just a cannon fodder role." Wang Luo Qiu, dressed in a goose-yellow female Profound Martial uniform, slowly stepped on the trial field, "I, Wang Lu Qiu, request to begin the second round immediately."

Chapter 8 Little Sky Pride! Yaowu Shows Off_1

...

Wang Shouzhe felt a cold bead of sweat, 'Luo Qiu, must you be this reckless? You actually want to start directly from the second level!!'

If you skip a level like this, what if you miss a batch of rewards?

Just as he was prepared to intervene...

The Artifact Spirit spoke, "Civilian, your request has been denied. Please proceed with the trial as per the enlistment point requirements."

Luckily, this Artifact Spirit is fairly rational, strictly abiding by the rules.

A hint of boredom flashed in Wang Luoqiu's eyes, she rolled her neck to loosen it, 'Since it has come to this, let's get it started quickly.'

In the center of the trial field, after a ripple of space fluctuation...

The Demon Puppet appeared again. Its aura was still as terrifying, and its appearance was still as sinister.

Not waiting for it to make any moves.

Wang Luoqiu was the first to step forward, charging at the Demon Puppet.

Her movements were fierce and straightforward, with no unnecessary flair, like a bipedal raptor in hunting mode.

With a "boom" punch.

The Demon Puppet, caught off guard, desperately tried to block, but was forced back three to four meters by the punch, almost stumbled and lost its balance.

'Luo Qiu is so amazing.'

The younger generation of all clans who were watching were all shocked.

The Demon Puppet, which terrified them and seemed impossible to conquer, now appeared "weaker" in Wang Luoqiu's hands.

Throughout the whole process, it could only defend itself, being constantly pushed back, or evading in a shabby manner.

This scene was reminiscent of just now when the Demon Puppet confronted them.

Only now it's Luo Qiu who's dominating the Demon Puppet.

Her offensive was like relentless tides, one wave was stronger than the previous wave.

Only twenty moves, just twenty moves.

The formidable and seemingly invincible Demon Puppet was blasted several feet back by Wang Luoqiu's elbow strike to its chest. It staggered to the ground with a broken chest, struggling to get up again.

'Like an ant.' Wang Luoqiu sneered, seeming like she hadn't had enough.

"Good!" "Great job, Luo Qiu!"

All the young ones started shouting excitedly.

Even the Old Ancestors' eyes betrayed their surprise. 'Could kid Luo Qiu be even more fearsome? When we were her age, we didn't have such skills.'

Even Old Ancestor Longyan couldn't help but nod, "This child, she's even more formidable than I was at her age."

Old Ancestor Ruhong also commented, "Congratulations, Old Ancestor Longyan, the path of this child has appeared to be a Celestial being."

In their eyes, an indescribable envy could be seen. 'If only the Chen Clan of Donggang could also have such a child.'

Then they looked at Chen Fangjie, alas...

Seeing Luo Qiu performing so well, Old Ancestor Xuanfu couldn't help pulling Liu Ruolei aside once again and began lecturing her relentlessly. 'Your elder sister, that unparalleled Sky Pride, has been spoiled by that brat Wang Shouzhe.'

'The future of the Liu Family is all on you now, you must live up to it.' Then, she glared at Wang Shouzhe fiercely from a distance.

Meanwhile, on the trial platform.

"Congratulations on passing the trial. What is your name?"

"Wang Luoqiu."

"Great, Wang Luoqiu. For passing the first level, you can be awarded a consolation prize, provided you're willing to accept the identity of a militia of the Divine Martial Dynasty."

"I'll accept it." Although Wang Luoqiu was displaying some arrogance, she was not foolish, the reward was a Heavenly Spirit Pill.

"Militia Wang Luoqiu, on behalf of the Divine Martial Dynasty, on behalf of the Divine Martial Army, I grant you the identity of a militia and reward you with a Basic Breakthrough Pill."

As soon as the Artifact Spirit finished speaking.

After another minor spatial fluctuation, two objects appeared in front of Wang Luoqiu- a beautiful jade bottle, and a black token.

Wang Luoqiu reached out to take the reward, then opened the bottle to show Wang Shouzhe: "Fourth brother, look, is this the Heavenly Spirit Pill? Why did the Artifact Spirit call it the [Basic Breakthrough Pill]?"

Wang Shouzhe took a close look at it and said excitedly: "Indeed it is the Heavenly Spirit Pill!" He guessed that during the era of the Divine Martial Dynasty, such an item was not rare.

Although he had never doubted Old Ancestor Longyan's experience, it was only when he actually got it that Wang Shouzhe breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed that this relic had not rotted away after these hundred years.

The Wang family was now very wealthy, but getting a Heavenly Spirit Pill worth tens of thousands for free was, naturally, a joy.

The other Old Ancestors and young generations were also thrilled. The Demon Puppet may be tough, but it was not unbeatable, and the reward was incredibly generous.

For some of the Rank 9 Prominent Families at the bottom, gathering a single Heavenly Spirit Pill required decades of accumulation.

Their eyes were suddenly burning with passion.

At this moment, the Artifact Spirit spoke, "Militia Wang Luoqiu, do you want to continue to the second level?"

Just as Wang Luoqiu was about to reply, she was pulled back by Wang Shouzhe, "Luoqiu, you must be tired after fighting, take a rest first."

Wang Luoqiu was bewildered, "Fourth brother, I'm not tired, it was just a warm-up."

Wang Shouzhe's eyes widened: "If I say you're tired, then you're tired."

Wang Luoqiu rolled her eyes helplessly, okay, I can't win against you, I'll let you have the final say on whether I'm tired or not.

Then Wang Shouzhe probed the Artifact Spirit again, "Can she rest before the second level starts?"

"You may take a brief rest and recover, but not more than a day." The Artifact Spirit gave a direct answer, "Otherwise, you will need to wait another year to restart."

"Then, can other people take the trial while she is resting?"

"No, unless she voluntarily quits the trial, or fails to challenge the next level in more than a day."

"Alright, our Luo Qiu will rest first." Wang Shouzhe dragged Wang Luoqiu aside, "You rest well and replenish all of the Mysterious Energy you used up, not a single bit less before you start the second level. Otherwise, I'll deduct your Contribution Points."

Chapter 8 Little Sky Pride! Yaowu Shows Off_2

It might seem like she breezed past the first obstacle effortlessly, but fighting one-on-one is an entirely different story from taking on two opponents at once.

Wang Luoqiu reluctantly adheres to Wang Shouzhe's orders.

Sitting cross-legged, she slowly recovers her Mysterious Energy. Within half an hour, she stands up and says to the Artifact Spirit, "I want to start the second level."

"As you wish, militia Wang Luoqiu."

As soon as she finishes speaking, two demon puppets appear amidst the fluctuations of space.

A volley of sounds follows as they collide with each other.

As expected, the two demon puppets work very well together, proving to be quite a challenge for Wang Luoqiu. She is forced to abandon her head-on assault strategy.

Instead, she starts running around and engaging in a war of attrition.

Despite her somewhat peculiar demeanor, Wang Luoqiu proves to be quite sharp when it comes to fighting. She never restrains herself at all.

However, even with this strategy, the fight grows increasingly difficult. The difference between fighting one-on-one and battling two opponents at once is enormous.

Moreover, the demon puppets have incredibly sharp claws. Even the slightest scratch can cause a severe injury. Gradually, Wang Luoqiu starts to falter, finding herself increasingly at a disadvantage.

Everyone finally understands.

Why, despite Old Ancestor Longyan's immense talent, he had to risk everything to pass the second level.

After all, Old Ancestor Longyan had already reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm back then!

As for Wang Luoqiu, she is currently only in the middle segment of Level Eight of the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

Her performance has already been admirable. She should be able to defeat the two demon puppets relatively easily once she reaches the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

But at this moment.

Wang Luoqiu roars, "I, Wang Luoqiu. How can I be defeated by mere foot soldiers?"

A shade of red appears in her eyes and her demeanor changes instantly.

No longer does she run away.

She activates her War Body and resumes her head-on assault strategy.

Every move she makes is executed with explosive power, trading blows with the demon puppets.

"Luoqiu, there will be other chances, don't do this."

Her peers become anxious and start shouting.

"I, Wang Luoqiu, shall dominate the world." With her roar, she disregards the deadly claw piercing her abdomen, and manages to smash the head of one of the demon puppets. The leftover puppet withstands only five of her attacks before falling apart.

"Snap!"

Wang Luoqiu crushes the head of the demon puppet with her foot, her eyes displaying her unshakeable determination to conquer all opposition.

"Militia Wang Luoqiu, congratulations on passing the second level. Your reward is 'Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid' and an Elite Militia Token. Would you like to start the third level?"

Wang Luoqiu extends her hand to accept the reward, her eyes blazing with the desire to fight on.

"Artifact spirit, prepare..."

Before she finishes speaking, Wang Shouzhe darts over saying: "Artifact spirit, she is injured and needs to rest."

"Wang Shouzhe, let go of me."

"Wang Luoqiu, shut up." Wang Shouzhe snaps back, forcefully pulling her out of the ring.

Seeing that her elder brother is genuinely angry, Wang Luoqiu doesn't dare to argue and backs down.

She's well aware of his temper. Normally, he's fun and lighthearted.

But when he gets serious, Wang Luoqiu finds herself genuinely frightened.

She has already sustained significant injuries, with more than a dozen wounds and a particularly severe cut on her abdomen affecting her internal organs. If she forces herself farther, she risks her life.

Wang Shouzhe brings her to a secluded area and starts treating her with Mysterious Energy.

In a short while, he manages to stabilize her condition.

The non-fatal wounds also gradually heal. However, the severe abdominal injury will need several days to fully recover.

Thanks to Wang Shouzhe's strong healing ability, this injury that would typically require a month's rest even with healing medicine ends up needing significantly less time.

"Wang Luoqiu, this is the end of your trial. Once you have healed, you need to use the Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid." Wang Shouzhe explains. Despite the low rank of the fluid, it's still a quality item.

Simultaneously, Wang Shouzhe takes a closer look at the 'Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid.' It's in a liquid form with a pleasant fragrance, very different from the smell of Stone Marrow.

He sighs in relief, understanding that this item should not have any relationship with Stone Marrow and hence there is no issue of tolerance.

Wang Licui, Wang Luoqiu, and Wang Luo Jing have all consumed large amounts of Stone Marrow. If this fluid was processed from Stone Marrow, its effectiveness would be substantially reduced, or even negated.

Wang Shouzhe experienced the same issue when he consumed the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, whose main ingredient is Stone Marrow.

This was one of his primary concerns before. After all, he had spent a massive 250,000 to buy a Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill.

After consuming it, his talent indeed improved greatly.

However, it only reached the mid-Rank 'A' level. In other words, it was about the same as Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing, without any awakening of a secondary bloodline.

If he were to get another Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill as a reward, it would be extremely difficult for him to advance to a top-grade bloodline talent and awaken a second bloodline.

As Wang Shouzhe considers this.

"Big brother, you use this Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid first," Wang Luoqiu says casually.

Wang Shouzhe is taken aback and quickly shakes his head. "No way, this is the reward you fought so hard for. I can't take your treasure." This is something the family strictly prohibits, taking someone else's resources leads to discontent.

"Big brother, are you stupid?" Wang Luoqiu rolls her eyes and says, "If your bloodline talent becomes stronger, you can easily conquer the second level. When you get the reward, you can then give it back to me, right?"

Chapter 8 Little Sky Pride! Yaowu Shows Off_3

"Uh, you're right." Wang Shouzhe didn't consider it at first, but having been reminded, he realized it was a smart strategy. Without any pretense, he accepted the Talent Improvement Liquid.

Rolling his eyes, he kicked Wang Luoqiu and said, "This has nothing to do with you anymore. Go rest over there, and don't fight so recklessly next time."

Wang Luoqiu glared at him but remembering he couldn't beat his older brother, he dusted his butt off and obediently ran over to rest.

With Wang Luoqiu's retreat,

The next person to take the challenge was Liu Yuanhui.

Liu Yuanhui was the Liu Family's carefully groomed Spiritual Platform Seed of the direct line. He was only thirty years old but already at the Peak Level Nine of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. His Profound Martial Fighting Technique was similarly polished to perfection.

After observing the demon puppet for so long, he had a full understanding of its strength and wore a very solemn expression.

He stepped forward to take the challenge.

The battle with the demon puppet was too close to call, nearly equal in strength. Fortunately, he was very determined, and practiced the Liu Family's middle-grade Cultivation Technique "Elemental Water Technique".

His stamina and recovery were both excellent.

After entangling with the demon puppet for an hour, he suffered numerous minor injuries. Finally, he was able to pierce through its chest with a sword, winning the battle with difficulty.

Half of his body was clawed and torn as he came down, a bitter look on his face.

In ordinary times, if he defeated a strong opponent of his level, he would certainly have been full of pride, taking it as something to gloat about. But with Wang Luoqiu's brilliant performance before him, his performance seemed quite ordinary.

As for the second round, he gave it up without even thinking.

It was a wise move. Otherwise, facing two opponents, he might not last more than a dozen rounds.

But it was still very lucky to get a Heavenly Spirit Pill, and even the Old Ancestor Xuanyu patted his shoulder encouragingly.

All his peers also congratulated him continuously. After all, Liu Yuanhui was the second one to pass the test and get the Heavenly Spirit Pill, which everyone was very envious of.

Afterwards, Wang Shouzhe pulled him aside and helped treat his wounds.

Liu Yuanhui gratefully bowed to him, saying, "Shouzhe, thank you. Your Yi Wood Bloodline is truly unique."

"There's no need for such formalities between us," Wang Shouzhe replied with a smile, "Luckily, these are just surface injuries. If I didn't do anything, you would recover in seven or eight days."

Meanwhile,

Another child from the family rose and walked to the middle of the Trial Platform.

It was Wang Luo Jing.

She was wearing a long, black and blue dress decorated with intricate patterns. Upon closer inspection, the patterns were all made of insects.

At the same time, she carried a peculiar large box on her back.

Her expression was calm, showing no trace of fear in her eyes.

Over the years, she spent half her time in Changning.

Because the residing Insect Master of Changning personally came to talk to her after hearing about Wang Luo Jing. He insisted on taking her as his disciple, promising to teach her everything he knew. It was such a good deal that Wang Shouzhe naturally didn't refuse.

Seeing Wang Luo Jing going up,

Wang Shouzhe said to Wang Luoqiu, "Luo Qiu, let me discuss something with you. How about giving the Talent Improvement Liquid to Luo Jing first? That way, Luo Jing can have an easier time in the second round." He had high hopes for Luo Jing, too.

Wang Luoqiu didn't care: "Since you have it, you can do whatever you want."

Instead, when Wang Luo Jing heard this suggestion, she quickly shook her head, saying, "No need, thank you for your kindness, fourth-brother. But, if Luo Qiu can do it, as her older sister, I can do it too." There was a touch of stubbornness in her calm eyes.

With those words, Wang Shouzhe didn't insist any further.

He knew about his younger sister Wang Luo Jing's character. Although she looked weak on the outside, she was filled with stubbornness on the inside.

Furthermore, she and Wang Luo Qiu had been competing against each other since they were little, so she naturally didn't want to lose to her.

"Luo Jing! Be careful," Wang Shouzhe seriously warned, "If you can't persist, you can give up. After all, there's still a chance next time."

"Fourth-brother, don't underestimate me." Finishing her sentence, Wang Luo Jing gave Wang Shouzhe a sweet smile. Then she walked step by step to the middle of the Trial Platform, her expression gradually becoming serious and cold: "Artifact Spirit, I want to take the trial."

A cold and killing aura permeated the air, causing the younger generation who were watching to shiver involuntarily and have a few degrees of awe towards Wang Luo Jing.

Only Wang Luo Qiu, who was resting, curled her lips and murmured, "There are so many things to learn, yet she has to mimic Wang Shouzhe's pretending ways to the fullest."

Chapter 9 Fierce! Red Fire Toad_1

...

Unfortunately, Wang Luoqiu spoke out loud enough for Wang Shouzhe to hear.

Immediately, he glared at her irritably, retorting as if she didn't always copy him.

A younger sister and a sixth sister, both never frugal in their use of resources.

However, Luo Jing was in the middle of testing, so Wang Shouzhe focused his attention on her.

There appeared another new demonic puppet, with a cold and imposing aura, charging towards Wang Luo Jing.

Wang Luo Jing maintained her cold expression. She placed down the box on her back. Without engaging it, she lightly tapped her feet and flew sideways like a butterfly. Her skirt fluttering in the air, her form extremely graceful.

In her hand, a worm flute suddenly appeared. She placed the flute against her lips and started to play a very high-frequency tune, a noise harsh to the human ear.

From the box, she had placed on the ground, a swarm of Purple Crystal Spirit Bees buzzed out in unison.

Each bee was the size of a date, with purple crystal-like glow on their bodies, and sharp stingers clearly visible on their tails.

A swarm of two to three hundred Purple Crystal Bees moved like a dark cloud covering the sun, sweeping towards the demon puppet.

These were second level Purple Crystal Spirit Bees, which looked vastly different from Tiger Head Spirit Bees.

Moreover, within this swarm of Purple Crystal Spirit Bees, there was a particularly larger one, the size of a fist, a Purple Crystal Spirit Bee Queen. A swarm guided by a Bee Queen is incomparable in combat power.

A swarm like this has a total strength at the peak of tier two.

Even if a peak Qi Refining Realm practitioner came across it, they would definitely not dare to confront it and would most likely choose to avoid it.

While this demon puppet was named puppet, it was ultimately crafted from the flesh and blood of a demon, its body construction no different from wild demons.

The swarm tangled with it, their deadly stingers constantly jabbing into it.

The demon puppet's fighting style was not adept at eliminating swarms. It could only rely on the force of its swinging claws to barely kill some Purple Crystal Spirit Bees.

Although the demon puppet seemed to have a strong resistance to poison, it could not resist the countless bees stinging it, injecting poison bit by bit.

Its movements grew slower and slower. In a battle against an Insect Master, once its speed decreased, it was almost a guarantee of its demise.

Wang Luo Jing, gaining the advantage, calmly used her movement technique, firmly refusing to engage in close combat with the demon puppet.

Eventually, despite losing dozens of Purple Crystal Spirit Bees...

The demon puppet failed to even touch her clothing before it collapsed to the ground, unable to rise again.

This easy victory had everyone looking at each other. As expected of an Insect Master, such combat power is truly terrifying.

Moreover, in battle, an Insect Master is almost safe, needing no close-quarters combat with the enemy.

They only needed to maintain distance and let the spirit insects kill the enemy.

Such a unique way of fighting was, of course, something everyone would envy. As they congratulated Wang Luo Jing on her victory, they could not help but discuss the matter.

Ruhong, the Old Ancestor, furrowed his brows and said, "Insect Masters are rare dual-professionals, specialized in both life and combat. Our entire Changning Guard has only a few."

"Don't get any strange thoughts. Besides, the combat power of an Insect Master accumulates over time, naturally different from other Profound Martial Practitioners."

The Old Ancestor Ruhong's words were very reasonable.

For Wang Luo Jing to cultivate a swarm of top-tier Purple Crystal Spirit Bees was clearly not an easy task. The death of dozens of them was enough to make her distressed for a while.

However, the final reward was very generous.

The Artifact Spirit said, "Congratulations on passing the trial, what is your name?"

"Wang Luo Jing."

"Very well, Wang Luo Jing. You've passed the first round and can receive a consolation prize, on the condition of accepting the identity of the Divine Martial Dynasty Militia."

Naturally, Wang Luo Jing would not refuse.

Soon, she received a Heavenly Spirit Pill and a Militia Token.

Then, she rested diligently, recovering her Mysterious Energy. Only after her energy and spirits have recovered did she start the second battle.

However, under the combined attack of two demon puppets in the second round, the situation changed.

They could execute pincer attack strategies and surround her.

Immediately, Wang Luo Jing was forced into a series of dangerous situations, repeatedly coming close to danger and unable to calm down to command the Spirit Bees.

"This is problematic," Wang Shouzhe's face became serious. Even when using the same strategy, facing different numbers of enemies made a lot of difference.

Slash!

One of the demons swung its claw, tearing open Wang Luo Jing's dress and cutting a bloody wound on her waist.

"Luo Jing, stop." Wang Shouzhe shouted, "Wait until you reach the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm, then you'll definitely be able to defeat them."

He had confidence in his sister, but even with that confidence, it wouldn't bring a dead person back to life.

Battles that couldn't be won and prolonged engagements could lead to instant death.

To his surprise, after Wang Luo Jing was injured, a cold anger flashed in her eyes: "Damn demon puppet, making my Fourth Brother worry about me, you all deserve to die!"

A strange aura began to emanate from her body, her eyes covered with a mysterious color.

Not good, Wang Shouzhe's heart leapt. Just as he was about to prevent her...

A croak sound was heard.

It was the sound of a toad, deep and ear-shaking like a wild bull roaring in the wilderness.

Wang Luo Jing's slender palm now held a small red toad. Although it was small, it emitted a hot and terrifying oppressive aura.

"What is this..." The Old Ancestor's face changed slightly, "Is that a Red Fire Toad? Where did this young girl get it?"

Red Fire Toad?

Wang Shouzhe was confused. Obviously, he hadn't heard of this name, but soon Wang Luo Jing showed him just how formidable the Red Fire Toad was.

Chapter 9 Fierce! Red Fire Toad_2

Wang Luo Jing opened her mouth and spat out a mouthful of essence blood. The blood stained the Red Fire Toad red. It immediately let out another "croak", and its calls became even more fevered.

In the blink of an eye, the Red Fire Toad swelled up in the wind, transforming into a gigantic toad the size of a calf. It was radiating heat with fiery eyes exuding a look of frenzy and excitement.

"Luo Jing." Wang Shouzhe's face slightly shifted, but before he could make a move, he was stopped by the Old Ancestor Xuan Fu. "Be careful not to get too close. That girl is using the Blood Essence Technique to link with the Red Fire Toad's spirit. She hates being disturbed the most. Moreover, she is currently emotionally unstable and very dangerous."

"Damn demon, die." Wang Luo Jing angrily scolded. A terrifying aura emerged from her eyes, and her hair seemed to float in the air one strand at a time.

"Croak!"

The Red Fire Toad roared and spewed out a stream of flame. The flame was unlike ordinary fire and had a strange, bewitching red color. In the midst of the eerie fire, a fire dragon formed.

The gorgeous flame fell onto the demon puppet and instantly kindled it.

Sizzling!

The demon puppet rolled around but to no avail; the flame would not extinguish. It was a mere seven or eight breaths before it was burnt to a pile of black ashes.

At such terrifying flames, Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but gasp in surprise.

"This is the Poisonous Red Flame." Old Ancestor Xuan Fu said apprehensively, "Once you touch even a hair of it, it is extremely difficult to put out. Plus, it strikes at the heart with poisonous fire. It is one of the famous demonic fires. Cousin Longyan, where did this girl get such a horrific evil creature as the Red Fire Toad! Even refining it into her Life Gu! Is she trying to throw her life away?"

Old Ancestor Longyan's eyes were also filled with grave concern, "I fear this is the doing of Luo Jing's master. Seven or eight years ago, Zhou Chang Feng visited. He said he wanted to take Luo Jing as a disciple and would teach her all he knew. So, Shouzhe and I agreed."

"Zhou Chang Feng? The Insect Master from the independent cultivators, honored by the Changning Government Office year-round?" Old Ancestor Xuan Fu was furious, "How bold of him to cultivate the Way of the Witch Gu. We'll settle the scores with him later."

Old Ancestor Longyan slightly frowned and refrained from saying more. Instead, she kept a vigilant eye on the battlefield, instructing, "Shouzhe, once the fight is over, you must take care of Luo Jing immediately."

"Yes, Old Ancestor."

Wang Shouzhe replied, even though Old Ancestor Longyan didn't need to command him, he was already prepared to enter the battlefield to rescue Wang Luo Jing at any moment.

With the emergence of the Red Fire Toad, the battle had become one-sided. The other demon puppet was unable to resist the Poisonous Red Flame and also ended up burned to a pile of dry bones.

Meanwhile.

Wang Luo Jing's face was deathly pale. Her eyes closed, and she fell backward. The Red Fire Toad instantly shrank to the size of a palm and jumped into Wang Luo Jing's arms.

Wang Shouzhe quickly flew up and caught Luo Jing, pouring his green mysterious energy into her frantically. The strong nurturing energy eventually helped Wang Luo Jing regain some strength. She opened her weak eyes and said, "Fourth Brother, Luo Jing will not shame you."

"You foolish girl." Wang Shouzhe scolded angrily, "You don't take care of yourself at all. Haven't I told you? You can always come back."

"Fourth Brother, Luo Jing doesn't want to drag you down." She uttered these words and then closed her eyes, not daring to look at Wang Shouzhe anymore.

Wang Shouzhe wanted to berate her more, but seeing her small face so pallid, drained of all energy, he held back. He also knew that Luo Jing was stubborn, and simple preaching would do little to change her.

He carefully brought Luo Jing back and started treating her injuries meticulously.

In the meantime, he found a moment to ask Old Ancestor Xuan Fu, "Old Ancestor, is this Way of the Witch Gu a forbidden technique?"

"It cannot be considered a forbidden technique." Old Ancestor Xuan Fu said seriously, "But the Academy does not advocate cultivating such evil techniques. Anyone cultivating the Way of the Witch Gu must report to the academy. Zhou Chang Feng, an independent cultivator, I also don't know where he got this Witch Gu secret scripture from, nor how he got a Red Fire Toad.

We need to investigate this matter thoroughly."

"If it's not a forbidden technique, then that's good." Wang Shouzhe sighed in relief.

"Shouzhe, you must have words with this girl afterward." Old Ancestor Longyan's eyes also bore some irritation, "This Red Fire Toad has become extremely powerful, and is not something her meager spiritual senses can control. It's extremely dangerous for her to forcibly drive it with her essence blood."

Old Ancestor Longyan couldn't help but feel a little helpless; even though outwardly Luo Jing respected her as the Old Ancestor, in reality, she only listened to her fourth brother, Wang Shouzhe.

"Yes, Old Ancestor." Wang Shouzhe obediently replied, "If she dares to command the Red Fire Toad before improving her cultivation base in the future, I will spank her."

He knew Wang Luo Jing was pretending to be unconscious and could hear him. Saying likewise in such a manner would be more effective than telling her directly.

Sure enough, her petite body trembled, and her face turned red.

Fortunately, Wang Shouzhe was abundant in nurturing power. In a short time, Wang Luo Jing recovered quite a bit, but as for the next battle, she could forget about it.

Despite that, the Artifact Spirit bestowed a vial of Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid and an Elite Militia Token.

"Wang Luo Jing, you're so naive." Wang Luoqiu walked over and taunted, "You really think you can beat me with that Red Fire Toad?"

"Humph." Wang Luo Jing, who had slightly recovered, snorted, "If it weren't for our Fourth Brother's prohibition, I'd definitely show you what's what."

Seeing them about to argue again, Wang Shouzhe immediately intervened, "Both of you, shut up."

These little sisters of his were truly a handful, constantly giving him a headache.

Wang Luo Jing stopped quarreling with Wang Luoqiu and handed her vial of Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid to Wang Shouzhe, "Fourth Brother, you should use my vial."

Uh...

Only then did Wang Shouzhe understand why Luo Jing was striving so hard. Her little scheme was indeed to prevent him from using Luoqiu's vial.

This realization sent a chill down his spine. This mischievous girl was quite cunning.

With a raise of her eyebrows, Wang Luoqiu crossed her arms and scoffed, "Childish fool."

"Brash young girl." Wang Luo Jing returned calmly.

"Alright, alright, enough. Both of you take a break." At this point, Wang Licui stood up with an all-knowing look, "You two did pretty good by winning two rounds, without disgracing my, Miss Licui's instructions."

Then, Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing both rolled their eyes at her in unison. This eldest sister did indeed possess incredible talent, but her actual combat ability... whether she could pass the second round was a big question.

Undeterred, Wang Licui carried on, hands behind her back, and boldly stepped onto the Trial Platform.

With Wang Licui taking the stage, all eyes were drawn to her.

She stood there, assuming the posture of a world-renowned master, and then whistled.

Suddenly, a fat tiger ran up to her. Whether due to overeating or the heavy load on its back, the tiger seemed out of breath whenever it ran.

A twitch tugged at Wang Shouzhe's lips. The first time he saw this little tiger, it was lively and agile, moving like the wind and adept at catching spirit rats.

But as it grew older, it only grew fatter. At this rate, Wang Shouzhe was beginning to doubt its hunting abilities.

"Hua Hua, good job," Wang Licui patted the tiger's head, "In recognition of your effort carrying my equipment all the way here, I shall reduce your debt due by 500 Qian Gold."

Hua Hua appeared to be thrilled and rubbed its head against Wang Licui. It was completely unaware of how much Qian Gold it actually owed.

Wang Licui untied a large parcel from Hua Hua's back—her full set of equipment, including meticulously crafted full-body armor, a hammer, and a heavy shield.

Once fully geared, Wang Licui transformed into a heavily-armored warrior. She announced to the Artifact Spirit, "I, Wang Licui, initiate the trial."

Unexpectedly...

The Artifact Spirit responded, "Peasant, your name holds no significance. As you wish, the trial has commenced. Oh, and that irrelevant tiger is requested to leave the Trial Platform."

"What?" Wang Licui was astonished, "Why, though? Luo Jing's insects and that big toad were allowed. Why can't my battle pet be used?"

Before the Artifact Spirit could respond, a wave of spatial fluctuation ensued and a demonic puppet charged towards her.

Simultaneously, the big tiger, Hua Hua, was enveloped in an invisible force and thrown off the Trial Platform, leaving a puzzled expression on its face.

Poor Wang Licui, standing alone against the ruthless demonic puppet, seemed on the verge of tears.

When was the last time Miss Licui had a one-on-one showdown?

"Artifact Spirit! I...

Chapter 10: War Soldier! Top Grade Spiritual Artifact_1

...

Wang Licui felt devastated.

In the past few years, every time there was a fight, she would just put on her heavy armor and step into the arena for the sake of appearances. The real fighter was always the big tiger, Hua Hua.

Unexpectedly, the Artifact Spirit had teleported Hua Hua away.

How could she bear this?

But she didn't have time to think much because the frightening demon puppet was already attacking. Its sharp claws swung at her mercilessly, seemingly with a force of thousands of pounds, accompanied by a shrill roar that tore through the air.

Wang Licui was terrified at that moment.

She quickly lifted her heavy shield and madly channeled her Mysterious Energy into it to increase the shield's defensive power.

"Bang!" A loud noise erupted.

A strange thing happened.

Wang Licui's body didn't move at all, instead, it was the demon puppet which had two of its claws broken.

"Roar!"

The demon puppet seemed angry. After a roar, it fiercely charged toward Wang Licui.

Its over two-meter-tall height and more than three hundred pounds of weight violently hit the heavy shield.

"Boom!"

Unexpectedly.

Wang Licui's body only swayed slightly.

Instead, the demon puppet was pushed back several steps by the counter-shock.

"Huh? This guy is so weak."

The eyes under Wang Licui's helmet were full of confusion. Just now, when she saw Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu struggling in their fight, she had thought that the demon puppet was very powerful.

Did she make a mistake? Why not try again.

Then she fiercely rammed forward with her shield.

"Thud!" A loud noise rang out.

The demon puppet was actually knocked flying and landed on the ground.

"Hahaha." Wang Licui burst out laughing wildly, "So, I, Miss Licui, am already this powerful. You chicken demon, dare to compete with me, Miss Licui. Come on, get up, let's fight another three hundred rounds."

The demon puppet growled lowly, actually got up, and fought with Wang Licui.

Unfortunately, it was far less powerful than Wang Licui and was knocked flying in a few blows. Wang Licui seemed to be addicted to the fight. She discarded her hammer and shield and, wearing her heavy armor, began to grapple with the demon puppet barehanded.

Bang, bang, bang.

The poor demon puppet was ruthlessly slammed to the ground by her again and again, tragically like a ragdoll.

All who witnessed such a strange scene were dumbfounded.

How could this girl be so terrifyingly strong?

Even Wang Shouzhe felt a chill run down his spine. He had always known that Licui was strong. But he hadn't expected that she had grown to this extent. He couldn't help but feel some sympathy for the poor demon puppet.

After a while, Wang Licui seemed to have lost interest. So, she lifted the demon puppet high, head down, and smashed it hard.

"Thud!"

The head of the demon puppet, along with its neck and shoulders, hit the hard floor of the training ground. It was instantly crushed to a pulp, naturally, it was dead.

Then.

Wang Licui struck a pose like a world-class expert, hands behind her back, looking up at the sky at a 45-degree angle.

She shook her head and sighed, "Ah, being invincible in the world, is truly lonely."

Invincible! Invincible my ass.

Wang Shouzhe's mouth twitched slightly. If it wasn't for the fact his relatives were present, he really wanted to pull her ears and give her a good scolding.

For some reason, he always felt that his niece had a natural aura of needing a beating.

Soon after.

Naturally, the Artifact Spirit gave the corresponding reward and bestowed her the title of Militia.

"I'm so hungry after all that exercise." Wang Licui had no interest in the Heavenly Spirit Pill at all. She rubbed her stomach and talked to herself.

Then she waved her hand and the big tiger, Hua Hua obediently trotted over.

She took out several large pieces of pre-roasted meat from the tiger's bag, weighing a hundred or two hundred pounds. Weighing it in her hand, she picked the smallest piece to give to Hua Hua.

The girl and the tiger started eating nonchalantly.

It was as awkward as it could be.

Such a stunning performance.

The old ancestors exchanged glances. This seemingly silly and cute girl was really too fierce, wasn't she?

Those roast meats were all from level three Fierce Beasts and contained very rich energy. Could she digest all that she was eating?

Even if the old ancestors ate with abandon, they couldn't compare to her!

No wonder this girl was so strong.

"Husband, our Licui is really full of vitality." Liu Ruolan covered her mouth and laughed, "Her strength has increased a lot compared to before, even you can't match her."

If it was just a test of pure strength, Wang Shouzhe probably couldn't match her.

This made Wang Shouzhe complain secretly. He is a human, while she is a monster in a girl's skin, can they be the same?

"Wang Licui, have you had enough?" Wang Shouzhe said from the audience, "If you have all this idle time, hurry up and start the next challenge."

This girl didn't need to rest at all, as if she had infinite energy and stamina.

"Fourth Uncle, I am a girl after all, and fighting is exhausting. Let me finish eating first." As she gobbled up the roasted meat, she complained to the Artifact Spirit, "Artifact Spirit, you tell me, why can't my Hua Hua participate? Wang Luo Jing's insects and giant toad can, this is unfair."

"Militia Wang Licui. You and this tiger-like Spirit Beast don't have a contract relationship, nor do you have any signs of a Bloodline ritual, so it can't be judged to be your pet. But Militia Wang Luo Jing is an Insect Master.

Those spiritual insects are her fighting weapons that she breeds and refines through rituals, and the giant toad is her Lifelong Spirit Insect, so they can be judged to participate."

Chapter 10: War Soldier! Top Grade Spiritual Artifact_2

At this, Wang Shouzhe seemed to understand.

The testing grounds had rules as well. You couldn't just catch any Spirit Beast and claim it as your battle pet, then pretend to be a Spirit Pet Master.

This rule also prevented Wang Shouzhe from having the Spirit Tortoise help him in combat.

"Never mind, I, the young miss, am already invincible in the world. Even without Hua Hua's help, I will be fine." After the previous battle, Wang Licui was brimming with confidence.

This was the first time she discovered how powerful she had become.

"This is just the perfect opportunity to show Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu, those two brats, who truly is the boss." While speaking, Wang Licui finished off the roast meat in just a few bites, wiped her mouth and said, "Artifact Spirit, start the next level."

"Militia Wang Licui, as you wish," the Artifact Spirit responded.

Following another wave of spatial fluctuations, two puppet demons appeared simultaneously.

This time, Wang Licui was full of confidence and did not avoid the battle. Instead, she actively engaged in it, fighting fiercely with the two puppet demons.

Her heavy shield and hammer were swung vigorously. Even when facing two adversaries, she didn't fall behind.

The vigor of Wang Licui drew praises from the Old Ancestors, this girl truly had infinite potential.

The only minor issue seemed to be her subpar Profound Martial fighting technique.

Her moves were all whimsical, completely unstructured, and were purely overpowering the enemies with her terrifying strength and Mysterious Energy.

Furthermore, the heavy armor she wore was custom-made by a blacksmith, probably weighing several hundred pounds with key areas being heavily fortified. After she infused it with Mysterious Energy, its defensive power became exceptionally outstanding.

The poor puppet demons couldn't even breach her defense.

This scene made Wang Shouzhe start to question whether he had been wrong all these years?

Could the methods and way of cultivation of this young girl Licui be the right path?

However, that thought was instantly dismissed. The girl Wang Licui is a freak, merely a humanoid beast under a cute disguise – her combat tactics couldn't be replicated.

Following that, there was no suspense in the battle.

The two puppet demons were smashed to pulp by her heavy hammer. She breezed through the second level, received her deserved rewards, and earned the title of Elite Militia.

With that, Wang Licui became even more boastful: "Haha, I, Miss Licui, am the real invincible champion. Wang Luo Jing, Wang Luoqiu, are you convinced now?"

This led Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu to turn their heads away as they didn't want to look at her. You are several years older than us, and already at the peak of Qi Refinement Realm, what's there to show off about?

After receiving her rewards, Wang Licui started rubbing her belly: " Hua Hua, I'm starving. Bring me something to eat."

Then, under the stunned gaze of everyone, she took out another pile of roast meat and that fat tiger leg to feast upon.

Even Old Ancestor Luan Xu's eyes widened in surprise. "This girl can really eat! Sister Longyan, it can't be easy for your family to raise this child."

Wang Shouzhe was shocked as well, thinking to himself, the older Licui gets and the higher her cultivation level, the more she can eat.

She is like a bottomless pit.

She might soon become too expensive to raise.

Wang Shouzhe stole a glance at Old Ancestor Luan Xu as a new thought crossed his mind. He heard that the Purple Abode Academic Palace not only offers resource subsidies to core disciples but also provides food and lodging?

He should look for an opportunity to send Licui to the Academic Palace.

The more Wang Shouzhe thought about it, the better the idea seemed.

Yes, that's decided then.

Suddenly, Old Ancestor Luan Xu felt a shiver run down her spine as a sense of foreboding crept up on her.

Meanwhile, Wang Licui, who had finished eating, began the third level.

As Old Ancestor Longyan had said, the third level indeed consisted of three puppet demons. Whenever the number of any species increased, qualitative change resulted from quantitative change.

The three puppet demons clearly gave Wang Licui some pressure. They moved and attacked like a pack of wolves, executing various tactics.

Their sharp claws scratched marks on Wang Licui's armor.

This wretched strategy stirred Wang Licui's anger.

"Do you see me as weak just because I, Miss Licui, haven't shown my might?"

As another one of the puppet demons attempted a stealthy sneak attack from behind, she abruptly threw her war hammer backward.

The war hammer, spinning in the air, whistled away.

"Boom!"

The war hammer hit the chest of the puppet demon, killing it in one shot.

Then Wang Licui also hurled her shield forward. The heavy shield spun horizontally in the air, whistling sharply.

"Pfft!"

A puppet demon couldn't evade in time and was bisected into two halves by the shield.

So, was there any suspense left in this battle?

Wang Licui easily won the fight.

Impressive!

She was the first one among these young trial participants to pass three levels consecutively.

Not only did the young ones envy and admire her, even the Old Ancestors showered her with praises.

The Wang family has truly bred a promising talent.

It's a sure thing that this child will ascend to the Spirit Platform Realm. Her future is boundless.

Only Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu looked at each other then turned their burning gazes toward Wang Licui as if their fighting sprits were kindled.

They were both supercilious young Sky Prides in their hearts. How could they easily admit defeat?

Moreover, they were full of self-confidence. When they reach the peak of Qi Refinement Realm, they too could easily pass three levels.

Meanwhile.

Chapter 10: War Soldier! Top Grade Spiritual Artifact_3

The Artifact Spirit said, "Elite Militia Wang Licui, congratulations on passing the third level, you are rewarded with a standard weapon, and your status is now upgraded to a War Soldier."

At this, both Old Ancestor Longyan and Wang Shouzhe became very interested. They had never heard of a War Soldier or a standard weapon before.

The Artifact Spirit clarified, "According to our detection, War Soldier Wang Licui's primary weapon is a war hammer. Would you like to choose it?"

"A hammer, I want a hammer, using a hammer is so satisfying," Wang Licui said without hesitation. The reality was, she couldn't handle any other weapons.

Would it make any sense if she didn't choose a hammer? Was she going to do some embroidery with a sword?

After that, the Artifact Spirit stopped arguing with her.

Following a brief spatial fluctuation, there was a 'clank' sound.

A war hammer suddenly materialised out of thin air and fell heavily on the ground.

It had created a crater in the solid surface of the trial platform.

The war hammer was ordinary in appearance, all-black, and radiating a rich luminous aura. It looked as if it possessed a high level of spirituality.

The Old Ancestors' faces changed, "This is...?"

"A top-grade spirit instrument!"

Based on the intensity of the luminous aura, there was no doubt that this was a top-grade spirit instrument.

Beyond their shock, they all felt an indescribable jealousy and envy.

Some of the Old Ancestors from smaller clans didn't even have one spirit instrument.

Even those that did have one, most were of lower grades, while only a few reached middle-grade spirit instrument level.

The entire Wang family possessed only three spirit instruments so far.

Among them, the Zhou Xuan Sword was a middle-grade spirit instrument, while the Dragon Smoke Sword and Purple Gold Bowl were merely lower-ranked spirit instruments.

Therefore, it was an incredible and enviable achievement to suddenly have a top-grade spirit instrument.

What made it even more astonishing was the fact that the Artifact Spirit called it a 'standard weapon.'

This made clear how powerful the Divine Martial Dynasty must have been at its height!

Upon seeing the war hammer, Wang Licui eagerly grabbed it, "This hammer looks deadly, I like it. Ehh, why is it so heavy?"

Then, she gripped the handle with both hands and with a great deal of effort managed to lift it, her walk immediately becoming unsteady.

Everyone was taken aback.

They all had witnessed Wang Licui's strength. Among those at the Qi Refinement stage, very few could be her match. With her power, she should have been able to lift an object weighting three thousand kilograms with ease.

How heavy was this war hammer? Five thousand kilograms, or six thousand kilograms?

Seeing the struggle, Liu Ruolan couldn't bear it anymore and came forward to say, "Licui, with your current strength, I guess you can't wield this hammer. Let me hold on to it for you."

"Thank you, Auntie," Wang Licui readily agreed.

Then, with a single stroke, Liu Ruolan stored the hammer into her storage ring.

One couldn't help but acknowledge how useful the storage ring was in this situation. It only recognized volume, not weight.

All the Old Ancestors eyed the storage ring enviously. Despite all the wealth Wang Shouzhe had brought them, buying a storage ring was still too much of a luxury.

"Licui, take some rest then quickly try the fourth level," said Liu Ruolan, "I find this challenge game very interesting, I can't wait."

Liu Ruolan was initially indifferent towards the trial, only participating to support her husband. However, she now found it quite amusing.

"Yes, Auntie," Wang Licui obediently replied, she knew very well who truly called the shots at home.

After eating and resting for a while, Wang Licui donned her gear and told the Artifact Spirit she was ready for the next level.

"War Soldier Wang Licui, as you wish."

Following this, another spatial fluctuation occurred and a terrifying puppet demon, over three metres tall, appeared.

Its size wildly exceeded the previous puppet demons, its scales were like tangible armour, radiating a dark glow. Even its eyes looked cold and ruthless.

As soon as it appeared, a powerful oppressive aura enveloped the whole place.

All the young ones at the Qi Refining level involuntarily changed their faces, feeling as if they were facing a formidable enemy, an unparalleled fierce beast.

Wang Shouzhe's pupils constricted, thinking, what the hell?

Wasn't the fourth level supposed to be against four puppet demons?

This thing, isn't it a puppet demon at the Spirit Platform Realm?

How can anyone at the Qi Refining stage defeat that?

Wang Licui, who was the first to be confronted by the puppet demon, was so stunned, she was almost in tears. Was the Artifact Spirit playing games with her?