

Immortality Cultivation: I Farm in the System Space

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Chapter 161: The Little Sparrow Who Could Rob

Huang Qingling's courtyard was much larger than the one Lin Jing lived in, and it was also specially approved by Elder Bai for the exclusive use of the family members of the stewards.

Even Steward Zheng did not make an issue out of this courtyard, because it was, after all, a privilege that came with the steward's position.

Lin Jing followed Huang Qingling into the courtyard and then entered her boudoir behind her.

This was the first time Lin Jing had entered Huang Qingling's boudoir.

As soon as he entered, he was immediately greeted by a burst of fragrance and involuntarily took a deep breath.

Shortly after, Lin Jing realized that his behavior might have been somewhat inappropriate.

Then, Lin Jing quickly turned his head to look at Huang Qingling and found that she was preoccupied with sulking and had not noticed his actions.

After the two of them walked in, Little Sparrow raised its head and tilted its head to look at Lin Jing, as if it couldn't understand why Lin Jing was there.

Then, seeing Huang Qingling with a downturned face next to Lin Jing, Little Sparrow quickly drooped its head down again.

"This Little Sparrow..."

"Although it often provokes Huang Qingling to anger, it seems to be quite afraid of her."

Lin Jing couldn't help but let out a wry laugh.

Upon entering, Huang Qingling reminded Lin Jing,

“Be careful with what you say in front of it; Little Sparrow is very smart now and understands almost everything we say.”

“Little Sparrow’s intelligence has increased again, how did that happen?” Lin Jing asked in confusion.

“Perhaps it has encountered some adventures; I’m not too clear on the details,” Huang Qingling said helplessly.

“It’s just that recently, Little Sparrow has been constantly running outside, and since it didn’t bother you or cause any trouble...”

“So, I let my guard down and stopped paying attention to it.”

“It was during that time that Little Sparrow kept flying into the Night Mist Mountain Range, sometimes staying there for days on end without returning...”

“I think it must have had some adventures in the mountain range that made it increasingly formidable and intelligent.”

Lin Jing showed an interested expression and observed Little Sparrow curiously.

“How did Little Sparrow act as a bandit?”

Hearing Lin Jing’s words, Little Sparrow tilted its head to give him a glance and then lowered its head again.

“Act as a bandit?” Huang Qingling’s mouth twitched slightly, and then she said to Little Sparrow,

“Little Sparrow, speak...”

Little Sparrow raised its head and looked timidly at Huang Qingling, but did not utter a word.

When Lin Jing heard what Huang Qingling said, he was utterly bewildered and thought to himself,

“Little Sparrow can talk?”

“Before, it could only chirp and screech.”

Seeing that Little Sparrow dared not speak, Huang Qingling pointed her finger towards Lin Jing.

“Speak to him...”

Only then did Little Sparrow turn its head to face Lin Jing, and after a moment's hesitation, it opened its beak and two clear-sounding words popped out,

“Stick-up...”

The voice sounded a bit strange and not very pleasant to the ears, similar to the speech of a parrot Lin Jing had heard in his previous life.

But those two words left Lin Jing stunned on the spot, taking a moment before he could regain his composure.

“So this is how Little Sparrow acts as a bandit...”

“Even knowing how to stick-up...”

This was practically reaching the realm of being spirit-touched.

Faced with Lin Jing's astonishment, Huang Qingling spread her hands in resignation.

“You heard it yourself...”

After that...

Huang Qingling then pointed to a desk where several low-grade magic artifacts were scattered alongside some Spirit Grass and even a few Elixir Medicines, all haphazardly piled there.

“See here...”

“These are its gains from the past few days...”

Lin Jing couldn't help but laugh and cry at the same time. Little Sparrow was quite talented indeed; he really had no idea where it had learned such tricks.

At that time...

Lin Jing remembered another thing Huang Qingling had just mentioned.

“Qing Ling, you said that Little Sparrow can understand us now when we speak?”

“Hmm...” Huang Qingling nodded.

Lin Jing looked at Little Sparrow, who was tilted its head as it looked at the two of them, as if it really understood.

Previously, Little Sparrow could also understand, but sometimes there were some misunderstandings, but now...

"I want to try something..." Lin Jing said to Huang Qingling.

Huang Qingling nodded, then said:

"Alright, right now Little Sparrow can only repeat those two words, so if you want to ask it something else, it can only express itself through actions."

"Don't ask it anything too profound, it won't be able to answer those." "I understand..." Lin Jing nodded.

After speaking, Lin Jing looked at Little Sparrow with mischief in his eyes.

Startled by Lin Jing's gaze, Little Sparrow shivered, then sharply locked eyes with Lin Jing in a glare.

"Little Sparrow, your voice is really unpleasant..."

As soon as Lin Jing spoke, Little Sparrow paused in astonishment.

Then, it screamed angrily.

"Screech!"

Following that, it flapped its wings and charged at Lin Jing.

Lin Jing quickly circulated his spiritual power to form a shield, but the barrier only lasted for a moment before being shattered by Little Sparrow's attack. Next, the two of them began to grapple, creating quite a lively scene.

Meanwhile, Huang Qingling felt somewhat speechless.

She had actually thought Lin Jing was going to ask Little Sparrow some profound question and had made a point of warning him.

This Lin Jing... truly was never easy to deal with.

"I surrender, your voice is the most pleasant..."

Following Lin Jing's final capitulation, the great battle between man and bird finally came to an end.

At the end, Lin Jing's hair was a mess, his clothes were torn in several places by Little Sparrow, and he had a large lump on his head where Little Sparrow had pecked him as a warning.

After the battle, Little Sparrow looked down at Lin Jing with great pride, ready for another round.

But, out of respect for Huang Qingling's presence, it calmed down.

After this simple test, Lin Jing understood.

Little Sparrow had developed self-awareness and was now different from other Demonic Beasts, and he shouldn't treat it as just another beast anymore.

Before seeing Little Sparrow, Lin Jing still had some doubts if it could successfully complete the tracking mission, after all, it was to follow a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

But now, Lin Jing was reassured.

The current Little Sparrow, as long as he communicated well with it, could easily complete the tracking mission.

"Qing Ling, what's with Little Sparrow consuming Elixir Medicines?" Lin Jing continued to inquire.

Huang Qingling then explained:

"That is, Little Sparrow now only eats Elixir Medicines that increase cultivation, and it doesn't eat other types of food anymore."

"It's a mystery why Little Sparrow has changed like this. It's a pity that Old Man Bai isn't here; otherwise, we could ask him."

Huang Qingling didn't understand the changes in Little Sparrow during this period.

Lin Jing was also very curious about it.

"Could it be related to Little Sparrow's awakening of self-awareness?" Lin Jing thought to himself.

Then, he took a small porcelain bottle out of his Storage Bag, opened the cork, and poured out two Elixir Medicines.

A Low-Grade Gathering Yuan Pill and a Medium-Grade Gathering Yuan Pill, Lin Jing placed these two pills in his palm and held them out in front of Little Sparrow.

He then spoke:

“Little Sparrow, can you distinguish which of these two pills is the better one?”

“If you can figure it out, I will give you one..”

Chapter 162: Secret Agreement

Little Sparrow cocked its head, first glancing at the Elixir Medicine in Lin Jing’s hand, then tilted its head upwards to look at Huang Qingling, as if asking a question.

Huang Qingling understood what Little Sparrow meant and said,

“Choose...”

As Huang Qingling’s words fell, Little Sparrow hopped over to Lin Jing’s side in a jiffy, then lowered its head to peck at the Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pill.

“Cheep...”

Afterward, Little Sparrow looked up and called out to Lin Jing.

“Are you saying this Elixir Medicine is the best?” Lin Jing asked Little Sparrow.

After hearing this, Little Sparrow nodded its head.

“Okay, I’ll give you one...”

Lin Jing said, then picked up a Low Grade Gathering Yuan Pill and offered it to Little Sparrow.

Little Sparrow was incredibly fast, swooping over in an instant, and with just a blur of a shadow, the Low Grade Gathering Yuan Pill in Lin Jing’s hand was already in Little Sparrow’s beak.

Next, Little Sparrow actually swallowed it down, and Lin Jing could clearly see the pill sliding down Little Sparrow’s throat into its belly.

It was a mystery how Little Sparrow managed to swallow such a large pill.

After swallowing it, Little Sparrow chirped.

Then, it sneakily glanced toward another Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pill in Lin Jing's hand.

Seeing this, Huang Qingling hurriedly warned,

"Little Sparrow, you can't snatch..."

Hearing Huang Qingling's words, Little Sparrow reluctantly withdrew its gaze.

Upon seeing this, Lin Jing thought for a moment, then turned to Huang

Qingling and said,

"Companion Qing Ling, it's been almost a month since we have gotten together, how about we invite Brother Li and the others over for a gathering tonight?" Upon hearing Lin Jing's suggestion, Huang Qingling nodded again and again,

"Sure..."

"I was just about to mention this to you..."

"So, I have some ingredients here, but I'm not sure if it's enough, have you prepared anything, Lin Jing?"

Lin Jing spread his hands and said,

"I came to find you right after leaving Yuebaolou, and the gathering was a spontaneous idea, so I haven't prepared anything..."

At this point, Huang Qingling said,

"Then let's split up and take action. You go buy some more ingredients from the street and come over, while I'll go call Li Tangyu and Qing Qing over."

"No need..."

Lin Jing gave a mysterious smile, and then looked at Little Sparrow. Huang Qingling followed Lin Jing's gaze and suddenly realized.

"You mean to let Little Sparrow..."

"Right...!"

Lin Jing nodded, then continued,

“Little Sparrow is so smart, and its speed is so fast, it’s completely up to the task of running errands.”

“As for the ingredients, just see what you’re missing, and have Brother Li bring some over.”

“Good idea, why didn’t I think of that...”

Huang Qingling’s face beamed with joy immediately.

The only one not pleased, it seemed, was Little Sparrow, as it was glaring fiercely at Lin Jing at the time.

Obviously, Little Sparrow had also understood the conversation between Lin Jing and Huang Qingling.

However, Lin Jing was completely ignoring it at the moment.

“Companion Qing Ling, prepare some fine paper and writing materials, then explain the situation to Brother Li and have Little Sparrow take it over...”

Lin Jing told Huang Qingling.

“All right, just give me a moment...”

After saying this, Huang Qingling left for the study.

After Huang Qingling had left, Lin Jing turned to look at Little Sparrow, who was still eyeing him with displeasure:

“Little Sparrow, how about this...”

“If you complete this task, I’ll give you the Elixir Medicine in my hand as well, how’s that?”

As he spoke, Lin Jing held up the Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pill in his hand and shook it in front of Little Sparrow.

The eyes of Little Sparrow were immediately drawn to the Gathering Yuan Pill.

However...

Lin Jing quickly tucked the pill away to prevent Little Sparrow from acting dishonestly and flying over to snatch it directly.

It wasn't as if Little Sparrow hadn't done this before; now with Huang Qingling gone, Lin Jing naturally had to be more cautious.

Seeing Lin Jing put away the Elixir Medicine, Little Sparrow shifted its gaze and then looked at Lin Jing's head, bobbing up and down, and nodded. Seeing that Little Sparrow had understood, a smile appeared on Lin Jing's face.

Then he leaned in closer and whispered to Little Sparrow:

"Little Sparrow, do you want more Elixir Medicine, just like the one you just had?"

As Lin Jing leaned in, Little Sparrow instinctively tried to back away, but after hearing Lin Jing's words, it stopped.

It tilted its head in thought for a while and then, like a chick pecking at grains, it nodded its head.

Lin Jing continued:

"So, Little Sparrow..."

"Finish this task today, and I will give you this pill."

"Tomorrow, sneak over to my place and help me with something. Then, I will give you a few more pills like this one."

"Do you want them?"

"Chirp..."

After hearing this, Little Sparrow chirped in response.

"Remember, don't let Daoist Qing Ling discover you, or else you won't be able to enjoy these Elixir Medicine..."

Having said that, Lin Jing turned his head to look outside the door, and upon seeing that Huang Qingling had not returned, he finally relaxed.

The matter with the Pill Master named Wang, he didn't want Huang Qingling to know, so he took this chance to discuss it with Little Sparrow.

Little Sparrow also looked towards the door following Lin Jing's gaze and, seeing that Huang Qingling was not there, hurriedly nodded in agreement.

Thus, the man and the bird reached a secret agreement.

After a while, Huang Qingling finally walked in, holding half a sheet of paper, which had a few sentences written on it.

Upon entering, while folding the paper, Huang Qingling said to Lin Jing:

“Alright...”

“Everything that needs to be conveyed is written here.”

After speaking, Huang Qingling looked towards Lin Jing and Little Sparrow and said:

“Just now, when I was in the study, I heard Little Sparrow’s chirping. Have you figured things out with it?”

“Yes, we’ve figured it out...” Lin Jing nodded.

“That’s good...” replied Huang Qingling.

Lin Jing took the folded paper from Huang Qingling’s hand, rolled it into a cylinder, and then took out a piece of thin string to tie the bundle to Little Sparrow’s leg.

Only then were they truly prepared. “Alright, Little Sparrow, off you go...” Huang Qingling spoke to Little Sparrow.

“Chirp...”

Little Sparrow chirped in response, ready to take off, but Lin Jing stopped it.

“Little Sparrow, wait...”

Upon hearing this, Little Sparrow turned around, tilting its head and looking at

Lin Jing, eyes full of confusion.

At this time, Huang Qingling also spoke up:

“Lin Jing, have you forgotten anything else to tell Little Sparrow?” “No, it’s just that I suddenly thought of something fun...”

Then, Lin Jing said to Little Sparrow:

“Little Sparrow, when you go to the Li Family, first make your way there quietly, without alerting anyone. When you find Li Qingqing or Li Tangyu, jump out suddenly and give them a fright.”

“Do you understand what I mean?”

Little Sparrow first nodded, and then looked towards Huang Qingling.

Huang Qingling pursed her lips:

“Lin Jing, you really are too naughty...”

Then, getting into the spirit of it, she said:

“How can I miss out on such fun?”

After saying that, Huang Qingling gave Little Sparrow some more instructions.

“Little Sparrow, remember not to be discovered in advance, go quietly, and give Li Tangyu a good scare.”

“Chirp...”

Little Sparrow responded with a chirp.

“Alright, be on your way...”

As Huang Qingling’s words fell, Little Sparrow transformed into a dark streak and disappeared from sight.

Meanwhile, Lin Jing and Huang Qingling waited there for the good news from Little Sparrow..

Chapter 163: Li Qjngqing Comes Looking

It wasn’t until almost half an hour had passed that Little Sparrow finally flew back.

Upon its return, Little Sparrow flew straight to Huang Qingling, released the paper from its mouth, and a note fell out.

Huang Qingling caught it, glanced at it, and then said to Lin Jing,

“They have received the message and are getting ready, they will be here shortly...”

Meanwhile, Little Sparrow flew directly to Lin Jing’s side.

“Chirp..

Little Sparrow chirped once, then circled Lin Jing twice, staring intently at his storage bag around his waist before looking up at Lin Jing.

The intent was unmistakable, Little Sparrow was asking Lin Jing for its reward.

Without any fuss, Lin Jing reached into his storage bag and took out that medium-grade Gathering Yuan Pill.

No sooner had the elixir reached Lin Jing's hand than Little Sparrow transformed once again into a streak of black light, darting towards Lin Jing. Immediately after, the pill disappeared from Lin Jing's hand and reappeared at Little Sparrow's beak.

With a smug look at Lin Jing, Little Sparrow opened its beak and swallowed the pill.

Lin Jing and Huang Qingling both watched Little Sparrow and found, even though it swallowed the elixir whole, there was nothing unusual about it, and it continued to hop and skip about.

Nothing like human cultivators, who needed to meditate and refine the pill's strength through practice.

At that moment, Huang Qingling spoke up,

"Since they say they will be here soon, let's clean up the kitchen. After all, my kitchen has not been used for quite some time..."

"Alright, then let's go," Lin Jing said.

After saying that, he stood up and walked with Huang Qingling toward the kitchen...

Once they arrived at the kitchen, and after some bustling about, they finally got it cleaned up.

Just as the two sat down for a rest after finishing up, a knock at the door resounded from outside the courtyard.

Hearing the knock, Lin Jing and Huang Qingling exchanged glances.

"It must be them..." Huang Qingling said.

"Then I'll go open the door."

After saying this, Lin Jing got up and headed towards the entrance.

At the courtyard gate, Lin Jing reached out and opened the door. Standing there was a young girl with one hand on her hip and her chest heaving as she panted heavily.

This girl was none other than Li Qingqing.

Seeing Li Qingqing in this state, Lin Jing asked,

“Cultivator Qingqing, what happened to you? Why are you in such a hurry?”

Li Qingqing gasped for breath and said,

‘Where’s Little Sparrow, where’s Little Sparrow?’

“I’ve come to settle accounts with it...”

Judging by her appearance, it seemed that Li Qingqing had been quite frightened by Little Sparrow.

That’s why she came over in such a state.

“Little Sparrow is inside...”

“Cultivator Qingqing, why such great anger toward Little Sparrow?”

Grinding her teeth with fury, Li Qingqing said,

“When that Little Sparrow came, it deliberately scared me. I must settle this with it.”

Feeling somewhat embarrassed as the instigator, Lin Jing quickly tried to console her,

“Well...”

“Cultivator Qingqing, there’s a reason for this, don’t be hasty.”

Upon hearing this, Li Qingqing looked at Lin Jing with confusion,

“There’s a reason for this?” “Yes...” Lin Jing said.

“By the way, where is your brother?”

Seeing only Li Qingqing had come and not seeing Li Tangyu, Lin Jing asked.

“Oh, he and Zhang Yuan are out buying ingredients,” Li Qingqing said.

“Brother Zhang is here too?”

Lin Jing was surprised and said to Li Qingqing,

“Wasn’t he practicing a new cultivation technique with the Zhang Family Patriarch?”

Not long after the last gathering, Zhang Yuan had gone into seclusion with the Zhang Family Patriarch, it seemed, to be taught a cultivation technique.

He was to finish learning it before he could come out.

It seems this Zhang Family Patriarch intends to groom Zhang Yuan as the next family head.

Li Qingqing said, "He has just completed his cultivation and emerged from seclusion not long ago. He came looking for my brother right away."

"That's perfect..."

"Since the last gathering, he has been in secluded cultivation, and I haven't seen him for a while either. Now that he's emerged, it's perfect..."

After finishing, Lin Jing spoke again, asking:

"Did Zhang Yuan seek out your brother just after coming out of seclusion because he ran into some trouble?" "It's nothing major..."

Li Qingqing began speaking:

"Some of our juniors from the Li Family and the Zhang Family were bullied by others outside, so he came to my brother to discuss a strategy."

Lin Jing was immediately astonished and displayed an incredulous expression:

"Someone dares to bully people from your two families in Fang Market, could it be members of other families?"

Li Qingqing shook her head and said:

"Not in Fang Market, but in the Night Mist Mountain Range. The ones who made a move are very mysterious, and we still don't know who did it..."

"Let's not talk about that for now, let's go in."

"Alright..." Lin Jing replied.

Then...

Lin Jing led the way, with Li Qingqing following behind, and the two walked in.

Upon arriving in the courtyard, Li Qingqing immediately noticed Little Sparrow beside Huang Qingling.

“Well, well, Little Sparrow, you still dare to show your face in front of me.” As she spoke, Li Qingqing approached Little Sparrow.

Seeing Li Qingqing, Little Sparrow, whether feeling guilty or for some other reason, didn’t wait for Li Qingqing to get close.

With a “swoosh,” it transformed into a streak of black light and shot out, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Li Qingqing was left standing there as she watched Little Sparrow flee, unable to do anything about it.

At that moment, Huang Qingling also came over. “Qingqing, did Little Sparrow scare you?”

“Yes, it really gave me a fright...”

Li Qingqing subconsciously responded, but then sensed something was off, and quickly turned to look at Huang Qingling, asking in surprise:

“Hold on, how did you know that...”

A sly smile appeared on Huang Qingling’s face.

Lin Jing saw this and thought to himself, this isn’t good, but before he could speak, Huang Qingling had already spilled the beans.

“You can’t blame Little Sparrow for this; it was Lin Jing who asked Little Sparrow to scare you.”

After saying this, Huang Qingling quickly turned to Li Qingqing and asked:

“And your brother, I also had Little Sparrow scare him. So, did it work, was he scared?”

After hearing Huang Qingling’s words, Li Qingqing gazed at Lin Jing with a look of deep grievance.

“Lin Jing...”

“When did you become so naughty?” Lin Jing offered an embarrassed smile:

“Heh heh...”

“It’s just that I saw some changes in Little Sparrow, so I thought about testing it out...”

“Here’s the deal...”

“Tell me what you’d like to eat later, and I’ll cook it for you as a way of apologizing. ”

Hearing what Lin Jing said, Li Qingqing finally let go of her resentful gaze.

“You said it...” “I’ll leave it to you then when my brother and the others arrive.”

“No problem.”

Lin Jing stated openly.

Following that...

Li Qingqing then said to Huang Qingling:

“Little Sparrow appeared out of nowhere, pouncing in front of me before I could even react, startling me quite a bit before it flew away.”

“I wanted to settle the score with Little Sparrow afterwards, but when I found my brother, I learned that it was you two who invited us.”

“After getting the news from my brother, I came straight here without thinking too much about it.”

“Why don’t you ask him about it when he arrives later?”

“Alright then...” Huang Qingling said..

Chapter 164: The Robber with the Unpleasant

Voice

“Right...’

“Lin Jing brother...”

Li Qingqing turned her head to look at Lin Jing and asked,

“You said earlier that Little Sparrow has changed, but what kind of change?”

“Haven’t you noticed that Little Sparrow has gotten smarter?” Lin Jing reminded her.

“Hasn’t Little Sparrow always been very smart?”

Li Qingqing responded directly, but after saying it, she felt something was off. Remembering Little Sparrow's behavior today, she indeed sensed something amiss.

So she spoke again,

"It does seem like it a little. But I really haven't paid much attention to that." Lin Jing looked at Li Qingqing with a resigned expression and said,

"Forget it, let's wait until your brother and the others arrive before we talk about it..."

"Alright..." Li Qingqing nodded.

Soon, another hour and a half passed before there came a knock at the door.

Upon hearing the knock, Lin Jing immediately stood up and walked towards the door.

Opening the courtyard door, standing there as expected, were Li Tangyu and Zhang Yuan.

"Brother Li, Brother Zhang..." Lin Jing greeted them with a fist and palm salute.

"Brother Lin..."

"Brother Lin..."

Both of them returned the salute with a fist and palm salute as well.

"Come in, please..."

Lin Jing stepped aside, gesturing for them to enter.

After they entered, Lin Jing closed the courtyard door and followed them inside.

In the courtyard, at this time, Huang Qingling and Li Qingqing were still drinking tea under the large tree.

This courtyard where Huang Qingling was staying had been selected by Elder Bai and was much larger than the one Lin Jing was staying in.

Moreover, the courtyard contained a tree several Zhang high with the ability to gather spirit energy. Cultivating under this tree was significantly more effective than other places, a special preparation from Elder Bai for Huang Qingling.

Seeing the newcomers, Li Qingqing stood up and walked over, saying to the two men,

"You've finally arrived; I've been waiting so long, I'm hungry..."

Li Tangyu replied with a smile,

“Didn’t you say last time that you wanted to eat a Spirit Feather Chicken? We went to the trouble of getting one for you. Spirit Feather Chickens are hard to find, so that’s why we’ve only just arrived.” Upon hearing this, Li Qingqing’s eyes lit up as she said,

“I knew my brother was the best to me.”

“Lin Jing brother...”

Then, she addressed Lin Jing,

“I want the Spirit Feather Chicken roasted, that kind where it’s crispy on the outside and tender on the inside, sizzling with oil – you promised...”

“No problem...” Lin Jing said.

At this time...

Huang Qingling also stood up and eagerly asked Li Tangyu,

“Tan Yuyi...”

“When Little Sparrow went to call for you, did it scare you?” Li Tangyu replied,

“Was it you who taught it to sneak attack? I was almost scared...”

Huang Qingling glanced upwards and said,

“I didn’t, it learned that on its own.”

Seeing Huang Qingling’s denial, Li Tangyu sighed and continued,

“It’s a good thing Brother Zhang warned me in time, so I was on guard. Besides, I feel that Little Sparrow seems smarter now and even more formidable than before.”

Lin Jing was curious and then asked Zhang Yuan,

“Brother Zhang, how did you detect Little Sparrow’s sneak attack?”

Zhang Yuan replied,

“The Cultivation Technique I practice is not ordinary, so I was able to sense Little Sparrow in advance.”

Lin Jing nodded, assuming that this was indeed the Cultivation Technique Zhang Yuan had been practicing with the Zhang Family Patriarch recently. At this moment, Li Tangyu spoke again, earnestly saying,

“This Little Sparrow is very formidable now. It was within five meters of me before I noticed it.”

“Regarding this, Brother Zhang and I have discussed...”

“If Little Sparrow were to launch a sneak attack now, it could silently take out a Cultivator at the later stages of Foundation Establishment.”

Zhang Yuan also nodded in agreement at this.

Then, Li Tangyu turned his head to look around and didn’t spot Little Sparrow, then he said:

“Where’s Little Sparrow, not here now?”

“Little Sparrow, it got scared by Qing Qing. When Qing Qing came looking to settle the score, it just hid away...”

Li Tangyu: “Alright then...”

At this point, Lin Jing looked up at the sky and realized that dusk was approaching and it was already getting late.

So he turned to the others and said:

“Let’s not talk about Little Sparrow’s issue for now.”

“It’s getting late, we should start getting ready now, or it will be dark soon.”

“Alright...!”

Next, everyone went to the kitchen. Li Tangyu and Huang Qingling took out the ingredients from the Storage Bag, and then everyone got busy.

Before long, all the ingredients were prepared, and it was Lin Jing’s moment to shine...

About an hour passed before the feast was finally ready.

Then, with the dishes served, everyone took their seats.

As soon as she sat down, Li Qingqing couldn’t wait and started to help herself to the deliciously roasted Spirit Feather Chicken.

Lin Jing even poured a cup of wine for each person.

Just as the first sip of wine went down, Li Tangyu started speaking:

“Brother Lin, I recall that the offering tasks for Yuebaolou are supposed to be submitted today, right?”

“Have you completed it?”

“Not to hide it from Brother Li, I’ve barely completed it,” said Lin Jing.

Li Tangyu continued:

“Brother Lin’s talent in the Alchemy Dao seems quite extraordinary as well. It’s only been a few months, and you can already complete the offering tasks for Yuebaolou by yourself.”

Lin Jing quickly waved his hands in modesty and said: “Brother Li overpraises me...”

“Compared to you, I still have a long way to go.”

“Brother Lin is being too modest. Actually, my current achievements are mainly due to the support of my family. Not like you, who rely solely on yourself,” Li Tangyu added.

Huang Qingling couldn’t watch this anymore and directly said:

“Alright, you two, just toast to each other and stop being so modest.” Lin Jing and Li Tangyu both felt a bit embarrassed.

Following this, Lin Jing picked up the wine jug and poured a cup for both of them.

“Cheers...”

Then, both of them drained their cups in one go.

At this moment, Huang Qingling asked Li Tangyu:

“Qing Qing mentioned earlier that a junior within your family was bullied.

What happened with that?”

Li Tangyu set down his wine cup and said:

“Actually, it’s not a big deal. A disciple from each of our families was robbed while gathering Spirit Grass on the outskirts of the Night Mist Mountain

Range.”

“The good thing is, the two of them were only robbed of some possessions and were not injured.”

Upon hearing about the robbery, Lin Jing was taken aback, and he immediately thought of Little Sparrow.

“It can’t be such a coincidence...” Lin Jing thought to himself.

Looking at Huang Qingling, her expression was similar to Lin Jing’s, and the two involuntarily exchanged glances.

Lin Jing quickly asked:

“Someone dared to rob the juniors of your two families? Which power is behind this?”

After hearing this, Li Tangyu shook his head.

“No power...”

“To be exact, neither of them saw the person who robbed them...”

“They didn’t see the robber...” Lin Jing exclaimed in surprise.

Then he couldn’t help but wonder, “Could it really have been Little Sparrow?” Li Tangyu nodded and continued:

“Yes, they said someone shouted ‘This is a robbery!’ and used a very fast Black Artifact to attack them.”

“This person only damaged their clothes but did not harm them, using that to threaten them into handing over their valuables.”

“Seeing that the person’s cultivation was not low, they had no choice but to comply...”

“And they also said that the robber’s voice was quite strange, somewhat...”

Li Tangyu paused for a moment, then said:

“Unpleasant...”

Chapter 165: Robbery to the Face

Hearing this, Lin Jing turned his head to look at Huang Qingling.

By this time, Huang Qingling had already buried her head into her chest, and Lin Jing guessed she was probably looking for a crack in the ground to crawl into.

It was a good thing Little Sparrow wasn't here; otherwise, Huang Qingling might have already erupted.

"What exactly did they lose, Brother Li, do you know?"

Lin Jing asked again.

Li Tangyu smiled and said,

"Actually, it's nothing valuable, just two or three Magic Artifacts, and a few stalks of Spirit Grass and several low-level Elixir Medicines."

"Is there a Magic Artifact shaped like a crescent moon and another that looks like a stick..."

Huang Qingling then lifted her head and spoke.

After hearing Huang Qingling's words, Li Tangyu and Zhang Yuan looked at each other and then both turned to look at Huang Qingling.

"There are indeed two Magic Artifacts that look like that..."

"Sister Qingling, how do you know?"

Huang Qingling covered most of her face with her hand, instantly feeling utterly shamefaced.

Fortunately, the people present were all very familiar with each other; otherwise, she would never have spoken out.

"Can you two wait for a moment..."

With that, Huang Qingling stood up, left the room, and headed for her bedroom.

The two looked at Lin Jing, not understanding the situation.

Lin Jing appeared helpless and responded,

"You'll find out soon..."

At Lin Jing's words, not only did Li Tangyu and Zhang Yuan become curious, but even Li Qingqing was intrigued.

The three of them lost the appetite to continue eating, so they turned their heads and looked toward the door, waiting for Huang Qingling to return.

It wasn't long before Huang Qingling returned.

In her arms, she carried a pile of sundries, which were exactly the Magic Artifacts, Spirit Grass, and Elixir Medicines that Little Sparrow had robbed.

Under the shocked gazes of the three, Huang Qingling brought the pile of sundries to Li Tangyu, pouring them all into his arms in one go.

Li Tangyu finally recovered from his shock and hurriedly caught them, fearing they might fall to the ground. "See if these are the ones..."

Huang Qingling said.

Li Tangyu began to examine them one by one, the crescent-shaped Magic Artifact, the Elixir Medicines, the Spirit Grass...

These were exactly the same as the items reported lost by the disciple, except for two Elixir Medicines that were missing; the rest were all here.

"Sister Qingling, what's going on here?"

"How did these items end up in your possession?" Li Tangyu asked, looking bewildered and puzzled. Huang Qingling sighed helplessly,

"Sigh..."

"The thief you mentioned, it's Little Sparrow..."

First came a deathly silence.

Then, both Li Tangyu and Li Qingqing let out a cry of alarm, and even the normally composed Zhang Yuan, for a moment, failed to react, standing there stunned.

"How can Little Sparrow talk, and even learn to rob..."

"Could it be, you taught it...?"

After her surprise, Li Qingqing looked at Huang Qingling inquisitively. Huang Qingling quickly spoke up in her own defense,

“How could I possibly teach it that? It’s completely embarrassing...” “It often runs outside; where it learned these things, I have no idea.” Then Huang Qingling continued with an indignant tone,

“That silly bird has caused me such trouble, I must deal with it when it comes back.”

Just as Huang Qingling finished speaking,

Zhang Yuan suddenly said,

“Little Sparrow is nearby, not far away. I can feel it.”

The others looked at Zhang Yuan, puzzled by what kind of powerful Cultivation Technique this was.

Lin Jing was now also at the Foundation Establishment Stage, and he hadn’t sensed anything, not to mention Li Tangyu, who was in the later stages of Foundation Establishment.

From his reaction just now, Lin Jing knew that even Li Tangyu was unaware that Little Sparrow was nearby.

Hearing Zhang Yuan speak, Huang Qingling directly called out to the outside:

“Little Sparrow, come here...”

“Otherwise, I’m going to deal with you...”

As expected...

The moment Huang Qingling’s words ended, Little Sparrow flapped its wings and flew in, albeit wobbling and at a slow speed, as if it were heading to its own execution.

Little Sparrow, seemingly aware of Huang Qingling’s fury, didn’t dare to fly close to her but instead perched on Lin Jing’s shoulder.

At this moment, everyone turned their gaze towards it.

Li Tangyu was still quite perplexed, sizing up Little Sparrow from top to bottom.

“Can this Little Sparrow speak?”

“It can currently only say two words,” Huang Qingling explained, feeling somewhat helpless.

“It wouldn’t be those two words, would it?” Li Tangyu and Li Qingqing exchanged glances.

Li Qingqing looked around the group and noticed that her brother and Zhang Yuan both looked very intrigued, so she suggested:

“Why not have it speak for us to hear?”

“Are you sure?” Huang Qingling asked, looking at the three of them with interest.

“Mmm-hmm...”

The three nodded repeatedly.

“Alright then...”

Huang Qingling seemed quite helpless and then spoke to Little Sparrow: “Little Sparrow, how do you rob someone? Give them a demonstration.” Little Sparrow turned its head to look at Huang Qingling, who gave it a look.

Then...

In an instant, Little Sparrow moved like an arrow, charging towards Li Tangyu. At the same time, a strange and somewhat unpleasant sound was heard:

“Hand it over...”

As the two words fell, Little Sparrow was already atop the roof beam, with a crescent-shaped Magic Artifact in its beak.

It was the very one that Li Tangyu had been holding a moment before.

Looking back at Li Tangyu, he had just begun to realize what happened and looked up towards the ceiling...

Already shocked by the fact that Little Sparrow could speak, Li Tangyu was frozen for a moment, and coupled with this sudden attack...

Li Tangyu was so caught off guard that he lost a Magic Artifact from his grasp without even realizing it.

Seeing this scene, everyone was struck dumb.

After a moment, Li Qingqing reacted and burst into uncontrollable laughter while thumping the table.

“Hahaha...”

“My brother...my brother, he was actually robbed by Little Sparrow, right in front of his eyes.”

“Hahaha, I’m dying of laughter...”

As Li Qingqing laughed so hard she could barely catch her breath, Li Tangyu’s face flushed red, but he didn’t try to explain himself.

Because, indeed, he had been completely taken by surprise and Little Sparrow had snatched the Magic Artifact.

Mainly, Little Sparrow was really fast, and it had chosen the perfect moment, just as Li Tangyu was taken aback.

Li Tangyu was just careless enough to fall prey to the trick.

And Zhang Yuan, sitting beside Li Tangyu, was twitching the corners of his mouth.

Because he, too, had been briefly stunned just now; luckily, Little Sparrow hadn’t targeted him,

After a while, Li Qingqing had also finished her laughing and calmed down.

Then Li Tangyu opened his mouth again:

“This Little Sparrow, seems rather extraordinary...”

Li Qingqing teased him, saying:

“Of course, it’s extraordinary, able to snatch things right from you. Little Sparrow is really amazing.

“I’ve decided, the scare Little Sparrow gave me is now water under the bridge.”

Li Tangyu’s face immediately went slack, worried that this incident, through Li Qingqing’s telling, would become an embarrassing story for the ages. Given Li Qingqing’s nature, he feared she might never let him live it down..

Chapter 166: Demon Cultivator

Following that, Li Tangyu spoke seriously: “Qing Qing, stop fooling around...”

“I’m talking about a serious matter...”

“Oh...” Li Qingqing nodded, and then settled down.

After Li Qingqing had calmed down, Li Tangyu continued to ask Huang Qingling:

“Fellow Daoist Qing Ling, has Little Sparrow had any unusual encounters recently?”

Huang Qingling pondered for a moment before answering:

“Unusual encounters?”

“I’m not sure...”

“Because I have been letting it roam outside recently and haven’t been paying much attention to it.”

“However, I indeed feel it has been getting smarter...”

“And now, it no longer eats food but has started consuming Elixir Medicines, those that enhance cultivation.”

“Not eating food but consuming Elixir Medicines...”

Li Tangyu repeated then seemed to recall something.

He reached into his Storage Bag and pulled out a walnut-sized black sphere.

Lin Jing looked closely, noticing that the surface of the sphere was pitted, and there were some dark red marks on it.

What Li Tangyu was holding was a Demonic Beast Inner Core.

Then, Li Tangyu displayed the Demonic Beast Inner Core to Little Sparrow.

“Little Sparrow, this is for you...”

Upon hearing Li Tangyu’s words, Little Sparrow cocked its head to look at Huang Qingling.

Huang Qingling looked up and said to Little Sparrow:

“Go ahead...”

“Also, return that Magic Artifact to him.”

Seeing that Huang Qingling had spoken, Little Sparrow did not hesitate, flying down from the roof beam.

It returned the Magic Artifact it had taken and then took the Demonic Beast Inner Core from Li Tangyu's hand.

After that, it flew back to Huang Qingling's side.

That's right

Little Sparrow itself was capable of consuming Demonic Beast Inner Cores.

The first time Lin Jing saw Little Sparrow, it had taken the opportunity to attack when that yak-like Demonic Beast was gravely injured, burrowing into the creature's skull and snatching its inner core.

It was only after Little Sparrow followed Huang Qingling and was disciplined by Elder Bai that it became much more docile.

But in its essence, it was still a Demonic Beast capable of swallowing Demonic Beast Inner Cores directly.

And then...

Little Sparrow opened its mouth wide, like a gaping abyssal maw, and actually swallowed the walnut-sized Demonic Beast Inner Core in one gulp.

The Inner Core, nearly as big as Little Sparrow's head, slid smoothly down its throat and into its stomach.

After swallowing the Demonic Beast Inner Core, Little Sparrow then contentedly patted its belly with its wings.

Seeing Little Sparrow ingest the Inner Core, Li Tangyu reached into his Storage Bag again, then pulled out a small porcelain bottle.

He then opened the bottle and poured out an Elixir Medicine.

Lin Jing looked intently and saw that it was a Gathering Yuan Pill, and moreover, it was of Medium Grade.

Li Tangyu, holding the Gathering Yuan Pill, asked Huang Qingling:

"Sister Qing Ling, can it consume this?"

"It can..."

Huang Qingling nodded.

“Before you all arrived, Lin Jing already fed Little Sparrow one.”

After finishing her sentence, Huang Qingling’s eyes shifted, her lips curving into a mischievous smile. She pointed at Lin Jing and continued:

“And furthermore, this was the reward for letting Little Sparrow give you all a scare. ”

As soon as Huang Qingling finished speaking, the other three people all turned their heads, looking at Lin Jing.

“Cough cough...”

Feeling somewhat uneasy under the gaze of the three, Lin Jing quickly coughed twice to hide his embarrassment.

Then he went on:

“I was just impressed by how smart Little Sparrow is, and wanted to test her,” “It turns out that Brother Lin shares my curiosity about this matter.”

Li Tangyu, upon hearing this, did not blame Lin Jing but instead expressed understanding.

Zhang Yuan also nodded in agreement.

Li Qingqing, the only one who was frightened and a bit emotional, also forgave Lin Jing for the sake of the delicacy.

This, however, let Huang Qingling down as she was hoping to see some excitement.

Next, Li Tangyu placed the Elixir Medicine in his palm and said to Little Sparrow:

“Little Sparrow, this is for you...”

Little Sparrow, who had been listening to the conversation, turned her head upon hearing Li Tangyu’s words, glanced at Huang Qingling, and seeing no objection, flew straight over.

She came to Li Tangyu, opened her beak to place the Magic Artifact in his hand.

Then, she took the Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pill and flew back to Huang Qingling’s side.

Just like before, Little Sparrow swallowed the pill directly.

She then continued standing on Huang Qingling's shoulder as if nothing had happened, looking at everyone.

After witnessing this, Li Tangyu frowned and pondered for a long while before saying:

"Being able to consume Demonic Beast Inner Cores, as well as Elixir Medicine that enhances Cultivation..."

"If I'm not mistaken, Little Sparrow's condition should be transitioning towards becoming a Demon Cultivator."

Zhang Yuan next to Li Tangyu nodded upon hearing this:

"Brother Li is correct, there are records of this in my family's library."

"However, Little Sparrow seems to be different..."

Lin Jingzhi had heard about Demon Cultivators before but didn't understand the specifics, so he asked:

"What exactly is a Demon Cultivator?"

"And..."

"What does Brother Zhang mean by saying Little Sparrow is different? Is she unlike other Demonic Beasts?"

When Lin Jing finished speaking, Zhang Yuan began to explain:

"Demon Cultivators are divided into two types..."

"One type is born with spiritual intelligence and resembles Human Cultivators in appearance but retains some features of Demonic Beasts, as well as their racial talents."

"Only after passing the transformation tribulation can they completely transform into the human form."

"Such Demon Cultivators have ancestors who were powerful Demonic Beasts that overcame the transformation tribulation, and it's precisely because their ancestors were so strong..."

"That they are born as Demon Cultivators instead of Demonic Beasts." "The other type originates from Demonic Beasts who cultivate."

“To transform into a Demon Cultivator, a Demonic Beast first needs strong Cultivation and must awaken spiritual intelligence...”

“After these two conditions are met, through prolonged cultivation, they can undergo a metamorphosis and become a true Demon Cultivator.”

“Of course...”

“There are also some powerful Demonic Beasts who, after awakening spiritual intelligence, choose not to assume human form.”

“Instead, they continue cultivating in their bestial form.”

“Ordinarily, Demonic Beasts improve their Cultivation, gradually awakening spiritual intelligence. The higher the Cultivation of the Demonic Beast, the greater their intelligence, until eventually they become indistinguishable from humans...”

“Around that time, they would typically undergo the transformation tribulation...”

“But to see Little Sparrow awaken spiritual intelligence so early and start transitioning towards being a Demon Cultivator is a first for me.” “That’s what makes her different from the rest,” Zhang Yuan said.

After a moment of silence, Li Tangyu spoke again:

“Actually, there are other methods that can enable a Demonic Beast to awaken spiritual intelligence early on and begin the transformation into a Demon

Cultivator.”

After thinking for a moment, Zhang Yuan nodded and said:

“Enlightenment by a great demon...” “Right,” Li Tangyu nodded. “It’s impossible for a great demon...”

Zhang Yuan shook his head:

“In the entire Nanming Domain, there are no great demons capable of enlightening Demonic Beasts....”

Chapter 167: Tracking

Li Tangyu pondered for a moment, then spoke again:

“In fact, besides the enlightenment by a great demon, there’s another method that can allow Little Sparrow to awaken its spiritual wisdom early and begin transforming into a demon cultivator.”

Zhang Yuan suddenly realized, “A large amount of demon qi...”

“Little Sparrow must have absorbed a large amount of demon qi...”

Places with a large amount of demon qi indeed do exist in this Night Mist Mountain Range.

All of them thought of the same place without prior consultation.

“Demon Race Secret Realm...”

Thinking of this, they looked at each other.

Could it really be that demon qi leaked from within the Demon Race Secret Realm?

Li Qingqing then voiced her doubts:

“Didn’t we ask the two Nascent Soul seniors from Qingyuan Sword Sect to seal the secret realm last time?”

“And those two Nascent Soul seniors also said that this seal could last for ten years...”

“How long has it been since then?”

Recalling the beast tide incident from last time, they sighed:

“Yeah, how long has it been...”

“Moreover, that was a seal personally set by two Nascent Soul True Monarchs.”

Following that, everyone fell silent for a moment.

A short while later, Zhang Yuan spoke:

“Brother Li, what should we do next?”

“Do we explore on our own, or do we report directly to the clan?”

Li Tangyu thought for a moment, then said:

“If it truly is a problem at the Demon Race Secret Realm, then there’s not much we can do if we go there, and we might even encounter danger.”

“Let’s report it to the clan. This matter has already exceeded our abilities.”

“That’s for the best...”

Zhang Yuan nodded.

“Sister Qing Ling, Brother Lin...”

“It seems that we few will have to meet another day. We need to report this matter to the clan. Whether it’s true or not, at the very least we must be prepared.”

Li Tangyu bowed to the two of them.

“Indeed, that’s the right thing to do...”

Lin Jing also bowed in response.

Then, Li Tangyu, Li Qingqing, and Zhang Yuan stood up, took their leave from Lin Jing and others. “Sister Qing Ling, Brother Lin, we take our leave.” After speaking, they left.

Lin Jing and Huang Qingling then saw them off.

After returning, Lin Jing helped Huang Qingling tidy everything up, and then he too left.

Back in his own courtyard, Lin Jing pondered for a while.

If the seal of the Demon Race Secret Realm was truly broken and another beast tide occurred, he wouldn’t actually need to worry now.

After all, his situation was not like before, since he now lived in the Inner Fang Market, protected by its formations. Even if a beast tide approached, there would be no need for fear.

Afterward, Lin Jing put his thoughts aside.

He disregarded these matters and entered the System Space.

Tonight was another night for alchemy.

The next day, as dawn broke...

Little Sparrow flapped its wings and came to Lin Jing’s courtyard, apparently remembering Lin Jing’s words from yesterday.

By then, Lin Jing had already emerged from System Space, waiting for Little Sparrow.

Seeing Little Sparrow's arrival, Lin Jing beckoned for it to come down, and once Little Sparrow did, he said:

"Little Sparrow, I want you to help me track someone."

Little Sparrow tilted its head, looking at Lin Jing.

"You just need to see where he goes every day and then come back, and you'll take me through it."

"Of course, it's best if he doesn't notice you..."

"After this tracking mission is complete, I'll give you a few Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pills, the same kind you had last night..."

Upon hearing this, Little Sparrow nodded.

Seeing Little Sparrow nod in agreement, Lin Jing then took Little Sparrow and left the house.

To enable Little Sparrow to track that Pill Master surnamed Wang, he had to first introduce Little Sparrow to the man.

Previously, after finding out about Lin Jing's relationship with Elder Yu, the Pill Master surnamed Wang, in an attempt to curry favor, had told Lin Jing where he lived.

Thus, Lin Jing knew where the Pill Master surnamed Wang resided.

This time, he was taking Little Sparrow to the residence of the Pill Master surnamed Wang so that Little Sparrow could memorize the man and thereafter follow him.

Upon leaving the house, they turned a couple of alleys and then walked some distance before arriving near the Pill Master surnamed Wang's courtyard.

As both were Pill Masters serving under Yuebaolou and lived in courtyards provided by Yuebaolou, their residences were not very far from each other. Next, Lin Jing stopped and then turned to Little Sparrow, saying,

"Remember, the person living in this courtyard, as soon as he steps out, you follow him without letting him discover you..."

"When he returns to the courtyard, come back to find me, and then take me through the places he has been to."

After Lin Jing finished speaking, he looked at Little Sparrow.

Little Sparrow nodded her head.

“Alright, off you go. Remember to be careful and keep a certain distance from him. You must not let him detect you.”

Lin Jing reiterated.

Little Sparrow cocked her head, cast a glance at Lin Jing, then flapped her wings and flew away.

Indeed, she was clever; when Little Sparrow flew over, she made no sound at all.

However, Lin Jing was still a bit worried, fearing any mishap.

Therefore, after Little Sparrow flew off, and upon seeing that there was no one around, Lin Jing moved closer and also entered System Space.

After entering System Space, Lin Jing instantly activated Observation Mode.

Immediately, the viewpoint rose, and Lin Jing looked toward the interior of the courtyard.

Lin Jing spotted Little Sparrow; at that moment, she was hiding on a tree inside the courtyard. Lin Jing didn't interfere with her but continued to look around at other places.

The courtyard where the Pill Master surnamed Wang lived was similar to the one Lin Jing stayed in, both designed in the same style.

Therefore, it didn't take much effort for Lin Jing to locate the bedroom.

Following that...

Lin Jing controlled the viewpoint of Observation Mode and peered into the bedroom where the Pill Master surnamed Wang resided.

This Observation Mode was extremely powerful; as long as it was within the observational scope, it could penetrate any obstacle.

Lin Jing controlled the viewpoint to pass through the wall and saw the scene inside the bedroom.

It was a simple bedroom, everything visible at a glance.

However, Lin Jing didn't find any trace of the Pill Master surnamed Wang there.

“Not here?”

Lin Jing furrowed his brow, muttering to himself.

Then, he continued to control the observational viewpoint, rising until it passed through the roof and scanned over the entire courtyard from above.

Lin Jing noticed that behind the bedroom, there was a small room emitting a faint light. With a thought, he maneuvered the viewpoint towards that room.

This small room was the Alchemy room.

Of course, it seemed that the Pill Master surnamed Wang was in the middle of Alchemy.

Next, Lin Jing controlled the viewpoint to pass through the wall of the Alchemy room and witnessed the scene inside.

He saw the Pill Master surnamed Wang currently engaged in Alchemy, sweating profusely on his forehead, eyes intently fixed on the Pill Furnace, carefully manipulating the Foundation Building True Fire.

It appeared that it was a critical moment in the Alchemy process.

Before long, the batch of Elixir Furnace Medicine was completed.

After the Elixir Medicine was complete, the Pill Master surnamed Wang walked over, opened the Pill Furnace...

Then he took out the Elixir Medicine, his lips moved slightly, and he muttered a curse under his breath.

It seemed the batch of Elixir Medicine didn't meet his expectations.

After that, the Pill Master surnamed Wang stored the Elixir Medicine in a small porcelain bottle and placed it into his Storage Bag,

then rummaged through the Storage Bag for a while. Moments later, the Pill Master surnamed Wang let out a coarse curse:

“Shit, it's all used up again...”

He then got up, tidied up his slightly crumpled clothes, and walked out of the Alchemy room.

As he walked into the courtyard, Lin Jing saw Little Sparrow move as well, turning her head to stare at this man; however, he did not notice Little Sparrow.

After the Pill Master surnamed Wang left the Alchemy room and went into the bedroom, not long passed before he came out again.

Afterward, the Pill Master surnamed Wang closed the door, left the courtyard, and walked down the alley.

Seeing this, Little Sparrow quietly took flight and stealthily followed behind him

The Pill Master surnamed Wang, from beginning to end, never noticed..

Chapter 168: Little Sparrow Is Very Busy

Lin Jing did just that, in Observation Mode, watching Little Sparrow follow the Wang-surnamed Pill Master as they left.

It wasn't until the Wang-surnamed Pill Master had gone far away that Lin Jing left the System Space and returned to his own small courtyard.

Next, it was just a matter of waiting for Little Sparrow to come back.

Little Sparrow returned just as the sky had begun to darken.

As soon as it came back, Little Sparrow set its sights on Lin Jing's Storage Bag, seeming to ask Lin Jing for its reward.

Lin Jing didn't waste words; he directly took out a Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pill and tossed it to Little Sparrow.

Little Sparrow caught it with a flying leap, then landed on one side and immediately opened its beak wide to swallow it in one gulp.

After swallowing the Elixir Medicine, Little Sparrow once again looked toward Lin Jing's Storage Bag but was stopped by Lin Jing.

"Alright, Little Sparrow..."

"You can't be greedy; you get one a day. Tomorrow if you help me track again,

I'll give you another one."

"Chirp..."

Little Sparrow responded with a cry, then reluctantly withdrew its gaze.

“You weren’t noticed while tracking today, were you?” Lin Jing asked Little Sparrow once more.

“Chirp...”

Little Sparrow lifted its neck, a hint of pride in its eyes, and chirped a sound.

It was as if to say, “Piece of cake.”

Lin Jing extended his hand and stroked Little Sparrow; perhaps because it had just eaten Lin Jing’s Elixir Medicine, this time Little Sparrow did not dodge.

Then Lin Jing said,

“The person you were tracking for me today, where did they go? Lead me there...”

Because Little Sparrow couldn’t actually speak, Lin Jing could only communicate in this way to get the tracking results from it.

Following that, Lin Jing left the house with Little Sparrow.

Leaving the courtyard, Lin Jing let Little Sparrow lead the way, while he followed behind.

In this manner, Lin Jing was led by Little Sparrow as they wandered through the Fang Market...

From the courtyard where the Wang-surnamed Pill Master stayed, then to Yuebaolou, and even to several other shops in between, until at last, they arrived at a brothel...

The trip had taken more than half an hour to complete, but all of this was normal, and Lin Jing hadn’t found anything unusual.

When Lin Jing returned to the small courtyard, he spoke to Little Sparrow again,

“Little Sparrow, you’ll go track him again tomorrow...”

“Don’t count the places he went today—we’re only interested in new locations.

If he goes somewhere else, come back and let me know right away.”

“Do you understand?”

Little Sparrow bobbed its head up and down in agreement.

Just when Lin Jing was about to let Little Sparrow go back, a crisp voice came from outside the door:

“Little Sparrow, you’ve been mischievous again, haven’t you...”

At the sound of this voice, Little Sparrow was scared into a shiver.

Lin Jing was also startled, not knowing why Huang Qingling would come at this time.

Lin Jing hurriedly comforted Little Sparrow,

“Little Sparrow, don’t be afraid, I’ll explain for you...”

The initially somewhat anxious Little Sparrow instantly became less so.

Then it called out to Lin Jing again.

But in that call, one could clearly hear a mood of relaxation.

“Lin Jing, open the door...” Huang Qingling called from outside at this moment.

“Coming, Qingling Daoyou, please wait a moment.”

Following that, Lin Jing walked toward the door.

Upon opening the courtyard door, Lin Jing’s first sight was Huang Qingling, and trailing behind him was Li Tangyu.

“Qingling Daoyou...”

“Brother Li...”

Lin Jing spoke up, greeting both men.

“Brother Lin...” Li Tangyu replied with a salute.

Then, Huang Qingling spoke,

“Lin Jing, has Little Sparrow come to find you again? I knew that greedy bird would come looking for Elixir Medicine from you...”

“It was one thing for you to indulge its cravings for fine food before, but now it’s even clinging to you for Elixir Medicine...”

“Little Sparrow is really getting out of hand. I must discipline it today...”

As she spoke, Huang Qingling was about to walk inside.

Lin Jing quickly spoke up:

“Daoyou Qingling is mistaken, it wasn’t Little Sparrow who came to ask me for Elixir Medicine, it was I who sent for Little Sparrow...”

“You sent for Little Sparrow?”

After hearing Lin Jing’s words, Huang Qingling suddenly turned her head and looked at him with confusion.

“What could you possibly need Little Sparrow for? You’re not trying to excuse it, are you?” Huang Qingling scrutinized Lin Jing, her eyes filled with suspicion.

Lin Jing was at a loss whether to laugh or cry: “Daoyou Qingling is thinking too much...”

“Come, let’s talk inside!”

Saying this, Lin Jing gestured for the two of them to come in.

After the two entered, Lin Jing closed the courtyard door behind them and followed them inside.

While walking, Lin Jing explained:

“Didn’t I notice yesterday that Little Sparrow was so intelligent? I just tested it a bit by having it scare Daoyou Qing Qing and Brother Li, right?” “Mm.” Huang Qingling nodded and then continued to ask:

“Wasn’t the test completed yesterday?”

“That was only half of it; what’s happening now is a follow-up to yesterday...” Hearing this, Huang Qingling was quite speechless and she couldn’t help but say:

“You really do have too much time...”

Even Li Tangyu, who was following behind, looked at Lin Jing with a similarly odd gaze.

They probably both thought that Lin Jing was having Little Sparrow go scare people again.

Lin Jing didn’t bother to explain.

Then, Lin Jing asked the two:

“You’ve come so late, was it specifically to find Little Sparrow?”

“Not to hide anything from Brother Lin, indeed it is...” Li Tangyu said.

At this moment, the three of them had arrived inside the courtyard. As soon as Huang Qingling entered the courtyard, she saw Little Sparrow.

“Little Sparrow, come here...”

Only then did Little Sparrow reluctantly and slowly fly over, fearful of being punished.

“It’s all right, Little Sparrow.”

“I’ve already explained everything to Daoyou Qingling, and she won’t punish you,” Lin Jing said to Little Sparrow at this time.

“Chirp.”

Upon hearing this, Little Sparrow let out a chirp and then sped up a bit, flying in front of Huang Qingling, circling around her twice, and then landing on Huang Qingling’s shoulder.

And true enough, Huang Qingling didn’t go on to lecture it.

“Brother Lin, if you need to test Little Sparrow again, you might have to wait another two days,” Li Tangyu spoke up at this time.

“You’re taking Little Sparrow away?” Lin Jing asked.

Li Tangyu shook his head and then explained:

“Not us, but my grandfather and several other Golden Core Immortals...”

As soon as Li Tangyu said this, Lin Jing immediately understood what was going on.

“It’s about the Demon Race Secret Realm, isn’t it...”

Li Tangyu nodded and said:

“Yes...”

“After we told my grandfather about the incident yesterday, he immediately went to investigate and found cracks above the sealing formation, though no demon qi had leaked out.”

“He also searched the surrounding area but still could not sense any demon qi.

Having no other options, he had to return and notify the other immortals.”

“After discussing with them, my grandfather and the others decided to bring Little Sparrow with them to look for the suspected spot where demon qi might be leaking. After all, the matter of the Demon Race Secret Realm is not to be taken lightly.”

“If by any chance there is some accident, Qingyuan Sword Sect must be informed as soon as possible.”

After saying that, Li Tangyu looked toward Little Sparrow and spoke again:

“Little Sparrow might be busy these next few days...”

“The test you have for Little Sparrow, Daoyou Lin, will have to wait....”

Chapter 169: Investigation

“The work you are doing is what’s important; my test is not a big deal...” Lin

Jing said.

Li Tangyu nodded, then immediately added,

“Alright, Brother Lin, we will take our leave now...”

“We still need to take Little Sparrow back to see my grandfather and the rest.”

“Okay...”

Lin Jing responded.

After saying goodbye to Lin Jing, the two of them left with Little Sparrow.

Having seen off the two guests, Lin Jing returned to the courtyard and not long after, he entered the System Space to engage in alchemy.

Time flew by swiftly, and two days passed quickly.

On this day, Lin Jing was in the middle of alchemy within the System Space when an alert from the system was issued.

“Alert!”

“Intruder detected within the alert perimeter, please respond in a timely manner, host.”

At that moment, Lin Jing was at a critical stage in his alchemy, too busy to pay heed; he did not attend to it further and continued to focus his energies on refining the Elixir Medicine.

Two quarters of an hour passed before Lin Jing completed the Elixir Furnace Medicine.

After the refinement was finished, Lin Jing immediately stored away the Elixir Medicine and then he said,

“System.”

“Enter Observation Mode.”

Subsequently, Lin Jing’s perspective shifted above the small courtyard.

He then moved his viewpoint toward the gate, but found no one there.

“It seems they must have seen that no one was around and left already...” Lin Jing muttered to himself, not really concerned.

Lin Jing then turned his viewpoint around to survey around the courtyard. Finding nothing out of the ordinary, he exited Observation Mode.

Fearing further disturbances, Lin Jing decided not to continue alchemy but instead left the System Space.

Subsequently, Lin Jing began to meditate and cultivate inside the house.

Roughly half an hour later, while he was meditating, Lin Jing suddenly heard a noise from outside.

So he opened his eyes and sent his Divine Sense out.

With this sweep, he discovered that it was Little Sparrow outside.

“It seems that the alert from the system just now must have been Little Sparrow...” Lin Jing thought to himself.

Little Sparrow had returned at some point, indicating that the investigation of the Demon Race’s Secret Realm had concluded, and therefore Little Sparrow had been released to return.

At that moment, Little Sparrow perched in front of Lin Jing’s door, chirping inside.

“Little Sparrow, you’re back...” Lin Jing spoke in response.

He then got up, walked over, and opened the door.

As soon as the door was opened, Little Sparrow gripped Lin Jing's sleeve in its beak and flew outside.

Lin Jing was initially startled but then realized what was happening and said to Little Sparrow,

"Little Sparrow..."

"Is it that the person I asked you to track has gone to a new location?"

Little Sparrow nodded its head like a pecking chicken.

"Okay, I'll follow you right now..." Lin Jing said.

"It must be said, Little Sparrow is indeed dedicated; having only just completed the reconnaissance, and without even seeing me, it went straight to tracking."

"Little Sparrow, you really are busy..."

With Little Sparrow leading the way, Lin Jing followed quickly behind.

In this manner, Little Sparrow led Lin Jing out of the alley and then through the bustling streets of Fang Market.

In the end, they arrived near a grand residence with towering gates, and Lin Jing saw that the courtyard was actually the Liu Clan's.

Lin Jing then stopped in his tracks.

Afterwards, Little Sparrow gestured insistently towards the Liu Clan's home to Lin Jing.

"Little Sparrow, are you saying that the person went inside this courtyard?" Lin Jing asked Little Sparrow.

Upon hearing this, Little Sparrow nodded.

That Pill Master surnamed Wang had actually entered Liu Manor. Following this, Lin Jing fell silent for a moment, then said to Little Sparrow:

"Little Sparrow, you don't need to follow anymore. Go back first and come to find me tonight. I will give you the elixir medicine then."

Little Sparrow cocked its head, looked at Lin Jing for a while, and then flew away directly.

“Is this Pill Master surnamed Wang really colluding with the Liu Clan?”

“Could he have been sent by Liu Yiyuan?”

Lin Jing had suspected this before, but he couldn't be certain.

After all, the actions of this Pill Master surnamed Wang were too abnormal without reason.

As the saying goes, an abnormality signifies something demonic.

Therefore, he had Little Sparrow tail this Pill Master surnamed Wang.

The reason Lin Jing let Little Sparrow go back first was to better eavesdrop on information.

However, the Liu Clan's defenses were too strict; Lin Jing definitely couldn't get in.

What's more, there was a Wu Cai Immortal inside.

so...

He didn't plan to go in, but to use another method to investigate.

Having used Observation Mode during this period, he had gained new understandings of it.

Observation Mode was, without a doubt, the best for eavesdropping on information.

Because Observation Mode could ignore terrain obstacles and probe directly into any place, but its only drawback was that Observation Mode had a range limitation.

Lin Jing had to first get close to the target he wanted to investigate. He must get as close to the Liu Clan's compound as possible.

Then, Lin Jing looked around...

Next to the Liu Clan to the west was another family's yard in the Inner Fang Market, with a narrow passageway between the two houses.

However, because this place was secluded, there were very few other people coming and going, which made it relatively quiet.

Seeing this alleyway, Lin Jing had an idea.

He first crossed the street and then bypassed the Liu Clan's front entrance, heading towards that alleyway.

After turning into the alleyway and taking two turns, Lin Jing saw that there was no one around and directly called out the system, entering the System Space.

Just arriving in the System Space, Lin Jing began to call out the system.

"System."

"Enter Observation Mode."

Then, Lin Jing's point of view ascended, appearing directly above the Liu Clan.

Next, Lin Jing began to control the observation perspective, searching within the Liu Clan compound.

However, the Liu Clan's compound was indeed not small; Lin Jing found that the area he could probe with Observation Mode was less than half of the Liu Clan's estate.

The observation range of Observation Mode was determined by the size of the Spirit Field within his System Space.

His current Spirit Field was thirty acres, meaning the maximum range Lin Jing could probe was also this large, but even with such an area, he could only see a small part of the Liu Clan.

And this was in the Inner Fang Market, indicating the Liu Clan's strength was extraordinary...

Lin Jing used Observation Mode to search the whole area he could probe, including the underground chambers.

Yet he did not see the Pill Master surnamed Wang, nor did he even see Liu Yiyuan.

"Nothing, it seems I need to find a different position," Lin Jing thought to himself after the search.

Since the System Space was centered on Lin Jing's own location, and he was now on the west side of the Liu Clan, there was a large area on the east side that he couldn't observe.

To observe, he had to go to the east side alone and then enter the System Space to be able to observe it.

Following that...

Lin Jing exited Observation Mode and left the System Space.

After leaving the System Space, Lin Jing walked out along the passageway, turned two corners, and entered an alley.

Lin Jing followed the alley eastward and soon arrived at the east side of the Liu Clan...

Afterward, in a place where there was no one around, Lin Jing once again entered the System Space.

Immediately following, he initiated Observation Mode and began to probe.

In less than a quarter of an hour, Lin Jing finally found Liu Yiyuan in a secret chamber.

Alongside him stood the Pill Master surnamed Wang...

"These two are indeed in cahoots...."

Chapter 170: Failed to Gather Information

Lin Jing manipulated the observation perspective, looking towards Liu Yiyuan.

He found that the man's face was haggard, and his eyes were filled with dense bloodshot veins, indicating that his state was not looking good.

The Pill Master with the surname Wang standing opposite him, on the other hand, wore a fawning expression.

Then, Liu Yiyuan opened his mouth:

"You go and test the waters again these next couple of days. If that doesn't work, we'll raise the stakes. I refuse to believe he won't be tempted."

"In any case, within these two days, you find a way to lure him out of Fang Market..."

"Once he's out of Fang Market, everything will be much easier."

"Understood, Young Master Liu, I will test his intentions tomorrow," the Wang-surnamed Pill Master said.

At this moment, after listening in, Lin Jing thought to himself:

“The ‘he’ they’re referring to must be myself...”

Following that, Lin Jing withdrew his mind, continuing to eavesdrop, hoping to uncover more information.

But just then, Liu Yiyuan spoke up directly, dashing Lin Jing’s hopes to eavesdrop further.

“Alright, you may go back now...”

Liu Yiyuan waved his hand, dismissing the Wang-surnamed Pill Master. It seemed their conversation had concluded.

“Yes, Young Master Liu...”

The Wang-surnamed Pill Master bowed to Liu Yiyuan and then exited the secret chamber.

Seeing this, Lin Jing couldn’t help but sigh with regret.

If he had been able to follow Little Sparrow out right away the first time she came, he might have overheard some useful information.

But he was delayed by Alchemy at first, and then spent such a long time investigating, that by the time Lin Jing arrived here, they had already finished their conversation.

This left Lin Jing feeling helpless; this attempt at gathering intelligence was a failure.

“However, what can be confirmed now is...”

“This Pill Master surnamed Wang is indeed colluding with Liu Yiyuan. Thus, his invitation to visit some Fourth Grade Pill Master’s residence might very well be a part of Liu Yiyuan’s scheme.”

“As Elder Yu said, Liu Yiyuan is someone who holds grudges. Even now, he can’t let go of the past hostility between them...”

“Even after Elder Bai mediated, he doesn’t dare to oppose me openly. However, he still wants to lure me out of the Inner Fang Market to my disadvantage.” At that moment...

Lin Jing also recalled the Offering Priest assessment from before, where the Wang-surnamed Pill Master had interfered with him twice.

Lin Jing had suspected that the Pill Master might have done it on purpose, and what he witnessed today further confirmed his suspicion.

It seems...

At that time, he probably wanted to make me fail the assessment,

Then let Zheng, the manager, strip me of my status as a Pill Master at Yuebaolou, and reclaim the residence I was living in...

So that I would be forced to move out of the Inner Fang Market.

After all, the Outer Fang Market is not as safe as the Inner Fang Market. Even if I do nothing and just stay at home, I could still encounter unforeseen disasters.

Once I'm out of the Inner Fang Market, my safety can hardly be guaranteed.

Thinking of the assessment, Lin Jing also thought of that new manager, Zheng.

It's just unknown what the relationship between this new manager Zheng and the Liu Clan really is.

After all, manager Zheng did visit the Liu Clan soon after his arrival.

But...

Since the last assessment, manager Zheng has not bothered me again after canceling the privilege granted by Elder Bai.

As a result, Lin Jing found it somewhat unfathomable.

After the Wang-surnamed Pill Master left, Lin Jing did not exit Observation Mode, but continued to observe Liu Yiyuan.

To see if his subsequent actions would reveal any bit of news.

However, after the Pill Master left, Liu Yiyuan didn't say anything. Instead, he started to meditate and cultivate.

Lin Jing observed for a while longer before sighing quietly in the dark, realizing he couldn't glean any more information, and then he exited Observation Mode.

Afterward, Lin Jing left the System Space and walked out along the small path.

He kept pondering even as he returned to his small courtyard.

"If nothing unexpected happens, that Pill Master surnamed Wang will definitely come looking for me tomorrow..."

“So, how should I respond to him tomorrow...”

After deliberating for a moment, Lin Jing decided to agree first and test the waters.

Lin Jing knew that once he agreed, the Pill Master surnamed Wang would surely go back to report to Liu Yiyuan.

When he went back to report, Lin Jing would take the opportunity to gather some information from the Liu Clan and plan his next move.

After all, the information he currently had was too little; he knew nothing about their plans or how they were laid out.

Lin Jing's previous guesses were just that, mere conjectures. Only by grasping their specific actions could he better prepare his response.

Indeed, Lin Jing could also refuse the Wang surnamed Pill Master, which would certainly foil their plans.

But if Lin Jing refused this time, what about the next time, or the time after that?

Liu Yiyuan had a petty nature and his hatred for him had obviously reached its peak, eager to eliminate Lin Jing as soon as possible.

He couldn't remain passive like this forever; there was no logic in being a thief for a thousand days but not being prepared against a thief for a thousand days.

so...

Lin Jing also wanted to find an opportunity to get rid of Liu Yiyuan,

The reason he wanted to agree temporarily was to see if such an opportunity existed.

If not, Lin Jing would have to endure for the time being and slowly increase his own strength.

Fortunately, Liu Yiyuan currently didn't dare to confront Lin Jing openly, so as long as he stayed in the Inner Fang Market, there was nothing to fear.

Otherwise...

He wouldn't be trying so hard to lure Lin Jing out.

In the evening, Little Sparrow came over.

As soon as Little Sparrow arrived, it grabbed Lin Jing's Storage Bag with its beak and placed it in his hand, clearly indicating its purpose. Lin Jing needed to deliver the reward for the tracking.

Lin Jing smiled and stroked Little Sparrow, saying,

"Little Sparrow, don't be anxious. Rest assured, you've made a contribution this time, and you won't be forgotten."

Then, Lin Jing opened the Storage Bag and took out a Medium Grade Gathering Yuan Pill and a Superior Gathering Yuan Pill, offering them to Little Sparrow.

He had plenty of such Elixir Medicines, and now that Little Sparrow had made a contribution, Lin Jing was thinking of rewarding it with an extra Superior Gathering Yuan Pill.

After placing the Elixir Medicines in his hand, Little Sparrow cocked its head to look at Lin Jing with a slightly puzzled gaze. "Eat up, it's your reward..." Lin Jing said.

"Chirp..

Then Little Sparrow flapped its wings, chirped, and snatched up one pill and swallowed it,

However, no sooner had the first gone down than Little Sparrow grabbed the second pill and swallowed it too.

Lin Jing watched Little Sparrow with a touch of envy, wondering how it could ingest so many Elixir Medicines consecutively without any issue.

Usually, Cultivators take one Elixir Medicine, practice for a while, and absorb the Spiritual Power from the medicine completely.

But after absorption, they still need to convert this Spiritual Power, transforming it into their own.

Therefore, they cannot immediately take a second pill; they must wait for some time before they can continue.

But for some reason, Little Sparrow could take them simultaneously.

After swallowing the Elixir Medicines, Little Sparrow prepared to leave.

Lin Jing called it back and informed it that from tomorrow on, there was no need to follow anymore.

Lin Jing's goal had been achieved, and Little Sparrow no longer needed to track.

Little Sparrow seemed quite disappointed, but after Lin Jing's persuasion, it ultimately nodded and left..