

Protect OCL VL3 81

Chapter 81: Shihai's Illegitimate Child is wronged! _1

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"Miss, please hold on."

Wang Shihai instinctively shouted.

"?" The woman stopped, her attractive eyes under the bamboo hat looking at Wang Shihai as if in doubt. From the dress and demeanor of these clansmen, as well as their weapons and equipment, she could infer that this was one of the Wang family's cleanup crews.

However, the young man in the lead, who seemed full of vitality, was a stranger to her. She had never seen him before, and he was certainly not her brother or nephew...

"Miss, this is a foreign territory. Although most of it has been cleared up, there are still some dangerous areas present." Wang Shihai felt a sudden fascination with the mysterious woman, clasped his fist, and began to talk in a friendly way, "If the young lady has no urgent business, please refrain from wandering around. Not far ahead is our camp, where you can..."

"Who are you? A new recruit from the Wang family?" The woman interrupted him in a slightly frosty tone. She was slightly doubtful. Given her fourth brother's character, he was always distrustful of Independent Cultivators. He should not be recruiting Independent Cultivators in the Spirit Platform Realm to be the head of household.

Besides, this person is young, but his cultivation base has already reached the Spirit Platform Realm, he is definitely not simple. Could he possibly be a rising star of an In-Law Family?

"I beg your pardon, Miss. My name is Wang Shihai, may I know your name?" Wang Shihai stared directly at the mysterious woman. Her pure and attractive quality, the strong and dominant vibe she exuded from time to time, deeply attracted him.

It felt as though this was the first time Wang Shihai had truly felt such an electric shock in his life.

"How dare you, you thief, impersonate a member of the Wang family!" Suddenly, the woman's face changed. Angrily rebuking him, her slender leg stepped forward, and instantly her figure blurred into a strand of smoke, seemingly formless, attacking Wang Shihai.

"Such swift speed."

Faced with the sudden surge of killing intent, Wang Shihai was taken aback. He instantly gripped the hilt of the sword and as he drew it, the Spirit Sword hummed. The white light of the sword, like tiny stars, enveloped the strand of smoke.

The sword move was plain and ordinary, yet it held an overwhelming momentum. Continue reading on My Virtual Library Empire

No matter how silly Wang Shihai was, he was still a young Sky Pride meticulously cultivated by the Fifth Grade Prominent Family. His comprehensive abilities were extremely strong, and his response to crisis was extremely quick.

"Oh, is this the Wang Clan Xuan Yuan Sword Technique?"

The woman muttered in surprise, but quickly raised an eyebrow, "This is not quite right, just who are you? Why are you impersonating a member of the Wang family?" While talking, her smoke-like figure subtly dodged all the incoming sword light.

"I have not changed my name or surname. I am your grandfather Shihai." Wang Shihai, who had been pampered since childhood, like a little devil, certainly felt an instant attraction to the woman in front of him.

But being scolded as a thief and accused of impersonating a Wang family member made him lose his temper.

After letting out a roar, Wang Shihai once again displayed his profound swordsmanship, each move embodying the extraordinary intent of a sword that was like a roaming dragon.

Heavy white sword lights, one after another, sealed off all the woman's escape routes.

This kind of swordplay had already departed from the original "Wang Clan Xuan Yuan Sword Technique" and entered a new level, pointing directly to the True Sword Intent.

This was hardly surprising.

For the Wang family, the Sword Dao learning students first learn the "Wang's Basic Sword Law", then practice the Middle Grade "Wang Clan Xuan Yuan Sword Technique". Once the foundation is solid, one can cultivate the top-grade sword technique "Wang's Heavenly Element Sword Decision" passed down by the Wang family.

However, only the Changning Wang Clan has inherited the "Wang Clan Xuan Yuan Sword Technique". There is no advanced sword technique, even the Longzuo Wang Clan didn't have the inheritance of this top-grade sword technique.

That's why the woman felt that his sword technique seemed to be Xuan Yuan sword, but also seemed a little off.

Even the woman herself, her eyes brightened a bit, she muttered, "This is a bit interesting."

"Excellent job, Young Master Shihai." The clansmen cheered for him, "This girl is too domineering, take her down and give her a lesson. Women, you see, they love men who are stronger than them."

"When Young Master Shihai shows his prowess, she'll know how powerful he is."

These clansmen had been with Wang Shihai for several months. In the dangerous territories, Wang Shihai's strength and care for everyone had deeply won their hearts.

As soon as these words were spoken, Wang Shihai felt even more spirited and full of energy.

The "Tian Yuan Sword Technique" was being continuously deployed, the momentum around him was growing constantly, and he laughed, "Miss, I suggest you surrender earnestly and apologize sincerely. Considering your exceptional temperament and beauty, I will forgive you once, or else... hehehe~~"

Even though Wang Shihai has been with his fourth grandfather for some time and his consciousness has gradually improved, his pampered young master's nature and habits still unavoidably lingered. Hence, when feeling smug, that nature will inevitably reveal itself.

"You, courting death!"

The woman's eyes turned cold, her body swiftly shifted. Like a butterfly dancing in flowers, she was clever and unpredictable. All the white sword lights completely missed their target.

Suddenly!

The "butterfly" stagnated, unable to dodge an incoming sword light in time.

"Miss, watch out!" Wang Shihai's heart tightened. He had merely been resisting and retaliating, intending to show this young lady his might. He had no intention of harming her life.

But who would expect.

As the sword light passed over the "woman's figure", it went through her as if there was nothing there. At the same time, that dancing figure stirred like a stone thrown into still water, blurring into dozens of elegant figures, fluttering in the sky like a group of butterflies.

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A single dancing figure can be quite gorgeous and pleasing to the eye, but dozens of dancing figures moving simultaneously can be terrifying and make one's heart race, causing a tingling sensation at the scalp.

"Illusion? Impossible!" Wang Shihai's face changed as he realized he had run into trouble. He quickly prepared to retreat hastily.

"Thinking of escape now? I'm afraid it's too late." A frigid female voice echoed gently behind him. An unnoticeable small butterfly had somehow managed to find its way behind Wang Shihai. The butterfly twisted and transformed into a woman wearing a weft yarn Douli.

A jade flute was already resting on the back of Wang Shihai's head, ready to explode with a sudden release of her mysterious energy. It would ensure that Wang Shihai's head would burst open like a large watermelon.

This was one of the Illusion Techniques in the lineage of the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies at Longzuo's Purple Abode Academic Palace, the "Phantom Butterfly Divine Skill." The skill had been the trademark technique of Lady Huandie, a master at the Academic Palace. Once activated, butterflies would fill the sky, and as long as one butterfly lived, Lady Huandie could stay alive.

By the time her true body appeared, the outcome of the battle was essentially decided.

As a favored disciple of Lady Huandie, how could she not deeply study this divine skill?

However, she had only mastered the surface-level techniques of the "Phantom Butterfly Divine Skill." At Lady Huandie's level, displaying the skill would be similar to using a small divine power.

"Please... please show mercy, miss," Wang Shihai pleaded, as he was gripped by icy terror when his life was threatened, "We don't bear any grudges, please don't..."

"Hmph!"

She let out a cold huff, "Had you not shown no intent to kill, would you be deserving of life? Your major crime can be excused, but not your minor one."

As her final word "escaped" came out.

A few ants, the size of a pinky finger, had already crawled onto Wang Shihai's body. Their sharp jaws easily tore through his clothes and fiercely bit down on his shoulder blade, injecting poison into his body.

"Aaah!"

Wang Shihai roared in extreme pain, falling to the ground, crying out in constant agony, "It hurts! It's killing me! Kill me, miss."

He had never experienced such pain in his life.

The clan soldiers and household heads changed their expressions drastically. Just as they were about to rush forward to save him, they were deterred by the woman's glance. It was as if they had encountered a world-class, fierce beast. Their legs shook in fear, not daring to make a single move.

"You can rest assured; he won't die," the woman reassured, retracting the black ants with a casual wave of her hand. "These are sawtooth poisonous ants from the Savage Frontier Marsh. Although they can't kill a Spirit Platform Realm cultivator, they can cause twelve hours of pain. Moreover, as time passes, the pain will intensify."

Wang Shihai nearly fainted from the pain upon hearing her words.

The pain he was experiencing at that moment was already unbearable. If it was going to get even worse, wouldn't he feel as if he had been thrown into the eighteenth level of hell? This woman was truly ruthless, definitely terrifying. He wanted to go home, and cried out for his great-grandfather to save him.

"Miss, I was wrong." Wang Shihai wept miserably, "Please, spare me out of your kindness. If anything happens to me, my great-grandfather won't let you off the hook. Let's take a step back each, and consider it as if nothing happened."

"Your great-grandfather?" She raised an eyebrow, scoffing, "Your great-grandfather? Do tell, let's see if he could scare me."

"My great-grandfather is the Clan Leader of Changning Wang Clan - Wang Shouzhe." Wang Shihai gasped out amidst the pain and his groaning. "This cement road beneath your feet was built by my great-grandfather, miss. I advise you..."

"You impudent-"

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The woman was beside herself with rage. With a swipe of her hand, a few fist-sized, terrifying spiders appeared out of nowhere and crawled onto Wang Shihai's face. She scolded angrily, "How dare you impersonate the grandson of my fourth brother! Tell me who you really are, or don't blame me for being ruthless."

"What? Fourth brother? Oh, no, miss, please remove the spiders, please." Wang Shihai screamed in extreme pain and terror, "We are family, we're family. I really am Wang Shihai, and Wang Shouzhe really is my great-grandfather~"

"Nonsense, if you're my fourth brother's grandson, then I'm your grand aunt..."

"Right, right. You should be my grand aunt, grand aunt... Please get the spider away before talking. It's too terrifying, whine, I want to go home~~" Wang Shihai felt somewhat distressed. In their Southern Desert County, fights were common but no one ever used spiders and ants.

He had heard of Insect Masters, but the Southern Desert was not a conducive environment for Insect Masters to mature and develop.

"?" The woman appeared doubtful as she looked at the family soldiers, "Are you really the patrol team of the Wang Clan? Do you have an Identity Token?"

"Yes, yes." A soldier hurriedly produced his identity token, respectfully handed it forward, and mumbled, "Grand aunt, you're skilled in controlling spiritual insects, could it be that you're our Wang family's Sky Pride from the Academic Palace— Grand Aunt Wang Luo Jing?"

This soldier was about twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old and seemed to be in the sixth level of the Qi Refinement Realm. Wang Luo Jing had been in the Academic Palace for sixteen or seventeen years. The journey was long, and she rarely returned home. On those rare returns, she would usually reunite with relatives more than making public appearances.

Therefore, it was normal for some young soldiers and clansmen not to recognize her. However, Wang Luo Jing was still one of the legendary women in the Wang Clan and the pride of their people.

Although she rarely returned, her fame within the clan was great.

Wang Shihai, who had only been residing with the Changning Wang clan for several months, was even familiar with the renowned Wang Luo Jing from the Academic Palace. As soon as he heard this, Wang Shihai who had a spider on his face hastened to exclaim, "So you're Wang Luo Jing. It's indeed a case of misguidance, family members don't recognize each other anymore."

After glancing at Wang Shihai, Wang Luo Jing inspected the soldier's identity token.

It was a thin purple card, both soft and flexible, indicating the soldier's identity, origin, and rank.

She confirmed his identity immediately.

Because one of the main materials used to make this identity token was the insect glue extracted from the rubber tree by the insects she personally tamed. After a series of manufacturing processes, it is extremely difficult for others to imitate.

After confirming the soldier's identity, Wang Luo Jing casually recalled the spider and threw out several silver needles to help Wang Shihai detox.

Wang Shihai hummed and slowly got up from the ground. With residual fear towards, Wang Luo Jing, he hid and complained, "Wang Luo Jing, you're too brutal, I..."

"You should call me Fifth Grand Aunt." Wang Luo Jing said in a cold voice.

"Alright, Fifth Grand Aunt!" Wang Shihai hurriedly called out with a sweet tone as a chill ran down his spine. At this point, he could not harbor the slightest whimsical notion towards her, and his heart was filled with fear.

Wang Luo Jing looked him up and down with a skeptical gaze, "How old are you this year?"

"I'm twenty-three this year..." Wang Shihai answered honestly.

"You're quite a young talent, but your age..." Wang Luo Jing frowned, wondering if her eldest brother Wang Shouxin had behaved irresponsibly when he was young, producing a child out of wedlock, leaving behind a grandchild? Was he trying to recognize his ancestors and return to his clan now?

After thoughtful consideration, the only person who could fit the bill was her sixty or seventy something older brother Wang Shouxin. Yet, their eldest sister-in-law from the Xu family had a tough temper... Alas, this child, afraid he would suffer upon returning to the family.

"Whatever, I was impulsive earlier." Wang Luo Jing's tone softened, "In the future, if you face any grievances, you can tell me, and I will back you up."

Grievances?

Wang Shihai widened his eyes, "What grievances do I have? My biggest grievance comes from you, fifth grand aunt. You reward me by siccing ants to bite me and scare me with spiders..."

Dad, Changning Guard is very dangerous, I really want to go home.

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However, he only dared to vent these thoughts inwardly. Facing his grand aunt, he was blatantly a coward. What good is it being pretty if she's his grand aunt, carrying poisonous bugs all over her body? He was terrified he'd be tortured by another poisonous bug if he wasn't careful.

"Thank you, grand aunt." Wang Shihai complained inwardly, but he still sincerely expressed his gratitude. As a mischievous little devil, he was not without his merits. At least when he had to face someone he could not beat, he had always been quick to humble himself.

He then changed the topic, "By the way, what brings you here from the outside world?"

"I've heard from my Fourth Brother saying that there are some blood bats that are troublesome to deal with during the pioneering of the outer region." Wang Luo Jing replied in a calm tone, "I happened to be executing a mission in the Savage Frontier Marsh before and did not receive the message. As soon as I returned and got the news, I rushed over."

"Those blood bats are indeed hard to deal with." Wang Shihai admitted with some lingering fear, "Although they are not powerful individually, they are not difficult to handle outside. However, those intricate caves are complicated, making it difficult for even the Old Ancestor in the Heavenly Human Realm to perform well.

My great grand uncle has tried various methods like smoking and firing, and channeling water into the caves, but none have been effective."

"On the contrary, our several attempts to eliminate them seem to have enraged the Blood Bat Group, and they often attack our construction teams on Shouzhe Road. As a result, we had no choice but to increase the number of household troops to protect the construction teams in rotation."

"Especially in the past half a month, the construction teams of the subsequent sections had to be halted because the blood bats attacked too frequently."

Wang Shihai showed a helpless expression when talking about the Blood Bat Group. This is the reality of pioneering: sometimes what is most difficult to deal with are not the level four or even level five fierce beasts.

Rather, they are some seemingly insignificant swarms of insects, plants, and even many invisible swarms of insects.

"Lead the way," Wang Luo Jing said coldly.

"What?" Wang Shihai was bewildered, "Does Grand Aunt mean... should we call for more extermination teams and ask Old Ancestor Longyan to stay here?"

"Lead the way... just the two of us."

"Alright, alright."

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Over an hour later.

This area was a very complex cave system within a mountain. The intricate passages were as densely interconnected as spider webs, spanning through tens of miles of the mountain.

Even for a Tianren Realm Cultivator, this hostile environment would mostly cause helplessness.

One of the entrances of the cave was a wide chasm. At the top of the chasm, countless blood bats hung everywhere. Even though these were all low-level blood bats, which ordinary people could kill with one slap under normal conditions.

It's just that there were too many of them. Any person with crowd phobia would have probably fainted due to fear. Even the young Sky Pride Wang Shihai was so terrified that he said in a low voice, "Grand Aunt, should we call a few hundred more people over?"

"Too many people will cause trouble." Wang Luo Jing lightly swung her arm, creating a series of crisp, pleasing bell sounds.

The bell's sound went from low to high, then from high to low with unpredictable changes. The highest frequency made Wang Shihai's eardrums sore, but at its lowest frequency, he could hear nothing.

All of a sudden!

The blood bat group started to be agitated.

As if Wang Luo Jing had stumbled upon some mystical frequency, she increased the power of mysterious energy, making the bell on her wrist tremble violently. However, miraculously, Wang Shihai could hear no sound at all.

At this moment, the blood bats were in trouble.

They became more and more jittery and flew around chaotically in the vast cave.

"Bang bang bang!"

Blood bats kept crashing into the cave walls and fell gruesomely to the ground. It was as if there was a shower of "blood dumplings" falling from the sky with blood bats dropping dead in droves!

"Wha-What..." Wang Shihai was stunned to the extreme, he had never known such a peculiar way to deal with blood bats.

Inside the spider web-like cave system, blood bats crazily kept gushing out, crashing to death like headless flies. In a short while, the ground was covered in a layer of blood bat carcasses.

In just ten days!

In just ten days' time, Wang Luo Jing had wiped clean the blood bats inhabiting the caves that span tens of miles. She even managed to eliminate two fierce beast-like blood bats of level three.

With the extermination of the blood bat group.

The progress of pioneering the outer domain greatly sped up. The Wang family was able to allocate more manpower, sweeping through the pioneering area time and again. "Shouzhe Road" was completed a month earlier.

At the same time, a cement factory, a gravel yard, laborer dormitories, etc., were successively built.

On this land named New Peace Town, the major pioneering plan was carried out step by step in an orderly manner.

As time flew by, years passed.

It seemed like in the blink of an eye.

Another ten years had passed.

The three thousand one hundred and seventy-eighth year of Great Qian Longchang, early May.

It had been thirty-three years since Wang Shouzhe crossed over. From a handsome and robust eighteen-year-old youth, he had now crossed his fifties.

Fifty-one years old.

If he were on Earth, his physiological functions would be inevitably declining, gradually transitioning from middle age to old age.

But at this point, Wang Shouzhe seemed to be frozen at the peak of his youth. His body was very active, showing the benefits of Profound Martial's cultivation. The younger you are when you cultivate to the Spiritual Platform Realm, the younger you will stay.

With his current condition, even if he doesn't advance to the Heavenly Human Realm, he won't start showing signs of middle age until he's over one-hundred and ten years old. Then, in the last few decades of life, he will gradually age until his death.

Chapter 82: Ten Years! Shou Zhe Promoted to Heavenly Human Realm_2

Moreover, he was cultivating the "Longevity Youth True Verses," a cultivation technique inherently known for its longevity-enhancing effects. Under conditions free of disease or calamity, Wang Shouzhe could easily live past two hundred, even possibly reaching ages around two hundred and twenty or thirty.

However, everything would undergo earth-shattering changes after Wang Shouzhe advances to the Heavenly Human Realm.

These past ten years...

The development of the outer domain's "New Peace Town" was proceeding orderly. Meanwhile, Wang Shouzhe never neglected his cultivation. With his bloodline reaching the level of Great Heavenly Proud, his cultivation speed surged rapidly.

In a short span of ten years, he advanced from the Seventh Layer of Spiritual Platform Realm to the summit of the Spiritual Platform Realm, with only a half-step distance to the Heavenly Human Realm.

This is what makes the Great Heavenly Proud amazing.

Most Great Heavenly Prouds, as long as they have an adequate supply of cultivation resources, usually advance to the Heavenly Human Realm before the age of fifty. The primary reason for Wang Shouzhe's slight lag was that he only became a Great Heavenly Proud at forty.

In the newly developed "New Peace Town," a rare middle-grade wood-element spirit vein was found. Therefore, Wang Shouzhe set up a small yard at the heart of this vein.

Although his bloodline was not strictly the Yi-Wood bloodline, among all types of spirit veins, the wood-element spirit vein provides him with the most benefits. Therefore, it is one of the best solutions to choose to cultivate and advance at the core of the wood-element spirit vein.

Of course, if he wanted, he could go to Changchun Valley in the Purple Abode Academic Palace for his advancement. However, after pondering, Wang Shouzhe decided to advance on his own territory as it was more prudent.

The current Wang family is developing at a very fast pace. They need to accumulate some hidden strength quietly without wanting the world to be aware of their advancement.

At this time, Wang Shouzhe has been preparing to impact the realm of heaven and humankind at his closed-off spot in "New Peace Town" for a month. As his mind settled each day, he fell into a state where there was neither joy nor sorrow.

With the final refinement of his body, his vitality has reached its peak.

He chose to make a breakthrough.

Sitting cross-legged, he slowly circulated the dense and substantive mysterious energy within his body. This differed from the time he advanced to the Spiritual Platform Realm, when all he required was to open the Two Bridges of Heaven and Earth, and to establish a spiritual platform.

However, advancing to the Heavenly Human Realm is a comprehensive evolution of the mortal body.

With the mobilization of the mysterious energy, every cell in his body awakened, vibrating as if resonating. Blood and vital energy were continuously transported to the marrow of his bones.

Long-term refining and strengthening of bones with blood and vital energy seemed to have reached a breaking point, "boom," a bottleneck was broken. Under the catalysis of extremely vigorous vital energy, the bone marrow underwent tiny transformations bit by bit, becoming stronger, more sensitive, and extremely resilient.

"Bone Marrow Transformation!"

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This is an extremely important step in advancing to the Heavenly Human Realm. For those who lack an ample bloodline talent, they often require the breakthrough assisting pill — "Ascension Pill" to aid in this process.

However, Wang Shouzhe is a Great Heavenly Proud. When he was at the Spiritual Platform Realm, he had already reached the level of a Spiritual Body. The step of Bone Marrow Transformation seemed natural, not needing the so-called "Ascension Pill."

After refining one bone after another, the marrow of his entire body began to vigorously renew itself.

This process took three whole days.

All of Wang Shouzhe's bone marrow underwent a complete round of strengthening.

Bone marrow is one of the most important organs in the human body. Its primary functions are to produce blood and boost immunity.

After the Bone Marrow Transformation, the newly generated blood will become even stronger.

This process is also called Blood Washing.

The process of Blood Washing lasted several more days.

When Wang Shouzhe completed these two most crucial steps, he gently opened his eyes, already feeling the earth-shaking changes within his body.

However, this was not the final result.

He replenished some Dan medicine, followed by consuming a large amount of advanced Spirit Food. He then entered the next phase, which was to advance to the "Celestial Body." During this process, the body would undergo constant changes, becoming more and more powerful.

Wang Shouzhe's understanding of this was that during this process, there was a constant renewal of the body where new cells replaced old cells, essentially equating to a body swap.

This process lasted for three more months.

That was the entire process of advancing to the Heavenly Human Realm, Bone Marrow Transformation, Blood Washing, Celestial Body!

This method of advancement was different from the fantasy novels Wang Shouzhe read in his past life. In those stories, breakthroughs often occurred in an instant, even during random fights!

But in his world, an unprepared on-the-spot breakthrough when you can't defeat the enemy is simply unreasonable. You might even get killed before completing the Bone Marrow Transformation.

Especially as this process of advancement is not something that can be achieved overnight, and it varies from person to person. For example, it took Wang Shouzhe a total of one hundred and twelve days, while his wife, Liu Ruolan, completed her advancement four years ago in less than a hundred days.

Moreover, Wang Shouzhe heard of people who spent several years to successfully advance.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning.

In the last few days of the Celestial Body advancement, the Tribulation Cloud specific to Wang Shouzhe appeared, and then bombarded him with three Heavenly Lightning bolts. But the reason he did not elaborate on this was because the strength of these Heavenly Lightning bolts was too weak, and he easily survived them.

Compared to the Heavenly Lightning he had witnessed when the Six-tailed Firefox advanced to a Level Seven, it was not even close.

Of course, these Heavenly Lightning bolts could pose a significant challenge to others. If it were someone with a weaker foundation, surviving the Heavenly Lightning would be uncertain. Throughout history, there have always been some unfortunate souls who died under the Heavenly Lightning of the Heavenly Human Realm.

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Having successfully ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm.

Wang Shouzhe could feel his seismic transformation. Every cell in his body had become extraordinarily powerful, with his God Sense and Mysterious Energy advancing by leaps and bounds.

In particular, his bloodline had been awakened once more, reaching the layer of the Fifth Level Dao Body.

Only after reaching the Great Tianjiao of the Heavenly Human Realm, can one be a true Great Tianjiao. After awakening the Dao Body, theoretically, he could already comprehend small divine powers and qualify to cause some Heavenly Earth Laws.

After all, quite a number of cultivators at the Purple Abode Realm are only at the level of Dao Body.

Of course, having a Dao Body doesn't mean you can be on par with a Purple Abode Realm cultivator. The Purple Abode Realm is ultimately the Purple Abode Realm, where its strengths lie in many aspects, not just the Dao Body.

Even so, the strength of the Great Tianjiao of the Heavenly Human Realm can hardly be compared with that of the Great Tianjiao of the Spirit Platform Realm. When making a move, it's just like an adult hitting a child.

Wang Shouzhe had firsthand experience with this, everything that had happened since Liu Ruolan's ascension to the Heavenly Human Realm... speaking of which, it was a sob story.

Well, let's not talk about that.

Anyway, he himself is now a Great Tianjiao of the Heavenly Human Realm, no less distinguished than Liu Ruolan. Thanks to his previous wise decision to spend heavily and pour in effort, he was able to acquire the Infinite Treasure Pill. Otherwise, it would be extremely difficult to advance his bloodline after reaching the Dao Body.

Wang Shouzhe landed after just flying dozens of miles in the sky to just get a slight sense of his own strength. Then he put on a prepared concealment artifact - the Deceiving Sky Jade Talisman, and activated its effect.

In an instant, Wang Shouzhe's powerful aura was suppressed and concealed by some mysterious energy. If other Heavenly Human Realm cultivators investigated, they would only sense that he should be at the Advanced Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm.

Even cultivators at the Purple Abode Realm would find it difficult to see through the strong effect of the Deceiving Sky Jade Talisman without using some special methods.

However, the Deceiving Sky Jade Talisman is an extremely rare treasure, and difficult to craft. In recent times, the Hundred Treasures Pavilion hasn't seen such a treasure. Having no choice, Wang Shouzhe had to write a letter to Li Yao, asking her to trouble Tianhe, the Enlightened One.

After all, Tianhe is the principal of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, one of the top-notch entities. In the end, it was he who got two Deceiving Sky Jade Talismans for the Wang Family, each at a friendly price of one million!

With the Deceiving Sky Jade Talismans, the Wang Family can hide at least two Heavenly Human Realm Cultivators, giving them more composure in strategic and tactical planning.

As for the status of a rank six prominent family, Wang Shouzhe wouldn't mind having it, but it wouldn't be beneficial considering the current circumstances, and it's less important than stockpiling resources and taking one's time to declare a king.

At the same time.

The newly built "New Peace Town" is still in its infancy. This "vast" territory, about four and a half times the size of Ping'an Town, is expected to have a total of 1.3 to 1.6 million acres of arable land (including terraced fields) available for development in the future.

However, the development of Xin An Town is not solely performed by Wang Family. The alliances' families also made great contributions in this development. Therefore, in accordance with the prior agreement, the Wang Family, who contributed the most, obtained 60% of the land.

The remaining land, 40%, is divided among the other prominent families.

Even for those families with marital ties, they uphold the tradition of keeping clear accounts even among brothers. Each family had early on marked out their territory on the map of New Peace Town, and formally registered it with the government office.

Daqian law stipulates that no matter how much the prominent families develop outside, in name it is still the territory of Daqian. A Town Guard Mansion must be built, and an envoy sent by the City Guard Mansion to guard the local area.

Wang Shouzhe also made a request that the town guard mansion, belonging to the construction work of the government office, be built near Shouzhe Pass, almost connected.

This is another means for Wang Shouzhe to avoid the repetition of the tragedy that befell Zhou Xuanguan. Enjoy exclusive content from My Virtual Library Empire

Fortunately, the current City Lord, Wei Wenxun, has basically given up resistance, and has agreed to all the various requests made by the Wang family, as long as they are legal.

Several years ago, construction had already begun on the Governor's residence at the rear of Shouzhe Pass and its completion had finally been accomplished this day. Also, the building for New Xin An town had somewhat taken shape.

On this particular day.

Wei Wenxun personally delivered the town's new Guard Commander and his entourage to begin their duty at Xin An town.

Wang Shouzhe, having just successfully advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm after a long period of seclusion, decided to take this opportunity to get some fresh air. Thus, he personally went to the City Guard Mansion at Xin An town to meet the newly appointed Guard Commander.

Speaking of it, the Guard Commander has always been the least noticeable official within the territories of the Wang family.

It's not to say that the Wang family deliberately suppressed the Guard Commander.

It's just that the Wang family is currently too powerful, too dominant to the point that a minor Guard Commander can do nothing but look up to them in awe. Therefore, as a Guard Commander on the territories of Wang family, they could only willingly lie low and heed the opinions of the Wang family in all matters.

Also because of this, recalling the full name and the face of Ping'an Town's current "Guard Commander", is something that requires Master Shouzhe to sit down and think.

"Oh my, Master Shouzhe." As soon as City Lord Wei Wenxun saw Wang Shouzhe standing at the entrance of the City Guard Mansion, he immediately quickened his pace and said, "You didn't have to personally come to welcome our new Guard Commander of Xin An town?"

"Oh no, the Guard Commander is after all the guardian of this territory. I'm sure we'll need the Guard Commander to look after the Wang family in the future." Wang Shouzhe politely replied, changing topic, "By the way, I heard you're getting promoted soon? Congratulations, Wei, the City Lord."

"I wouldn't dare, I am wholly dependent on the countless merits accumulated by Master Shouzhe, thus gaining this present achievement." While Wei Wenxun reacted with modest courtesy, he felt a profound sense of sentiment within his heart.

Remembering the time when he first arrived at Changning, full of enthusiasm and vowed to make great achievements. However, he never expected that the political situation in Changning would be so grave. Each of the prominent families had formed in-law alliances, all led by the Wang family as their head.

This made him, a dignified City Lord, reduced to being nothing more than decoration. During this time, he had resisted and made efforts, but was always suppressed by the Wang family.

In the last decade or so of his tenure, he finally lost the strength to contend with the omnipotent Wang family, and decided to lay low.

However, this led to him gaining many achievements.

He achieved economic development that ranked at the top of the entire county, and the annual tax revenue has even reached the highest in the county except for the County Town... What's more, the Wang family's drive to expand had essentially opened up a vast amount of territory for Changning...

All these merits of the city were credited to Wei Wenxun.

This allowed Wei Wenxun to unwittingly become a winner in life. Using these countless resources and achievements to suppress all his competitors, he was reassigned to a good position in the county, with a promising future ahead of him.

Now, thinking back on it, he couldn't help feeling regretful.

"Master Shouzhe, this is our newly appointed Guard Commander at Xin An town's City Guard Mansion." As Wei Wenxun spoke, the crowd behind him made way for a handsome man resembling a military official to come forward.

He saluted Wang Shouzhe and said, "Wang Shouliao, the new Guard Commander of Xin An town, pays respects to the Family Head."

Shouliao?

Even Wang Shouzhe was slightly taken aback, he hadn't expected that Wei Wenxun would appoint Wang Shouliao as Guard Commander... well, this is almost equivalent to the City Guard Mansion completely giving up on monitoring Xin An town...

Wei Wenxun, who had usually been quite critical of the Wang family behind closed doors, gave the Wang family a gift before his promotion.

Chapter 83: The Increasingly Prosperous Wang Family_1

...

Judging from appearances, Wei Wenxun, under the years of "education" from the Wang family, has begun to comprehend the true meaning of the world's rules.

A powerful overlord like the Wang Clan, firmly rooted in power, is not something any City Lord can casually manipulate, let alone confront. Once the Wang clan gets serious, the Governor Wei Wenxun's decree might not even make it out of the City Guard Mansion.

The reason is very simple. The local Rank Eight or Nine, or even unclassified Profound Martial families, are no fools. The City Lord must be replaced every two or three decades, while the Changning Wang Clan has always been entrenched here, generation after generation.

Moreover, unlike other powerful clans in various cities, the Changning Wang Clan grows its size by making profits abroad. Instead of draining the blood of the local prominent families, it makes profits and develops together with them.

Nowadays, in Changning, any Rank Nine family that can align with the Wang Clan no longer lives in poverty. Even some Rank Nine families that were previously stagnant have started accumulating resources and strength to ambitiously plan for a promotion to Rank Eight.

The original Grade Eight families in Changning are now working towards becoming Rank Seven families. Some have already succeeded.

For example, Ruhong, the Old Ancestor of the Chen Clan from Donggang, achieved the Heavenly Human Realm more than a decade ago. Relying on this, the Chen Clan changed its plaque and became a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family, the undisputed overlord of Donggang.

Liu Xuanfu of the Shanyin Liu Clan has also successfully reached the realm of heaven and humankind.

However, she, who originated from a core disciple of the Academic Palace, would be promoted to an Academic Palace elder after achieving the Heavenly Human Realm; strictly speaking, she could not be used as a springboard for the Liu Clan to upgrade. It's fine to supplement the number of a Rank 6 clan being promoted to Rank 7, but to solely use her to reposition the Liu Clan is inappropriate.

Therefore, although the Shanyin Liu Clan currently has more than a dozen Spiritual Platform realm cultivators, it is still considered at Rank Eight, even though it is a very formidable family within Rank Eight, commonly referred to as a strong Grade Eight. Overall, its strength is countless times stronger than an ordinary Rank Eight.

And the first Old Ancestor of the Liu Family, Liu Qingbai, is the biological grandson of Zhou Xuan. He was talented to begin with and has always been dedicated to breaking through to the Heavenly Human Realm. Over the past two decades, due to the growing strength of the Liu Clan, the Clan started offering resources to Old Ancestor Qingbai without concern for the cost.

The current Old Ancestor Qingbai is only in his early hundreds, but he has already reached the peak of the Spiritual Platform realm. If everything goes smoothly, it won't take a few more years for the Liu Clan to become a genuine Rank Seven family.

Moreover, Shanyang's Gongsun Clan is also developing nicely. But their luck is not as good as the Liu Clan's. The Gongsun Clan's First Ancestor Gong Sunao – Sunao the Old Ancestor, is now 160 years old, but he's still only at the mid-stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm and has not made much progress over the decades.

There was no choice. When the Gongsun Clan emerged with the support of the Wang Clan, Sunao, the Old Ancestor, was already too old and missed his best chance to develop.

Now the Gongsun Clan's hope of breaking through to the Heavenly Human Realm lies with Meng the Old Ancestor. Under the full support of the family, Meng is currently in his early hundreds and has reached the Peak Level Five of the Spiritual Platform Realm. With the financial strength of the Gongsun Clan, Meng has a great chance of becoming a Celestial being.

In addition, there is also the Wang Shouzhe's maternal clan, the Lu Clan of Yingxiu. The chance of the Old Ancestor Mingsheng of the Lu Clan becoming a Celestial being in this life is extremely slim. However, Lu Xiaoxiao, the Array Master of the Lu Clan, has somehow become a Heavenly Chosen.

Lu Xiaoxiao, who is now in her forties, has also reached the Peak Level Five. She will most likely become a Celestial being before Meng the Old Ancestor, allowing the Lu Clan of Yingxiu to become the first 7th-rank Family.

Besides, as the only Array Master within the In-laws Alliance, Lu Xiaoxiao plays an important role and holds a very special and stable status.

Plus there are the Celestial Lei Family, Tianren Xu Family...

Therefore, even if we excluded the Changning Wang Clan, the combined strength of the entire In-laws Alliance far surpasses that of an average Rank Six Prominent Family. The influence of the City Guard Mansion in Changning is gradually declining.

Well, enough of this idle talk.

The current City Lord, Wei Wenxun, conducted a grand inauguration ceremony for Wang Shoulían, then left earlier under the pretext of not disturbing the new town guard's work.

During the twilight hour.

Inside the side hall of the Xin An Town's Guard Mansion. Find exclusive stories on My Virtual Library Empire

Wang Shouzhe sat across from Wang Shoulían, who was dressed in military uniform.

On the table were some light wines and small dishes, all of which were personally cooked by Wang Shoulían's wife, Zhou Qingning. Although her cooking skills were not superb, the few dishes she prepared were quite decent.

"Uncle, you and Shoulían can drink at your own pace. I'm off to supervise Tai'er's homework." Zhou Qingning, after bowing slightly, slipped away quietly, leaving the brothers some private time to talk.

After Zhou Qingning left, Wang Shoulían raised his glass and said, "Fourth brother, without your help throughout all these years, the Wang Clan wouldn't be as impressive as it is today. I raise my glass to you."

Wang Shoulían was no longer the miserable young man who was chased every day by his sister Wang Luoqiu. Years of military life had moulded him into a mature man. Now, he stands tall and majestic, sporting a pair of moustaches, with a profundity and authority to his gaze.

No wonder, Wang Shoulían was already forty-seven years old. Although his bloodline was not of the Heavenly Proud Level, it still reached the Mid-Rank 'A' Level with the family's continuous monetary support. His cultivation base had also reached the peak of Level Three of the Spiritual Platform Realm.

It would not be long before he could step into the mid-stage, and in the future, he could not fail to become a Celestial being, though the Purple Abode Realm was too far to guarantee.

"Was it really my merit alone?" Wang Shouzhe laughed while clinking glasses and drinking with him. "This is the result of the concerted effort of our family, young and old, over generations. These

years, you've worked hard too. Because of our clan rules, you had to live separately from Qingning and the children and struggle in the military."

Chapter 83: The Increasingly Prosperous Wang Family_2

Every family has its rules; every clan has its methods.

Zhou Qingning, the wife of the sixth son, Wang Shouliao, although born into a prominent military family, had chosen to marry Wang Shouliao, thus naturally, she was obliged to adhere to the rules of the Wang family.

Hence when Zhou Qingning was pregnant with her first child—Wang Lixuan, she resigned from the military and returned to the Wang family's main residence for her pregnancy. Over the years, she has been staying in the main residence, raising their children. Marrying within the clan meant marrying into the entire family. Any child borne would not only be her own but also belonged to the entire family.

Underaged children must live in the main residence and attend the clan school. They must grow alongside their peers and receive a complete education from the Wang family.

No one, regardless of who they are, could defy these family rules.

Otherwise, in situations like that of Shouliao, where a husband and wife live together in the army camp and their child grows up within the base... Then children like Lixuan, Zongping, Zongtai would feel estranged from the family.

Merely visiting during festivals, wasn't this the same as having mere relatives?

Therefore, the perception of 'family' in this world is different from that of Earth. In the eyes of all clan, the greater family always takes precedence over the smaller one. The closeness between clan members and their identification with each other exceed the mere familial affection found on Earth.

Having grown up in such an environment, Wang Shouliao naturally agrees with these concepts. He immediately shook his head and said, "What's so hard about this? My father went through the same, didn't he? And it's not like I am posted afar, I can visit every now and then. If we were to talk about hardship, our third brother and the seventh brother, who are now in the county town, have it tougher."

The two brothers chatted while drinking. They had not had the opportunity to converse alone for a long time.

"Fourth Brother~ My sudden appointment as the keeper of New Peace Town this time." Wang Shoulian reflected for a moment and continued, "However, I and Father have already discussed it and decided to bring over the core team that we've trained over the years. There are about a hundred, all young soldiers with excellent character and potential.

They can not only maintain the law and order of New Peace Town but also assist the Wang family in its future expansion."

"If they are the heart and soul of you and Uncle Three, then our Wang family should treat them well." Wang Shouzhe pondered for a moment and said, "The family will give you and Uncle Three an extra hundred thousand Qian gold resources every year to subsidize the lack of 'military expenses.'"

"Fourth Brother, that's too much." Wang Shoulian hurriedly said, "The family has been supporting us every year. Ten thousand more would be too much. The family has many places to spend money."

Wang Dingzu and Wang Shoulian, who are both representatives of the Wang family's military expansion, are funded by the Wang family each year. This allows them to have more opportunities to win over their colleagues, cultivate their confidants, and gradually grow stronger. Discover exclusive tales on [My Virtual Library Empire](#)

"No problem. The New Peace Town has now entered a period of rapid development. Farms are popping up like mushrooms after the rain, and the annual income is growing every year." Wang Shouzhe's expression, however, turned solemn, "However, since the succession dispute has already begun, our Great Qian Land will inevitably face turbulence in and changes the future.

The more power we hold, the more we can be at ease."

"This money, besides developing your own power, can also be used to expand your networks, extend the depth of your military relationships, and broaden the Wang family's perceptions."

Upon talking about this, Wang Shouzhe was a bit annoyed. How could a royalty dispute occur all of a sudden? If he had a hundred years to slowly develop, the Wang family would have been a formidable force by then. Even if the succession dispute arose, he wouldn't have been so passive.

However, since the tide of the times has already arrived, Wang Shouzhe is not one to wail and grouse, but instead he works even harder to plan and develop, avoiding the Wang family being swept away by the surging wave of time as much as possible.

"Fourth Brother, I understand." Wang Shouliao's countenance turned solemn, "Over the years, Father and I have developed a number of relationships. We will apply even more effort in expanding these relationships in the future. If there is any change, we will be put on alert instantly."

"Don't forget about Wei Wenxun." Wang Shouzhe smiled and continued, "You and Uncle Three are his old subordinates after all. His favor might come in handy someday."

"Additionally, pay attention to resource gathering in the military, particularly the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, the Treasure Pill, or related ingredients for concocting Dan Medicine. These are resources desperately needed by our family."

For Wang Shouzhe, treasure-like pills such as the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill and the Treasure Pill, which can enhance bloodline talent, are indispensable. It's not as if he had consumed enormous resources to attain the Great Heavenly Pride Bloodline himself.

Should he then disregard the life and death of his other siblings?

Within their ability, the more Sky Pride Bloodlines the family has, the better. Not only does it make them stronger, but it also affects the strength of the future generations of the Wang family.

Nowadays, the Wang family's overall bloodline has greatly improved - the innate bloodline of the newly born youngsters is definitely stronger. It is significantly above the average line of Wang Shouzhe, Wang Shounuo, and others.

"Yes, Fourth Brother." Wang Shouliao acquiesced readily.

In the eyes of the Wang family, the Fourth Brother, Wang Shouzhe, is like an otherworldly character. They would unconditionally support any decision he makes.

Before they knew it, more than an hour had passed.

Zhou Qingning entered, bowing respectfully, "Fourth Uncle, Husband. Children Lixuan and Ping are on duty nearby and hurried over to see Father when they heard the news."

Chapter 83: The Increasingly Prosperous Wang Family_3

"Perfect timing, my words with Shu Lian are done. Sister, you don't need to do it yourself, just have the cook set another table. I haven't seen the children in a while, it's a good time to catch up and have them tested." Wang Shouzhe suddenly cheered up.

For the past couple of years, he had been striving to break through the last checkpoint to the Heavenly Human Realm, inadvertently neglecting overseeing his children's development. Each child in the family represented the future of the Wang family, and as the head of the household, Wang Shouzhe naturally had the responsibility to motivate their progress.

"Fourth brother... is still as concerned as ever about the children." Wang Shouliao, with his mustache, twitched his lips slightly, a difficult-to-dispel shadow flashing in his eyes, containing both his brother's instruction and the "urge" from his sister, Wang Luoqiu.

Zhou Qingning chuckled with her hand covering her mouth, readying to set another table. The assessment of their uncle indeed served as a "motivation" for the children's growth. The children may not fear her, the indulgent mother, or their strict father who is often not at home, but they would definitely fear their Uncle, the Clan Leader.

Soon after.

Three young men and women stood in the side hall, all standing with their hands tied, not daring to breathe heavily. Especially Wang Lixuan and Wang Zongping, they were attending to a mission nearby and made a detour to visit their father on their way.

Unexpectedly, they ran into their uncle. They really didn't consider the consequences before stepping out.

The youngest, Wang Zongtai, was especially pale, his eyes filled with innocence, as if he had been implicated by his older siblings.

"Bang!"

Wang Shouliao hammered at the table, "What's with these expressions? Have your mothers spoiled all of you?"

"Shu Lian, don't be fierce, and you children, don't be nervous." Wang Shouzhe smiled, "Lixuan, you are already mature and sensible... unlike your two little brothers. You may sit first."

"Thank you, Uncle." Wang Lixuan, who had just turned twenty, was a beauty. She smiled pleasingly at Wang Shouzhe and then sat at one side and turned her head away, clearly demarcating herself from her younger brothers.

Ten-year-old Wang Zongtai was stunned by his sister's betrayal. In the past, his sister always treasured him. How could she betray him in front of their uncle?

Wang Zongping, on the other hand, understood very well. Faced with their Uncle, he would do the same if he were given the chance.

"Zongping, you're already sixteen this year, aren't you?" Wang Shouzhe looked at the youngest of the "Zong" generation with satisfaction. This child, like all others from the Wang family, boasted superior appearance, his handsome countenance spirited.

Moreover, his firm grounding and concentrated Mysterious Energy was evident from the way he walked.

With Wang Shouzhe's current Sky Human Realm Cultivation, he could tell at a glance that Zongping had broken through to the Qi Refinement Level Seven, showing that he valued fundamental skills in his daily life.

The family's population was growing, the count of the "Zong" generation has reached fifteen, the "Li" generation, thirteen. Additionally, the "Shi" and "Ying" generations have both reached seven. One could imagine that the "Zong" generation will certainly surpass the "Shou" generation in the future, and the "Shi" generation will also surpass the "Zong" generation.

Such thriving succession would provide the foundation for the future rise of the Wang family.

"Zongping, well done on the basic skills. Just practice more with the elders or your older brothers within the family." Wang Shouzhe praised.

Having let out a sigh of relief, Wang Zongping bowed and said, "Uncle, I will certainly work harder."

Then, Wang Shouzhe turned his attention to Wang Zongtai, who, despite his age, had good foundations and was at a high level in the Qi refinement realm. He began to test his academics...

Young Zongtai suddenly felt a shiver down his spine, he quickly changed the subject: "Uncle, I heard Big Brother say that he likes a girl—a very beautiful independent cultivator."

What?!!

Wang Zongping instantly went pale. This wretched kid, just to avoid academic interrogation, sold him out in an instant?! What happened to brotherhood?

Before Wang Shouzhe could say anything.

Wang Shouliao, beside him, roared with anger, "You rebel, how daring you are!" He had been serving in the patrol camp all his life, having arrested countless Independent Cultivator offenders. In his eyes, most independent cultivators were lawless punks.

Chapter 84: Li Yao's Bloodline Promotes! Saint's Contention (Ask for Monthly Tickets)_1

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Terrified, Wang Zongping's legs gave way and he almost could not stand. His father, having served in the military system for a long time, had developed a hot temper. As he was often separated from his children, he seldom lost his temper.

However, when he did...

"Calm down, sixth brother," Wang Shouzhe advised from the side, "Not all Independent Cultivators are bad, let's get a clear picture first."

"Fourth Brother, let's not discuss whether this Independent Cultivator woman is good or bad first. Wang Shouliao said angrily, "He and the damn boy are only sixteen years old. They have just graduated from the Clan School, have no real skills and have started chasing skirts. They aim to ruin the reputation of the Wang Family."

You want to be the Ninth Young Master of the Wang family, huh, you think you deserve it? Fourth Brother, stay out of this for now, I'm going to beat them up."

Then, Wang Shouliao pinned Wang Zongping to the ground and gave him a severe beating. The beating was so ruthless that Wang Zongping begged for mercy.

"Fourth Uncle, Father, I was wrong," Wang Zongping cried miserably. "I promise I won't flirt with Independent Cultivators again."

Afterward, Wang Shouzhe voiced his opinion: "Most Independent Cultivators indeed have various problems. But we can't generalize all of them. If they are truly in love, Fourth Uncle can send someone to investigate the situation."

Wang Zongping was stunned at once. Fourth Uncle, could you possibly say this before I get beaten...

"Let's talk about Zongtai first." Wang Shouzhe grinned at Wang Zongtai and said, "Come on, let's continue testing in liberal arts. You are already ten years old, aren't you? Can you recite 'Ascend to the East Sea Tower to Observe the Sea'? Even if you can, Fourth Uncle still has a simple question from the Nine Chapters Arithmetic for you."

Wang Zongtai was dumbfounded, and the strategy to change the topic failed abruptly. He was so scared that his legs gave way and he collapsed onto the floor. I am just a child...

"Sixth brother... cough cough!" Wang Shouzhe coughed a couple of times.

Wang Shouliao immediately understood, picked up his younger son, and gave him a brutal beating that left the young boy crying for his parents.

Situations like this were common within the land owned by the Wang family. The younger generations started to become more diligent.

Meanwhile.

The Heavenly Lake in the Longzuo Academy.

The water in the Heavenly Lake was as clear and blue as ever. The white clouds, like silk, reflected on the mirror-like lake surface, giving off a sense of unspeakable sanctity.

In the sky, the water curtain emitted faint light and shadows, appearing sometimes visible and sometimes not.

On the lake surface, water elemental turtles moved slowly, they were like ink dots causing ripples.

On the Sunlight Turtle Platform by the shore of Lake Heart Island, a spirit sparrow chick, as big as a pot lid, was chirping and arguing with a water elemental turtle. The chick fluttered its wings and jumped about with its small, slender legs, looking rather indignant.

At the same time, in the Primordial Water Pavilion on the Lake Heart Island, two figures were sitting at a desk, busily handling academy affairs.

The two people were a man and a woman. The man was dressed in a water-blue robe, gentle and elegant. But his eyes revealed a sense of depth and tranquility that was contrary to his appearance.

When looking at him, it felt like one was facing an immense sea of water.

This person was naturally the master of the Primordial Water Pavilion, Master Primordial Water.

The other one was a young girl who didn't look too old.

She was dressed in a light blue gauze dress. Her figure was slim, her face delicate, and her whole body exuded an indescribable sense of spirit.

This was none other than Wang Shouzhe's eldest legitimate daughter, Wang Liyao, who had now become a disciple of the Enlightened One, Tianhe.

Although Wang Liyao was over thirty years old according to her actual age, she still looked as youthful as an eighteen-year-old girl. Outside her aura changing into something much more superior, time hadn't left any traces on her.

This was the benefit of advancing to the Spirit Platform Realm at an early age. Enjoy more content from My Virtual Library Empire

She, who had advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm in her teens, maintained her physical functions at an optimum state all the time. Even after several decades, she would still look as beautiful as a young girl.

Of course, this was just an example. By the time a few decades had passed, she would have already advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm. After all, Wang Liyao, who was in the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm at present, would be preparing to break through to the Heavenly Human Realm in seven or eight years.

Over the past decade or so, at the request of Enlightened One Tianhe, Wang Liyao, while cultivating, would take some time off occasionally to participate in the academy's affairs.

At the beginning, although the Elders of the academy didn't say anything, they were not convinced in their hearts. They felt how a little girl, no matter how extraordinary her talent was, had no related experience, how could she manage the big set of affairs of the academy?

But as time passed, everyone's attitudes gradually changed,

Wang Liyao might not be adept at handling academy affairs, but she often had clear thoughts and acted decisively. She had hardly made mistakes in critical issues.

Not only did she possess a level of calmness and steadiness far beyond her age, but many times, some offhand remarks revealed an amazing pattern and foresight. Even the experienced elders felt enlightened by these observations.

The most crucial point was that she never considered herself talented. It was as if she thought it was natural for her to be able to do these things.

Master Primordial Water would often sigh with emotion when chatting with the Elders in private.

Such foresight and vision should not appear in a child like her. The most likely explanation was that these were the things she was exposed to from an early age and had become accustomed to.

Chapter 84: Li Yao's Bloodline Promotes! Saint's Contention (Ask for Monthly Tickets)_2

Only in this way could the paradoxical feeling about her be explained.

Master Yuan Shui did not have a lot of interactions with Wang Shouzhe. Most of the time, he learned about him through others' descriptions.

In the narratives of others, Wang Shouzhe often carried labels like "business genius," "gentle and humble, with charming demeanor," "overly cautious," "wife-obsessed madman," and the "model of a Prominent Family Head"...

Despite being outstanding, in the eyes of an academic like Master Yuan Shui, he was considered merely a distinguished talent -- worthy of courting, but not worth excessive attention.

But judging from Wang Liyao's performance, he-- or maybe everyone including him-- probably underestimated this man.

If Wang Liyao, who has been influenced by him, displays such awe-inspiring vision and mindset, how impressive must he be?

"Master."

Suddenly, Fu Haibo, the core disciple of Yuan Shui, strode in from the doorway, interrupting Yuan Shui's reverie.

Master Yuan Shui glanced at him, signaling him to speak quickly.

Wang Liyao also glanced over.

Fu Haibo respectfully greeted Master Yuan Shui and Wang Liyao before explaining, "The dean has returned."

As it turned out, a patrolling disciple saw the flare of Enlightened Tianhe flying and falling into the lake, so he reported to Fu Haibo, who was responsible for the island's security. After confirming the situation, Fu Haibo hurriedly came to inform Master Yuan Shui and Wang Liyao.

"He's back?"

Both Master Yuan Shui and Wang Liyao's eyes lit up.

It has been years since Enlightened Tianhe left the Academic Palace. The lack of any news in between left them apprehensive. Unexpectedly, he now returned without a trace.

As disciples, they should pay a visit now that Enlightened Tianhe has returned.

The two left Yuan Shui Pavilion immediately.

"Swish~"

With a casual wave of his hand, Master Yuan Shui's billowing sleeve swept through the air, and screened with an aqua-blue ripple, enveloping both of them in an instant.

The next moment, the transparent blue light burst open, and under the wrapping of ripples, their figures sketched a blue arc in the sky, vanishing into the blue lake in a blink.

The lake was tranquil and deep.

Under the cover of the ripple, the two quickly sank into the lake, soon diving into its bottom.

At the bottom of the lake stood a palace built from dark stones, towering and majestic, named "Tianhe Palace."

This Tianhe Palace not only served as Enlightened Tianhe's retreat and residence but also housed the formation eye of the "Mountain Protection Array."

Normally, apart from Wang Liyao, Master Yuan Shui, and Old Turtle, the rest were forbidden entry without permission.

The two of them were direct disciples, which allowed them free access to Tianhe Palace without any violation.

As the owner of Tianhe Palace and a Divine Power Territory expert, Enlightened Tianhe naturally noticed their arrival early.

When the two walked into the palace, Enlightened Tianhe was already sitting on his meditation mat.

After several years of not meeting, Enlightened Tianhe seemed even thinner and his face more weary, but his spirit was excellent. His face was glowing as if he had encountered some great joy.

"Disciple Yuan Shui/Liyao pays respect to Master."

Seeing this, both Master Yuan Shui and Wang Liyao advanced to pay their respects immediately.

"You two came at the right time," Tianhe enlightened them. He gestured for them to sit down and said, "My recent trip to the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty unexpectedly yielded half a Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma. It can enhance Liyao's bloodline attribute. Liyao, you can consume it here, and I will assist you in refining the medicinal power."

As he finished speaking, he carefully fetched a Spirit Stone Medicine Box from his Storage Ring. He dismissed various restrictive spells and took out a small piece of ganoderma fragment, handing it over to Wang Liyao.

The fragment was only half the size of a palm, appeared dark purplish-red, and was emanating a strong medicinal fragrance.

Master Yuan Shui held his breath immediately at the sight of the half portion of the Purple Ganoderma.

Enlightened Tianhe shot him a stern glance. He quickly composed himself, averting his gaze as if nothing had happened.

Even though they tried to hide it, Wang Liyao still noticed something amiss.

"The Decagonal Pharmacopoeia records clearly. Purple Ganoderma, of a dark red color and warming nature, activates vital energy and enhances bloodline talent. Only those aged over a

thousand years qualify as medicinal ingredients. A Purple Ganoderma produces a purple ring every thousand years, and those with over ten rings are known as 'Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma'.

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At one hundred thousand years, the mushroom flesh darkens, turning deep purplish-red, known as 'Ten Thousand Year Old Red Spirit Ganoderma', distinguished from 'Ten Thousand Year Old White Spirit Ganoderma'."

She glanced at Master Yuan Shui and Enlightened Tianhe, and again at the half-slice of ganoderma in the box, speaking softly, "Although this portion of Ganoderma is incomplete, making it impossible to determine how many purple rings it has, its color is noticeably deeper than dark red and closely matches the deep purplish-red described in the Pharmacopoeia.

Judging by appearances, this is most likely a fragment of a 70,000-year-old Purple Ganoderma."

Upon hearing this, Enlightened Tianhe's face showed slight embarrassment.

He did not anticipate that Wang Liyao would be so familiar with the Decagonal Pharmacopoeia.

Anything detailed in the Decagonal Pharmacopoeia is either a level eight or level nine spirit grass or divine pill-- all top-tier treasures in this world.

Even with its fame, there are several spirit materials similar to the Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma. Even if a regular Profound Martial cultivator sees a Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma, they might not recognize it, let alone a "Ten Thousand Year Old Purple Spirit Ganoderma".

Chapter 84: Li Yao's Bloodline Promotes! Saint's Contention (Ask for Monthly Tickets)_3

Who would bother memorizing detailed information about a treasure that they are unlikely to see in their lifetime? Even going so far as to nitpick the details? Wang Liyao cast a glance at him, remaining silent. The Decagonal Pharmacopoeia is one of Wang family's mandatory textbooks. She had mastered it by the time she was ten years old. According to her father, this was a form of preparation to prevent regret if one fails to recognize a treasure when it appears in the future. Once, she found her father's reasoning quite speechless, thinking he was overthinking. She never thought, however, that there would come a day when she would actually use this knowledge. "Ahem~ Junior sister has a keen eye." Upon sensing the awkward atmosphere, Master Primordial Water coughed lightly, attempting to diffuse the situation. "Senior brother did have some doubts, but he wasn't quite sure. Thanks to junior sister's enlightenment." "Ahem, ahem~ I just wanted to test your perception. Yuan Shui, you are still not attentive enough, you need to learn from your junior sister." Master

Tianhe coughed lightly once again, swiftly shifting the blame onto his disciple without hesitation. Master Primordial Water was left speechless. He had kindly tried to help his master save face, yet he never expected to be scapegoated again. However, Wang Liyao's expression remained serious: "Master, please tell me honestly. Where did you get this purple mushroom?" Since she knew about the Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma, she obviously also knew how rare a Seventy Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma would be. Even in the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty, such a Heaven and Earth Treasure would definitely be extremely precious. Once it appeared, it would inevitably incite competition from all sides. Being alone, how could her master compete with the local forces of the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty? She couldn't even begin to imagine the risks her master took to snatch such a small piece of Seventy Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma from the firm grip of those powerful forces within the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty. Master Tianhe was a shrewd man. Seeing Wang Liyao's expression, he almost immediately guessed her thoughts and began to soothe her: "Well, this is also partly thanks to your luck. I had just arrived in the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty when a large ruin from the Divine Martial Dynasty Era was discovered. This purple mushroom was obtained during the exploration of the ruins. While there were some twists and turns, everything went smoothly in the end." Of course, the actual situation was far more dangerous than he suggested. After all, the medicinal potency of a Seventy Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma is far superior to that of a Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma, hence its stricter growth requirements. Only a true Spiritual Cave Wonderland can nurture such a treasure. Over tens of thousands of years, countless unexpected situations can happen. The success rate is incredibly low. Correspondingly, the danger associated with the growth environment is naturally extremely high. Moreover, when the mushroom was discovered, all the Divine Realm Powerhouses present coveted it. He had to pay a hefty price, exhausting almost all his resources and owing many favors to get only one-third of it. Of course, when he said Liyao was lucky, he was not lying. Firstly, the Divine Martial Dynasty Era was indeed too long ago, and the ruins left behind from that time were almost all discovered. Even the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty hadn't uncovered such a large ruin for thousands of years. Yet, when he arrived, such a ruin appeared. This couldn't be called anything but luck. He was just looking for a Spiritual Medicine that could help Liyao enhance her bloodline talent, and this purple mushroom appeared. If that's not luck, what is? Secondly, the age of this purple mushroom just happened to be Seventy Thousand Years. This again was Liyao's luck. If the mushroom had evolved for another Thirty Thousand Years, becoming Ten Thousand Year Old Purple Spirit Ganoderma, it would be a Level Nine Spiritual Medicine. Setting aside whether or not he would be able to get it, even if he did, Liyao would have no way of consuming it. All high-grade Spiritual Medicines come with their own refining thresholds. For Level Nine Spiritual Medicines, if a cultivator in Qi Refinement Realm were to take it, the overwhelming medicinal power would result in the cultivator's body exploding and dying. Even having a top powerhouse as protector would be useless. To consume a Level Nine Spiritual Medicine, one needs at least Heavenly Man Strength Level and the help of a strong individual from the Transcendent Void Realm, to refine and absorb the medical power. The requirements for Level Seven and Level Eight Spiritual Medicines are slightly lower, requiring only the strength of the Spirit Platform Realm and the help of an individual from the Divine Power Territory or higher to slowly digest the medicinal power and avoid any potential side effects. Although the medical potency of a Seventy Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma far exceeds that of an ordinary Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma, it is, ultimately, a Level Eight Spiritual Medicine. Even Master Tianhe can still help Liyao in refining it. However, for a Level Nine Spiritual Medicine, even he would be helpless. "Junior sister, this Seventy Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma appeared just when you needed it, this is your kismet." Master Primordial

Water had finally recovered from the shock and started helping Master Tianhe. "This purple mushroom was destined to belong to you. Hurry up and have it." Looking first at her master and then at Master Primordial Water, Wang Liyao was deeply moved. You must understand, not long after she became a part of the sect, Master Tianhe had given her a Rank Six Treasure Pill, and spent almost half of his resources to acquire an extremely rare Rank Seven Treasure Pill. This improved her Bloodline Talent from being barely Class C to now being of top quality in Class C. If it were not for this, her cultivation speed would not be as quick as it is now. Now, with tremendous effort, her master obtained such a precious Seventy Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma for her benefit. She always felt something like guilt in her heart. "Master, why don't you give the purple mushroom to Senior brother..." she hesitated. ""What are you talking about?" replied Master Primordial Water, feeling helpless. "I am now a Taoist Body, the effect of the purple mushroom is already very minimal for me. Moreover, I'm over five hundred years old. I'm likely not going to advance beyond the Purple Abode Realm in this lifetime. But you are different; your future still holds unlimited possibilities."

Chapter 84: Li Yao's Bloodline Promotes! Saint's Contention (Ask for Monthly Tickets)_4

"You must understand, even among the Great Heavenly Proud, the difference in cultivation speed between those with Talent A-Grade and Talent C-Grade is enormous. You may take pride in being a Great Heavenly Proud, but you are merely a little better than the worst grade D, and merely a grade C. If any issues arise during the cultivation process – for example, severe injuries that harm your lifespan – chances are you might expire before ascending to the Divine Power Territory." The path of cultivation is a defiance of heaven, and the longer one cultivates, the more unexpected incidents may arise. No one can guarantee that after becoming a Great Heavenly Proud, one will definitely break through to the Divine Power Territory. Throughout history, aren't there countless Great Heavenly Prouds who have died before reaching the Divine Power Territory? Seeing that the Master Primordial Water had spoken, Wang Liyao stopped resisting, bowed deeply before Master Tianhe, expressed her gratitude sincerely, then carefully swallowed half of the Ten Thousand Year Purple Ganoderma. Soon, the surge from the herb's potent energy spread out from her abdomen and the bloodline power within her body was activated instantly, boiling like a pot of heated water. Her face turned white instantly, veins started bulging from her forehead and cold sweat dripped like rain. Adding to that, the fragile capillaries in her nose burst right open, and the blood dripped down her nostrils. This was due to the overwhelming medicinal potency and the overly active bloodline power creating an enormous shock to her body. Had her constitution been a bit weaker, she would have suffered injuries in that instant. Upon seeing this, Master Tianhe immediately placed his palm on her back, pouring his Mysterious Energy into her continuously, to help her refine the potency of the Purple Ganoderma. Only then did Wang Liyao start to regain her colour, and her expression was less pained. Seeing this situation, Master Primordial Water tactfully retreated and sat at the entrance of the hall to guard them. The disciple and master refined for a full month. A month later, Master Tianhe heaved a sigh of relief and took his palm off Wang Liyao's back. At the same time, Wang Liyao finally opened her eyes. From the beginning of the refining, she had been focusing all her attention within. There was no time to look after herself, even the dried blood on her upper lip was irritating. Now that she had awakened, she felt uncomfortable all over. Her first reaction was to draw some Primordial Water Aura and cast a simple cleansing spell over herself. "Junior sister, how do you feel?" Master Primordial Water also noticed the situation inside the hall and came forward to inquire conscientiously. Wang Liyao closed her eyes and after sensing for a moment, a trace of joy appeared on her face: "I feel that my bloodline has greatly improved, it has ascended from the

middle of the fourth blood vessel to the high part." Ever since becoming a Great Heavenly Proud, each advancement in her bloodline was extremely challenging. The Spirit Pills used were getting higher and higher in grade, but the improvement in her bloodline was small, any progression made was extremely difficult. Unexpectedly, this semi-palm-sized portion of a seventy thousand year Purple Ganoderma made her bloodline increase one small level immediately. "Good, good, very good!" Master Tianhe was also overjoyed. "The High Level Four is equivalent to the top quality Grade B bloodline talent; even among the Great Heavenly Proud, it's considered high-ranking. As long as you cultivate well, you would have a good chance of winning in the 'Saint Child Competition' a hundred years later." "Saint Child Competition?" Master Primordial Water also brightened up, "How could I forget about that! After the 'Emperor's Son Competition', it's the 'Saint Child Competition'. It's about time for our Lingyun Sacred Land to choose a successor." Wang Liyao had never heard Master Tianhe talk about these things before, and was somewhat confused, "I can understand why there is an 'Emperor's Son Competition' within the Imperial Household as they need to compete for the throne. But why is there a 'Saint Child Competition' within the sacred land? Shouldn't it be that whoever first advances to the Transcendent Void Realm would inherit the sacred land?" "Silly child~" Master Tianhe laughingly said, "Do you think the 'Emperor's Son Competition' is only about competing for the throne?" "Is that really the case?" Wang Liyao was truly baffled this time. Considering the reasons for the struggle for the throne were sufficient and justified, she had never thought about this matter before. "Of course not." Enlightened One Tianhe gave an enigmatic smile and turned towards Master Yuanwater, "Yuanwater, explain it to your junior sister." Wang Liyao immediately turned to Master Yuanwater with eyes full of curiosity. Only at these times did she exhibit the characteristics expected at her age. Master Yuanwater relished the rare opportunity of acting as a senior brother, answering and explaining queries. He cleared his throat and began, serious, "The 'Battle of the Emperors' sons' is not just about inheritance, but also about the opportunity to achieve the 'Transcendent Void Realm'." Transcendent Void Realm! Wang Liyao felt a jolt in her heart. Of course she knew about the Transcendent Void Realm - a realm even more powerful than the Divine Power Territory. The current Great Qian Emperor Longchang Emperor, is a mighty figure of the Transcendent Void Realm, as is the current master of the Lingyun Holy Land. According to legends, a Transcendent Void Realm expert not only possesses a lifespan nearing four thousand years, but also unparalleled, awe-inspiring power - the ability to turn the stars civil, reverse the course of rivers, and transmute seas into mulberry fields. That is the dream of countless Profound Martial cultivators! "The Great Qian Land has been passed through two generations, both ruled by Transcendent Void Realm powerhouses. This is no coincidence." Master Yuanwater was very satisfied with Wang Liyao's astounded little expression, his tone growing more proud, "Only the higher-ups of our Lingyun Holy Land lineage and the Great Qian Imperial Household know about it. It's not a particularly significant secret, so telling you won't hurt." "The Great Qian Imperial Household holds a secret technique passed down from the Divine Martial Dynasty Era. This technique could advance the talent of a Profound Martial cultivator with Heavenly Chosen Talent, greatly enhancing their chances of becoming a Transcendent Void Realm expert." "However, this secret technique has stringent usage conditions. It can only be used once every two thousand years. Moreover, due to its aggressive process, it requires its user to have reached the Purple Abode Realm and possess a bloodline no lower than sixfold. The 'Battle of the Saints' is a competition for this opportunity." Upon hearing this, Wang Liyao could already understand mostly, "Does our lineage of Lingyun Holy Land also possess a similar secret method?" "Your comprehension is astoundingly ice-lucid, junior sister." Master Yuanwater praised her, "Our Lingyun Holy Land lineage holds a high status within the Great Qian Land mainly because we possess a similar secret

technique, ensuring a constant stream of Transcendent Void Realm successors." Great Heavenly Prouds are rare, and they only have a higher probability of achieving the Divine Power Territory. To achieve the Transcendent Void Realm, another even higher level of talent is required, which is rather demanding to a perverse degree. Without special means, maintaining a constant succession isn't as easy as one thinks, is it? "I see." Wang Liyao had an epiphany, her eyes suddenly becoming brighter. Since the "Battle of the Saints" is about the opportunity to become a Transcendent Void Realm expert, then the significance is entirely different. If she could become a Transcendent Void Realm powerhouse, the whole Changning Wang Clan would bask in her light and gain prestige, and they could behave unopposed within the entirety of the Great Qian. Her father's ambition to strengthen the entire clan would also become easier. Over at the Longzuo Academy, if she could become the successor of the Lingyun Holy Land, the status of the Academy would also consequently rise, becoming the preeminent academy after the Holy Land. It appears, whether for the sake of her clan or the Longzuo Academy, she must vie for this opportunity. ...

Chapter 85: Sister-in-law! Thank you so much_1

... Changning Guard, Ping'an Town, Zhuwei Manor. As the foremost land of affluence in a peaceful corner of Ping'an, this place was a barren marshland as little as thirty years ago. It was Wang Shouzhe, the head of the Wang family, who transformed the worthless marshland into fertile fields, spending a ten years transforming it into what it is today. The exceptional environment, the accumulation of the wealthy, the central location for business and convenience of living not only garnered the affection of local tycoons, but also attracted the wealthy from all over Changning Guard, willing to spend a fortune to secure a home here. This drove up the value of the main residences and farmland in Zhuwei Manor, providing many initial investors with windfall profits from selling their properties. These sellers, however, would later be filled with deep regret. With the growing strength of the Changning Wang Clan, the environment of Ping'an Town flourished, becoming increasingly prosperous and powerful. The prices for the first phase of Zhuwei Manor had risen so much that even prominent Rank 9 families from afar were taken aback. A property comprising a front and back courtyard, along with eighty acres of farmland, had skyrocketed to worth two to three ten thousand Qian Gold coins, and there were no signs of it going down. Residences closer to the river and Zhuwei Lake even fetched higher prices. One of the riverside residences had the word "Ouyang" inscribed above the door. On this day, the old master of the Ouyang family was celebrating his fiftieth birthday. The house was bustling with visitors, with many prominent figures coming to offer their congratulations. The old master, however, seemed rather gloomy. After toasting a few cups of sake with his guests, he withdrew to the back courtyard. A corner of the rear courtyard. The weather was just turning cool. Various special breeds of plum blossoms and chrysanthemums in the courtyard were in full bloom, vying for attention. The old master Ouyang reclined on a lounge chair. Now past fifty, he showed signs of old age, his once clear eyes somewhat murky and lacklustre. He was only a year or two younger than Wang Shouzhe, the head of the Wang family, but in terms of appearance and vitality, they were worlds apart, not appearing to be of the same generation at all. After some time. The weather turned even cooler. A man in his thirties, dressed in elaborate attire, entered the private garden, holding the hand of a young girl of seven or eight. Whenever his father was in a low mood, he would retreat to this garden. "Father." The elegantly dressed man said in a low voice, "A lot of guests are waiting for you, wishing to celebrate your birthday." Old Master Ouyang gave him a sideways glance and said, "Let them wait then." "Father, is that appropriate?" The elegantly dressed man asked softly, "Among the guests, there are many prominent figures... The third Shopkeeper from Hengxiang Merchant

Shop, the Young Clan Leader of the Li family, the Deputy Garrison Commander, and the young prodigy from Xinyi Shipping Company..." He carefully enumerated the guests of high status. "Hmph!" Old Master Ouyang's eyes were half-closed as he said, "People rush for profit and they gather for profit. These so-called distinguished guests are here to congratulate an ordinary old man like me simply for one thing, 'profit'!" "Botao, you must remember, I Ouyang Junyan am a personal attendant of the Sixth Miss, and one of the Great Stewards of the Wang family." The already aged Ouyang Junyan said sternly, "To serve the king loyally and have only official exchanges with any outsiders, never to be entangled in personal gains. The success of our Ouyang family is entirely due to our absolute loyalty. Now a steward of the Wang family, you must remember this." Ever since he was chosen as one of the Sixth Miss's trusted servants, he had been involved in many of the Wang family's front-line affairs—clearing and reclaiming land, development and sales of Zhuwei Manor, refugee resettlement, organizing civilians to dredge the river, the Peace River embankment project, housing project, main project of a certain section of Shouzhe Road, Chief Principal of part of the Shouzhe Pass project... Along the way, Ouyang Junyan scrupulously devoted himself to being a pillar of the Wang family's ascendancy. As a result, in recognition of his contributions and loyalty, the Wang family had gifted him with this manor in Zhuwei Manor over ten years ago. As one of the Chief Principals of the Wang family, many people naturally sought to win his favour. "Yes, father." Ouyang Botao quickly acknowledged and then added, "Well, I will go and entertain the guests, so that no one can say that our Ouyang family doesn't know the rules of etiquette. Let Muqiu keep you company." "Off with you." Ouyang Junyan waved him away impatiently, seeming somewhat dissatisfied with his son. Only then did the little girl, Ouyang Muqiu, come forward and wish sweetly, "Grandfather, may you enjoy happiness as immense as the Eastern Sea, and longevity that rivals the Southern Mountain." "Hehe, my good child. Grandfather is indeed blessed, but as for my longevity... I indulged in much excess when I was young... just forget it..." Ouyang Junyan stroked his granddaughter's head affectionately, and smiled as he asked, "How is your study going? At the Wang Family School, you must study hard. You cannot lack in your cultivation." "Your grandfather tells you, our Ouyang family has what they have today, all thanks to the Wang Family and the Sixth Miss. You must work hard, become a useful person, and repay the kindness of the Wang family and the Sixth Miss in the future." "Yes, grandfather." Ouyang Muqiu nodded obediently, even though she didn't fully understand what her grandfather was saying. "Good child." Ouyang Junyan praised her, his eyes full of affectionate and profound emotion. Once his financial situation had improved, he had spent a lot of money and Wang Family Contribution Points to upgrade his eldest son Ouyang Botao's bloodline from junk qualification to lower D-grade qualification, barely allowing him to step into the threshold of Profound Martial cultivation.

Chapter 85: Sister-in-law! Thank you so much_2

Afterward, he took a daughter-in-law with a bloodline talent from an insignificant Profound Martial family from the external guards. Not only was it because of his ancestors' accumulated virtues, but also due to Ouyang Junyan's own good fortune. His granddaughter, born not long ago, tested a Lower Class B bloodline talent at the Wang family's Spirit Testing Platform. Ouyang Junyan then clenched his teeth, spending considerable contribution points and going into a deficit, to exchange a costly Grade Four Spirit Pill [Blood Refining Pill] from the Wang family. This raised his beloved granddaughter's bloodline to Lower Class A. Thus, Ouyang Muqiu's bloodline talent is by no means low. If he can become a trusted head of household for the Wang family, make some merit points for the family, there is a fair chance of becoming a Spiritual Platform Realm head of household in the future. This very well shows the high expectations Ouyang Junyan has for his granddaughter.

During the conversation between the grandfather and granddaughter... Suddenly! Within Ouyang Junyan's garden, a charming figure flew in. Each of her steps was on the void, stepping on the air caused ripples to spread, as if stepping on solid ground. Within a few breaths, she landed in front of Ouyang Junyan, her hands behind her back. She was dressed in a goose-yellow women's Profound Martial outfit, which fully showcased her vibrancy. Just standing there, she exuded a world-best aura of an emperor reigning over everything. "Si, si, si, miss six." Ouyang Junyan rubbed his eyes, couldn't believe what he saw, quickly sprang up from the lounge chair, kneeled in excitement, and greeted, "Jun, Jun Yan has seen Miss Six." His heart was full of excitement, Miss Six had been busy with cultivation since she went to the Academic Palace, and she didn't come back often. The occasional visits were always hurried. Ouyang Junyan calculated, the last time he had a glimpse of Miss Six was eight years ago. "Jun Yan, I heard about your issue. Over the years, you have been faithfully doing your job for the Wang family," Wang Luoqiu nodded, "I was busy with other things in the recent six or seven years. After my fourth brother called me back this time, I heard that it's your 50th birthday...so I came to congratulate you. Jun Yan, you are getting a bit old, sigh~" "Tha, thank you Miss Six for remembering this humble man." Ouyang Junyan's old eyes welled up with tears, "This humble man's insignificant birthday is not worthy of mention, and it even troubled Miss Six to come personally to extend her congratulations. Humble man is flustered." "I am already 50, it's normal to be a bit old. But Miss Six, you are getting more and more beautiful, like you are only turning twenty. Mu Qiu, what are you standing there stunned for, hurry up and kneel down to Miss Six~Kowtow to Miss Six." Ouyang Muqiu knelt on the ground, her clear voice said: "Mu Qiu pays respect to Miss Six." There was a little bit of fear in her eyes, and also some curiosity. Is this the Miss Six that her grandfather has been thinking about? She is so pretty, so young, just like... Hmm, a goddess in a painting. "Mu Qiu?" Wang Luoqiu glanced at her indifferently, her eyes showing no joy or sorrow. "This...this humble man was presumptuous, humble man will change it immediately..." Ouyang Junyan broke out in a cold sweat, both nervous and panicked. "It's quite a nice name, why not leave it." Wang Luoqiu was nonchalant about it, being regarded with fear and reverence was something she was already used to in the Purple Abode academic palace. She gained her fame for being dominant and overbearing, her iron fists had defeated and suppressed numerous young elites. Even so, many senior and junior brothers admired her and even provoked her temper, took pleasure in being beaten up by her. Although Wang Luoqiu couldn't understand what kind of hobby this is, that did not stop her from getting used to being admired. That being said, Wang Luoqiu waved her delicate hand, a jade bottle slowly flew into Ouyang Junyan's hand: "Here is a Lifespan Extension Pill, although it can't guarantee you live to a hundred, it can restore some of the life lost due to overwork." "Miss Six, it, it's too precious...the humble man's insignificant life..." Ouyang Junyan anxiously and nervously refused, "where is it worth Miss Six's expense?" "It's just a mere Lifespan Extension Pill. This pill is only useful to those who are below the Spiritual Platform Realm," Wang Luoqiu waved her hand dismissively. Her gaze turned to Ouyang Muqiu, "This child seems to have some spirit, train her well, don't waste her." After that, she gave a few more bottles of Cultivation Elixirs, then left leisurely. "Safe journey, Miss Six." Ouyang Junyan shouted aloud. Soon, Ouyang Botao and a group of distinguished guests hurried over when they heard the news. When they heard that the legendary Miss Six from the Wang family had come to celebrate the birthday, and also gifted a Grade Four Spirit Pill "Lifespan Extension Pill", all the guests' eyes lit up and they flattered Ouyang Junyan even more. "Brother Junyan," the third shopkeeper of Hengxiang Merchant Shop, Liu Tianyi, said with a tone of regret, "I've heard that Miss Luo Qiu is the pride of the Academy, and your granddaughter also has exceptional talent. Why not beg Miss Luo Qiu to take her as a maidservant? This could greatly advance your granddaughter's future prospects." The

others also expressed their regrets in chorus, stating that older brother Ouyang missed a great opportunity. "Hmph, what do you know?" Ouyang Junyan waved his sleeve dismissively, "What kind of person is Miss Lu Qiu? Even within the Academy, many people wish to curry favor with her. My granddaughter Muqiu has only a Lower Class A aptitude, how could she qualify to be a maid for Miss Luo Qiu?" Isn't a Lower Class A qualification enough to serve as a maid?" Despite the fact that the young clan leader of the Li family only possessed a Lower Grade C aptitude, he was seriously shocked by Ouyang's words, "I have heard that with some effort, a Lower Grade A ability can get one into the Academy." "Why would that be surprising?" Ouyang Junyan scanned the crowd indifferently. "All the prodigies of the Academy are bound to become top-notch figures in the future, aren't they? Moreover, I firmly believe that Luo Qiu will surely become a person who can command the winds and clouds." The guests once again lavished Ouyang Junyan with compliments. Given the Lifespan Extension Pill presented by Miss Luo Qiu as a congratulatory gift, Ouyang Junyan's position as one of the Great Stewards in the Wang Family would surely remain secure till the day he died. ... Main Residence of the Wang family. The courtyard of Wang Shouzhe. "You two, you've got some nerve!" At this moment, Wang Shouzhe's face was as cold as frost, standing with his hands behind his back. It had been an unknown number of years since he last lost his temper like this. Standing before him and being scolded were two beautiful women of superior demeanor. One was dressed in a yellow Profound Martial attire and the other in a purple mystical gown. These two were none other than the prodigies of the Wang family in the Academy: Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing. At this moment, they both hung their heads, not daring to take more than a quiet breath. It was rare for their fourth brother to get angry, but once he did, the outcome was always terrible. "Wang Luo Jing, Wang Luo Qiu." Wang Shouzhe's anger was like a mountain crashing down, "Could it be that you think I, your elder brother, can no longer control you?" "You actually deceived me and secretly went to the war zone outside the territory; a trip that took years. Do you still regard me as your family head?" "Didn't I tell you to take a steady approach in everything? You are not allowed to risk your lives for a gamble. Are we the Wang family lacking in resources for you to cultivate?" Wang Luo Jing's pretty face was filled with grievance, almost ready to burst into tears. However, Wang Luo Qiu still mustered some obstinacy and muttered: "Fourth Brother, nowadays Li Yao is considered a leading talent in the Academy. As her aunts, we both have only top Grade C bloodline aptitude. We can't afford to lose face, so we decided to take risks and try to achieve some great feats." "There are quite a lot of people in the foreign battlefield at the Spirit Platform Realm, and we are not the weakest ones... Not to mention, we also followed the lead of our junior sister Green Fern... We gained quite a few benefits, and even picked up a major leak due to good luck..." "Shut up, I will deal with Green Fern later." Wang Shouzhe snapped, "I am already working on a way to procure the Treasure Pill. Do you think I am not aware of the dangers of the battlefield beyond the realm? Even celestial beings often fall there! You..." "Husband, don't be angry anymore, anger is harmful to your health." Liu Ruolan gracefully came over and gently appeased him, "Luo Jing, Luo Qiu, after all, are your sisters, so don't arbitrarily reprimand them." With these words, Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luo Qiu felt a wave of warmth in their hearts. Their sister-in-law, after all, cared for them... "Ruolan, you... Don't you know how dangerous the battlefield beyond the realm is?" Wang Shouzhe's face was full of anger and fear, after all, even the Academy prohibits prodigies at the Spiritual Platform from going to the battlefield beyond the realm. "Husband, my meaning was, don't arbitrarily scold them." Liu Ruolan softly advised, "Just beat them, beat them till they are dead tired, absolutely don't leave any face for them. Or are you saying, husband, you can't beat them anymore?" What? The faces of Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luo Qiu both collapsed at

once. Sister-in-law, thank you so much for your advice. We would rather be scolded for half a day than this~ ...

Chapter 86: Beating Up Little Sister! Lici Traces (Request for Monthly Tickets)_1

... "Madam has a valid point, both of them, since their childhood, have had the tendency to forget teachings but remember pain." Wang Shouzhe agreed with Liu Ruolan's advice wholeheartedly, he summoned Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu to the back mountain and gave them a thorough beating. At first, the two ladies thought that even though they were several Subrealms lower than their fourth brother, they should be able to win if they combined forces. However, Wang Shouzhe had already ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm and was even acknowledged as a Great Heavenly Proud at the Taoist Body Level. Needless to say, they were bitterly defeated. They supported each other, their eyes were full of grievance and reverence, their fourth brother... he was frighteningly strong. "Don't make such expressions," Wang Shouzhe quickly cooled down. "Fourth brother is doing all this only for your own good." Wang Shouzhe was touched, he thought; no wonder my wife would rather resort to actions than arguments, it was indeed stress-relieving.... Thanks a lot, big brother! Maybe you're just venting your frustrations from failing to defeat sister-in-law. The two girls, on the other hand, were filled with a sense of injustice. Especially Wang Luoqiu, she rolled her eyes secretly and murmured under her breath, "Hmph, why does he get so cocky? He's just a stepping stone on my path to becoming an emperor! When I ascend to the throne, you, Wang Shouzhe... Hehe..." "Little Sixth, what are you murmuring about?" Wang Shouzhe smiled contentedly, "Do you have any complaints? If so, feel free to voice them out, your Fourth Brother will surely satisfy you..." "No, no...Old...no, our fourth brother's martial arts skills are unbeatable, you are our role model. If you say don't go to the battlefield, we won't go," Wang Luoqiu strained herself to put on a smile. "Indeed, we know that our fourth brother cares about our well-being~" Wang Luo Jing also showed a sweet smile. The two ladies, with their unrivaled charisma, were revered at the Purple Abode College. Countless juniors and seniors admired them, their status was akin to the legendary phoenix. But before their elder brother Wang Shouzhe, they were as obedient as little quails. "Ah~do you two know why the battlefield is so dangerous? Why does the college forbid Heavenly Primes in the Spiritual Platform Realm from venturing there?" Wang Shouzhe cast a serious glance at them, "Until you reach the Heavenly Human Realm, you are not allowed to take risks or get involved in messy incidents. If you do, don't blame me, Wang Shouzhe, for enforcing family discipline." "Yes, Fourth Brother," both ladies answered him solemnly. "Come here, let fourth brother heal you." Wang Shouzhe, despite having beaten them, still felt sorry for them. As he was using the Mysterious Energy to heal their injuries, he continued speaking, "I know that both of you have high ambitions. It is good to have ambitions. Regarding the enhancement of the Bloodline I am also considering..." "Do you still remember the additional information we received after we opened the trial point? I already know the approximate location and direction of the assembly point of the Divine Martial Army. But it is a long journey, crossing thousands of miles of wilderness. We have to explore slowly... Maybe there are some secrets about Bloodline enhancement there. In any case, there's no hurry." "Yes, Fourth Brother~" "Fourth Brother, during our time in the battlefield, we did gain something valuable," Wang Luoqiu glanced at Wang Luo Jing and said, "Do you still remember the Blood Gu? Actually, in the colleges and even in the Sacred Land of Lingyun, the Blood Gu is no big secret. I heard that the Longzuo Academy opened a Blood Nest Base hundreds of years ago." "More than three hundred years ago, Qing'an College also established one in the foreign realm. In short, many Blood Nest Bases have been opened in the Dagan Realm including the foreign realm. However, the use of the Blood Gu

requires strict conditions, or it is easy to be exploited by ambitious people with cruel methods. Therefore, the college strongly controls the Blood Gu, usually it is either sealed or used for research." Wang Shouzhe nodded continuously, he had heard rumors about this. He had also tried to write a letter to Master Changchun, attempting to buy some Blood Gu. However, the college had strict rules and Master Changchun could not break them. Moreover, Wang Shouzhe didn't want others to know about the abilities of Blood Gu to protect and mitigate side effects when enhancing the bloodline. Previously, Old Ancestor Longyan survived the Blood Gu Emperor ordeal, the related parties thought it was just Old Ancestor Longyan's good luck. Only Green Fern and Fang Youan had some doubts, but they too lacked substantial evidence. So, when he exchanged the Blood Gu at a low price, the college warned him through Master Changchun. Research is fine, but they cannot be used for evil purposes. The only reason Wang got this treatment was because the Wang family has a clean record, and their ancestors have been upright. Otherwise, the college would never allow the Wang family to privately possess some Blood Gu, even if those belonged to the Wang family...

"Fourth Brother~ This time in the battlefield, we met a heavenly proud from a place called the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty, he was secretly selling Blood Gu at a high price," Wang Luo Jing said, "So, we asked Green Fern to help, spending all our study points and savings. We even owe her some study points, finally, we managed to exchange his Blood Gu. Among them surprisingly, there are two Blood Gu Kings and three common Blood Gu."

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Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty? Wang Shouzhe furrowed his brows slightly, another reference to the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty... The old ghost named Jiang, who he had captured from Zuoqiu Qingyun previously, had also escaped from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty. The power of that place far surpassed the capacity of Great Qian Land. He had initially planned to take old ghost Jiang to the Academic Palace in exchange for secret scriptures. Still, after Liu Ruoling suppressed him, Wang Shouzhe temporarily kept him. He left him under the care of Liu Ruolan, occasionally extracting some information from him and making him spit out parts of the incomplete Golden Toad Codex. On top of that, he also received quite a bit of information concerning the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty. Even though these things happened a long time ago, they gave Wang Shouzhe a general understanding of the social structure of the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty. But let's set that aside for now. Wang Shouzhe's face turned serious when he heard they brought back two Blood Gu Kings and a Blood Gu: "Does anyone else besides junior sister Green Fern know that you guys secretly bought these?" "Fourth brother~ We are not that stupid." Wang Luoqiu replied, rolling her eyes at him, but then she added, "However, this matter may indeed be hard to keep from junior sister Green Fern. If our bloodlines progress, she will surely come to ask you about it." "That's the plan I'm working on. Junior sister Green Fern is a prime example of a Great Heavenly Proud, and she seems to like you quite a bit. Why don't you take this opportunity to court her... it would also give sister-in-law some company." Wang Shouzhe's face darkened. Wang Luoqiu, I appreciate your plan and foresight! Isn't having one unruly person at home already troublesome enough? And now she wants to bring an eccentric home. If this were to happen, it would be strange if our house remained peaceful. "Alright, alright. Even if junior sister Green Fern has some suspicions, it won't matter. She is a recluse, and people do not fondly interact with her." Wang Shouzhe merely wanted to keep this matter a secret but could handle the situation if the information leaked. "Then, fourth brother, let's start quickly." An excited look appeared on Wang Luoqiu's face. "Start what?" Wang Shouzhe rolled his eyes. "Of course, it's Luo Jing and me using the Blood Gu King to enhance our bloodlines. We will have to rely on you to protect us during the process." Wang Luoqiu's eyes were

filled with excitement. Originally, she and Luo Jing both had a bloodline around top-grade Class C. Consuming a Blood Gu King might enhance their bloodline significantly, which would bring her a step closer to her path of becoming the empress. After all, there was a difference between Heavenly Prouds. Exceptionally powerful Heavenly Prouds can ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm around their sixties. But the weakest Heavenly Prouds might have to wait until their eighties or nineties to ascend, which may affect some of their combat power at the same level. "Did I agree to this?" Wang Shouzhe asked, not hiding his displeasure. "I haven't even settled the score with you for this reckless action." "What?" Both Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing were dumbfounded. Luckily, Wang Shouzhe did not make it too hard for them. He ordered them to stay home until after the New Year. Then, he personally assisted them in using the Blood Gu King to upgrade their bloodlines. Slightly disappointing was that the efficacy of the Blood Gu King, far more potent than the Treasure Pill, could only upgrade their bloodlines from top-grade Class C to top-grade Class B. Judging from the performance on the Spirit Testing Platform, it was somewhat close to top-grade Class A and was still somewhat inferior to Wang Shouzhe before he consumed the Treasure Pill. It could be inferred that even if they consumed a Treasure Pill, it would be impossible for them to upgrade their bloodlines to the spiritual body. This was inevitable, given that they were already at the third level of the Spirit Platform Realm? Fortunately, top-grade Class B was already quite strong. Even if they had no more opportunities to upgrade their bloodlines in the future, ascending to a master in the Purple Abode Realm should be easy. As for the remaining three ordinary Blood Gu, Wang Shouzhe directly confiscated them, treating them as the cost of protecting them. As for the study points, they owed junior sister Green Fern, they would have to bear it themselves. As for the three regular Blood Gu, Wang Shouzhe temporarily stored them in the family treasure house in case they were needed in the future.

Spring of the thirty-one hundred and seventy-ninth year of Da Qian. On a rainy day, the populous Wang family was informed of another piece of tragic news. The eldest of the sixth generation of the family, Wang Dingchuan, also known as Wang Shouzhe's big uncle, had passed away at the age of ninety-nine. Relatives and friends from all walks of life came to mourn him. Both his elder sisters, Wang Luomei and Wang Luohu, who were quite old themselves, cried as if their hearts were being torn apart. According to the lifespan of mortals, big uncle Wang Dingchuan lived a long life. In this world, there were few who lived past a hundred without ascending to the Spirit Platform Realm. This was thanks to the Wang family's increasingly good living conditions and the Lifespan Extension Pills that Wang Shouzhe had prepared for him many years ago. In fact, some of the family's elders have been passing away one after another over these years. Especially from the fifth generation, only Wang Xiaohan, Wang Shouzhe's great-uncle, is left. And from the sixth generation, only the third uncle Wang Dingzu and the sixth uncle Wang Dinghai are remaining. Luckily, those three elders had successively ascended to the Spirit Platform Realm, increasing their lifespan limit to two hundred years. However, the death of big uncle Dingchuan was most heartbreaking for the ancestor Long Yan. In the residence of Long Yan. A melancholy Long Yan stood in her white dress, a hint of bitterness evident in her brow. Wang Shouzhe held a little girl of about five or six years old in his arms as he comforted the ancestor: "Ancestor, big uncle died a natural death at a ripe old age. In theory, this should be considered a good thing. You should not be too sad." "Shouzhe, you wouldn't understand," the ancestor Long Yan said with a long sigh. "Sometimes, living too long isn't necessarily a good thing. Every child in the family was watched over by me as they grew up, and then I had to watch as they died! The taste of this experience is agonizing every time. It was like this with Dingchuan, Xiao Zhi, Xiao Jie. And your father, grandfather, great grandfather... Generation after generation of people have left me."

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"Old Ancestor, the change in our family members is inevitable. Thanks to the efforts of our elders, our generation, and future generations, the Wang family will only get better. In the future, our bloodline will reach the Spiritual Platform Realm, which will extend our lifespans!" Wang Shouzhe put down his lovely and delicate daughter, giving her a glance. She, being quick-witted, immediately scurried over and hugged Old Ancestor Longyan's leg, and in her childlike voice, sweetly said, "Old Ancestor, don't be upset anymore. When you're sad, Liyue gets sad too." Longyan, the Old Ancestor, quickly picked her up and gently consoled her, "Liyue, don't cry. I promise you, I won't be sad anymore." Wang Lizhu! This was Wang Shouzhe's third daughter, who was now six years old. Initially, Wang Shouzhe and Liu Ruolan decided to have another child before advancing to the Heavenly Human Realm, to contribute to the family. After all, if both husband and wife reach the Heavenly Human Realm, their vital functions would be too strong, and it would be more difficult to conceive... As a result, they tried for several years to conceive. Despite her pregnancy, Liu Ruolan's cultivation realm continued to rise rapidly. Right after giving birth, she secluded herself for some time, then ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm. Unlike others who would meticulously prepare for ascending to the Heavenly Human Realm and fear failure, Liu Ruolan's ascension was as casual as playing, and she even managed to give birth in the process. Because of this, Wang Shouzhe now has five children... his eldest daughter Wang Liyao, his eldest son Wang Zong'an, his second daughter Wang Liyue, his second son Wang Zongrui, and his third daughter Wang Lizhu. His lawful eldest son Wang Zong'an has been married for a long time now. His wife is Xu Pingting, the legitimate daughter of the Xu Family from the celestial lineage of Changning in Great Qian Land. This was a childhood engagement arranged by Wang Shouzhe, and he gave him a wife. Now, Wang Zong'an is also a father. He has an eldest son named Wang Shizhao and a second daughter named Wang Yingting. According to Wang Shouzhe's current status as the family head, Wang Shizhao's official title is the eldest grandson of the Wang family. Apart from young clan leader Wang Zong'an, the succession order of the family head is also very high for the eldest grandson. Many families in Da Qian country have generational succession, and even the succession of several generations. The higher the grade of the family, the higher the probability of succession by several generations. But I digress. With the involvement of Wang Lizhu, the mood of the Old Ancestor Longyan brightened up a lot. After all, the family was growing more robust. Children sprung up like mushrooms after the rain, constantly sprouting up. "Old Ancestor, eat this melon. It's really sweet." Wang Lizhu even took out a Jade Mushroom Spirit Melon, cleaned it thoroughly, and gave it to Old Ancestor Longyan. "Alright, alright." Old Ancestor Longyan's mood gradually brightened. Her affectionate gaze laid on Wang Lizhu as she tousled her hair, "This child has spirit, reminds me of our Licui. Speaking of which, Shouzhe, she should come back for a visit, it's been so many years." "Old Ancestor, don't worry." Wang Shouzhe said, "Licui has been with Master Yunyang, travelling across the four seas for training. She wrote back not long ago, saying that her progress is significant, and Master wants to take her to a distant place for another round of training." "Well, well, children and grandchildren have their own lives. Her being cultivated under Master Yunyang is her fortune." Old Ancestor Longyan quickly let go of her thoughts about Wang Licui, shifted her attention to Wang Lizhu, and began to chat and play with her. ... Around the same time, in the northern part of the Great Qian Land. Outside the Southern Desert County lies the boundaries of the Da Qian. Outside of that, you step into foreign lands. Past the vast foreign plains and the expansive desert lies another vast and uninhabited area. Unlike the south, which is comprised of mountain ranges, valleys, caves, lakes and marshes forming complex terrains, here it's

one vast continuous mountain range, stretching as far as the eye can see. Its grandeur can't be expressed in words, one must witness it personally to understand it. Once you cross the national border, the climate gets colder. The species of plants on the mountain differs greatly from the south. Bamboo is almost nonexistent here, and the forest is mostly composed of towering conifers. But one thing doesn't change. As soon as it's a foreign territory, it means that it's a place yet to be explored by humans. Various fierce beasts and insects lurk here. Even in the daytime, one can hear the sporadic cries of birds, roars of beasts, and chirping noises from other creatures. Sometimes, energy shockwaves will erupt out of nowhere. That's a sign of fierce beasts fighting each other, either they have encountered each other accidentally, or one is ambushing another, or two of the same species are fighting for territory. In conclusion, danger lurks everywhere. Suddenly, A woman dressed in a tight suit appeared in the depths of the dense forest. She wore a simple fur coat that only revealed her plump hands. She had a round and cute face, which made her look adorable. Unmindful of the dangers lurking in the forest, she strolled leisurely while looking around as if searching for something. This woman is none other than Wang Licui, Wang Shouzhe's eldest grandniece from the eighth generation of the "Li" generation of the Wang family, who we haven't seen for quite some time. Although Wang Licui is only five years younger than Wang Shouzhe and is now in her forties, she doesn't look her age at all. Rather than becoming strong and mature like Luo Jing and Luo Qiu, she still looks naive and carefree.

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It was unclear whether her unique aura was due to her natural appearance or the endowed by her bloodline. All these years, she had been traveling with her master, Master Yunyang. Over the decade, her cultivation base had grown rapidly, and now she was in the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. However, the growth of her cultivation realm was not as important as the fact that her bloodline talent was constantly increasing. Moreover, she was clearly familiar with this forest, effortlessly avoiding a huge serpent that had attempted to ambush her from the trees. Suddenly, her eyes sparkled as if she had spotted something, and with a slight touch of her toes, her silhouette instantly turned into a blur of movement, darting towards a specific place in the forest. She flew around four to five miles before she finally landed. What appeared in front of her was a towering dark-brown cliff wall, covered in various dwarf shrubs. Near the bottom of the cliff was a large crevice, from where a series of muffled sounds seemed to emerge. Listening carefully, it seemed to be the snoring of some kind of fierce beast. Wang Licui's eyes brightened and without hesitation, she entered the crevice. Although it was a crevice, it was very spacious inside, at least twenty stories high, and very wide on each side, large enough to accommodate dozens of carriages side by side. Perhaps because the cliff provided shelter from the wind and rain, the crevice was dry and warm, much more comfortable than the howling winds outside. She turned a corner. Suddenly. A large lump of black appeared in front of her. Subconsciously, Wang Licui halted, took a few steps back, looked up, and finally got a clear look at what was in front of her. In front of her, in the crevice, a giant black bear with needle-like fur was curled up, snoring soundly. Even from a distance, the huge size of the creature, almost as large as a small hill, gave off an immense oppressive feeling. Combined with the waves of ferocious, domineering beastly presence, any Spirit Platform Realm cultivator with a weaker constitution would probably have already broken in fear. However, when Wang Licui saw this giant bear, her eyes lit up, and she couldn't help licking her lips, "It's a Level Five Black-Tooth Bear. So much meat, it could feed me for at least two months...no, one month...no, half a month...sigh, my appetite is becoming bigger." With that said, she unhesitatingly removed the Breath Concealing Jade Pendant from her waist. In an instant, the energy aura

belonging to the Advanced Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm pervaded the crevice. The sleeping Black-Tooth Bear immediately woke up, its massive beast pupils fixedly aimed at Wang Liyao. Fierce beasts have a strong sense of territory. Realizing that its cave had been intruded upon, a tiny, bloodthirsty, and wild red light flashed in its beast pupils, its breath became heavier, and its aura gradually became more and more violent. However, Wang Liyao wasn't frightened in the least. She even took out a jar of Spirit Bee Honey which the Black-Tooth Bear loved and waved it in front of the beast before putting it away, her provocative intentions clear. "Roar!" The Black-Tooth Bear was immediately angered and roared as it lunged towards Wang Licui. In its perspective, that tiny jar was not even enough to fill the gaps between its teeth. Its size was massive, at least as high seven or eight stories, and its lunging brought about a powerful blast of wind that howled through the cavern, emitting an oppressive power that set hearts racing. Especially its gaping mouth, with teeth glinting coldly, and its enormous bear claws, they were tremendously intimidating, leaving no doubt that if one were to be bitten or slapped by it, their organs would split instantly, resulting in instant death. However, Wang Licui did not dodge, instead, she drew out a giant hammer and swung it with a backhand streak. The hammer, which she had obtained years ago in the trial dungeon of Creation God Martial Emperor Dynasty, was a top-grade spiritual artifact. Over the years, she had never thought of naming it, simply referring to it as a "battle hammer". Nonetheless, despite the perfunctory treatment it received, the top-grade spiritual artifact truly deserved its name, its power far surpassing ordinary lower-grade spiritual artifacts. As Wang Licui swung her hammer, a dazzling light burst from it, and its enormous power instantly exploded. At the same time, behind her, a blurry Dharma Shadow suddenly emerged, emanating a strong pressure. Over the years, thanks to Master Yunyang's efforts (and considerable financial expenditure), her bloodline had been slowly but continuously increasing. Today, her bloodline capacity had reached the Mid Level Four stage, a point that signified extremely high-quality Class C talent. The Dharma Shadow forming behind her was much more solid and imposing than before, emanating a fierce and domineering presence as if it were an ancient beast reincarnated, returning to the world of humans. Under the combined force, Wang Licui's hammer swing was as powerful as a tyrant moving a mountain, its might unparalleled. However, the Black-Tooth Bear was a Level Five Fierce Beast, equivalent to a human in the Heavenly Human Realm, its raw strength was truly terrifying. Following the collision of the hammer and the bear, Wang Licui was sent flying back. But the Black-Tooth Bear didn't fare any better, its large body shook violently as it nearly lost its footing, and a suspicious cracking sound could be heard from its massive bear paw. It was evident that it had also suffered a bit from that blow. The Black-Tooth Bear became furious and pounced at Wang Licui with even greater ferocity.

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Wang Licui did not hesitate to flee, having deduced the strength of the Black Tooth Bear with a single strike. Having wounded its paw, she immediately turned and sped away, leading it forward at a safe distance. The Black Tooth Bear was not quick among its peers of the same rank, its bulky body made its flight slower than its run. Now with an injured paw, it couldn't keep up with her at all, and could only roar angrily from behind. Very quickly, she led the Black Tooth Bear out of the crevice, then she looked up towards the sky and shouted. "Master, it's your turn!" As her voice fell, an ancient male voice rang out from the sky: "Step aside, girl." In the interval of his speech, a dazzling red light had descended from the sky, landing beside Wang Licui. It was an elder with a fair face and a sense of immortality. It was none other than Wang Licui's master, Vice Dean of Longzuo Academy, Master Yunyang. Decades had passed, his appearance hadn't changed, but his

aura had become more profound. It was clear that his strength had also been improving over these decades, just not as noticeably as Wang Liyao's. The situation before them was obvious. This master-student pair had set up a cooperative trap. Wang Licui would use her talent of human radar to locate suitable beasts, then use herself as bait to lure the beast out of its cave before Master Yunyang killed it. Looking at their practiced synchronization, it was clear that this wasn't their first time doing this. As soon as he landed, Master Yunyang raised his palm. Thick Mysterious Energy turned into a giant red hand and pressed down hard, subduing the Black Tooth Bear in no time. He then grabbed its neck and snapped it with a "crack". In the face of an old master like Master Yunyang, who was at the Peak Purple Abode, the Level Five Fierce Beast had virtually no power to fight back. "Let's go." After taking care of the Black Tooth Bear, Master Yunyang casually hoisted the beast's body and put it into his Storage Ring. The huge Black Tooth Bear felt weightless in his hands as he hoisted it up effortlessly. Then, with a wave of his hand, a dazzling red light enveloped them and took them in another direction. Each of the powerful Fierce Beasts in the outer regions had their own territories. Some were so strong that even Master Yunyang dared not to provoke, they usually avoided them from a distance. Soon, they left the area and chose a relatively safe place to start a fire and roast the meat. "Good girl, your talent is really useful for finding beasts and Spirit Materials." Seeing Wang Licui had begun the roast, Master Yunyang collected the disassembled Black Tooth Bear and handed the edible parts to Wang Licui, "If I had known earlier, we wouldn't have needed to struggle these past years, changing places every few years, sometimes even several times a year." "I forgot~" Wang Licui seemed a bit regretful as she applied seasoning to the roast, explaining, "When I was young, I accidentally ate some Stone Marrow and couldn't digest it, which left me with side effects. Later, my Fourth Uncle forbade me from going to the outer regions alone, unless accompanied by someone." "Your Fourth Uncle is the Family Head of the Changning Wang Clan, Wang Shouzhe?" Master Yunyang nodded, "His concerns were not unfounded. Although your bloodline's digestive ability is strong, it is not limitless, if you accidentally ingested a powerful Spiritual Medicine, or stumbled into a dangerous Fierce Beast's lair, it could indeed cause big trouble." During this period, using Wang Liyao's talent, they cooperatively hunted the Fierce Beasts. Although they were mostly successful, there had indeed been some accidents. Once, following her instinct, Wang Liyao went towards a hidden treasure and unwittingly stumbled into the lair of the White Forehead Tiger King, a Peak Level Seven beast. If it wasn't for the fact that Master Yunyang was powerful and had been following secretly, noticing something was wrong and immediately pulling her back, Wang Liyao would have simply walked into the tiger's mouth. Another time, Wang Liyao accidentally wandered into a nest of poisonous insects, and it was again Master Yunyang who pulled her out. Letting her roam freely in the outer regions, not to mention Wang Shouzhe, even Master Yunyang would not feel at ease doing so. While speaking, the roasted meat was almost done, and the aroma of the meat gradually filled the air. Sensing the aroma, some beasts tried to sneak closer. However, before they could get close enough, they felt the powerful pressure emanating from the Purple Abode Realm cultivator, and they turned tail and fled in fright. Seeing that the meat was ready, Wang Licui took the meat off the fire, cut off a palm-sized piece for Master Yunyang, then picked up the rest of the large piece and began eating happily while starting to roast a second piece. Seeing this, Master Yunyang smiled with reassurance and said, "Your bloodline has now advanced to Mid Level Four, you have a chance to compete for the future Saint position. After this meal, I will take you to the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty to broaden your horizons." Wang Licui looked up and asked while eating, "Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty? Are there any delicious foods there?" "Haha~ I knew you'd ask that." Master Yunyang couldn't help but laugh out loud, "Rest assured, the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty is an ancient royal dynasty that has been continuing for

tens of thousands of years. I won't make any other promises, but they definitely have unique cuisines. Some are even ancient dishes with recipes that are no longer found anywhere else... most importantly, I have a few friends there..." "Master, I want to go, I want to go!" The master and disciple conversed happily, the atmosphere was harmonious. Their laughter spread far across the wild, inexplicably warm. And deep within, Master Yunyang was filled with determination, "Lang Ya old dog, I bet you didn't expect this. You took everything from me back then, my dear disciple will help me get it all back!" ...

Chapter 87: Major Trend! The Artifact Spirit "Comes Alive"_1

... Seasons swayed between spring and winter, and years passed by swiftly in no time. It was the spring of the 3,184th year of the Great Qian Longchang Calendar. Qing'an Prefecture. The Qing An Basin, spread across thousands of miles of fertile land surrounded by clear streams, was well-known as the "land of fish and rice" within the Dagan Realm. Accordingly, the food industry here flourished impressively. Outside the county town of Qing'an County, there was a manor named "Quiet Elegance Residence." This gourmet manor covered an extensive area. It combined food and accommodation and was distinctively well-known throughout Qing'an County. Food connoisseurs from outside the county eagerly visited it. Many Profound Martial cultivators who visited Qing'an County were eager to savour the local cuisine, so Quiet Elegance Residence was a must-visit. The extent of its reputation speaks volumes. However, this Quiet Elegance Residence wasn't owned by the Zuoqiu family, the first prominent family of Qing'an County, but by King Cheng, a relative of the Imperial Household. Though it might be a disposable small business for King Cheng, it managed to compete with other food manors in Qing'an County due to the backing of the Wang Fu. One day. The shopkeeper of Quiet Elegance Residence, Xu Qingbo, was seated behind the counter at the entrance, casually doing his accounts when a crisp tweet echoed from the sky. Raising his head, he saw a flying carriage pulled by a giant white bird approaching from afar. The bird was pure white like the fresh snow, elegant and graceful, with a powerful spiritual aura. It was highly distinctive. "Jade Claw Egret? Is it someone from the Zuoqiu family?" Xu Qingbo wondered. The Jade Claw Egret was a Level Four Spirit Bird and a unique species to Qing'an County. In Qing'an County, only the Zuoqiu family had the financial ability to use such birds to pull their flying carriages. As they spoke, the flying carriage spiraled down and landed in the square before the manor's gate. Next, the carriage door was opened, and two middle-aged men dressed in robes and wearing jade crowns strolled out one after the other. One looked older, with fine lines at the corners of his eyes, which gave him a slightly aged look. The younger one bore a remarkable resemblance to the elder one, indicating a blood relationship. They did not exhibit their prowess intentionally, but composure was clear in their steps, reflecting their extraordinary demeanour; they were obviously not weak. Xu Qingbo recognized the men. Hastily setting down his abacus, he hurried forward to greet them. "Esteemed ancestors, what wind has blown you two here today?" It turned out that these two were none other than Zuoqiu Deye and Zuoqiu Zhenghua, the first and third Old Ancestors of the Zuoqiu Family of Qing'an, both formidable forces in the Purple Abode Realm. As the shopkeeper of Quiet Elegance Residence, he naturally had to interact with various dignitaries. He, of course, knew all of Qing'an County's top powers. "We're here to meet a guest." Seeing that Zuoqiu Deye had no intention of speaking, Zuoqiu Zhenghua motioned him to go about his business. "Don't worry about us. Also, send your best food and wine to Qingzhu Court and put it on our Zuoqiu Family's tab. Off you go." With that, the two walked into the manor and soon disappeared into its depths. Xu Qingbo, as expected, respectfully saw them off. Meanwhile, Zuoqiu Zhenghua was still not quite clear about what was going on. "Great grandfather, you're the first Old

Ancestor of our Qing'an Zuoqiu family. You're highly respected. Are such precautions really necessary? Is the guest an Enlightened One from the Divine Skills?" he send a sound transmission to his great-grandfather seeing it was deserted around. "What do you know?" Zuoqiu Deye gave him a glance and similarly sent a sound transmission, "The guest today might not be an Enlightened One from the Divine Skills, but he's a Great Heavenly Proud of the Lingyun Sacred Land. Sooner or later, he will become an Enlightened One, and if luck is on his side, he might even hold power over the Sacred Lands and become one of the two most influential people in Dagan." "Hiss~" On hearing this, Zuoqiu Zhenghua immediately felt awed. Being both in the Purple Abode Realm, a Great Heavenly Proud represented not only greater combat strength but also greater potential. Moreover, this Great Heavenly Proud had the backing of a behemoth like Lingyun Sacred Land, so his status was naturally unlike their regular Purple Abode cultivators. Cautiously, he asked, "I've vaguely heard of the reputations of several Great Heavenly Prouds in Sacred Land. I wonder which one of them this guest is...." "His surname is GongYang, named Ce and it is bestowed the title 'XuanMiao'. You can call him 'Master XuanMiao' or 'Young Master Ce'", explained Zuoqiu Deye, "When you meet him, remember to be respectful; it's better for us to lower our status a bit. We must not offend him." "Great grandfather, don't worry; Zhenghua understands the importance." As they spoke, they had reached the Qingzhu Court. After swiping open the prohibition with the door plaque they had received in advance, they pushed the door open. Immediately, their eyes fell on the three people in the gazebo in the courtyard. Among the three, one was seated while the two stood, one on each side. The two women standing on the sides had a humble and respectful demeanor. Seated in the center was a young man dressed in white. He was tall and lean, had a face as handsome as jade, and possessed an elegant demeanor. He looked flawless just from his appearance. His aura far surpassed that of the two women standing by his side. It was an inherent sense of calmness, a confidence and indifference built upon numerous successes, as if nothing in this world could pose a problem for him. With such a demeanor and style, the identity of this young man in white was self-evident.

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"Master Ce." Zuoqiu Deye and Zuoqiu Zhenghua promptly stepped forward and politely saluted him. "You are too kind~" The young man in white did not put on airs, but stood up and returned the salute, then allowed the two to enter the pavilion. This man in white was none other than the Great Heavenly Proud of the Sacred Land, Master XuanMiao, Gong Yang Ce, who Zuoqiu Deye and Zuoqiu Zhenghua had discussed earlier. After exchanging pleasantries, the two sides each took their seats. Soon, the attendants from the manor brought an array of season's delicacies and fragrant wine, and then quietly retreated. With fine wine and food as the medium, the initially reserved conversation between the two parties naturally blossomed after a few casual exchanges. Then, it was time to discuss serious matters. Gong Yang Ce gave a glance to the lady in white dress at his side, and then spoke to the two old ancestors of the Zuo Qiu family, "You may not know the person sitting beside me, but I am sure you have heard her name." Taking the cue, the lady in white took a step forward, paid her respect to the two old ancestors, and introduced herself, "Honored elders, I am Cao Youqing of Lingyun Sacred Land." It turned out, she was the same Sky Pride from Sacred Land, Cao Youqing, who had once fallen victim to an unjust accusation, and was punished by the young man in white to retreat and cultivate in the place of thunder punishment. The decade-plus years spent in seclusion had evidently made a great impact on her. Now, not only has her strength risen a notch, reaching Level Eight of the Heavenly Human Realm, her aura also has become increasingly congealed and reserved. If she continues to hone her abilities for a few more decades, she is very likely to reach the peak and commence preparations for breaking through to the Purple

Abode Realm. Meanwhile, the air of aloof pride about her seemed to have diminished significantly, making her appear much more poised and stable. "It's you?" Zuoqiu Zhenghua raised his eyebrow, somewhat surprised. The incident of Zuoqiu Qingyun in past years had been a hot topic, causing the Zuoqiu family to lose much face. Even to this day, when the members of the Zuoqiu family travel to other county towns for business, they are often met with strange gazes from other prominent families. Even though Zuoqiu Qingyun was not from his line, Zhenghua felt no fondness for Cao Youqing. Zuoqiu Deye, on the other hand, thought deeper. Looking at Gong Yang Ce, his eyes expressed a degree of solemnity. "Master Ce, what could be the meaning of this? Could it be that you intend to mediate between the Zuoqiu and Cao families?" The examples of the Academic Palace stepping in to mediate family disputes might be rare, but they do exist. "You both have misunderstood." Gong Yang Ce took a sip from his wine cup and said lightly, "I am not here to mediate, but to clear up misunderstandings." Misunderstanding? Zuoqiu Zhenghua glanced at his great-grandfather and spoke with hesitation, "Sir, are you saying...?" "The incident back then was actually not caused by Youqing." Gong Yang Ce explained calmly, "I understand that Youqing was missing during that time and it was indeed difficult for her to prove her innocence. Over the years, I have had someone investigate the incident in detail, and found that things might not be as both families had thought. Xiaoyue." "Yes, Master." Standing on the other side of Gong Yang Ce, Xiaoyue responded and then slowly stepped forward, handing Zuoqiu Deye and Zuoqiu Zhenghua a stack of investigation materials. "According to our investigation, we did not find anyone who clearly saw the person who assassinated Zuoqiu Qingyun that day. The identity of the assailant was determined only based on a handkerchief found at the scene and a trace of thunderous energy. There are many uncertainties in this case." "Additionally, the youngsters who were present that day arrived a little too conveniently. After our detailed investigation, we can confirm that they appeared in Cloud Reliance Pavilion because they were stirred up by Wang Shihai, a Sky Pride from the Wang family of the Southern Desert, after he learned that Zuoqiu Qingyun was forcing Tian Yan, an Immortal, to meet him privately..." "We conducted a deep investigation into this matter and discovered, after much difficulty, from a lowly servant of the Southern Desert Wang family, that Wang Shihai had visited Wang Shouzhe, the Family Head of Lord Changning Wang's clan who is of a different tribe but from the same lineage, on the day in question." "It was after seeing Wang Shouzhe that Wang Shihai left with a face full of anger...According to our estimations, Wang Shihai most likely got the information from Wang Shouzhe." "Not long before this, the Immortal Tian Yan had visited Wang Shouzhe." Taken individually, these incidents might not seem that significant. But when linked together, they paint a clear picture. Xiaoyue carefully explained each piece of this investigation to the two men, providing evidence and testimonies for each point. The logic of it all was thorough, sound and convincing. Although there was no concrete proof linking Wang Shouzhe to this, considering that Wang Shouzhe had previously arrived in the Southern Desert with Qian Xuehan, the Family Head of the Qian family from Longzuo, and that Cao Youqing had previously targeted both Qian Xuehan and Lord Changning Wang's family, the truth was almost self-evident. "We believe that the death of Zuoqiu Qingyun is most likely tied to the Qian family from Longzuo and Lord Changning Wang's family." Xiaoyue concluded, "I can guarantee with my life that everything stated in these testimonies is true. If you two don't trust my words, you can summon the witnesses for questioning." "That won't be necessary. Your identity, Master, means you would not need to deceive us over such a trivial matter." Zuoqiu Deye quickly refused. Of course, he would not be so foolish as to immediately summon people for questioning. For one, the information Xiaoyue gave was extremely detailed and logical, with all the details lining up perfectly, making it highly believable.

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Secondly, regardless of whether he truly trusted him or not, he had to give the appearance of trust on the surface, to give Gong Yang Ce some face. As for whether he would secretly investigate, that was another matter. "Unbelievable, my dignified Zuoqiu clan has been trifled with like this. It's a disgrace!" Zuoqiu Zhenghua reacted quickly, immediately slamming the table in anger, "The Qian and Wang families have no respect for our Zuoqiu clan at all! We will not let them off easily!" "Calm down, both of you." Seeing their attitudes, Gong Yang Ce had a better understanding. He continued, "I do have a plan that can cause the Qian and Wang families to pay the price, and also get vengeance for the Zuoqiu clan. Would Brother Deye be willing to hear me out?" Zuoqiu Deye's heart skipped a beat, understanding that after all this roundabout, the real drama was about to come. He quickly raised his hand in agreement and said, "Of course. Please go ahead." "Both the Zuoqiu and Cao clans are the victims in this case. My idea is that you two should join forces..." Gong Yang Ce then outlined his plan briefly. Zuoqiu Deye, a cunning man who had lived for hundreds of years, understood most of it from just these clues. He exchanged a look of hesitation with his great-grandson Zuoqiu Zhenghua, "This... This is a serious matter, I need to go back and discuss it before making a decision." "Of course. As you should." Gong Yang Ce didn't push the two and politely let them leave after some pleasantries. After they left, only Gong Yang Ce and his party remained in the Qingzhu Court. "Young Master, will they agree?" Cao Youqing furrowed her brows slightly, showing some doubts. "Don't worry, they'll agree." The one who answered her was not Gong Yang Ce, but Xiaoyue. She smiled and said, "The Master has removed Fairy Youqing from the case involving Zuoqiu Qingyun, lifting the Zuoqiu clan's reason to further act against the Cao family. By sharing the plan, he's clearly stating his position and subtly supporting Fairy Youqing. If they're not fools, they'll know what to do." After all, the connections and influence represented by a Great Heavenly Proud from the Lingyun Holy Ground and Purple Abode Realm are not something a Grade Four Prominent Family can contend with. In choices between friends and enemies, even fools know what to do. "Moreover, the young master's plan doesn't require them to take any risks. They can easily accomplish it, so they have even less reason to refuse," Xiaoyue added. But Cao Youqing was still confused: "But can this really work?" "It's enough." Gong Yang Ce gave her a glance and said indifferently, "Most of the time, a plan doesn't need to be overly complicated; what's important is that it works." After all, conspiracies can be easily exposed, while forthright strategies are often the hardest to resist. His goal, has never been to destroy the Qian or Wang families. This arrangement was just a means to exert pressure with the great momentum. Besides, it would teach the Qian and Wang families a lesson about what being his enemy really means. What he has wanted from the start is Longzuo County. Of course, if he could gather a few talents in the process, that would be even better. He instructed Xiaoyue to summon the attendants to clear the dishes and replace them with tea. In a casual tone, he said, "Now that the situation has developed, all that's needed is a gentle push. None of the others in Longzuo County are worth worrying about. There are only two people worth paying attention to. One is the head of Qian Family, Qian Xuehan, and the other, is the head of the Wang family, Wang Shouzhe." "Qian Xuehan?" Cao Youqing was stunned. She could understand Wang Shouzhe, having suffered more than one defeat at his hands, she knew how terrifying he was. But Qian Xuehan? In her memory, Qian Xuehan was just a crybaby coward – where was he worth such high regard? "I forgot, Fairy Youqing has been in seclusion and probably doesn't know about recent developments." After pouring Gong Yang Ce a cup of tea, Xiaoyue casually explained to Cao Youqing, "Over these years, the Qian family has been rapidly developing. Your cheap nephew's grandson, Qian Xuehan, albeit unimpressive on the

surface, has been steadily gaining authority within the Qian family in these years. Unconsciously, he has gained a significant say at the Elder Council. This indicates he is much stronger than his father and is someone noteworthy." You should know, during Qian Xuehan's father, Qian Qinhong's rule, he was largely controlled by the Elder Council, hence his caution and hesitation in carrying out his duties. Qian Xuehan was able to sort out the complex relations within the Qian family and consolidate his position as family head within just over a decade. Apart from having the support of the Old Ancestor, his ability was also not to be underestimated. After a pause, Xiaoyue added, "Under his hand, there's even further potential for the Qian family." The Qian family was already a Purple Abode Prominent Family. A step further meant they would be a Grade Four Prominent Family. It's well known that maintaining a Prominent Family's position is easy, but advancing further is extremely difficult. Besides, among the whole Da Qian, how many Grade Four Prominent Families were there? Anyones who could lead a Fifth Grade Prominent Family to become Fourth Grade can barely be termed a "powerful figure". This appraisal given by Xiaoyue can be said to be extremely high. Cao Youqing didn't expect that Qian Xuehan, whom she had never paid attention to, could receive such high praise. However, Sister Xiaoyue had followed their master for many years and had been recognized by him for her ability to judge and assess people. If even she said so, it must be accurate.

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For a moment, her expression could only be described as complex. "However, although Qian Xuehan's ability is not bad, when compared to Wang Shouzhe, he seems somewhat lacking," Xiaoyue spoke, her face involuntarily revealing a bit of respect, "Reclaiming uninhabited lands is a grand undertaking that is time-consuming and labor-intensive for any prominent family. Yet, under Wang Shouzhe's lead, the Wang family took only ten years to complete the land reclamation and population migration process. Everything went smoothly without any major hurdles. Now, the newly established town of New Peace is bustling and prosperous, very comparable to towns that have been developed for many years. The speed of development is baffling." "In addition, the newly built 'Shouzhe Pass' by the Wang family stretches for 10 miles. I estimated roughly, the Wang family must have invested at least a whopping 20 million Qian Gold in this project. Despite this huge investment, the Wang family's internal finances show no signs of strain." "How is that possible?" Cao Youqing's eyes widened in shock. This was a matter of 20 million! Even a Grade Five Prominent Family would find it impossible to cough up such a vast sum of Qian Gold in one go. They would have to sell off part of their holdings to raise that kind of money. Not to mention, the Wang's were only a 7th-ranking aristocratic family. Where could they have gotten that much money?! Of course, what they didn't know was that because of the misestimate on the cost of cement, Xiaoyue's calculation was not accurate. The Wang family had actually only invested around 16 million Qian Gold in the land reclamation project. Additionally, the value of the fierce beasts they killed and the spiritual medicine they discovered during the process was worth almost 2 million Qian Gold, which offset some of their investment. Of course, even 1.4 million Qian Gold is quite an impressive amount. Listening to the conversation between the two women, Gong Yang Ce was rubbing the teacup with his fingers, a thoughtful look flashed in his eyes. Compared to Qian Xuehan, this Wang Shouzhe was the one he found more difficult to decipher. Besides Wang Shouzhe's incredible ability to make money, the abilities that Wang Shouzhe displayed in other aspects also impressed him. This man seemed to know instinctively how to strengthen his family rapidly. From the moment he took over the family, his actions were always purposeful and he hardly made a mistake. The family members Wang Shouzhe personally cultivated were outstanding, each

and every one could serve as the backbone in any Purple Abode Prominent Family. His daughter, Wang Liyao, had earned the approval of Tianhe Enlightened One as soon as she entered the Academic Palace and was immediately chosen to be the successor of Longzuo Academy. If Wang Shouzhe was the heir of a second or third-class aristocratic family, his skills and abilities can be understood. But he was born of a ninth-rank family. Furthermore, the various changes and new clan rules that Wang Shouzhe made after taking over the Wang family gave him a strong sense of *déjà vu*. If he had to describe it, it would probably be in two words—"ambition". It was as if Wang Shouzhe had never intended the family to remain at the seventh rank from the beginning, but was aiming for the fifth rank, or even higher. The problem was, when he took over the Changning Wang Clan thirty years ago, the Wang Clan was a ninth-rank family. This was the part that confused him the most. Where did an heir of a ninth-rank family get such a great ambition and confidence from? This forced him to question whether, in addition to Wang Liyao, there are other Great Heavenly Prouds within the Changning Wang Clan. Maybe it's Wang Shouzhe himself. Only this way can all these things make sense. But how could an heir of a ninth-rank family, a cultivator of Profound Martial rank whose talent has been measured, suddenly become a Great Heavenly Proud, and come to know so much that he shouldn't? However, no matter how capable Wang Shouzhe might be, the Wang family was, after all, just a 7th-rank family. The issue of "that matter" appears far more critical. Gong Yang Ce set aside his complicated thoughts, put down his teacup, and said calmly, "I need to make a trip to the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty for some affairs. You two take care of the affairs here." Xiaoyue and Cao Youqing, who were engrossed in their conversation, were taken aback by his words and quickly agreed. "Yes, master." "Yes, lord." The scheme has been established and the players have all been arranged. What's next is nothing more than to keep an eye on the situation and make some minor adjustments according to the actual situation. With these two ladies present, they are more than capable of handling it. With the current strength of the Qian family and the Wang family, there is no possibility of them turning the tide. When the time comes, both the Qian family and the Wang family will have no option but to kneel at his feet to make way for the battle of the Emperor's succession~ At that point, he would certainly have to have a good chat with Wang Shouzhe. He is a talent, whose inclusion in his camp would be extremely beneficial for the future. ... Meanwhile, the two old ancestors of the Zuoqiu family, who had already left the restaurant and were now on their way back on the flying carriage "Jade Claw Egret," were also discussing the matter at hand. Zuoqiu Zhenghua had a serious expression and sounded somewhat dissatisfied, "Great grandpa, this scheme of Gong Yang Ce clearly intends to use us, the Zuoqiu family, as his pawn, leveraging us against the Qian Family of Longzuo. I am afraid there is more to this than meets the eye. Regardless of whether the event of the past is true or not, I suspect it's just an excuse and there's more to his agenda." "You're right. The event of the past is just an excuse. At this point, the actual truth doesn't matter that much." Zuoqiu Deye nodded in agreement, "He certainly won't have the leisure to specifically strategize for us, the Zuoqiu family. From what I can see, he's either interested in the commercial teams under the Qian Family or he's eyeing the land of Longzuo County."

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"This is paving the way for the emperor's son's competition, and also planning for his own future path as a saint." However, he and Zuoqiu Zhenghua are both cultivators of the Purple Abode who have lived for hundreds of years. Naturally, they wouldn't just look at things on the surface. The dispute among prominent families has always been a struggle for interests. If the Zuoqiu family didn't have designs on the Cao family's maritime trade, he would have suggested Zuoqiu Junming

should have accepted the peace proposal delivered by Cao Bangning's intermediaries, instead of choosing to continue the entanglement with the Cao family. After all, there is no shortage of Sky Prides in the Cao family, and although Zuoqiu Qingyun's performance was not bad after he got the opportunity, his life wasn't particularly precious. For him to clash with another Purple Abode prominent family for so many years does not align with the overall interests of the Zuoqiu family. Since Gong Yang Ce has personally stepped in, his intention is already clear. "So, what are we going to do? Are we really going to take action against the Qian family of Longzuo?" Zuoqiu Zhenghua asked, "The Qian family of Longzuo are not ordinary fifth-grade nobles. Their convoy has been expanding over the years. Moreover, apart from the grain that we specifically supply to the national capital, nearly one-third of our grain transportation and export business is done in cooperation with the Qian family. If we take action, the grain sales will inevitably be affected." As for the Changning Wang Clan, he considers them as an afterthought, naturally, he would not mention them much. Zuoqiu Deye naturally understands his concerns and suggested, "Gong Yang Ce's strategy is clearly not about annihilating the Qian family, but it's about something else. We don't need to worry too much, we'll just follow the plan. As for the competition for the Son of Heaven, haha...for now, we're just using each other. The Zuoqiu family can hardly be said to be loyal." He's been the Old Ancestor for many years and has seen many power struggles among the prominent families. He naturally has a clear understanding of the tricks. If one wants to topple a prominent family, one has to target the family's foundation and lifeblood. But Gong Yang Ce's strategy is more about putting pressure than severing one's roots. This will not have a significant impact on the future cooperation between the Zuoqiu and Qian families. After all, as long as the families are not sworn enemies, no one wouldn't dare to go against money. Furthermore, Gong Yang Ce's plan does not require too many resources. It's a win-win deal for the Zuoqiu family to follow his plan. It could be used to repay for being manipulated, he naturally would not refuse. It's a pity about the Cao family's maritime trade convoy... Zuoqiu Deye sighed inwardly, but soon remembered the death of Zuoqiu Qingyun and the various criticisms the Zuoqiu family had received over the years because of him. He couldn't help but sneer, "Since the Qian family didn't give face to the Zuoqiu family, we wouldn't need to show them any respect this time either. I'm curious to see how long the Qian family would survive under our joint sanction with the Cao family." ... A month later. Ping'an Town, Changning County, Longzuo. This year marked the 15th year since Wang Shouzhe had returned from the Southern Desert with the Treasure Pill and started to open land outside the Changning Wang Clan's territory. The famous Shouzhe Pass had been completed five years ago. The Wang family had been busy for the past fifteen years. While life had been hectic, but overall, it was peaceful, and the family was flourishing. Under the endorsement of the major families, a large number of people migrated to "New Peace Town". One by one, the barren lands were cultivated into fertile lands under careful planning, creating vast farms crisscrossed by paths. Half-natural, half-artificial river channels connected farms and villages. They provided domestic water for tenant farmers and solved irrigation issues, increasing the yield of crops. It was well known that without a reliable and long-lasting water source, reclaimed farmland could only rely on the weather. Such farmland couldn't be considered fertile. From the beginning of the reclamation, the Changning Wang Clan had a comprehensive and unified plan for the river channels, irrigation facilities, and flood control facilities in New Peace Town. This approach to reclamation demanded a significant initial investment, but it was crucial for the development of hundreds of years to come. While everyone in the Wang family was relatively busy. On the contrary, Wang Shouzhe, as the head of the family, was quite leisurely. The family had more and more talents, and the younger generation had matured, so he didn't need to get personally involved in everything. Therefore, all

Wang Shouzhe had to do every day was to do some cultivation, plant some flowers, and then enjoy some playtime with his grandchildren. At the moment, Wang Shouzhe was wearing a loose and comfortable robe, lounging in his small courtyard. The elegant spring plums were blooming like sixteen-year-old girls, hiding and revealing their delicate fragrance beneath the petals. Wang Shouzhe was lying contentedly on the Taishi Chair in the garden, drinking a pot of Cloud Mist Spirit Tea, enjoying the taste of the crisp spring sunshine. A few young children gathered around his knees, either helping him beat his legs or doing a shoulder massage, all while eagerly looking up at him. "It turns out that White Bone Essence refuses to give up, and she transformed into an old woman. She cried and shouted, 'Daughter, my poor child, where are you?... Demon, stop right there! Wukong struck with his staff... Tang Monk was shocked, 'You brutal monkey, how can you kill two innocent lives? I can't tolerate you...' As he spoke, he recited the Tight Hoop Spell..." Wang Shouzhe narrated the story of defeating the White Bone Essence.

Chapter 87: Major Trend! The Artifact Spirit "Comes Alive"_6

Just as the story reached its climax, he suddenly stopped. A boy in his early teens, with a clean and delicate complexion, is bound to grow into a handsome man. At this moment, his clear eyes were glaringly round, "Grandfather, that monk Tang is so unreasonable. Wukong killed the monsters to protect him, but he read the Tight Hoop Spell to harm Wukong. How despicable! Such a big fool who doesn't understand right from wrong~" "That's why, Zhao, as the Lil Junior Clan Leader, you have a great responsibility in the future. The first thing you need to learn is to distinguish right from wrong." Wang Shouzhe said, laughing and patting his head. It is said that love skips a generation, Wang Shouzhe dotes on his grandson, Wang Shizhao, far more than his own son, Wang Zong'an. "Grandpa, Grandpa, don't listen to my brother's nonsense." A little girl, about six or seven years old, was shaking Wang Shouzhe's arm vigorously, "Go on with the story, go on, what happened to Wukong later? Isn't it three fights with the White Bone Essence? They have only fought twice. Also, the Tight Hoop Spell is such a good thing, if I had one, I would definitely put it on my brother so that he would obey me." This little girl is Wang Yingting, only seven years old, and she is Wang Shouzhe's eldest granddaughter of the main lineage. Her brother, Wang Shizhao, looked at her unhappily, "If you want to put a Tight Hoop Spell on me, I will beat you to death with one stick." "Grandpa, my brother is bullying me~" The little girl, Wang Yingting, pouted her small mouth in protest, reporting on the spot. "Wang Yingting, I think you're a devious White Bone Essence." Then, the siblings began to quarrel noisily. "Enough, both of you be quiet." Another teenage girl sitting nearby rolled her eyes and said, "Wang Shizhao, Wang Yingting, you're twelve and seven years old, respectively, can you not act so immature?" "Yes, Auntie." Wang Shizhao, and Wang Yingting obediently replied. They couldn't help it; they were a generation apart from Wang Lizhu, and they had to behave when being scolded, even though she was a year younger than Wang Shizhao. After scolding her nephew and niece, Wang Lizhu drew close to Wang Shouzhe's neck to act in a spoiled way: "Daddy, I want to listen to the story of the Monkey King wreaking havoc in the heavenly palace~" "Okay, okay, get down." Wang Shouzhe pulled her down without any trace of nicety, "You're eleven years old, no more crawling into daddy's arms. When your Aunt Luo Qiu was eleven years old, she was already preparing to slay gods and Buddhas." At the same time, Wang Shouzhe was accompanying the children. Out in the plaza in front of the main gate of the Wang's residence, a group of knights galloped in from afar. The knight in front was riding a horse that was the color of fire and sleek as silk, with four white hooves. It was the top-ranked Spirit Horse "Fire-treading White Cloud". This horse is spiritually smart and majestic, capable of traversing rugged mountain roads as if they were the plains. If it galloped on high-quality grasslands or a flat road, it could

cover one hundred and fifty miles in just an hour. However, there is a downside to such a great horse - it's too expensive. A quality "Fire-treading White Cloud" often sells for tens of thousands of Qian Gold. It has to be fed with premium feed that is abundant in Spirit Energy, mixed by beans, spirit grass, and a small amount of spirit meat. Back in the day, Wang Shouzhe rode a Fire-treading White Cloud to marry his new wife Liu Ruolan, which was a blossoming period. Now, more than thirty years have passed. The Wang's Large Pasture, situated to the north of Changning Prefecture, has successfully mastered the breeding and tending techniques of the Fire-treading White Cloud. But even with the excellent spirit beans and spirit grass from the Wang family, it takes ten years and costs thousands of Qian Gold to successfully breed a Fire-treading White Cloud warhorse. Therefore, even in the economically abundant Wang family, not everyone can ride a Fire-treading White Cloud. As the knight dismounted at the front of the gate, it turned out to be a handsome young son of a renowned family. He was only eighteen or nineteen years old, yet he was extraordinarily tall, dressed in a military uniform with boots, a sword at his side, and a strong bow on his back. Even at his tender age, his mysterious energy was thick and his foundations exceptional. This young man was Wang Shouzhe's second son - Wang Zongrui. The other two young men, slightly older than him, were equally handsome and confident. They were Wang Shou Yong's son, Wang Zongming, and Wang Shouliao's son, Wang Zongping, who were both twenty-one years old. The three of them were close in age and had a very deep bond, often doing things together. However, even though Wang Zongrui is younger, as the second son of the current Family Head, the three of them usually follow his lead. Following them were a team of seven or eight household guards. The guard on duty at the gate of the Wang residence, Wang Xin, hurriedly greeted them, "Greetings to Young Master Ten, Young Master Eight, and Young Master Nine." With a wave of his hand, several guards came forward to take care of the horses for them. "Brother Xin, here are some copper coins to split among your brothers for drinks." Wang Zongming took out a small bag of copper coins and threw it to the guard, Wang Xin, laughing, "The horse of Young Master Zongrui, Fire-treading White Cloud, is feisty and requires separate stable." "Thank you, young masters, for the drinks." Wang Xin said with a smile, "I heard you young masters went to Cloud Security. Seeing your happy faces and your generous tips, it seems like you had a fruitful journey and accomplished the mission smoothly." "However, when you young masters together go to Cloud Security on business, doesn't that harm the maidens of the local noble families? I am sure there must be many who fall sick with lovesickness after seeing your distinguished selves." This Wang Xin came from an offshoot of the Wang family. Since childhood, he has been on a priority list of household guards training, and now under thirty, he has already reached Level Eight of the Qi Refinement Realm. There is a great possibility that he will become a Spiritual Platform Realm Household Guard.

Chapter 87 The Great Momentum! The Artifact Spirit 'Comes to Life' _7

Hence, Wang Xin's status was not low, and he could joke around with the young masters of the Wang family. The number of collateral members of the Wang family has increased exponentially, from the original population of over a thousand to more than eight thousand now. A significant portion of these collateral members migrated from Longzuo in recent decades. Especially in the past ten years or so, most have migrated to New Peace Town and cultivated the land, greatly alleviating the population shortage of the Changning Wang Clan. The collateral branches keep their own family records, each individual can be traced, and it's relatively easy to investigate them secretly. Thus, it has brought a fair share of reliable heads of households, managers, and other talents to the Changning Wang Clan. "You must not speak nonsense, Brother Xin." Wang Zongping laughed and

scolded, "We brothers are going on a mission, not to charm women. If Uncle Si hears of a misunderstanding, we might face punishment." As they teased each other, A proud look in Wang Zongping's eyes superseded his teasing manner. The Changning Wang Clan, not only held a distinguished position among the Southern Six Guards in Longzuo County, but its reputation in the entire Longzuo County was now very high as well. Not only is the Wang family wealthy and prosperous, but it also places great emphasis on the training of the younger generation. For instance, Wang Zongping, a direct line descendant, is nurtured well beyond the standards of the direct line of the 7th-rank Aristocratic Family. The Enlightenment Pill, Blood Refining Pill, and Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill are considered the bare minimum for direct descendants of the Wang family. The cultivation before the age of sixteen is treated at the same level as the Celestial-types from a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family. After the age of sixteen, as long as they learn from the elders and strive to improve themselves, they can continuously obtain high-quality cultivation resources, which are even better than the Celestial-types from a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family. Their future leads them directly to the Heavenly Human Realm. With these benefits, let alone the 7th-rank Aristocratic Family or the Grade Six Prominent Family, even the direct descendants of Grade Five Prominent Families do not compare. Because although Grade Five Prominent Families are richer, they have too many direct line descendants in each generation. Unlike the Wang family, which only has a few descendants, making them extremely precious. These individuals, when they go out, are handsome, have profound cultivation, and an unlimited future. It's no wonder that ladies from Prominent Families of ranks seven, eight, and nine can't help but admire them. Marrying into the direct line of the Wang family is now equivalent to marrying into the outstanding direct lineage of a Purple Abode family. In today's world, Whenever the young descendants of the Wang family make an appearance on the marriage market, they are always in high demand. The least they can expect is Celestial-type from a prominent family. The inheritance of a prominent family member like Wang Zongrui is even more self-explanatory. Given the development and strength of the Wang family today, only a daughter of a strong Grade Six Prominent Family or a daughter of a Fifth Grade Prominent Family may be considered a suitable match for him. Even so, no one in the Wang family would speak ill of this. Because everyone knows, without Family Head Wang Shouzhe, without the strength of the direct line, how could the Wang family be so prosperous today? Due to these factors, the younger generation of the Wang family are quite confident. However, due to the excellent morals of the Wang family and the reward and punishment system, they are proud but not arrogant, with many rules and rituals. As the young men joked around, they went to the Family Treasury Pavilion, communicated with Artifact Spirit Lil Snow, and confirmed that they had completed the task, they received some Family Contribution Points. As they were about to part ways and pursue their own affairs. Suddenly, The secret chamber of the Treasury Pavilion was unexpectedly opened. A charming woman walked out, smiled lightly at the young masters, and went to the very center of the main residence. Wang Zongrui and the other young masters were all as stunned as wooden chickens, their faces full of shock and disbelief. They exchanged glances; was this a ghost? The reason was simple. The woman was tall and slender, with long legs, blue hair tied up in twin tails that almost dragged on the ground. In addition, she wore a pair of long socks on her long legs, black on the left and white on the right, a so-called "black and white mix-and-match". You may wonder how these young masters knew this... because the family's Artifact Spirit was dressed in the same manner. How could they not know, having seen it from their childhood? What shocked them the most was that the woman had a pair of big, watery eyes, long eyelashes, pointy ears, and a sharp chin, with white cheeks and red blush, resembling the Artifact Spirit Lil Snow, like it had become alive. "Z-Zongrui, am I seeing things?" Wang Zongping was trembling in horror, "L-Lil Snow...

she's alive!" "Ding-dong~Gentlemen, she is not Lil Snow." Suddenly, the Lil Snow of the Treasure Pavilion appeared again and spoke in a melancholy voice, "Look carefully, her legs aren't as long as mine, certain areas are not as curvy as mine, and that place... is not as big as mine... hmm, she's just an annoying imitator." "Then, who is she?" Wang Zongrui and the others asked. "Ding-dong - Identity inquiry ongoing - top secret! I'm sorry, gentlemen, but only one person in the Wang family has the authority to inquire about her identity. That is Family Head Wang Shouzhe." "So mysterious? Only the family head knows?" Wang Zongrui and the others exchanged glances, their expression turning serious. Many ominous guesses sprang to their minds~ A few moments later. "This... this is going to be a big issue." Wang Zongming's voice trembled, "It turns out that Lil Snow was not made up out of thin air, she was crafted from an original form... What should we do if Aunt Si finds out?" "Eighth brother... you mean... she... she came looking for us?" Wang Zongping's face changed drastically, "This is bad, the family is in crisis. Quickly, Zongrui, go and invite Old Ancestor. With this situation now, only Old Ancestor can handle it." "We are going to fight again, and this time it's different, this is a life-and-death battle!" "Ninth Brother, please take the trouble to invite Old Ancestor..." Wang Zongrui gritted his teeth and made up his mind, "I... I'm going to risk my life to save Father." At the same time, Wang Zongrui murmured in his heart in despair: Oh, Father, you must control yourself and hold on... How hard it is of me, having such a father and mother. ...

Chapter 88 Immortal Master! Group Immortal Palace? _1

... Within Wang Shouzhe's study in the side hall. Looking at the mysterious woman, his expression was complicated with hints of both sudden terror and strange emotions aroused by long-sealed memories. Her blue twin tails curled in waves, long black and white mix-and-match socks, uniforms boots paired with a short skirt... It was ineffable. After a long while. Wang Shouzhe furrowed his brow slightly and asked, "What exactly are you thinking?" The mysterious woman laughed lightly, "Responding to the Family Head, this is what I thought. In Southern Desert County, since someone is secretly investigating the past, it's most likely related to Cao Youqing..." "I'm asking you, what were you thinking when you dressed yourself up like this?" Wang Shouzhe's mouth twitched slightly, containing an urge to kick her out. "This? Isn't this the type the family head likes...?" The mysterious woman spun around, her short skirt and twin tails fluttering in the air. "Understanding and catering to the master's preference are parts of my duties." I thank you for your duties. Wang Shouzhe was tormented, rubbing his temples incessantly. Originally, the creation of Artifact Spirit Lil Snow was merely a way for him to reminisce his lost youth. However, due to this matter, there was no small amount of commotion in his family. He wanted to change the appearance of the Artifact Spirit, but such an idea was vehemently opposed by Liu Ruolan and Artifact Spirit Lil Snow... The former accused him of being a guilty conscience, whilst the latter accused him of disrespecting the inherent image rights of the Artifact Spirit, protesting that they would only accept changes if she was fully reverted back to a "Blank Artifact Spirit", and absolutely refuse to abandon her "pretty" image. Thus, that terrible appearance had remained to this day. As a result, the young generation of his family dared to speculate but did not dare to ask about Artifact Spirit Lil Snow's appearance, creating countless stories in their hearts. Of all the things for Wang Mei to mimic, she chose this taboo image, even coming all the way to report to him without any shame. After all this. There would inevitably be some rumours within the family. "Enough, enough. Just tell me the main point since it has already come to this." Wang Shouzhe helplessly waved his hand. He has no energy to pursue this matter further. "Yes, family head. After my efforts, my bloodline has been elevated to the level of a recently above-average Little Sky Pride of the middle sub-grade, and I have found a

way to possibly acquire the Treasure Pill. I hope to become a Sky Pride as soon as possible, to cultivate to the Heavenly Human Realm, the Purple Abode Realm. Only then can I be worthy of you, the peerless Great Heavenly Proud." "Most importantly, I have consistently maintained my appearance with the Beauty Maintenance Pill and Wang family's beauty products, so I can maintain a youthful and strong physique and moist skin for hundreds of years... I am always ready to wait on the Family Head..." "..." A cold sweat slipped down Wang Shouzhe's forehead. He interrupts, "I asked you to tell me the main point about the Zuoqiu family!" Wang Mei, in the form of "Lil Snow", couldn't help but roll her eyes secretly. She thought to herself that the family head was too difficult to serve. She had just started talking about the Zuoqiu family, but he dragged nitpicking about her dress and demeanor. Now, when she talked about improving her bloodline and beauty maintenance, he was asking about the Zuoqiu family again? This train of thought is truly elusive. "Ahem! For the past fifteen years, on the orders of the Family Head, I have been keeping an eye on the relevant persons in the county town of Southern Desert County. Other than the Immortal Tian Yan and some people around her, whose whereabouts are a bit elusive, we have so far failed to infiltrate the interior of the Group Immortal Palace, despite several attempts by my sisters. Everyone else is being monitored closely." Wang Mei became serious when it comes to official business. "Wait, what is the Group Immortal Palace... When did it become my subordinate organization?" Wang Shouzhe had an ominous premonition. "Master..." Wang Mei's gaze was stern, "You are now a Great Heavenly Proud, naturally, you must have the pomp that a Great Heavenly Proud should have. After all, the two quasi emperor's sons, who are gradually starting the struggle for the emperor's position, are both under the control of intelligence and assassination organizations. Tian Yan is one of the leaders." The other prince seems to keep a low profile, but his close friend Big Heavenly Pride Gong Yangce has secretly established an intelligence organization called 'Dawn'. The person in charge seems to be called 'Luo Yuqing'." "Haven't you, Master, been allocating large amounts of money to me every year to establish an intelligence organization?" Wang Mei said solemnly. "While I established those peripheral intelligence organizations, I have gradually built a core organization for you called the 'Group Immortal Palace', which is composed of orphan girls I have collected from various places who can only enter after undergoing strict training and examination." "Although the 'Group Immortal Palace' is small in scale at the present time, it is already operational. After my long-term unrelenting brainwashing education, they have a strong sense of belonging, loyalty, and worship for the 'Immortal Master'. As long as the 'Immortal Master' gives an order, they are willing to go through water and tread on fire, even if it means sacrificing their lives." "This Immortal Master..." Wang Shouzhe's eyelids twitched, "Isn't referring to me, right?" "Certainly, they are not related to the family in any way and are loyal only to the Immortal Master. They will obey any order of the Immortal Master unconditionally... including myself." Wang Mei's eyes were filled with a hint of fanaticism. "I will continue to work hard to make the Group Immortal Palace the number one organization, surpassing 'Sky Pillar' and 'Dawn'." Uh... thank you, Wang Mei! Wang Shouzhe was frightened. This sounded like something a traitorous official or rebellious subject would do. If the Daqian Officials knew about it, they might label him as a treacherous villain.

Chapter 88 Immortal Master! Group Immortal Palace? _2

The heads of noble families are granted their positions by the government, and in a way, they are also subjects of His Majesty the Great Emperor.... "Your Lordship, rest assured, 'The Group Immortal Palace' has nothing to do with our family, and no one knows your real identity," Wang Mei said with a look of careful consideration. "When you meet them, you just need to put on a

pecially made mask and show the token. Even if one of the sisters makes a mistake, it won't implicate the Family Head or the Wang family." Wang Shouzhe was rendered speechless. He did establish a system of gathering intelligence with his actions and investments, but not an exaggerated organization like this... However, since Wang Mei already thoroughly considered this, he would let her do as she please for now since it does sound impressive. "Continue discussing the matter of Zuoqiu Qingyun." Wang Shouzhe said with a serious expression. He knew a dozen years ago that the initial plan was just makeshift. Therefore, he had long made various arrangements to prevent the Zuo Qiu family or Cao Youqing from investigating the truth. "Yes, my lord. The insiders of our 'Group Immortal Palace' traced back the person investigating Zuoqiu Qingyun's death and found out they were from Gong Yang Ce's 'Dawn'. To avoid startling them, the insiders didn't act rashly." Wang Mei continued, "But not long after, our informants in the territory of the Cao family and Zuoqiu family also sent back news. Their rivalry seemed to have eased, and there were unusual activities." "Based on these findings, Gong Yang Ce ruled out 'Cao Youqing' from the suspects of Zuoqiu Qingyun's death." Wang Shouzhe nodded expressionlessly. "Your analysis is logical. Cao Youqing herself knows whether or not she's the one who committed that old case. With patience, thorough investigation can convince the Zuoqiu family that Cao Youqing is innocent." "You're saying the Zuoqiu family will definitely act against our Wang family?" Wang Mei asked coldly. "Cao Youqing can clear her name, but the Zuoqiu family also has no evidence that it was us." Wang Shouzhe replied indifferently, "Therefore, even if the Zuoqiu family opposes our Wang family, they will only adopt normal disciplinary measures." "They would not launch a major attack on our Wang family for an unseemly, old scandalous case without conclusive evidence." "The so-called principle is that nation's law first, family rules second. If the Zuoqiu family is so impulsively foolish, it'll be easier to deal with. However, a Grade Four family that has been around for two thousand years would absolutely not trample on the national law out of foolishness and challenge the bottom line of Emperor Longchang." "This is also why I had to get rid of Zuoqiu Qingyun. The Zuoqiu family wouldn't dare to defy the national law, but Zuoqiu Qingyun who turned to evil did. So, I would rather become an enemy of the Zuoqiu family than let a reckless madman exist." Wang Mei showed an adoring look towards Wang Shouzhe. "The Family Head is wise. No wonder you ordered me to gradually set things in motion in Qing An and Liaoyuan prefectures a dozen years ago." Yes! Speaking of which, Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but sigh. It was easy to become a Family Head, but extremely difficult to be a good one. Each decision he made, he had to take responsibility for the clan and for the generations to come. Therefore, as soon as he had killed Zuoqiu Qingyun and returned to the Wang family, Wang Shouzhe began to prepare for this day. Not preparing for these predicted crises would have been foolishness to the extreme. Being able to conceal this for fifteen years, Wang Shouzhe felt he had already gained much. The Wang family today is nothing like what it was fifteen years ago! Anyone who still regards the Wang family as a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family is only seeking trouble for themselves. "Wang Mei, you should do it like this from now on..." After some thought, Wang Shouzhe gave orders. "Yes, Family Head." Wang Mei listened carefully, her eyes shining brightly. ... Meanwhile, In Wang Shouzhe's small courtyard. Wang Zongrui gazed anxiously at his father's study room from a distance and kept pacing around. Earlier, he confirmed that his father invited the "mysterious woman" into his study room as soon as he saw her, leaving the children to play in the yard. "Wang Lizhu, are you sure 'Little Snow' followed Father into the study?" Wang Zongrui, anxiously, grabbed his youngest sister, who was playing with his niece, and repeatedly asked for confirmation. "Second Brother, if you need Father, you can go ask him directly." Wang Lizhu said grumpily and rolled her eyes at him. "I have also done some family tasks, I recognize 'Little Snow'." Wang Zongrui's heart jolted. Two incense periods had

passed already? It's all over - everything that should have happened has probably already occurred. This is a big problem! The only thing that somewhat comforted him was that their mother just happened to be visiting her maiden home; at least there wouldn't be a horrendous scene. Just as Wang Zongru was on tenterhooks, "Creak!" a sound came. The door of his father's study room opened, and his father and the mysterious woman appeared at the doorway together. After she bowed to his father, she turned around and left. As she passed Wang Zongrui, she gave him a light smile. "Young Master Zongrui is very handsome," she said. Then, leaving a trail of fragrance behind, she departed. Wang Zongrui shivered and fast walked toward Wang Shouzhe. "Father, about this matter..."

Chapter 88 Immortal Master! Group Immortal Palace? _3

"So, Zongrui has returned." Wang Shouzhe looked him up and down, his eyebrows revealing a trace of displeasure, "How many times have I told you? You're the legitimate son of the Wang family. You should set an example for your brothers and sisters. You should carry yourself with calmness in every gesture. Why are you so flustered?" Wang Zongrui felt bitter in his heart. How could he maintain his composure in this situation? Father, oh father, even if you meet your old flame, could you please be a little more discreet? If word gets out, something big is going to happen... "Father, who is that..." Wang Zongrui asked quietly in a weak voice. "The head of household," Wang Shouzhe said calmly. "The head of household? How come I've never seen her?" Wang Zongrui shook his head and gave a bitter smile. Father's excuse isn't suitable. He needs to come up with a new one to maintain family stability and safety. Suddenly, the seven-year-old Wang Yingting trotted over, blinking her curious big eyes, "Grandpa, Grandpa, Uncle Zongrui said, the woman who was just called 'Little Snow' is your old flame. Grandpa, what's an old flame? Your stories never mentioned..." Wang Zongrui was struck as if by lightning, his face pale. He had forgotten in his haste earlier that little Wang Yingting couldn't keep a secret. Wang Shouzhe's cheeks twitched slightly, he looked at Wang Zongrui "kindly" and said: "Rui'er, come to think of it, it's been a long time since we had a good talk, father and son." Then, the noble legitimate son of the Wang family, was brought into the study. As soon as the door was closed, Wang Zongrui's fearful cries and pleas could be heard: "Father, I'm wrong... That's not your... Aiyo, I'm wrong. Don't worry, I will never tell my mother. I swear, I'll never tell~" But as soon as his words fell, Liu Ruolan's cold voice came from outside the door: "Wang Zongrui, be clear, what wouldn't you tell me to save your life?" "Ah, mother!? What I meant was, I'll never tell you about father's old flame coming to visit him..." "Wang Shouzhe, you really do have someone else..." Liu Ruolan's voice turned even colder, "That woman must be 'Little Snow', no wonder you can't get her out of your head." "Wife, let me explain." Wang Shouzhe was sweating, "This is not what you imagine." "Children are still in the room, I'll wait for you in the 'Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion'." Liu Ruolan's voice was getting further away, no doubt she had already gone to the Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion to wait for Wang Shouzhe. "You troublesome kid, there was no problem originally!" Wang Shouzhe gave his son an annoyed look. "Father, you taught me to remain calm in the face of adversities," Wang Zongrui reminded, "You better hurry to the Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion. Remember, if you're wrong, admit it, don't be stubborn..." "... Wang Shouzhe. ... Longzuo County is located in the southeast of Great Qian Land, while Liaoyuan County is in the northeast. Across the sea from each other, in between is a vast and boundless sea known as the "Qingluo Sea". Speaking of the "Qingluo Sea", there is a story. Emperor Longchang had an eldest princess named "Princess Qingluo". This Princess Qingluo was intelligent from an early age and possessed exceptional talent. She was inherently a Top Grade Class A bloodline. As a child, she was deeply loved by the previous

emperor. Upon reaching adulthood, she was personally tutored by the previous emperor. Not only did her talent reach the top quality Grade B with the help of Dan medicine, she also advanced to the Divine Power Territory before the age of five hundred. Her cultivation speed was ranked at the top even among the imperial household. In terms of being favored, only the then "Emperor's son", Emperor Longchang was able to match her. And she was worthy of the previous emperor's love; she made a name for herself on the battlefield at a young age. As a reward for her contributions, the previous emperor left a will, granting Princess Qingluo's descendants the right to retain their mother's surname "Wu", be included in the imperial family genealogy, and the same as other princes' descendants, the right to participate in the "Emperor's son competition". After ascending to the throne, Emperor Longchang heavily relied on her. Among the many princes, none could outshine her. In her lifetime, Princess Qingluo made countless contributions to the Great Qian Land on the battlefield. Her valiant contributions outmatched several of the current princes of Great Qian Land and were highly regarded as a War Goddess by her generation. In the Great Qian Land, numerous female Profound Martial cultivators of high-grade families idolized her. Unfortunately, her life was cut short; Princess Qingluo tragically met an accident on the battlefield and died before reaching twelve hundred-year-old. Her sudden death caused a major uproar in the Great Qian Land. At the time, Liaoyuan County's coastal area was being developed. Emperor Longchang, overwhelmed with grief, named the developing sea area "Qingluo Sea" to commemorate his beloved daughter. Over the years, as the Great Qian Land's development of the sea area increased, the size of the Qingluo Sea also expanded. Now, the "safe sea area" of the Qingluo Sea is three or four times larger than before, bringing considerable economic benefits to the Great Qian Land. At this moment, in a reef bay to the north of the Qingluo Sea, several large ships were moored. These ships were made of colossal wood, with a roaring red dragon painted on their bodies. The bow was raised up high, with thick metal cladding along the edges, emitting a chilling coldness. Unlike the flat-bottomed riverboats, these sea ships had pointed bottoms, as the sea was deep and the waves were rough. Flat-bottomed boats could easily capsize, only pointed-bottomed boats could withstand the waves.

Chapter 88 Immortal Master! Group Immortal Palace? _4

At this moment, still moored in the rocky harbour, the sails on these sea vessels had not been raised, and the hefty masts stood starkly bare. Several dozen crossbows were mounted on the edge of the deck. These crossbows were already strung, and thick crossbow arrows poised to be released were reflecting a cold light under the sun. Just after noon, the sun was at its hottest, and all the crew members on the ship lacked pep. One by one, they were lying down there bare-chested, taking a nap. Those who found the sunlight too glaring simply covered their faces with a piece of cloth. Other than the snoring and teeth grinding sounds made by the crew, almost no other sound could be heard in the rocky bay, creating an eerie silence. Suddenly. The cabin door was opened, and two figures emerged from inside, one after the other. One of them looked like a middle-aged man, burly, dressed similarly to the crew, but tidier and more refined, and his slightly red curly hair was distinctive. The other was a young gentleman dressed in flamboyant robes. He wore a jade crown on his head and was dressed in an exquisite brocade robe. He looked dignified and graceful, in stark contrast to the other people on the ship. The seamen at the door, on seeing the two, immediately scrambled up in alarm and nervously saluted the two, "Boss, Master Cao." Turns out, the burly middle-aged man is the owner of this fleet. His name is Nie Long, nicknamed "Red-haired Dragon King," a notorious leader among the active pirate gangs, the "Red Dragon Pirates," in the Qingluo Sea. He was the leader of the pirate gang in public, but few knew that he was actually aligned with

the Purple Abode Cao Family. Years ago, he was discriminated against in his tribe because of his "Barbarian Tribe" bloodline. During an exploration of a sea secret realm, he was almost drowned after being pushed into a whirlpool but was rescued by Cao Youbin, the then head of the Cao family, narrowly escaping death. Since then, he was taken under Cao Youbin's wing and was secretly sent to infiltrate the pirates. As the years passed, he became the pirate leader. Although his pirate fleet was not the largest, it had quite a reputable name among the pirates. The young master named "Cao" by his side is the son of the Purple Abode Cao family——Cao Bangyan. He is a notable powerhouse in Liaobei County, existing on a Heavenly Proud Level. "Are your men up to scratch?" As soon as he came out of the cabin, Cao Bangyan couldn't help but cover his nose and mouth, looking somewhat disgusted at the crew around him. If his Aunt Cao Youqing had not specifically dispatched him, he wouldn't have troubled himself to suffer in such a dreadful place. The skin of these crew members was rough and black, looking just like old tree barks, and they emitted a strong fishy smell from the sea, not resembling those capable of fighting in the slightest. "Lord Cao, please rest assured. Despite their appearances, each of them is a capable fighter when war breaks out." Red-haired Dragon King Nie Long was full of confidence. His men, having been drifting at sea for years, did lack in refinement, but their fighting skills were unquestionable. Apart from him, the leader in the early stages of the Heavenly Human Realm, he also had more than a dozen minor bosses at the Spiritual Platform Realm and several hundred small followers in the Qi Cultivation Realm under his wings, making the task of seizing a commercial fleet utterly effortless. Saying so, he beckoned a young sailor and instructed, "Go and fetch Uncle Wen." The sailor acknowledged and immediately ran towards the stern to find the said person. Very soon, an elderly man dressed in a brown robe came from the stern and respectfully greeted Nie Long and Cao Bangyan. "Boss, Master Cao." His brown robe had many pockets and looked different from that of others on the ship. Nie Long waved at him and asked, "Wen Da, when will Keep Achieving Commercial Firm's fleet arrive?" "Replying to Boss, our Courier Gulls have spotted Keep Achieving Commercial Firm's fleet. Based on their usual speed, they should arrive within a quarter of an hour at the latest," the old man named "Wen Da" replied. They had specially trained Courier Gulls on their ship. These gulls had unique jade talismans tied to their legs that would emit particular spiritual-energy fluctuations detectable even from a long distance. Whenever they planned to plunder, they would release the gulls, which would locate the target fleet and hover above it. This way, they could detect the approximate direction and location of the target fleet based on the position of the jade talisman. Wen Da was the man in charge of taming the courier gulls on this ship and naturally had a firm grasp on the current location of the target fleet. "Alright~ Off you go~ Once the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm's fleet arrives at the target ocean area, send someone to inform me immediately." Nie Long waved his hand, and Wen Da quickly bowed and retreated. "I seem to remember you mentioning before that the legitimate daughter from the Wang family is also on the ship?" Cao Bangyan suddenly asked as if recalling something. "Yes." Nie Long nodded and added, "According to the information sent back by the spies we deployed at the docks, this time the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm dispatched round a dozen large sea ships loaded with almost half of the 'foreign glass products.' Because the shipment is valuable, Wang Luomiao, the legitimate daughter responsible for maritime transportation, will also accompany it personally. Fang Jinghui, a direct descendant of the Liaoyuan Fang family, is also on board. Our spies physically saw them board the ship; they couldn't be mistaken." "That's good." Cao Bangyan chuckled, "Although Fang Jinghui is a direct line descendant, he is merely a Little Sky Pride. Moreover, he's young and not worth worrying about. However, that legitimate daughter from the Wang family reportedly is the Family Head's biological sister and quite a beauty~ Tsk tsk~"

"Hehehe~" Nie Long immediately understood, revealing a leer on his face, "after we rob their ship, the people, of course, would be at Prince Bangyan's disposal. However, about those goods..." "Rest assured, the goods are all yours." Cao Bangyan waved his hand. "Prince Bangyan is indeed generous~!" Nie Long's smile became significantly more sincere. Cement and foreign glass are both valuable goods~ Those ten shipments must be worth at least five hundred thousand Qian Gold. He was going to make a fortune from this deal. "Look at you, all giddy for such a trivial profit." Cao Bangyan shook his head. Having stayed on the ship for over ten days, he had become familiar with Nie Long, hence their conversation became more casual and less courteous. "Yes, yes, yes, I, old Nie, am just a pirate leader, I can't compare to the boundless future of Prince Bangyan." Nie Long, not at all bothered, laughed and flattered, "You are a Sky Pride of the Purple Abode Cao family, favored by the Old Ancestor with your older brother caring for you, lacking nothing. Naturally, you wouldn't value such minor stuff." Cao Bangyan advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm at just seventy-eight and now, not even one hundred and twenty, he possesses the cultivation base of the Heavenly Human Realm Threefold. Although purely discussing realms, Cao Bangyan was a little inferior to him. But if it got down to actual combat abilities, he might not necessarily be Cao Bangyan's opponent. Cao Bangyan was a Heaven's Chosen level of Human Realm, even in the Academic Palace, he is a very influential person. Not to mention he's a direct descendant of the Cao family, the youngest brother of the current Cao Family Head, Cao Bangning, his status within the Cao family is much higher than his; it goes without saying that he must give face to Cao Bangyan. Just as they were talking, the old man named Wen Da hurriedly came from the direction of the ship's stern, reporting to the two, "Reporting to Boss, Prince Cao, the ships from the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm have entered the target ocean area. We can now proceed with the attack." The eyes of both Cao Bangyan and Nie Long lit up. Nie Long was even more excited, slapping the railing, "Good!! On the previous couple attempts to hijack them, they managed to escape. But this time, with Prince Bangyan personally overseeing, nothing can go wrong." Cao Bangyan just sneered, "Don't worry. Neither the ships nor the people will get away." "Hahaha~ Good!" Nie Long laughed heartily, suddenly leaping onto the bow of the ship, activating his Mysterious Energy, and bellowed, "Brothers! Hoist the sail! Lift the anchor! Let's go rob those motherf*****!" Thunderous shouts exploded above the port. In an instant, all pirates, who were previously resting, sprung up as if they were injected with chicken's blood, quickly getting into action. In just a few moments, all the pirates had found their positions, quickly lifted the anchors, hoisting the giant sails bearing the pirate emblem. Soon, several large sea ships raced out of the port like arrows, charging towards the vast sea. Cao Bangyan stood with his hands behind his back, remaining on the edge of the ship, his face full of confident ease. With their strength, dealing with a fleet of merchant ships was like using a large cleaver to kill a chicken. Wang family, oh Wang family, it's your own fault for being close to Qian family and having the audacity to oppose my aunt, Cao Youqing. Moreover! You caused the Cao family to be repressed by the Zuoqiu family for a full 15 years! This debt I, Cao Bangyan, am collecting on behalf of the Cao family. ...

Chapter 89: Sister-in-law is awesome! Sister-in-law is domineering! (Monthly ticket request)_1

... The Qingluo Sea area, with its vast azure waves, has clear and clean seawater with a slightly cold temperature. In this sea area, a variety of fierce seafood grows rather slowly, which only enhances the quality and flavor of these seafood. There was a time when this vast sea area was filled with fishing boats, yielding plentiful products. Unfortunately, in the Qingluo Sea, pirates have been on the rise for an unknown period of time. As a result, the fishing economy is almost at a standstill, and the number of commercial vessels compared with a hundred years ago has decreased by eighty to

ninety percent. Only the merchant ships of big prominent families such as the Cao Family and the Fang Family can travel unimpeded in this sea area. At this moment. Amidst the vast ocean waves, a fleet of ships forms a stable formation, cutting through the wind and waves, moving swiftly ahead. Among this fleet, the most eye-catching is a unique large merchant ship. This ship, named "Luo Miao Ship," is the latest type of merchant ship jointly built by the Chen Clan of Donggang and the Changning Wang Clan. Unlike common sea ships with several towering masts, it has a gigantic cylindrical object erected in the place where a mast should be. Its size is also much larger than that of a typical ship, and many joints have used the latest steel structures. Aside from the traditional sails, there's a large power cabin at the bottom of the ship with a massive boiler installed, alongside a propeller driven by a steam structure. This is the latest artifact product launched by the Wang family's secret research institution — "Wang's Steam Engine". As for the steam engine, it is one of the most powerful tools driving the progress of Earth's civilization. Every layman knows the principle of the steam engine, but most of them do not understand its specific structure. Like Wang Shouzhe, he certainly knows that steam can generate power and vaguely knows some general structures. But if you ask him to suddenly design an entire steam engine structure, it's something he couldn't do even if it meant his life. Luckily, the Wang's research institution, after decades of development, is now full of talents. About the topic of steam power, the concept and principle, as well as the general direction and thinking of the structure, were proposed by Wang Shouzhe decades ago. The structure of steam power is not complicated. This world does not lack intelligent people. Many times, the only thing missing in facing a technical bottleneck is an idea and a direction. With a clear idea and direction, blacksmiths, artifact refiners, and technical personnel are encouraged by Qian Gold to overcome various obstacles bit by bit. After decades, they have developed a large, yet very primitive steam power system. No matter how primitive it may be, it is still a steam system. Belonging to the "boiling water" entry-level 'high-tech', it's much advanced compared to simple sail power. Please note, the biggest problem limiting the development of the shipping industry is the cargo capacity of ships. Only with a sufficiently strong cargo capacity can there be substantial profits. And what limits the cargo capacity of ships is actually power. With sails as power, it's easy to be influenced by climate and ocean currents. Nearly half of the year has to be forcibly stopped, and the power that can be provided also has an upper limit. The transportation speed is really not very fast. But with the steam system as power, there is no such trouble. The power generated by the steam system has a much higher upper limit compared to sails, and it's more stable, less affected by climate and ocean currents, and it can consistently provide tremendous power. Even when sailing against the current, the speed will not be too slow. Apart from that, because the price of coal in this world is quite low, its consumption is not high. Based on this, the shipping industry has great potential development in the future. However, so far, the Wang family's steam power system is still in an experimental state, and improvements continued to be needed during practical uses. It is far from being ready for mass production. The "Luo Miao Ship" is the Wang family's test subject. At the same time, this large merchant ship named "Luo Miao Ship" is also the flagship of this whole fleet. It carries the most precious foreign glass products, and on the ship, there's a total of twelve Divine Might Cannons installed. Its defense power is so strong that calling it a "moving fortress on the sea" is not an exaggeration. Compared to the Luo Miao Ship, the defenses of the other nine merchant ships paled in comparison, each merchant ship only has one Divine Might Cannon. The bow of the "Luo Miao Ship" is quite high, which is about fifty to sixty feet above the water surface, making it look much more elegant than an ordinary sea ship. At this moment, a lady stands gracefully next to a Divine Might Cannon at the front end of the deck. She has a pretty face with long hair simply tied into a ponytail behind her head. There aren't any extra adornments on her.

Under the cover of her Profound Martial uniform and cloak, her body appears tall and lithe, looking spirited and heroic. This lady is naturally the person in charge of this fleet, Wang Luomiao. Usually, high-quality ladies from Profound Martial families, the more excellent ones would follow the Academic Palace route, while most of the others go to get married and have children, serving as marriage ties for the family, especially those from the direct line. Most of the time, they cannot dictate their own marriages.

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Cao Lina is a typical example. As a direct line descendant of the Liaoyuan Cao family, her talent was not bad, but she could only obey the family's arrangements and became Qian Qinhong's successive spouse of the Longzuo Qian family. However, the Wang family was a bit different. Under Wang Shouzhe's insistence, all the women in the Wang family enjoyed the same rights and treatment as the men, including marriage. Every woman of the Wang family had the right to choose whether or not to marry. The family would only give advice, not force her. Even so, they had a little bit more power than the men in the family, after all, if some men did not marry or have children for a long time, the family would take some measures... On this point, Wang Shouzhe received great support from the Old Ancestor Longyan. As a result, Wang Shouzhe's half-sister, Wang Luomiao, has not married so far. Like the male peers in the family, she used her efforts and abilities to hold up the sky for the family. Maritime trade has always been tough. Wang Luomiao chose this way to shoulder some of the family's responsibilities and pick up some of the burden for her brother Wang Shouzhe. Over these twenty years, she has been learning everything she could learn bit by bit, growing step by step, and integrating step by step. The sea wind blows, making the cloak flutter. With the passage of time, the naive young girl from the beginning has gradually transformed into a mature and capable heroine. "Miss Luomiao, the wind outside is strong." At some point, a scholar-like handsome young man appeared behind Wang Luomiao. Looking at Wang Luomiao, he said with concern: "You go back and rest first. In this sea area of Qingluo, no pirates have dared to move the ships flying the Fang family's flag." This trade fleet is owned by the Wang Family's In-laws Alliance, but it is specifically engaged in trade with the distant Fang Family. Due to the considerable profits, the Fang family increasingly values this trade line and has sent Fang Jinghui, the direct child of the current generation, to be responsible for liaising with them. This young man was naturally Fang Jinghui. The cooperation between the two parties has lasted for twenty years, and the relationship has become closer and closer. Fang Jinghui was not much older than Luomiao. Despite his gentle and refined demeanor, his strength has reached the peak of the third layer of the Spirit Platform Realm. If placed in the Academic Palace, he would be considered a core disciple at the same level as Ji Mingyu. This shows that the foundation of the Liaoyuan Fang family has far exceeded that of ordinary Rank Six Prominent Families, and they are now on the verge of hitting Rank Five Purple Abode Prominent Families. Once they succeed in hitting the Purple Abode Realm, coupled with the assistance from direct disciple Fang Youan of the Longzuo Purple Abode Academic Palace, they have a great potential for future development. "Mr. Jinghui." Wang Luomiao nodded slightly in salute. "This ship is loaded with a large number of glass containers, and I better keep an eye on it, so I can react quickly in case of any problems." As the head of the family's direct sister, Wang Luomiao has received first-class education and resources since she was a child. Although she could not get the Junior Bloodline Aptitude Improvement Liquid due to the subsequent depletion of resources in the trial field of the Divine Martial Dynasty, she is Wang Shouzhe's full sister, and Wang Shouzhe naturally wouldn't let her down. After a full set of "Spirit Awakening", "Blood Refining", and "Bone Marrow Cleansing" pills, her Bloodline Talent has

reached the Heavenly Proud Level of Middle Grade Class C. Later, Wang Shouzhe kept one of the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu for her from the batch he received. After using it, her Bloodline Talent just crossed the threshold between Middle Grade and Top Grade, reaching Top Grade Class D. Now, she is one of the Heavenly Talents. However, she is ten years younger than Wang Shouzhe after all, and her start was slightly late, so her current strength is only in the later stage of Level Three of the Spirit Platform Realm, and she is still a little way from breaking through the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. This Bloodline Talent is relatively low risk for her to advance to the Purple Abode Realm, and there is no difficulty to advance to the Heavenly Human Realm. What's more, the Wang family is currently in a period of rapid development, and the annual income from various businesses is gradually increasing. Like the Ice Sha Floating Island developed by the Principal of the Academic Palace, it is now making an annual income of hundreds of thousands. And the Keep Achieving Commercial Firm, a large investment previously, has already recouped its investment and has a very considerable annual income. The New Peace Town that the Wang family is looking forward to the most has begun large-scale reclamation. The number of fertile fields is increasing, bringing considerable revenue to the Wang family, which mainly grows grain. Moreover, New Peace Town is a newly developed town. According to the Daqian Law, it can enjoy a thirty-year exemption from national and regional taxes, and only needs to pay the military tax of Changning and the Prominent Family tax to the Wang family. If the fertile land is registered in the name of the Wang family, even this one percent family tax is exempted. Therefore, the income from the New Peace Town is extremely considerable. With money, Wang Shouzhe began to look everywhere for Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills and Treasure Pills that could improve qualifications. Considering Wang Luomiao's status and contribution to the family, she might also be eligible to receive a Treasure Pill in the future. But let's set aside this topic for now. Seeing Wang Luomiao's firm attitude, Fang Jinghui sighed helplessly: "In that case, I'll keep Miss Luomiao company and chat." With that, he stepped next to Wang Luomiao, and said in a tone of casual conversation: "We'll be able to reach our Fang family's Pan Water Port in five or six days. It takes a few days to count and unload goods. Miss Luomiao, What are your plans? Don't you plan to go somewhere and wander around..." While they were talking. Suddenly. A sharp, piercing alarm sounded suddenly. It was the lookout on the watchtower who found the enemy and sounded the alarm whistle.

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In an instant, everyone's spirits in the merchant convoy were on high alert. Wang Luomiao and Fang Jinghui immediately stopped talking and looked up towards the lookout tower. The assistant watching the tower was calmly waving flags, conveying messages through signal flags. "Pirates are attacking?" The color drained from Fang Jinghui's face. "Who dares to rob our merchant convoys?" Wang Luomiao's face turned cold. Immediately, according to the number and direction of the pirate ships conveyed by the signal flags, she made a series of arrangements and deployments. The Luo Miao Ship, serving as the flagship, changed its course to proactively block the direction of the pirate attack. On the deck, all twelve Divine Might Cannons were loaded and ready for battle. All non-combat personnel retreated into the cabin, leaving only Xuanwu Cultivators who were capable of combat and house servants who knew how to operate the Divine Might Cannon on the deck. Merchant ships carrying large cargo could never outrun pirates. Taking advantage of the early warning provided by the Thousand Miles Mirror, the best countermeasure was to assume a defensive formation. Almost when the convoy completed its adjustments, dozens of small points appeared on the vast sea surface. These were dozens of medium and small sized speedboats, their sails full of wind, rushing forward at high speed. Behind these speedboats were several larger ships.

Although these large ships were slightly slower than the speedboats, they were more than twice as fast as the large merchant ships on this side. The pirate flags flew high on these ships. Even before they came close, everyone in the convoy was filled with a strong sense of oppression. Soon, the speedboats became clearer and clearer in everyone's field of vision, and the distance between the two sides quickly closed. A fierce sea battle broke out. The thunderous roar of the Divine Might Cannons caused waves to explode on the surface of the sea. With enough luck, a small speedboat could be sunk. As the pirates got closer, their crossbow cannons also began to counter-attack. However, compared to the clean victory of the Divine Might Cannon, the crossbow cannon's effects seemed insufficient. "Damn!" Nie Long, the rough-looking pirate chief, was so angry his eyes seemed to spit fire. "Why is this damn thing, the Divine Might Cannon, so powerful?" He had heard before that the Divine Might Cannons of the Wang family and Chen Clan were extraordinary and had even sneered at the notion. Unexpectedly, he was now suffering the consequences with many of his brothers killed by the Divine Might Cannon, and several of their ships were heavily damaged. "Charge, my brothers!" Nie Long, furious, with his red hair standing on end, his aura suddenly surged. At the same time, he took a step forward on the deck, and his body suddenly rose into the air. He stepped on the void and flew towards the Luo Miao Ship. In the blink of an eye, his figure had reached the airspace above the flagship Luo Miao Ship. With the spread of his right hand, a thick-backed broadsword suddenly appeared in his palm. It was a magic treasure-class long saber. This was a gift from the sitting family head of Cao family, Cao Youbin, when he advanced to the Tiaren Realm. Otherwise, it wouldn't be easy for him to acquire this magical long saber given his strength and wealth. Nie Long held the sword with both hands and violently slashed towards the flagship. In an instant, a massive amount of Mysterious Energy burst out, forming a half-circular blade light of several feet in size. The momentum was powerful and ruthless. Very clearly, Nie Long was a master with a sword, having already understood a bit of Blade Intent. At this moment, suspended in the air, his burly body looked like a small mountain. The Mysterious Energy fluctuating all over his body was stormy and surging like angry waves. Along with the overwhelming blade light, it was truly awe-inspiring. Even if it looked like a casual slash from him, the power behind this slash was enough to slash through waves and strike terror into people's hearts. This was the might of a celestial being! When a Tiaren Realm Xuanwu Cultivator unleashed their strength, the resulting combat power was extremely terrifying. Both merchant ships and the Divine Might Cannons would be of no use. This was also why the presence of a celestial ancestor could make a clan dominate a region and become a powerful force. Tiaren realm cultivators had already transcended the ordinary level. They could potentially annihilate a regular Eight Grade Prominent Family with their individual strength. Moreover, at critical moments, they often determined the direction of a small-scale war. "This is not good. It's the 'Red-haired Dragon King' Nie Long. Miss Luo Miao, be careful!" Fang Jinghui's face turned pale as he hurriedly shielded Wang Luomiao, his left hand swung up a Spirit Shield and created an energy shield covering the two of them. But with his strength, it was merely a futile effort to block this attack. At that critical moment, a long howl sounded from inside the Luo Miao Ship. A blue water dragon suddenly broke out of the hull and launched a direct attack on the blazing blade light like an arrow. "Boom!" The two energy forces violently collided, and a shock wave spread out in all directions. The masts and decks of the "Luo Miao Ship" were shattered. At the same moment¶ An elderly man of tall and stalwart stature emerged from the cabin, holding a silver long spear and floated across from the 'Red-haired Dragon King' Nie Long. He laughed out loud, "Nie Long, as long as I am here, it's not your turn to be arrogant." "Is that you? The Chen Clan ancestor, Chen Ruhong?" Nie Long's pupils contracted and his expression became instantly serious. "Instead of staying in Donggang, you came here on the

ship?" He was wary of Chen Ruhong. It was rumored that since he had advanced to the Tiaren Realm, he had exterminated several waves of pirates in the East Sea. This even included a prominent Great Sea Pirate in the realm of Tiaren.

Chapter 89: Sister-in-law is awesome! Sister-in-law is domineering! (Monthly ticket request)_4

The Great Sea Pirate had been rampaging in the waters near the Eastern Sea for over a hundred years. Even the East Sea King of Donghaei and others were helpless against him. Yet now, he had met his end at the hands of the newly ascended Tianren Realm Cultivator, Chen Ruhong. As a result of that battle, Chen Ruhong's reputation surged, and for a time, all manner of lesser forces in the East Sea Area retreated. Many speculated that Chen Ruhong's bloodline talent must be extraordinary, otherwise, how could he have ascended so quickly and possess the strength to slay those of the same level? "When I step out, naturally it's to eradicate vermin like you," Chen Ruhong said indifferently. "Nie Long, today is your day of death." "Chen Ruhong, don't be too arrogant!" Nie Long was infuriated. "I've roamed unchallenged in the Qingluo Sea for many years, my cultivation base is a cut above yours. What makes you think you can kill me?" Enraged, his aura soared, and he struck a blow towards Chen Ruhong. Unlike his casual previous strike, this was a full-powered slash, bearing an increasingly heavy and dominant momentum, infused with a relentless and fierce will to advance. "Hmph!" Chen Ruhong snorted coldly, fearlessly meeting the attack with his spear. "Boom boom!" The two Tianren clashed in mid-air, each blow causing ripples to spread across the sea surface below. Under the deliberate guidance of Chen Ruhong, their conflict moved further away from the Luo Miao Ship, sparing the innocent from harm. Fang Jinghui was elated by this development. "Miss Luomei, it seems that senior Ruhong is also secretly providing protection. These pirates are doomed. Let's join forces and dispatch these minions first." "Ah, Jinghui, I'm afraid it's not so simple. This pirate assault is not a mere coincidence," Wang Luomiao sighed, giving Fang Jinghui a somewhat helpless look. After all, it should have sufficed for Fang Jinghui to facilitate their reception in Liaoyuan Pan Harbour. His recurring insistence to personally accompany her on these trips made his intentions clear to her. However, as she had seen many outstanding young men in her prominent family, Fang Jinghui's overall performance was quite lackluster. Comparing him to her brother Wang Shouzhe was out of the question. Even her brothers Shu Yong and Shu Lian were far superior. This shipment was designed by her brother Wang Shouzhe. Although the items carried by these ten merchant ships were genuine, they served as bait, luring their hidden enemies into action. Wang Luomiao had no idea how her brother knew that something would happen, but after witnessing plenty of miracles growing up, she had unconditional trust in him. And once again, her brother's prediction proved correct. "Miss Luomei, are you saying that there's someone behind this pirate attack?" asked Fang Jinghui. Although a bit slow, he eventually grasped the situation. "Could it be the Cao family? They've always coveted our sea trade benefits. But they faced hardship after offending the Zuoqiu family of Qing'an more than a decade ago." No sooner had he finished speaking, when another large Tianren Realm Cultivator rose into the air from the pirate flagship. Within a few breaths, he hovered over the Luo Miao Ship. He crossed his arms and sneered, "Your trade convoy actually has a Tianren Realm cultivator secretly protecting it. I underestimated you. Unfortunately, not one of you will escape today with me, Cao Bangyan, here." "Cao Bangyan! How is it possible it's you? You, you, you, your audacity is immense." Fang Jinghui turned pale. Compared to the pirate Nie Long, Cao Bangyan was a well-known Sky Pride in Liaoyuan County. It was also rumored that he was extremely vindictive. Anyone who had offended him met a very tragic end. Further, it was whispered that he was excessively lustful, numerous young ladies of Rank 8 or 9 families were beleaguered under his

gaze, and subsequently violated in secret. However, these were just rumors; no concrete evidence was available and no one ever dared accuse Cao Bangyan. "Fang Jinghui, hehehe~" Cao Bangyan sneered, "You're so foolish. The Qingluo Sea is vast and limitless. After you're all dead, who will know I did it?" "You..." Fang Jinghui was so angry he almost spat blood. Just as he was about to retort, Wang Luomiao gently pulled his arm behind her and asked in a loud voice, "Cao Bangyan, what exactly prompted you to send pirates to hijack our merchant ship?" Cao Bangyan slowly drifted onto the ship, his eyes greedily lingering on Wang Luomiao, "Little sister, you must be Wang Luomiao, the legitimate daughter of the Wang family, right? Just like the rumours, charming and extraordinary. If you obediently submit to me, I'll spare your life." "Beast..." Fang Jinghui was seething with rage. Just as he was about to rush forward, Wang Luomiao grabbed him and flung him back. She calmly replied, "You are a Sky Pride, submitting to you is not something shameful. However, our Wang family has not offended your Cao family, why would you attack us?" "Luomiao..." Fang Jinghui lay on the ground, his face a mixture of shock and anger. "Interesting, interesting, you're trying to get information out of me, aren't you?" Cao Bangyan burst into laughter, "However, since you're so tactful, I'll let you die with the knowledge. Your Wang family has offended someone powerful. You're doomed." "Who did we offend?" Wang Luomiao asked, slightly furrowing her brows, "Could it be that our suppression of the pirates offended the Red-haired Dragon King, Nie Long? Does he have the power to control young master Cao?" "Nie Long? He's nothing but a dog raised by our Cao family. Does he dare to order me around?" Cao Bangyan had an arrogant expression on his face, his eyes constantly sweeping over Wang Luomiao, "Little pretty girl, don't be so ignorant..." "Sister-in-law, I have completed my mission. You have been recording all along, right?" Wang Luomiao suddenly asked, addressing someone behind her. "Recorded." A crisp and cold voice answered, and suddenly, a woman, whose face was obscured by a reed hat, appeared on the ship's deck. She was holding a strange object, the size of a disc. Any informed person would know that it was a precious spiritual treasure, the "Sky Mechanism Recording Disk". This object was difficult to refine, and no Artifact Refiner in the Great Qian Land could accomplish it. Only a certain Artifact Refining family of the legendary Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty could imitate the Sky Mechanism Recording Disk of the Divine Martial Dynasty. This item was rare even in the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty and was extremely valuable in the Great Qian Land, beyond ordinary Prominent families' ability to purchase. Fifteen years ago, Wang Shouzhe got a glimpse of its function and endeavored to get it. After spending lots of favors and Qian Gold, he finally obtained one. Its usefulness came into play at a critical moment. "Who are you? That's the Sky Mechanism Recording Disk!" Cao Bangyan's face paled, his voice icy, "Have you been baiting me this whole time?" Wang Luomiao sneered, "Idiot, just now realizing it? With your intellect, you dare to plot against our Wang family... Are you underestimating someone?" "You!" Cao Bangyan was so furious he almost spat blood. He laughed in sheer rage, "Okay, okay, I admit I was provoked by you two, I will teach you..." He didn't even finish his sentence. A glint of water appeared before his eyes. The woman in the straw hat had unexpectedly come close. Her light wrist moved, executing a light palm strike from meters away. "Boom!" Cao Bangyan felt as though he had been hit in the chest by a prehistoric beast. His ribs shattered and his body flew back like a cannonball, smashing the deck railing of the ship and then continued flying a hundred meters before crashing into the sea. "This..." Fang Jinghui's pupils contracted sharply. A Cao family's Sky Pride was unexpectedly sent flying in one hit! Although there was an element of surprise, but still, the mysterious woman was way too powerful! "Hmph~~" Wang Luomiao sneered, "What a Sky Pride Cao Bangyan, he talked so big, I thought he was incredibly powerful." "Sister-in-law is mighty, sister-in-law is dominant!"

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... After ascending to the Heavenly Human Realm, Liu Ruolan's bloodline had already awakened to the fifth layer, becoming a Taoist Body, greatly enhancing her compatibility with Elemental Water Aura. Moreover, there were countless Water Spirit Veins hidden within the sea. The concentration of Water Aura above the sea was significantly higher than that over the rivers and lakes on land. In such an environment, the power that Liu Ruolan's bloodline could exert was quite formidable. This sea was her domain. "Boom~" Great waves rose, stacking up like a thousand layers. Liu Ruolan walked on waves, her clothes fluttering. A faintly visible light blue arc hovered around her. This was an aura arc formed by the Water Aura, which had concentrated to a certain degree and automatically chased her. With a wave of her arm, a wave came roaring, transforming into a towering giant palm that swatted at Cao Bangyan, immediately engulfing him. This was a battle without suspense. She didn't even need to manifest her Dharma Shadow. Using only ordinary moves, she had rendered Cao Bangyan incapable of fighting back. Meanwhile, from within the cabin, another Old Ancestor, a Heavenly Human Realm cultivator flew out. It was Xu Beichen, the Old Ancestor of the Changning Xu Family. Having hid in the cabin for so long, he was very eager to join the fight. The moment he stepped out, he hurried to Old Ancestor Ruhong: "Brother Ruhong, you and I should team up. I'll take forty percent of the merits. How about it?" According to Wang Shouzhe's tactical arrangement principle, he always gave his allies a wide berth. Xu Beichen was included for security reasons, and also to give the Changning Xu family a sense of participation and share a part of the merits. It couldn't be helped; the relationship between the Changning Xu and Wang families had greatly deepened due to marriage. The legitimate daughter of the Changning Xu family, Xu Pingting, was the wife of the legitimate son of the Wang family, and also had given birth to the current legitimate grandson. The bloodline fusion of the two families had reached its peak. The Changning Xu family was growing at an incredible pace. Originally a large clan, they had gained a lot of resources, their second and third Old Ancestors had already entered the accelerated nurturing sequence. According to their plan, they would step into the ranks of Rank Six Prominent Families in at most fifty to sixty years. However, Old Ancestor Ruhong was no pushover, he confidently declared: "Thirty percent, or I prefer to fight slowly. Given time, I can suppress Nie Long." Back in the day, after his fortuitous encounter surviving a shipwreck, his bloodline talent had actually already reached the Heavenly Proud Level, but he hid it, even deliberately acting old, only showing his tremendous strength at the right time. Looking at his appearance of a "white-bearded old man", could you imagine that his actual age was even younger than Fang Youan when he first appeared as a handsome young hero? If he were to remove his old disguise and dress up, he would at most look like a handsome middle-aged man. The Chen Clan members' appearances were not bad, just look at Chen Fangjie. Purely in terms of appearance, he was only half a notch below Wang Shouzhe. "Fine. Thirty percent it is." Xu Beichen knew he was at a disadvantage on the sea surface and didn't mind the reduced share. He immediately joined the battle with an excited face. Even with only thirty percent of merit points, it would be a huge profit. Their negotiation annoyed Nie Long on the other side to no end. They were treating him like food on the plate, who were they looking down upon?! However, no matter how angry he was, he was powerless. Who could deny that situation trumps everything? "Damn Cao Bangyan, for being so foolish, being manipulated from beginning to end without knowing it!" Nie Long was resisting bitterly, against the bombardment from the two Heavenly Human Realm cultivators, and his resentment for Cao Bangyan and the Cao family deepened. "Nie Long, if you surrender, there's still a chance for survival." Chen Ruhong said loudly, "The Cao family is simply treating you like a dog. At this

point, according to the Daqian Law, you still have a chance to atone for your sins through merits, why would you sacrifice yourself for the Cao Family?" "What do you know? If it wasn't for Lord Cao's rescue, I, Nie Long, would have been long dead." Nie Long's red beard were all bristling, his big copper bell-like eyes were full of fury, and also a touch of sorrow, "Never mind~ Today, consider it as me paying back the life-saving grace of Lord Cao." Saying this, he let out a huge roar. The knife came out like a dragon, slashing directly at Old Ancestor Ruhong and Xu Beichen. The knife's aura was wild, carrying a fierceness as if it would tear the sky apart. This battle lasted a quarter of an hour. Under the joint hands of Chen Ruhong and Xu Beichen, Nie Long was eventually slain on the Qingluo Sea. As the battle ended, both Old Ancestors were somewhat exhausted. They looked at each other, not expecting a pirate to show such steadfast spirit, refusing to surrender and betray the Cao family until death. There was a hint of respect for this person in their eyes. As for Cao Bangyan, after being defeated by Liu Ruolan, he was captured not long after. It was somewhat unjust for him. With his cultivation base of the third level of the Heavenly Proud Level, if he had gone all out against Liu Ruolan, although he would still lose, he could at least hold on for a little while. Unfortunately, he was too reckless, his strength was not fully utilized, and he was easily defeated. At the same time. The naval battle was also quickly reaching its conclusion. Under the circumstances where both Heavenly Human Realm leaders had been defeated, the pirates lost the will to fight, and quickly surrendered under the leadership of some Spirit Platform Realm leaders.

Chapter 90: Wouldn't it be better if Wang Shouzhe were still the Prefectural Governor?_2

Wang Luomiao immediately ordered his men to tie up all the pirates and put them into custody, and then began to clean up the battlefield. At the same time, under the guidance of the surrendered pirate leader, Chen Ruhong and Xu Beichen, the two old ancestors, led an elite speedboat to make a trip, and they took down the lair of "Red-haired Dragon King" Nie Long. Besides capturing many more of the pirate remnants, they also raked in a large pile of war trophies. According to the Da Qian law, after a Prominent Family eradicates mountain bandits and sea bandits, they have the right to dispose of the spoils of war themselves. Furthermore, after reporting to the government office, they can also apply for merit rewards. The members of the Wang family, who are now deeply influenced by Wang Shouzhe, naturally would not neglect this. Subsequent processing was being carried out in an orderly fashion. ... Not long after. Longzuo County City, the Prefecture Mansion. The Prefecture Mansion is a vast government institution, and all the political directives within Longzuo County, ranging from recruiting talent and fighting against bandits, offering aid to disaster areas, to seasonal announcements, all came from here. This place oversees all matters in Longzuo County. Correspondingly, the size of the Prefecture Mansion is quite large, not only grand and imposing, showing the air of nobility, but its internal defense is also extremely strict, with a giant defensive array guarding, with very high-level protection. Of course, the most important point is, the governor of Longzuo County, Enlightened One Taishi Ankang who is a Realm Cultivator, usually stays at the Prefecture Mansion. With him there, coupled with the defensive array, it would be hard for even two or three masters from the Purple Abode to break through the Prefecture Mansion in a short time. There is a prison in the eastern location of the Prefecture Mansion. Those who are qualified to be imprisoned in this prison, of course, are no simple characters. Among them are offspring from famous noble families who have committed serious crimes, as well as wicked Profound Martial criminals or some heretics against Da Qian... There are seventy or eighty million people in the whole of Longzuo County. There is a great number of birds in the big forest, and therefore, the number of prisoners held in this prison is quite large. Now, Cao Bangyan, the Sky

Pride son of the faraway Cao Family, is being held in this prison. On this day. Two visitors entered the prison. One of whom was Wei Wenxun, who had completed his tenure as Changning Defender due to his outstanding achievements and was promoted to Western City Commander in Longzuo County. The other was Wang Shouzhe, the family head of the Changning Wang clan. In the cold and gloomy prison, Wei Wenxun whispered to Wang Shouzhe: "Master Shouzhe, the Governor is very concerned about this case. I got you in here through my connections, don't make things difficult for me." "Commander." Wang Shouzhe said with a smile, "We have been friends for twenty to thirty years, when have I ever let you suffer a loss? I even owe you a big favor." Weixun felt relieved, knowing that Wang Shouzhe would never act without preparation. As long as they were not enemies, it was quite nice to be his partner. After all, cooperation with him meant simply listening to him and taking it easy. Under the guidance of the jailer. The two watched the interrogation process of Cao Bangyan from outside the cell. At the beginning, Cao Bangyan was very stubborn, regardless of how the official in charge of the interrogation threatened or enticed him, he refused to speak. The officer was really having a headache. Cao Bangyan, after all, was the direct heir of the Purple Abode noble family, and had the Heavenly Arrogance Bloodline. Until the judgment was officially handed down, it was not good to use torture on him. But without torture, without a signed confession, solely on the evidence provided by the Wang family's Sky Mechanism Recording Disk, the evidence was not comprehensive enough to sentence him immediately. Seeing this, Wang Shouzhe called the officer over and whispered a few instructions in his ear. The officer returned with a suspicious look, but after a while, he brought the tools and set up according to Wang Shouzhe's instructions. Half an hour later, Cao Bangyan confessed. The official couldn't help but admire Wang Shouzhe. For a moment, the way Wei Wenxun looked at Wang Shouzhe changed: "I didn't expect Master Shouzhe to know about these things?" "No, not at all~" Wang Shouzhe waved his hand, looking quite composed, "Wang Mou just read a few more idle books, it's only armchair strategizing. Anyway, there's no harm in trying." In his previous life, he had watched so many novels and TV shows, not learning much in terms of formal knowledge, but instead learning a plethora of weird trivia that was useless in real life. Who could have thought that after coming to this Profound Martial world, these nonsensical pieces of knowledge actually came in handy. ... The next day. In the garden of the Prefecture Mansion. Wang Shouzhe was sitting across a stone table with the prefectural governor, Taishi Ankang, discussing over tea. The newly promoted commander Wei Wenxun was serving behind him, bowing his head and bending over, not daring to breathe too heavily. After a long while... Taishi Ankang put down his teacup and looked at Wang Shouzhe with significant eyes: "Kid, you sure know how to stir up trouble." "Sir," Wang Shouzhe's expression did not change, he spoke calmly, "This case involves the Cao family colluding with pirates, plotting to rob merchant ships. The evidence is abundant and complete, it's not me creating troubles." "Hmph, do you think I'm deaf and blind?" Taishi Ankang glared at Wang Shouzhe, "Rumors say that fifteen years ago, you and the Qian family conspired to kill Zuoqiu Qingyun of the Zuoqiu family, and then cast the blame on Cao Youqing. Tell me, is this true or false?" "Sir, whether it's true or false, what's the point in talking about it now?" Wang Shouzhe said indifferently, "Zuoqiu Qingyun was a maniac, his death benefits the whole society. Surely, the Zuoqiu family won't be so ashamed as to send someone to kill me, the hero who eliminated the menace." So this kid actually did it... Taishi Ankang's expression faltered. Although he had guessed about seventy or eighty percent of it, the kid's so relaxed confession really stirred him up. Unable to hold back his anger, he exclaimed: "Wang Shouzhe, I thought you were a mature and steady person, how can you act so impetuously? Do not think that just because you are a disciple of Master Changchun and your daughter Li Yao is the beloved apprentice of Enlightened One Tianhe, that you can do as you please." "That's right, the

Zuoqiu Qingyun case is a scandal, naturally the Zuoqiu family would not counterattack you with force. But Zuoqiu Qingyun's death has ultimately damaged their reputation. In the face of the Zuoqiu family's sanctions and suppression, even the Liaoyuan Cao family is miserable. Can your small 7th-rank Aristocratic Family withstand their torment? Alas, don't you fear that the Wang family's promising future will be ruined by this." Truth be told, Taishi Ankang was actually quite fond of Wang Shouzhe, after all, this was an ambitious family with a limitless future. His current scolding was also a form of concern. "Thank you for the advice sir." Wang Shouzhe bowed and said, "However, what's meant to come will always come. May I ask Sir, what will be done with Cao Bangyan?" "How to deal with him, don't you already know?" Taishi Ankang glanced at him, "You've already confirmed the evidence against Cao Bangyan, and the Cao family has been implicated in the suspicion of nurturing pirates. As the humble prefect of Longzuo, how could I possibly arrest the head of the Liaoyuan Fifth Grade Aristocratic Family for interrogation?" "Wang Shouzhe, the only course you have left me with is to report this case to the Capital Supervision Bureau without taking any action, and to let the Inspectorate investigate." "Sir is wise." Wang Shouzhe respectfully complimented with a grin. Wise my foot. Taishi Ankang's eyes were full of deep thought. It was clear that this time, as the honorable prefect, he had been used by Wang Shouzhe as a sword to strike at the Cao family of Liaoyuan. Wei Wenxun, who was serving on the side, felt a distinct sense of familiarity at this scene. Hadn't he been straightforwardly manipulated by Wang Shouzhe when he was the city lord of Changning? "Shouzhe, tell me, do you need this prefect to provide any more services?" Taishi Ankang said with a smile, as if expressing his displeasure that Wang Shouzhe was using him as a pawn. "The most urgent task at hand is to exterminate the Qingluo Sea pirates and restore the seaway to a clear sky." Wang Shouzhe "honestly" advised. Taishi Ankang's eyelids twitched, really wanting to slap this kid dead once and for all. Give you an inch, you really take a mile. This position of prefect, might as well give it to you, Wang Shouzhe! ...

Chapter 91: Get in Position! Taishi Ankang is Ready to Lie Down_1

... Wei Wenxun, standing to the side, felt a sudden chill on his scalp and his heart pounded in fear. Is Master Shouzhe truly planning to dictate the Prefectural Governor's actions so clearly? That man holds the distinguished title of Purple Abode Master...though he is not Wei Wenxun, he surely cannot be ordered around as per one's whims, right? Fearing that Master Shouzhe's behavior might implicate him, Wei Wenxun tried desperately to subtly communicate with Wang Shouzhe, hinting at him to stop before he annoyed the Prefect. Unexpectedly. It seemed as if Wang Shouzhe didn't notice his gesturing and continued, "Master, Longzuo County has jurisdiction over half of Qingluo Sea only nominally. In reality, the distance between Longzuo County Town and Qingluo Sea is too far, causing ineffective jurisdiction. Furthermore, our port in the north of Longzuo County has relatively weak control over the Qingluo Sea. As a result, Qingluo Sea has almost become a separate entity from Longzuo County, and is almost entirely under Liaoyuan County's jurisdiction." As the statement was delivered. The complexion of Taishi Ankang darkened further. This lad, Wang Shouzhe, was practically pointing at a monk and cursing him bald - was he disregarding the Prefect's dignity? "But now, our Longzuo County's opportunity has arrived," said Wang Shouzhe solemnly. "This time, the Cao Family of Liaoyuan fell into such a big mess. Putting it mildly, they are self-feeding a threat; severely, they are planning a rebellion." "Leaving aside the impending disarray of the Cao family, was the Prefect of Liaoyuan County aware of this? If he was, he is equally guilty. If he wasn't, it is nonetheless a failure of management. However, at this critical moment, our Prefect Taishi is bravely stepping forward, clearing Qingluo Sea of bandits, thereby

defending our nation's seas. If we compare these two situations..." "Quite interesting," Taishi Ankang's eyes narrowed, seemingly intrigued. "Master, Qingluo Sea is named after the Eldest Princess!" Wang Shouzhe whispered, "When His Majesty was but the Quasi Emperor's Son, he fathered Princess Qingluo who he has always cherished. As His Majesty's years advance... Well, people, as they age, tend to reminisce about their youth... If Master were to rid Qingluo Sea of bandits at this time and report the military merits, stating his unwillingness to let Princess's named sea be ravaged by bandits, then reclaiming jurisdiction over the entire Qingluo Sea will be a piece of cake." This instantly caught Taishi Ankang's interest. Even though the contest for the Emperor's son had begun, the actual transfer of power from the current Emperor wouldn't happen overnight. This process may take at least a hundred or two hundred years, even up to two or three hundred years. The closer an Emperor gets to his later years, especially during the time of transferring power, he tends to become more sensitive, and even more possessive of his authority. Consequently, the power of the current Emperor even surpasses his prime. This is one of the reasons why most current authorities and high-ranking Prominent Families are reluctant to get involved in the Emperor's son contest early. If they accidentally provoke the Emperor's sensitive nerves, disaster will inevitably strike. If Taishi Ankang could earn merit points through this, it would present an opportunity for further advancement, and he would have a better chance of handling the future Emperor's son competition with greater composure. The benefits are substantial, but Taishi Ankang still has some doubts: "Shouzhe, as per your theory, it would not be an issue to regain jurisdiction over Qingluo Sea and please His Majesty. However, once we have control again, what do we do with it? If the area is poorly managed, it would not take long for problems to arise. At that point, if someone were to report me, I fear the consequences might be grave." "Master's concerns are indeed comprehensive," Wang Shouzhe humored, then continued seriously. "Our port of Longzuo County is indeed in a tough spot, unsupported. But we can set up another outpost among the islands of Qingluo Sea, serving as a hub for the commercial transportation in the north and also supporting fishing and farming industries." "In the past, the fishing industry was weak due to insufficient transport capabilities. Now that the Longzuo Keep Achieving Commercial Firm's Air Cold Chain System is maturing, high-end ingredients can easily be transported to various places in Da Qian, generating considerable economic benefits." "I believe that the name of Qingluo Cold Sea's exquisite seafood will echo throughout Da Qian! Our Wang family is not talented, but we're willing to work tirelessly to build 'Qingluo Guard' for Master." Taishi Ankang was taken aback. After all this plotting, this lad's ambitions are truly grandiose. This isn't merely strategizing on the Qingluo Sea for Longzuo County, this is planning Qingluo Sea for the Wang family. However, he had to admit, given the abilities that Wang Shouzhe had displayed till now, the plan had a high probability of success. Moreover, such a plan would not only benefit the Wang family, but would also greatly benefit Taishi Ankang himself. After pondering for a moment, he looked at Wang Shouzhe with increased seriousness: "Shouzhe, you truly are well-versed in strategy. This move in the Qingluo Sea is not only suppressing the Cao family of Liaoyuan but also gaining substantial benefits for the Wang family. It's like killing two birds with one stone." "No, it's more like killing three birds with one stone," said Wang Shouzhe, laughing. "Right, hahaha", said Taishi Ankang, laughing heartily: "Master Shouzhe, come, come, try some of my treasured Yunluo Immortal Tea. It is a high-quality Immortal Tea from the Frost Moon Immortal Dynasty. It is said to nourish the Spiritual Platform and nourish the Divine Soul." "Thank you, Master," Wang Shouzhe replied, unceremoniously joining Taishi Ankang for a sip of the Immortal Tea. The two of them chatted while drinking tea, much like 'age-difference brothers' who had known each other for many years. Wei Wenxun, standing to the side, was feeling a surge of emotions: my dear Prefectural Governor, how could you

so quickly put yourself at the mercy of someone else's whims? Why not persist a little longer? Alas, this must be the skill of Master Shouzhe.