

## A Demoness 131

### Chapter 131: Who's Ugly?

Jiang Hao followed behind Hong Yuye and arrived at the sixth floor.

Along the way, he felt somewhat sentimental,

He was always taught to keep a low profile when being away from home. However, those people downstairs didn't understand that simple principle. They booked the entire inn and made it inconvenient for the others. When people travel far and wide and finally arrive at a place only to be denied a place to stay even after paying properly, they are bound to feel resentful. There were many demonic sects in the vicinity. Why were they deliberately trying to invite trouble?

Jiang Hao hadn't kept a low profile for himself along the way either. However, if he hadn't done anything, Hong Yuye would have. That would have turned significantly disastrous.

"Senior, can I ask you a question?" Jiang Hao asked.

At this moment, Hong Yuye was sitting by the window, watching the setting sun on the horizon.

After brewing tea, Jiang Hao poured her a cup. "Others see you in a different light... I wonder if they see me the same way?"

This question piqued Hong Yuye's interest. She looked at Jiang Hao. "Might be, except... you're a bit ugly."

Jiang Hao didn't understand what Hong Yuye meant, but he didn't dare to ask further. One small misstep could result in crashing into a wall.

After drinking some tea, Hong Yuye turned to him. "Stay here for the next few days and try to find clues about the third tablet. Find a way to contact others who possess the tablets. I've already taught you how to use the tablets." Jiang Hao nodded.

Hong Yuye didn't set a time limit, but he had a time limit of his own. Four or five days had passed out of the three months. There was still time.

Back in his room, Jiang Hao took out the two stone tablets. He tried to sense the presence of other tablets but found nothing. These people had the ability to block the search for the tablets. He had no intention of blocking them. It would be better if they came looking for him. However, if he wanted them to find him, Jiang Hao needed to leave the inn. They wouldn't be able to sense his location when he was with Hong Yuye.

Jiang Hao used Daily Appraisal on the first tablet.

[Secret Message Tablet: A Dharma Treasure refined for the purpose of seeking worldly treasures. Approaching significant treasures will alert the owner of the treasure. The tablets can communicate with each other and search for locations. Three tablets combined to form one entity, and nine tablets combined to form another, each granting different permissions. This tablet has been influenced by Hong Yuye, making it impossible for the owner of the treasure to perceive nearby treasures or exert influence.]

Jiang Hao was somewhat surprised. The owner behind this tablet was actually searching for treasures. Had he already become involved in hunting whatever treasure the person was looking for?

He didn't know about such matters, but the last sentence put his mind at ease. This tablet was currently safe. However, the fact that the tablets could be combined into three or nine pieces meant that there were at least nine secret language tablets.

"Is three months enough time to find them all?"

If he obtained another tablet, he could combine them. There was still hope.

"I just don't know if the owner of the treasure is the person Hong Yuye is looking for," Jiang Hao couldn't figure it out. Perhaps someone had acquired the treasure and then dispersed the tablets to achieve their goal.

For a moment, Jiang Hao wondered if the person behind the tablet had offended Hong Yuye somehow, or if Hong Yuye wanted to snatch the treasure for herself.

He recalled the second time he had met Hong Yuye. She had said that she wanted the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower because she liked it.

Now, seeing that the secret language tablet could be used to find treasures, it was not surprising for her to want it.

Jiang Hao couldn't understand. All of this was unrelated to him, so he didn't dwell much on it. He needed to find Zuo Lan as soon as possible and find the next stone tablet. He had to return to the sect within three months.

"The wine shop owner mentioned a market. It might be a market for cultivators. I'll go out and have a look tomorrow. I can sell the pills I have on me. If there's time, I can also look around. Maybe I'll be able to find..."

He wanted to find his stepmother and his father. If they weren't in this city, he would forget about them for good. However, if they were here, there was no harm in looking for them. After making up his mind, he took out the storage treasures he had picked up from the shop today. There were a total of two hundred spirit stones. Those people had been poor like him too.

In addition to the spirit stones, there were also some pills. They were all ordinary ones. He found some Healing Talismans as well. Each Healing Talisman could be sold for fifty or sixty spirit stones. If he managed to sell everything he had, he might be able to obtain over ten thousand spirit stones this time. The Red Azure Tea was costly. He still needed to save some spirit stones after buying that tea. Jiang Hao opened his attribute panel.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 22]

[Cultivation: Peak Stage of the Golden Core Realm]

[Cultivation Method: Heavenly Sound Hundred Revolutions, Hong Meng Heart

Sutra]

[Divine Ability: Nine Revolutions Death Substitution (unique), Daily Appraisal,

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit]

[Lifeblood: 24/100 (can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 26/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Divine Ability: 0/3 (cannot be obtained)]

‘My lifeblood and cultivation haven’t changed after I traveled out of the sect...

it’s truly difficult to find bubbles outside. It’s so difficult to find a place to mine or raise spirit herbs. Maybe I can kill some beasts...’

He had made a significant improvement when it came to the state of his mind, though. He checked his abilities. Except for the Clear and Pure Heart ability, which was taking a long time to recover, others were fine.

Jiang Hao had three choices now. He could either cultivate, study the nameless manual, or learn the third form from the Seven Forms of Heavenly Blade.

After hesitating a little, he chose to study the nameless manual. He had just advanced a few days earlier, so it was difficult for him to make progress. He had very little understanding of the third form of the Heavenly Blade, and it would take him a long time to understand it. On the other hand, he had been studying the nameless manual for a while now and had made some progress on that front.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao put away the nameless manual and walked out of his room. He looked around and finally headed to a room on the third floor.

He knocked on the door.

The door slowly opened. A young woman was on the other side. When she recognized Jiang Hao, she was terrified.

"This is the room fee for today." Jiang Hao took out two silver coins. "Can I see the person inside?"

He was looking for the person he had injured. The opponent from yesterday was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm and was stronger than most. Jiang Hao had thought the person might be staying on the sixth floor, but it seemed they were staying on the third floor.

Jiang Hao placed the silver coins in the hands of the young woman and walked in. The middle-aged man was lying on the bed, recovering from his injuries. When he saw Jiang Hao, he was on guard. He half expected Jiang Hao to attack again.

"Senior..."

"Don't worry. I'm just here to ask a few questions, that's all," said Jiang Hao gently..

Chapter 132: The Demoness Is In My Room

Jiang Hao's arrival made Chen Quan terrified.

In his family, he was the most powerful one. This time, he received news that a sect's expert had come to Heavenly Earth City.

In order to meet them, he had deliberately booked the whole inn.

However, before they arrived, he had to encounter a terrifying cultivator. It was just his rotten luck.

Chen Quan had even gotten severely injured in the fight. This was definitely a

Golden Core Realm cultivator.

It was said that powerful people were often temperamental. He hadn't believed it. He thought that powerful people were always intelligent.

But now...

He finally understood why powerful individuals were often unpredictable.

Only weaklings needed to flatter the stronger ones. A powerful person just needed one strike to put an end to everything.

"S-Senior, what do you wish to ask?" Chen Quan struggled to stand up.

Even if severely injured, he had to stand up to show respect. While facing such a powerful cultivator, he couldn't just choose to lie down in bed.

At this moment, a woman came over to support him.

Jiang Hao was somewhat surprised by his actions, but he didn't say anything. He was weaker than many others in his own sect. The same was true in various major sects.

Only after venturing out of the sect did he realize that being in the Golden Core Realm was indeed considered formidable.

Except for a few major sects, those in the Primordial Spirit Realm were rarely seen outside.

If everything went well, he could smoothly advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm in one year. He could do it by the time he turned twenty-three, or twenty-four at most.

It was unbelievable. Jiang Hao was a little worried about advancing to the Primordial Spirit Realm at such a young age.

He was concerned that he wouldn't be able to control his arrogance and that might lead to too many troubles.

The disadvantage of being strong was that it bred arrogance and recklessness. He might end up underestimating others in his pride. Jiang Hao looked at the man who had managed to get up.

"What is your name?"

"I am Chen Quan. I offended you yesterday. Please forgive me, Senior." Chen Quan bowed respectfully.

"Junior Brother Chen, is there a cultivator's market in Heavenly Earth City?" asked Jiang Hao.

"Yes, it's located in a forest to the west of the city. There is a formation barrier there. The market only opens once a month. The next opening would be... tomorrow," said Chen Quan.

Jiang Hao nodded. "Who is the strongest in Heavenly Earth City?"

"Heavenly Earth City has two cultivation families. The strongest are the heads of these two families. Both are at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm." "Are there any spirit mines nearby?" Jiang Hao asked.

"I heard there is one in Luo Yuan City." Chen Quan thought for a moment. "But it's quite far from Heavenly Earth City."

Jiang Hao nodded and didn't ask anything further. He thanked the man and stood up to leave. The people inside the room were relieved.

At the entrance of the inn, Jiang Hao extended his senses outward and began examining the terrain.

Soon, he walked slowly along the streets.

Along the way, he heard many vendors shouting and advertising their wares.

When he came across a stall selling roasted chicken, he stopped and looked at the crispy and tender chicken on display. It reminded him of the past.

He must have seen something like this before but couldn't afford to eat it.

After standing there for a moment, he continued on. He didn't need to eat it to reminisce about the past.

He later arrived in the residential area of the city. He walked along the houses and the surrounding streets.

Jiang Hao observed the people around him as he walked.

As evening approached, he returned somewhat regretfully to the Cloud Inn.

Jiang Hao had sensed nothing. "Perhaps it's not in this city," he muttered.

He then returned to his room. He decided to check out the market that opened tomorrow.

Jiang Hao had strolled through the area and sensed a formation in place. As soon as he opened the door to his room, he saw Hong Yuye sitting on a chair in his room.

"Senior... why are you here?" he asked in surprise.

Hong Yuye glanced at him, and a terrifying power emerged.



Bang!

Jiang Hao crashed heavily into the wall.

The sudden attack caught Jiang Hao off guard. He hadn't done anything wrong.

"You look confused." Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao, who got up from the floor.

"How long do you think a pot of tea can be enjoyed?"

Jiang Hao was stunned. In Fallen City, Hong Yuye had stayed in her own room, so he hadn't disturbed her. He had thought it would be the same now.

He remembered that Hong Yuye was studying the stone tablets in Fallen City.

However, they hadn't found a third tablet yet.

She was so powerful. She could very well make her own tea!

Jiang Hao didn't say that out loud. He could only lower his head and admit his mistake.

"It's getting dark," Lan Jin complained while looking at the sky. "It's a pity we were delayed by that monster!"

"The appearance of such a powerful monster nearby is obviously unnatural. It seems that Heavenly Earth City has become much more dangerous lately." Bai Qiong sighed.

Their group could have reached Heavenly Earth City the day before yesterday.

“We gained quite a lot of good things by killing the monster, but I wonder if it will alert others,” Fang Jin said as he walked ahead.

They were on the main road, with the Cloud Inn up ahead. They intended to stay the night there.

“Have the Senior Uncles arrived yet?” Bai Qiong asked.

“Not yet. It seems they were intercepted by the Heavenly Saint Sect.” Fang Jin shook his head.

“Not yet. It seems they were intercepted by the Heavenly Saint Sect.” Fang Jin shook his head.

Just hearing that name gave them a headache. It wasn't that the Heavenly Saint Sect was particularly powerful. Compared to the Bright Moon Sect, the Heavenly Saint Sect was just average.

But the Heavenly Saint Sect wasn't afraid. They intended to fight them anyway. They were crazy!

Even the Clear Sky School found them troublesome. It was always the weaklings who created unnecessary trouble.

After a while, they arrived at the Cloud Inn. They saw a middle-aged man waiting for them.

“The three of you must be the disciples from the Bright Moon Sect. I, Chen Quan, want to welcome you here.”

They bowed in greeting.

Lan Jin looked upstairs. “I remember your people said they booked the entire inn, but I see quite a few people living here.”

Chen Quan lowered his head in embarrassment. The others didn't dare to speak of it either.

This surprised Fang Jin and his group. They didn't need to book the whole place anyway. That would attract too much attention.

"Are you injured?" Fang Jin asked.

"It's... it's nothing." Chen Quan smiled. "I was injured by a monster, but it's nothing serious. By the way, the rooms have already been prepared for the three of you. If you need anything, please feel free to let us know. We've also gathered information about Zuo Lan as well. We've made progress on other matters as well."

"Thank you very much, friend. If you don't mind, I can help you with some cultivation matters," Fang Jin said gently.

Since the man had helped them so much, it was only right to offer some guidance.

Chen Quan and the others were overjoyed at the offer.

At night, Fang Jin heard a knock on the door. When he opened the door, he saw a flustered Bai Qiong and Lan Jin outside.

They quickly blundered into the room and closed the door.

"The person who injured Chen is right next door!" Bai Qiong whispered..

Chapter 133: Asking for the Demoness' Name

"Just next door?" Fang Jin was surprised. "What exactly happened?"

"I heard that Chen had indeed booked the entire inn for us, but two people arrived a couple of days ago," Bai Qiong said. "They wanted to stay at the inn. When Chen told them that the entire inn was booked, they attacked him. Then, the person left two coins of silver on the counter and said that they would be staying here."

"There are indeed many dangerous individuals. Chen and his family were fortunate to survive. If those people were from the demonic sect, Chen's family would've suffered more than just a few injuries." Fang Jin sighed.

"But wasn't the person too noticeable? Didn't you say that peace should be valued when outside one's own sect? The person was just asking for trouble in behaving that way," said Lan Jin.

Fang Jin nodded. "That's true. So, Junior Sister Lan, you shouldn't resort to such behavior."

"But in situations like these... where the entire inn is booked and you just want one room, what should one do?" asked Lan Jin.

"You can discuss this later with Junior Sister Bai Qiong tonight. We need to focus on the main matter right now."

"There's news about Zuo Lan. He will appear at the marketplace tomorrow. He will be selling three things: information, spirit herbs, and disciples," Fang Jin continued.

"Selling disciples? What does that mean?" Lan Jin asked curiously.

"Does it mean he has people for sale?" Bai Qiong frowned.

"That might mean that the people captured recently might be related to this!" said Lan Jin.

"It's not certain, but that might be the case. However, I don't think he'll be so bold as to announce that he will be selling disciples in the market," said Fang Jin. "However, there is always a chance that he might be that audacious. We need to proceed with caution."

“Should we split up and approach from three different places?” Lan Jin asked.

“No. Zuo Lan is too powerful, and it’s too dangerous for you to act alone, Junior Sister Lan,” said Fang Jin.

“I have already refined my spirit sword. Although my strength is not as good as yours, it’s not bad either,” Lan Jin said earnestly.

“It’s not about strength. Junior Sister Lan, you lack experience.” Bai Qiong smiled and shook his head.

They were concerned that their junior sister might attract trouble. She was still too young and reckless.

“Then what should we do? Should we go to the place where information is being sold or to the place where disciples are being sold?” asked Lan Jin impatiently.

After a moment of thought, Fang Jin came up with a solution.

“Let’s go to the place where disciples are being sold first. With your talent for finding people’s trails, we might be able to learn more about the whole thing.”

“By the way, Chen’s family has some news that there have been some unusual activities near the Heavenly Lake outside the city,” said Bai Qiong. “Maybe we’ll get more clues there. If we find nothing tomorrow, let’s go investigate that area.”

After talking for a while, Bai Qiong and Lan Jin prepared to return to their rooms.

Before they left, Fang Jin turned to Lan Jin. “Junior Sister Lan, if you happen to meet the people next door, remember to be polite to them. Making enemies rashly will only affect our plant.”

“Alright,” said Lan Jin.

After they reached their room, Lan Jin complained to Bai Qiong. “Senior Sister Bai, don’t you think Senior Brother Fang is being overly cautious? The three of us are in the Golden Core Realm! I alone can defeat the strongest expert from the Chen family. You and Senior Brother Fang are stronger than me!”

“Senior Sister, don’t you think Senior Brother is too humble? The three of us are golden core state cultivators.

“It’s just better to make a habit of keeping a low profile.” Bai Qiong smiled.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao woke up with the nameless manual in his hands.

Today was the opening day for the market. He had to go there.

While dealing with his own matters, he wanted to search for Zuo Lan’s whereabouts too.

The ultimate goal was to find the stone tablet and figure out who was behind it.

The person behind it probably wouldn’t be someone he could handle. However, Hong Yuye might make a move at that time.

Anything at or below the Golden Core Realm shouldn’t be a problem for him, but if it was someone in the Primordial Spirit Realm, fighting them would be suicidal.

He walked out of his room and knocked on Hong Yuye’s door.

Creak!

The door slowly opened.

Jiang Hao saw Hong Yuye sitting by the window and looking outside. The sun had not yet risen.

It was just the right time to watch the sunrise from the window.

The sun rose as he made tea for Hong Yuye.

“Senior, do you sense anything?” Jiang Hao poured a cup of tea for her.

“Is there a courtyard here?” Hong Yuye suddenly asked.

“Yes. There is a relatively large courtyard at the back.” Jiang Hao nodded.

Although he didn’t know what Hong Yuye wanted to do, he would do his best to assist. She was truly powerful. He had wanted to ask about her cultivation level several times but hadn’t dared to do so. If she was truly very powerful, he would have a chance of breaking away from the demonic sect without consequences.

He would be truly free.

However, that was just wishful thinking.

He didn’t know how many years he would have to wait to advance. Jiang Hao sighed wearily.

There wasn’t even a question of finding out Hong Yuye’s cultivation realm. She hadn’t even mentioned her name till now. He hadn’t asked, either.

Jiang Hao hesitated. “Lately I’ve met many people who keep asking me about you... I don’t know your name yet, Senior.”

Jiang Hao was being tactful. They had encountered many people on this journey, so it wasn’t entirely a lie.

Hong Yuye's hands paused on the teacup. She glanced at Jiang Hao with eyebrows raised.

She looked amused. Just when Jiang Hao thought he had messed up, she spoke.

"My name is Hong Yuye. Don't mention it to others."

"Of course. I'm Jiang Hao," he said and bowed. He had never told her his name, either.

Hong Yuye drank her tea.

"I want to use the courtyard. Help me plant some spirit herbs," she said.

"What kind of spirit herbs do you need?" Jiang Hao asked curiously.

As for the courtyard, it shouldn't be a problem. He could just ask the inn's staff to leave the courtyard alone.

Most of the guests in the Cloud Inn were cultivators, which made things easier. He only needed to visit them and ask them to stay away from the courtyard. A simple display of intimidation and offering one or two spirit stones would suffice.

If they still didn't cooperate after that, he could take further action.

'It seems that I can't avoid attracting attention outside the sect,' thought Jiang Hao regretfully.

"Something similar to the flower you have in your courtyard," Hong Yuye said calmly.

Jiang Hao was stunned. Where would he find something like that? "Senior, do you mean the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower?"



“Is that a problem?” Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao with a faint smile. However, he knew the danger behind that smile.

“No problem at all...”

He left Hong Yuye’s room. ‘A spirit herb like the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower...’

Jiang Hao pondered on it. Where would he find something like that?

He thought about the time when he had substituted the Red Azure tea with a cheaper version. Hong Yuye hadn’t really minded. Even when he served her the Snow Queen Spring tea, there wasn’t any problem at all.

Maybe he could find a substitute for the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower with something else...

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief. He didn’t know how many spirit stones he would have to spend to find a dupe of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

It seemed like he was going to be broke again...

Chapter 134: Earning Some Spirit Stones

Leaving the inn, Jiang Hao looked around the backyard. It was quite spacious and seemed suitable for growing spirit herbs. However, the soil wasn’t very good. He would need to buy some good soil and spirit liquid.

There was also a backdoor that appeared to be frequently used, which posed a bit of a problem.

Hong Yuye didn’t like people loitering around her. Jiang Hao’s spirit beast had suffered a lot at her hands. So far, the beast hadn’t seen her because Hong Yuye always slammed it wherever to make it unconscious.

After inspecting the courtyard, Jiang Hao went to the counter. "Is the backyard available for use?" he asked.

"The backyard?" The innkeeper looked at Jiang Hao. "Uh... if you want to use it, we can make it available."

Jiang Hao nodded. "I want to use it for something, but please make sure no one sets foot in there."

"Our inn can manage that. We'll lock the backdoor," said the innkeeper. "Our inn is an ordinary inn but..."

Jiang Hao understood what he meant. The inn was just an ordinary inn, but the residents living in it were mostly cultivators. He couldn't control the others.

"Don't worry about others. I'll talk to them," said Jiang Hao in assurance. "How much would it cost to use the backyard?"

The innkeeper wanted to say it was free, but Jiang Hao earnestly wanted to pay.

"One silver per day," the innkeeper said reluctantly.

Jiang Hao paid him three silver coins. "I'll use it for three days. If I need it for longer, I'll inform you. Please tidy it up by today."

The innkeeper nodded.

"If anyone tries to object, just wait for me to come back," said Jiang Hao.

"Alright," the innkeeper said. "Thank you, Senior."

Jiang Hao left the inn.

After a while, the three people from the Bright Moon Sect also came down from their rooms. They saw the staff cleaning the backyard.

“What are you going to do here?” Bai Qiong asked the innkeeper.

The innkeeper was nervous to see the three people. “The guest from Room 5 wants to use the backyard, so we’re having it cleaned.”

“Oh?” Fang Jin was a bit surprised. Room 5 was the room next to them. Only five people were living on the sixth floor.

“Did they say why they wanted to use the backyard?” he asked.

“I didn’t dare to ask” The innkeeper shook his head.

“Innkeeper, I have some questions,” said Lan Jin. “Were you present when someone attacked this place yesterday?”

The innkeeper hesitated. Lan Jin assured him that he wouldn’t get into any trouble.

“Yes,” he said softly.

“Alright. I just wanted to ask about the spell the person might have used and what you had to face,” said Lan Jin.

Fang Jin and Bai Qiong remained quiet. They were also curious to know about it.

“He... used a saber. Chen Quan faced him, but the saber injured him.”

He remembered it vividly.

“How many moves did he use?” asked Lan Jin. “A single Geocentric Lightning might have been enough to heavily injure him. Unless... he is in the Golden Core

Realm.”

Fang Jin smiled. “Junior Sister Lan, your guess might be correct. It’s better not to underestimate people.”

He turned to the innkeeper. “Did that person try to destroy the inn? Is he the same person renting the backyard?”

“He didn’t try to destroy the inn. It seemed like he only wanted a room to stay in. He even paid for the rooms.”

Fang Jin nodded and then turned around to leave. Lan Jin was confused.

Bai Qiong sighed. “That person only wanted a room to stay in. He definitely didn’t intend to cause trouble. If you use the Geocentric Lightning, imagine what it would’ve done to the inn.”

Lan Jin thought about it. A Geocentric Lightning attack might create a deep hole in the inn.

She then thought of using her spirit sword. With the sword, she could injure the enemy without killing him.

Maybe she underestimated the person, but he didn’t seem to be stronger than her in any way.

Jiang Hao landed in the forest in the west of the city.

He observed the surroundings for a moment and then walked inside. He saw an ordinary market.

There were many stalls in the place and people wandered about. Unlike the city, there was not a single ordinary non-cultivator here.

However, the cultivation realms of the people present were generally low.

Most of them were in the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, with very few in the Foundation Establishment Realm, and not a single person was in the Golden Core Realm.

Jiang Hao realized that his illusionary middle Foundation Cultivation Realm might be considered top-notch here.

However, being weak was equivalent to being poor.

He had no money to spend on things. He needed to sell the things he had on him instead.

Jiang Hao realized that there was an insurmountable gap between major sects and minor sects.

As a talisman maker, even if he created numerous Ten Thousand Sword

Talismans, he couldn't sell most of them. He couldn't really sell the Thousand Miles Teleportation Talisman. It would fetch him a good price, but it was painstaking to create.

Jiang Hao asked around to confirm the pricing in this market. He found that the pricing was lower than the Heavenly Note Sect. For example, a Healing Talisman only cost twenty-seven spirit stones here.

There were a few people who were selling talismans. He walked to a small empty stall and displayed his talismans for sale.

“Young man, setting up a stall here requires you to pay some spirit stones. It’s not free. Someone will come to collect a fee later,” said a kindly middle-aged man.

Jiang Hao glanced at the man. He was in the later stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Although the man was trying to conceal his cultivation realm, Jiang Hao could sense that he was a fairly strong cultivator.

“Thanks for the reminder,” Jiang Hao said.

Afterward, he displayed the Foundation Establishment cultivation pills he had refined, as well as some talismans and spirit swords. He even took out several Divine Walk Talismans and laid them out for sale.

“Spirit Concentration Talisman... Ten Thousand Swords Talisman... Healing Talisman... Young man, how much for the Healing Talismans?” asked the middle-aged man.

“Twenty-six, I’ Jiang Hao said.

“I’ll take five,” said the middle-aged man without hesitation.

It was one spirit stone less than the market price, but he could still make a profit from selling them.

“What about the spirit swords?” the middle-aged man asked again.

“Seven spirit stones,” Jiang Hao said.

The market price was between eight and twelve spirit stones.

“How many do you have?” “How many do you want?”

“Ten.

Jiang Hao gave him ten spirit swords. He had plenty of spirit swords.

For a moment, the middle-aged man was dumbfounded. ‘Where did this person come from? Did he rob a rich family?’

“I’m Shi Xin. And you?” he asked.

“I’m Jiang Hao Tian,” Jiang Hao replied.

He observed Shi Xin for a moment.

Although he was dressed plainly, his energy and lifeblood were strong, and his cultivation was strong. It was a sign that he was on the right track and had the potential to reach the Golden Core Realm soon.

“Do you have plans to strive to reach the Golden Core Realm?” whispered Jiang Hao.

Shi Xin was stunned by the question..

Chapter 135: Three Unusual Statuses

Shi Xin was puzzled.

Jiang Hao’s question seemed irrelevant. Who among cultivators didn’t strive for the Golden Core Realm? Reaching the Golden Core Realm meant stepping onto the path of immortality.

Why else would people often talk about the Golden Core Realm?

Ascending to the Golden Core Realm was incredibly difficult, and people usually didn't make it, even after striving their whole lives.

Talent, resources, effort, and luck were all needed.

Some people had sufficient talent but lacked resources or couldn't find a suitable master to learn from. They missed out on great opportunities. Their potential was often wasted.

Although Jiang Hao had a decent cultivation technique, his master could only teach him up to the Golden Core Realm. After that, no one could teach him further.

There was a need for pills to be able to advance, too.

"Fellow cultivator, you jest. Cultivators naturally aspire to achieve the Golden Core Realm," Shi Xin said.

"Do you have spirit stones?" Jiang Hao asked.

Shi Xin was on his guard. He smiled. "I have about a hundred, not much. If I had many spirit stones, why would I be setting up a stall here?"

"I see." Jiang Hao nodded.

A late Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator like him couldn't possibly afford the Heaven Rejuvenating Pill.

Even if Jiang Hao focused on talisman-making, it would take him a long time to save enough.

The sect's resources only provided him with twenty spirit stones in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm and thirty in the middle stage. Which meant he could earn a total of 360 spirit stones in a year, 3,600 in ten years, and 72,000 in twenty years.



He could barely make it. And that's assuming he didn't spend any.

Jiang Hao didn't rely on sect resources. It wasn't that he didn't care about spirit stones, but his resources had been suspended for five years. Only slightly over two years had passed after that.

He sat at his stall and stopped talking. Since the person couldn't afford it, it was no use mentioning the Heaven Rejuvenating Pill to him.

He focused on running the stall, and later, he planned to visit some proper shops to see if he could sell the pill there.

Although he would have to sell it at a lower price, it was better than selling it in the Heavenly Note Sect.

Shi Xin was surprised to see that Jiang Hao had gone quiet. He couldn't understand what Jiang Hao had been willing to sell.

He was puzzled because Jiang Hao had first asked him about the Golden Core Realm and then about spirit stones. Was there a connection between the two? He couldn't understand.

Shi Xin was curious. 'What would he have said if I had said yes?'

After a while, Shi Xin noticed that Jiang Hao's stall was doing well. He had sold almost all his wares.

This made him feel restless. He had a feeling that he was missing out on something important. He kept wondering why Jiang Hao had asked about the Golden Core Realm and spirit stones...

Then it hit him. 'Does that person have something that can help me advance to the Golden Core Realm? Maybe he asked about the spirit stones because he was willing to sell them!'

Shi Xin was worried that this might be a scam.

“Young man, you asked me about spirit stones before. How much were you thinking exactly?” asked the middle-aged man. Jiang Hao looked at him. “About ten thousand.”

Shi Xin’s face turned pale. ‘Ten thousand?!’

If this really was a scam, the young man was indeed very ambitious.

Shi Xin glanced at Jiang Hao. He seemed to be in the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm. “I do have that amount.”

‘You do?’ Jiang Hao was surprised.

‘Someone in the late stage of Foundation Establishment Realm had so many spirit stones?’

“Do you need pills?” asked Jiang Hao.

“What kind of pills?” asked Shi Xin.

“Heaven Rejuvenating Pill,” Jiang Hao said truthfully.

“Heaven Rejuvenating Pill?!” Shi Xin exclaimed. “But those pills are for advancing to the Golden Core Realm!”

He had been saving money for decades to buy something like that.

Never in his wildest dream did he hope to find a person selling them here!

Jiang Hao nodded.

Shi Xin pointed to a corner nearby. “Can we discuss this in private?”

Jiang Hao nodded. After packing up, the two of them went to a corner.

Jiang Hao wasn't worried about anything. He had appraised himself yesterday.

He found three abnormalities: Heaven Extinguishing Venomous Insect and Bai Ye's Spirit Sealing Technique, his divine ability, which was still recuperating, and Hong Yuye's magic which distorted other people's perception of him.

Jiang Hao wondered what he looked like in other people's eyes.

He was a little concerned about the damage to his divine ability. Unfortunately, there was no time to find a solution for that.

"Can I inspect the pill?" Shi Xin asked.

"Alright." Jiang Hao handed him the pill bottle.

Shi Xin opened the bottle and sniffed. The fragrance of the pill was faint, but it was refreshing. He could even feel the stir of the spiritual energy in his body.

He closed the bottle and reluctantly handed it back to Jiang Hao.

"How much can you give for it?" Jiang Hao asked.

"I have more than seven thousand spirit stones, plus other items, which are worth about a thousand." Shi Xin looked at Jiang Hao and hesitated. "I can give you 8,500 spirit stones."

"8,500?"

Jiang Hao was a little surprised. It was 1,500 spirit stones more than he had expected.

Shi Xin thought Jiang Hao wasn't satisfied with the price. "I know it's a little less. We can wait a bit longer. I can probably borrow some spirit stones and give you ten thousand for it!"

"No need," said Jiang Hao. "8,500 spirit stones are enough for me. Just answer some of my questions and we have a deal."

"Really?" Shi Xin found it hard to believe. He handed the spirit stones, some pills and spirit stones to Jiang Hao. "What did you want to ask?"

Jiang Hao was feeling a bit emotional. The pills and spirit swords would earn him at least 1,200 spirit stones!

Even after he spent some money on the Red Azure tea, he would have an extra 1,700 spirit stones left!

"Do you know Zuo Lan?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Zuo Lan?" Shi Xin nodded. "He is in the market too. He is setting up three stalls to sell various things. On this street, there should be a stall selling pills and whatnot, the one in the middle of the street is for selling disciples, and the one at the end of the street sells information. These three places start selling at the same time, so it's impossible to determine which one is the real Zuo Lan. Or perhaps all three are fake. Similar incidents have happened before, but everyone believes that they are all real."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Hao immediately thought of the Great Thousand God Sect. These three people could all be clones. If the clones were present, it meant that the original person wasn't far away. It was just difficult to pinpoint the exact location. He now understood why it took the Law Enforcement Hall so long to find the culprit who was at the Foundation Establishment Realm before.

'A stall to sell disciples? Wouldn't that be children?'

Jiang Hao hesitated a while and decided to take a look. It was not far away from where his stall was..

Chapter 136: The Feeling of Being Wealthy

Jiang Hao set up his stall. Shi Xin wasn't rushing to leave.

He stayed and set up his stall as well.

Jiang Hao's decision to stay and sell some more items surprised him.

At noon, Jiang Hao saw that he didn't have much stuff to sell. He sighed. He had expected to make at least two thousand spirit stones.

In the end, he only earned about a thousand. Now, he had 12,700 spirit stones.

Jiang Hao shook his head. There was no way he could earn more in this market.

"Your items are very good, but not everyone can afford them," said Shi Xin.

Jiang Hao nodded. He had some Healing Talismans and some Pain-Relieving Talismans. He even managed to sell a few Hundred Thousand Swords

Talismans.

No one could afford the Lifeblood Refinement Pills.

People in the late or peak Foundation Establishment Realm were rare here. He had only seen one person in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, and that was Shi Xin.

After packing up, Jiang Hao prepared to leave.

"If you want to sell everything, you can go to the Cloud Pavilion inside. The prices there are still reasonable," said Shi Xin. "Or... you can continue here. I'm sure this will all be sold by tonight."

"Are there more people at night?" Jiang Hao asked.

"There are indeed more people at night, but it's also more chaotic. It's easy for things to be... disrupted by some ignorant young people." Shi Xin sighed. Jiang Hao hesitated. "Zuo Lan started selling things in the afternoon, right?"

"Yes... but he might not be selling at night."

"Can we set up a stall near his place?"

"I can't... but maybe you can. I'll wait for you here anyway." "If you have something to do, you don't have to wait for me."

"Alright." Shi Xin nodded.

Jiang Hao left his stall and made his way to the Cloud Pavilion. It was a loft located in the center of the street. He had seen it before, so he didn't hesitate to enter. People moved about in pairs inside. They had their own little groups. The interior of the pavilion was exquisite but not as magnificent as the Snow Lotus Pavilion in the Heaven Note Sect.

He approached the counter. "Do you buy items for recycling?"

The woman sitting at the counter smiled. "Yes, we do. But we don't accept ordinary things. May I ask what kind of items you want to sell, fellow disciple?"

Jiang Hao saw that the woman was confident and efficient. It seemed that working here was quite a remarkable thing to do. He realized that most people here were only in their Lifeblood Refinement Realm, so it made sense why working here would be seen as prestigious. He took out a spirit sword and a bottle of Foundation Establishment Realm pills.

“I have these.”

He had no intention of selling the talismans here. Those could be sold in the market because people always needed talismans. As for the spirit swords, he had too many of them and wanted to sell a few.

“Foundation Establishment Pills?” The woman at the counter seemed somewhat surprised. These pills weren’t particularly expensive, but the fact that Jiang Hao had them indicated that he might be a cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Realm.

The woman got up. “Please follow me, Senior.”

Jiang Hao nodded and followed her. Soon, he entered a room where a beautiful woman was seated in the center. The woman from the counter explained the situation briefly and left.

“So, you want to sell spirit swords and Foundation Establishment Pills...” Chen Sisi looked at the sword and the bottle of pills. “These pills are of average quality. We usually purchase them for thirty spirit stones per bottle.”

Thirty spirit stones seemed a bit low. Foundation Establishment Pills were suitable for those in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. In the Heavenly Note Sect’s marketplace, it was usually sold for fifty spirit stones per bottle.

“That’s acceptable.” Jiang Hao nodded. He then took out other pills and handed them to her. “Have a look at these too.”

He brought out some pills used in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm. He wanted to sell everything he could. The person in front of him was at the mid -stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. She was also very adept at examining things.

“Golden Core Realm Pills? Where did you get these?” Chen Sisi seemed a bit uneasy.

“That doesn’t matter. Do you refuse to buy them?” Jiang Hao asked.

The person fell silent for a moment and then began to evaluate the items. After evaluating everything, she finally quoted a price of 980 spirit stones.

Jiang Hao let out a sigh. He had gotten those pills from PO Lang. It was surprising that everything didn't even fetch him a thousand spirit stones. He brought out a spirit sword. "How much for this?"

"That spirit sword is well crafted. We can purchase it for five spirit stones from you," Chen Sisi said. Jiang Hao fell silent. "Six." "Alright," said Chen Sisi.

Jiang Hao brought out a hundred similar spirit swords. "Here are a hundred of them."

Chen Sisi was momentarily stunned. She realized that the person in front of her wasn't ordinary.

"Can you accept them all?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Yes." Chen Sisi nodded.

In the end, they settled on sixteen hundred spirit stones. Combined with the 12,700 spirit stones Jiang Hao had on him, now he had a total of 14,300 spirit stones.

Jiang Hao was in disbelief. After buying the Red Azure tea and paying the fine of the Law Enforcement Hall, he would still have a thousand left.

Jiang Hao felt happy. The future looked promising. He hadn't even met Zuo Lan yet. He would have information on the other stone tablet. Perhaps he could earn more along the way.

After the transaction, Chen Sisi was much more polite toward Jiang Hao. On the surface, both were at the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. She acted a bit superior to Jiang Hao because she ran this place. However, Jiang Hao didn't mind. He had long since abandoned comparing himself to others.



Being in the Heavenly Note Sect had taught him to be cautious if he intended to survive. There was no room to feel such useless envy and jealousy. Even when he reached the peak of the Golden Core Realm and surpassed Mu Qi, he remained calm and collected.

“Do you have any tea leaves for sale here?” he asked.

“What kind of tea leaves would you like?” Chen Sisi asked. “We have Red Sleeve Fragrance tea which is priced at ten spirit stones, the Snow Queen Spring tea which costs fifteen spirit stones, and Azure Sky Cloud tea which is thirteen spirit stones.”

Jiang Hao looked surprised. The teas here were so cheap!

He asked to see them. After examining the quality, he realized they were all rubbish. He wouldn’t dare to brew such low-quality tea for that demoness.

“Do you have the more expensive version of Snow Queen Spring?” Jiang Hao asked.

“More expensive version?” Chen Sisi was a bit puzzled.

Jiang Hao took out the remaining Snow Queen Spring from his pocket. “This version of the tea... Do you have it?”

Chen Sisi looked astonished. “Yes. It’s upstairs. I’ll have someone bring it down.”

She wondered where this customer had come from. He had such refined tastes.

Jiang Hao was handed the good quality tea after a while.

“That is fifty-five spirit stones for 250 gm, ” said Chen Sisi.

Even for her, this was a luxury item. Paying fifty-five spirit stones for 250 gm of tea was something she couldn't imagine doing. She only served that kind of tea when meeting important and powerful people..

Chapter 137: Ruthless

It was five spirit stones more expensive. However, there was nothing he could do.

If he didn't buy the remaining tea leaves, who knew how long he would remain alive.

"Give me 7 kg," Jiang Hao said.

Chen Sisi was stunned. She had never seen someone buy expensive tea in bulk like this.

Chen Sisi regretfully told him that there was only 5 kg of the tea in stock right now.

In the end, Jiang Hao bought 5 kg of Snow Queen Spring tea for a total of 1,100 spirit stones. Now he only had around 13,200 spirit stones.

"Do you have Red Azure tea in stock?" He was a little curious. He had never bought the Red Azure tea anywhere else except the Heavenly Note Sect. He didn't know how much it cost outside his sect.

"R-Red Azure tea?" Chen Sisi stammered.

That was the most expensive tea. Only big shots drank it because it was so difficult to produce.

"Do you have it?" asked Jiang Hao.

Chen Sisi nodded.

“How much would that be?”

“It’s about ten thousand spirit stones. Do you want me to inform the staff to bring it down?”

Jiang Hao nodded. “Yes, please.”

If it was high-quality Red Azure tea, the price was reasonable.

Jiang Hao also looked at some spirit herbs for sale. In the end, he bought two Clear Snow Seeds. It was the main ingredient for a Spirit Concentration Pill.

The Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower had a pleasant fragrance and gave off tranquil spirit energy. The Clear Snow Seed was similar in nature. One seed cost a hundred spirit stones.

This spirit herb was decent. He wondered if it would drop a blue bubble when it finally bloomed.

He also bought 14 bottles of spirit liquid. One bottle cost him about thirty spirit stones. That was 420 spirit stones spent.

Soon, an old man arrived in the room. He was in the peak stage of the

Foundation Establishment Realm.

“Are you the one who wants the Red Azure tea?” he asked.

He didn’t think a young man in the middle stage of Foundation Establishment Realm could afford such an expensive tea.

“Can I inspect the goods first?” Jiang Hao asked.

The old man opened the box to show him. Jiang Hao immediately smelled the aroma of the tea. The tea leaves were green with a hint of red at the edge. It was a good quality tea.

“What about the price?” asked Jiang Hao.

“If you really want it, we’ll give it to you for 9,300 spirit stones.” The old man didn’t want to set too high a price. The tea had been sitting in storage for a long time. He was in a hurry to sell it.

Jiang Hao nodded and handed him the spirit stones. “Thank you. I want to take the tea with me now if that’s not a problem.”

He had earned a few hundred spirit stones today, but he had also spent a lot of it. Now he only had 3,300 spirit stones left.

Jiang Hao walked out of the Cloud Pavilion and ignored their surprised faces.

He saw another pavilion up ahead. There were some stalls there.

According to what Shi Xin said, that should be the place where Zuo Lan sold disciples.

He walked to the place and found a spacious area with many rooms.

“Fellow disciple, please come in,” said a young man and ushered Jiang Hao inside.

“Are you Zuo Lan?” Jiang Hao asked.

“If you think so, then I must be.” The young man smiled. “If you think I’m not, maybe I might not be him, after all.”

Jiang Hao observed him for a while. He was in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, but his spiritual energy was a little strange.

Jiang Hao thought that this must be the puppet.

He followed the man to a small room. The room was small. It had some tables and chairs inside.

"This is the name list." The man, who called himself Zuo Lan, handed the name list to Jiang Hao. "You are a bit late, fellow disciple. There are only two left." Jiang Hao looked at the list. There were more than twenty names on it. The name, gender, and age were all recorded.

"Wasn't the shop set up only in the afternoon?" asked Jiang Hao. There were ten girls and thirteen boys on the list.

The oldest one was fourteen years old, and the youngest was seven. Jiang Hao had never seen such a thing at the Heavenly Note Sect.

The Heavenly Note Sect would not stoop so low to buy and sell children. "Of course. We started selling early because the customers were eager." "Which one do you want, fellow disciple?"

"Chun Yu, female, ten years old, low talent." Jiang Hao looked at the name list.

"Bruiser, male, eleven years old, average talent. Where did you find them?"

"They were captured from the surrounding villages. I brought them here because this could change their fate and their lives. I am their benefactor if you look at it that way. They don't appreciate it, though. Chun Yu's parents attacked me with a hoe. They're ignorant." Zuo Lan shook his head and laughed.

"And then?" Jiang Hao asked with interest.

"When you look at it this way, I'm actually trying to help them. The family now had fewer mouths to feed."

"You've really... helped them a lot," said Jiang Hao reluctantly. "Can you bring them both here? I want to inspect them."

"Fellow disciple, you're wise. They call me ruthless!" said Zuo Lan. "I mean... no person is good in the cultivation world. Those who are strong became powerful by trampling on others. Why pretend to be moral when no one is actually good?"

Zuo Lan smiled and walked out of the room. Jiang Hao sat there quietly and

waited.

After a while, the door was pushed open. Zuo Lan led two children inside.

The girl had been crying. Her eyes were red, and they were full of hate and anger. Her clothes were torn and covered in what looked like dried blood. There was a wide iron ring around her neck.

The boy beside her looked a bit better. He looked determined as though he understood why this must be done. He was barefooted.

"How much?" Jiang Hao asked.

"150 for the female and 200 for the male." Zuo Lan smiled. "We've also added some... restrictions to control them." "No need for that." Jiang Hao shook his head.

Boom!

There was a loud rumble outside. Jiang Hao turned to look out the window and saw a man in the late stage of the Golden Core Realm soaring into the sky. He was surprisingly fast.

Three people immediately chased after him. They were all in the Golden Core Realm.

Jiang Hao recognized them at a glance. 'It's them!'

He noticed that the one who was fleeing was a clone.

"There will always be people causing trouble around here." Zuo Lan shook his head and sighed. Then, he turned to look at Jiang Hao

"Are you here to cause trouble too, fellow disciple?"

Jiang Hao looked at him calmly and unsheathed his Half-Moon Blade. A slash of moonlight appeared, and everything fell silent.

One strike from the blade had severed Zuo Lan's head. Jiang Hao slowly sheathed his saber.. "I guess so..."

Chapter 138: Friend, It Seems You Lack Manners!

The person who claimed to be Zuo Lan was dead. He died under Jiang Hao's blade.

Perhaps he never thought that Jiang Hao would make a move.

Jiang Hao turned to the two children. They looked at him in fear.

They were terrified of Jiang Hao.

"I give you two choices. First, you can go back to where you came from and live ordinary lives. Or accept these spirit swords and stab the man on the ground. I will help you get into a sect as disciples. However, the second option is dangerous. You'll have the fear of death as long as you live. The only way to stay alive would be to cultivate and get stronger."

He did not want to explain too much. He couldn't take them back to the Heavenly Note Sect. However, he might be able to find a master who could accept them.

Bruiser was the first to accept the sword. He gritted his teeth and took a step forward.

Chun Yu followed suit and accepted a sword too. Her hand trembled as she held it, but she moved slowly to stand by the corpse on the ground.

They hesitated a while and then stabbed the dead man.

At first, they were a little afraid. After a while, they vented their fear and anger on the corpse.

By the time they were finished, the corpse was shredded to bits. Jiang Hao led them out. Fortunately, they didn't encounter other clones of Zuo Lan.

Jiang Hao went to look for Shi Xi. He wanted to ask him if he wanted disciples.

Bruiser and Chun Yu gripped their spirit swords tightly and followed behind Jiang Hao.

Bruiser was silent and Chun Yu cried quietly. She was physically well.

The two children followed Jiang Hao, not daring to slow down. They knew that if they lost him now, their fate would turn tragic.

On the street, Shi Xin stayed at his stall. He saw powerful Golden Core Realm cultivators chasing another person in the same realm.

He was surprised to see so many Golden Core Realm cultivators in the marketplace.

Shi Xin had felt the powerful presence of Golden Core Realm cultivators and looked on to see them chasing each other- They were even stronger than the



Chen family's patriarch.

He sighed with emotion but didn't pay it much attention. As long as they did nothing to this marketplace, it was all good.

"They seem to come from the place where Zuo Lan was selling disciples. I hope

Jiang Hao is alright.. '

Shi Xi wasn't rich. He had turned even poorer after buying the Heaven Rejuvenating Pill. However, it was worth it!

By the end of the year, he would be able to attempt to break through to the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. After that, he would attempt to break through to the Golden Core Realm.

"Why are you setting up a stall here?" someone suddenly asked.

Shi Xin looked up and saw three men approaching. Two of them looked middle-aged, and the third one was an elderly man.

"Chief Chen." Shi Xin stood up. "Just selling some items."

Chen Baixiao, the patriarch of the Chen family, was a middle-aged man. He was at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm.

"Brother Shi, if you need anything, just let our people know. There's no need to expose yourself to danger here," Chen Baixiao said with a smile. He then pointed to the man beside him. "This is Jin, a friend of mine."

"Senior Jin, hello!" said Shi Xin in greeting.

The fact that he could walk side by side with Chief Chen indicated that he was a powerful and important person.

Jin Yuan nodded indifferently.

"I heard that something happened here. Do you want to come with us?" Chen Baixiao asked him.

"Thank you for the invitation, but I must respectfully decline. I promised a friend that I would hold a spot for him here, so I have to wait for him.

Shi Xin didn't want to follow the Golden Core Realm experts. They were probably heading into trouble. For someone like him who was only in the Foundation Establishment Realm, it could mean death to get involved in something dangerous.

It was better to stay behind.

"Oh, come on, Brother Shi, " said the elderly man. "We are inviting you out of pure goodwill. With two Golden Core Realm experts by your side, what do you have to fear?" said the elderly man.

He was the same person who had sold the Red Azure tea to Jiang Hao in the afternoon. He had seen Chief Chen with his friend in the market, so he followed along.

"It seems that you don't have much influence here, Chief Chen," Jin Yuan said with a smile.

Chen Baixiao's face darkened.

"N-No, it's nothing like that. I think I'll follow along. It would be my honor to accompany Chief Chen!" said Shi Xin.

He couldn't refuse. He was just about to leave with them when someone called him.

“Shi Xin, are you busy?”

Shi Xin turned around to look. He saw Jiang Hao walking toward him with two children.

Shi Xin smiled in relief. “Jiang Hao Tian, you’re here! I saved you the stall... as promised.”

Elder Chen leaned toward Chief Chen and whispered in his ear. He told the chief about his encounter with Jiang Hao in the afternoon. Seeing Jiang Hao here surprised him.

When Chief Chen heard that Jiang Hao had bought the Red Azure tea from Elder Chen, he became interested.

“Friend, would you be able to accompany me inside?” Chief Chen asked.

“And you are?” Jiang Hao politely asked.

He had never seen the person here before.

“This is the Chen family’s patriarch. It would also be beneficial for you to be seen with the chief here, especially here in the market while buying stuff,” said the elderly man.

He thought that Jiang Hao would apologize and show some humility after hearing that. However, Jiang Hao just nodded.

Jin Yuan smirked. “I was right. Chief Chen’s status isn’t very intimidating in this place.”

Chen Baixiao furrowed his brow and looked at Jiang Hao. “Are you busy, friend?”

Shi Xin tried to gesture to Jiang Hao. However, Jiang Hao didn’t see him.

The Golden Core Realm cultivators were exceptionally strong, but Jiang Hao had no time to accompany them.

He stared at Jin Yuan and sensed that he was similar to PO Lang in his aura. For Jiang Hao, the top priority right now was to find the real Zuo Lan and obtain the stone tablet.

“May I ask you a few questions?” he spoke to Jin Yuan.

Chen Baixiao’s face darkened.

Jiang Hao glanced at him. “I apologize for taking up so much of your time. I only have a few questions.”

Boom!

The aura of the Golden Core Realm exploded from Chen Baixiao’s body.

“Friend, it seems you lack manners!” Jin Yuan said sharply.

Clang!

The Half-Moon Blade flashed with moonlight and sliced through Chen Baixiao’s neck. Blood gushed out.

Jiang Hao looked at him calmly.. “Can I now take up some of your time?”

Chapter 139: Hoping They Don ‘t Offend The Demoness

Chen Baixiao had no time to think. The moment he saw the moonlight, he froze on the spot. It was like a scythe of death!

He thought he was going to die.

Fear spread from his heart in an instant, engulfing his entire body. When he regained his senses, he felt intense pain in his neck.

He covered the wound on his neck and lowered his head humbly. "Please forgive me, Senior."

Elder Chen was stunned. He felt that it was strange and impossible for a mere Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator to purchase Azure Red tea in such quantity. He had acted very arrogantly earlier and felt terrified.

However, the one who was the most shocked at that moment was Shi Xin. Was this the same person who had set up the stall near him?

A person who could make a Golden Core Realm expert bow in submission with a casual strike of his blade!

Jin Yuan looked at Jiang Hao and frowned. He planned to escape quietly, but an aura of the Golden Core Realm suppressed him. He couldn't move.

Jiang Hao looked at him and took a step forward. He released his aura and pinned Jin Yuan on the spot.

He walked in front of Jin Yuan and placed his hand on his shoulder. He exerted slight force. Jin Yuan knelt on the ground.

Jiang Hao placed the Half-Moon Blade on his neck. "Are you from the Great

Thousand God Sect?"

"Who are you?" Jin Yuan felt the immense pressure and grimaced.

Swoosh!

The blade slashed across his neck. Blood gushed out.

Jin Yuan groaned but did not yield.

“Where is Zuo Lan?” Jiang Hao asked again.

“Zuo Lan?” Jin Yuan looked at Jiang Hao. He seemed to realize something. “You... You lured PO Lang out of the city and killed him, didn’t you? The things you robbed... Do you even know who they belong to?!”

‘Who?’ Jiang Hao asked.

“Why should I tell you? One day, he will come looking for you. You, a mere Golden Core Realm cultivator, will die!” Jin Yuan sneered. “You won’t live long enough to see our plan come to fruition. You will face Zuo Lan, and that day will be your death!”

“In Heavenly Lake?” Jiang Hao asked.

Jin Yuan seemed momentarily stunned.

Jiang Hao no longer wasted words. He unleashed the first form of the Heavenly Blade technique, Moon-Saying.

The blade rose and fell.

Jin Yuan was astonished. Then, he was killed.

Jiang Hao stabbed him twice and took his storage treasure. It was the same as the one he had obtained from Zuo Lan's clone. Nothing of significance was there.

He only found about two hundred spirit stones. The rest were just ordinary cultivation pills.

After taking the spirit stones, he tossed both the storage pouch to Chun Yu and Bruiser.

Jiang Hao looked at Shi Xin. "Are you planning to take in disciples?" "Ah?" Shi Xin was momentarily stunned. "Y-Yes, I think these two kids have decent talent."

Jiang Hao nodded. He turned to the children. "Become his disciples and work hard. "

After they were accepted as disciples, Jiang Hao turned to Chen Baixiao to discuss Jin Yuan's appearance. Then, he bid farewell to Shi Xin. There were no more clues here. He needed to find Zuo Lan.

"Wait!" said Bruiser as Jiang Hao turned to leave. "W-Will we meet you in the future?"

"If I pass by here, I'll definitely seek your master. Perhaps we'll meet again," said Jiang Hao calmly.

Jiang Hao said goodbye and left after that.

Bruiser and Chun Yu knelt in gratitude.

Jiang Hao sighed. If Hong Yuye didn't accompany him, he would have no way of venturing out of the sect. He would have to advance beyond the Golden Core Realm, otherwise, it would be too dangerous for him to venture out.

If he couldn't do that, he might never leave the Heavenly Note Sect ever again.

Shi Xin had the opportunity to advance to the Golden Core Realm. As disciples to someone in the Golden Core Realm, Chun Yu and Bruiser had hope and potential for a brighter future.

He had not only provided a safe space for Chun Yu and Bruiser but also offered protection to Shi Xin. Jiang Hao had done all he could. The rest depended on them.

As he watched Jiang Hao leave, Shi Xin felt many emotions. He was still in disbelief that such a strong individual had been by his side all along. It was no wonder he had so many treasures and pills.

Chen Baixiao, on the other hand, breathed a sigh of relief. He looked at the dead Jin Yuan and felt uneasy. If that person had intended to kill him, he would already be dead!

Chief Che decided to be kinder when speaking to others from here on out.

Otherwise...

Afterward, Jiang Hao walked through the streets.

Zuo Lan would definitely be on guard after what had happened, so there was no need for any concealment.

He had killed Zuo Lan's clones. One of them had been at the early stage of the Golden Core Realm.

Apart from three hundred spiritual stones, there were no further gains.

Jin Yuan had said that Jiang Hao would be killed by Zuo Lan sooner or later.

'Now I have 3,800 spirit stones. After paying the Law Enforcement Hall, I'll be left with eight hundred only...'

'It seems I need to visit Heavenly Lake, after all.'



Jiang Hao walked along the road. He was frowning.

‘Jin Yuan said that Zuo Lan wanted to kill me. It seemed like they were preparing for my death since I obtained the first stone tablet from Hong Yuye. They probably don’t know about her existence...’

‘But Zuo Lan should be at the Golden Core Realm. How can he kill me at the Golden Core Realm? Unless...’ Jiang Hao frowned. ‘Unless he has already advanced to the Primordial Spirit Realm!’

Jiang Hao was a little worried about that. He had never fought a person of that realm.

‘It’s a pity that I can’t use the Clear and Pure Heart ability. Otherwise, I could try to comprehend the third form from the Seven Forms of the Heavenly Blade.

Jiang Hao returned to the inn. He had another question in his mind that bugged him. Jin Yuan had said that PO Lang had been lured outside the Fallen City. Hong Yuye had probably done that.

‘Was it really a coincidence that we met PO Lang in Fallen City?’

Jiang Hao couldn’t be sure, but he didn’t dare ask Hong Yuye about it.

“Senior, the backyard is now available,” the innkeeper informed him as soon as Jiang Hao walked in through the door.

Jiang Hao thanked him. “Does anyone have any objections?”

“No. No guest has shown any dissatisfaction with the arrangement,” said the innkeeper.

Jiang Hao nodded. He walked to the backyard. Everything had been cleared away. There was also a pavilion there with flowers on the ground.

'Now I have to plant these seeds. I'll then visit the guests and inform them. Hopefully, they won't offend Hong Yuye.' Jiang Hao sighed.

'I also have to make a trip to Heavenly Lake tonight..'

Chapter 140: Spending The Night In The Demoness' Room

After inspecting the backyard, Jiang Hao took out the Clear Snow Seeds. Hong

Yuye wanted him to find a plant similar to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, so he wanted to plant these fast. Even if he didn't know how long he would stay here, he had to prepare in advance. If necessary, he could take the seeds with him.

He used the Daily Appraisal on the seeds.

[Clear Snow Seed: Fragrant. After blooming, it has the effect of concentrating one's spiritual energy. It can be used to refine the Spirit Concentration Pill. Water it with one bottle of spirit liquid every day. It will germinate after three days.]

'Three days?! No blue bubbles then...'

The Black Lotus Flower had given him a blue bubble, but he had to water it for seven days. This spirit herb only took three days to germinate, which meant that it might give him only green or white bubbles.

However, they might not stay here for that long. Perhaps if they found Zuo Lan tonight and obtained the stone tablet, they would have to rush to other places.

'After we get the three tablets, it would be convenient if combining them could

pinpoint the exact location of the next tablet.'

Jiang Hao planted the seeds and watered them with spirit liquid. He then headed to Hong Yuye's room. While he was at the door, a young girl approached him nervously.

"Should I clean this guest's room?" she asked.

"Clean room 5. Leave this room as it is." The girl nodded and went to clean Jiang Hao's room.

Jiang Hao knocked on the door and entered. He didn't dare to let anyone inside Hong Yuye's room. He didn't want to make her unhappy.

"Any clues?" asked Hong Yuye, looking out the window.

She was wearing a red and white dress. She sat by the window.

Jiang Hao didn't dare look at her directly. The Heaven Extinction Gu Poison did unimaginable things to his heart.

"I did find something, but the three Zuo Lans turned out to be all clones. It seems like he knows about your arrival, Senior. He is currently planning a counterattack." Jiang Hao hesitated for a moment.

"According to a disciple of the Great Thousand God Sect, Zuo Lan might have even surpassed the Golden

Core Realm."

Hong Yuye was silent.

"There might be something near Heavenly Lake that connects to Zuo Lan's plans. I plan to go there and find out tonight.'

"What about the stone tablet?" asked Hong Yuye. "No news yet." Jiang Hao shook his head.

“And the courtyard?”

“It’s ready. I planted the seeds too. They should germinate in three days.”

Hong Yuye slowly turned to look at Jiang Hao. She seemed intrigued. “What kind of seed did you plant?”

Jiang Hao lowered his head. “It’s a flower similar to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.”

“What’s its name?” she asked.

“Clear Snow Seed,” Jiang Hao said in apprehension.

Jiang Hao half expected her to slam him against the wall, but she didn’t speak and just poured tea for herself. He had no idea what she was thinking.

He felt relieved. At least he wasn’t flung into a wall. That was an improvement.

While drinking tea, Hong Yuye took out a small box and placed it on the table.

“I won’t make you do things for me for nothing. This is for you.”

Jiang Hao was surprised. He thought she would give him something after all this was over. He approached the table and picked up the box. He sat down on the empty chair to examine it.

When he opened the box, a refreshing fragrance wafted out. It was a snow-white pill that he had never seen before. Even just the scent of the pill made his blood and spiritual energy surge.

‘Is it a pill to help me advance further?’ wondered Jiang Hao. ‘Maybe she is giving it to me because I mentioned that Zuo Lan might be beyond the Golden Core Realm... Maybe I’m supposed to take the pill and advance and defeat Zuo

Lan by myself.'

He wondered how much this excellent pill could be sold for. But first, he needed to know the name of the pill.

He looked at Hong Yuye. "What kind of pill is this?"

"Try taking it and see." Hong Yuye casually sipped her tea.

Jiang Hao took out the pill. It felt cold in his hands. He placed it in his mouth. In an instant, the cold feeling spread in his mouth as the pill dissolved. The coolness traveled down his throat and spread throughout his entire body. He suddenly felt cold all over as though it was winter. The coolness rushed to his mind.

It opened up his thoughts, and countless sparks of impulses collided in his mind. He felt clear and empty.

On a whim, Jiang Hao activated his Clear and Pure Heart ability. The chilly sensation rushed to the ability in an instant.

The previously damaged Clear and Pure Heart ability gradually began to heal. 'So, this pill is meant to repair the Clear and Pure Heart ability...'

Without that particular ability, his progress had been stunted. He couldn't comprehend the third move of the Heavenly Blade, no matter how many times he studied the Seven Forms of Heavenly Blade.

He was curious as to how Hong Yuye had discovered that his Clear and Pure Heart ability was damaged. Was it because of the nameless manual?

In that case, he had to further study the nameless manual to better assess his enemies in the future.

Afterward, he let go of his thoughts and began to heal.

After a while, Jiang Hao completely absorbed the pill. Not only did his Clear and Pre Heart ability recover but also surpassed its previous state.

Once his condition was stabilized, he slowly opened his eyes.

The first thing he saw was Hong Yuye sitting across from him, drinking tea. Then he noticed the sunlight filtering in.

The light fell on the side of her face, and a gentle breeze swayed her hair. It was difficult for him to breathe.

He finally collected his composure enough to see that it was already dawn. He was surprised. Had he taken the whole night to absorb the pill?

"Is it already morning?"

"I thought you were an overly cautious person," said Hong Yuye. "Why did you take the pill without any questions this time?"

"I... I figured that if you intended to harm me, you wouldn't have to go through all that trouble."

He couldn't refuse anyway. The Heaven Extinction Gu Poison was a testament to that. It was better to just grin and bear it. If he kept her happy, he would suffer less.

Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao.

"Continue to investigate the stone tablet," said Hong Yuye, putting down her teacup. "If there is no progress regarding this, you know the consequences."

"I understand, Senior." Jiang Hao stood up and said his farewell. Then he brewed another pot of tea for Hong Yuye.

“Buy some snacks for me,” said Hong Yuye.

Jiang Hao nodded and didn't dare to ask what kind of snacks she wanted. If he didn't ask, he could decide on his own.

If he dared to ask her, she would choose something exorbitantly expensive. Jiang Hao's spirit stones would be gone in an instant.

“I'm going out for a stroll tonight,” Hong Yuye said.

Jiang Hao understood that she wanted him to accompany her.

He agreed to it and then headed to his room.

As soon as he closed the door, he saw the young girl cleaning the corridor. He had seen her yesterday.

She was startled and quickly lowered her head to apologize.

Jiang Hao didn't mind. He prepared to go out to buy some snacks for Hong Yuye.

He bought ordinary pastries. He tasted them before buying them. He knew they were good enough.

As expected, Hong Yuye did not say anything.

After that, he went to the backyard and watered the seeds with spirit liquid.

In the backyard, Jiang Hao saw a little girl watering the flowers under the pavilion.

When she saw Jiang Hao come in, she bowed to him.

“Sir, did you plant this for your wife? She must be very happy to see it,” she said.

The sudden question made Jiang Hao break out in a cold sweat. He calmed himself and looked at the girl. She must be around twelve years old.

He did not understand why a child would ask something like that. Then he realized something.

He had seen her twice. Yesterday, she had asked him if she could clean the rooms. This morning, she was outside cleaning the corridors when he came out of Hong Yuye’s room.

Jiang Hao had stayed in Hong Yuye’s room for the entire night. A man and a woman in one room...

The little girl might have misunderstood!