

Time 701

Chapter 701: Exchange

After hearing the Grand Elder's words, Little Black nodded his head seriously, before his voice sounded inside Shun Long's mind in the next moment

"Master, such a scene is actually uncommon even in the Immortal Dimension. Even if an expert who has comprehended a supreme Dao perishes during his breakthrough, it's actually quite rare for such a place to be formed.

It seems that when that person failed his Heavenly Tribulation, the laws inside that King's Palace were most likely affected, allowing cultivators to sense the existence of the Daos in that place with more ease. If master went to that place, master would probably be able to sense the existence of the Dao of Time and the Dao of Space in this mortal plane more easily!"

Although the Grand Elder and even the top experts of the cultivation world didn't know the reason behind the changes in the King's Palace, how could someone like Little Black who had spent tens of thousands of years in the Immortal Dimension not understand what was going on?

Little Black felt excited in his heart that Shun Long would be able to enter such a place that was considered to be rare even in the Immortal Dimension.

Nodding his head, Shun Long felt silent for a moment as he sunk in his thoughts, before he asked Little Black a moment later

"Little Black, do you have any immortal-grade cultivation techniques that are suitable for the Grand Elder like that 'Tree of Immortality'?"

Little Black sneered before he said in a disdainful tone

"Master, how could those techniques be considered immortal techniques? In the Immortal Dimension, only the poorest of people will cultivate using those techniques. Of course, I know quite a few ice-element techniques that would be suitable for this old man."

Little Black then closed his eyes, before he sent a stream of information towards Shun Long's mind.

At the same time, Shun Long didn't say anything about this to the Grand Elder right away, and after a moment of serious thought he then asked

"Then senior, what about the City of Immortals?"

Although Shun Long was more interested in the King's Palace that could allow him and Liu Mei and the rest to potentially breakthrough to the Dao King realm, considering how much importance the Grand Elder and the powerful ancient clans like the Bai clan attached to the City of Immortals, Shun Long understood that that place was most likely just as important as the King's Palace itself.

However, the Grand Elder simply shook his head and said in an uncertain tone

"Even I don't know too much about that place... Actually, the City of Immortals is an extremely mysterious city that appeared in our central region countless years ago, but it has only opened twice in the past.

It's a place that is filled with countless mysteries, along with extremely valuable treasures and dangers.

The previous 2 times that the City of Immortals opened was countless years ago, and it remained open for 10 years before it closed.

Nobody knows what those people experienced inside, but supposedly, one of the experts who entered inside the last time managed to find a treasure that allowed him to breakthrough to the Sovereign realm from the peak of the Dao King realm in less than 100 years!"

The Grand Elder's voice was filled with jealousy when he said the words 'Sovereign realm' while Shun Long and the others were all filled with shock as well.

Breaking through to the Sovereign realm from the peak of the Dao King in 100 years was practically unheard of.

The Grand Elder himself had spent nearly 100.000 stuck at the peak of the Dao Emperor realm and had yet to succeed, but someone had reached the Sovereign realm in just 100 years instead.

It was obvious that that person had consumed an extremely rare and valuable treasure.

After a moment of serious thought, a smile was soon formed on Shun Long's face as Shun Long looked at the Grand Elder and said

"Senior, do you want an immortal-grade cultivation technique?"

The courtyard instantly descended into silence while the previously calm and composed Grand Elder stared at Shun Long with wide-open eyes.

It wasn't just the Grand Elder, even Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian were all staring at Shun Long with disbelieving eyes.

Shun Long actually had an immortal-grade cultivation technique and he was willing to give it to someone else?

Although Jiang Chen had originally assumed that Shun Long may have ties to a powerful force from the Immortal Dimension that could even be similar to his mother's Yu family, Jiang Chen still believed that immortal-grade cultivation techniques were something that Shun Long wouldn't be able to pass to anyone else, even if he had one of them.

And yet, he had just offered to give one to the Grand Elder.

Actually, Shun Long had already asked Little Black for cultivation techniques for Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian as well, he just had yet to give it to them and was planning to do so after the Martial Roll of Honor tournament.

The Grand Elder looked at Shun Long with a disbelieving look on his face.

A moment later, the powerful peak Dao Emperor took a deep breath and asked solemnly

"Are you... serious?"

Shun Long nodded his head, before he took out an empty piece of paper from the 'Stone of Time' and started writing down something.

A few moments later, a detailed cultivation technique had appeared on the previously empty scroll.

Shun Long rolled the cultivation technique and showed half of it to the Grand Elder.

The Grand Elder's body instantly trembled when he read the first part of the cultivation technique, while his eyes stared fervently at the name of the cultivation technique at the top of the scroll, almost as if he was looking at a priceless treasure that he had been searching for, for his entire life.

"Immortal grade cultivation technique, Ice Kingdom!"

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, the Grand Elder barely managed to suppress some of his excitement before he looked at Shun Long's deep black eyes and asked solemnly

"Kid, tell me, what do you want in exchange for this?"

Chapter 702: The Grand Elder's offer

Even though the Grand Elder tried to calm himself down, he still couldn't stop the trembling in his voice from coming out as he said the last words, while his eyes were fervently staring at the scroll in Shun Long's hands.

The Grand Elder knew that since Shun Long had taken out this cultivation technique, it was very likely that he was willing to trade it with something elder

No matter what he wanted, the Grand Elder was willing to give it to Shun Long in exchange for this cultivation technique.

After all, the Grand Elder had been searching for an immortal-grade cultivation technique for far too long, and this Ice Kingdom was even an ice element cultivation technique.

Shun Long smiled as he looked at the Grand Elder and said calmly

"In that case, I hope that senior can help me with a few things. First, I hope that senior can allow Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen to the King's Palace along with us a year from now.

Secondly, I am in need of high-grade spirit stones. The more the better. I hope that these 2 requirements aren't too hard for senior."

The Grand Elder looked at Shun Long and nodded his head without any hesitation, as he waved his hand and said hurriedly

"The first requirement of yours is easy. Even if these kids haven't reached the peak of rank 9 of the Nascent Soul by then, I will still bring them along to the King's Palace. As for the second one..."

A somewhat troubled expression appeared on the Grand Elder's face in the next moment, before he took out a spatial ring from his white robes and handed it to Shun Long as he then said

"I only have 200.000 high-grade spirit stones. Although this may not be enough to trade for this immortal-grade cultivation technique of yours, you can consider it as me, Kang Wen, owing you a favor in the future."

Kang Wen stared at Shun Long solemnly as he said the last sentence, while in his heart, he was afraid that Shun Long would decline, which was why he added in the last thing in his offer.

A favor from a peak Dao Emperor realm expert who was on the cusp of breaking through to the Sovereign realm was no small thing.

Experts at the Grand Elder's level of cultivation would very rarely owe someone else a favor, let alone someone much younger and weaker than they were.

Even if Shun Long asked the Grand Elder something absurd, such as the eradication of the powerful family in the Holy sect's territory, or have the Grand Elder kill another Dao Emperor for him, as long as it wasn't something that would harm the Holy sect or it would bring certain death to the Grand Elder, then the Grand Elder would do his best to satisfy Shun Long's requirement.

After all, the Grand Elder knew, that a normal immortal low-grade cultivation technique could fetch up to 1 million high-grade spirit stones if it was sold in a high-grade auction in the central region where many peak powers would fervently compete for it, but the Grand Elder only had 200.000 high-grade spirit stones on him.

Of course, the Holy sect could take out 1 million high-grade spirit stones from its treasury under normal situations, but this time it was different.

The Grand Elder had already gone all-out previously, handing out 1.500.000 high-grade spirit stones in total to the disciples in the top 1000 in the Martial Roll of Honor, to help them increase their strength before the City of Immortals opened.

Thus, the Grand Elder knew that the finances of the Holy sect would be strained if he took out another million high-grade spirit stones in such a short amount of time.

Besides, this was a cultivation technique that the Grand Elder was planning to keep for himself, which was why the 200.000 spirit stones that he gave to Shun Long was what he had left in his possession right now.

Of course, earning high-grade spirit stones wasn't too hard for a peak Dao Emperor like the Grand Elder.

But 200.000 high-grade spirit stones wasn't a small sum even to him.

Shun Long thought seriously for a while, before a smile appeared on his face as he nodded his head towards the Grand Elder who heaved a sigh of relief.

200.000 high-grade spirit stones were equal to more than 200.000.000 middle-grade spirit stones.

Right now, Shun Long only had a little more than 2 million middle-grade spirit stones inside the 'Stone of Time', and he was uncertain if it would be enough until he reached the absolute peak of the Nascent Soul stage.

After all, not only did he have to reach the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, but Shun Long also knew that he would be spending an enormous amount of spirit stones to purify all 81 of his balls.

Relieved, the Grand Elder handed Shun Long the spatial ring in his hands that was filled with 200.000 high-grade spirit stones, before he received the scroll with the immortal-grade cultivation technique, the 'Ice Kingdom'!

Liu Mei and the others saw the Grand Elder tremble with excitement as he unfurled the scroll in his hands and took a look at the cultivation technique in front of him.

The more he read, the more excited the Grand Elder seemed to become, to the point that he could no longer sit still.

Turning his eyes away from the scroll, Kang Wen looked at Shun Long and said hurriedly

"Kid, I will take my leave now. Remember, that if you want to find me, you can use my personal token to come to the inner court. As long as you inject your qi inside it, you can come straight to my courtyard."

Waving his hand, the Grand Elder then opened a space tear, before he entered inside and disappeared from Shun Long's courtyard.

Shaking his head, Shun Long didn't pay any more attention to the Grand Elder who had already left his courtyard, as he turned around and looked at Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian, and said

"Jiang Chen, now it's your turn."

Chapter 703: Cultivation techniques

Jiang Chen looked at Shun Long confused, but Shun Long simply closed his eyes.

A moment later, Jiang Chen's expression changed as he sensed a stream of information entering his mind.

He knew that Shun Long was using his qi to transmit a cultivation technique to him which left him momentarily bewildered, before a crazy thought appeared in his mind a moment later

"Don't tell me that he has another immortal-grade cultivation technique!"

Indeed, this was the technique that Shun Long had asked Little Black to give him, one that was suited for Jiang Chen.

Shun Long didn't write things down on a scroll this time, but instead, he sent the cultivation technique directly into Jiang Chen's mind through his soul sense.

Shun Long knew that this cultivation technique that Little Black had chosen for Jiang Chen was named 'Darkness Veil'!

This cultivation technique was countless times more complicated than the immortal-grade cultivation technique that Shun Long had given to the Grand Elder.

These 2 techniques couldn't even be considered to be on the same level with each other, as the 'Darkness Veil' was leagues above the Grand Elder's 'Ice Kingdom'.

This was why Shun Long didn't write it down on a scroll, and instead, he chose to pass it mentally to Jiang Chen.

Even if he ignored how complicated this cultivation technique was, Shun Long knew that it would take far too long to record this cultivation technique down, and it would need more than a few dozen scrolls to do so.

The always impassive look on Jiang Chen's face had turned into a look of astonishment and disbelief as he learned more about this cultivation technique that Shun Long handed to him.

He could sense that not only was this 'Darkness Veil' a cultivation technique that was suited towards his Dao of Darkness and his Eternal Darkness unique physique extremely well, but Jiang Chen could even sense hints of the Demonic Dao coming from it as well.

This was a perfect cultivation technique for him, and its level was countless times higher than the Saint middle-grade cultivation technique that he was training in.

Suppressing his astonishment, Jiang Chen looked at Shun Long and said in a solemn tone that was filled with gratitude

"Brother, thank you..."

"There is no need for thanks between us."

Shun Long simply smiled and waved his hand before he turned his gaze towards Bai Longtian.

Bai Longtian could also guess what was going.

Indeed, a moment after recollecting himself, Shun Long closed his eyes before he sent his soul sense towards Bai Longtian's mind.

Naturally, Bai Longtian didn't put up any resistance either, allowing Shun Long's soul sense to enter his spiritual sea.

This was something extremely dangerous that most cultivators would never do. Only those who trusted another person fully in their hearts would allow that person to enter their spiritual sea without any resistance.

After all, someone who had entered another person's spiritual sea could easily destroy one's soul if that person didn't have his soul defense up.

Bai Longtian had closed his eyes just like Shun Long, but the look on his face was no different from the one that Jiang Chen had just now.

He could sense that the cultivation technique that Shun Long was transmitting to him through his soul sense was extremely profound, and was one that was perfectly suited towards him.

Shun Long knew that the name of this cultivation technique was 'Buddha's light'.

Little Black had already told him that this cultivation technique was perfect for cultivators who trained in the Dao of the Buddha, while those who had comprehended the Dao of Light were also suited to train in this cultivation technique. For Bai Longtian who also possessed the 'Golden Buddha unique physique', it was almost as if this cultivation technique was tailor-made for him.

Shun Long opened his eyes and looked at Bai Longtian, but a wave of exhaustion filled him a moment later, while even his face had turned slightly pale.

Transmitting 2 extremely high-grade cultivation techniques like this in a row was simply too taxing to Shun Long, while more than half of his spiritual strength had already been depleted.

Considering that Shun Long's spiritual strength was at the same level or it had even slightly exceeded the spiritual strength of peak Dao Kings, one could guess how difficult of a task this was.

After taking a deep breath, Shun Long looked at Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian and said seriously

"Jiang Chen, Longtian, don't let anyone know anything about these cultivation techniques."

Shun Long's tone was solemn as he said this.

After all, he had already heard from Little Black that these cultivation techniques were considered top-grade even in the Immortal Dimension, and were only slightly inferior to Liu Mei's 'Blood Absorption art'.

Even powerful clans in the Immortal Dimension would do anything to get their hands on such cultivation techniques, let alone the powers from the cultivation world.

Bai Longtian and Jiang Chen both nodded seriously.

They both understood how extraordinary these cultivation techniques were, but Shun Long's warning wasn't needed to begin with.

After all, none of them was planning to divulge this secret in the first place.

Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian both decided to leave a few moments later, to give Shun Long some time with Liu Mei and Xie Xingyi.

Everyone already knew how Xingyi had felt for Shun Long, and even Shun Long seemed to have accepted her, but due to the Martial Roll of Honor tournament, they never had any time for themselves.

None of the 2 girls spoke, as they allowed Shun Long to sit cross-legged on the ground as he replenished his spiritual strength.

An hour later, Shun Long opened his eyes and turned his gaze towards the beautiful blonde-haired young woman with the bright emerald eyes in front of him and said

"Xingyi, it's your turn."

Without waiting for Xingyi to speak, Shun Long closed his eyes and sent his soul sense inside her spiritual sea.

Chapter 704: Shun Long and Xingyi

Xingyi was stunned, but she still allowed Shun Long's soul sense to enter her spiritual space.

A moment later, an extremely powerful cultivation technique that was no weaker than that of Jiang Chen's and Bai Longtian's appeared inside Xingyi's mind as well, causing her stunningly beautiful face to be filled with surprise and shock.

The name of this technique was 'Hidden Shadows', and Xingyi could easily tell that this was a cultivation technique that far exceeded anything she had ever seen before.

Even the Saint low-grade cultivation techniques in the Barrier of Knowledge inside the Holy sect couldn't be compared with this technique at all.

A few moments later, Xingyi closed her eyes and sat cross-legged on the ground as well, as she started to absorb the knowledge of this cultivation technique.

She could clearly feel that this cultivation technique that Shun Long had just given her was perfectly suited for her Dao of Shadows and her Vanishing Shadows unique physique.

Shun Long closed his eyes and sat on the ground as well, as he replenished his spiritual strength.

Half an hour later, Xingyi opened her eyes and looked at Shun Long, before she said in a grateful, and even somewhat shy voice

"Brother Long... thank you."

Shun Long opened his eyes and looked at the beautiful blond-haired young woman in front of him, before he shook his head and said smilingly

"Xingyi, just like Jiang Chen and Longtian, you don't have to thank me. Besides, I have already told you that you are my woman now, so how could I go back on my word?"

Xie Xingyi blushed as she lowered her head slightly, while her stunning emerald eyes held a myriad of emotions inside them, as she darted them around, involuntarily avoiding Shun Long's gaze.

Her eyes were filled with joy, surprise, panic, fear, excitement, anticipation, and love. It was the bashful eyes of a kingdom-toppling beauty who was in love.

After all, which woman didn't want to hear such words from the person she was in love with?

Xingyi blushed and looked at Liu Mei from the corner of her eyes, before she said hesitantly

"Mei..."

Xingyi had always been on good terms with Liu Mei from the very beginning, but she didn't know how to face her right now.

And yet, as she turned around to look at Liu Mei, Xingyi was suddenly stunned while even her own gaze froze for a moment, when she saw the brilliant smile on Liu Mei's face.

It was the same soul-stirring smile that Liu Mei always had when she was alone with Shun Long, but this time, Liu Mei was looking at Xingyi instead.

Taking a step forward, Liu Mei appeared in front of Xingyi and looked her in the eyes without speaking, before she said calmly with that same soul-stirring smile on her face a moment later

"Xingyi, I wouldn't share Long-ge with anyone else, but if it's with you... then I think it should be fine."

Xingyi looked at Liu Mei stunned for a few moments, before an equally beautiful smile blossomed on her face as well as she whispered softly

"Mei... thank you."

Shun Long's lips curved up, as he stepped forward and placing his arm around Liu Mei's small waist, pulling her into a hug.

Surprisingly, Liu Mei wasn't ashamed that Xingyi was right in front of them, as she gave Shun Long a kiss that was full of love, making Xingyi's ears heat up and turn red.

Shun Long was surprised, but tasting the sweet scent coming from Liu Mei's mouth made his body heat up even more, as he placed his right hand on Liu Mei's butt and his left hand on her right breast.

At that moment, even Liu Mei herself felt somewhat abashed, as she took a step backward while panting for breath.

Looking at Shun Long with her starry-like black eyes, Liu Mei first calmed herself down before she darted a glance at Xie Xingyi who was standing next to her and said a moment later

"Long-ge should take Xingyi first. Since it's Xingyi's first time with you, I will wait here this time."

At that moment, Xingyi raised her head to look at Liu Mei and then Shun Long who was right in front of her, before her face that had already started to blush previously turned even redder.

She understood what Liu Mei meant, and although she was already prepared mentally, she couldn't help but feel her heart speeding up, as it started to beat more wildly.

Turning around, Shun Long didn't notice Xingyi's ever-increasing heartbeat, but he could see the look in her eyes that was filled with love, fear, and some anticipation.

Taking a step forward, Shun Long tasted the sweet scent from Liu Mei's rosy red lips once again, before he looked at Xingyi who had her head lowered and grabbed her hand, as he whispered in her ear

"Xingyi, are you ready?"

"Mm."

Xingyi raised her head and looked at Shun Long with her reddened face, before she nodded slightly as she let out a muffled sound of acknowledgment.

Shun Long smiled as he swept her off her feet and flew towards the main room.

Inside the room, Shun Long placed Xingyi on the bed, before he lowered himself to have a taste of her lips as well.

He could sense that Xingyi's lips had a different taste from Liu Mei's, and yet their sweet scent was just as intoxicating as Liu Mei's.

Shun Long could feel that Xingyi had no prior experience with this, as her mouth was closed tightly in the beginning, but as he led her around using his tongue, Xingyi began to respond to him soon after.

Shun Long could see that Xingyi's enchanting green eyes seemed to have been spellbound at this moment, as an expression of unrestrained love and ecstasy filled her face.

With his own chest pressing on hers, Shun Long could clearly feel Xingyi's beating heart that was beating even faster than his own.

Stretching out both of his hands, Shun Long parted Xingyi's robes open revealing her flawless body, before he placed his right hand on her left breast and her pink-colored nipple that was already hard.

Xingyi's entire body suddenly shivered, while an indescribable sensation that she had never felt before, filled her body from head to toe.

It was almost as if Shun Long's touch was electrifying.

And yet not only did Shun Long not stop, but his right hand even started to fondle her breast as he kept tasting the sweet nectar from her mouth, while his left hand slowly moved downwards towards her undergarment.

As soon as his hand reached inside her undergarment and touched Xingyi's private place, Shun Long could feel a wet sensation on his fingers, while Xingyi opened her mouth as she let out a gasp.

Shun Long could feel her irregular, hot breath, while her entire body was trembling from his touch.

His hand touched her secret place for a few moments before his finger entered inside Xingyi's body.

A wet and yet tight sensation gripped Shun Long's finger, while the sound of water drops splashing could be heard throughout the entire room.

Soon, it wasn't just Xingyi, but Shun Long who could no longer restrain himself either.

Removing his robes and throwing them to the side, Shun Long placed his hard and erect dragon that was on the verge of exploding, right in front of Xingyi's entrance.

Slowly pushing it inside, Shun Long's body soon connected with Xingyi's.

At this moment, Shun Long could feel a gripping sensation on his lower body as well, while the expression on Xingyi's face was filled with love and satisfaction, as she looked at him with her stunning emerald eyes.

A few moments later, Shun Long after he made sure that Xingyi was alright, Shun Long no longer held back as he moved his body back and forth without stop.

Shun Long's ragged breaths and Xingyi's moans filled the room in the next few moments, along with the sound of Shun Long's body connecting with Xingyi's own over and over again.

During this time, Xingyi could also feel a nourishing energy coming from Shun Long's body and enter inside her, while Shun Long could also feel the same.

This was the dual cultivation technique that Shun Long had gotten from Cui Guoliang's treasury, back in the Vermilion realm.

Although Shun Long understood by now that this was only a common dual cultivation technique, this cultivation technique could also benefit Xingyi as well.

It was only 3 hours later that the sounds of moans and hard breaths coming from the room finally stopped, as Xingyi's body collapsed on Shun Long's while gasping for breath herself.

Shun Long could see the lovestruck look on Xingyi's face that was filled with tenderness and affection, even though her energy was spent and she was all out of breath.

A few moments later, a peerlessly beautiful yellow-robed young woman entered the room as well, her stunning black eyes staring at Shun Long and Xingyi, before Liu Mei stepped towards the bed.

Soon, a year had gone by since the day the Martial Roll of Honor tournament had ended.

Chapter 705: One year

At the west of the Holy sect was a large number of courtyards that weren't protected by any defensive formations that most courtyards in the Holy sect had.

It almost looked like any outer disciple could just barge in, and claim one of these courtyards for themselves if they wanted to.

Additionally, the qi inside each of these courtyards was much purer than the qi inside the normal courtyards of the Holy sect.

And yet, no normal outer disciple would dare to enter those courtyards without permission.

After all, this was the place where the top 100 factions of the Holy sect fought.

Every single one of the top 100 factions 'owned' one of these courtyards that spanned for more than a mile in radius, and considered it their own territory.

If a faction below the top 100 wanted to stay in one of the courtyards, they could only do so by challenging one of the top 100 factions for their 'territory'.

In the end, this challenge was nothing more than simply attacking that faction.

Whether they sneak attacked that top 100 faction when night had fallen or not, it didn't matter.

After all, the battles between the top 100 factions took place inside their own territories.

As long as the enemy faction leader was captured or he was forced to retreat from his territory, then that was when the faction war ended.

Once the attacking faction won, they could replace the enemy faction in the top 100 rankings, and even obtain their territory.

Naturally, the battles between the top 100 factions were much crueler than the normal, predetermined battles inside the arena.

The top 100 factions needed to have one eye open at all times, to be wary of an enemy faction's sneak attack.

Inside one of these courtyards, in a building that had more than 10 large rooms, Xingyi was sitting cross-legged on a meditative cushion with her eyes closed, while shadows had sprung from the ground and had nearly covered her entire body.

It was almost as if those shadows were madly absorbing the qi in the air around her, sending it straight towards her dantian.

A few moments later, Xingyi let out a breath that was filled with foul qi, while the shadows around her soon dispersed into nothingness before she slowly opened her eyes.

Surprisingly, the aura around Xingyi seemed to have reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul already!

Opening her eyes, Xingyi looked at Liu Mei who was sitting on the bed with her eyes closed, while a dense medicinal fragrance was coming from her body.

Almost as if sensing Xingyi's gaze land on her, Liu Mei opened her eyes, before she asked with a smile on her face

"Xingyi, you reached the peak of rank 9?"

Nodding her head, Xingyi smiled somewhat proudly as she answered

"Mmm! It's impossible for me to absorb any more qi in my dantian right now. Unless I breakthrough into the Dao King realm, it will be impossible for me to do so. Mei, what about you?"

Liu Mei shook her head as she looked at Xingyi and replied

"Although my cultivation is already at the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, my soul still needs a few more days to reach that level as well.

I wonder if Long-ge is done by now..."

As she finished speaking, Liu Mei's eyes darted towards a certain meditative cushion that was now empty.

Xingyi turned to look at the cushion as well, before she said somewhat worriedly

"There is less than a week left until we leave for the King's Palace."

In the past year, Xingyi and Liu Mei had become even closer than real sisters.

Naturally, Xingyi had also learned about Shun Long disappearing every time he entered seclusion to cultivate.

However, there was now less than a week left until the time that the Grand Elder had set for Shun Long and the rest to prepare themselves for the King's Palace.

In this past year, it wasn't just Xingyi and Liu Mei who had reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, but Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian as well.

Liu Mei was actually the first one, while Xingyi was actually the slowest.

Jiang Chen had entered the peak of the Nascent Soul a month ago, while Bai Longtian reached it just 2 weeks ago.

Of course, under normal circumstances, it was impossible to reach the peak of the Nascent Soul in just a year.

Even the Grand Elder didn't favor Liu Mei's and the rest's chances to reach the peak of the Nascent Soul so quickly, unless they happened to consume some kind of miraculous pill.

After all, the later stages of the Nascent Soul were much more difficult to reach than the early stages.

In the Grand Elder's eyes, it was one thing for one of them to find some kind of miraculous pill that could boost them all the way to the peak of the Nascent Soul within a year, but could all 5 of them do so?

He knew that the chances of something like that happening were extremely unlikely.

And yet, the Grand Elder didn't completely dismiss this possibility either.

Whether it was the immortal-grade cultivation technique or the heavenly wine that he had gotten from Shun Long, the Grand Elder had come to understand that Shun Long had many secrets of his own.

Even if he had 5 pills that could allow him, and Liu Mei and the rest to all reach the peak of the Nascent Soul, the Grand Elder could still accept it in his heart.

However, although Shun Long did indeed have the ability to refine another pill that could forcefully bring his cultivation, as well as Jiang Chen's and the rest's all the way to the peak of the Nascent Soul, he didn't refine that pill.

After all, Shun Long understood, that since both he and Liu Mei had already consumed a top-grade rank 5 'Barrier piercing pill' to breakthrough to the late-stages of the Nascent Soul, while Xingyi, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen had consumed 2 of them, if they didn't increase their cultivation naturally this time and increased it forcefully through the consumption of pills, they could have latent problems in the future in their cultivation.

Besides, Shun Long knew that there was no reason for him to refine that pill in the first place.

After all, there was another way for Bai Longtian and the rest to reach the peak of the Nascent Soul within a year, and it was a way that no other faction in the entirety of the Holy sect could do!

Chapter 706: One year (2)

Shun Long's way involved the 'immortal-grade' cultivation techniques that Shun Long had given to Bai Longtian and the rest.

Of course, Liu Mei herself had no need to absorb qi, and she could naturally reach the peak of the Nascent Soul just by killing other cultivators and absorbing their energy.

However, Liu Mei had also found out that she couldn't do that too recklessly, or the negative effects of the 'Blood Absorption art' would probably start affecting her.

Thankfully, Shun Long was already prepared about this and wasn't planning to let Liu Mei be affected by the Blood Absorption art.

The melodious sound of a guqin would often fill the room, immediately expelling any negative emotions that tried to bubble inside Liu Mei along with the blood energy that she had absorbed and slowly influence her personality.

With Shun Long's guqin and as long as Liu Mei didn't go overboard, the 'Blood Absorption art' was a miraculous cultivation technique with no drawbacks!

As for Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian, now that they all had unique immortal-grade cultivation techniques as well, reaching the peak of the Nascent Soul within a single year wasn't an issue for them.

But Shun Long knew that just that by itself wasn't going to be enough.

He knew that even if he, and Jiang Chen and the rest, all reached the peak of the Nascent Soul within the next year, they would still be unable to breakthrough to the Dao King realm even if they went to the King's Palace with the Grand Elder.

After all, there were 3 things that one had to fulfill before even thinking of breaking through to become a Dao King.

Not only did a person's cultivation needed to reach the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, but their comprehension of their Dao as well, along with the quality of their soul had to have reached that level.

Shun Long knew that even if they all reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul within a year, in reality, they had simply been cultivating for far too short of a duration.

Compared to the other outer court disciples of the Holy sect, Shun Long, Jiang Chen, and the rest, were all simply too young.

There was no way that the quality of their souls would reach the peak of the Nascent Soul within a single year.

Even if they were given 10 years, it would still be unlikely that they would reach that level by themselves.

However, Shun Long knew that there was a way to solve this issue.

There was a specific rank 5 medicinal herb that he needed to refine a rare rank 5 pill, called the 'Soul Purifying flower'.

Although Shun Long had plenty of rank 5 medicinal herbs inside his herb garden, he had yet to find even a single rank 5 'Soul Purifying flower' that he needed in order to refine the 'Soul Purifying pill'.

He knew that practically every rank 5 medicinal herb that could affect a cultivator's soul was considered extremely rare even in the central region, and would be sought after by other Nascent Soul stage cultivators.

Even if a 'Soul Purifying flower' appeared, it would only be found in a few auctions throughout the Holy sect's territory, and other Nascent Soul stage cultivators would do anything they could to get their hands on it, even if it meant paying exorbitant prices for it.

Although Shun Long was confident that he could easily win an auction to obtain the flower, since he didn't lack spirit stones at this point, the issue was that even if he attended an auction, it would be up to luck whether he could really find a 'Soul purifying flower'.

As for the Night star continent, he was uncertain if any 'Soul Purifying flowers' even existed in that place.

But there was one place that Shun Long knew that he could probably find the 'Soul Purifying flower' in... the Golden Treasures Hall.

Since the Holy sect was the overlord of the region it governed, it was extremely likely that it would have at least one 'Soul Purifying flower' inside the Golden Treasures Hall.

After all, it was just a rank 5 medicinal herb.

Dao Kings had no use for such a medicinal herb.

Of course, although the 'Soul Purifying flower' was just a rank 5 medicinal herb, it was still considered to be an extremely rare rank 5 herb that even exceeded some rank 6 medicinal herbs in rarity alone.

Even if the Holy sect had any 'Soul Purifying flowers', they wouldn't put them on the first floor of the Golden Treasures Hall, but on the second floor instead.

Previously, Shun Long couldn't enter the second floor since he wasn't ranked in the top 1000 of the Martial Roll of Honor nor did he belong to any of the top 100 factions.

But after entering the top 600 in the Martial Roll of Honor, he had naturally gained access to the second floor and could purchase the items there.

Indeed, on the second floor of the Golden Treasures Hall there was a pair of 'Soul Purifying flowers' that outer court disciples could exchange their sect points for, but a single flower costed 50.000 sect points!

This price was almost as much as Shun Long's 'Silverbark guqin' and it had already exceeded even the price of some rank 6 medicinal herbs.

And yet, Shun Long still bought it without any hesitation.

To others, a single rank 5 'Soul Purifying flower' may not have been worth the price of 50.000 sect points, aside from those few outer court disciples who had already reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul but were still slightly lacking in the purity of their soul.

But to Shun Long, this flower was extremely important.

Besides, this was only the first part of Shun Long's plan.

After using his sect points to exchange for a 'Soul Purifying flower', Shun Long left the Golden Treasures Hall, as he headed straight towards the west of the Holy sect, towards a certain courtyard that belonged to one of the top 100 factions.

Chapter 707: One Year (3)

After the Martial Roll of Honor tournament ended, Shun Long was confident that his faction could easily replace one of the top 100 factions.

After all, most of the faction leaders of the factions that were ranked in the lower half of the top 100, were either middle rank 9 or peak rank 9 Nascent Soul stage cultivators at best.

With Shun Long's own strength, only the top Nascent Soul stage outer disciples that were just half a step away from breaking through to the Dao King realm could pose some trouble to him.

Indeed, after challenging the faction that was ranked 80th, Shun Long and the rest took over their territory quite easily.

Becoming one of the top 100 factions was the final thing that Shun Long needed for his plan.

Naturally, Shun Long had a reason for choosing to occupy the territory of one of the top 100 factions.

Under normal circumstances, he wouldn't have bothered with something like this, especially when the top 100 factions could be challenged by other factions at any time, which could interrupt Liu Mei's and the rest's cultivation.

After all, it wasn't uncommon for other factions to sneak attack the top factions during night in order to gain an advantage.

However, Shun Long still decided to do so despite these drawbacks, and the reason behind that were the formations that were engraved within the top 100 courtyards.

Every courtyard in the Holy sect contained certain formations that could absorb spirit stones and extract their energy, before they filled the air in the courtyard with pure qi.

Shun Long knew that this function of those formations was similar to the way his 'Heaven Swallowing vine' worked, but naturally, the effect of those formations couldn't compare to the effect of the vine at all.

Still, this was much more efficient than cultivating by one's own self.

As for the courtyards that the top 100 factions occupied, they were rumored to have much better formations compared to the normal courtyards like the one that Shun Long stayed in.

These top 100 courtyards were said to be at the same level as the courtyards of the inner court Elders.

Shun Long knew that in his own courtyard, if he wished to do so, he could add more middle-grade spirit stones into the refining formation so that the qi in the air around his courtyard would be even denser, but it was impossible to add any high-grade spirit stones.

The refining formation of the normal courtyards wasn't strong enough to refine any high-grade spirit stones.

But the courtyards of the top 100 factions were different!

They could easily refine hundreds of high-grade spirit stones in a single day and increase the cultivation speed of those disciples.

If one had enough high-grade spirit stones, they could even cultivate like the inner court Elders did.

After obtaining 200,000 high-grade spirit stones from the Grand Elder, Shun Long had more than enough spirit stones for his own cultivation and could easily afford to fuel an entire courtyard with high-grade spirit stones.

Thus, Shun Long had already decided to let everyone cultivate inside this courtyard, while consuming 'Soul Purifying pills' that would bring the purity of their soul to the peak of the Nascent Soul stage.

Although 'Soul Purifying pills' were considered to be extremely rare rank 5 pills, Shun Long knew that it wasn't too hard to concoct them.

The most difficult part was finding the 'Soul Purifying flowers' themselves, which wasn't an issue for Shun Long with the god-like abilities of his herb garden.

Of course, there was only a year left until the opening of the King's Palace, and Shun Long knew that even with the 'Soul Purifying pills', if Xingyi and the rest had to split their focus and try to reach the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul in both their cultivation bases and the purity of their souls, 1 year wouldn't have been enough under normal circumstances.

However, if their courtyard was filled with the pure qi from the high-grade spirit stones, then things would be completely different.

Cultivating inside this courtyard was even better than cultivating inside the courtyards of the inner court Elders.

After all, although the inner court Elders would often allow their disciples to cultivate inside their courtyards, in reality, the Elders themselves would absorb more than 90% of the qi in their courtyards, leaving only the rest for their disciples.

This was only natural since Dao Emperors needed much more qi for their own cultivation, and there couldn't possibly be enough for their own disciples as well.

But the courtyards of the top 100 factions were different.

Cultivating inside these courtyards and absorbing the qi from the high-grade spirit stones directly was much faster than cultivating inside the courtyard of an inner court Elder.

Like this, a year had passed, and indeed, after consuming hundreds of top-grade rank 5 'Soul Purifying pills', Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian had already reached the peak of the Nascent Soul stage in terms of their quality of the soul, while their cultivation bases had also reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul.

As for Liu Mei, she still needed a few more days until her soul reached the peak of the Nascent Soul stage as well.

Time continued to pass, and 3 days later, Liu Mei's soul finally reached the pinnacle of the Nascent Soul stage as well, but Shun Long had yet to return to the room.

Inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long was still sitting cross-legged on his usual seat with his eyes closed, looking like he had completely forgotten about the passage of time, as he kept absorbing the pure qi around him to purify his qi balls.

81 silver-colored balls of qi were hovering in the air above his head, like the stars that illuminated the night sky.

Most of the qi balls were shining with the same bright silver light, but some of them were slightly dimmer than the others, showing that they hadn't been completely purified.

An enormous vine was eating the small mound of high-grade spirit stones that were placed in front of Shun Long without any signs of stopping, turning it into pure qi that filled Shun Long's surroundings.

The Heaven Swallowing vine had been doing this for almost 10 years, consuming tens of thousands of high-grade spirit stones, and by now, its surface seemed to have changed slightly as well.

1 more month passed like this, before Shun Long's eyes finally opened.

Chapter 708: Breakthrough

As he opened his eyes, Shun Long looked at the 81 silver-colored qi balls that were hovering above his head, all of which were shining with the same silver light, before he exhaled out a breath of foul qi.

At this moment, Shun Long had not only reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, but he had also purified all 81 of his qi balls, while the quality of his soul had also reached the absolute peak of the Nascent Soul stage as well.

During this time, a full year had passed in the outside world, but almost 10 years had gone by inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

In these past 10 years that he had spent in seclusion, Shun Long had not only reached the peak of the Nascent Soul in just his qi cultivation, but he had also consumed nearly a thousand top-grade 'Dragonblood tempering pills' before he reached the peak of the fifth stage in his 'Monarch's Eternal body'.

Although he had yet to test out his strength, Shun Long believed that even an early rank 6 magic beast wouldn't be a match for him right now.

Taking a look at the black dragon who was joyfully drinking an entire barrel of wine, as well as Little Silver who was sleeping soundly, Shun Long closed his eyes as he imagined himself leaving the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

In these past 10 years, Shun Long very rarely left his own room, while he didn't step out of the Holy sect even once.

The only times he left his room were only when he had to visit the Golden Treasures Hall to buy some things.

A year ago, Shun Long had purchased the magic beast cores of a few peak rank 6 wind element magic beasts from the Golden Treasures Hall, the same element as Little Silver.

After letting Little Silver consume a handful of those beast cores, Shun Long saw the black panther that had been stuck in the middle of rank 6 finally breakthrough once again, and a month later, it had become a peak rank 6 magic beast.

This was the only way that Little Silver could breakthrough even further and surpass its natural limits... to consume the beast cores of even stronger magic beasts of the same element.

A moment later, Shun Long's surroundings changed as he appeared back in his room, before Liu Mei's and Xingyi's voices entered his ears in the next moment

"Long-ge!"

"Brother Long..."

Shun Long had a warm look in his eyes as he looked at the joyful and relieved looks on the Liu Mei's and Xingyi's faces, before he pulled them into a hug.

It wasn't surprising that the 2 girls would be relieved once they saw Shun Long.

After all, there was less than a day left until the Elders of the Holy sect left for the King's Palace.

Although the Grand Elder had promised that he would take Shun Long and the others to the King's Palace, if Shun Long didn't show up in time, the Grand Elder would come searching for him.

Seeing that both Liu Mei and Xingyi had reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul in both their qi cultivation and the quality of their soul, Shun Long's lips curved up as he led the 2 girls out of the room.

Shun Long had actually formed the 81st ball of qi and had reached the peak of the Nascent Soul just 4 months after the Martial Roll of Honor tournament ended.

Of course, these 4 months were equivalent to nearly 4 years inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

However, reaching the peak of the Nascent Soul in terms of the quality of his soul was almost just as hard, if not even harder.

Shun Long had to refine thousands of top-grade 'Soul Purifying pills' to bring his soul to the peak of the Nascent Soul as well.

This process by itself took 5 full years!

The easiest part was actually purifying his qi balls, and bringing all of them at the same level as the 81st ball of qi, but even then, Shun Long had spent another year and had only finished just now.

However, at this moment, with his 81 purified balls of qi, his peak fifth stage 'Monarch's Eternal body', and the quality of his soul that was at the peak of the Nascent Soul, Shun Long was confident that his strength had reached the absolute pinnacle of the Nascent Soul stage.

Normal rank 1 Dao Kings couldn't possibly stand in front of him, while even rank 2 Dao Kings would be defeated almost effortlessly.

Even if he had to take on another blow from Dong Ai's elder brother, Dong Cheng, who was ranked 6th in the Martial Roll of Honor, it wasn't certain if Shun Long would be the one on the losing side this time!

Since there was less than a day left until the appointed time with the Grand Elder, Shun Long left his room with Liu Mei and Xingyi in tow, to meet up with Bai Longtian and Jiang Chen as well.

Jiang Chen had reached the peak of the Nascent Soul a month ago, in both his qi cultivation and his body refinement.

The only way to become stronger was to increase his comprehension in his Demonic Dao or his Dao of Darkness even further, and breakthrough to become a Dao King.

However, it wasn't that easy to become a Dao King.

Aside from Yang Hui and Qiao Min who were ranked 1st and 2nd in the Martial Roll of Honor respectively, and had both reached the Dao King realm before the age of 100, practically every single other outer court disciple in the Holy sect that had reached the Dao King realm had taken at least 150 years to do so.

Even Yang Hui had only managed to reach the Dao King realm after he had received the full support of his Yang family and he had entered the King's Palace himself nearly 10 years ago.

As for Qiao Min, it was only thanks to her Blackwater unique physique that had let her reach the Dao King realm so quickly.

However, although others didn't know about it, Shun Long already knew that Qiao Min's unique physique would only allow her to reach the Dao King realm.

Her cultivation speed would no longer be as fast as it was in the past.

Whether she could breakthrough to the Dao Emperor realm, that would be up to her.

Chapter 709: Invitations

Bai Longtian and Jiang Chen were both waiting in the courtyard outside for Shun Long to finish his seclusion.

Bai Longtian was sitting cross-legged with his eyes closed, while a golden light had covered his entire body, while Jiang Chen's body was emitting a dark, demonic aura that he didn't bother suppressing.

Bai Longtian had also reached the peak rank 9 in the Nascent Soul as well, while his body refinement cultivation had also reached the peak of the fifth stage.

After consuming nearly 300 top-grade 'Dragonblood tempering pills', it wasn't hard for Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian to breakthrough again in their body refinement.

At the same time that Shun Long opened the door of his room, Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian both opened their eyes and stopped their cultivation, before Bai Longtian said warmly

"Brother Shun, it seems you have finished your seclusion as well!"

Since Shun Long wasn't hiding his aura, Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian could also sense, just like Liu Mei and Xingyi did, that Shun Long had already reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul as well.

Nodding his head, Shun Long looked at Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian and said

"Since everyone is ready, let's go to the inner court."

Taking out the Grand Elder's golden-colored token, Shun Long injected his qi inside it, before he led Liu Mei and the rest towards the inner court.

A thin, invisible line of qi appeared from the Grand Elder's token the moment that Shun Long sent his qi inside it, showing the way to the Grand Elder's residence directly.

The Enforcement Hall disciples in front of the inner court's entrance recognized the token in Shun Long's hands and didn't bar him from entering inside it.

Of course, even if they didn't recognize the Grand Elder's token, there were very few outer court disciples who wouldn't recognize Shun Long within the Holy sect any longer.

In the last year, after the Martial Roll of Honor tournament ended, even the powerful families and clans around the Holy sect's territory had started to pay attention to Shun Long.

A genius who had comprehended 2 supreme Daos and was even rumored to have an immortal-grade bloodline?

Such a person even had the potential to surpass even Yang Hui, the person ranked 1st in the Martial Roll of Honor, the greatest genius of the Yang clan who was born with the 'Fire Qilin's' eyes!

After word got out, many of the patriarchs and the clan leaders of the powerful families and clans had decided to do everything in their power to rope Shun Long into their clans.

Even the patriarchs of the 2 strongest clans within the Holy sect's territory, the Yang and the Qiao clans were no different, as they ordered their disciples and their descendants to convey their goodwill and invite Shun Long for a meeting.

Unfortunately for them, Shun Long was in seclusion, and Jiang Chen and the rest would mercilessly refuse anyone who wanted to meet Shun Long, no matter who it was.

Even when the person ranked 2nd in the Martial Roll of Honor, the blue-haired goddess, Qiao Min herself arrived to have a chat with Shun Long a month ago, she was mercilessly rejected by Jiang Chen without a second thought.

Although dissatisfied, Qiao Min still left without raising a fuss.

After all, she had here to invite Shun Long, not to stir up trouble because she wasn't given any face.

Surprisingly, it wasn't just Shun Long himself who received offers from those powerful clans, but Bai Longtian and the rest as well.

In the beginning, Bai Longtian and the others who had come from the Night star continent, were considered to be nothing more than country bumpkins.

However, after the Martial Roll of Honor, nobody dared to belittle them anymore.

Even those powerful families and clans decided to extend an invitation to them.

Everyone understood that it was only a matter of time before Shun Long's faction rose to the very top of the entire outer sect.

Some people even believed, that by the time that Shun Long broke through to become an early rank 1 Dao King, he would even be able to enter the top 10 in the Martial Roll of Honor directly.

Although many people snorted when they heard this while some even scorned the people who had made those claims, in the past 1 year, Shun Long's fame had even surpassed that of Qiao Min's in the outer court of the Holy sect, and was only below Yang Hui's.

Since Yang Hui left the Holy sect to follow the 'princess' of the Bai clan inside the City of Immortals, many people claimed that it was only a matter of time until he became a Sovereign realm expert!

Although the Holy sect was either excited or worried about the emergence of a possible Sovereign realm expert and the Yang clan's rise, Shun Long and the rest hadn't been paying any attention to any of that.

After entering the inner court, Shun Long and the rest walked for almost an hour, before they arrived in front of a large courtyard that had its gates wide-open.

Seeing that this was the Grand Elder's residence according to the golden-colored token in his hands, Shun Long's group walked past the enormous wooden gates as they entered the courtyard.

As soon as they stepped foot inside the courtyard, Shun Long, Jiang Chen and the rest could all feel the tens of gazes that were focused on them, almost as if they had become the center of attention.

10 outer court disciples dressed in yellow robes could be seen sitting on the ground, all of them turning their attention towards this group of newcomers with shock in their eyes.

At the same time, a group of disciples that were dressed in blue robes seemed to have been surprised as well, as they turned to look at Shun Long's group with questioning gazes.

It was common knowledge that only 10 outer court disciples and 10 inner court disciples would enter the King's Palace every time it opened, and there had never been any exceptions!

Chapter 710: Leaving the Holy sect

"Let's go."

Shun Long ignored the curious gazes of the disciples around him, as he led Liu Mei and the rest to sit towards an empty spot in the courtyard.

No matter what, since the Grand Elder had promised that he would take them to the King's Palace, this was something for the Grand Elder himself to solve.

Of course, only the 10 strongest outer court disciples who had yet to breakthrough to the Dao King realm would be allowed to enter the King's Palace in the past, but this didn't matter to Shun Long.

The Grand Elder had already promised that he would let them all enter the King's Palace, but even if that couldn't be done, Shun Long was still confident that everyone from his group could easily enter the top 10 among the other outer court disciples.

At the same time, as he looked around him, Shun Long could see the wariness and shock in the eyes of some of the 10 yellow-robed outer court disciples.

After all, everyone could now sense that Shun Long and the rest had already reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul!

"How is this possible? Weren't they all just rank 7 Nascent Soul rookies, just a year ago?! How can they reach the peak of rank 9 in just one year?"

"As long as they are not here for the King's Palace, it will be fine."

Many of those disciples didn't hide their hostility as they stared at Shun Long and his group.

Naturally, none of them was willing to give up their spot to enter the King's Palace!

And yet, although they were clearly hostile, all 10 of them were somewhat wary of the young man who was leading this group.

They all knew that a year ago, Shun Long was already strong enough to defeat Qiu Yun who was a peak rank 9 Nascent Soul stage beast tamer, while Shun Long's own cultivation was only at the middle of rank 7 in the Nascent Soul back then.

Now that he had broken through to the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, none of them knew how strong Shun Long really was, but none of them felt confident fighting against him!

Even Jiang Chen and the others were monsters of their own!

"Hah, I wonder if those brats will have to compete with each other for these 10 spots! This will be interesting!"

One of the blue-robed young men said as he looked at the scene in front of him with an amused look on his face.

At the same time, Shun Long also looked at those 10 blue-robed young men and women.

In the Holy sect, only the inner court disciples would wear blue-colored sect robes.

It was unknown if it was intentional or not, but barely half an hour had passed since Shun Long's group had arrived, before a group of 10 white-robed Elders appeared in the sky above the Grand Elder's courtyard.

Every single one of these white-robed Elders was emitting the aura of a Dao Emperor, making it obvious that they were all inner-court Elders.

At the same time that those Elders arrived, a gigantic bird that resembled an eagle blotted out the sky above the courtyard, as it attracted everyone's attention.

Shun Long could see an old man with long white hair standing on the eagle's back, looking at the disciples in the courtyard below him with an amiable smile on his face.

"Greetings to the Grand Elder!" The 10 blue-robed inner court disciples called out simultaneously, as they bowed towards the Grand Elder on the giant eagle's back.

The Grand Elder waved his hand, indicating that there was no need for them to stand on ceremony, as the giant bird descended on the courtyard below.

With just a glance, Shun Long could immediately recognize the magic beast that the Grand Elder was riding on.

It was an early rank 7 'Darkness Eagle'.

It was a relatively powerful flying magic beast, that very few other early rank 7 magic beasts could harm.

After all, the 'Darkness Eagle's' defense was ranked at the top among early rank 7 magic beasts, while its flying speed was even comparable to some of the weaker middle rank 7 magic beasts.

Although it wasn't comparable to a peak rank 7 magic beast like the 'Hellfire crow' which Bai Liuxian had been riding on when she came to the Holy sect a year ago, it was still a rare early rank 7 magic beast that could easily kill most early-stage Dao Emperors without much trouble.

The Grand Elder's eyes scanned the disciples around him, before his gaze landed on Shun Long's group.

The shocked expression on his face soon turned into a brilliant smile as he said in a voice full of praise

"Brats, you really managed to reach the peak of the Nascent Soul in just a year! Hahaha! This old man is really surprised."

Shun Long smiled as he looked at the Grand Elder but he didn't offer any explanation.

He knew that the Grand Elder would most likely come to the conclusion that they had consumed some rare pills to do so, but Shun Long didn't mind.

It was only natural to come to this conclusion, since, even with an immortal-grade cultivation technique like the 'Ice Kingdom' that Shun Long had given to the Grand Elder, it would still be impossible to advance so rapidly in just a single year.

As the Darkness Eagle landed on the courtyard, the Grand Elder looked around him, before his gaze landed on the 10 inner court Elders in the sky, as he said calmly

"Since everyone is here, let's leave now. There isn't much time until the opening of the King's Palace!"

As he finished speaking, the Grand Elder patted the Darkness Eagle's back, making the enormous magic beast spread its wings.

The eagle's size was more than enough for 50 people to sit comfortably on it.

And yet, the inner court Elders in the sky seemed somewhat hesitant as they looked at Shun Long's group, before one of them looked at the Grand Elder and said

"Grand Elder, this..."

"Hmm?" The Grand Elder frowned as he looked at the old man who had just spoken, before he seemed to have realized what was going on.

Waving his hand, the Grand Elder then answered

"Don't worry. I personally invited those kids. Each of you will take care of a single outer court disciple and one inner court disciple. As for those 5, I will take care of them myself!"

The old man who had just spoken was shocked when he heard this, as he looked at the Grand Elder and asked in a voice filled with surprise

"What? Grand Elder, you are also coming with us?"

Among the Elders in the sky, this old man was among the highest in seniority, only second to Xingyi's master, Mao Jing!

However, Mao Jing wouldn't question why Shun Long's group was here in the first place.

Any hatred that she had for Shun Long for beating up her personal disciple outside of the Refinement Hall had long since vanished the moment she learned that the Grand Elder intended to take Shun Long as his personal disciple.

Mao Jing had seen the Grand Elder handing his personal token to Shun Long and understood immediately that Shun Long was being viewed extremely favorably by the Grand Elder.

The Grand Elder nodded his head in response, before the inner court Elders all sat on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back one by one, no longer questioning the Grand Elder's decision.

The Grand Elder patted the spot next to him and looked at Shun Long and the rest, indicating for them to come sit next to him.

Looks of jealousy could be seen on the faces of the inner court disciples as they stared at Shun Long's group, before they sat on top of the eagle as well.

A few moments later, once everyone had sat on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back, a yellow-robed young woman asked in a curious voice

"Grand Elder, are we going to fly all the way to the King's Palace? I heard that the King's Palace is close to the center of the central region."

The Grand Elder smiled and shook his head, before he answered with a slight smile

"Fly there? Even with this 'Darkness Eagle', it would still take more than a year for us to reach the King's Palace this way!"

As soon as the Grand Elder finished speaking, his entire courtyard started to tremble, almost as if an earthquake had suddenly hit it, before countless runes and patterns started to emerge from the ground beneath the 'Darkness Eagle's' feet.

In the blink of an eye, those runes and patterns had covered the entire courtyard, making the courtyard resemble a single, enormous formation.

A moment later, Shun Long's body suddenly shuddered as he could sense the space in front of him ripple violently, looking like it was about to be torn apart.

At the same time, the power from the mysterious formation below the 'Darkness Eagle' seemed to have come together, tearing open a gigantic space tear more than 300 meters long.

The enormous space tear appeared right in front of the 'Darkness Eagle', instantly swallowing the early rank 7 magic beast whole.

In the next moment, Shun Long could feel the familiar feeling of spatial fluctuations enveloping his body, before his figure disappeared from the Grand Elder's courtyard.