

Protect OCL VL3 31

Chapter 31 Prosperity! Increasing number of clan members_1

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Ping'an Town.

It was April, with an incessant drizzling rain.

Ever since the Wang family took hold of Ping'an Town, they had been constantly increasing their development efforts.

Now, many lands in Ping'an Town, which were originally unsuitable for farming, had undergone land reclamation. They have been gradually transformed, either through digging or filling, into one piece after another of fertile land.

Around these fertile lands, one by one, farmhouses were built.

Under the unified planning of the Wang family, the old river courses were renovated and dredged, and new river courses were also excavated. Now, the entire water system of Ping'an Town has been completely renewed.

In all of Ping'an Town, waterways crisscrossed in abundance. A great number of large and small rivers intersected with each other, the water routes reached everywhere. At each key point of the water route, flood control gates were specially built, which could adjust the water level at critical moments.

Each farmhouse and village was connected by these rivers, and each had their own dock. This not only solved the irrigation problem but also saved on transport. After all, under the current conditions, the transport capacity of ships far exceeded that of land vehicles driven by animal power.

Under the infiltration of the continuous drizzle, ripples spread across the intersecting rivers. Looking down from the skies, Ping'an Town seemed to be soaked in water vapor, adding a bit of charm and spirituality.

Amid this dense water network, one could see clearly the grey-white wide roads crisscrossing. These roads spread out like a spider web over the entire Ping'an Town.

This is the characteristic feature of the Wang family - "Cement Road".

Even in this rainy season, the cement road was still very clean, devoid of any traces of mud.

If this were two or three decades ago, Ping'an Town would have never seen such a sight. The town had few roads back then, most of them were just rammed earth roads. During the rainy season, mud was everywhere. Whether traveling by carriage or on foot, it proved an extremely messy affair.

Indeed, the carts with a large load and heavy body often got their wheels stuck in the mud— a perfectly common occurrence.

Only the central town or the area near the entrance of a prominent family's house would be cleaner. These places would have bluestone laid on the roads to harden the surface.

However, laying the bluestone was fairly expensive and the efficiency of installation was quite low. Each piece of bluestone required enormous effort from the stone mason to cut, carve and process. If one cared for aesthetics, inscriptions and patterns would be engraved on the stones.

Such an enormous cost could only be borne for laying the roads within and immediately outside of one's residence. If one wanted to cover the entire town with a floor of bluestone, it was nothing more than a pipe dream. Such an undertaking would bleed the Wang family dry.

Building "cement" roads, on the other hand, was much simpler. The cement was produced in-house, the cost was relatively low, and it shaped up quite quickly. More importantly, it was very clean and tidy, which is perfectly suitable for the current state of Ping'an Town.

At this very moment.

On one of the wide, straight, grey-white cement roads that ran through Ping'an Town, a low-key and simple horse-drawn carriage was slowly making its way through the curtain-like rain.

Amid the "clip-clop" sound of the horse hooves, Wang Shouzhe was looking through the glass window of the carriage. His gaze fell on the drainage ditches on the both sides of the cement road, as well as on vast swaths of farmland.

This season was the time when wheat's growth was exponential. As far as the eye could see, the surrounding farmland mirrored a green ocean, stretching as far as the eye could see.

Given the abundance of rain, excellent drainage, and timely measures to prevent disease and pests, there were no accidents. This year was also expected to be another bumper year for wheat.

Despite the Wang family of Changning having many businesses, none took priority over farmland. Moreover, what the Wang family's farms produced were varieties of wheat and rice, the revenues from which far exceed that of ordinary food grains.

The Prominent Families of Guard City in Changning, as well as its surrounding cities, were beginning to accept the crops provided by the Wang family. This was because though the price of the Wang family's crop varieties was slightly higher, they were of exceptional quality. Whether resisting disease, lodging, or in terms of yield, all had great advantages.

Farming using the Wang family's crop varieties would be more stable and the yield would also be significantly higher. The overall income was thought to be about 30% to 70% higher. This increase in profit was pure gain.

This portion of pure profit was extremely important for those ranked 8 and 9 Prominent Families. This would allow them to accumulate the resources required for a transition to the Spirit Platform Realm faster, or continue to expand their business, or be more generous in the cultivation of their talented clansmen.

There was an opportunity to train a second or even a third individual to reach the Spirit Platform Realm.

Even many rank 9 Prominent Families were beginning to find ways to win the Wang family's favor and attach themselves to them. They were willing to offer up their fruitful lands, their Spirit Fields, for the Wang family to grow their crop varieties on. The Wang family would then purchase these crops and take charge of selling them.

In return, these rank 9 Prominent Families would receive higher profits each year, making their financial situation more comfortable. The chances for these families to grow and strengthen would then multiply.

Taking this route, led by the Wang family, many of Guard City's Prominent Families in Changning were gradually making their way towards "collective prosperity".

The Prominent Families, once they tasted the sweetness of profit, found it very difficult to go back to the way things were. They would be firmly tied to the Wang family, and conscientiously maintain their common interests.

Guard City of Changning's large and small tens of Prominent Families, except for a minority, now found their pace of development steadily accelerating. The entire region of Guard City in Changning would thus become stronger and stronger.

Having time-traveled to this era, Wang Shouzhe had already spent more than twenty years in this world dominated by Prominent Families.

Reflecting on his journey thus far, he often found himself immersed in thought. Although there were still many shortcomings, he had indeed led his clansmen and set up a comfortable life.

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At least his younger siblings and clan members no longer had to scrimp and save every little bit of Spirit Food and cultivation elixir, which would hinder their early development and future potential.

Of course, this was just the beginning of the construction in Ping'an Town.

For example, in Wang Shouzhe's perception, asphalt roads would be better. Flexible types of roads were easier to maintain and repair, whereas it was a hassle to maintain concrete roads once they were damaged.

However, up to now, he still hadn't found a natural asphalt mine or petroleum, making it impossible to refine asphalt, thus he had put the idea aside for now.

As he contemplated, the carriage slowly passed over the bridges crossing several rivers.

The reason that the original rivers were so winding was due to the banks being eroded and collapsing, causing the river to cut deeper and deeper channels. Moreover, as the water flowed around bends, it would exert pressure on the opposite bank, causing the river's course to slowly become more and more winding, like an earthworm.

This type of shape was actually detrimental to the overall plan and could easily lead to adverse effects like the river changing its course, and it also slowed down transportation by boat.

Therefore, the Wang Family, in the recent years, not only dredged the river, but also continuously built concrete revetments to reinforce the river embankments. Especially the newly opened rivers - they were straight-lined, and the banks were as solid as a rock, making them easy to control and maintain in the long term.

This just goes to show the amount of time, effort, and money the Wang Family had invested into the management of Ping'an Town.

Wang Shouzhe had always regarded Ping'an Town as his territory and planned to make it a solid foundation for thousands of years to come.

Back on Earth, a person would strive all their life, earn a lot of money, and at most, that person could hope to live to around eighty or ninety years old, rarely reaching a hundred.

Yet in this Profound Martial world, the lifespan of humans was much longer.

Take Wang Shouzhe for example. With his current attainment in the Spirit Platform Realm, he already had a lifespan of two hundred years. Looking to his future, it was a sure thing that he would reach the Heavenly Human Realm, and the Purple Abode was also within his reach. With that, he would be able to live for four hundred, even up to eight hundred years!

Hence, creating a long-lasting home for himself became increasingly important.

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The carriage slowly passed through the commercial area on the side of Zhuwei Manor, then turned right by Zhuwei Lake, going straight down the main road beside the lake towards the Wang Family's main residence. Here, security became stricter.

First one would have to pass through the checkpoint, and without an invitation or approved visit from the Wang Family, one could not pass through. Even if someone managed to sneak past the checkpoint, there would be patrols of Wang Family soldiers questioning and examining everyone along the road.

Of course, this level of patrol was only to guard against those below the Spiritual Platform realm. If a cultivator at the Spiritual Platform Realm truly had ill intentions, there were plenty of methods to infiltrate the vicinity of the Wang main residence.

However, if they invaded the Wang's main residence without permission, that Spiritual Platform Realm cultivator wouldn't end up well. After all, unless there was something special going on, either Longyan or Liu Ruolan would be guarding the house.

Not to mention a Spiritual Platform Realm cultivator, even a Heavenly Human Realm cultivator who intrudes with malicious intent would definitely not end well.

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On the plaza outside the Wang main residence.

A white horse was approaching from a distance. Its rider was a handsome young man in smart clothes with a riding bow and a sword at his waist. A bird reminiscent of a hawk circled in the sky following him.

When he reached the entrance of the main residence, the young knight dismounted and let out a whistle. The hawk-like bird hovering in the sky swiftly descended, landing swiftly on the young man's arm.

"Young Master Six, you're back," a soldier on duty at the gate immediately greeted him. After instructing the clan soldiers to take care of the horse, he said with a chuckle, "I heard that you took advantage of the clan school's vacation to visit the Lu Clan of Yingxiu and also had a stint in Donghaei. Did you gain anything?"

This young man was quite handsome and extraordinary. However, due to his young age, there was still a bit of childlike innocence on his face. This lad was Wang Zongcai, the sixth youngest of the

eighth generation of the Wang family. He was the eldest son of the fourth of the Shou generation, Wang Shounuo.

Although only fifteen years old, his cultivation was rather noteworthy, having already reached the sixth level of the Qi Refinement Realm. And due to the strict discipline of the Wang Family, he made great efforts in refining his martial arts, movement techniques, and other skills.

"Brother Wang Yang, so you're on duty today." Wang Zongcai, unable to maintain an air of arrogance, greeted back with courtesy. Wang Yang, a few years older than him, was a peripheral member of the Wang Family.

Although the peripheral members of the Wang Family have diluted Profound Martial bloodlines, they still produce talented individuals at a much higher rate compared to common civilians. Moreover, as the Wang Family flourished, even the peripheral members started enjoying improved treatment.

In the past, those peripheral members who did not quite reach the "Grade D inferior" bloodline talent could take a Third Grade Enlightenment Pill from the mainline Wang Family to change their former "high segment junk qualification" and improve their talent to Grade D inferiors or Class C inferiors.

By doing so, they would have the qualifications to become a Profound Martial cultivator and change their fate.

Earlier, the Wang Family tasked the old Pill Master of the Xu Family Danfang faction in Changning with refining the Enlightenment Pill. Now that Wang Shouye has become a mature Alchemist, he has assumed the responsibility of refining Enlightenment Pills for the family.

The main ingredient for the Enlightenment Pill was the "Purple Crystal Queen Bee Honey", and Wang Luo Jing was skilled in raising the Purple Crystal Spirit Bees. Currently, the bees she mainly raises have already reached Level Three overall.

Furthermore, aided by the high-quality Spirit Flowers from the Purple Abode Academy, the annual output of Purple Crystal Queen Bee Honey is not low. All the honey produced is contributed to the family for its use in creating the Enlightenment Pills.

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If it were an ordinary disciple using the Spirit Flowers from the Purple Abode Academy to gather honey and continuously offer it to the family, they would likely be subject to gossip. But Wang Luo Jing has a formidable reputation among the younger generation of the Purple Abode Academy.

Although she does not provoke others, she holds a grudge against whoever annoys her, usually leaving them at a significant disadvantage.

More importantly, Wang Luo Jing has the eccentric Lady Huandie backing her, so few people dare to cause her problems over this matter. Those who previously did so were "amicably reasoned" with by Wang Luo Jing until they were crying and expressing remorse, after which Wang Luo Jing reluctantly "forgave" them.

Therefore,

Now, the "Enlightenment Pill" has become a kind of special product of the Wang family.

It's just that the Enlightenment Pill has a relatively more significant effect on those with "Junk qualifications" and has limited improvement space for those with lower-grade bloodline talents. Wang Shouzhe, for example, had consumed one in the past and found its effect minimal.

Thus, most families didn't have a demand for Enlightenment Pills. They were only utilized by the direct heirs or legitimate heirs who, unfortunately, had a "Junk qualification."

However, for the manpower-deficient Wang family, the Enlightenment Pill was a precious asset. It provided a fast way to gather the head of the household and strengthen the entire family's foundation.

And those with lower grades, like Class B, C, and D direct family members, could also use one or two Enlightenment Pills to improve their qualifications. However, the effect would significantly decrease upon the consumption of the second pill.

Wang Zongcai and Wang Yang engaged in casual conversation: "Brother Wang Yang, I merely took on a delivery task on my way here, to accumulate some small contribution points. Although the experience did allow me to observe quite a bit, the families of the Eastern Sea Guard were a little too enthusiastic for me to handle."

Wang Yang chuckled: "The Eastern Sea is a fertile area, many prominent families of Rank 8 or 9 own ample farmland. If they had the chance to cultivate crops for our Wang family, we could earn a fair bit of money. Besides, you're a distinguished sixth son of the Celestial Wang family, could they not be enthusiastic when you're on their territory?"

"A lot of girls were smitten with you this time, weren't they?"

Wang Zongcai blushed at this. It had been more than just a few girls; he felt as if he had barely escaped. Even two legitimate daughters from Rank 9 prominent families made clear their feelings for him.

How did girls become so enthusiastic these days?

While they were talking, several children of various ages ran out from the main residence. They included the seventh elder of the Zong generation - Wang Zongxu, the eldest of the ninth generation in the Shi lineage - Wang Shin, and the young lady of the Ying generation - Wang Yingxue.

The seventh son, Wang Zongxu, is now nine years old and is the eldest son of Wang Shou Yong. Wang Shin is the eldest son of Zongcai's elder brother, Wang Zongwei and is now twelve years old. Wang Yingxue is Wang Zongwei's eldest daughter, just eight years old.

Upon spotting Wang Zongcai, they rushed to surround him.

"Sixth brother/Uncle!" they chattered, "We heard that you went out on a task, did you bring us any presents?"

"Sixth Brother, your hawk is stunning! Did you buy it in the Eastern Sea?"

In the eyes of some elders, Wang Zongcai was still a junior youth. But in the eyes of his siblings and nieces and nephews, he was an elder brother figure.

"Don't touch my Spirit Hawk, it was a Level One Spirit Bird gifted to me by my maternal grandfather when I visited him at the Lu Clan of Yingxiu," Wang Zongcai cautioned. "Of course, I have gifts - they are for everyone in the family under the age of eighteen."

Then he quickly retrieved some special products from the Eastern Sea from his luggage bag on the horse. Even though they weren't anything of high value, they reflected Wang Zongcai's good intentions.

The children, content with their gifts, began badgering Wang Zongcai with questions. They were still young, and the family's Artifact Spirit System didn't permit them to leave on tasks.

Twelve-year-old Wang Shin was the only one allowed to take considerable tasks; the rest only utilized their spare time from Clan School to run minor errands within the family.

Just as Wang Zongcai was cheerfully sharing anecdotes with them and making his way home, an inconspicuous carriage came by and stopped at the entrance. From it emerged a "young man" who exuded maturity, solidity, and an impressive demeanor.

On seeing him, the children immediately composed their faces, their bodies stiffening as they shouted, "Fourth Uncle/Grandpa..."

The "young man" smiled kindly, "All of you are here, come join me for a meal in my yard. It's been a while since I've seen you; it's a good time to check on your studies."

What?

The faces of Wang Zongcai, Wang Zongxu, Wang Shining, Wang Yingxue, and others fell. They were almost in tears...

Life for them was so hard.

"Yes, Fourth Uncle/Grandpa!"

Chapter 32: The Academic Palace Life of the Young Clan Leader_1

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Meanwhile,

In Wang Shouzhe's small courtyard, two attractive young wives sat in a pavilion, personally sewing clothes for the men in their house.

After a spring rain, everything in the courtyard seemed to have been refreshed, as if the dirt had been washed away, and everything had become more refreshing. The color of the lawn was a richer green, and the flowers blooming on the tree branches had become even more tender.

But all this spring beauty could not match the beauty of the women sitting in the pavilion.

The woman in the front, wearing a water-colored long dress, had a body that was graceful and a temperament gentle beyond the ordinary. She was none other than Wang Shouzhe's first wife, Liu Ruolan.

As a cultivator in the Spirit Platform Realm, she, who was now close to forty, still looked as youthful as a woman in her early twenties, with her temperament remaining unchanged.

On the stone table in front of her, several dishes of fresh fruits were placed.

While she and another attractive young wife sewed clothes with skilled movements and chatted, they occasionally took the time to eat a few pieces of fruit. It was incredibly cozy.

In the courtyard, two children of four or five years old were chasing butterflies.

A toddler, who had just learned to walk, trotted behind the two "big kids" in his open-crotch pants. From time to time, he would trip and fall but would not feel hurt. Rising and patting his butt, he would continue to babble, "Sister~~ wait for me."

Of the two older children, a boy and a girl, the girl with her exquisite looks and playful spirit was Wang Shouzhe's legitimate second daughter Wang Liyue. The slightly younger boy was the second child of the "Zong" generation, Wang Zongchang's son - Wang Shicheng.

As for the toddler still in the open-crotch pants, he was Wang Shouzhe's second son, Wang Zongrui.

All three kids were making a mess, playing happily.

This setting was like a long painting scroll filled with the atmosphere of everyday life, adding a touch to the statement "the calm of the passing times".

"Fei Fei, Shicheng is already four years old, isn't he?" Liu Ruolan asked while sewing clothes, giving the beautiful young woman beside her a smiling glance, "You and Zongchang should work harder, have a couple more kids, and populate our Wang family a bit more."

"Aunt~" The beautiful young woman blushed at her words, and lowered her head, "such...such things...there is no 'working hard'."

This beautiful young woman, named "Liu Feifei", was a direct descendant of the Liu family of Shanyin.

She married Wang Zongchang when she was 18 and he was 30. They've been married for over four years now and their child was already able to scramble around on the ground. Given the family relations, Liu Ruolan, who was a relative of her own clan, naturally treated her a bit more warmly.

"What is there to be shy about?" Liu Ruolan looked at her sideways, "Your child is already four years old, why are you still acting like a bashful girl?"

"Aunt, it's not...it's not that..." Liu Feifei lowered her head, her face turning crimson, "Zongchang has been expanding territories outside recently. And even when he comes back, he's focused on cultivation...he's not very proactive in, in that..."

"If he's not proactive, can't you be?" Liu Ruolan said like a veteran, "You need to make him fall for you, so he can't resist you. Listen to me, next time he returns from his mission, leave the kids in my yard. Prepare some dishes and wine for him and spend some quality time. Here, let me teach you some ways of managing your husband..."

With that, she leaned in close to Liu Feifei's ear and began whispering some advice.

"Yes, Aunt..." Liu Feifei bit her lip, her cheeks so red they looked like they could start bleeding.

She had never imagined that there were so many ways for a husband and wife to interact. The methods her aunt mentioned... they were so embarrassing.

While the aunt and niece were talking, Liu Ruolan suddenly raised an eyebrow, a joyful expression on her face, "Huh? My husband's back."

With her advanced cultivation, her divine sense was especially powerful, so she naturally sensed Wang Shouzhe's approach from far away.

Sure enough, a moment later, a series of messy footsteps could be heard outside the yard, followed by Wang Shouzhe entering the yard with a group of children.

Liu Ruolan and Liu Feifei set aside their sewing and went to meet them.

"Husband, you've had a tiring journey," Liu Ruolan greeted with a woman's salute.

Wang Shouzhe quickly returned the salute, "Bearing the household chores at home is more exhausting."

After the husband and wife had exchanged greetings, the young ones started greeting each other. Wang Shouzhe's daughter, Wang Liyue, and son, Wang Zongrui, immediately ran over, hugging Wang Shouzhe's legs and began to act sweetly.

Liu Ruolan then quickly instructed the kitchen to prepare a table of good food and wine, ready to welcome the husband home and reward his hard work.

During this time, Wang Shouzhe set up in the yard and started quizzing the children on their homework.

In little time, Wang Shouzhe was nodding frequently, his face more pleasant.

All of the kids had studied their lessons well, showing that the Clan School had indeed done a good job over the years. Unlike in the past, when Wang Shouzhe would ask his younger brothers, sisters and nieces a few questions and always get upset.

Even so, those little ones were all apprehensive, like walking on thin ice. After all, this was their Uncle/Father's father, who wouldn't be afraid before him?

"Zongcai, you're doing the best," Wang Shouzhe praised with a gentle expression, "You can be an example to the younger kids."

"Yes, Fourth Uncle," Wang Zongcai responded obediently with a bow.

After a brief hesitation, he asked, "Fourth Uncle, what is the County Town like? Can I apply to go to the County Town to help father? I'd like to learn and see."

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Wang Shouzhe glanced at him, laughed, and said, "That's not impossible. You will be sixteen after the New Year, and it's about time for you to contribute to the family. Spending two years in the County Town for some training and life experience could be good for you. After the Spring Festival next year, you can go to the County Town with your father."

A joyous look immediately spread across Wang Zongcai's face; "Thank you for your understanding, Fourth Uncle."

Meanwhile, the banquet in the side hall had already been laid out.

Wang Shouzhe led everyone to the side hall for the meal.

The meal passed in relative silence. Upon finishing, Wang Shouzhe put down his chopsticks and said, "Alright, everyone should get back to work. Practice your lessons and cultivation base diligently because I will be checking next time."

"Yes, Fourth Uncle/Grandfather."

As if they had been pardoned, the children hurriedly and respectfully took their leave.

Once they had put a bit of distance between themselves and the courtyard, they broke into a run. Dining with Fourth Uncle/Grandfather was too stressful.

"Aunt, Fourth Uncle," Liu Feifei led Wang Shicheng by the hand, salute respectfully and said, "We'll take our leave now."

"Don't rush, Fei Fei," Liu Ruolan replied, "Take Shicheng and stay at my place for a few days. Help look after Liyue and Zongrui while you're at it. Your Fourth Uncle and I have to step out; there are some matters we have to attend to."

"Yes, Aunt."

Despite her confusion, Liu Feifei still obediently agreed to do what was asked.

It was Wang Liyue and Wang Zongrui, the children, who looked at their mother with wide eyes. How come their father had just returned, yet their mother was already in a hurry to leave with him for some urgent business?

Even Wang Shouzhe was slightly taken aback.

Why was Ruolan becoming increasingly impatient as she grew older?

And for some reason unknown to him, whether it was because of her Spiritual Body or her high cultivation base, Wang Shouzhe felt that her figure and temperament had become more attractive. He hadn't noticed it before, but after being away from home for almost three months, the changes were evident.

In the meantime,

Wang Shouzhe spent a pleasant first two days and rather an unpleasant remaining three days at the Water Moon Pavilion on Zhuwei Lake.

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In the same period,

Purple Abode Academic Palace,

Changchun Valley.

It was late spring, early summer. The perfect time as plants start to grow and the Wood Type Spiritual Energy in the world is at its peak, making Changchun Valley the most beautiful to visit.

With the enhancement provided by the top-quality Wood Type Spirit Veins, the Wood Type Spiritual Energy in Changchun Valley exceeded that of other places, making it a place teeming with vitality.

Huge trees are everywhere, their verdant foliage, brimming with energy. The planned Spirit Fields were filled with numerous Spirit Valleys and Spirit Fruits, brightly-colored Spirit Flowers in full bloom, Spirit Bees buzzing around the hillside, Spiritual butterflies dancing around, truly a picture of a delightful spring.

In the depths of Changchun Valley, a small cottage made of wooden structure quietly nestled in a corner.

There was a Spiritual Spring and three parts of Spirit Field in the cottage courtyard.

In the Spirit Field, various fast-growing Spirit Vegetables and fruits were planted.

Next to the Spirit Field, an enclosure was cordoned off, housing six Level One Spirit Birds - Red-Bellied Goldfinches.

Despite being referred to as "finches," each bird weighed around a hundred pounds. They had golden feathers and a red belly, their tail feathers were like blazing flames, and they were indeed a visual delight. However, all of them were so fat that they couldn't even fly.

At this moment, a young man, outfitted in the ordinary disciple uniform of Changchun Valley, was working in the Spirit Field with a hoe, weeding vigorously.

The young man's features were handsome, his temperament exceptional. Despite his modest attire and being engaged in down-to-earth farm work, his remarkable demeanor stood out.

This young man is none other than the eldest son of the Wang family's direct line, Wang Zong'an.

After clearing all the weeds that were competing for nutrients with the Spirit Vegetables and fruits, he put down the hoe, went into the courtyard for the feed, and began to feed the six Red-Bellied Goldfinches.

They were really fussy eaters. Their food had to include steamed Spirit Rice, along with a specific quantity of Spirit Fruits and Spirit Vegetables, and occasionally a few pounds of meat to change their taste.

Speaking of these Red-Bellied Goldfinches, aside from the slight value of their feathers, their primary function was to lay eggs. Golden Finch eggs were about the size of melons. Whether they were steamed, boiled, or scrambled, they tasted great.

Yes,

Golden Finch eggs were meant to be eaten, and each one could only be exchanged for three study points! The ordinary students couldn't afford it; only a few Core Disciples would occasionally exchange a few to taste.

According to the Senior Brothers and Senior Sisters, the most frequent eater of Golden Finch eggs in Changchun Valley was the beloved Little Junior Sister Green Fern of Master Changchun.

However, Master Changchun and Little Junior Sister Green Fern had recently gone out for some business, so the person in charge of Changchun Valley's external affairs was now the highly respected Senior Brother Jinshan.

Wang Zong'an had been placed in Changchun Valley by Wang Shouzhe, not for him to join the Academic Palace, but rather for him to experience life, gain prestige, and to develop the comprehensive abilities of the future leader of the main branch of the family.

As his father put it, young boys have to take on more hardships as he is the heir to the Wang family.

Therefore, he had hidden his identity, entered school discreetly, and worn the Advanced Breath Concealing Jade Pendant, which could even fool the Divine Sense of a Spiritual Platform Realm Cultivator.

Apart from Master Changchun and Little Junior Sister Green Fern, everyone else in Changchun Valley thought of him as an Ordinary Disciple, did not give him any special treatment, and arranged everything as was custom.

For this reason, besides his chores in the courtyard, he also had to look after almost three acres of the Spirit Field every day.

After finishing all tasks within his quota, he would have about half a day of leisure time, which he could use for cultivation, to undertake tasks, or for networking.

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Also, every ten days there is a senior brother who holds a big class in the Instructing Dao Palace, where they can go to learn about the cultivation techniques and listen to other experiences, and so on.

At first, Wang Zong'an felt quite new and interesting as he was free from the control of his parents. However, this interest only lasted for a month, and he started to feel a bit impatient.

The daily work and cultivation here were too tedious. Apart from his neighbor senior sister and senior brother who occasionally came to visit him, he hardly had any attention-grabbing social activities.

As the Young Master of the direct line and the Young Clan Leader of the Wang family, who had always lived under the spotlight from a young age, when had he ever experienced such a lifestyle?

This gave him a surreal sense of falling to the bottom.

So much so that, while he was feeding the Red-Bellied Goldfinches, he couldn't help but start to doubt that his parents sending him to the Changchun Valley for training might just be an excuse.

In the final analysis, they must dislike him for growing up and being in the way when they lived together.

"Ah~ having such parents, I, Young Master Zong'an, am in a tough position." Wang Zong'an sighed.

"An'an~"

Just as Wang Zong'an was sighing.

An older senior sister, who was of average appearance, called his name and barged into his yard.

She was carrying a basket of "strange mushrooms" and said to Wang Zong'an, "An'an, your morale seems low. Are you homesick? It's normal to miss home. After a year or two, you'll get used to it. Come here, it rained a lot this season, and the Spirit Mushrooms under the Changchun Spirit Tree are growing very well, each one is plump and tender. I picked off a basket of them; let's try them together."

"These mushrooms..." Wang Zong'an took one look at the shape of the mushrooms and started to feel a bit dizzy. The appearance of these mushrooms was making him blush!

"Aren't they all really big?" Senior Sister Bai Ling said, boasting, "I queued up in the middle of the night, so right after the morning restriction was lifted, I only picked the biggest ones. These Spirit Mushrooms are delicious and have a strong effect of replenishing Qi and blood. They're cultivation resources that us ordinary disciples can get for free."

The other branches and peaks don't have this kind of benefit."

"Sister Bai Ling, Brother Zong'an." A gentle voice sounded, and the tall and strong Brother Yuanmo walked in, "You're eating Spirit Mushroom and didn't call me? We're all neighbors. I've brought a Spirit Fish, which we can use to make soup with the mushrooms."

Wang Zong'an twitched his eyelid, every time Sister Bai Ling appeared, Brother Yuanmo would follow, as if he was keeping an eye on her all the time.

But Sister Bai Ling showed a bit of an unhappy face at the sight of Brother Yuanmo, "The Spirit Mushrooms I painstakingly collected, I'd rather feed them to dogs or pigs than give them to you."

"Uh..." Wang Zong'an's face stiffened. Sister Bai Ling, is this the right way to talk?

Then, Bai Ling confidently walked into the kitchen in Wang Zong'an's yard and started to get busy. She called out excitedly, "Brother Zong'an, you still have some Level Three Spirit Cured Meat? It's perfect for stewing with the mushrooms. But you need to use your freshman Study Points wisely and not waste them."

This is Level Four Spirit Cured Meat!

Wang Zong'an silently corrected her. This was left behind by Aunt Luo Qiu when she secretly visited him. The reason for her secrecy was obviously because she didn't dare to openly oppose the Great Demon King's orders.

He couldn't stand up to Sister Bai Ling, so he let her have her way, and started doing his own work in the yard.

As for Brother Yuanmo, upon hearing that there was Level Three Spirit Cured Meat to eat, he was even more unwilling to leave. Anyway, he was older and had thicker skin, so he just decided to help Wang Zong'an with some work and stay for dinner.

In less than an hour.

Sister Bai Ling quickly cooked Spirit Rice and finely sliced Spirit Cured Meat, along with a big pot of Spirit Mushroom and cured meat soup, which was as thick as white jade and fragrant.

Not to mention, Sister Bai Ling's cooking skills were not bad.

Under the disapproving gaze of Sister Bai Ling, Brother Yuanmo sat down nonchalantly to have dinner.

This meal satisfied Wang Zong'an quite a bit. The Spirit Mushrooms were strange in appearance, but they were truly top-notch and delicious, lifting his spirits a lot.

He couldn't help but plan how to preserve these Spirit Mushrooms and send them to his family to taste. Although he was always complaining about his parents, he did respect and love them after all.

"By the way, have you heard?" Brother Yuanmo appeared knowledgeable, "I heard that the head who has always been secluded has actually come out personally to accept disciples. It is said he has selected a rare, great prodigy. At just nineteen years old, he is at Level Two of the Spiritual Platform Realm. His combat strength is enough to contend with a typical Heavenly Human Realm cultivator."

"Nineteen years old and at Level Two of the Spiritual Platform Realm? Contending with the Heavenly Human Realm, there is such a peerless prodigy in the world!" Bai Ling was amazed, then she glanced at Yuanmo, "Brother Yuanmo, you are already thirty years old, but you are only at Level Eight of the Vital Energy Refining Realm! Compared to that prodigy, you are really a waste!"

Brother Yuanmo fell silent. In fact, at his age, out in the prominent families, he would have been the seedling of a Spirit Platform of a Rank 8 or 9 family. But compared to that mysterious prodigy, he really looked like a waste.

However, after Sister Bai Ling finished her words, she herself started to feel depressed too. She was also an ordinary disciple, how much better could she be than Brother Yuanmo?

"Forget about it, forget about those lofty prodigies, thinking about them is depressing." Bai Ling shifted her gaze to Wang Zong'an, "Brother An'an, we are all ordinary disciples, just work hard and do our jobs well. Once we reach the Spirit Platform Realm, we can start working for the Academic Palace for tens of years, saving up enough study points, and then we can return to our family."

The Academic Palace didn't ask ordinary disciples to stay there for their entire lives, they were allowed to return to their families if certain conditions were met.

Wang Zong'an was speechless. He and his sister, born from the same parents, were being treated so differently. His sister, Wang Liyao, became the favored disciple of the dean, while he was left with the ordinary disciples in Changchun Valley.

But, he also felt the intention behind his parents leaving him here. He was always around people of high status, and everyday life had been too good.

As a result, he was unable to see the hardships of the "bottom cultivators". Experiencing the life of ordinary people would indeed benefit his growth. His path was different from his sister Wang Liyao.

He, Wang Zong'an, was a Young Clan Leader, and in the future, he would have to shoulder the great responsibility of the Wang family!

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Actually, if you look at the whole of Longzuo County, the ordinary disciples in the Academic Palace are far from ordinary.

As the saying goes, "Once you enter the Academic Palace, you're bound to become a Spirit Platform Realm cultivator". For the majority of ordinary people, a master of the Spirit Platform Realm like the old ancestor, is already a distinguished figure.

However, since his childhood, the figures Wang Zong'an has come into contact with have all been high-profile individuals.

Within his family, there are numerous Sky Prides and several Great Heavenly Prides, like old ancestor Longyan, his mother Liu Ruolan, and his sister Wang Li Yao.

Furthermore, he believes that his father, Wang Shouzhe, will find a way to further enhance his bloodline...

Compared to them, Wang Zong'an seems to be just average, not so outstanding.

"An'an, do you happen to be wearing a concealment artifact?" Sister Bai Ling asked curiously, "Your aura seems hazy, and I can't judge your cultivation level. Could it be that your cultivation is beyond our imagination?"

Just as Wang Zong'an was about to reply, a senior brother from beside him, Yuanmo, interjected, "Sister Bai Ling, don't let your imagination run wild. If Zong'an has been assigned to the ordinary disciples, his bloodline talent must be just as ordinary. Since he is now sixteen, he is probably at the sixth level of the Qi Refining Realm."

Uh...

Wang Zong'an silently withdrew his words.

Nevermind... It's better not to reveal the truth and challenge their beliefs, after all, he needed to spend a few years in the Academic Palace without drawing too much attention.

Actually, his innate talent was pretty good, starting at the level of Middle Grade Class C. Coupled with the strict training from an early age, the consumption of Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills, and the preemptive use of 'Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid', he was able to enhance his bloodline talent to the level of Top Grade Class C, awakening a second layer of bloodline, Yimu.

He was no less gifted than his sister, Lici, when she first entered the Academic Palace.

Last autumn's hunt, he had sailed through the third trial of the Divine Martial Dynasty recruitment exam. He only fell short of passing the fourth trial, thus failing at that point.

Being able to barely fail against a Spirit Platform Realm demon puppet was already a great accomplishment. After all, he was still less than sixteen at that time, with a short period of cultivating Mysterious Techniques and lacking combat experience. Moreover, 'Longevity Youth True Verses' were not known for their offensive power.

However, with his sister Wang Li Yao being a jewel, Wang Zong'an, who was "merely" a Sky Pride, seemed to be "ordinary".

At this point, he had already peaked at the boundary of the Qi Refining Realm and could break through to the Spirit Platform Realm at any moment.

According to his parents, there was no need for Wang Zong'an to be in a hurry to make the breakthrough to the Spirit Platform Realm as they didn't lack cultivators of that level in the family. It would be better for him to wait a few years for the family to further develop and seize any opportunity to level up his bloodline before proceeding to the next stage.

After all, while improving from a double to a threefold bloodline in the Qi Refining Realm is difficult, it is still more straightforward than increasing from a threefold to a fourfold bloodline in the Spirit Platform Realm.

The more solid the foundation laid in the early stages, the easier it will be to advance in the latter stages.

"Actually, I mustn't hide anything from sister and senior brother." Wang Zong'an shared a bit of the "real situation", "I am just a young clan leader of a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family, I came to the Academic Palace to learn and gain some knowledge, but I'll eventually have to go back and take over the family business."

The young clan leader of a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family?

Sister Bai Ling and senior brother Yuanmo glanced at each other. Although somewhat surprised, they didn't pay much attention to it.

Indeed, within the Academic Palace, many students come from 7th-rank Aristocratic Families. Even being from a rank six prominent family doesn't make you special. In the palace, where there are cultivators more potent than you, people wouldn't treat you preferentially just because you come from a higher-ranked family. After all, the Palace transcends all families.

Both Bai Ling and Yuanmo come from 7th Rank Aristocratic families too, but they are from direct vessels.

"Let's not talk about that." Sister Bai Ling said excitedly, "The Spirit Mushrooms under the Longevity Tree are growing excellently this year. It seems like we've hit a once-in-several-years spiritual tide! Tonight, let's line up together so we can pick more mushrooms tomorrow morning."

Spirit Mushrooms are both delicious and beneficial to one's Qi and blood. They are excellent Spirit Food. Most importantly, they are free benefits. To most ordinary disciples, having more is only beneficial.

Even some excellent and core disciples will come to pick some free Spirit Mushrooms. However, thanks to the generally good atmosphere of Changchun Valley, those relatively resourceful core disciples will only try a bit instead of taking a lot.

After all, earning points for them is much easier than for ordinary disciples, so they don't need much spirit food.

"I dug a cellar in my yard and built a small Ice Crystal Treasury out of Ice Crystal Iron ore. We can store what we can't finish eating in the Ice Crystal Treasury and eat them slowly." Senior Brother Yuanmo also agreed, "Tonight, let's team up and try to get more."

Ice Crystal Treasury?

Wang Zong'an glanced sideways, surprised, to think Senior Brother Yuanmo could also have a "rich man's" side.

"Ice Crystal Iron" is a rare Heaven and Earth Treasure called the "Ice Crystal Iron Ore". It is refined and emits a cold energy throughout the year, which can lower the surrounding temperature. It is a high-quality material for creating ice-mysterious artifacts.

Some families with profound backgrounds will use Ice Crystal Iron to create formations and build low-temperature cold storage to store Spirit Food.

Such a cold storage is not only more effective than an ordinary ice pit but also clean and convenient. The only drawback is the high price.

A piece of Ice Crystal Iron the size of a baby's fist, weighing about one pound, sells for about two thousand Qian Golds in the market. Even if you're building a miniature Ice Crystal Cold Storage, it would cost at least ten thousand Qian Golds.

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Not to mention the families of the eighth or ninth rank, even families of lesser Celestial Beings may not be able to afford this.

Even Yuanmo Senior Brother has an Ice Crystal Treasury in his courtyard, a fact that not Wang Zong'an, or even Bai Ling, expected.

In response to their surprised expressions, Senior Brother Yuanmo couldn't help feeling quite pleased with himself, his sense of superiority surged within.

After all, he came from a longstanding 7th-rank Aristocratic Family, which had substantial resources and provided him with steady support each year. This allowed him to gradually accumulate this small Ice Crystal Treasury, which he usually used to store pricey and perishable food ingredients.

"Then let's go check it out tonight." Wang Zong'an thought about it and said.

Inspired by Senior Brother Yuanmo's words, this idea came to him.

In the Academic Palace, there were several Spirit Bird Flying Carriages. If he managed to make a small ice crystal cold storage inside, he could deliver the spiritual mushrooms to his parents and clan members.

As for the quantity, he could buy from other disciples using Qian Gold.

It made sense to carry more items for the same trip. Plus, he could also bring a batch of fresh Spirit Meat from his family at the same time. He had grown tired of eating dried and cured Spirit Meat.

Soon, the three of them settled the plan and parted ways.

They are all ordinary disciples, with many tasks to do.

It was not until midnight that the three regrouped. Under Bai Ling's guidance, they headed deep into the Changchun Valley where the Longevity Trees grew, carrying their backpacks and bamboo baskets.

From a distance, they saw the ancient tree that was rooted above the Spirit Veins.

The history of the tree was incredibly ancient. Its trunk was so thick it resembled a small hill, and its plate-like roots were like rocky walls. Moss could be seen all over the bark, and the trace of time had soaked into every line, showing its age and antiqueness.

Despite this, its life force remained undiminished.

Under the night sky, the massive canopy of the tree covered the head like a grand curtain, emitting a powerful and vast aura, just like a vast sea, filled with robust wood-type energy.

The dense vitality slowly diffused from between the leaves, streak by streak, emitting a green spirit light. Seen from afar, it was like a phosphorescent green waterfall that spreads between heaven and earth, dazzling and vibrant.

Though Wang Zong'an had seen this before, he found it overwhelming every time.

How much furniture could be made from such a giant Spirit Tree if it were cut down?

Fortunately, the other disciples of Changchun Valley didn't hear his thoughts, or else they would beat him up just for contemplating chopping down the Longevity Tree to make furniture. He must be tired of living for having such a thought.

"Everyone, maintain order and do not jump the queue~"

A senior brother's voice came from under the tree from afar.

Looking forward, they saw many disciples of Changchun Valley already lining up.

Sister Bai Ling was instantly upset: "What a miscalculation~ I thought coming in the middle of the night would be early enough, but I didn't expect these guys to arrive earlier than us. How shameless~"

"Forget it. Let's just queue."

Senior Brother Yuanmo advised.

The spiritual tide only bursts every few years, making this a rare opportunity. With the "strange spiritual mushroom" being plentiful, no one was willing to miss this chance. Even if they didn't consume it themselves, selling it to disciples from other peaks could also earn them a profit.

As they spoke, the three merged into the queue.

A man in his forties who was a core disciple had his hands behind his back, standing at the front to maintain discipline: "All Changchun Valley disciples, you must queue up if you wish to pick the spiritual mushroom. Enter under the tree to pick when the time is right. Whoever does not maintain order will be expelled from the spot and have their study points deducted."

"Senior Brother Yuzhe, we understand."

All ordinary disciples complied obediently.

Senior Brother Yuzhe was already at the third level of Spirit Platform Realm. For the ordinary disciples, he was an imposing figure, and no one dared to challenge order.

Furthermore, Changchun Valley disciples were always averse to conflict. Everyone calmly lined up and sat to cultivate their energy. Yet, as the time passed, the queue of disciples grew longer and longer, stretching out like a winding dragon.

And finally, it was the hour of morning dew.

With the first light of dawn appearing on the horizon, the concentration of wood-type spiritual energy in the world seemed to reach some sort of limit. One could feel their Qi and blood get nourished by simply breathing in.

Meanwhile, the Spirit Mushrooms miraculously broke through the earth and spread out among the surroundings of the Longevity Tree, their stems thick and caps full and round.

The brothers were not mean spirited in their laughter, while the blushing sisters were also not willing to miss this opportunity.

An undiscerning disciple tried to take advantage of the situation for a laugh, attempting to tease a younger sister. He was promptly rebuked by two bold sisters and was driven away with a red and embarrassed face.

Seeing this, Senior Brother Yuzhe scolded them, and the queue quieted down.

Everyone took turns and it was quickly Wang Zong'an and the other two's turn. They followed their plan, forming a "品" shape and went forward to search for mushrooms, focusing on picking the larger ones, they weren't inefficient either.

While Wang Zong'an was collecting mushrooms with one of the Senior Sisters...

Suddenly!

The ancient Longevity Tree shook, like it was stretching lazily. A few dozens of its leaves rustled down.

The leaves were vibrantly green, full of thick wood-type energy.

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"It's a leaf from the Longevity Tree."

The ordinary disciples who were picking were overjoyed and rushed to pick it up.

Since the leaves fell during their turn to pick, naturally, those who picked them up would keep them.

Longevity Tree leaves are excellent healing treasures. If you hold one in your mouth during a fight, it can provide continuous healing effects. If you sell it, a single leaf can sell for at least one to two hundred Qian Gold.

With a slight maneuver from Wang Zong'an's "relatively powerful" Divine Sense, two Longevity Tree leaves fluttered into his hands.

He was no stranger to these Longevity Tree leaves. He had hidden two leaves in his storage ring for emergencies.

He used to think that these leaves were actively picked by disciples from the Longevity Tree, but apparently, one must wait for them to naturally fall off.

It's no surprise, the Longevity Tree is the foundation of the Changchun Valley, its existence history is incredibly long, and its status is extraordinary, it naturally wouldn't be harmed casually.

Moreover, as was discussed leisurely during the chat earlier, the Longevity Tree is a sacred tree with Spiritual Intelligence, not comparable to ordinary Spirit Wood.

When it's in a good mood, this venerable tree can verbally converse with you.

Furthermore, there's a legend that the Longevity Tree's strength level has reached the Peak Level Eight. If it happens to get into a fight, only the chief and vice dean could suppress it. Who would dare to randomly pick its leaves, or peel off its bark? Do they tire of living?

The sudden fall of the Longevity Tree's leaves naturally caused a commotion.

Even Senior Brother Yuzhe was somewhat envious: "This batch of ordinary disciples are really lucky. They even happened upon the rare event of the Longevity Tree leaf shedding."

In just a short time, Wang Zongan had secretly manipulated his Divine Sense, influencing the trajectory of some of the falling Longevity Tree leaves, allowing him to collect six. In passing, he "assisted" senior sister Bai Ling in collecting four, while Senior Brother Yuanmo managed to pick up one by pure luck.

Who would blame Senior Brother Yuanmo for his solid foundation? He could even build a miniature Ice Crystal Treasury; surely these tiny Longevity Tree leaves wouldn't catch his eye.

Although Wang Zongan has yet to open his Spiritual Platform, he is still a Sky Pride with a Double Bloodline, and his cultivation base has reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. Though his Divine Sense might not be comparable to those in the Spiritual Platform Realm, it doesn't fall far short either.

Actually, with Wang Zongan's current Divine Sense and abilities, he could have probably collected eighty to ninety percent of the Longevity Tree leaves. However, he was always a gentle person, and though a bit extra was reasonable, he still had to consider his fellow senior brothers and sisters.

Therefore, just as this scene occurred, virtually every ordinary disciple was able to get a share, with some even managing to pick up two leaves. It was an unexpected joy that delighted everyone.

But the surprises didn't stop there.

Just as everyone was excitedly finishing collecting the Longevity Tree leaves and preparing to continue picking mushrooms, the Longevity Tree trembled again. Some of its ancient bark naturally peeled off and fell down.

This is the bark of the Longevity Tree, also one of the specialties of the Changchun Valley. It can be used to refine the wooden Spiritual Artifact "Ancient Tree Armor," which is not only strong in defense, but can also self-repair.

Meanwhile.

The luminescence flickering on the branch of the Longevity Tree suddenly brightened, with speckled lights converging into streams, illuminating half of the night sky.

Then, a flower bud suddenly sprouted between the branches, the Spirit Flower bloomed at an unbelievably fast speed and then wilted immediately. Moments later, a fruit the size of a fingernail appeared on the Longevity Tree and began to rapidly expand and grow larger.

Everyone was flabbergasted.

The Longevity Fruit!

It's the Longevity Fruit that can prolong life!

Is the spiritual tide this year so strong that even the Longevity Fruit has grown?

Chapter 34: Young Clan Leader! Don't Let Down My Beloved Daughter_1

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However, this time all of the ordinary disciples dared not act.

Spirit Mushrooms are a blessing for ordinary disciples, and core disciples usually do not compete for them. As for the leaves of the Longevity Tree, elders and senior brothers tend not to care about them too. If you're lucky enough to pick one or two, it's reasonable and it's a decent find.

This has become an established convention.

But, the bark of the Longevity Tree, including the Longevity Fruit, these are not things the ordinary disciples could touch.

"None of the bark from the Longevity Tree is allowed to be privately kept, it all has to be given to the communal warehouse." Senior Brother Yuzhe reacted at this moment and immediately shouted, "Any violators will be immediately expelled, have their study points deducted, and put under confinement!"

After hearing this, even though the ordinary disciples were very eager, they could only honestly retract their gaze and start picking Spirit Mushrooms again.

Thankfully, although the Longevity Fruit and bark of the Longevity Tree weren't for them, the Spirit Mushrooms under the tree, thanks to the Spirit Tide, thrived remarkably. Not only were there a large volume of them, but each one of them had also grown bigger and had a better quality than in previous years.

Soon, the baskets hanging on the backs of the three already filled with Spirit Mushrooms.

At the same time, they were picking Spirit Mushrooms, a few people wearing the core disciple's robes appeared under the Longevity Tree, among them was Senior Brother Jinshan.

The current Senior Brother Jinshan was already in his early seventies, and the beard on his face represented his authority. The entire person had become a lot more mature and stable.

However, he was not the oldest one among them.

Next to him, there were several who seemed older than him by quite a bit. They were likely to be in their eighties, nineties, or even over a hundred years old, all of them core disciples with potent auras, and their cultivation bases were unfathomable.

The Changchun Valley never lacked talent. However, most of the disciples liked to stay indoors tending to their fields and researching various plants. It was common not to see them for ten or eight years.

But now with the eruption of the Spirit Tide, all kinds of changes were occurring with the Longevity Tree, immediately causing a lot of core disciples, who had always laid low, to surface.

Simultaneously, as these core disciples were appearing, five or six middle-aged men, wearing the garments of elders, also arrived from all directions and all descended under the Longevity Tree.

The elders of Changchun Valley mostly preferred to stay indoors and keep to their own corners, hardly moving about. But now, they were also alarmed by the movement of the Longevity Tree and all came out.

"What a strong Wood Spirit Tide," the elder with the strongest aura amongst them couldn't help but sigh when he saw the scene before him, "I have not seen a Spirit Tide of this scale for over two hundred years, and yet, there is even an extra Longevity Fruit! Such remarkable events are rare indeed!"

His beard was entirely black, and he wore a dark green jade crown on his head. His face looked like that of a middle-aged man, but in reality, he was already over three hundred years old and among those with the longest history in Changchun Valley.

"A Spirit Tide eruption is a good thing~" Another elder, also with a black beard, laughed heartily, "Thus, our Changchun Valley's various Spirit Plants will grow even faster."

The Longevity Tree was planted on top of top-quality wood-type Spirit Veins, nourished by spirit veins. Every few years, it would spit up excess Xuanling Qi that it couldn't digest, forming the "Spirit Tide".

Because this Xuanling Qi had already been transformed by the Longevity Tree, it could be directly absorbed by plants, providing significant benefits for the growth of Spirit Plants.

This "Spirit Tide" could be considered one of Changchun Valley's special features.

Then, these elders with black beards, who never seemed to age, were another highlight of Changchun Valley.

Due to the nature of "Longevity Youth True Verses", the elders generally have long lives. Elders at the Celestial Being level can usually live to be four hundred years old. If they have a chance to eat a Longevity Fruit, they might live even longer.

However, because the Longevity Fruit could extend one's lifespan, it is often targeted by powerful figures as soon as it appears. The elders of Changchun Valley, despite having an advantage in location, may not necessarily be able to get a share.

For this reason, Master Changchun always had to sneak around to collect them and then hoard them.

During this conversation, these five or six elders had already arrived among the crowd.

Senior Brother Jinshan immediately led the disciples over to greet them and paid his respects to each of them.

"Greetings elders."

"Oh, isn't it Jinshan ~" the elder with the dark green jade crown chuckled, "Master was saying, presently the mundane affairs of Changchun Valley are being handled by you?"

"Answering elder," Jinshan responded with a steady tone, keeping his head bowed, "I am just managing trivial matters on behalf of the Master. For bigger matters, decisions still have to come from the elders."

Over the years, he had been trying hard to change his wretched temperament, striving to emulate Wang Shouzhe's charisma in hopes of finding a girlfriend sooner. After several years of cultivation and imitation, he believed that he had acquired seventy to eighty percent of Shouzhe's aura.

However, despite his calm exterior, he couldn't help but grumble inwardly. If it weren't for the fact that the valley elders are too sluggish and stay confined to their own corners, would the Master have left the mortal affairs to him to handle?

"Very good," the elder with the dark green jade crown nodded after hearing his words, "Since the Master is not here, this extra Longevity Fruit should belong to me."

However, as soon as he finished speaking, the other elders quickly showed their disapproval.

"How can this be?"

"The Longevity Fruit's ownership, it certainly can't be decided by your word alone, can it?"

In the blink of an eye, the elders started arguing. Everyone wanted to get their hands on that one Longevity Fruit.

No wonder, in this world, there are originally few Heaven and Earth Treasures that could be used to extend one's lifespan, Longevity Fruit appears once every hundred years, thus, occasionally extra fruit could be found when a Spirit Tide erupts, which is a more stable output.

Chapter 34: Young Clan Leader! Don't Let Down My Beloved Daughter_2

For the elder Heavenly Human Realm cultivators who have lived a long time, the sense of a life-threatening crisis is extremely strong. Who wouldn't want to live another ten or eight years?

Moreover, the effectiveness of the Longevity Fruit for those in the Heavenly Human Realm is not very strong, but it can still extend one's lifespan by a decade or so. It's hard for ordinary elders to get a chance to use it.

How could they not fight over it when Master Changchun is not around?

Senior Brother Jinshan at the side was at a loss for words. These elders usually couldn't even be seen as they were all holed up in their nests taking care of retirement. But with the Longevity Fruit, all of them wanted it.

"Ahem~" Senior Brother Jinshan started, hands clasped, "The Longevity Fruit is a divine medicine. I suggest it goes into the inventory first, and the final decision is made when the master is back."

"Exactly, exactly." Li Yuzhe also said, "Even if we want to distribute it privately, shouldn't we give it to us young core disciples first? The Longevity Fruit is most effective when consumed by cultivators in the Spirit Platform Realm."

The other core disciples all chimed in and agreed.

Hearing the exchange between the core disciples and the elders, Bai Ling – the senior sister and other ordinary disciples all kept quiet. They didn't pretend to see anything.

Although the Longevity Fruit is indeed most effective when consumed by those in the Vital Energy Refining Realm, it physically strengthens the consumer, and its life-prolonging effects are most pronounced. Even if Qi Refinement Realm cultivators can't breakthrough to the Spirit Platform Realm after consuming the Longevity Fruit, they could live for up to a hundred years.

However, this precious Longevity Fruit is not something they are qualified to fight for.

Among the "Ordinary Disciples", only Wang Zong'an watched the scene with interest.

He had heard about the Longevity Fruit.

Legend has it that this Longevity Tree, although it is part of Master Changchun's Spirit Plants, has actually been passed down for several generations and is older than the history of the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

Moreover, there's a strange rule in Changchun Valley. The heir of the tree is not chosen by his master, but by the "Longevity Tree". The one who inherits the "Longevity Tree" is the next Valley Master of Changchun Valley. Regardless of what he was previously called, after becoming the heir, he would inherit the title of "Master Changchun".

This Longevity Fruit is one of the few Heaven and Earth treasures in the world that can be used to extend the lifespan of ordinary people.

It is said that his father once obtained a Longevity Fruit. After Old Ancestor Longyan consumed it, the lifespan he lost due to his injuries was replenished.

The Longevity Fruit can nourish the body from the inside out at a very deep level. That's the fundamental reason why it can prolong life. But compared to life extension, it is even more effective in replenishing lost lifespan.

Besides, Longevity Fruits can be used in alchemy. When combined with other Heaven and Earth treasures that replenish vital essence, it can be refined into the Longevity Pill. A skilled Alchemy Master can make seven to eight Longevity Pills in one furnace.

The Longevity Pill is a grade-four Dan medicine. Each is worth about thirty thousand Qian Golds, which is nearly as valuable as the Heavenly Spirit Pill. But after being refined into the Longevity Pill, even though the total value increases, the individual effect becomes significantly weaker, and it only has a major effect on cultivators below the Spirit Platform Realm.

The choice depends on the demand.

The reason why Wang Zong'an has such understanding is that his father brought some inventory of "Longevity Pills" from the Academic Palace back to their clan to help the older clan members extend their lives.

After all, those elders made so many sacrifices for the sake of sustaining the family and nurturing the younger generations. Now that the clan has become powerful, it is only natural to give back to them. Although the passing time cannot be retrieved, letting them enjoy a few more peaceful years is also a good thing.

Because of this, Wang Zong'an pays more attention to the Longevity Fruit than other ordinary disciples.

However, before the elders and core disciples could reach a conclusion on their argument,

Suddenly,

The vibrant green fruit on the branch of the Longevity Tree suddenly glowed brightly.

The light was bright but not dazzling; instead, it was unusually soft. It also carried a unique rhythm, like breathing, alternating between deep and shallow, slow and prolonged.

"Huh?" An elder with sharp eyes noticed a change, couldn't help but exclaim, "This Longevity Fruit is different from the usual ones, it seems to be a 'spirit seed'!"

"Spirit seed?"

Everyone's attention was drawn to it.

The elders who had seen the Longevity Fruit before all had surprised expressions.

Indeed, this Longevity Fruit was a bit unusual.

Any species has a desire and instinct to reproduce and expand its population. If it didn't, then this species would have disappeared in the long river of history.

As a unique spirit seed, the Longevity Tree naturally has this desire. At this moment, the Longevity Fruit it produces is different from the usual ones. Inside the fruit, it contains a Longevity Tree spirit seed.

This seed can be nurtured and a new Longevity Tree sapling can be born. This sapling will continue to grow until, after a certain number of years, it will become a new "Longevity Tree".

However, it is not easy for the Longevity Tree, a higher-tier spirit seed holy tree, to reproduce offspring; the time accumulation and price it pays are not small.

Therefore, it might not be able to breed a "spirit seed" for few hundred years; most of the Longevity Fruits it produces only have pulp and no spirit seed core.

As such, when the "spirit seed" appeared, everyone's eyes turned hot.

If one can obtain a Longevity Tree spirit seed, it can be raised into a Spirit Plant, especially suitable for becoming a "Life-bound Spirit Plant".

It's known, where the Longevity Tree takes root, will turn into a Gathering Spirit Land. Even if it takes root in some desert areas, overtime it would improve the soil by gathering the spirit, eventually transforming into a "Life Oasis".

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Additionally, if one has a Longevity Tree as their Life-bound Spirit Plant, it can gradually improve one's constitution, achieving the effect of prolonging life and enhancing vitality.

Among the many powerful figures of the Yimu Bloodline throughout the ages, a significant number have chosen the Longevity tree as their Life-bound Spirit Plant. Among them, aside from a few who unfortunately fell in battle, the rest enjoyed long lifespans, often outliving their adversaries.

Apart from this, the Longevity Tree also possesses combat abilities.

This old Longevity Tree, for example, has attained Peak Level Eight, equivalent to the Peak Purple Abode of the human cultivation base. If it were to fight, even Master Changchun, the owner of the Longevity Tree, would be grounded and tossed about by it.

Moreover, the Longevity Tree has another significant advantage.

During group battles, it can act as a mobile spring, providing continuous healing abilities within a certain range.

With these numerous advantages, the Core Disciples from Changchun Valley were typically extremely excited.

The older clan elders, while filled with envy, could only sigh in regret.

Given their age and potential, and considering they all already possess their Life-bound Spirit Plants, they basically have no chance of acquiring a Spirit Seed of the Longevity Tree.

Leaving everything else aside, the old Longevity Tree would not be pleased.

Who would want to give the Spirit Seed that they painstakingly nurtured to an old man whose body is half in the grave?

In the past, Changchun Valley had preserved a Longevity Tree Spirit Seed until the arrival of Green Fern, a younger sister disciple. Only then did Master Changchun decide to pass on the Longevity Tree Spirit Seed to Green Fern.

However, Green Fern did not refine the Longevity Tree into her Life-bound Spirit Plant, but only nurtured it as a common Spirit plant.

The reason was simple. When Green Fern was taken in, she was holding an exotic green fern Spirit Plant. When she ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm, she chose the green fern Spirit Plant as her Life-bound Spirit Plant, thus it became impossible for her to refine the Longevity Tree into her Life-bound Spirit Plant.

"Attention, disciples under 100 years old, our generation's opportunity has come," Senior Brother Jinshan said excitedly, "but there is only one Longevity Spirit Seed which we all want. We should have some rules."

"Senior Brother Jinshan, we shouldn't be like other peaks and clans, deciding the winner by fighting, right?" Li Yuzhe said, "In that case, aren't us young disciples directly disqualified?"

"Of course, we can't decide the winner by fighting," Senior Brother Jinshan said, "Being qualified to nurture Longevity Spirit Seeds is an enormous honor that requires a lifetime of dedication to cultivate the seeds. There are two key factors involved in the growth of the Seed. Firstly, you need money, a lot of money to purchase resources to cultivate the Seed.

Secondly, your nurturing techniques must be powerful enough to ensure that the Seed grows well. Considering this, why don't we see who can cultivate a more excellent Spirit plant?"

Senior Brother Jinshan's words made sense, and most Core and Excellent Disciples agreed. A few who were not proficient at nurturing Spirit Plants and primarily focused on Martial power wanted to object, but they were outnumbered.

Soon, everyone came to an agreement and scattered to get their Spirit Plants.

All Core Disciples at the Spiritual Platform realm in Changchun Valley have their Spirit Plant to nurture.

If nothing extraordinary happens, when they cultivate to the Heavenly Human Realm, these Spirit Plants they have nurtured for a long time would be refined into their Life-bound Spirit Plant.

Only after four full hours did the Core Disciples come back one by one with their Spirit Plants.

It couldn't be helped. Most Spirit Plants are large and difficult to move. Their own speed is even slower. They had to crawl out of their Spirit soil and then walk slowly over using their root system.

This is the sad reality of not having a space for rest. Spirit Plants can't be carried around, which restricts the fighting capabilities of the Changchun Valley disciples.

Several hours later, around noon, everyone finally regrouped.

They brought back a variety of strange and peculiar Spirit Plants.

Brother Yuzhe stepped forward: "Everyone, take a look at my Spirit Plant - the Fire Dragon Fruit Tree."

As his words fell, a Fire Dragon Fruit Tree that stood five to six zhang high moved its massive root system forward several zhang. Then, its roots plunged deep into the soil.

Within moments, the Fire Dragon Fruit Tree had established its roots.

Then, taking advantage of the strong spiritual tide, it started to absorb energy wildly.

It stood tall with a majestic appearance, its branches bearing green and red Fire Dragon Fruits, the red ones indicating they were almost ripe.

Looking at the Fire Dragon Fruit Tree, Brother Yuzhe looked proud, as if he was showing off an exceptional piece of art.

"This Yuzhe, the Fire Dragon Fruit Spirit Plant he has cultivated is not bad at all~"

"Good, good, it appears that although Yuzhe is young, his talent for nurturing Spirit Plants is excellent."

The elders of Changchun Valley may not be able to do much else, but they were extremely skilled in plant cultivation and could easily assess the quality of a plant. No one else was better suited to act as judges at this time.

Li Yuzhe's Fire Dragon Fruit Tree received high praises from the elders.

Even Wang Zong'an watched with keen interest.

The Fire Dragon Fruit was quite an interesting combat plant. The Fire Dragon Fruits it grew could explode with substantial power.

Unfortunately, he hadn't started cultivating his own Spirit Plant yet, so he was unable to compete. It appeared he was out of luck for a Longevity Tree Spirit Seed.

However, just as he was thinking this.

Suddenly.

An old and deep voice sounded in his ear.

"Young man, you are impressive. I am entrusting my precious daughter to you for nurturing~ Remember that when you ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm, you must refine her into your Life-bound Spirit Plant, sharing life and honour, with everything together. Don't be ungrateful like that callous girl, Green Fern, disappointing my daughter."

What?!?

Wang Zong'an was stunned.

Was he hallucinating?

Chapter 35 Yi Wood Essence! The "Invincible" Path of the Young Clan Leader _1

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While Wang Zong'an was startled and confused, the voice rang again in his ear.

"Boy, what are you stunned about? Haven't you ever seen a talking tree before? Although I don't enjoy conversation, it doesn't mean I can't talk. I've used my Divine Sense to create a private space, feel free to ask anything you want, nobody else can hear."

These words exploded like a thunderbolt.

Wang Zong'an came to his senses in a daze and cautiously asked, "Are, are you the Elder Longevity Tree?"

"Indeed, I am the Sacred Tree of Changchun Valley - the Longevity Tree." The somewhat old voice carried a hint of pride, "I have spent thousands of years here, witnessing and protecting countless generations of disciples from Changchun Valley."

"Zong'an pays respect to Elder Longevity Tree," Wang Zong'an hastily bowed, respectfully saying, "From your previous comments, elder, are you planning to grant me the Spirit Seed? But I only possess a Top Grade class C Bloodline Talent, how could I possibly be favored by you?"

"Good boy~ modest and humble, your demeanor remains untroubled by either favor or disgrace, there aren't many young men like you these days~" The Longevity Tree praised, "In modern times, those with the Heavenly Arrogance Bloodline are quite extraordinary. I'm pleased you never let it make you arrogant or complacent."

The so-called Top Grade Bloodline Talent relates to those who can awaken a Double Bloodline in the Vital Energy Refining Realm, a Threefold Bloodline in the Spirit Platform Realm, a Fourth-tier Spiritual Body in the Heavenly Human Realm, and a Fifth Level Dao Body in the Purple Abode Realm.

Such a level of Bloodline Talent is nowadays typically referred to as— a Heavenly Talent!

Just like Fang Youan and Yin Yuzhe, they are typical Heavenly Talents.

Heavenly Talents all have significant potential. The probability of them reaching the Purple Abode Realm as cultivators in the future is quite high. Hence, they are considered as Purple Abode seeds.

As for "Class C", it refers to a more detailed classification. Even among Top Grade Bloodlines, there are four levels: A, B, C, and D, with Class C being the penultimate level.

Therefore, not only has Wang Zong'an's bloodline awakened to the Second Level, but it also has reached the Middle Segment of the Second Level, which is somewhat stronger than a typical Second Level Bloodline, increasing his chances of successfully advancing to the Purple Abode Realm.

"Thank you for your praise, elder."

Having been commended by the Elder Longevity Tree, Wang Zong'an felt somewhat reassured, regaining some self-confidence.

There was nothing he could do. Living day in and day out with Great Heavenly Talents always made him feel just ordinary and commonplace.

Especially having witnessed the terrifying power of the mother of the Great Heavenly Talent since his early years, she seldom cultivated, yet her cultivation base still soared upward rapidly.

And his sister Wang Liyao, she always left him speechless...

He had never been able to withstand her second move...

Forget it~ don't dwell on it~ it is depressing to even think about it. The Elder Longevity Tree is more perceptive and discerning.

Wang Zong'an was comforted.

"However, simply based on your Heavenly Talent Bloodline, Elder Tree would not voluntarily entrust its beloved daughter's spirit seed to you for cultivation," Before Wang Zong'an could rejoice,

the Longevity Tree's rebuttal came, "After all, I've lived long enough, and seen many Heavenly Talents, they are not at all rare to me."

Wang Zong'an's face became stiff.

Elder Longevity Tree, are you here to taunt me? Am I that easy to bully?

"However, within your Yi Wood Bloodline, there's a trace of a special Daoist essence that reminds me of the ancient Life Origin power," explained the Longevity Tree, "This Daoist essence of Life Origin can ensure the better growth of my young daughter. I hope she may surpass me in the future and attain the transformation at level nine."

"A special Daoist essence, the power of Life Origin?" Wang Zong'an finally understood and said, "That should come from my father's Bloodline power. He was also a direct disciple of the heterodox school of Changchun Valley. Elder, have you never met him?" He also thought to himself, so his father's Bloodline is the Life Origin.

"So, he's your father, no wonder. I've never met him, but I once sensed his aura from afar," said the Longevity Tree, sounding a bit disgruntled when it came to this, "At that time, I measured your father's pure Life Origin Bloodline power and wanted to converse with him, and incidentally entrust my young daughter's Spirit Seed to him for cultivation.

However, Master Changchun constantly obstructed us from meeting. He argued that although your father was his disciple, he was after all from his clan. If given to him, the Spirit seed would become the property of his clan. It really infuriated me..."

"Fortunately, I am old now. If I were still young, I might have disregarded the Spirit Contract and directly entrusted myself to your father. If I became your father's Life-bound Spirit Plant, it wouldn't take me long to transform into the ninth level."

"Um..."

Wang Zong'an's lips twitched a little. So there's such a story behind it?

No wonder his father always complained that Master Changchun kept the Longevity Tree hidden too strictly, not even allowing him a chance to meet it. He was worried his father would directly abduct the Spirit seed, or even the Elder Longevity Tree directly, right?

"By the way, boy, can you introduce your father to me?" asked the Longevity Tree with a hopeful tone, "After all, your father's pure Life Origin Bloodline is more compatible with my young daughter than your Yi Wood Bloodline with a trace of Life Daoist essence contained."

"Boom!"

As if being struck by thunder, Wang Zong'an was utterly humiliated by the Longevity Tree. This fickle nature is too fast, isn't it?

He admitted that among his family, he was the very ordinary and unimpressive one, but was it necessary to slap him in the face so blatantly?

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"Enough, enough!"

However, before Wang Zong'an could react, the Longevity Tree changed its mind in self-interest yet again.

"Your father's bloodline is too superior, I'm afraid he might be like that heartless Green Fern girl. If he encounters a Spirit Plant that matches better with him, he might just toss my dear daughter aside and leave her in the shadows. Your bloodline is far inferior to your father's, precisely because of this inferiority, the chance of you abandoning her out of interest is rather low."

The Longevity Tree, although an extraordinary Spirit Plant, is not the only one of its kind. It has been alive for thousands of years and it understands that there are many other Spirit Plants out there, stronger than it.

You are the epitome of fickleness...

Listening to the Longevity Tree, Wang Zong'an couldn't help but inwardly criticize.

However, this was a thought he couldn't voice, given that the Longevity Tree was a Spirit Plant at the peak level eight... If it were angered, it could kill him with a single strike from one of its branches.

"If that's the case, I entrust my dear little one to you," the Longevity Tree finally decided, "You have to swear that you will not fail her."

"Senior, I beg your pardon, but my aptitude is mediocre and my bloodline ordinary. Maybe you should look for someone more suitable."

Wang Zong'an declined directly.

It was a joke. As the Young Clan Leader of the Wang family, the future inheritor of the great responsibility, how could he accept this after being humiliated time and again?

As for his life-bound Spirit Plant, he was still far away from reaching the Heavenly Human Realm, so there was no rush. Given the speed of growth and development of the Wang family, he might have the opportunity to encounter an exotic Spirit Plant of the same or even higher level in the future.

"Your bloodline is indeed a bit ordinary, but your modest attitude pleases me," the Longevity Tree said, seemingly oblivious to the indignation of the young clan leader. "It's time to make a decision. I have lived for so long, continuously absorbing the essence of heaven and earth and I have finally nurtured a drop of Yi Wood Essence, well-suited for your Yi Wood Bloodline.

Whether it can elevate you to the level of Great Sky Pride, that will depend on your own fate."

"This..."

Wang Zong'an was genuinely baffled by the unpredictable behaviour of the Longevity Tree.

He asked, "Can this Yi Wood Essence help my father to enhance his bloodline?"

"It cannot. The Yi Wood Essence only suits those with a Wood Type bloodline, and your father does not possess a true Wood Type bloodline. Even if used, the effect would be incredibly minimal," the Longevity Tree explained. "Moreover, this Yi Wood Essence is extremely precious; took thousands of years for me to condense just this single drop.

Plus, at present you only have a dual bloodline, perfectly fits the bill. If you don't want it, it's okay..."

"I want it! I want it!"

Wang Zong'an continually nodded his head.

It's a joke, this is a heaven and earth treasure that can enhance bloodline potential; it would be foolish not to want it.

Isn't the reason he is not yet breaking through the Spirit Platform Realm because he feels his bloodline is too weak and making the breakthrough wouldn't be worth it?

The sense of humiliation he felt just a moment ago disappeared instantly. If he could obtain such a high-level heaven and earth treasure each time he was embarrassed, he would wish for more such embarrassments, and the more intense, the better.

It was already very lucky to get a Longevity Tree Spirit Seed, let alone a drop of Yi Wood Essence which could improve his bloodline!

"I swear that I'll nurture your darling daughter well. When I ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm in the future, I will definitely refine her as my life-bound Spirit Plant. If I break this oath, you can dispose of me as you see fit." Wang Zong'an promptly made his vow.

"Good, good!"

Upon receiving Wang Zong'an's vow, the Longevity Tree was very pleased.

In the next instant.

One of the mature Longevity Fruit Spirit Seeds on its trunk disappeared instantly and appeared in Wang Zong'an's hand.

Along with the Longevity Fruit Spirit Seed was a drop of liquid, vibrant green and brimming with vitality. Undoubtedly, this drop of liquid was the "Yi Wood Essence" mentioned by the Longevity Tree.

Wang Zong'an was elated. He watched as that drop of liquid silently merged into his body.

Instantly, a warm feeling enveloped him. It felt as if he was immersed in warm spring water, incredibly comfortable, prompting a sense of lethargy to wash over him.

He knew this was the Yi Wood Essence that was transforming his constitution.

This type of bloodline improvement was different from the violent process using the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, which was aggressive and could lead to death if unsuccessful. It was happening subtly without making a sound. The advantage was that it caused no burden to his body. The downside was that it took longer to take effect.

Digesting this Yi Wood Essence wouldn't be a quick process.

"Senior, my Senior Brothers are still in the middle of their Spirit Plant contest, vying for the right to nurture the Spirit Seeds," Wang Zong'an said hesitantly, "Should we tell them that there's no need to continue?"

"No need, let these brats make a fuss as they wish." The Longevity Tree replied, "Hmph, these rabbits need not flatter themselves. Just with their abilities, do they fancy wooing my dear girl?"

"Alright then!"

Despite feeling a bit of sympathy for his Senior Brothers and Sisters, in the end, Wang Zong'an resisted mentioning anything.

Whenever he was out and about, his parents had advised him to stay low-key. It's better to keep your wealth hidden. Even if there are enormous benefits, it's best to keep it to oneself and enjoy it quietly.

While Wang Zong'an was silently absorbing the Yi Wood Essence, the competition between the Core Disciples was heating up on the other side. The attention of the ordinary disciples was drawn by the various strange Spirit Plants, and no one noticed the abnormal changes taking place with Wang Zong'an.

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The core disciples were, after all, the backbone of the Academic Palace's future, possessing decent spiritual strengths. The spirit plants they fostered were all quite unique.

"Senior Brother Yunlang has done an exceptional job nurturing his Purple Sun Spirit Wood, clearly not stinting on the provision of Fire Spirit Stones and Heaven and Earth Treasures. If he reaches the Heavenly Human Realm and makes it his life-bound spirit plant, it can emit Purple Sun Spiritual Fire, proving very lethal. I think he stands a good chance of winning this time," said one.

"Senior Brother Yunlang is still too young. Senior Brother Yuzhe's Fire Dragon Fruit Tree is the real deal, demonstrating his excellent skill at nurturing spirit plants," said another.

Two young ordinary disciples started their discussion.

"You're too naive, not getting it." Hearing them, another top disciple jumped in, "Senior Brother Jinshan's White Jade Spiritual Peony is the exemplary model in the world of spirit plant fostering."

"Senior Brother, although the White Jade Spiritual Peony is of excellent quality and full of spirituality, reflecting Senior Brother Jinshan's fostering skills, catalyzation techniques, and wealth, it doesn't offer much help in combat apart from occasionally producing Spirit Flower Dew, which is a Heaven and Earth treasure. I wonder why Senior Brother Jinshan chose it?" someone asked.

"Ah, you're young, lacking experience and not understanding its subtleties," the excellent disciple explained mysteriously. "The White Jade Spiritual Peony is the fairest among Spirit Flowers. If it becomes a life-bound spirit plant and reaches Level Five, it could unlock spiritual intelligence and allow interaction with its master at a mental level..."

Senior Brother Jinshan might struggle to find a suitable partner in this lifetime... Instead, he can try to flog all he's got to buy a 'Spiritual Plant Transformation Pill'..."

"Spiritual Plant Transformation Pill?"

Astonished, the disciples all gazed at Senior Brother Jinshan with a mixture of awe and ambiguity.

Admiration deserving of Senior Brother Jinshan, he could even figure out such strange and quirky plans.

Some female seedlings were frightened out of their wits. Senior Brother Jinshan's ideas were too terrifying for them.

Generally, spirit plants or beasts would have to wait until level nine, and only after surviving the Heavenly Tribulation, could they truly transform. That's the case for wild plants and ferocious beasts. For those that are domesticated, limited transformation abilities could be attained after reaching a certain level by taking a Transformation Pill.

Of course, it only grants limited transformation power, and neither cultivation base nor spiritual intelligence will grow.

Still, the Transformation Pill remains an incredibly pricey spirit pill of Fifth Grade.

Completely oblivious to the assumptions others were making about him, Senior Brother Jinshan was busy showing off his White Jade Spiritual Peony. "My raising techniques are quite excellent. Look at this White Jade Spiritual Peony I raised. It's not just beautiful, but high-grade. Every month, it even produces a drop of Spirit Flower Dew.

This dew can directly boost one's cultivation or sold to an Alchemist for Qian Gold as medicinal ingredient. Once she reaches Level Five, she will continuously produce Spirit Flower Dew. Whether it is used for myself or sold, it's going to turn a huge profit."

Although he was being very serious, his words felt rather dubious to the audience.

At this moment, they saw Senior Brother Jinshan as already being utterly despicable.

However, the other senior brothers and sisters didn't have time to bother with whether Senior Brother Jinshan was despicable or not.

Just like salespeople, they were all eagerly displaying their talents and abilities in fostering spirit plants, hoping to eventually earn the rights to foster the seeds of the Longevity Tree.

"Come on, look at my Man-eating Flower. It's so charmingly evil. With a mixture of dominating power and gentleness, it will gulp you down when you least expect it..."

"My Ghost Face Mushroom is the best. It can release fear-inducing illusion techniques that attack the divine soul, leading to enemy defeat without a fight," defended each senior disciple vigorously.

"Ugh... I can't stand to watch anymore."

Wang Zong'an watched for a while, shook his head, and quietly left ahead of schedule.

Only half an hour later did everyone suddenly realize something was wrong.

"Where has the Longevity Tree seed gone? Why isn't it here?"

"Could someone have stolen it?"

"Steal your head off, the senior Longevity Tree is a Peak Level Eight spirit plant, not even a powerful figure in the Divine Power Territory could casually steal its spirit seeds, right?"

The crowd erupted in uproar.

The core disciples were rendered clueless, feeling deceived. Even the elders were baffled, unsure of what had happened.

Suddenly.

The oldest elder, whose head was covered by a Jade Crown, blinked in realization and spoke, "Er... I received a message from the senior Longevity Tree. The seed has been claimed. Everyone can disperse."

Following this, the other elders began nodding in agreement.

"I've heard the same thing..."

The core disciples reaching the Spiritual Platform, alongside the exceptional disciples, were left dumbfounded.

It turns out that they had been wasted their effort performing earlier? They had been beaten to the punch without so much as a sound?

Most importantly, they had offended their nurtured spirit plants in the process. Even though these plants had yet to truly unlock spiritual intelligence, it didn't mean they had no wisdom or emotions at all.

"Who is it?! Who got the seed? I declare a feud on you!!!"

Immediately, the crowd turned chaotic as an unknown figure roared.

The crowd's attention rapidly shifted to the ordinary disciples, instilling fear and causing them to repeatedly deny any involvement.

Even the elderly were looking at each other, finally deciding to disengage and quietly walk away, one after another.

...

Leaving the commotion with the core disciples, Wang Zong'an had quietly returned to his inconspicuous yard.

Sitting cross-legged on the bed, he took out the glowing Longevity Fruit, his heart pounding slightly.

As a flood of bloodline talents surged through him, if he could awaken the Third Level Bloodline, he could make a timely breakthrough into the Spiritual Platform Realm.

Later, by nurturing the spirit seed within the Longevity Fruit, he would have a sapling of the Longevity Tree as his spirit plant.

It seemed like he, as the Young Clan Leader, was about to become invincible!

All this came too suddenly.

Chapter 36: Shou Zhe's Counterattack_1

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Afterward, aside from the gradual changes in Wang Zong'an's bloodline, it was as if nothing had happened.

He was still dutifully performing the tasks of an ordinary disciple every day, cultivating at his scheduled time. Only in his spare time, he managed to buy some extra "Spirit Mushrooms". With the help of his Fifth Aunt Wang Luo Jing, he knocked together a simple mini cold storage made of Ice Crystal Iron.

He rented a Spirit Bird Flying Carriage and flew off to Ping'an Town with this mini cold storage filled with Spirit Mushrooms.

The matter of the Longevity Tree Spirit Seed gradually died down after much commotion, mainly because there was no evidence to prove who had obtained it.

For a long period of time afterward, the ownership of the Longevity Tree Spirit Seed remained a mystery and even made it to the bottom of the "Top Ten Unsolved Mysteries of the Purple Abode Academic Palace".

Until many years later...

But, this is a story for another time. Let's return to the present.

At this moment, tranquility had gradually returned to the Academic Palace. However, in the Southern Six Guards, the previously peaceful situation was disrupted due to a series of new strategies from the Qian family's business. Below the calm surface, undercurrents began to stir repeatedly.

One day.

The main residence of the Wang family in Ping'an Town.

Within a side hall used specifically for hosting guests, a plump and prosperous-looking man, Old Qian Xuean, the former Manager of the Qian family's business, was currently complaining bitterly

to Wang Shouzhe: "Brother Shouzhe, you know how much profit I, Qian Xuean, have created for the family over the years through my hard work. But look at what happened in the end!

That twenty-something brat stepped in and kicked me out. Ah, it's hard to be a concubine's son, especially a direct line son at that. Nobody respects me and I'm in such a low position!"

"Brother Qian, don't be upset," Wang Shouzhe offered him a cup of Spiritual Tea with a smile, "You've worked hard for the Qian family for decades. Take this opportunity to rest and relax, go out and enjoy yourself. If you're short on funds, I can help you out."

"I have more than enough~" Qian Xuean hurriedly half-rose from his seat, lightly touching the teacup in respect to Wang Shouzhe, "I previously purchased a house in the Hundred Islands Guard. It has serene surroundings and I can fish there every day. Right, I've been using that fishing rod you gave me, the Luya Rod, and it's really interesting."

After a pause, he sighed: "Shouzhe, to be honest, I just can't accept it. That kid is barely grown up, but he wants to take control of the business in the Southern Six Guards. Who knows what mistakes he'll make. Your Wang family and the In-laws Alliance might..."

"Brother Qian, as far as business partners in the Qian family business go, I only recognize you," Wang Shouzhe casually replied with a smile, "Don't worry, rest and focus more on your cultivation. With your talent, you should be striving for the Heavenly Human Realm, right? We've got a long future ahead of us. He's just a young kid. I will take revenge for you."

Qian Xuean's bloodline talent was not poor, otherwise he would not have come this far, even as a concubine's son and a direct line descendant at that.

With the "resources" currently in his hands, he still had the opportunity to strive for the Heavenly Human Realm.

"With your words, Brother Shouzhe, I'm reassured," Qian Xuean was overjoyed.

He specifically made this trip to the Wang family, waiting for these words.

It was abundantly clear, Wang Shouzhe was a man who respected old relationships. The friendship they forged during their humble beginnings played a decisive role at this moment.

"Young Qian Xuerui has probably not experienced how formidable you, Brother Shouzhe, can be." When he recalled Qian Xuerui, he couldn't help but give a cold chuckle, "In this case, I can 'help' him gain some momentum. You know what they say, the higher you climb, the harder you fall. This time, he is going to lose face for the family."

After exchanging a few more words and reminiscing about their old times, Wang Shouzhe arranged for Qian Xuean to be accommodated in a guest mansion.

Not long after, a middle-aged man, elegantly dressed and composed, arrived under the guidance of a handmaid.

He was crowned with a Jade Crown, radiating a magnificent aura. His appearance and temperament were excellent, though slightly inferior to Wang Shouzhe.

Following behind him was an imposing young man in his late teens.

The vigor within this young man was reserved, and his cultivation was extraordinary. Between his brows, he bore a slight resemblance to Wang Shouzhe.

"Xiuwu pays his respects to Uncle," the striking young man advanced respectfully, his eyes full of admiration and reverence for Wang Shouzhe.

These two men were naturally the current Clan Leader of the Chen Clan of Donggang, Chen Fangjie, and the Young Clan Leader, Chen Xiuwu.

After their greetings, the maid replaced the previous tea with new tea and melons.

"Xiuwu, it seems you have been very dedicated to your cultivation recently. You have reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Eight," Wang Shouzhe looked at Chen Xiuwu approvingly and praised him, "Keep working hard to step into the Spirit Platform Realm before the age of twenty-five."

"Thank you for your praise, Uncle." Chen Xiuwu's heart thrilled with excitement at the compliment.

His uncle had always been his idol since childhood.

The current Chen Clan was not what it used to be. At present, the clan had eight cultivators in the Spirit Platform Realm, which included Wang Shouzhe's direct line sister, Wang Luoyi, and brother-in-law, Chen Fangjie.

As the Young Clan Leader of the Chen Clan, resources for Chen Xiuwu's cultivation had always been plentiful. His current pace of advancing his cultivation had already surpassed that of most Young Clan Leaders from other 7th-rank Aristocratic Families.

"Shouzhe, this time the Qian family has provoked us, wanting to raise the commission for consignment goods from 20% to 50%. What's your take on this?" Chen Fangjie looked somewhat worried behind his dignified brow.

Chapter 36: Shou Zhe's Counterattack_2

In Longzuo County, the Qian Family of the Purple Abode was an overwhelming prominent family. Their businesses were widespread across the entire Longzuo County, with deep roots and extensive connections. Even if Chen Clan, Wang Clan and other in-law families were all bundled together, they were still far from being a match for them.

"This matter is not urgent, wait till our several alliance families arrive, then together we can discuss." Wang Shouzhe said with a light smile, as if he had a plan in mind.

Seeing Wang Shouzhe's attitude, Chen Fangjie was relaxed a lot as well, he temporarily put down the concerns in his heart, and started chatting with Wang Shouzhe about domestic affairs.

Chen Fangjie has been married to Wang Luoyi for many years and they have already had three children. Besides their eldest son, Chen Xiuwu, their eldest daughter is already fourteen years old and they also have a six-year-old young child.

They were all now in Wang Shouzhe's courtyard, with Liu Ruolan accompanying them.

The courtyard Wang Luoyi originally lived in, Wang Shouzhe had always retained it for her, so that she could bring her children back to the Wang family for a short stay every year. However, her brother-in-law Chen Fangjie might not have so much free time.

Chen Clan was always in a rapid development, and he was now the Clan Leader of Chen Clan. He had to handle all aspects of business, naturally, he wouldn't have so much spare time.

Wang Shouzhe had already arranged for people to invite others. As the casual chat continued, some representing members of the Wang's related interest alliance had successively entered the room.

Among them were the Clan Leaders Gongsun Yan from the Gongsun Clan of Shanyang, Liu Yuanhui from Liu Clan of Shanyin and Xu Anbang from Xu Clan of Changning. As well as "Elder" Lu Xiaoxiao from the Spiritual Platform Realm of the Lu Clan of Yingxiu, Lei Yangyu, the Family Head of the Celestial Lei Family, and Xu Anze, the Family Head of the Xu Clan of Jinsha.

Because Wang Shouzhe was young and promising with rapid rise, many older generations of in-law families had handed over their head positions to the younger generation, in this way, they could have more in common and intersections with Wang Shouzhe.

Lu Xiaoxiao of the Lu Family, although she was not the family head, due to her close cousin relationship with Wang Shouzhe, she often represented the Lu Family and Wang Family in communication and collaboration.

All the families had marital connections with the Changning Wang Clan and "implicitly" united against outsiders, forming an alliance.

However, at that moment, the atmosphere was a bit oppressive while everyone was greeting each other.

Apparently, the Qian family's action has put a lot of pressure on the In-laws Alliance.

Lei Yangyu of the Lei Family, had a bigger "reputation", he drank Spiritual Tea with some irritation on his face, and said: "Shouzhe, what does that little brat Qian Xuerui count for? He dares to be arrogant on our territory, acting so conceited. If not for the Qian Family standing behind him, I would definitely have made him pay a huge price!"

Xu Anbang, the Family Head of the Changning Xu Clan was also worried, saying: "Shouzhe, our cooperative silk industry has been pursuing a low-price dumping strategy. The market has grown very large over the years. If the Qian family raises their revenue extraction from twenty percent to fifty percent, our profits will become very slim."

"This is not the most terrifying." Xu Clan of Jingsha's Family Head Xu Anze said angrily, "Just afraid some people will not be satisfied, want to bite off more than they can chew. If we swallow our anger and agree to fifty percent, a few years later, they might raise it to sixty percent."

So, would it mean that our families have been working hard on the industry, but finally ended up working for the Qian Family for nothing?"

"But gentlemen, what can we do if we don't agree with Qian Family?" Gongsun Yan's voice was somewhat low, "Our dependence on Qian Family is slightly less in cement and foreign glass. But for the procurement and sale of other materials like grains and silk, we need to rely on the Qian Family's channels and connections."

If the goods can't be sold, wouldn't that mean that the goods would be piled up like a mountain?"

Wang Shouzhe was sipping tea slowly, without even batting an eyelid, he continued listening to everyone venting their frustrations.

"Cousin Shouzhe." Lu Xiaoxiao, who was now in her thirties and a mature beauty said in a delicate voice, "No matter what decision you make, my Lu Family will stick with you."

As soon as this statement came out, everyone's eyes fell on the soul figure of the In-laws Alliance — Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe has always been known to be a man who brings miracles.

Indeed, it was because of his pivotal role that the In-laws Alliance had developed so smoothly and prospered together over the years.

This time, they also hoped that Wang Shouzhe could come up with a way to communicate with the top brass of the Qian Family through interpersonal relationships and return to the previous cooperation model.

"Actually, to put it, the Qian Family has its own unique platform and distribution channels." Wang Shouzhe said with a light smile, "Merchants naturally strive for profit. It's not surprising to seek more benefits for themselves."

"Does Cousin mean to compromise?" Disappointment flashed in Gongsun Yan's eyes.

However, this was a helpless matter, after all, who could compete against the mighty Qian Family of the Purple Abode?

"Compromising is not a bad thing." Lu Xiaoxiao said, "Perhaps this will slow down the development of our In-laws Alliance, but it's better than completely cutting off our revenue streams. While compromising, we can also expand some new channels and slowly get rid of our dependence on the Qian Family."

Wang Shouzhe looked at Lu Xiaoxiao with admiration.

Although this cousin was a pampered girl when she was young, she gradually took up the burden of the family as she grew older, and her thinking became more mature.

Lu Xiaoxiao's words won the approval of other family heads in the In-laws Alliance.

Frankly speaking, none of them had the capital or confidence to hard fight the Qian Family.

"As I have said, seeking profits is not surprising, after all, I Wang Shouzhe am also a profit-seeker. If it were not for Old Qian standing in front, to be honest, I would have not wanted the Qian Family to earn the two percent of business revenue." Wang Shouzhe's expression became serious, "Everyone must have seen it.

Regardless of the quality of the product, if the sales channel is monopolized, even the best product cannot be sold."

Chapter 36: Shou Zhe's Counterattack_3

"So, is Wang Shouzhe suggesting...." Liu Yuanhui's eyes lit up, "Does this mean you plan to establish your business independently of the Qian Family? That's a great idea! The Qian Family has been taking a 20% share of our revenue, which is no small sum."

"Think it over carefully, Wang Shouzhe!" Lei Yangyu may have been hasty earlier, but as family head of an established celestial family, he clearly understood the power of the prominent families within the Purple Abode, "The Qian Family's businesses are spread all over Longzuo. They have an excellent relationship with all of the Guard Cities.

Also, they have built a transportation system over hundreds of years. Their resources and advantages are not something we can easily obtain. Moreover, with land transportation, one often passes through rural areas with less traveled paths... you understand this point, right?"

In terms of competing with the Qian Family in transportation, Lei Yangyu held little hope for everyone present. They didn't have the capability to set up a business that reached throughout the entire Longzuo County in a short time.

Lei Yangyu's words plunged everyone into deep thought.

With vast property and businesses, the Qian Family could make things difficult for the In-laws Alliance with just a few obstacles.

Most importantly, constructing a heavy transportation network like the Qian Family's would require a vast amount of capital and manpower. How could they compete with the Qian Family's hundreds of years of operation!

"Everyone, you must be tired from the meeting, try some of this Spirit Mushroom Soup first."

Wang Shouzhe chose not to directly address these issues but instead put down his teacup and clapped his hands.

Soon, maids served the piping hot fresh Spirit Mushroom Soup, in which Spirit Cured Meat was added to enhance the flavor.

Although they were slightly confused, everyone started to drink the soup as suggested.

As the Spirit Mushroom Soup entered their stomachs, everyone couldn't help but praise it. "This is great, the best Spirit Mushroom I've had in my life. The taste is rich and flavorful, I can feel my energy and blood becoming more vigorous all of a sudden."

"If you enjoy it, feel free to have more. These mushrooms are a specialty from the Academy Changchun Valley from the lineage of the Purple Abode. They only grow beneath the Longevity Tree, and only during the spiritual tide." Wang Shouzhe explained with a smile, "Zong'an specially harvested and sent them back to us as a sign of filial respect."

"So these are Spirit Mushrooms that grow beneath the Longevity Tree? No wonder they are so tasty and rich in spiritual energy."

"It turns out they were sent by Zong'an... The kid is indeed filial."

"Wait a minute..." Xu Anbang interjected, "I've heard about the Spirit Mushrooms in the Academy Changchun Valley too. They're extremely fresh but have a very short shelf-life after being harvested. Even preservation in an ice cellar can't maintain their freshness for half a month. But these mushrooms are extremely fresh, as if they were just harvested."

Once everyone heard this and inspected for themselves, they agreed it was indeed so.

To travel from Changning Guard City to the Purple Abode Academy would take around eight to ten days, even if a Cultivator of the Spirit Platform Realm traveled day and night on a treasured horse.

Everyone was confused.

Could it be, had Wang Shouzhe cultivated a new variety of Spirit Mushrooms that could impersonate the Academy's?

"Indeed, these are Spirit Mushrooms from the Academy and they were harvested only three days ago. They've been stored in an Ice Crystal Iron cold room which is why they're so fresh." Wang Shouzhe, not wanting to keep everyone in suspense, explained with a smile, "Zong'an had a brilliant idea.

He built a cold room with Ice Crystal Iron and had the Academy's Spirit Bird Flying Carriage to send them back overnight. Quite a large amount was sent this time, so everyone can share them later."

"That...I've heard that hiring the Academy's Flying Carriage is extremely expensive..." Xu Anbang frowned, "Not to mention the cost of the Ice Crystal Iron cold room, the value of these Spirit Mushrooms must be quite high."

"Of course, it's not cheap." Liu Yuanhui said, "I heard from the Old Ancestor Xuang Fu before, hiring a Flying Carriage costs ten study points a day, which translates to more than a hundred Qian Gold. This round trip will cost several hundred Qian Gold. Even the Old Ancestor Xuang Fu didn't

take it in the past... She'd rather ride a horse back and forth. But now, the Old Ancestor has taken it twice."

Exactly, several hundreds of Qian Gold were not easy to earn. Back when the Wang family was at its poorest, saving up several hundreds of Qian Gold in a year was already a great achievement. The Liu Family from Shanyin, although slightly more affluent, was also reluctant to make the expenditure in the past.

"A round trip costing several hundreds of Qian Gold is indeed costly," Wang Shouzhe agreed, "however, if a trip to the County Town only costs fifteen Qian Gold, and regardless of when you return, it only costs an additional fifteen Qian Gold, would you be willing to take it?"

"It only takes a little more than a day to get to the County Town by Flying Carriage?" Gongsun Yan's eyes lit up, "Yes, of course, I'd take it. I've been wanting to visit the County Town for a long time, but it takes too long to travel by horse wagon! Even riding a horse, it takes a lot of time, and it's tiring to travel day and night."

"Are you implying that..." The crowd's eyes glowed with hopeful anticipation.

"I've already calculated it, the Academy owns over thirty Spirit Bird Flying Carriages. As their hiring price is high, they remain idle most of the time." Wang Shouzhe quickly calculated, "Because of these Spirit Bird Flying Carriages, the Academy suffers a loss of about three hundred thousand Qian Gold each year! We can lease all of them and create an Aerial Cold Chain Transportation System!"

Chapter 37 Master's Blame! I'll Take it~_1

...

An aerial cold chain transportation system?

This name was entirely unfamiliar to the members of the In-laws Alliance. They understood each word individually, but when strung together, they simply could not comprehend it. They looked to each other for answers, but saw only bewilderment reflected on one another's faces.

"Clap! Clap!" Wang Shouzhe, who was well-prepared, clapped twice.

A maid from the Wang family came forward and moved the large screen aside, revealing a meticulously drawn large-scale map behind the conference table.

The map was about a pace wide and under two paces long. It covered Longzuo County and its surroundings, including some areas outside the County and the East Sea Area.

The map's detail was impressive; the mountains, rivers, and streams were all depicted very clearly. The known islands in the sea were also marked, especially the dozens of Guards, all located with exceptional clarity.

Every prominent family values information. However, most such families do not have the necessary breadth of vision; they typically only pay attention to nearby information and maps, staying in the dark about more distant families.

But Wang Shouzhe was different. As a transmigrator, his perspective and ambition were naturally higher, and he saw things from a different angle. His intelligence system, led by Wang Mei, was quietly spreading across the Southern Six Guards and even gradually extending to Longzuo County.

Moreover, when it came to collecting intelligence and integrating maps, he was always willing to invest. His agents had been assigned to consolidate the map of Longzuo County long ago.

With this map at hand,

It seemed as though he had all of Longzuo County under control.

"What a comprehensive map..." Celestial Lei of the Lei Family, Lei Yangyu, exclaimed. "The Lei Family also has a map of Longzuo County, but compared to this one, it's ten times as rudimentary."

Wang Shouzhe smiled but didn't reply. This map required a great deal of his time and energy. For example, the terrain of the Eastern Sea was contributed in part by the Chen Clan of Donggang and Dantai and jade helped out a great deal.

In addition, the Wang family of Longzuo and Luo Jing, Luo Qiu contributed to this map. Especially Luo Jing, Luo Qiu - as Direct Disciples of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, they took advantage of their task execution to slowly photocopy some of the maps from the school and brought them back secretly.

This comprehensive map of Longzuo County was just the tip of the iceberg. Wang Shouzhe also had a secret room, where a whole bookshelf was filled with various intel, including information about each Guard's families, important figures, specialties, and even some historical heritage and relationship networks, etc.

Wang Shouzhe has always spared no effort in this area. At the same time, he is also recording these into the Wang family's "Artifacts Spirit."

"There are a total of thirty-eight guard cities in Longzuo County," Wang Shouzhe pointed out on the map. "For instance, this Northwest Guard is located at the farthest northwest of Longzuo County, where the pasturage industries thrive due to expansive territories. But people living here, most of them have never tasted the fresh seafood from the Hundred Islands Guard.

They would need to travel for fifty days via horse carriage if they were to go to the Eastern Sea Guard or the Hundred Islands Guard!

"But if they take the flying carriage, they can reach the County Town within a day. From the County Town, they can reach the Eastern Sea Guard in only one and a half days, and reaching the Hundred Islands Guard will take only half a day."

"By having the County Town as a central hub and rationally planning out several transport flying carriages, we can connect all thirty-eight guard cities in Longzuo County. Not only can these arrangements serve to transport people, but they can also accelerate the delivery of cold chain gourmet foods."

"As for cold chain gourmet foods, we can collaborate with the Yuwen Clan. The Yuwen Clan's Hundred Taste Residence is located throughout Longzuo County. They are doing business with high-end customers, and the demand for various fresh ingredients is tremendous. However, due to geographical differences, the ingredients available at Hundred Taste Residence vary widely.

For example, in places such as Changning and Zhen Ze Guard, spirit fish and fresh fish, as well as extraterritorial spirit meat, are the specialty."

"But if you want to taste fresh seafood, or some delicacies that only grow on the grasslands of the Northwest Guard like fresh spirit grass mushrooms or the famous Northwest Spirit Snow Sheep, the difficulty is high. The transportation of Spirit Snow Sheep via traditional land-based means would significantly increase the cost once it arrives in Changning Guard.

Critical, however, is the long transport cycle. Spirit Snow Sheep are prone to sudden death on the way. Even if they survive the journey, they would be emaciated, with the quality of the meat altered."

Wang Shouzhe stated: "I'm just providing an example. Many valuable high-end ingredients and spirit foods can be quickly distributed across the whole of Longzuo County via the Aerial Cold Chain Transportation System. The commercial value of this is self-evident."

"Also, there would be increased demand in passenger services. In the past, people did not want to travel because the journey was long and arduous. Spending all day in a carriage drained them. But if there are affordable flying carriages, they could reach any Guard City in Longzuo County within three days. The increase in human mobility would invigorate the entirety of Longzuo County."

"Then there is the mail and courier system," Wang Shouzhe added. "Previously, when I wanted to write a letter or send something to the Chen Clan's sister in Donggang, I had to dispatch one of the Clan's head of household to go there directly.

But if I wanted to send a letter or some small items to the Wang family of Longzuo, or to Luo Jing and Luo Qiu at the Academic Palace, I either had to rely on Wang Yong's once-a-year trip or go through the Qian Family's delivery system, which would take one to two months."

"This is indeed too inefficient. If we can connect the 38 guard cities through the flying carriages and set up rider post stations in each town, we can realize the mail and courier industry within a very short time."

The series of fresh concepts proposed by Wang Shouzhe left the allies wide-eyed and silent, as they needed some time to digest this information.

Chapter 37 Master's Blame! I'll Take it~_2

No wonder.

On Earth, where Wang Shouzhe's previous identity once resided, systems like the cold chain, postal services, and express delivery were all incredibly developed. Even though Wang Shouzhe had never specifically studied these, under the circumstances of an extremely advanced information age, he had already been influenced by many cutting-edge concepts.

"Cousin, I think I understand most of what you've said." As a young man, Gongsun Yan was quick to react and adapt, and he asked two questions. "Firstly, can we outsource the flying carriages of the

Academic Palace? Secondly, would the Hundred Taste Residence of the Yuwen Clan be willing to collaborate with us?"

"For the first question, Li Yao and Luo Jing should be the ones to solve it. With their abilities and status, it shouldn't be a big problem. Besides, leasing the flying carriages is just a transition.

Our In-Laws Alliance needs to cultivate and build our own Spirit Bird Flying Carriages." Wang Shouzhe, who had had plans in mind for this since long ago, said, "As for the second question, we could approach Hundred Taste Residence of the Yuwen Clan for a discussion. If they do not agree, it's not a big deal.

With us controlling the supply of fresh ingredients, if we were to manage our own high-end restaurants similar to Hundred Taste Residence, we could probably gain a competitive edge rather quickly. Collaborating with Hundred Taste Residence is simply because I do not wish to make too many enemies, and hope that we can all make money together.

Lady Bilian might not appear to be the type, but she is extremely shrewd and visionary."

It was after absorbing Wang Shouzhe's ideas that everyone really felt the power of this strategic deployment. Although it could not replace the Qian Family's advantage in the transportation of large-scale goods, it could carve a significant chunk out of their traditional small-scale, high-value goods transport industry.

All at once, everyone was thrilled.

"Additionally, the grains we produce in Changning are all transported to the mainland's major production areas through the Qian Family. The difficulty of establishing this commercial route on land is massive. Instead of attempting this, we should bypass the Qian Family's main battlefield. Take a look at this sea route.

We can start from Donghaei, travel along the coast passing through five guards, establish good relationships with them, and have them absorb some of our products. If we continue further, we could reach Liaoyuan County."

"Liaoyuan County is rich in iron ore and timber, and has vast areas of fertile land. Most importantly, Liaoyuan is home to a strong Rank Six Prominent Family—the Fang Family. Our senior brother at the Purple Abode Academic Palace, Fang Youan, is an extremely important member of the Fang Family.

Brother Youan is a Sky Pride who is set on the path of the Purple Abode and is an extremely important pillar and backup for the Fang Family."

"As far as I know, the Fang Family of Liaoyuan also harbors ambitions to strike towards becoming a Fifth Grade Prominent Family. If we partner with them to promote our grains as well as other products in Liaoyuan County, it would be a fantastic opportunity for mutual benefit.

To further the interests and prosperity of his family, I believe Brother Youan would be very willing to facilitate this partnership behind the scenes."

"Through our partnership with the Fang Family of Liaoyuan, we should be able to significantly absorb the output from our current grain production, thus minimizing the loss we will sustain from severing ties with the Qian Family."

"Cousin, your plan is excellent," Lu Xiaoxiao exclaimed with her eyes shining brightly. "The prominent families who had purchased grains from us through the Qian Family will also have a hard time.

Cousin, you once said that 'it is easy to go from living frugally to extravagantly, but hard to do the reverse.' The collaborative families with the Qian Family, having greatly increased their family's income with our grains, will find it hard to adapt once supply is cut, which will greatly reduce their production. They will surely become extremely dissatisfied with the Qian Family!"

"Qian Xuerui is ultimately too young. He only knows that the Qian Family's business channels are fiercely monopolistic, but does not realize that when the product is superior, channels only provide a boost rather than being the decisive factor." Wang Shouzhe smiled, "Given this, all products under our In-laws Alliance will cease any commercial cooperation with the Qian Family.

Let them taste the bitterness of being sanctioned."

As Wang Shouzhe spoke, he was relaxed and confident. Twenty years ago, the Wang Family and its alliance were too weak, holding gold but not daring to display it. But what is the Wang Family's situation now?

In the region of Changning, they practically rule supreme, and their influence in the southern six guards is also immense. Furthermore, their backing in the Academic Palace could also be considered formidable.

Even a powerful family like the Qian Family would only dare to suppress the Wang Family using "legitimate" business means. As for military suppression, that would be a joke. Nowadays, Wang Liyao of the Wang Family is the direct disciple of the Principal of the Academic Palace!

If she were to confront the Qian Family, even if the principal recused himself due to conflict of interest, who would dare to hurt her? Among the Qian Family's peers, who would be a match for Wang Liyao? Even the common Celestial Beings Elders may not be able to handle her.

Just having Wang Liyao is enough to make life unbearable for the entire Qian Family.

At this stage, Wang Shouzhe can make full use of his commercial strategies. Under the premise of "fair competition," with his perspective and mindset from two lifetimes, what does he have to fear?

As Wang Shouzhe and the In-laws Alliance were formulating their plans and initiating their strategies,

Inside the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

Primordial Water Master, Lady Huandie, Master Xuanyao, and others gathered, accompanied by the Principal's beloved direct disciple, Wang Liyao.

Due to her special status, although she was only a direct disciple in the Spirit Platform Realm, she had the right to sit together with these Masters. Even if she was just there to make up the numbers, her qualifications were different.

At this moment, Primordial Water Master spoke in a gentle tone, "Junior Sister Liyao, you sent a message inviting us to gather. What exactly is the matter?" He looked at Wang Liyao with a feeling of wonder and a myriad of emotions. The massive Sky Pride disciple had suddenly become his junior sister, a psychological gap which would probably take decades to digest.

Chapter 37 Master's Blame! I'll Take it~_3

At this point, Wang Liyao had already removed her "ordinary" disguise, revealing her stunningly ethereal beauty.

Despite both Lady Huandie and Master Xuanyao being high-ranking individuals, when they looked at Wang Liyao, their astonishment was tinged with indulgent affection. Despite her young age, she had boundless potential and was considered a future pillar of the Purple Abode Academy. Moreover, with such good looks and innate beauty, she was like a goddess descended to earth.

"Master Yuan, Sister Huandie, Senior Brother Xuanyao," Wang Liyao stood and courteously said, "I have a business proposal here that I wanted to present to you." As she said this, she politely handed a copy of the proposal to each of them.

She then explained, "According to my statistics and research, our Academy owns thirty Spirit Bird Flying Carriages. The cost of the Spirit Platform Realm disciples piloting, maintaining the Spirit Birds, maintaining the Spirit Wood carriage compartments, and maintaining the Formation that lightens the carriage comes out to around four hundred and fifty thousand Qian Gold a year."

"However, the usage rate of the Spirit Bird Flying Carriages is very low. When factoring in the Academy's study points, on average we only make two hundred thousand Qian Gold a year. This means that every year, the Academy loses twenty-five thousand Qian Gold on the Spirit Bird Flying Carriages."

In fact, Master Xuanyao and Lady Huandie had already privately agreed with Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing and knew the plan and intentions of the Wang family. However, putting on a show was still necessary at this point.

"Huh? This lady was unaware that the annual deficit from the Spirit Bird Flying Carriages was so great?" Lady Huandie feigned surprise, "It truly is heartbreaking."

"Indeed, even if our academy is wealthy, we cannot squander resources like this," Master Xuanyao similarly lamented, "In ten years, that would be two and a half million Qian Gold! In a thousand years, it would be two hundred and fifty million Qian Gold. Such a loss equals that of an entire Purple Abode Prominent Family's fortune."

The face of Master Yuan, who was temporarily acting as the leader of the Academy, darkened. It seemed as if these individuals were challenging his leadership.

Was it he who had set up this system? These Spirit Bird Flying Carriages were left behind by his beloved master for the sake of prestige and face...

All right, all right!

As the saying goes, a disciple doesn't speak ill of his master's faults. It was up to Master Yuan to carry this burden. After an awkward cough, he spoke, "Don't exaggerate about the thousand-year deficit. I've skimmed the proposal. Is the Changning Wang Clan proposing to "take over" these Spirit Bird Flying Carriages?"

"Master Yuan," Wang Liyao said with a light smile, her charm drawing all attention, "My father's idea is for our Wang family to spend six hundred thousand Qian Gold a year to lease the thirty Spirit Bird Flying Carriages. In this way, not only will the Academy not lose that twenty-five thousand Qian Gold each year, but will also make an extra one hundred and fifty thousand.

That's an annual difference of four hundred thousand Qian Gold."

"This... Why is your Wang family willing to invest so heavily in these carriages?" Although Master Yuan was accustomed to grand affairs, a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family spending six hundred thousand Qian Gold a year was indeed impressive.

"Master Yuan, that's our Wang family's business secret." Wang Liyao, having been schooled in such matters from a young age, was not just some naive young girl, "Maximum usage rights of the carriages will still be always available for the Academy's core students, and the rate would definitely be much cheaper than before."

"Yuan, where else can we find such a good deal?" Master Xuanyao supported her proposal, "With the Wang family maintaining these flying carriages, we could use that extra four hundred thousand Qian Gold to cultivate so many core students!"

Just as Master Yuan was still somewhat hesitant, the authoritative voice of the headmaster chimed in: "Very good! Indeed, she is a promising disciple I've accepted. She just joined the academy and is already making money for it. Ah Yuan, you truly need to learn from your junior sister. Don't squander resources anymore~"

Master Yuan was stunned, he was almost in tears.

Ever since the headmaster took a younger female disciple, he had not secluded himself in meditation and was always gallivanting about. But, the matter with the Spirit Bird Flying Carriages was originally his, Master's, problem!

Regardless, no matter how bitter he felt inside, he swallowed down his tears. If he, as the disciple didn't shoulder the blame laid at his master's feet, then who would?

Chapter 38: Keep Achieving Commercial Firm VS Qian Family Commerce_1

...

The Five Guards of the Northwest of Longzuo!

Centered on the Northwest Guard, the area is vast and yet its water resources are very scanty. The prominent families mostly rely on animal husbandry, mining, or growing some drought-resistant crops.

The famous heavyweight cart horses of the North are a local specialty of the Northwest Guards. Many prominent families in Longzuo County buy and raise these heavy cart horses to increase their family's transportation capacity.

The whole Northwest Five Guards, collectively, have eleven 7th-rank Aristocratic Families, with countless eight or nine Rank families scattered across the vast pastures. The majority of the family members belonging to these families never travel beyond the Northwest Guard City in their lifetime.

The Northwest Guard City stands at the edge of the vast grassland, its outline imposing. The towering, thick city walls can easily withstand the impact of Level Five fierce beasts. Armed soldiers stationed in the castle towers keep vigil over the city.

As the sun rises, the world lights up.

The heavy city gates slowly swing open, the early-rising merchant caravans, civilians, or independent cultivator wandering merchants, all orderly making their way into the city. Humans only inhabit a small part of the large unending plains.

Though the plains don't produce resources as abundantly as the southern regions, they still have their unique products. For example, the famous common mushroom and the spirit grass mushroom are scattered randomly across the grasslands.

The former is delicious, and rare delicacy when cooked with the beef and mutton from the plains. The latter is a rare and valuable spirit food ingredient, also beneficial as a medicinal component in pill prescriptions.

However, both mushrooms are the most delicious when fresh, their value diminishing sharply with each passing day once they're preserved. Therefore, regions slightly further away will only have dried products for consumption.

Chunyu Andong comes from one of the non-ranked Xuanwu families of the Five Guards of the Northwest of Longzuo. He showed promising potential from a young age. However, given the resources and power his family controlled, it was impossible for him to break through to the Spiritual Platform Realm and become a revered Spiritual Platform Ancestor.

As a result, Chunyu Andong ended up becoming an independent cultivator merchant at the age of eighteen, traveling throughout Longzuo County. There are many such people in Longzuo County.

Most of them end up dying quietly in foreign lands. A few settle down, forming unremarkable families. Only a select few, owing to opportunity and hard work, manage to break through to the Spiritual Platform Realm, breaking free from their rigid social status.

Chunyu Andong was one of those few successful people. After attaining the Spiritual Platform Realm, he continued organizing the scattered cultivators to maintain the business, establishing a small and inconspicuous commercial firm. Along the way they increased his initial family's status, gradually elevating them to a 9th-rank Aristocratic Family.

Thus, Chunyu Andong became the Old Ancestor of the 9th-rank Chunyu Family, achieving a satisfactory life.

However, Chunyu Andong, in his youth, had gotten used to running around. He longed for his adventurous times in the Great Wilderness Marsh with his cultivator buddies in Zhenze Guard. He also missed the days of running trades back and forth between the Eastern Sea Guard and Hundred Islands Guard, earning a meager profit.

In the same way, he longed for his carefree days in Cloud Security, when he, then a young and naive man, had spent time watching sunrises with a young girl from a prominent family. Unfortunately, because of their drastically different social statuses, their love story was put to an end by the girl's family members, leaving regret in his heart.

He wished to travel again, but now that he was over a hundred years old, his family needed him as a guardian. His sons, grandsons, and generations to come couldn't live without him. He couldn't possibly take his time to wander afar like in his youth.

For the sake of his family, Chunyu Andong compromised. Thinking to himself that his longings and desires would be buried with him.

However, an opportunity has now reinvigorated Chunyu Andong's initially lost spirit.

The Hundred Taste Residence branch in Northwest Guard.

Thanks to the efficient operation of the Yuwen Family, this branch of the Hundred Taste Residence ranks among the top restaurants, and many high-end banquets and dinners are held here.

Limited by the available ingredients, this branch mainly cooks beef, lamb, and spirit meat. Its most famous spirit meat comes from a high-end ingredient known as the Spirit Snow Sheep, which when roasted or used in a hotpot, is incredibly juicy and tender, melting in one's mouth.

Several adjacent properties to this Hundred Taste Residence, unbeknownst to everyone, had already been bought over. After some renovations, a signboard reading "Keep Achieving Commercial Firm" was early hung over the door.

Undoubtedly, it is the new retail business established in cooperation between the Wang Family and the In-laws Alliance. Originally, it was going to be named Shouzhe Firm, but Wang Shouzhe declined, so it was named using his generation character, Shou, hinting at their aim to always keep their promises and achieve success.

The current store manager of the Northwest Guard branch of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm is a man named Lei Yongbai. He is a Spiritual Platform elder from the Changning Lei Clan. At over a hundred fifty years old, he was sent to the Northwest Guard to serve as the store manager, contributing to the new firm established by the In-laws Alliance.

In addition to him, a number of younger generation members from each clan were arranged to work in the branch. They serve not only as workers and learners but also have to strive in their cultivation.

Branches like these need at least one Realm Cultivator to stabilize them; otherwise, they won't meet the requirements for a commercial firm and could easily be questioned. Each member of the In-law Families having a Realm Cultivator is limited and they each have their own tasks.

However, for this commercial development expedition, many of the old ancestors have paused their duties to break new ground.

Each family is simultaneously training the next generation of Realm Cultivators, gradually expanding the scale and interchanging personnel.

One day,

it's the second month since the opening of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm's Northwest Guard branch. Because the Northwest Guard branch is in a remote location, there's only one spirit bird flying carriage arriving in the morning. After a brief rest, the spirit bird trainer and the carriage leave for Longzuo County Town in the evening.

Chapter 38: Keep Achieving Commercial Firm VS Qian Family Commerce_2

Lei Yongbai, the head manager of the commercial firm branch, has already begun his busy day. Today, he has arranged to meet with three heads of Grade Eight noble families to negotiate the prices and supply of White Jade Spiritual Rice and Fire Crystal Spirited Rice.

Incidentally, he will also negotiate long-term supply contracts for fresh Spirit Fish Meat and the consignment agreement for the family's Spirit Meat business!

These family members have been replenishing their qi and blood with Spirit Meat for a long time, and they have already tired of it. Fresh and tender Spirit Fish Meat is the product they crave most.

The young employees of the commercial firm have also started working full of vim and vigor. Recently, the Northwestern branch has been gradually improving business after a period of trial operation and promotion, which has greatly increased their confidence, making them feel optimistic about the future.

The clients have started to trickle into the commercial firm, each with their own requirements. Some have letters that need to be sent, while others wait to purchase some scattered fresh goods!

"Elder Chunyu." A young clerk surnamed Gongsun is briskly handling Chunyu Andong's procedures. "This is your travel plan. You can reach the County Town tomorrow, and then you can

take a flying carriage from County Town to Cloud Security on the same day. The day after tomorrow, you will be able to reach Cloud Security.

After two days of sightseeing in Cloud Security, you can take the Longzuo loop flying carriage to reach Hundred Islands Guard, Changning Guard, and Zhengze Guard. Finally, you can take a carriage from Zhengze to County Town, then transfer to a carriage to Northwest Guard."

"This package only costs one hundred Qian Gold, and offers a 10% discount for new customers! However, before you board the flying carriage, personal baggage should not exceed 10 pounds, otherwise you will need to purchase an extra luggage ticket."

Just ninety Qian Gold? Chunyu Andong is a bit dizzy. Leaving the seven-day leisure time in each Guard, this series of routes back and forth would only take six or seven days.

In half a month, with ninety Qian Gold, his longstanding dream comes true! If he were to take a horse-drawn carriage, he wouldn't be able to make it back without half a year's time.

It really is the Flying Carriage of the Academic Palace. Not only is it fast, but it also takes the shortest distance route.

At that moment,

A crisp crane cry pierced the sky as a Spirit Bird flying carriage hurtled through the sky, descending rapidly on time and without delay. Even though this was not the first time they'd seen it, it still drew a crowd of onlookers.

Once the flying carriage had landed,

The passengers were the first to disembark. There were a total of five. One was a young man of the Qi Refinement Realm, and the rest were three in the Spirit Platform Realm and one middle-aged man with an unfathomable cultivation base.

Clearly, he was a Tianren Realm Cultivator.

Tianren Realm Cultivators can hover and fly in the air for extended periods, but each moment and each breath consumes Mysterious Energy. If you asked him to soar in the sky overnight, covering a distance of two or three thousand miles, he wouldn't be able to do it even if it killed him.

In reality, even if there were powerful Tianren Realm Cultivators who could do it, it wouldn't be worth it. It's too tiring! If they could sit comfortably in the carriage of a flying carriage and nap for a night to reach their destination, why wouldn't they?

Once all the passengers had disembarked, the hired hands from the separate branch began diligently unloading cargo. There was a small ice crystal refrigerator installed on the flying carriage, and a small cargo bay suspended under the passenger compartment.

The ice crystal refrigerator was filled with high-end ingredients. There were fresh seafood just caught the day before yesterday, giant lobsters weighing over ten pounds, huge abalones, giant sea urchins guaranteed to have golden centers, and so forth.

There were also some even more precious chilled sea Spirit Fish, including a cut of superior part from a third level Purple Gold Spirit Spearfish. It was an excellent choice for Spirit Fish sashimi.

These high-quality ingredients, according to the agreement between Keep Achieving Commercial Firm and Yuwen Clan, were mostly supplied to the Hundred Taste Residence in Northwest Guard with a small portion being reserved for the prominent families they had good relations with.

Because of the reasonable prices and freshness of these ingredients, the business of Hundred Taste Residence was thriving even more.

Meanwhile, the small cargo bay hanging underneath the flying carriage's compartment was loaded with some lightweight goods, like precious Spirit Silk and Spirit Materials, and other lucrative merchandise.

In addition, Hui Qi Si, who drove the flying carriage, had a storage ring. It contained high-end clothes customized by Zhou's Clothing Shop in County Town, some ordered cultivation elixirs, and nearly a dozen letters and small parcels.

After taking off the storage ring, Hui Qi Si went on to eat and rest with the assistance of the clerk. The Spirit Bird was also taken care of by a specialist who fed it Spirit Food and allowed it to rest.

The clerks and workers bustled about.

Some messengers, hugging letters and parcels, began running back and forth to deliver them. The workers from the Hundred Taste Residence collected the freshest ingredients, as their customers had already booked their lunch and dinner, and it seemed like there were not enough ingredients to meet the demand.

Meanwhile.

In the Northwest Guard City, there was a family called the Northwest Xiong, a local 7th rank magnate. A girl from their direct lineage was about to get married. On the opening day of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, they took the flying carriage to the county town and had a beautiful wedding dress custom-made at the Zhou's Clothing Shop which cost about two to three thousand Qian Gold.

The "Keep Achieving Commercial Firm" was responsible for transporting this wedding dress back from Zhou's and delivering it to the Xiong family after its completion. This order didn't earn much for the firm, but it did open up a new line of thought.

In the past, Wang Shouzhe used to entrust Qian family to purchase wedding clothes from Zhou's in the county town. However, the process was lengthy and he didn't get to personally pick the clothes.

Therefore, seizing this opportunity, the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm and Zhou's reached a certain cooperation, specifically advertising the ready clothes catalogue for Zhou's. Whether it was carrying customers to Zhou's to order clothes or inviting Zhou's tailors to offer home services, Keep Achieving Commercial Firm could take a 10% cut.

This event highlighted the life-changing effects the Spirit bird flying carriage system would bring to Longzuo county once it's fully developed. Today you can go to the county town to buy a set of clothes and eat hotpot before returning home the next day.

If you're in a bad mood, you can go to Cloud Security to watch the sunrise and sunset.

Even if you are free one day, you can go fishing in Zhenze Wei, or gallop on the grasslands of the Northwest Guard for several days! Of course, you can also feed seagulls in Hundred Islands Guard and go back home to carry on with your life the next day...

All these conveniences have overturned the living habits of the people in Longzuo County. Of course, it's only the top figures and a few ordinary people with business minds in Longzuo County that have been affected.

The vast majority of people at the bottom of society still live as they did before.

A situation like that of the Northwest Guard is just the tip of the iceberg. The flying carriage system in each guard city has gradually been put on the right track, making the biggest news and gossip in Longzuo County.

Moreover, many "rumors" have begun to spread within Longzuo County.

The establishment of the "Keep Achieving Commercial Firm" resulted from Qian's Commercial Firm's disregard and suppression of its former allies. The partners of the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, who used to work closely with Qian's Commercial Firm, had their partnership commission abruptly raised from 20% to 50% by Qian's firm.

The partners of Qian's Commercial Firm had no choice but to open up their own business channel. Prior to this, the partners led by the Wang family originally wanted to build the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm with Qian's Commercial Firm.

Such rumors and facts struck a blow to the reputation of Qian's Commercial Firm, and more often resulted in mockery of Qian's foolish strategic layout. It's said that even the Old Ancestor of the Qian family, a Purple Abode, was alarmed and threw a tantrum in the family.

In the meantime.

In the main hall of Qian family in Longzuo.

A broad-faced, dignified-looking middle-aged man angrily smashed a vase and yelled, "Has that brat Xuerui come back yet?"

An inscrutable butler quietly said, "Family Head, we have already sent a fast horse to bring Young Master back. However, the distance from Southern Six Guards is far, I'm afraid it will take some time for him to return."

"Far away?" The Qian family head's face twitched, he laughed in anger, "If it's far away, why didn't he take the flying carriage of Keep Achieving Commercial Firm? That brat really fails more than he succeeds. He dared to fall out with the Wang family and others without knowing the situation properly, causing our Qian family to miss a good opportunity!"

"Family Head, please calm down." The butler persuaded, "The Young Master made such a decision for the good of our Qian family. Besides, that Wang family obviously didn't have good intentions. Maybe they had planned to throw us Qian family aside and go solo a long time ago."

Chapter 39: Wrath of the Seven-tailed Fire Fox_1

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"Humph~"

At these words, a cold sneer appeared on the stern face of the Qian Family Head: "Being able to complete all the arrangements in such a short period of time, without even requiring trial and error, and presenting a complete marketing plan, this 'Air Cold Chain Transport' must have been a plan that the Wang family had prepared for a long time."

"However, without that reckless little beast's actions, would the Wang family dare to go it alone without us? The impact of this matter is substantial, it can even be said to have shaken the foundation of the family business. Many elders in the family have raised objections.

Uncle Zhong, there's no need for you to persuade me further, that little beast has made such a big mistake, severe punishment is necessary to appease the public anger."

Butler Qian Zhong's lips moved slightly, but he said nothing in the end.

Just at this moment.

Outside the hall, a reprimanding voice filled with anger suddenly echoed: "Qian Qinzhong, how dare you!"

Just as the reprimanding voice fell, a woman dressed in brocade and finery, leading a group of maids and servants, walked in grandly from the entrance.

This was a dazzling beauty.

Phoenix eyes, jade nose, cherry lips, skin as soft as snow, graceful posture....every part of her body seemed to grow according to the standard of beauty, only her overall aura was domineering and sharp, carrying a kind of high-handed arrogance.

This woman was none other than the current main wife of the Qian family— Cao Li Na.

She was also the biological mother of Qian Xuerui.

She was born into the direct line of Liaoyuan Cao family, a fifth grade Purple Abode Prominent Family in Liaoyuan County, and her background was very distinguished. Now in her early forties, she already possessed the Early Stage of Spirit Platform Realm. Even though she had a child, she looked as radiant as a woman in her early twenties.

"Nana, why are you here?" Qian Qinhong, the Qian Family Head, raised his eyebrows imperceptibly upon seeing her, "This is a significant matter, you must not make a fuss."

"How am I making a fuss?" Cao Li Na angrily retorted, "As a woman who married you, Qian Qinhong, as a second wife, why is it that the son I gave birth to can never surpass the eldest son? His development prospects are limited. But Xuerui is sensible from a young age, studies diligently and practices cultivation tirelessly, even the Old Ancestor likes him quite a lot."

"This time Rui went south, all his actions were for the development of the family. Even if there are mistakes, it is only due to his youthful impetuosity and lack of caution in his actions. Now, you are actually going to punish him severely just for these minor errors! Do you still consider him your own son?"

Is it that only Qian Xuehan, the son of you and your late wife, is your own son, and Qian Xuerui is a bastard I brought in from an affair?"

"Nonsense!"

Qian Qinhong, the Qian Family Head, was so angry that his face turned pale.

"Nana, don't talk nonsense. Xuerui is of course my son. But his reckless actions this time destroyed a great opportunity for our Qian Family. You may not yet know, several Prominent Families that

have good relations with our Qian Family have come to complain, saying that they are losing out on high-quality grain seeds and the family's business profits have dropped significantly.

The family elders also have lots of complaints against Xuerui. Without severe punishment, how can we quell public anger?"

"Public anger? What public anger?! " Cao Li Na sneered angrily, "This is clearly Wang Family's fault! A mere 7th-rank aristocratic family, solely because they have some connections with the Academic Palace, think that they can get on top of our heads.

Let's not forget, when the Wang Family was so poor they couldn't even afford to eat, wasn't it by relying on our Qian Family that they have what they have today. Now that they have grown wings, they dare to fall out with the Qian Family for mere benefits. If the Wang family reaches the sixth or even fifth rank, where will there be a place for our Qian family?"

Meanwhile.

Butler Qian Zhong also suggested: "The family head is kind-hearted, wanting to take this opportunity to make peace with Wang family. But if we show goodwill easily, the Wang family might think that we are weak, and will only become more arrogant and rebellious in the future.

Even if the family head intends to pull Wang family back in, first we must show the power of our Qian family, so that they don't look down on us."

Qian Zhong was an elder of the Qian Family, serving the Qian family diligently for more than three hundred years, having served three family heads. His advice and opinion were something that even the current Family Head, Qian Qinhong, would ponder carefully.

"Uncle Zhong is right." The Qian Family Head, Qian Qinhong, pondered for a bit and felt it made sense, "In that case, let's show some of the Qian family's methods, so they don't think the Qian family is too weak to be bullied."

After all, Qian Xuerui was his son, and had his natural mother, Cao Li Na, backing him up. This matter, in the end, must be resolved to save some face for him.

Seeing him say this, Cao Li Na's anger was immediately replaced by joy, and she cooed sweet nothings while holding onto Qian Qinhong's arm.

As a legitimate daughter of a Purple Abode prominent family, she was naturally proud, but she also knew how to manipulate people's hearts, understanding that unrestrained arrogance and dominance would only draw Qian Qinhong's displeasure. Showing her soft side from time to time is what would make a man completely obedient to her.

...

A few days later.

At the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm in Longzuo County Town.

Hui Qi Si, the driver of the flying carriage, was carefully wiping the Thousand Miles Mirror and Celestial Mechanism Disc in his hand, his movements meticulous and careful.

These two items were his livelihood. Among them, the Celestial Mechanism Disc was a lower grade spiritual artifact provided by the Academic Palace, specifically used for direction finding, and the Thousand Miles Mirror was given by Changnign Wang Clan, which could be used for long-distance observation.

Driving a flying carriage in the vast sky is a technical work, relying entirely on these two "treasures", he was able to stay on course.

Hui Qi Si was now over ninety years old, and he too had once been an ordinary disciple of the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

According to the rules, after ordinary disciples graduate from the Academic Palace, they need to serve the Academic Palace for fifty years in return for the training they received. After the fifty-year service period, they can choose to return to their family and enjoy a peaceful life, or they can choose to stay in the Academic Palace, earning more.

Chapter 39 Rage of the Seven-tailed Firefox_2

Last year, he had already completed his 50-year term of service, but he wanted to earn a bit more and so chose to continue working in the Academic Palace as a flying carriage operator.

The job of a flying carriage operator in the Academic Palace is quite easy. The students seldom need to use the flying carriage, and usually only the specially taught and significant core disciples would

be willing to spend study points to hire a flying carriage. On ordinary days, he just needed to keep his flying carriage and Zhu Topecrane in good condition.

Because of this, flying carriage operators didn't earn much but it was enough to cover his own living and Cultivation expenses. It was better than returning to his family and relying on the little surplus money his family could offer.

However, even he didn't expect that one day, being a flying carriage operator could actually become a popular and coveted job.

During his time at the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, the Qian Gold he earned was nearly ten times what it used to be. Not only was it more than enough to support himself, but he could also give back to his family.

Plus, since the Wang family's generosity with salaries began to spread within the Academic Palace, a lot of ordinary disciples who were about to graduate had set their sights on this area. Just in the past few days, he'd already turned down several ordinary disciples who wanted to learn how to operate the flying carriage from him.

What a joke! There are only so many flying carriages. If he taught his apprentices, what would he do?

After cleaning the Celestial Mechanism Disc and securing it on the flying carriage, Hui Qi Si looked up and saw a familiar elderly face.

He couldn't help but laugh: "Oh, isn't this Brother Chunyu? You're back from your trip?"

The visitor was indeed Chunyu Andong, whom he had met before.

After touring around the Cloud Security, Hundred Islands Guard, Changning Guard, and the Earthquake Marsh, Chunyu Andong's mood was obviously good, his face showing a satisfied smile, "Haha~ Brother Hui, your flying carriage is so convenient! I don't have to worry about the route or anything, I just play as I please then head to the firm to take the flying carriage to the next stop when it's time.

It's so worry-free! Whoever came up with this idea is a genius~"

He was full of praise for the experience he had along the way.

The firm even thought ahead about his accommodations. He just needed to show the documents from the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm and he could check into the inn.

In his entire life, he had never had such a carefree and hassle-free trip~

"That's for sure." Hui Qi Si said with a smile, "Our firm's Manager is none other than Clan Leader Shu Zhe from the Changning Wang family, who is known for his deep foresight and excellent strategies. He came up with this tour package idea, and there hasn't been anyone who's tried it and not praised it."

He was specifically responsible for the route from the Longzuo County Town to Guard City, flying the carriage from Longzuo County Town to the Guard City each morning, and then returning from Guard City.

At that point, the sun hadn't set and there was a bit of time before takeoff, so he wasn't in a hurry and casually chatted with Chunyu Andong.

"Brother Chunyu, didn't you mention you were going to Cloud Security to find someone? How did it go, did you find her?"

"Good thing you remembered." Chunyu Andong sat next to Hui Qi Si with a myriad of emotions, "I thought that after so many years, she would've forgotten about me. To my surprise, she has remained unmarried and has become the Old Ancestor of the Spiritual Platform, taking charge of the family."

"In this lifetime, the fact that I could see her again in such a way, I, Chunyu Andong can declare myself to have no regrets."

Hearing this, Hui Qi Si also couldn't help but sigh.

Who doesn't have a time when their heart flutters in spring? Back in his youth, there was also someone he liked, but life is unpredictable, leaving nothing but regrets~

As for these feelings, he naturally understood them all too well.

However, before he could finish empathizing, Chunyu Andong suddenly changed the topic: "Right~ I heard that you guys offer memberships, something about annual or monthly packages? How can I get it? How much can I save when I go to Cloud Security in the future?"

Hui Qi Si's expression froze, his gaze on Chunyu Andong was extremely strange. Didn't he just say that he had no regrets in life? How come he's already considering getting an annual membership now?

Chunyu Andong's face turned red due to Hui Qi Si's gaze, looking somewhat uncomfortable, "Well, well. Now that there are flying carriages, it's convenient to travel back and forth. I was thinking about getting a membership so I can save some money if I travel frequently in the future."

Fine~fine~as long as you're happy.

Speechless, Hui Qi Si put away the half-cleaned Thousand Miles Mirror and headed towards the firm with him, "Membership applications don't fall under my responsibility. I'll take you to the Manager of the firm."

Chunyu Andong immediately followed behind, joyfully imagining the happy scenes of meeting his old lover under the moonlight from time to time.

Many similar events were frequently taking place in various parts of the Southern Six Guards in Longzuo County.

The opening of the flying carriage routes and the emergence of flying carriage cold chain transportation, in some ways, can be considered epoch-making innovations.

They directly changed people's perception of distance, and subsequently changed the consumption habits, consumption thoughts, life rhythm of the people from the prominent families in the Southern Six Guards, and even brought about many new industries and lifestyles.

And this kind of change was just the beginning.

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New City Guard.

Yuwen's household.

Due to the clan guardian Six-Tailed Spirit Fox successfully advancing to Level Seven, the momentum of the Yuwen Clan has greatly improved recently, with the number of prominent families coming to pay their respects also increasing.

However, today, the Yuwen family received a special honorable guest.

Chapter 39: Wrath of the Seven-tailed Fire Fox_3

One guest was from the Qian Family of Longzuo.

In the guest hall of the Yuwen Clan, an old man dressed in royal blue brocade, with a stern face, was drinking alone at a table.

The elder looked very old, his hair already grayed and his face wrinkled, yet he radiated an invisible aura of power characteristic of a powerhouse. Indeed, he was a Tianren Realm powerhouse.

This elder of the Tianren Realm was none other than Mr. Qian Jinghuan, currently one of the most respected elders of the Purple Abode Qian Family. He was a figure at the advanced stage of the Tianren Realm.

Lady Bilian, who didn't have the title of the Family Head but wielded real power, was personally attending to him with two high-ranking clan elders at this moment.

"Hee hee hee ~ Old Qian, you and our Yuwen Clan are such intimate friends." Lady Bilian giggled non-stop, speaking flattering words, "During our most difficult times, you spared no effort to help us. Come, come, let me pour you another glass."

The relationship between the Yuwen Clan and the Qian Family had been a long one. It couldn't be said to be good, but it wasn't bad either.

Both were Prominent Families mainly engaged in business. It was inevitable for the two families to cooperate, but competition was also unavoidable, leading to occasional disputes.

During the period when the Purple Abode's Old Ancestor of the Yuwen Clan had fallen, the Yuwen Clan was often at a disadvantage in any competition between the two.

It was impossible for Lady Bilian to not harbor any resentment after all these years.

Furthermore, she herself was not a broad-minded person. Collaborating with the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm this time might just be her way of giving the Qian Family a hard time.

She knew that the Qian Family was certainly not here with good intentions.

But publicly, she showed no signs of abnormality, maintaining her smiling demeanor.

After rounds of toasting and wine drinking.

Finally, Elder Qian Jinghuan couldn't keep it to himself any longer: "Lady Bilian, you are a smart person. I believe you've guessed the purpose of our visit. So, I won't beat around the bush. After a decision by our Qian Family Elder Council, we are willing to make a ten percent concession on all projects we collaborate on with the Yuwen Clan."

A ten percent concession?

The two elders from the Yuwen Clan narrowed their eyes, seemingly interested.

However, Lady Bilian was not so easily fooled.

Her eyes flickered slightly, and her smile became even brighter: "The precondition, I presume, is for us to sever ties with the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, right?"

"Indeed, Lady Bilian. You've grasped the essence in an instant." Elder Qian Jinghuan said with a smile, "This arrangement would benefit both our families." According to the Qian Family's understanding, Lady Bilian always had a good grasp of the situation.

That ten percent concession would be very beneficial to the Yuwen Clan. On the other hand, if refused, and it offended the Qian Family, the Yuwen Clan would be placed at a severe disadvantage.

"It sounds very sincere." Lady Bilian said with a serious face, "However, the cooperation with the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm was not my idea."

"It was not Lady Bilian's idea?" Elder Qian Jinghuan was slightly taken aback, "Could it be the idea of an elder from the Yuwen Clan? No problem, I can negotiate with them."

"No, it was the idea of our Family's Firefox Old Ancestor." Lady Bilian replied indifferently.

"The Firefox Old Ancestor?" Elder Qian Jinghuan's face changed instantly. He had never thought that this matter could involve the Firefox Old Ancestor!

At that moment.

A haughty female voice exploded in the banquet hall: "Correct, it was this old lady's idea. You damned old man, do you have a problem with that?"

In the banquet hall, flames flickered.

A petite and exquisite Seven-Tailed Spirit Fox suddenly appeared out of nowhere. Before Elder Qian Jinghuan could reply, the fox expanded in size, transforming into a ferocious flame-coated Great Yao. Without any hesitation, she swiped a claw down: "Old man, you dare to sabotage the relationship between my brother Shouzhe and me. I'll kill you."

Chapter 40: Great Heavenly Proud! Follower_1

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Upon seeing this, a shiver ran through Qian Jinghuan's heart.

He never dreamt that the mighty Firefox Old Ancestor would strike as soon as she said. However, he was, after all, a powerful cultivator at the advanced stage of the Heavenly Human Realm. His reactions were extremely quick.

In the blink of an eye, the mysterious energy within his body began to circulate rapidly.

"Purple Urgent Zhenyang Verses!"

The "Purple Urgent Zhenyang Verses" is the clan's cultivation technique of the Qian family in Longzuo, it's also a rare balanced fire technique that is neutral in nature.

It's known that most fire techniques in this world take the hard and overbearing route. However, the "Purple Urgent Zhenyang Verses" is different, it emphasizes the nourishment and refinement of one's body, accumulating the foundation bit by bit, and expanding the Qi Sea.

The more advanced the cultivation, the more immovable the posture, and vast the mysterious energy, it can be described as well-balanced in offense and defense, with a long-lasting effect.

This is also the foundation of the Qian Family. Without a strong martial power foundation, how could it become one of the overlords of the whole Longzuo County?

As soon as he activated his cultivation technique, in the blink of an eye, Qian Jinghuan's face was covered with a layer of purple aura, his energy surging around his body, instantly forming a Gang Qi shield around him.

With the strengthening by the formidable power at the advanced stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, this Gang Qi shield condensed as solid as a real object. In the blink of an eye, it shielded his entire body tightly.

The next moment...

The overbearing, flame-filled claw of the Firefox Old Ancestor ruthlessly struck the shield.

"Boom!"

The collision of energy caused a deafening roar that instantly resounded throughout the entire banquet hall. The ground began to violently tremble, tables, chairs, bowls and plates scattered all over the place.

Qian Jinghuan was directly sent flying, crashing through the wall, and continued flying tens of feet backwards before he barely managed to stabilize himself.

At this point, his protective Gang Qi was nearly shattered, and blood seeped from the corners of his mouth. It was clear that he had suffered severe internal injuries.

"Firefox Old Ancestor, this is a misunderstanding..."

Frightened out of his wits, Qian Jinghuan hurriedly started to explain.

However, the Seven-Tailed Firefox, in her wrath, had no interest in listening to his explanation.

Anyone who dared to bully his handsome Brother Shouzhe was her enemy.

A flicker of light, and her enormous demonic body, ablaze with red spiritual flames, appeared again in front of Qian Jinghuan, launching another claw attack.

"Boom~!"

Before Qian Jinghuan could finish his words, he was sent flying once again. This time, he was knocked back a full hundred feet before he stopped.

Lady Bilian twitched her lips, hurriedly shouting, "Old Ancestor, show mercy! Do not maim or kill."

If a cultivator of the Purple Abode Realm or of equal strength was looking for an excuse to teach a lesson to a cultivator of the Heavenly Human Realm, who would have a problem with that? But if they intended to maim or kill, it would be difficult to explain. At least, the Qian family wouldn't let it slide.

Fortunately, the Seven-Tailed Firefox, though short-tempered, still had spiritual intelligence and reason. She had left room for leniency and didn't really intend to kill.

As for Qian Jinghuan, his strength was also impressive. Having mastered the "Purple Urgent Zhenyang Verses", he was extraordinarily resilient.

Thus, under the continuous attacks of the Seven-Tailed Firefox, Qian Jinghuan managed to escape from the main residence of the Yuwen Clan, despite being repeatedly knocked back and fleeing.

However, after such a tumult, his eyebrows and beard were scorched, his clothes were in tatters, and he was in an utterly sorry state.

"Hmph~"

Seeing Qian Jinghuan had left the main residence of the Yuwen Clan, the Seven-Tailed Firefox finally stopped her pursuit.

Her enormous body floated above the Yuwen Clan, her seven fluffy tails slowly swaying behind her. Her mighty power from the Purple Abode Realm enveloped Qian Jinghuan like a towering mountain, making him breathless.

"You old Qian lad," her smart fox eyes stared dead at Qian Jinghuan, warning him arrogantly, "This time, it's just a small warning. If you dare to mess with the relationship between the Yuwen Clan and my Brother Shouzhe again, next time, your Grand Aunt here won't let you off so easily."

"Yes, yes, yes! Firefox Old Ancestor, I know my mistake~ I won't do it again, I definitely won't..."

Qian Jinghuan shuddered, hurriedly beating his chest to promise. His heart, however, was filled with regret and fear.

The poor man didn't expect that Wang Shouzhe of the Changning Wang Clan had such a good relationship with the Firefox Old Ancestor.

From looking at their relationship, it seems it's not ordinary either.

If he had known earlier, he wouldn't have come here to humiliate himself!

Seeing that the Firefox Old Ancestor no longer intended to make things difficult for him, he immediately led the rest of the Qian family to leave in a sorry state. He didn't dare to say another harsh word, let alone linger on the territory of the Seven-Tailed Firefox.

After they left...

The Seven-Tailed Firefox retracted her demonic form, transformed back into a small and cute fox, and descended.

"Firefox Old Ancestor, is it worth it for us to offend the Qian family for the Wang Clan?" Lady Bilian, accompanied by a group of elders from the Yuwen Clan, hurried forward, anxiously asked, "It would be fine if we just rejected the Qian family, why do we have to sever our relationship with them so harshly?"

"Bilian, you are still young, it's okay if you don't understand," the Seven-Tailed Firefox waved her tail, explaining with the wisdom of age, "In this matter, since we've chosen a side, we have to firmly stand by that decision. We mustn't try to please both sides. Let me tell you, Brother Shouzhe is no ordinary person. His potential in the future is immeasurable. This is my advice for the Yuwen Clan."

Lady Biliand's eyes flickered as if she had understood something.

She bowed slightly and said, "In that case, whatever the Firefox Old Ancestor wishes, that is also the intent of our Yuwen Clan."

Chapter 40: Great Heavenly Proud! Follower_2

Of course, she knew that her Fire Fox Ancestor, who had lived for so long, was not as naive as a little girl. Perhaps she was whimsical sometimes, but her spiritual intelligence was absolutely top-notch, even sharper than most humans at times.

Besides, Lady Bilian was no fool herself.

She was very good at networking and had a wide range of information sources, which naturally meant that she understood the Wang family more deeply than most others.

In her opinion, Wang Shouzhe was unprecedented in intellect, strategy, vision, and networking skills.

Such a man, who also possesses a strong cultivation talent, would surely have a promising future.

With him as the Family Head, the potential of the Changning Wang Clan is immeasurable. At least in her view, the Wang family would not remain as a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family for long.

This was also why she agreed to cooperate with Keep Achieving Commercial Firm without hesitation.

It's easy to add flowers to brocade implies it's easy to help someone when they're doing well, but it's difficult to provide help in desperate times.

Given the relationship between the Yuwen and Qian Families was not all that harmonious, why shouldn't she take a gamble? If she won, the Yuwen family would gain a powerful ally in the future.

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Almost at the same time,

In the Purple Abode Academy of Longzuo County, at the Heavenly Lake of Primordial Water.

Everyone thought that the area with the most condensed water aura in Heavenly Lake was the residence and cultivation place of Master Primordial Water, which was the Primordial Water Pavilion.

But in fact, only a few people knew that the core of the entire Heavenly Lake's water spirit vein, was a restricted area located at the remote side of the large lake island, the "Nameless Broken Island".

The Aura of Primordial Water on this "Nameless Broken Island" was extremely dense. It has always been the closed-door cultivation place of the Enlightened One Tianhe. Normally, only the Purple Abode Old Turtle, Master Primordial Water, and a few seniors of the Elders are eligible to visit the island.

But now, this Nameless Broken Island had passed onto a new owner, and became the cultivation place for Tianhe's favorite disciple — Wang Liyao.

In a short period of time, a exquisite and beautiful building was built on this island.

Within the courtyard of the building, various water spirit plants are vying for growth. Within the building, the aura of water spirit is even incredibly dense, it feels like even the breath is soaked in the mist.

This building, is Wang Liyao's new residence — "Shuiyun Pavilion".

There is also a simple wooden house built on the outskirts of the island. This can be regarded as a stopover place for the "old servant" Shang Jiping.

It seems that Shang Jiping is truly blessed in the face of disaster.

Having cultivated in this blessed heavenly abode for just a few months, he finally saw a slight loosening in the bottleneck of his Heavenly Human Realm Level Six, which he had been unable to break through for ages.

If he has the chance to advance further, he would become a cultivator at the advanced stage of the Heavenly Human Realm.

Of course, Shang Jiping was overjoyed.

Miss Liyao was indeed a lucky person. Following her, perhaps in his lifetime, he might stand a slight chance to tread the way of Purple Abode.

All of a sudden,

A small boat stirred the water surface and headed this way, carrying a young girl.

She was dressed in light blue disciple attire, wearing cloud-stepping boots, and had a sword on her back. She looked invigorating and celestial.

Shang Jiping frowned.

Suddenly, he spoke out with a slightly stern voice that seemed to appear out of thin air around the small boat: "This is a restricted area, do not enter without an invitation. Whoever is approaching should retreat quickly."

"Greetings, elder. I am from the Xuanyao Lineage, a core disciple named Mo Wanqiu, 27 years old, with a cultivation base at Level One of the Spirit Platform Realm," Mo Wanqiu said confidently with her head slightly raised, "I hope to meet Aunt Li Yao and become one of her followers."

Since ancient times, there has been a tradition of the weaker following the strong.

As such, it is naturally expected for Great Heavenly Prouds to attract followers, as, barring any mishap, these individuals have a high probability of reaching the Divine Power Territory in the future, as long as they continued to strive forward.

"Mo Wanqiu?" Shang Jiping frowned slightly, "I've heard of you, you're one of the rising stars of the younger generation. Are you a Mid-Rank 'A' Level bloodline?"

Mo Wanqiu hesitated for a moment before admitting, "I have a Middle Sub-Grade bloodline."

"Middle Sub-Grade, 27 years old, that should mean you come from a well-off family, and your family provides you with many resources," Shang Jiping instantly discerned her background, "You should be from the Mo family in Southern Desert County, a Grade Six Prominent Family. Why didn't you join the Southern Desert Academy but came to our Longzuo Academy instead?"

"The elder is indeed insightful." Mo Wanqiu said with a slight hint of pride, "I came to Longzuo Academy because I admire Master Xuanyao's Mountain-Opening Sword Qi and my bloodline is compatible with it."

Every county has their own Academy, but not every Academy has an Enlightened One to be the mentor for every attribute. For example, the Purple Abode Academy in Longzuo does not have an Enlightened One for earth-based bloodlines, gold-based bloodlines. Although there is Master Yunyang for fire-based disciples, he accepts very few disciples.

As a result, some talented, well-off children, for their better development, would go to Academies in other counties and become disciples of the Enlightened Ones with corresponding bloodlines.

For instance, Fang Youan of the Mysterious Ice Lineage was not originally from Longzuo County. He came to the Purple Abode Academy because his extraordinary Mysterious Ice bloodline, and became disciple of Master Binglan.

Of course, each Academy has a wide range of cultivation techniques, so it is not necessarily the case that one has to practice the same class of cultivation techniques as master, but there would inevitably be some lack of targeted guidance, which makes the difference.

Just as Mo Wanqiu was slightly proud, Shang Jiping flatly refused her: "Your bloodline level is a bit low, and your cultivation level is too low as well.

Since ancient times, if a young Great Heavenly Proud who has not yet grown up wants to recruit followers, they either choose Core Disciples who are already in the Mid Stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, or they choose Heavenly Prouds who are several decades older."

Chapter 40: Great Heavenly Proud! Follower_3

"What?"

Mo Wanqiu, who was originally full of confidence, was hit hard by this sudden rejection.

She, a Little Sky Pride, was straightforwardly rejected by the one she wanted to follow? And, she couldn't even meet Aunt Li Yao?

"Miss, let me make it clear to you. You becoming a follower is nothing more than seeking protection." Shang Jiping sneered, "With your capabilities, how could you bring any assistance to Miss Li Yao? Go away, don't disturb Miss Li Yao's cultivation. If you intrude into forbidden areas again, we will imprison you."

After speaking, without waiting for Mo Wanqiu to respond, an invisible force hit her boat, shaking it backward repeatedly.

After she was completely chased away, Shang Jiping inside the small house finally sighed: "This is the third ignorant one this month. The Purple Abode Academic Palace is a too small pond after all, even the Little Sky Pride dare to recommend themselves. I'm afraid only the Lingyun Holy Ground can turn Miss Li Yao into a true phoenix."

However, Shang Jiping understood that the palace head would definitely have his plans.

Compared to the fierce competition in Lingyun Sacred Land, Miss Li Yao is spoiled in the Purple Abode Academic Palace, and her development is equally good.

While Shang Jiping was daydreaming, another boat sailed over.

On this boat stood a young and robust teenager, with a cultivation base only in the seventh layer of the Vital Energy Refining Realm, and his dress was rather simple. His temperament and cultivation base were far inferior to Mo Wanqiu's.

But this time, although Shang Jiping frowned slightly with some dissatisfaction, he didn't stop him.

After disembarking, the young man saluted Shang Jiping from a distance: "Lu Xianghui pays his respects to Elder Shang."

Yes.

This young man was Lu Xianghui.

Miss Li Yao had instructed earlier that she and Lu Xianghui were friends, and Lu Xianghui could come to visit her on the island at any time.

Shang Jiping rolled his eyes, his heart full of lamentation. This kid really had a streak of luck, suddenly clinging to a golden thigh, that even made him envious and jealous.

In comparison, his Shang family never had such good luck.

"Brother Lu is here." At this time, a melodious voice came from the building on the island, "Please come in. Did my father send another letter?"

"Yes, Aunt Li Yao."

Lu Xianghui took a large parcel from the boat, carried it on his back, and walked towards the building, panting.

In a short while.

He brought the parcel to the front of the building, and Wang Liyao, who had come out to greet him, invited him in with a gentle smile, saying, "Brother Lu, you've worked hard to help me with the delivery."

"No problem, I have to fetch anyway, whether it's one item or more, and Aunt Li Yao is kindly offering a reward." Lu Xianghui lowered his head, not daring to look at her, "Aunt, please stop calling me senior brother."

He never expected that a disciple he casually met on the road turned out to be a Great Heavenly Proud, with a real beauty resembling an immortal.

"Never mind, let's each follow our own ways." Wang Liyao took out the Spiritual Tea and offered it to Lu Xianghui. She didn't show any disrespect because of his low status.

After a few sips of Spiritual Tea, Lu Xianghui stood up to take his leave: "Aunt, I still have some things to deliver, so I won't disturb your cultivation."

He was always a very self-aware person. Aunt Li Yao's high regard for him and her unchanged attitude towards him were his fortune. He was very clear that he must not harbor any inappropriate thoughts.

What he could do was maintain his humility, keep his heart in the right place, and fulfill his duties to the best of his abilities.

"Wait~" Wang Liyao stopped him and asked earnestly, "Brother Lu, would you like to be my follower?"

"A follower!?" Lu Xianghui trembled, revealing an incredulous look.