

Immortality Cultivation: I Farm in the System Space

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Chapter 31: Unparalleled Beauty

At dusk, the two of them departed.

Lin Jing once again entered the System Space and bustled about all evening before finally filling the Spirit Field with Spirit Plants. These Spirit Plants, unlike Spirit Rice, mature in half a year.

However, they mature quite rapidly.

But, the longer the age of the Spirit Plants, the better the effects of the Elixir Medicine refined from them.

Especially the main ingredient for the Energy Gathering Pill, Three-Leaf Spirit Grass, the older it is, the easier it is to refine high-quality Energy Gathering Pills.

If there is enough Spiritual Energy, the Three-Leaf Spirit Grass can even evolve again, growing into Five-Leaf Spirit Grass.

Five-Leaf Spirit Grass is extraordinary, as it is the main ingredient for refining the Second Rank Elixir, Gathering Yuan Pill.

By planting them in advance now, when the System Space upgrades and the concentration of Spiritual Energy increases again, these Three-Leaf Spirit Grasses are highly likely to evolve into Five-Leaf Spirit Grass.

By then, Lin Jing's Alchemy skills should also have reached the Second Rank. Having these Five -Leaf Spirit Grasses, he can start refining Gathering Yuan Pills directly.

Of course, even if they don't evolve into Five-Leaf Spirit Grass by then, it won't matter.

With these Three-Leaf Spirit Grasses, he can continue to refine Energy Gathering Pills and sell them, earning a good amount of Spirit Stones.

Time flew by, and soon it was New Year's Eve.

Just past noon, Lin Jing left the house.

Even though Demonic Beasts were causing trouble, the Fang Market was still full of New Year spirit, with crowded bustling streets, hawkers calls rising and falling one after another, and everyone dressed up and smiling.

It was as if the Demonic Beast uprising had never happened.

Perhaps this was the difference between the inside and the outskirts of the Fang Market.

Lin Jing bought some gifts and headed towards Yuebaolou.

With New Year's almost upon them, he planned to visit Elder Yu, who had been good to him and had also helped him in the past.

Also, Lin Jing intended to ask Elder Yu about the Black Market Token.

In Lin Jing's view, Elder Yu should know how to use the Token.

When he arrived at Yuebaolou, Elder Yu wasn't there.

After some inquiries, Lin Jing learned that Elder Yu had already left Nanshan Market some time ago and was not expected to return until after the New Year.

With no choice, Lin Jing had to leave.

After a stroll around the street, he specifically prepared a gift for Luo Luo and bought some food ingredients before heading home.

Close to home, Lin Jing bumped into the brothers Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin. Perhaps due to the previous incident, this time, contrary to usual, Zhang Sen didn't take the initiative to greet Lin Jing.

The two were dressed rather disheveled, heads lowered, hurrying past Lin Jing. As they got closer, Lin Jing saw that their complexions were slightly pale, as if they had been injured.

"They're probably being chased for debts by Qianjin Fang," Lin Jing thought.

The reason for this suspicion was that Ning Yue had mentioned this matter a couple of days earlier.

They had accumulated a batch of gambling debts at Qianjin Fang and were currently being pursued for payment.

Though they looked miserable now, Lin Jing had no sympathy for them; still gambling despite being in such a dire situation.

They had brought this upon themselves.

Lin Jing didn't return to his own courtyard but went to Ning Yue's front door instead.

"Knock knock knock"

Lin Jing knocked on Ning Yue's courtyard gate.

Then he heard Luo Luo's voice coming from inside the yard.

"Is that Uncle Lin?"

"It's me, Luo Luo, open the door," Lin Jing called out.

Soon, the door was opened by Luo Luo, and behind her stood Wei Zhengqing.

"Brother Wei."

Lin Jing greeted with clasped hands.

Wei Zhengqing nodded and responded with clasped hands, "Brother Lin."

Luo Luo immediately came over and grabbed Lin Jing's hand, saying happily:

"Uncle Lin, you've finally come."

"Mhm," Lin Jing said as he patted Luo Luo's head.

Then he handed over the puppet that he was holding in his other hand.

"Luo Luo, here, this is a gift for you."

"Thank you, Uncle Lin," Luo Luo took the puppet, her face brightening with joy.

"Uncle Lin, come in, this is your first time at our house, right?"

Luo Luo said, pulling Lin Jing toward the courtyard.

At this moment, Ning Yue also walked out from the kitchen and greeted Lin Jing before getting back to her busy tasks.

Seeing this, Lin Jing also went to the kitchen to help, while Wei Zhengqing, who could not cook, could only play with Luo Luo.

The bustle lasted for most of the day, and it quickly got dark outside as the households lit their lamps.

By now, everyone was seated at the table, which was covered with a feast of delicious food, making Luo Luo's mouth water almost to the point of drooling.

It was then that Ning Yue spoke up:

"Brother Zhengqing, Lin Daoyou,"

"Please wait a moment, I'll go and dress up."

Wei Zhengqing nodded his head.

Lin Jing, on the other hand, was somewhat baffled. She looked fine as she was, so why did she need to dress up?

Although he was curious, he did not voice his questions, instead nodding in response.

After all, that was a woman's private matter, and it would be rude to ask.

It was then that Luo Luo came over to Lin Jing's side, tugging on his sleeve.

Lin Jing looked down at Luo Luo.

"Don't be shocked later..."

Luo Luo whispered, as if she had a secret.

As Lin Jing pondered this, he saw Luo Luo wink mischievously.

He suddenly remembered.

Luo Luo had mentioned before that her mother was actually very beautiful.

"Could it be..."

After a while, Ning Yue, having dressed and made up, walked out slowly.

Seeing Ning Yue, Lin Jing was stunned on the spot.

He saw her eyes shining like bright moons, her face clear and beautiful, and her demeanor exceedingly charming, with a pure white long dress that perfectly outlined her figure...

She was truly a peerless beauty.

For so long, Lin Jing had never seen anyone who could compare to her.

“Ning Daoyou?”

Lin Jing couldn't be sure and asked with a hint of doubt.

Ning Yue's cheeks turned slightly red, and she nodded.

“I apologize for not daring to show my true face due to the circumstances and keeping Lin Daoyou in the dark for so long.”

Lin Jing took her in from head to toe, then waved his hand and said:

“It's alright, in these times, for someone with your looks...”

“It's indeed not suitable to show your true face. You've done the right thing.”

Lin Jing was being sincere. If Ning Yue had not hidden her true appearance, she probably would have been captured as a dual cultivation furnace cauldron long ago, even with her late-stage Qi refining cultivation.

And the fact that Ning Yue would reveal her true appearance in front of Lin Jing clearly showed that she had complete trust in him. She believed he would never disclose her secret.

Lin Jing, of course, understood this.

They trusted him so much, and he would certainly keep their secret.

“Uncle Lin, what do you think? I told you my mother is beautiful, right?”

Luo Luo said proudly.

“Hmm?”

“Did you already tell Uncle Lin about this before?”

Ning Yue pretended to be angry.

Frightened, Luo Luo shrank her neck and secretly hid behind Lin Jing, saying softly:

“Yes.”

Ning Yue then lectured Luo Luo:

“Lucky for you, Uncle Lin is a good person.”

“Otherwise, if others knew about this, we both wouldn’t be able to run away. Do you understand?”

“Don’t ever do this again, do you hear me?”

Knowing she was at fault, Luo Luo slowly came out and hastily apologized:

“Mother, I was wrong. I won’t dare to do it again.”

Seeing Luo Luo admit her mistake, Ning Yue softened her tone. “Alright, stop hiding behind Uncle Lin. Come over, let’s start our meal..”

Chapter 32 - 32 New Year’s Eve Party

Chapter 32: New Year’s Eve Party

They all sat down together and started chatting while eating.

Ning Yue’s culinary skills had progressed remarkably since before.

After tasting today’s dishes, Luo Luo praised them repeatedly, and even Wei Zhengqing nodded, agreeing with Luo Luo’s opinion.

This made Ning Yue a bit embarrassed and he kept attributing the success to Lin Jing’s merits.

At the table, Ning Yue inquired about Wei Zhengqing’s recent circumstances.

Wei Zhengqing spoke at length.

Only then did Lin Jing learn that Wei Zhengqing often frequented the black market.

Lin Jing’s eyes suddenly lit up.

“Brother Wei, I’ve inadvertently obtained a Black Market Token, but I am unsure whether it’s authentic or fake. I was hoping you could take a look for me,” he said.

As he spoke, Lin Jing took the Black Market Token out of his Storage Bag and handed it to Wei Zhengqing.

Wei Zhengqing took the Token and then examined it carefully.

Soon, Wei Zhengqing finished his examination and returned the Token to Lin Jing without asking where Lin Jing had acquired it from.

He nodded and said,

“This Token is real.”

After that, Wei Zhengqing posed another question, “Brother Lin, have you never been to the black market before?”

Lin Jing nodded in response, “Yes, I acquired this Token by chance and don’t even know what the black market looks like.”

“The black market...”

“Unlike the Fang Market, it’s filled with all sorts, selling both the good and the sinister. However, it predominantly deals in goods that can’t see the light of day.”

“As such, it’s even more secretive, and ordinary people can’t get in even if they have a Token.”

“Then how does one enter?”

“To enter the black market, just having a Token isn’t enough. You also need someone to lead you, otherwise, you won’t even be able to find the entrance,” he explained.

After speaking, Wei Zhengqing looked at Lin Jing and asked,

“Do you wish to enter the black market?”

“Yes,” Lin Jing nodded.

“I want to buy some Magic Artifacts and Cultivation Techniques. I’ve searched many places, but haven’t found anything satisfactory. That’s why I thought of trying the black market.”

In truth, this was only part of the reason; more importantly, Lin Jing wanted to sell Elixir Medicine through the black market.

As Wei Zhengqing had described, the black market was known for dealing in items that couldn’t withstand the light of day and maintained strict confidentiality, which was perfectly suited for Lin Jing’s current situation.

Especially having experienced the incident with the man in black, Lin Jing became even more cautious—selling more Elixir Medicine would make him a target for similar situations again.

He couldn’t simply stop selling Elixir Medicine.

Therefore, finding a safe method to sell Elixir Medicine was of utmost importance.

Wei Zhengqing thought for a moment in silence.

“Indeed, the Fang Market has a variety of Magical Treasures and Cultivation Techniques, some of which may even be much cheaper than outside for certain reasons. However, it’s best not to practice these as it’s easy to offend certain powers,” he said.

Instantly, Lin Jing understood that these must have been techniques that circulated from various families and sects.

“Are you sure you want to go to the black market?”

“If you want to enter, I can take you there,” Wei Zhengqing repeated, seeking confirmation from Lin Jing.

Lin Jing nodded, “Then I’ll have to trouble Brother Wei when the time comes.”

“Alright, after these few days pass, I’ll take you there to have a look,” Wei Zhengqing promised.

“Thank you, Brother Wei. ”

“No need,” Wei Zhengqing replied.

Afterward, everyone continued.

Ning Yue even brought out a jar of Spiritual Wine and poured some for the two of them.

As they drank their rounds, Wei Zhengqing, unlike before, opened up and started to chat with Ning Yue.

Lin Jing listened quietly on the side.

Meanwhile, the little girl was enjoying her meal thoroughly.

After listening for a while, Lin Jing came to know.

It turned out that Ning Yue and Luo Luo’s father had come from the same place as Wei Zhengqing, and they had arrived at Nanshan Market together at the beginning.

No wonder they were so close to each other.

“Do you really not plan to go back?” Wei Zhengqing asked Ning Yue.

"I don't know, I don't even know how to face them," Ning Yue replied.

Ning Yue's eyebrows were tightly furrowed, her eyes reflecting a complex expression, as she shook her head.

Lin Jing remained silent, quietly listening to the conversation between the two.

He could tell that Ning Yue seemed to be in a dilemma. Wei Zhengqing's brows also creased as he said,

"But you can't keep going on like this."

"What about Luo Luo? You can't possibly take care of her for a lifetime, can you?"

As Wei Zhengqing reached this point, he stared intently at Ning Yue, then continued,

"Brother Su has already passed away and can't come back. Staying here isn't a solution either. Even if not for yourself, you have to think about Luo Luo."

"She lacks a Spiritual Root and is simply not suited for staying here. Back with the clan, she might have a better life."

Luo Luo, whose full name was Su Xinluo, was the biological daughter of Brother Su, mentioned by Wei Zhengqing.

Ning Yue was silent, knowing all too well that returning to the clan was indeed the best option for Luo Luo.

Yet, when she had snuck out back then, she had caused so much trouble for her parents.

Now, she simply could not face her family with any semblance of dignity.

"Remaining here is never a long-term plan, especially now with the Demonic Beats constantly causing chaos, and even Fang Market becoming more and more unsafe."

"I think if Brother Su were alive, he wouldn't want this for you." Wei Zhengqing finished speaking.

Then he picked up his cup from the table and drained it in one gulp.

Lin Jing also fell silent, knowing this was not the time to interject. After a long pause, it was Luo Luo who broke the oppressive atmosphere.

"Mother, Uncle Wei, Uncle Lin."

"Come on, try this; Mother's cooking has really improved, almost half as good as Uncle Lin now."

"Brother Wei, Daoist Ning," Lin Jing reminded them.

"Alright, let's eat."

Ning Yue temporarily composed herself.

And after a moment of silence, Wei Zhengqing spoke,

"To stay or to leave, that's your decision to make."

"Don't worry, even if you choose to stay here, as long as I'm around, I will never fail Brother Su's trust and will protect you and Luo Luo."

Having said that, Wei Zhengqing seemed to be hit by the effects of the wine.

He lifted his cup towards Lin Jing and said,

"Brother Lin, no retreat until we're drunk, how about it?"

"Good."

Lin Jing lifted his cup, clinked it against Wei Zhengqing's, and then drank it all down.

As Lin Jing and Wei Zhengqing were enjoying their drinks,

In the courtyard diagonally across from them, Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, the two brothers, were in a pitch-black room.

The room lacked even the glow of an oil lamp, completely dark, in stark contrast to the brightly lit opposite side. "Cough... cough cough..."

Zhang Sen couldn't stop coughing in the room.

"Big brother, how are you feeling?"

Zhang Lin hurried to Zhang Sen's side and gently patted his back, trying to make him feel a little better.

"I'm fine."

Zhang Sen gestured for Zhang Lin to stop his patting.

“Those people from Qianjinfang are too ruthless, injuring you so badly.” Zhang Lin said resentfully.

“It’s inevitable, they are from Qianjinfang, with Foundation Establishment masters backing them, and we can’t afford to provoke them.” “These days, I’ve been thinking, we might have been tricked.”

“The entire thing was probably a trap set by Qianjinfang, first baiting us to gamble, allowing us to win, then slowly sinking us deeper in, until we’re completely bankrupt at the end.”

As if aggravating his wounds, Zhang Sen clenched his teeth and frowned, then said,

“But knowing this now, what can we do? We still owe Qianjinfang several hundred Spirit Stones; they definitely won’t let us off until we repay them..”

Chapter 33 - 33 Conspiracy

Chapter 33: Conspiracy

“Big Brother, I do have a method...”

Zhang Lin suddenly spoke up at this moment.

Zhang Sen turned his head toward his younger brother, asking urgently, ‘What method? Speak quickly.’

Zhang Lin’s eyes gleamed coldly as he stared in the direction of Ning Yue’s

small courtyard and suddenly asked Zhang Sen:

“Big Brother, do you think cultivating the Alchemy Technique consumes Spirit Stones?”

Zhang Sen nodded in affirmation:

“Of course, without a large number of Spirit Stones as a foundation, how could one cultivate the Alchemy Technique?”

“Especially at the beginning, when the failure rate is extremely high—if there weren’t a large number of Spirit Stones to rely on, one certainly couldn’t persist.”

“However, once successful, an Alchemist could be considered the most profitable profession, with Spirit Stones flowing in endlessly.” After finishing, Zhang Sen looked at Zhang Lin, puzzled: “What? You want to cultivate the Alchemy Technique?” He then

shook his head, saying self-deprecatingly: “Given our current situation, better not to think about it...”

Yet Zhang Lin suddenly cut in, interrupting Zhang Sen:

“You’ve misunderstood, Big Brother.”

“It’s not so easy to master the Alchemy Technique; I know that all too well and wouldn’t entertain such fanciful ideas.”

“But isn’t someone else cultivating the Alchemy Technique? If he didn’t have Spirit Stones, how could he dare to pursue this Alchemy Technique?”

Zhang Sen suddenly came to a realization:

“Are you talking about Brother Lin?”

“But we haven’t seen any activity from him lately; I think he must have given up by now.”

“Whether he has given up or not, I am not sure, but I do know that he definitely has a substantial amount of Spirit Stones on him. As long as we take his Spirit Stones...”
Zhang Lin said, his eyes brimming with malicious intent as he looked across.

“Then won’t we have nothing to worry about?”

Zhang Sen frowned, hesitating:

“Doing such a thing doesn’t seem right; Brother Lin hasn’t done anything to wrong us. If we do this, wouldn’t it be rather inappropriate?”

“Tsk...”

Zhang Lin was disdainful, scoffing at the notion.

“Big Brother, have you gone daft?”

“Have you forgotten the scene where we begged him at his doorstep just two days ago?”

“You were practically kneeling to him, but did he show you even a shred of

“Don’t say he has no Spirit Stones.”

“The fragrance wafting from his house these past few days, I’ve smelled it distinctly—it’s definitely Superior Spirit Rice.”

“He has the money to eat Superior Spirit Rice but refuses to lend us a single Spirit Stone, yet we’re supposed to be neighbors.”

“What Brother Lin? Pah...

Thinking back to that day made Zhang Lin extremely infuriated; neither he nor his brother had ever groveled so low before anyone.

Zhang Sen said nothing more and merely hung his head in silence.

Zhang Lin looked at his brother and, seeing that he wasn’t defending Lin Jing, knew his words had taken effect.

He then continued to embellish and incite, saying:

“Big Brother, think about it.”

“When Lin Jing first arrived here, wasn’t it you who explained everything about this place to him every day? Without you, Big Brother, how could he have adapted so quickly here?”

“What’s more, wasn’t it you who introduced Ning Yue to them both?”

“Look at how close the two of them are now, sticking together every day, even sharing meals, they are practically one step away from sharing a bed.” After finishing, Zhang Lin then added leisurely:

“Right, didn’t we see him carrying things into the Su family’s door this afternoon?”

“The two of them might still be drinking at this moment, and who knows what they’ll do after finishing their wine...”

Zhang Sen looked up, his gaze pensive as he peered across.

Zhang Lin continued:

“They’ve all reached this point, and not only do they not thank you, Big Brother, they also give you the cold shoulder every day,” said Zhang Lin. “Especially that widow, Ning Yue, she’s the most detestable.”

“If it were not for the fact that I can’t beat her, I would have long...” Zhang Lin didn’t continue his words...

Licking his lips, Zhang Lin began to let his imagination run wild.

“Although that widow Ning Yue isn’t much to look at, her figure is definitely top-notch. If only...”

As Zhang Sen listened to Zhang Lin, he lowered his head in contemplation, reflecting on the recent encounters, his gaze gradually becoming resolute.

“What do you plan to do?”

“Don’t forget, that Ning Yue is a Late Stage Qi Refining cultivator, and we are no match for her.”

“He and Brother Lin... no, Lin Jing are so close; he certainly won’t sit by and do nothing.”

“Besides, there’s one person we can’t overlook—that Wei fellow. If he’s around, he might kill us both on the spot.”

Zhang Lin smirked and reminded him:

“Big Brother, have you forgotten what time it is now? In a few days, Ning Yue and that Wei person will definitely go out, and that will be our chance.” Zhang Sen’s eyes lit up, “The anniversary of Ning Yue’s husband’s death...” “Exactly, we’ll have at least one whole day,” said Zhang Lin.

“Both of us are at the Mid Stage of Qi Refining, and that Lin Jing is only at the early stage. What’s there to fear about not being able to handle him?”

“When the time comes, we’ll sneak over the wall and get in. We’ll capture him first to prevent him from hiding the Spirit Stones, then we can interrogate him. After we’ve finished plundering everything, we can just give him one slice and he’s done for.”

“That way, no one will be the wiser.”

“What do you think about this plan, Big Brother?”

After pondering for a moment, Zhang Sen nodded in agreement.

“Alright, that’s the plan.”

Afterwards, with a sinister look in his eyes, he gazed towards the opposite side:

“If you’re heartless, then don’t blame me for being unrighteous.”

Meanwhile, across the way, Lin Jing was drinking wine. At this moment, slightly drunk, he was unaware that a conspiracy against him was about to unfold.

The gathering continued until late into the night before it ended.

Afterward, Lin Jing returned home and immediately entered the System Space.

Once inside the System Space, Lin Jing sat down cross-legged and began to drive the effects of the alcohol out of his system.

Because tonight, he had an important task to accomplish.

The outside world was becoming increasingly chaotic, and he too needed to rapidly enhance his own strength.

“System, open the panel.”

Lin Jing summoned the system panel to check his cultivation.

Lin Jing (24/90)

Spiritual Root: Five Elements Mixed Spirit Root (Low Grade)

Cultivation: Qi Refining Third Level (96%) Cultivation Technique: Qingyuan

Dao Method (First Layer), Qingyuan Sword Control Technique (Beginner),

Controlling Fire Technique (Proficient)

Secondary Occupation: First Grade Alchemist (1982/3000)

“96% in cultivation. Just one Pure Elixir is needed to reach the Fourth Level of Qi Refining.”

The Fourth Level of Qi Refining marks the Mid Stage.

The Mid Stage Qi Refining is completely different from the Early Stage.

The biggest difference is that only at the Mid Stage can one fly with swords and also begin to practice intermediate spells.

Even at the Third Level of Qi Refining, he could only practice some basic spells such as the Wind Blade Technique, Fireball Technique, and Item Control Technique.

The Qingyuan Sword Control Technique he practiced at Qingyuan Sword Sect was one such basic spell. Even at its utmost proficiency, its power is limited.

Therefore, Lin Jing has not been practicing it, finding the use of Talismans to be simpler and more convenient, as they only require spiritual power to activate.

Of course, the Controlling Fire Technique is different.

The Controlling Fire Technique is a fundamental auxiliary spell that every Alchemist must learn, and it's not meant for combat.

As for sword flying, there's no need to say more, as Lin Jing had been looking forward to it for a long time..

Chapter 34: Breakthrough Failure

Following that, Lin Jing took out a Pure Jade Box from his Storage Bag, containing a Pure Energy Gathering Pill.

This Energy Gathering Pill had only been refined a few days ago and he had yet to take it.

After adjusting his condition, Lin Jing began preparations for his breakthrough.

Opening the Pure Jade Box, Lin Jing picked up the Energy Gathering Pill and placed it directly into his mouth.

He then closed his eyes and started to operate his cultivation technique.

Soon, the Spiritual Power contained within the Energy Gathering Pill burst forth; Lin Jing felt a surge of comfort and immediately, without delay, he began to exert his full strength in operating his cultivation technique to absorb the potency of the elixir.

Time was untrackable...

It was at this critical moment, while Lin Jing was frowning in deep concentration, absorbing the elixir's potency and attempting to break through. Suddenly, a system warning sounded, abruptly awakening Lin Jing.

"Ding"

"Warning! The host's foundation is detected to be unstable while forcibly attempting to break through to the next realm. The host is advised to cease immediately."

At this moment, the recently startled Lin Jing had a confused expression, unclear about the current situation.

The System had actually taken the initiative to prevent his breakthrough.

"System."

“What’s going on?”

Lin Jing called out to the System and asked aloud.

Soon after, the System’s voice resonated.

“Host, the System has detected that the time since your last breakthrough is too short. Your Divine Sense Realm is not stable and cannot support the host’s breakthrough to the next stage. Forcing a breakthrough could, at best, result in severe injury or, at worst, death.”

“Please, host, cultivate diligently and wait for your Divine Sense Realm to stabilize before attempting to break through on your own.”

“So that’s how it is.”

Lin Jing suddenly realized; he had been trying repeatedly to break through with great difficulty, none of which had been successful.

Originally, he thought it was because of his low talent that he had difficulties in breaking through and was exerting his utmost effort to do so.

As these thoughts passed through his mind, Lin Jing suddenly noticed something was amiss.

The abrupt interruption of his breakthrough did not calm the Spiritual Power within his body, which was continuing to grow.

A vast amount of Spiritual Power was bombarding his meridians, causing Lin Jing to feel as if his body was swelling, ready to burst, and the discomfort was unbearable.

“System.”

Lin Jing hurriedly called out to the System.

“A large amount of Spiritual Power is accumulating in my meridians; is there a way to resolve this?”

“Please wait, host. The System is working on a solution for you,” responded the System.

No sooner had the System’s words fallen than Lin Jing felt the Spiritual Power within his meridians dissipating slowly.

In no time, Lin Jing’s body returned to normal. Only then did Lin Jing breathe a sigh of relief.

“Thank goodness for the System.”

Afterward, he carefully reflected on the recent times. Besides Alchemy and reviewing elixir recipes, he occasionally took Luo Luo out to the Fang Market.

He seldom meditated for cultivation, thinking he could rely on Elixir Medicine to breakthrough, but who knew he would encounter this situation.

No wonder, considering that he previously had an exceptionally poor talent for cultivation, identified as a Five-Element Mixed Spiritual Root. It was impossible for him to have breakthroughs so swiftly, and naturally, he had never faced an unstable Divine Sense Realm before.

Probably even his predecessor’s father hadn’t expected that one day he could break through so quickly, and so he had never explained so much to him.

Faced with such a big blunder, Lin Jing could only smile wryly.

Cultivation, cultivation—it seems that I need to focus on it after all.

Following this.

Lin Jing decided not to waste any more time and immediately began to sit in meditation for cultivation.

In the following days, Lin Jing stopped wandering around aimlessly.

He stayed home and cultivated earnestly.

Early this morning, Ning Yue and Wei Zhengqing took Luo Luo with them and left the house.

Lin Jing knew that today was the memorial day for Luo Luo’s father, and they were heading up the mountain outside the Fang Market to pay their respects.

Although Demonic Beasts were present outside the Fang Market, with both Wei Zhengqing and Ning Yue being at the Late Stage Qi Refining, there shouldn’t be any problems.

Even if he came across Demonic Beasts he couldn’t defeat, escaping was still not a problem.

As for Ning Yue, she still, as always, hid her true appearance, which made Lin Jing, who had seen her real face, somewhat unaccustomed.

Such an unparalleled beauty, yet forced to disguise herself every day, afraid to display her looks in front of others.

It showed the chaos of the Cultivation World.

Lin Jing was also alerted by this, realizing he must keep the fact that he could craft Pure Elixirs a secret from others.

If by accident someone discovered his high success rate in crafting Pure Elixirs, what awaited him would likely not be admiration, but captivity.

Then, he would become another's tool for Alchemy.

If he were even more careless and people found out about the System, the consequence, he need not think about it, was outright destruction.

In the room, Lin Jing was meditating and cultivating, condensing his Divine Sense.

Although Spiritual Energy was scarce here, it did not affect the cultivation of Divine Sense; there was no need for Lin Jing to enter the System Space to cultivate.

And so he continued, until night fell.

Lin Jing still seemingly unaware, was engrossed in his cultivation.

Suddenly, the system alert sounded.

"Warning! Someone has breached the perimeter. Host, please respond in time."

Lin Jing, who was meditating, instantly opened his eyes, sensing that two people had climbed over the wall and into his yard.

The perimeter he had set was based on the entire yard; as soon as any strangers broke into the yard, the system would sound an alert to notify Lin Jing.

"Enter System Space."

Lin Jing's first reaction was to duck into the safety of the System Space.

Putting aside the intentions of the two individuals in the yard, with Lin Jing's current level of cultivation, no matter who it was, he feared he would not be a match for them.

Therefore, ensuring his own safety was of utmost importance.

Besides, sneaking into someone else's yard by climbing the wall late at night, could it ever be for a good reason? "System."

“Activate Observation Mode.”

After taking refuge in the System Space, Lin Jing immediately activated Observation Mode, wanting to see who had suddenly broken into his home at this hour.

Just as Lin Jing entered the System Space, the two people in the yard were taken aback and stood still.

Zhang Lin was the first to speak:

“Big brother, what’s going on?”

“Just now I could still sense his presence, how did it suddenly disappear?”

“Could I have sensed it wrong? We’ve been watching all day, and he definitely hasn’t left the house.”

Zhang Sen stared intently at the house. No lights were on inside, it was pitch black. Moments before, just like Zhanz Lin, he had also felt Lin Jing’s presence suddenly vanish.

Then, he stretched out his hand to stop Zhang Lin, who was about to move forward, and whispered:

“Be careful, something’s off.”

Under Observation Mode, even though the two had taken some basic precautions to conceal themselves, Lin Jing could still make out their appearances.

“It’s actually those two, what are they trying to do?”

Lin Jing’s brows furrowed tightly, and a surge of anger rose from the bottom of his heart.

He didn’t recall offending them, and he had even helped them previously, paying off their debts.

And yet, in the blink of an eye, they had snuck into his home.

It seemed, one really couldn’t be too trusting of others.

Lin Jing kept his eyes fixed on the two, pondering. He still had one Five Thunder Talisman, but facing both of them at once, he probably wouldn’t succeed.

The two, due to Lin Jing’s sudden disappearance, were now very cautious, constantly on the alert.

If Lin Jing were to suddenly appear, chances were they would become even more vigilant, and even if he threw the Five Thunder Talisman...

With their current level of caution, it probably wouldn't have much of an effect.

"Could it be that I need to use Fixed Point Teleportation again?"

Chapter 35: The Night Raid on the Home

"Never mind."

"Let's see what exactly they intend to do first."

There weren't any valuables in Lin Jing's house; even the only valuable item, the Pill Furnace, was still kept in the System Space, so he just let them do as they pleased.

What was most important was to see their true purpose. If they posed a threat to him, then he must think of a way to remove them both. Thus, Lin Jing watched as two people barged into his house.

"Big brother, there's nobody here."

The intruder, Zhang Lin, quickly scanned the room and then spoke in a low voice.

Zhang Sen hurriedly said, "Never mind that now, quickly look for the Spirit

Stone."

Then the two of them began searching the house. Although it was night, their mid-stage Qi Refinement abilities meant that the darkness didn't affect them much.

Before long, the entire house had been turned upside down; clothes and miscellaneous items were scattered everywhere, the place was a complete mess.

"There's nothing..."

"Not even a Pill Furnace. How could this be?"

Zhang Lin looked at the disordered room, unable to believe his eyes.

Zhang Sen lowered his head in thought, then raised it and said to Zhang Lin,

"Let's go."

Yet, Zhang Lin was reluctant: "This can't be. How could there be nothing?"

"It's not that there is nothing; it's that he has everything on him. He has a Storage Bag, " said Zhang Sen with certainty.

"A Storage Bag...!" Zhang Lin exclaimed.

"Yes, indeed. I didn't expect him to hide it so well; I didn't see it coming. He's been on guard against us all along, keeping the fact that he owns a Storage Bag from us."

Zhang Sen's tone revealed a hint of helplessness.

"So we're just going to let it go?" asked Zhang Lin.

"What else can we do? He's been on guard against us, especially with what happened today, which is too strange. We clearly didn't see him leave the house, yet he isn't inside."

"It's very likely that he used some other method to deceive us, just like when we first came in. We clearly sensed his presence, but it suddenly disappeared."

Zhang Sen said this and looked around the room but didn't find anything unusual.

"Let's go; let's leave this place first."

"Let's go back. That widow Ning Yue could return at any moment, and we're not safe here."

"After we get back, keep an eye on this place. If the widow Ning Yue returns, we'll act as if nothing happened today and as though we don't know a thing."

"But..."

Zhang Sen looked out the window with a cold gaze:

"If Lin Jing comes back first, we don't have to hold back; just kill him directly. This kid is too secretive; I have a bad feeling about him. We can't let him live."

"You're right, big brother."

After Zhang Lin agreed, the two of them quickly climbed over the wall to leave.

Before leaving, they didn't forget to use a Spell to clean up any traces of their presence they had left behind.

After the two had gone,

Lin Jing also exited Observation Mode.

Inside the System Space, Lin Jing's brows were tightly furrowed as he contemplated his next move.

The danger hadn't passed yet; he couldn't leave the System Space just now.

"Those two have murderous intent against me; they definitely can't be spared," Lin Jing thought to himself. But as to how to eliminate them, that needed to be carefully considered.

In fact, Lin Jing could use either Ning Yue or Wei Zhengqing to dispose of them.

But that would leave many things unexplained.

For example, how would Lin Jing know their conspiracy and how did he know it was those two who had broken into his house?

After all, they had been quite thorough; they left no trace behind.

Lin Jing sighed:

"It looks like I'll have to do it myself after all."

Following that, Lin Jing didn't go out but started to cultivate directly inside the System Space.

Fortunately, with the time accumulation feature in place and having learned from past experiences, Lin Jing always reserved some time to enter the System Space.

It wasn't much, just twenty hours, but that was already enough to deal with the crisis Lin Jing was currently facing.

Moreover, Ning Yue and Wei Zhengqing were almost back. With both of them around, the brothers Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin wouldn't dare to cause trouble.

Soon, Lin Jing, who was cultivating in the System Space, was startled awake by an alert from the system.

"Alert! An intrusion has been detected within the Derimeter. Please respond promptly, Host."

Lin Jing entered Observation Mode directly and saw the people who had entered his yard.

It was Wei Zhengqing and Ning Yue, and Luo Luo was with them as well.

Wei Zhengqing walked into the house, his face ashen as he observed the disarray inside.

Following him into the house, Ning Yue also frowned at the mess.

Luo Luo, clutching Ning Yue's hand, expressed her concerns in a soft voice: "Mother, what's happened to Uncle Lin's home? Is he all right?"

"There is no smell of blood. It looks like a burglary, or perhaps a search for something."

"It is very likely that the thief came when Brother Lin was not home, otherwise, the house would not have been left in such chaos."

After observing the situation, Wei Zhengqing concluded.

"Lin Daoyou is usually very discreet and shouldn't have provoked anyone. From the looks of it, could it really be a case of burglary?"

After Ning Yue finished speaking, she comforted Luo Luo. "Don't worry, your Uncle Lin should be fine now." "Oh," Luo Luo replied.

Seeing this, Lin Jing exited Observation Mode.

"It's time to go out."

Now that Ning Yue and Wei Zhengqing had returned, his safety was assured; it was time to go back.

"System, activate Fixed Point Teleportation."

It had to be said that the Fixed Point Teleportation feature was indeed very handy.

Quickly, Lin Jing confirmed the teleportation location, spent a few Harvest Points, and teleported out.

The place he chose to teleport to was not far from home.

He quickly returned to his house, found his front door wide open, and, pretending to know nothing, he cried out in shock and rushed inside.

Inside the house, Ning Yue and Wei Zhengqing were cleaning up for him, and Luo Luo was also helping. "Fellow Ning, Brother Wei."

"What has happened here?"

Lin Jing asked, looking shocked.

“Uncle Lin, you’re back,” said Luo Luo as she ran over to him.

“Uncle Lin, did you know that there has been a thief in your house that made a mess of everything? We are helping you clean up,” Wei Zhengqing said as he addressed Lin Jing:

“Brother Lin, have you offended anyone recently?”

Lin Jing was taken aback and responded, “No, as you know, I rarely interact with others, let alone offend anyone.”

Wei Zhengqing nodded after hearing this.

“Then it must have been a burglary.”

“You are lucky not to have been inside; otherwise, you might have been in grave danger.”

“Such incidents, though not common around the outskirts of Fang Market, are not unheard of.”

Ning Yue also spoke up at this time:

“Fellow Lin, see if anything important is missing.”

Lin Jing reassured, “Fellow Ning need not worry, all my belongings are in the Storage Bag, there’s nothing valuable left around the house.”

“That’s good,” Ning Yue sighed in relief.

“It’s also fortunate you weren’t home, who knows what might have happened..”

Chapter 36: Prepare in Advance

After a few more words, seeing that the house was almost tidied up, the three of them left the place.

Before leaving, Wei Zhengqing also told Lin Jing that if he encountered any trouble, he could come to him at any time, as he would be at home for the next few days.

After seeing the three off, Lin Jing stood at the door and glanced across the street before closing the front door and returning inside.

Although it was pitch black across the street, Lin Jing knew that the Zhang brothers, Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, were definitely observing the situation from the shadows.

However, now with Ning Yue and Wei Zhengqing around, they dared not make any excessive moves.

“It seems that I will have to start preparing tomorrow.”

Early the next morning, Lin Jing left his house.

As soon as he stepped outside, he saw the Zhang brothers, Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, also emerging from their yard.

Zhang Sen, upon seeing Lin Jing, walked over with a smile as usual and greeted him.

“Brother Lin, what a coincidence! Are you also heading out?”

‘Yes.’

Lin Jing didn’t really want to bother with them and intended to leave after giving a brief response.

Seeing Lin Jing about to leave, Zhang Sen quickly stepped in front of him and asked with feigned concern:

“Brother Lin, you don’t seem to be in a good mood. Did something happen? Do you need our help?”

A corner of Lin Jing’s mouth twitched as he thought:

“Asking them for help would be like searching for death with a lantern in a toilet.’

Lin Jing had seen through their intent as they had come to probe for information.

With this understanding, Lin Jing immediately had a countermeasure and said with a sorrowful expression:

“Not to hide it from Brother Zhang, my house was robbed last night, so I’m not in the best of spirits.”

Zhang Sen exclaimed in surprise, then asked with feigned concern:

“Brother Lin, are you alright? Did you lose anything important?”

Lin Jing replied, “You’re too kind to worry, Brother Zhang. Luckily I had my Storage Bag with me, and all valuable items were inside it, so I didn’t lose anything.”

"I didn't expect Brother Lin to have a Storage Bag, that's fortunate indeed." Having said that, Zhang Sen advised:

"Brother Lin, the peripheral areas have been repeatedly attacked by Demonic Beasts lately, suffering heavy losses. Some people might take this opportunity to cause trouble; it would be better for you to be cautious."

"Of course, if you encounter such a situation again, just come directly to us. As neighbors, we can certainly lend a hand."

While talking, Zhang Sen turned his head to Zhang Lin and said:

"Don't you agree, little brother?"

"Yes, yes..."

Zhang Lin nodded in agreement.

"Then, thank you, Brothers Zhang. I still have some matters to take care of, so

I'll be leaving now." "Brothers Zhang, see you later."

"Safe travels, Brother Lin."

After finishing, Lin Jing turned and left, the corner of his mouth curling into a sneer.

"The bait has been cast, now let's see if you'll bite." After Lin Jing had gone, Zhang Lin spoke in a low voice:

"Big brother, he really has a Storage Bag, so what do we do..."

Zhang Sen glared at Zhang Lin and gestured for him to be silent before saying:

"Let's go, we'll head back home."

It was as if they had been waiting for Lin Jing; no sooner had they left the house than they returned.

Once back home, as soon as they entered the house, Zhang Sen scolded in a low voice:

"That Wei fellow and Ning Yue are still in their house, are you tired of living?"

"Sorry, big brother."

Zhang Lin hung his head low and hastily admitted his mistake.

Seeing Zhang Lin admit his mistake, Zhang Sen's expression softened considerably.

"Alright, be more careful next time."

After speaking, Zhang Sen went on to say, "That kid has a Storage Bag, we need to change our plan."

"What does big brother plan to do?" Zhang Lin asked in a low voice.

"If he has a Storage Bag, he will certainly carry it with him, which makes things much easier. I plan to quietly follow him when he goes out, and then look for an opportunity to make a move."

Zhang Lin's eyes lit up, rubbing his hands together in anticipation:

"Big brother, when will we make our move?"

Zhang Sen pondered for a moment and then said:

"It's not suitable to act during the day when there are too many people around.

We can only make our move at night."

"I've noticed before that Lin Jing has the habit of going out at night. We'll follow him after he leaves at night."

"Once we get to a deserted place, we'll directly strike and kill him, then snatch the Storage Bag and quickly withdraw."

"As long as we're careful, no one will discover that it was us who did it, and besides, Fang Market wouldn't bother with such affairs."

"Didn't an incident like this occur recently? In the end, the Fang Market just dealt with it carelessly, without even the slightest intention of searching for the murderer."

"Indeed. "

Zhang Lin echoed in agreement.

"I know about that incident too. They say it was a late-stage Qi Refining cultivator who died and that it was the work of a Foundation Establishment

Cultivator."

Zhang Sen continued:

“Keep a close watch on the opposite side these next few days. To avoid any complications, I plan to act in the next couple of days.”

Zhang Lin thumped his chest and said, “Big brother, rest assured, I will keep a tight watch on the opposite side and will not miss any slight disturbance.”

While the Zhang brothers were discussing their strategy, Lin Jing had already begun making preparations for what was to come.

Arriving at the Fang Market, Lin Jing headed directly for Yuebaolou.

Upon entering Yuebaolou, a maid came forward to greet him.

The welcoming maid was still one of these ordinary maids, all painstakingly selected to work at Yuebaolou, and quite good-looking.

Do not think of them as pitiable, as in fact, many people are very envious of them, especially during these times of Demonic Beasts rampages where many live in constant fear.

Yet, they did not have such worries.

Because they all lived within the Fang Market, such treatment made many people extremely jealous.

Besides, Lin Jing had also heard.

Among the maids, apart from them, some were raised from a young age by Yuebaolou, beauties with Spiritual Roots, specifically to serve the Offering Priests of Yuebaolou.

They say those people were even more beautiful than these maids. “Honorable Immortal, may I inquire what you need? I can guide you,” said the maid.

“No need, I’ll just look around by myself,” said Lin Jing.

“Very well, Immortal,” the maid replied and stepped back.

Having been to Yuebaolou many times before, Lin Jing was already familiar with the place and naturally did not need anyone else to show him around.

There was nothing Lin Jing needed on the first floor, so he went directly to the second floor.

As he arrived at the talisman counter on the second floor, the shopkeeper promptly greeted him:

“Fellow Daoist, what do you need?”

“I need a few Second Rank talismans,” Lin Jing said.

The Five Thunder Talisman that Lin Jingzhi had previously used was a Second Rank talisman, which only a Foundation Establishment Cultivator could make, and its power matched that of a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

First Rank talismans were now completely insufficient for Lin Jing’s needs.

Because in Fang Market there were many with higher cultivation than his, if he used First Rank talismans, they would likely be incapable of posing any threat to others.

So, being the target of someone’s attention, he should act decisively and use a Second Rank talisman to kill them, thus eliminating future troubles. The shopkeeper smiled and responded:

“Fellow Daoist, do you know what type of talisman you need? I can help you with that..”

Chapter 37 - 37 Purchasing Talismans, Going to the Black Market

Chapter 37: Purchasing Talismans, Going to the Black Market

“Shopkeeper, do you have any booklets specifically on talismans? I’d like to take a look,” Lin Jing said.

“Certainly, please wait a moment, fellow Taoist,” the shopkeeper responded.

With that, the shopkeeper took out a booklet from beneath the counter and handed it to Lin Jing.

Lin Jing took the booklet and began flipping through it.

It contained detailed records of various talismans, including their uses, power range, and various taboos associated with their use.

Lin Jing skipped over the First Rank talismans and went directly to the back to start with the various Second Rank talismans.

After a while, Lin Jing closed the booklet and handed it back to the shopkeeper.

Smiling, the shopkeeper asked, “Have you decided, fellow Taoist? Which talismans would you like?”

“Mm,” Lin Jing affirmed.

“Shopkeeper, I’ll take three Five Thunder Talismans, two Golden Body Talismans, and then one Invisibility Talisman.”

These were all carefully selected by Lin Jing.

The function of the Golden Body Talisman was to protect oneself for half an hour, able to withstand a full blow from a Foundation Establishment Cultivator.

Lin Jing bought them specifically to guard against unexpected situations, to be prepared for emergencies.

The Invisibility Talisman could hide oneself for half an hour, eluding the Divine Sense detection of those below the Foundation Establishment Stage. Needless to say, it was perfect for sneak attacks.

However, the Invisibility Talisman had one fatal flaw—you couldn’t move while invisible, as the airflow caused by movement could easily be detected.

Therefore, Lin Jing only took one.

As for the Five Thunder Talisman, there was no need for an explanation; Lin Jing had used it himself and its power was indeed extraordinary.

“Fellow Taoist,” the shopkeeper began, “I need to inform you that due to the recent upsurge of Demonic Beasts, talisman prices have risen. The ones you’re asking for aren’t cheap.”

“I’m aware of that,” Lin Jing nodded and said.

The shopkeeper nodded, took out several talismans, turned around, retrieved a wooden box from the shelf behind him, and neatly placed the talismans inside.

Turning back to Lin Jing, the shopkeeper said:

“Fellow Taoist, each Five Thunder Talisman and Golden Body Talisman costs

150 Lower Grade Spirit Stones. Since you want five in total, that will be 750 Lower Grade Spirit Stones. The Invisibility Talisman is a bit cheaper, at 100

Spirit Stones each.”

“Together, that will be a total of 850 Lower Grade Spirit Stones.”

As he spoke, the shopkeeper passed the wooden box over.

“Alright.”

Lin Jing received the wooden box, took out Spirit Stones from his Storage Bag, counted out 850, and handed them to the shopkeeper.

He had originally saved up 2000 Spirit Stones, and purchasing these few talismans had cost him nearly half.

Lin Jing couldn't help but lament, “Spirit Stones really don't last long when it comes to spending...”

Actually, the price of the talismans was quite reasonable, considering they were Second Rank talismans meant specifically for dealing with Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

Your average Qi Refinement Cultivator couldn't afford these, could they?

After buying the talismans, Lin Jing went to check out the Magical Treasure section of the market.

However, unfortunately, since his cultivation was too low, there were no suitable Magical Treasures for him.

Afterward, he took another lap around Fang Market before returning home.

Once home, to thank Wei Zhengqing and Ning Yue for their help the previous day, Lin Jing invited them over and prepared a big table of delicious food.

Of course, the little girl Luo Luo couldn't be left out.

During the meal, Wei Zhengqing told Lin Jing that in two days, he would take him to the black market.

After dinner, the three of them left, and after Lin Jing had put everything in order, he went to cultivate.

Soon, two days passed.

Early in the morning on this day, someone knocked on the door of Lin Jing's home.

When Lin Jing opened the door, to his surprise, it was Wei Zhengqing standing on the doorstep; Lin Jing quickly invited him in.

Lin Jing asked in confusion,

“Brother Wei, are we heading out now?”

“Brother Lin, there’s been a change in plans,” Wei Zhengqing said.

“Today, I need to go out and deal with some matters with a friend. It’s a bit dangerous, and it’s not convenient to bring you along.”

Lin Jing replied, “No problem, Brother Wei, you go ahead. The trip to the black market is not urgent; it can happen anytime.”

“No, you’ve misunderstood, ” Wei Zhengqing shook his head and said.

“We still need to go to the black market. After this, I may have to leave, and it might be a long time before I can return.”

“Tonight at Zi Time, go to Shiyu Alley and wait for me there. I will arrive before Zi Time and will take you into the black market with me.”

“You probably don’t know the way to Shiyu Alley, so here, take a look at this map. ”

With those words, Wei Zhengqing produced a map and handed it to Lin Jing.

“Uh... okay.”

Lin Jing was somewhat taken aback. Wei Zhengqing had not hemmed and hawed at all but had directly arranged everything.

“Right, there’s also...”

“This is a Godspeed Talisman and an Invisibility Talisman. It might not be safe going out at night. When you go out, use the talismans and try to avoid attracting other people’s attention.”

After presenting the two talismans, Wei Zhengqing immediately took out a purple talisman.

“A Teleportation Talisman!”

Lin Jing exclaimed in surprise.

“That’s right, it is indeed a Teleportation Talisman.” Wei Zhengqing nodded.

“Take it.”

Wei Zhengqing’s tone was firm and brooked no argument.

“Brother Wei, this...”

This Teleportation Talisman was also a Second Rank talisman, but its talismanic patterns were intricate and difficult to make, which made it quite valuable.

Furthermore, Yuebaolou sold it for 500 Spirit Stones each; Lin Jing had never been willing to buy one, and yet Wei Zhengqing had just given it to him.

Lin Jing never liked owing people favors. The Godspeed Talisman and the Invisibility Talisman were one thing — their value was not high, and he could easily compensate for them. But this Teleportation Talisman...

Lin Jing hesitated.

“Take it.” Wei Zhengqing said again.

“As a friend recognized by me, Wei Zhengqing, you shouldn’t have so many reservations.”

Lin Jing looked up, meeting Wei Zhengqing’s eyes, which were full of resolve, and then he stopped hesitating.

“Alright, Brother Wei. If that’s so, then I’ll accept it.”

“Mm...!” Wei Zhengqing nodded.

“This Teleportation Talisman can instantly transport you to any location within a kilometer when you’re in danger.” “It should be enough to escape from danger.”

“Thank you, Brother Wei. I understand,” Lin Jing said.

“Since we’ve agreed on that, I should be going now. Remember to be careful tonight.”

“I understand.”

Afterwards, Wei Zhengqing took his leave.

Once Wei Zhengqing had left, Lin Jing opened the map to memorize the location of Shiyu Alley, then started to cultivate in meditation.

He cultivated until evening, before he finally stopped.

During this time of cultivation, Lin Jing felt his Divine Sense becoming increasingly consolidated, and his control over the Controlling Fire Technique also improved over before.

He believed that it wouldn’t be long before he could break through again.

Looking outside through the window, Lin Jing saw the moon hanging above the treetops and figured it was about time.

After making some simple preparations, Lin Jing left his residence.

However, just after Lin Jing had gone out...

Across in the opposite courtyard, Zhang Lin hurried into the house.

"Big brother... Big brother..."

"He's left; he's gone out..."

Zhang Lin was visibly excited, speaking in a hushed tone.

Zhang Sen, who had been meditating, opened his eyes and looked toward Zhang Lin.

"Did he go out alone?"

"Don't worry, big brother. I saw it clear as day; it was just him alone."

"Big brother, shall we take action?" Zhang Lin asked.

Zhang Sen narrowed his eyes and said:

"Opportunity knocks but once. Let's go, we'll follow him.."

Chapter 38: The Zhang Family Brothers, Death

After leaving the house, Lin Jing always felt off, as if a pair of eyes was watching him.

However, Lin Jing didn't think too much of it and headed toward the street upon leaving the alley.

He had considered the possibility of Zhang Sen and his brother.

The reason he was so nonchalant was that he had long been prepared in the dark, ready to use talismans to eradicate the brothers should they dare to show up.

For this reason, he hadn't used the Godspeed Talisman or Invisibility Talisman given by Wei Zhengqing, using himself as bait to lure them into his trap.

Meanwhile, Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, the brothers, were secretly following Lin Jing, not daring to get too close and always trailing him from a distance.

“Big brother, when do we make our move?” Zhang Lin asked in a low voice.

Zhang Sen lowered his voice and said, “Not now, people pass by on the street at any time. We should quietly follow him, and make our move when we find a deserted place.”

And so, the two brothers secretly followed Lin Jing.

As they walked, they increasingly felt that something was wrong because Lin Jing was heading towards the outside of Fang Market.

“Big brother, something’s not right. It looks like he’s planning to leave Fang Market,” Zhang Lin observed.

“It’s so dangerous outside the city, is he seeking death?” Zhang Lin voiced his doubts.

Zhang Sen kept a close watch on Lin Jing, his killing intent barely hidden, and made a decisive call.

“No more waiting, we can’t afford to. Now that there’s no one around, let’s do it.”

As they spoke, they saw Lin Jing turn into an alley.

“Perfect chance! ”

“Let’s go, quick and decisive.”

After Zhang Sen finished speaking, he no longer concealed himself and charged forward.

But when the two rushed into the alley, they suddenly stopped in their tracks. Because the alley was empty, and Lin Jing was nowhere to be seen.

“Where did he go? We clearly saw him enter this alley.” Zhang Lin looked around but didn’t find anything.

“How could he have disappeared?” Zhang Lin said anxiously.

Zhang Sen, faced with the situation, also frowned deeply, becoming fully alert and wary.

“Are you looking for me?”

Suddenly, a voice came from behind the two.

The brothers hurriedly turned around, only to see the disappeared Lin Jing standing right behind them.

“You...”

Zhang Sen was first startled, then his killing intent erupted. But at that moment, Lin Jing uttered a single word.

“Explode!”

Immediately afterward, lightning spread, enveloping both Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin.

Zhang Sen was shocked, only then realizing what was happening.

“Five Thunder Talisman!! !

“No!!!”

Before he could react further, the lightning poured down, submerging the two brothers.

At this moment, Lin Jing watched the two within the lightning, expressionless.

He felt no sympathy for them.

The outcome was entirely a result of their own doing.

Under the Five Thunder Talisman, the two mid-stage Qi Refinement brothers had no chance to react before they were turned to ashes.

When the spell dissipated, the spot where the two had stood was left with nothing but a pile of black ash.

Lin Jing glanced at it, then turned and left.

He had sensed something was wrong soon after leaving his house, knowing these two were likely tracking him.

so,

Lin Jing had led them around in circles to this place; when their killing intent erupted, triggering the system warning, Lin Jing knew the time was right and entered this alley.

Closer to the corner, he had placed a Five Thunder Talisman in advance.

Lin Jing knew that upon seeing no one in the alley, they would surely hesitate, and then stop right there.

Meanwhile, Lin Jing had hidden himself inside the System Space.

Originally, he had considered using an Invisibility Talisman, but fearing it might not be secure enough, he eventually opted for the System Space.

What followed was the final scene.

Lin Jing emerged from the System Space, and without giving the two men time to react, he immediately detonated the Five Thunder Talisman, killing them both.

By the time Lin Jing reached Shi Yu Alley, it was already a quarter past Zi Time.

However, as soon as Lin Jing arrived, he saw Wei Zhengqing waiting there with a tower-like, muscular man beside him, displaying exaggerated muscles, giving off an impression that he could tear apart tigers and leopards barehanded.

Lin Jing came before Wei Zhengqing, apologizing with sincerity,

“Brother Wei, I’m sorry, I encountered some unexpected troubles on my way, which made you wait for quite a while.”

Wei Zhengqing stared at Lin Jing, sizing him up, then said bluntly,

“You’ve killed someone.”

Lin Jing paused for a moment, then inspected himself from head to toe and found nothing amiss.

The brawny man standing beside Wei Zhengqing, however, was amused by Lin Jing’s actions.

“Hahaha...”

“Stop looking, the killing aura hasn’t dissipated from you yet. It was through the aura that Old Wei deduced you’ve killed people.”

see.”

Lin Jing replied with an embarrassed smile before saying earnestly,

“I won’t lie to you, Brother Wei, I did just kill two people—Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, the Zhang brothers.”

“The Zhang brothers, if I remember correctly, they both had a mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivation, right?”

Upon learning that Lin Jing had killed Zhang Sen and Zhang Lin, Wei Zhengqing showed no particular reaction, as if their deaths were insignificant.

“My goodness...”

The iron tower-like muscular man exclaimed.

“I thought you were just a fledgling, but it turns out you’re quite ruthless.”

“Just a beginner in Qi Refinement, yet you’ve killed two mid-stage Qi Refining cultivators.’

“I’m really curious to know how you did it.”

Wei Zhengqing glanced at the muscular man and introduced Lin Jing,

“This is Yan Xiong, you can call him Big Black Bear or Big Bear. His cultivation is at the late-stage Qi Refining, same as mine. If I’m not around, you can go to him if you need anything.”

Yan Xiong scratched his head and said with an awkward smile, “Don’t listen to

Old Wei; just call me Old Yan.”

“To be honest with you both, I actually took advantage of a trick, which is this.”

As he spoke, Lin Jing took out a talisman from his Storage Bag.

“Five Thunder Talisman!”

The two immediately recognized the talisman upon seeing it.

“No wonder you were able to kill those two Qi Refining cultivators.”

After saying this, Yan Xiong expressed some regret,

“That’s a talisman that can threaten Foundation Establishment cultivators, yet It was used on two mid-stage Qi Refining cultivators.

“Tsk, tsk... what a waste...”

Wei Zhengqing countered, “There’s nothing wasteful about it. When one is in a perilous situation, any means used for self-preservation cannot be considered too extravagant.”

Yan Xiong did not dare to argue and muttered under his breath.

“Of course, I understand that; it’s just a shame about the talisman. If only you had let me handle it, crushing them would have been as easy as squashing chicks, and we could have saved that Five Thunder Talisman.”

“Were those two seeking to harm you?” Wei Zhengqing did not pay any more attention to Yan Xiong, instead, he turned to inquire from Lin Jing.

“Yes.” Lin Jing nodded.

“They had secretly followed me since I left my house, and later on, they even revealed their intent to kill me.”

“So, I decided to use their plan against them, leading them to a deserted alley and eliminated them with the Five Thunder Talisman.”

After explaining, Lin Jing added,

“Moreover, I found out that the theft in my house that day was committed by the two of them.”

After pondering for a while, Wei Zhengqing said,

“Some time ago, they owed a large amount of Spirit Stones to the Qianjin Pavilion, and they were under a lot of pressure to repay. During that time, you were consuming Superior Spirit Rice every day.” “Clearly, you were showing wealth inadvertently.” Lin Jing felt ashamed as it was indeed the case..

Chapter 39: Entering the Black Market

“Forget about them, let’s go,” Wei Zhengqing said.

After finishing his words, Wei Zhengqing and Yan Xiong walked forward, and Lin Jing immediately followed.

The three of them walked down the alley in silence, surrounded by a dead quiet with not a sound to be heard.

It was only the sound of their footsteps on the road that could be heard. Lin Jing turned his head to look around and realized that while there were many houses lining the alley, most of them were dilapidated.

Even though Shiyu Alley was on the edge of Fang Market, it was very strange to Lin Jing that there was not a single person in sight.

Seeing that Wei Zhengqing and Yan Xiong in front weren’t speaking, Lin Jing didn’t dare to inquire further and silently followed behind them.

After numerous twists and turns, they finally came to a courtyard door.

“Creak...”

Wei Zhengqing reached out to push open the courtyard door, which emitted a grating noise. This sound, in the silent night, sent shivers down one's spine.

Lin Jing followed the two men into the house.

Just upon entering the room, Lin Jing discovered that there was a formation inside.

“This Teleportation Array can only transport one person at a time. I'll go first, Brother Lin, you'll be second, and Yan Xiong will go last,”

Wei Zhengqing said to the two of them.

“Okay.”

“No problem.”

Both replied at the same time.

Wei Zhengqing then stepped forward, stood at the center of the Formation, and took out the Black Market Token, placing it into the groove in front of the Formation.

Immediately after, a bluish light flared up, enveloping Wei Zhengqing, and the entire Formation was activated in a flash.

The groove in front of the Formation lit up at that moment. The Black Market Token popped up, and Wei Zhengqing caught it and put it away.

At this point, the bluish light above the Formation didn't fade. Instead, it grew brighter and brighter, so dazzling that one couldn't keep their eyes open, and eventually, the light itself turned white.

Then there was a “whoosh” sound, and Wei Zhengqing disappeared in an instant. The light dissipated, and the Formation returned to calm.

“Little Lin, it's your turn. Don't worry, with me, Old Yan, covering for you,” said Yan Xiong with a grin.

“Thank you, Big Brother Yan.”

After speaking, Lin Jing walked to the center of the Formation, then mimicked Wei Zhengqing, placing the Black Market Token into the groove in front of the Formation.

Immediately after, the bluish light flared up again. Lin Jing put away the Black Market Token and stood quietly waiting. As the light grew increasingly brilliant, Lin Jing had no choice but to close his eyes against its glare.

Moments later, Lin Jing felt a lightness in his body, and when he opened his eyes again, he found himself in a grove of trees, with Wei Zhengqing standing in front of him, watching him.

Then, Lin Jing sensed that something was off; his Divine Sense seemed to be restrained and he couldn't use it at all.

Hurrying to Wei Zhengqing's side, Lin Jing asked, "Brother Wei, why can't I use my Divine Sense here?"

Wei Zhengqing nodded and replied:

"This place has a Formation that blocks Divine Sense. It was specially constructed by the owner of this black market. Even Golden Core Cultivators cannot use their Divine Sense here. The purpose is to protect the privacy of people who come to the black market to trade."

"That way, both parties to the trade can rest assured, without having to worry about their identity being exposed."

"I see," Lin Jing said, feeling relieved.

Soon after, Yan Xiong was also transported over.

Once the three had gathered, Wei Zhengqing took out three veiled hats.

"Here, wear these; that way, you won't have to worry about your identity being exposed."

"Alright."

Lin Jing took the hat, placed it on his head, and the black veil obscured his face, making it impossible to see the person's features from the outside.

Wei Zhengqing and Yan Xiong did the same, donning their hats, and then the three set off together, walking forward.

It wasn't long before Lin Jing saw a brightly lit area ahead.

As they approached, Lin Jing realized that this black market was actually a long street, with various stalls clustered on both sides, bustling with activity.

The trio arrived at the entrance of the black market, where several guards were stationed.

Seeing them approach, the leading guard stepped forward and said,

“Ten Lower Grade Spirit Stones per person.”

Without a word, Wei Zhengqing took out thirty Lower Grade Spirit Stones from his Storage Bag and handed them over.

The leading guard took the Spirit Stones and signaled to the others behind him. The guards blocking the entrance immediately stepped aside to open the way.

After entering the Fang Market, Lin Jing noticed that there were indeed a lot of people around, many of whom, like them, concealed their appearances with wide-brimmed hats or masks.

There were also some who wore nothing at all, exposing their faces openly as if they had no fear of being exposed.

Of course, whether they used any disguise techniques, Lin Jing did not know.

Just then, Wei Zhengqing turned to Lin Jing and said,

“Brother Lin, you browse around the market for now; Elder Yan and I have some matters to attend to. We’ll meet back here at the beginning of the hour of yin. Then we can leave together.”

“All right,” Lin Jing responded.

“Fighting is not allowed in the black market, or you will be killed on the spot.

Make sure to remember that.”

After saying this, Wei Zhengqing walked away with Yan Xiong.

After Wei Zhengqing left, Lin Jing began to wander around the market on his own.

After a while, he realized that not just anyone could set up a stall here; they all needed to pay the black market to be eligible to set up shop.

The stalls offered all sorts of items, from various Spirit Grass and ores to Cultivation Techniques and Magic Artifacts, everything was available.

Lin Jing even saw someone actually selling the Qingyuan Dao Method at one of the stalls.

This shocked Lin Jing immensely...

This was the proprietary cultivation method of the Qingyuan Sword Sect, yet someone was selling it. It seemed that the seller must have some connections with the Qingyuan Sword Sect; otherwise, they couldn't possibly have obtained this technique.

Indeed, this was the black market.

His interest piqued, since Lin Jing's own practice was the Qingyuan Dao Method, and he only knew the first three levels. The highest he could cultivate with it was to the peak of the Qi Refinement stage. To continue cultivating, he would need to switch to a different technique.

"How many levels does this technique consist of? And what's the price?" Lin Jing asked, pointing at the Qingyuan Dao Method on the stall.

The Qingyuan Dao Method had twelve levels in total, with every three levels corresponding to a realm, capable of cultivation up to the Nascent Soul Stage.

However, it was clear that the Qingyuan Dao Method on offer at this stall was not the complete version.

After all, access to levels beyond six was restricted to Elders of the Qingyuan Sword Sect or disciples who had made significant contributions to the Sect.

"The first six levels of the Qingyuan Dao Method, 3,000 Spirit Stones, non-negotiable," said the stall owner, who wore a mask with a green face and fangs, making it impossible to see his face, but his voice suggested he was not young.

The first six levels allowed one to cultivate up to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

The price of 3,000 Spirit Stones wasn't actually too expensive, but it wasn't worth the risk of being discovered by the Qingyuan Sword Sect.

Lin Jing shook his head and then left.

The stall owner didn't seem to care. After all, Cultivation Techniques, unlike other wares, were not so easy to sell.

After leaving the stall selling the Cultivation Technique, Lin Jing continued to browse for a while. During this time, he noticed that the black market was a diverse place, offering all sorts of items.

He even saw that some were openly selling female cultivators. It seemed that the people in the black market were accustomed to this and exhibited no reaction whatsoever.

Lin Jing was stunned by this; it seemed he had been too ignorant before.

As he walked on, a commotion suddenly arose up ahead.

Curious, Lin Jing followed the crowd forward, wanting to see what was happening.

Just then, he heard voices from ahead.

“Let’s go, someone ahead is selling Magical Treasures crafted by a Golden Core Cultivator, let’s check it out..”

Chapter 40: The Hidden Dragon Pendant of the Azure Moon

“Golden Core Magic Treasure?”

Lin Jing’s interest was piqued, and he followed the restless crowd moving forward.

Upon arriving at a stall, he found the area in front of it already packed with people.

Peering through the crowd, he could see an exquisite wooden box on the vendor’s table, containing a circular Jade Pendant emanating a hazy azure light as if trying to conceal the pendant itself. Next to the wooden box stood a sign that read:

[The Hidden Dragon Pendant of the Azure Moon]

A Golden Core Stage concealment Magical Treasure, capable of altering one’s appearance and aura. Its effect is extraordinary, able to deceive the Divine Sense of a Golden Core Stage Cultivator.

This Magical Treasure is for exchange only, not for sale. Required for the exchange: three Pure Clear Accumulation Elixirs, three Pure Foundation

Building Elixirs, plus ten Supreme Foundation Building Elixirs and twenty Supreme Gathering Yuan Pills.

At this moment, the crowd began to stir.

“God, has this person gone mad? To ask for so much, and all of it Pure Elixir Medicine.”

“Indeed, with so many Pure Elixirs needed, I fear the entire Fang Market couldn’t come up with that amount.”

“Isn’t that too expensive? All of those combined must be worth tens of thousands of Spirit Stones.”

“Don’t say that; this is a Magical Treasure crafted by a Golden Core Stage

Cultivator. Tens of thousands of Spirit Stones isn’t expensive, right?”

“Even if it is a Golden Core Magic Treasure, those Pure Elixirs... even with money, where would you go to buy them? They are simply unobtainable.” “Exactly, exactly.”

“I think so too. Tens of thousands of Spirit Stones might be manageable, but

Pure Elixirs, those you can’t necessarily buy even if you have the money.”

“Besides, this is just an auxiliary Magical Treasure for concealment, not an offensive or Defensive Magical Treasure. What’s the use of having it?” “Offensive Magical Treasures would likely cost much more than this.”

“Sigh...”

“Forget it, can’t afford it, can’t afford it.”

The onlookers, who were just there for the excitement, scattered all at once, and the previously congested stall was now much emptier.

Only a few people remained in front of the stall, evidently interested parties intent on acquiring the Magical Treasure.

Lin Jing also reached the front of the stall at this moment. The vendor wore a large bamboo hat, pulled down to cover his face thoroughly, likely to avoid recognition.

A young man was currently speaking with the vendor.

“Boss, I’ve calculated it for you, the items you’re asking for add up to about seventy thousand Spirit Stones.”

“How about this, I have one Pure Foundation Building Elixir here, and I will give you an additional seventy thousand Spirit Stones for your treasure. What do you think of this offer, Boss?”

After hearing this, the vendor shook his head and pointed to the sign, saying:

“I don’t want Spirit Stones, only Elixir Medicine. If you truly desire this Jade Pendant, you can collect them on your own, and then come to exchange with me.”

“Before this Jade Pendant is sold, I will be here periodically, until it is exchanged.”

The young man's expression turned somewhat unsightly.

"Boss, you are making this quite difficult. Other Elixirs are negotiable, but Pure Elixirs are all but impossible to gather in the entire Fang Market."

"How about this instead, one Pure Elixir equated to twenty of the same grade Supreme Elixirs, what do you say?"

"You must realize that the price of a Pure Elixir is almost equivalent to ten times that of a Supreme Elixir. I'm offering you twenty times the amount, which is like paying double the price. You would be making a huge profit from this."

The vendor shook his head again.

"Young Master, as you yourself have said before, Pure Elixirs are hard to find; their value cannot be compared with Supreme Elixirs."

"You really won't sell?" the young man asked coldly.

"I will not." The vendor continued to shake his head, his attitude quite resolute.

"Do you know who I am?"

The young man attempted to say more but was held back by someone at his side.

"Forget it, let's not buy it."

"This is the black market; don't stir up trouble."

Upon hearing this, the young man frowned, waved his hand dismissively, and left the place.

After this matter, the rest also understood that without Pure Elixir Medicine, the Magical Treasure could not be traded. Everyone felt a wave of regret before they all departed from this place.

At this time, only Lin Jing remained at the stall.

The stall owner looked at Lin Jing and asked, "Fellow Daoist, are you also interested in this Jade Pendant?"

"Yes," Lin Jing replied.

"I'd like to ask the owner how long you plan to sell here. I wish to collect Elixir Medicine to trade for your Jade Pendant."

The stall owner was taken aback, then regained his composure and extended two fingers, saying,

“Two years, I will be here for at most two years. After two years, whether you have collected the items or not, I will depart.”

“Good,” Lin Jing said.

“Within one year, I will have gathered all the Elixir Medicines.”

“Fellow Daoist, that’s a rather bold joke,” the stall owner’s tone dropped sharply, clearly suppressing anger.

It seemed he thought Lin Jing was playing him for a fool.

“I am not joking,” Lin Jing stated earnestly.

“Since you will not leave for the time being, why not wait and see? After all, you stand to lose nothing.”

“Could it be that you believe someone else could gather the items you require?”

The stall owner looked up at the person before him. By the sound of his voice, he was not old, but his tone was no less arrogant than that of the young man before—and even more presumptuous.

Yet upon hearing what he said, the stall owner began to hesitate again.

“Could it be that he speaks the truth? Can he really gather so many Pure Elixir Medicines within a year?”

After some thought, the stall owner finally made a decision.

“Alright, Fellow Daoist, I’ll take you at your word this once.”

“From now on, I will come to this black market every few days. I’ll be waiting for the year’s end,” he said.

Lin Jing responded, “Good, then I ask you to await the results, Fellow Daoist.”

One year was Lin Jing’s conservative estimate; within six months he should be able to reach the status of a Second-Grade Alchemist, directly capable of refining second-grade Elixir Medicines. Why would he need a year?

Nevertheless, it was best to allow some buffer time, just in case something unexpected occurred.

After leaving the stall selling the Jade Pendant Magical Treasure, Lin Jing took several more turns around the black market to get an understanding of some of the prices.

In the end, he found out that the prices inside the black market were two to three-tenths higher than the outside world.

After learning the ropes, he calculated that the time he had arranged to meet with Wei Zhengqing was nearly upon them.

Then, he returned to the location he and the others had initially agreed upon.

After waiting for about a quarter of an hour, Wei Zhengqing and Yan Xiong appeared.

After discussing for a while, the three decided to leave.

When departing, they were at the end of the street, where several

Teleportation Arrays were located.

Unlike the Teleportation Array they used to enter, these were random, transporting users to any location near Fang Market.

This arrangement also served as a precaution against those who specialized in killing and robbing others, proving to be exceedingly considerate.

Upon exiting, Lin Jing surveyed his surroundings; the place he had been transported to was at the edge of Fang Market—a stroke of very good luck.

When he got home, Wei Zhengqing had not yet returned. Perhaps he was teleported quite far, or perhaps he went straight to find Yan Xiong.

With his Late Stage Qi Refining cultivation, the likelihood of encountering danger was small.

Afterward, Lin Jing no longer concerned himself with this and settled his mind to begin meditating and cultivating.

Not until the next day's noon did Wei Zhengqing return, accompanied by Yan Xiong.

This time, Wei Zhengqing bid farewell to Lin Jing and Ning Yue, as he had to leave for a while.

He entrusted Lin Jing with the care of Luo Luo during those times when Ning Yue was too busy.

Lin Jing naturally agreed without hesitation.

Finally, after a meal together, Wei Zhengqing and Yan Xiong departed directly..