

A Demoness 161

Chapter 161: What Will You Get From Raising a Dragon?

In the garden, Xiao Li stood there silently looking at her feet. She looked dejected.

Cheng Chou was surprised. Junior Sister Xiao Li was not afraid of anything, except Jiang Hao. Even when she visited the garden when Miao Tinglian was in charge, she had never looked like this.

Cheng Chou had only seen Xiao Li being mature and well-behaved at her home. She was afraid the two elders were too old. So, she wouldn't cause trouble. She wouldn't even eat too much because she felt it might not be enough for them.

Jiang Hao looked at Xiao Li. "Have you eaten?"

Xiao Li nodded.

"I heard you haven't been serious about your studies and cultivation lately," said Jiang Hao.

"Yes," Xiao Li said in a small voice.

"Beast," Jiang Hao called.

"Master, I'm here." The spirit beast jumped onto Xiao Li's shoulders.

"I have a mission for the two of you," Jiang Hao said calmly. "There is a new disciple in the outer sect. His name is Chu Chuan. You need to check up on him every week."

"How do we test him?" Xiao Li asked.

"Use your fists," Jiang Hao said.

"I'm good at that." Xiao Li was excited.

The spirit beast raised its head smugly. "Finally, Master is going to let people know of my greatness!"

Jiang Hao ignored them and asked Cheng Chou to follow them every week to keep an eye on them.

It was almost the end of the year. Jiang Hao looked at Xiao Li.

"Remember to advance in the next two months. I'll get Cheng Chou to send you back home in a few months."

Xiao Li jumped up.

Jiang Hao ignored them and began to tend to the spirit herbs.

Except for the simple pavilion, everything else had changed.

He walked to the area where the Hundred Bones Forest had planted their spirit herbs and observed it carefully. He realized that his aura was a little chaotic.

The spiritual energy was entangled and unable to be released normally.

'It seems that Senior Sister Miao knows about the Spirit Sealing Technique. Is she trying to help me?' wondered Jiang Hao.

Miao Tinglian had always treated him well. She was grateful to him because he had helped her reunite with Mu Qi.

The small gestures were enough to repay the favor he had done for her by bringing her into the sect. She didn't need to go out of her way. Jiang Hao was aware of this. He had been in the demonic sect for too long, and he knew that expecting others to repay favors never went well.

At noon, Jiang Hao headed to the outer sect cafeteria. He wanted to know why the staff wanted to see him. Xiao Li followed along.

When they entered the cafeteria, he heard people whispering. "She's here! Eat fast!"

"Put it in your bowl. Junior Sister Xiao Li doesn't snatch the food away from the bowl."

Jiang Hao watched them. He realized that they were busy trying to protect their food. It was as though they faced a great enemy, and they needed to protect their belongings as best as possible.

"Junior Sister Xiao Li, we paid for this! You can't steal these from us!" Jiang Hao sighed and used the Daily Appraisal on Xiao Li.

[Xiao Li: The dragon was severely injured by the Heavenly Thunder. She lost her memories and her strength. She is now an outer sect disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect. She is still growing as a dragon, so she needs to eat more than before.]

The food that was given to outer sect disciples was not enough for a dragon.

Jiang Hao felt helpless. Dragons were not easy to raise.

"Senior brother Jiang," said a young man. He was Feng Yang, an inner sect disciple of the Cliff of Broken Hearts. He was in charge of the cafeteria.

Xiao Li had bothered them a lot. However, she always took the spirit beast's name while visiting the cafeteria. So, they all assumed that she was a disciple that Jiang Hao valued. Nobody wanted to offend an inner sect disciple, so they let her do as she pleased.

The management had intended to visit Jiang Hao regarding the matter, but he hadn't been inside the sect. They were planning to visit him in a few days. They didn't expect Jiang Hao to come directly to the cafeteria.

"Junior Brother Feng," Jiang Hao said politely. "I heard that Junior Sister Xiao Li has troubled you a lot. I apologize for her behavior."

"Senior Brother Jiang, you're too polite," said Feng Yang with difficulty. "It's just that... people have been complaining a lot lately..."

There were not many people from the Cliff of Broken Hearts who were put in charge of different departments. Usually, only the formidable disciples got that chance, and they were always overseen by the Cliff Master himself.

"Junior Sister Xiao Li is still growing, so her appetite is a little big," said Jiang Hao. "Can you prepare food imbued with abundant lifeblood for her? I'll forbid her from snatching away food from other people."

"Food with sufficient Lifeblood essence?" Feng Yang frowned. Such food would be too expensive. It would increase their expenses a lot and might incur a loss.

"You don't have to worry about the money." Jiang Hao handed him thirty spirit stones. "I'll pay for her once a month. Please use these spirit stones to prepare nutritious food for her. If spirit stones are left after the expenses, you can keep them."

"Thirty spirit stones?!" Feng Yang looked at Jiang Hao in disbelief.

He only received twenty spirit stones per month as someone in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. However, this senior was willing to spend so much to feed his junior!

It was unbelievable. He couldn't refuse.

The matter was resolved. Xiao Li would be given better and more filling food.

Jiang Hao forbade her from snatching food from other people in the cafeteria.

If she acted rashly, she might attract trouble.

Fortunately, the people in the cafeteria were easy to talk to.

Jiang Hao sighed as he left the cafeteria. He was already raising a spirit beast, an Immortal Peach Tree, and now a dragon. All these things cost a lot of spirit stones.

At least the peach tree had the chance of turning into an Immortal Peach Tree after nine incarnations. He could obtain nine bubbles from it. The spirit beast just caused trouble, but even it could be released after its bloodline was completely awoken. As for Xiao Li, he didn't see any benefits of raising a dragon.

He could only try his best to help her. Otherwise, she might cause too much trouble.

"Do you get that hungry?" asked Jiang Hao.

"Eating more will help you grow taller," said Xiao Li. "My parents wanted to see me grow tall."

Jiang Hao was at a loss for words. He didn't say anything more. Her two adoptive parents didn't have long to live.

He asked Cheng Chou to take Xiao Li and the spirit beast to meet Cheng Chou.

When he returned to the Spirit Herb Garden, he saw an outer sect disciple causing a commotion.

"Those spirit herbs were prepared by a senior

Chapter 162: Master's Secret Pleasure

Jiang Hao looked at the person causing the commotion. The Hundred Bones Forest at least sent an inner sect disciple even when they were there to cause trouble.

How much did the Candlelight Pill Pavilion look down on them?

Jiang Hao walked over to the person. The outer sect disciple lowered his head in fear.

“If they are in a hurry, let them come here themselves,” said Jiang Hao.

“Yes. Understood,” said the outer sect disciple.

“Yes, yes.” The outer sect disciples did not dare to be impudent.

“You can go back now.”

Jiang Hao didn’t make things difficult for him. An outer sect disciple was only following orders, after all.

Jiang Hao knew that the alchemists would visit soon. He wanted to see what they planned.

After that, he tended the spirit herbs in the garden for a while. He had thought that spies and traitors would be here to see what he had been up to. However, no one visited him.

In the evening, Jiang Hao returned to his house and extended the bathroom. Only then did he take out the Light and Dust book and began to read it.

The next day, he found some bubbles in his courtyard.

[Cultivation +1] [Lifeblood +1]

[Strength +1]

After that, he went to the Spirit Herb Garden and found more bubbles.

[Spirit +1]

[Cultivation +1] [Spirit Sword +1]

[Endurance +1]

Seven days passed in a flash.

Jiang Hao woke up from his meditation. He slowly closed the book. The first ray of sunlight fell on him.

“Beast,” he called.

“Yes, Master?” The spirit beast noticed that Jiang Hao had disappeared from the chair he was sitting in.

The spirit beast rubbed its eyes. He was sure that his master had been there just moments ago. It looked around.

“Master, where did you go?”

“I’m here.” Jiang Hao appeared beside the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao was satisfied. The Light and Dust technique was more powerful than he had expected. It was so efficient for sneak attacks.

Jiang Hao sighed with emotion. He had thought that he would need more time to comprehend it.

Today, he would visit the alchemists and solve this matter once and for all.

“A week has passed. Make sure you test the new disciple,” said Jiang Hao as he watered the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. “Also, pick some ripe peaches for

Xiao Li.”

The spirit beast picked them up quickly.

When they arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao instructed Cheng Chou to take the spirit beast and Xiao Li along to check on Chu Chuan.

Jiang Hao decided to pay a visit to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

In these seven days, some outer sect disciples had visited the Spirit Herb Garden to pester the workers there, but none of the alchemists had come themselves.

“Beast, do you want to fight first or should I?” asked Xiao Li along the way.

“Of course, you should do it. If you can’t defeat him, then I’ll step in. I’m your big brother, after all.”

The spirit beast crouched on Xiao Li’s shoulder. “You can fight him however you want. No one is your match.”

“In that case, I won’t hold back.”

Cheng Chou followed behind them, afraid that Xiao Li might accidentally kill someone.

No one under the Foundation Establishment Realm could match Xiao Li. Only some disciples in their Foundation Establishment Realm had some leverage over her. The spirit beast was in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, so its strength was extraordinary.

After a short while, they found Chu Chuan, who was practicing his cultivation.

“Junior Brother Chu, do you remember me?” Cheng Chou asked him gently.

Chu Chuan was dressed in the sect’s attire. His dark skin glowed in the sunlight. He looked far better than he was when he arrived in the sect for the first time.

He had already reached the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm in the past two days. The Heavenly Note Sect was indeed extraordinary. The spiritual energy was so dense here that it helped him with his cultivation.

When he saw Cheng Chou approach him, he bowed respectfully. “Greetings,

Senior Brother Cheng. Of course, I remember you.”

He knew that Cheng Chou was in the ninth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm. He didn’t dare disrespect him in anyway.

“Today, we’re here to test your progress. Your opponent is Junior Sister Xiao Li,” Cheng Chou said with a smile. “Junior Sister Xiao Li is also at the first stage of Lifeblood Refinement Realm, but her strength is extraordinary. So, be careful.”

“Understood.” Chu Chuan was excited to be tested.

After reaching the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, he had felt a little confident in himself. He wanted to test himself too. He looked at Xiao Li. Since she was a girl, he decided to go easy on her.

“Should we begin?” Xiao Li asked.

“Yes.” Chu Chuan nodded.

He was observing his opponent to test her strength. He was still thinking about how to make his move when...

Boom!

Chu Chuan felt his head go blank, then he grimaced in pain. With a loud thud, he landed on the ground face-first.

‘This is the first stage of Lifeblood Refinement Realm?!’

Chu Chuan struggled for a while and then managed to get up with difficulty. He had a cut lip and a scraped cheek.

He looked at Xiao Li in disbelief. His confidence was shattered. However, he was unwilling to give up.

Chu Chuan knew that he wasn’t very strong, but he refused to believe he was this weak.

“Xiao Li, you struck him too hard. How can you test someone’s progress if you knock them down with one punch?” said the spirit beast. “You have to at least strike them three times to see how strong they are.” “Oh...” Xiao Li walked up to Chu Chuan, raising her fist.

Chu Chuan was speechless.

Boom!

Chu Chuan felt like everything was spinning around him. Just as he was about to lose consciousness, he heard the voice of the spirit beast again.

“It seems that I won’t have a chance to step in after all. Maybe if I become a great demon, I’ll get to fight someone.”

“Senior Brother Jiang said he doesn’t want to raise great demons,” Cheng Chou said.

“My master is contradictory in his words and thoughts. Despite what he says, he secretly enjoys it,” the spirit beast shamelessly declared. “Everyone knows that from now on, I will protect my master.”

“Let’s send Junior Brother Chu for some treatment first. When you test him next week, be a little gentle. At least give him a chance to showcase what he has learned so far.”

Chu Chuan felt embarrassed. He wanted to become stronger.

Jiang Hao looked at the list as he walked to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion. The first person on the list was Ying Jie, with a cultivation at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. He was planning to advance to the Golden Core Realm soon.

To be a Golden Core Pill Alchemist, it wasn’t necessary to be in the Golden Core Realm. It only meant that the alchemist should be able to refine Golden Core Pills.

Even if an alchemist was at the Golden Core Realm but couldn’t refine pills properly, then they would still be considered a Foundation Establishment Alchemist.

According to Senior Sister Shi Jie, most people wanted to become a Golden Pill Alchemist first before advancing to the Golden Core Realm.

Jiang Hao heard voices when he reached their courtyard.

“Some people can’t take it anymore. It seems they will surrender tomorrow.

Senior Brother Ying is almost a Golden Core Pill Alchemist. They’re scared of him. ‘

"I told you. What do we need to pay them spirit stones? Just give them the inferior pills we have on hand and let them figure out how to sell them."

"I heard that the people from the Cliff of Broken Heart are still stubborn.

Should we give them a taste of our power?"

"I heard some people whispering behind our backs, wondering why we didn't just rob them. Robbing them isn't a good idea.."

Chapter 163: Robbery

Jiang Hao glanced at the people.

There were a total of seven individuals, but it wasn't certain if all six of them were the ones who owed money to the Spirit Herb Garden.

After listening for a while, Jiang Hao was able to confirm that five of them were the people he was looking for.

He then left the place. In the beginning, he had planned to visit each person one by one and observe them. Now, it seemed unnecessary.

Afterward, he followed the second list and found another group of people.

Once he confirmed that they were the ones he was looking for, he proceeded to find a third group of people on the list.

"I have spirit stones, but I only produce low-quality pills. So, I'm going to offer those. Hahaha...

“Do you think they will cooperate with us next time?”

“What’s there to fear? We’ll just find another group next time. There are always some idiots in the sect.”

Jiang Hao tried to remember their faces and moved on to the next location.

When almost all the people on the list had been identified, Jiang Hao headed to the various Spirit Herb Gardens in the sect.

Fortunately, there was no one from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion in the gardens. He didn’t want to get involved with them again. It was too dangerous.

The Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion might target him.

Once he determined their locations, Jiang Hao returned to the Spirit Herb Garden.

Jiang Hao was tending to the spirit herbs when Cheng Chou arrived and informed him about the day’s incident with Chu Chuan.

It made sense that Chu Chuan was weaker than Xiao Li. He didn’t interfere. Jiang Hao planned to continue testing him.

With Chu Chuan’s talent, Jiang Hao had faith that he would gradually become stronger. Only then would he be able to surpass Chu Jie.

Three months had passed since coming back to the sect. Chu Jie might be well on her way to the second stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

She had talent, cultivation techniques, resources, and a renowned teacher to teach her. She would be able to attain the Foundation Establishment Realm in the next six or seven years.

As for Chu Chuan, it was almost impossible for him to attain it. Everything depended on how far he could push himself.

Jiang Hao returned to his house. The spirit beast wasn't there. He had asked the spirit beast to take some spirit stones and pills to Chu Chuan.

These were the ones given by the Bright Moon Sect. Every time Chu Chuan advanced, Jiang Hao would return a portion to him.

The sky was dark. Jiang Hao stood up and disappeared from the spot.

In the courtyard of the Candlelight Pill Pavilion, eight people sat at a table discussing alchemy.

"It seems that they are starting to loosen up. We need to prepare some low-quality pills," said a young man.

"It's all thanks to Senior Brother's methods that we don't have to go there ourselves. The problem can be solved soon," said a woman with a smile.

The others were about to agree when they were startled by a sound. A blood-stained dagger pierced through the back of the woman. It surprised everyone.

As for the woman, she never imagined that she would be stabbed from behind.

The others instinctively activated their protective treasures.

However, spirit swords emerged from behind them and pierced through them.

Blood splattered everywhere.

"Please don't kill me," someone begged.

A calm voice spoke.

“I have come to collect the money you owe.”

The crowd was filled with fear. They never expected that the people from the Spirit Herb Gardens would dare to take such an extreme measure.

Killing a disciple within the sect was equal to seeking death. No one dared to be this reckless.

“Senior, I don’t owe anyone any money. I swear!”

Given a chance, he would never associate himself with these people again.

Boom!

In an instant, a powerful force suppressed them. They all fainted.

Jiang Hao looked at these people. He retrieved his spirit swords. He took their storage treasures and turned to leave.

He didn’t kill them. He had made sure to avoid their vital points. Killing forty alchemists would have grave consequences.

He targeted everyone who owed money to various Spirit Herb Gardens. This way, no one would be able to pinpoint which Spirit Herb Garden had taken action against the alchemists.

For a while, Jiang Hao wandered through the courtyard. He moved quickly through them. He wanted to avoid being seen.

However, after two such attacks, the alchemist sounded the alarm and began to fight back.

Jiang Hao sighed. He had no choice but to retreat.

On his way back, he passed through various Spirit Herb Gardens. He left behind some spirit stones with a note.

The problem was solved, and no one noticed him.

Upon returning, he transferred all the stolen spirit stones into his own storage treasure and dumped all the pills and spirit herbs into the beast's storage treasure.

He destroyed the stolen storage treasures.

Jiang Hao sat in his room, feeling worried. The commotion he had caused this time was big.

'I shouldn't underestimate the Candlelight Pill Pavilion,' thought Jiang Hao. 'I wonder what will happen if the Law Enforcement Hall gets involved.'

He would have to wait until tomorrow to meet Liu Xingchen and find out.

Jiang Hao checked the spirit stones. He had a total of 8,700 spirit stones for now.

"I lost over a thousand."

However, he still had pills, spirit herbs, talismans, and other treasures. He needed to figure out a way to sell them without appearing suspicious.

The next day, Liu Xingchen didn't come to meet him.

The Spirit Herb Garden received the spirit stones and finally resolved the issue. The gardens sent the spirit herbs back to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion. They didn't want to keep them longer than necessary.

All six branches received the spirit stones, so no one knew which branch was responsible for solving the matter.

Even if the alchemists were united, they wouldn't dare target people from all six branches at the same time. That would be suicidal.

On the third day, Jiang Hao finally saw Liu Xingchen. His aura had changed again.

In the past, there was a faint shadow of a dragon, but this time it was something else. It was an impenetrable black aura. 'What has possessed him this time?'

Jiang Hao looked at him. He didn't rush to find out.

"It's been a long time, Junior Brother Jiang," said Liu Xingchen in greeting.

"It has indeed been a long time," Jiang Hao replied politely.

"Junior Brother Jiang, you seem to have become even more calm and strong," said Liu Xingchen. "Anyway, the people of the Candlelight Pill Pavilion have been attacked. Over fifty of them are injured. Did you hear anything about that?"

"I heard about it, but I don't know the complete story."

He was just a bit puzzled. He had only injured about thirty people. 'Who attacked the other twenty?'

"These alchemists brought it upon themselves. They weren't willing to pay the money they owed to the Spirit Herb Gardens of the six branches. In the end, they were surrounded and attacked by two people. They were severely injured and were robbed. Even the spirit herbs were plundered," said Liu Xingchen with a smile.

He looked amused.

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly. It seemed there was someone else who had taken action too. It was no wonder the news had spread this fast. The other person must have been too crude and noticeable in their ways.

They had even stolen the spirit herbs! The person was indeed bold.

"I investigated the matter. It seems there were four people involved in the attacks," said Liu Xingchen.

Jiang Hao was stunned..

Chapter 164: Possessed Again

'Four?'

This was something Jiang Hao hadn't expected. He wondered if the alchemists owed money to others as well.

It seemed the people had only wanted to attack. Jiang Hao, on the contrary, wanted to solve the problem at hand.

The others had taken action as well but had stolen for themselves.

The alchemists' numbers would only increase with each recruitment. It wouldn't make a shred of difference whether thirty or fifty were attacked!

"Four people targeted the alchemists at the same time?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Maybe not at the same time..." Liu Xingchen looked around. "Shall we talk inside?"

"Of course," said Jiang Hao and led him into the courtyard.

Liu Xingchen looked around. "Junior Brother Jiang, you have so many flowers and herbs now."

Jiang Hao smiled.

"It seems that the four people who attacked the alchemists don't know each other," said Liu Xingchen as he sat on a chair. "The first two who attacked seemed to be efficient and decisive. They injured around thirty-eight people. The other two... were a bit sloppy. They injured around nineteen people. They must be in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm or the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. The first two attackers might be beyond that level."

"Tell me about the latter two attackers," Jiang Hao said calmly.

"They robbed the spirit herbs. These two attackers were bold enough to grab them and run. They must be fairly strong."

"Did you find out who they are?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Two were caught," Liu Xingchen said with a smile. "But the other two remain at large. The ones we caught are from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion. So, the Law Enforcement Hall didn't interfere and let themselves solve it internally. Such things happen. People have grudges. It's just that this caused quite a stir."

'Alchemists robbing other alchemists...' Jiang Hao was surprised that they turned against each other.

Sometimes it happened, but rarely. There was once an inner sect disciple who hadn't reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. Jiang Hao had helped him once. He wondered if that person was still alive. It was unlikely.

"If they can't catch the attackers, will they just let the matter go?" asked Jiang

Hao.

"I think so." Liu Xingchen sighed.

"The Law Enforcement Hall won't get involved in simple matters of fights and injuries. However, this time, many alchemists were injured, so the Law Enforcement Hall had to investigate. However, we didn't expect the remaining attackers to be so difficult to find."

"Isn't it dangerous for the alchemists to be robbed like this?" Jiang Hao asked.

"The first incident wasn't a big deal. The alchemists asked for it. No one wanted to dig deeper after that because it might raise conflict between the six branches of the sect and the Candlelight Pill Pavilion. The Law Enforcement Hall wants to avoid that. Besides, it's normal for there to be a little friction between the branches. However, if there is a full-blown conflict and the Law Enforcement Hall can't handle it, then the White Moon Lake will step in." "The White Moon Lake?" asked Jiang Hao, puzzled. "What will they do?"

"Junior Brother Jiang, do you know that the establishment of the sect's twelve branches was a gradual process? There was a branch that secretly instigated conflicts among the other branches, eventually, it led to conflicts. At that time, the Law Enforcement Hall neglected its duty and failed to discover the problem. The situation got out of control. Elder Baizhi led her branch and other elders to intervene," said Liu Xingchen.

Liu Xingchen looked at Jiang Hao. "The branch that incited the conflict was completely wiped out, and a new branch was established in its place. As for the other branches, they either surrendered or were exterminated. Now the sect has become much more orderly. In the past, when conflicts arose, it was a bloodbath."

Jiang Hao was astonished. An entire branch was eliminated!

He was curious if the Candlelight Pill Pavilion would face the same fate if they continued to cause trouble, or if they would be pardoned because alchemists were valuable to the sect.

“As for the danger to alchemists... Alchemists are crucial for the growth of a sect. However, if someone hinders their growth, the accusations would be serious,” said Liu Xingchen.

“I see.” Jiang Hao was relieved.

“By the way, there’s something I need to tell you. A person from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion is about to advance, but they don’t have a vessel. So, he has been...

restraining himself. During this time, please avoid appearing in front of him. Otherwise, it might be dangerous for you.”

Jiang Hao nodded gratefully.

“Currently, the Law Enforcement Hall has issued a mission to search for a vessel everywhere. If they find it, there won’t be a problem. Still... I think they will hold some resentment toward you,” said Liu Xingchen.

“What if they don’t find it?” Jiang Hao asked.

“It’s hard to say,” Liu Xingchen said. “Your master’s opinion will be crucial if that happens. Let’s see if he is willing to protect you.”

“Oh... there’s one more thing,” Liu Xingchen continued. “There has been some trouble in the Devil’s Den due to changes in the mining area lately. Occasionally, disciples from each branch are sent in. Be prepared. There aren’t many idle disciples in the Cliff of Broken Hearts.”

“What kind of problems?” Jiang Hao asked in surprise.

“It’s hard to say, but there have been a lot of demons appearing. They span various realms...

Jiang Hao wasn't particularly worried. Instead, he was somewhat intrigued. Killing demons also had its benefits. It was an opportunity to become stronger. However, he needed to be careful of individuals targeting him, as well as some potential traitors keeping an eye on him. Since disciples from all twelve branches were sent to the Devil's Den, it meant that he might encounter anyone from any branch.

Jiang Hao activated Daily Appraisal on Liu Xingchen.

[Liu Xingchen: True Disciple of the Heavenly Faction. Born with the aura of a dragon. He was entangled with an ancient sorcerer after entering the mining area. He is currently being consumed by the sorcery and will eventually be possessed by the sorcerer. He is an undercover agent of the Heavenly Note Sect's Law Enforcement Hall. The reason he is on good terms with you is that he wants to get close to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower to watch it carefully. Quite interested in you.]

Jiang Hao was at a loss for words. As expected, Liu Xingchen was possessed yet again..

Chapter 165: Successful Incarnation

In the past, Jiang Hao would have cared a little. He would have tried to remind his undercover senior about it. But things were different now. Although he couldn't discern Liu Xingchen's thoughts, he felt that Liu Xingchen was ignoring the part about sorcery.

Looking at the feedback from his divine ability, Jiang Hao realized that he had never seen such a reckless person before.

However, one thing was certain: Liu Xingchen had an innate dragon aura, making him susceptible to possession. This also indicated that the mining site was indeed different. Mu Qi obtained an ancient inheritance inside, while Liu Xingchen encountered a powerful sorcerer. There should be more treasures inside.

"During the time you were away, the people from the Blackheaven Sect took someone away. They didn't make any demands this time. This should have no impact on you, Junior Brother Jiang. However, it seems that many people still remember the incident with you," Liu Xingchen said.

He also reminded him about the debt he owed to the Law Enforcement Hall. Especially after the recent debt crisis, Jiang Hao felt that he would be in trouble if he didn't pay the spirit stones.

Jiang Hao assured him that he would pay everything on time. Liu Xingchen got up and left.

Jiang Hao accompanied him halfway and then headed toward the Spirit Herb Garden. Along the way, he thought about his current situation.

'The biggest hidden danger so far is the Heavenly Joy Pavilion. As long as I don't go there, there shouldn't be a problem... at least for the next few years. It's hard to say what will happen after a few years, especially if they don't find a vessel. The Devil's Den shouldn't be a problem. It would be even better if I enter it after I advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm.'

'And there's the Hundred Bones Forest. It's been so long... they must have planned something.'

Hao arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden and began his daily routine of tending to the herbs. Over the next half month, he sold various common spirit herbs, magical treasures, and talismans, earning a profit of 4,300 spirit stones. Deducting the loss of 1,300, he made a net profit of three thousand spirit stones. Now he had thirteen thousand spirit stones on hand.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao stood on his balcony.

'It's been a month since I came back, and there doesn't seem to be any issues for now. I can proceed to the next step.'

He then walked to the courtyard, grabbed the spirit beast, and sealed its cultivation with his power. He then tied it to a tree to prevent it from coming into contact with anything else.

The spirit beast woke up just as Jiang Hao finished tying it up. It didn't panic. It was familiar with the process. It seemed to have grown so much.

"What are you planning to do, Master?" it asked.

Jiang Hao remained silent. He then untied the beast and carried it to the space in front of the house. He needed to take care of the Immortal Peach Tree, so he couldn't tie the beast to the tree. It might disrupt the process.

"From now on, you cannot eat anything other than what I give you to prevent you from losing control. You'll have to stay tied up like this," Jiang Hao said.

The spirit beast had gained intelligence. Everything had become more troublesome. If the beast ate something else during the process, the spirit stones would go to waste. Jiang Hao would then want to stew it instead.

There could be no room for accidents. Depending on the spirit beast to be self-disciplined was absolutely impossible.

"What should I eat then?" the spirit beast asked.

Jiang Hao took out a hundred spirit stones. "Eat these."

The spirit beast blinked. "Master, I don't have a big appetite. We'll be fine."

Jiang Hao ignored the spirit beast. "Eat."

The spirit beast ate the spirit stones quickly in the beginning. After eating fifty of those, it started to feel uncomfortable. After ninety, it looked at Jiang Hao and burped. "Master, I can't. I'll die of overeating."

"It's almost noon. It's lunch for you."

In the end, the spirit beast swallowed all the hundred spirit stones. Only then did Jiang Hao leave the courtyard and head to the Spirit Herb Garden.

A month passed in this manner. The spirit beast had become accustomed to its new lifestyle.

“Master, it’s mealtime!” the spirit beast said.

There were only nineteen days left for the beast to awaken its bloodline further.

Jiang Hao approached the Immortal Peach Tree. The fruits on it had all ripened. He kept a few and picked others to give to Xiao Li. Xiao Li had been quiet for the past few days. She hadn’t caused any trouble.

A few days ago, he gave Xiao Li thirty spirit stones to pay the cafeteria for her food. This shocked Feng Yang. They were really paying every month on time. However, it was nearing the end of the year, and Xiao Li had also advanced to the second stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

In a few more days, he could send her to her house for a visit. But he had to wait for the process of the spirit beast to be completed.

‘I wonder how long the incarnation process will take.’

Jiang Hao took out spirit stones and began to arrange them into a Spirit Gathering Array. He had already spent a large sum of spirit stones. He had also fully repaid the two thousand owed to the Law Enforcement Hall. The spirit beast had consumed three thousand spirit stones and still needed 1,900 more. The Immortal Peach Tree required 4,900. In total, everything would cost around twelve thousand spirit stones.

Fortunately, because of the last incident with the alchemists, he had earned a considerable amount. After setting up the Spirit Gathering Array, Jiang Hao left the courtyard and went to the Spirit Herb Garden to collect bubbles and tidy up the spirit herbs.

Thanks to Senior Sister Miao, everyone’s workload had reduced significantly.

For the past two months, with Jiang Hao on duty, they had not suffered any further mishaps. At this point, the new recruits understood that they were safe with him in the Spirit Herb Garden. Moreover, they heard that people in other Spirit Herb Gardens often lived in fear of the cultivators. This made them even more reluctant to leave the garden.

Watching these people work, Jiang Hao couldn't help but sigh.

At night, Jiang Hao sat cross-legged on the floor of his house and looked at the nameless manual. Not long ago, he had studied the Light and Dust technique. He was only at the first level.

The second level was the Traveling a Thousand Miles technique. It would be a breakthrough when it came to speed, but the specifics would have to wait until he understood it fully.

The third level was the Retreating and Concealing from the World technique. It seemed to be a rare body technique, but it was related to one's state of mind. This technique would help him conceal himself even in a crowd.

Unfortunately, Jiang Hao couldn't study it right now.

"Master, it's shining!"

Jiang Hao looked out and found that the Immortal Peach Tree was indeed glowing. Under the effect of the Spirit Gathering Array, the tree's power seemed to have been activated. It quickly converged with the last fruit. The leaves began to fall, and the branches started to wither. Even the fruit began to rot.

That went on until the next morning. The once lush tree had turned into a withered mess, leaving only one luminescent fruit core on the ground.

'It's a success!'

Jiang Hao picked up the fruit core and appraised it..

Chapter 166: The Demoness, Again

[Immortality Peach Tree Seed: A seed of the Immortal Peach Tree imbued with spiritual energy. It possesses a trace of the divine tree's characteristics. After rooting, sprouting, blossoming, and fruiting eight times in succession, it will become the divine Immortal Peach Tree. It will sprout after eight days after watering it every day.]

Jiang Hao didn't feel like there was anything extraordinary about the seed. However, there was one difference. Previously, it had mentioned nine incarnations. That had come down to eight.

At this moment, the withered wood crumbled and fell, but Jiang Hao didn't clean up the mess. Instead, he mixed them with the soil as fertilizer. Two blue bubbles appeared after he planted the seed.

[Cultivation +1]

[Lifeblood +1]

Jiang Hao was puzzled. The process gave him only blue bubbles. Last time it was purple.

Eight days later, Jiang Hao arrived at the courtyard and saw the Immortal Peach Tree sprouting. Upon closer inspection, he found that it still grew faster when it was near the divine flower. The seedlings gave him purple bubbles.

[Divine Ability Fragment +1]

He obtained another fragment, but he was still short of two more. Jiang Hao was hoping for a golden one this time because the spirit beast was about to complete the awakening of its bloodline. Two golden ones would unlock a new ability.

Eleven days later, Jiang Hao saw a golden bubble floating beside the spirit beast.

[Golden Legend +1]

After obtaining the golden bubble, the first thing he did was check on the spirit beast. At this moment, the spirit beast was still sleeping.

[Deceptive Spirit Beast: Sufficient intelligence. In the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Has tremendous potential with a dormant beast bloodline. Feed it 100 spirit stones per day, and after 81 days, it can further awaken its hidden bloodline. Feeding it spirit stones daily can increase its favorability towards you. Currently, it feels reverence toward you.]

‘Hm... 8,100 spirit stones more.’

After careful consideration, Jiang Hao decided to follow through with it. This would be the last time.

It had tremendous potential. Who knew how strong the beast could become when its bloodline was awakened fully?

Jiang Hao untied the beast.

“Huh?” The spirit beast woke up. “Master, why did you untie me?”

Jiang Hao glanced at it. “Go find Xiao Li and Cheng Chou. They have a journey to make.”

Ten days later...

“No need to rush back. If you encounter any problems, stick to the usual practice and let Xiao Li take the lead. However, her judgment is rash, so you need to help her. When you go to Xiao Li’s house, take something for her parents,” Jiang Hao said to Cheng Chou.

Finally, he gave ten spirit stones to Cheng Chou, along with some talismans. He also gave him a few healing pills.

Cheng Chou nodded and left the sect with Xiao Li.

Xiao Li told Jiang Hao that she would bring delicious food for him.

Jiang Hao smiled. Food usually didn't last long in Xiao Li's hands.

Jiang Hao instructed the spirit beast to remember to check on Chu Chuan and to inform him if the child advanced to the second stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

A few days later, Jiang Hao realized that he was not very far from advancing to another realm. After collecting the bubbles from the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, he glanced at his interface.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 23]

[Cultivation: Late Stage of 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: 69/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 71/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Divine Abilities: 1/3 (Cannot be obtained)]

[Golden Legends: 1/2 (Cannot be obtained)]

Jiang Hao was already twenty-three years old. This was a new year.

‘The weather in January doesn’t feel that cold.’

He looked up at the sky. It wasn’t snowing. He felt a little regretful but shifted his focus back to his cultivation.

Jiang Hao would be able to advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm soon. He also needed to figure out a way to hide his cultivation realm. He needed a new array that could hide it.

He had inquired about the price, and with the cost of materials and labor, it would be around 1,800 spirit stones. It would cost him 2,100 if he bought it ready-made. He genuinely felt that formation masters made a lot of money, unlike him. Talisman-makers didn’t earn that much.

After paying Law Enforcement Hall, raising the spirit beast, and the Immortal Peach Tree, his spirit stones had dwindled to only one thousand.

Fortunately, he was able to sell many talismans in the past two months. He had a total of 2,500 spirit stones left. After deducting 1,800, he would have seven hundred spirit stones remaining.

In the future, he could only earn a little by selling talismans, but it would take a long time to accumulate another ten thousand. However, the things he had gotten from his last journey hadn’t been sold yet.

Not dwelling on it further, Jiang Hao decided to focus on advancing to the Primordial Spirit Realm in another three months.

“Where is your peach tree?”

A sudden voice interrupted Jiang Hao’s thoughts. He turned to see a figure in red standing by the seedling. It was Hong Yuye. She looked confused.

It had been three months since he had last seen her. Fortunately, Jiang Hao had prepared everything that was necessary, except for the tea leaves, which he had forgotten to replenish!

"It underwent an incarnation," Jiang Hao said.

"Incarnation?" Hong Yuye turned to look at Jiang Hao. "Hm... interesting."

After a moment of silence, she stood up and walked to Jiang Hao. "I quite like this tree. From today, it's mine. Is that okay?"

Jiang Hao sighed and lowered his head.. Would it even matter if he refused?

Chapter 167: Am I Not Reckless Enough?

Jiang Hao wasn't surprised that Hong Yuye had set her eyes on the tree. He had prepared himself mentally because he knew she was going to ask for it.

If the Immortal Peach Tree underwent nine consecutive incarnations, it would truly turn into a divine Immortal Peach Tree. It would take nine years for that to happen.

Maybe he would advance in his cultivation realm during that time so that he might be able to refuse her. That was just wishful thinking. He knew he would never be strong enough. Even the eighth person on the list of top ten disciples was at least in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

Now that Hong Yuye claimed the tree as hers, there was nothing he could do.

"When do you plan to take the Immortal Peach Tree away?" Jiang Hao asked. Hong Yuye looked at the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. "Together with that." Jiang Hao nodded. There was still time.

"Before, you said the fruit was sweet. This time, what do you think it will taste like? Sour or sweet?"

"Sour," Jiang Hao said.

“When it matures, I will come to find you.” Hong Yuye smiled.

It seemed that she had already seen the answer.

Hong Yuye walked into the bathroom that Jiang Hao had extended. It was quite spacious now. There was a wooden tub in the middle too. The floor was made of smooth wooden boards. There were small windows in the bathroom which were covered by a screen.

Hong Yuye remained silent and then turned away. Jiang Hao had no idea what she was thinking. Presumably, she was satisfied, or else, she would have already slammed him to the wall.

“It seems like you don’t know many spells.” Hong Yuye sat on a chair in the hall.

Jiang Hao served her Snow Queen Spring tea. “I’m still learning, but I’m getting there.”

He had the Hong Meng Heart Sutra, but he had to wait until he advanced to the Primordial Spirit Realm. He knew most of the basic spells, but he hadn’t learned any powerful ones yet.

“If you make a name for yourself, your sect will surely give you many good things, right? Spells, treasures, pills, spirit stones... you won’t lack for anything.” Hong Yuye sipped her tea.

“I’m more accustomed to the way things are now... which makes it convenient for me to help you raise your flower, Senior.”

“In that case, where do you plan to acquire spells, treasures, pills, and spirit stones?” Hong Yuye looked at the tea in her cup.

“The sect will provide it.”

Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao and smiled. “What about the spirit stones?”

"I can earn quite a lot," Jiang Hao said. His income from talisman-making was stable and better than that of an early-stage alchemist.

"Really?" Hong Yuye took a sip of tea and smiled. "Then why is the quality of the tea I always drink this bad? I thought you were poor... but it seems you're just brushing me off."

A chilling aura emanated from her. Jiang Hao felt a bone-piercing coldness envelop him.

"Senior, you've misunderstood," Jiang Hao said hurriedly. "I've been saving up spirit stones to buy better tea."

The intense coldness disappeared.

Hong Yuye calmly sipped her tea. "If the tea isn't good next time, I will invite you to have tea at my place."

"Senior, please rest assured. I will find good tea for you." Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

As for having tea at her place, he didn't want to think about the kinds of torture which would be prepared for him.

"Can the stone tablets be used now?" Hong Yuye asked,

Jiang Hao hadn't paid much attention to that after he came back. He had been busy. "It still can't be used."

"Really?" Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao teasingly. "I'll give you another chance. Do you want to answer that question differently?"

Jiang Hao shook his head. Changing the answer would imply that he had been lying.

Hong Yuye chuckled. "Although you're full of lies, you're quite lucky."

Jiang Hao felt relieved.

"In the next couple of days, the influence on the stone tablet will disappear, so you'd better let it accept a master." Hong Yuye put down her teacup.

"Remember, don't get caught while being an undercover agent."

"What will happen if I get caught?" Jiang Hao asked curiously. The stone tablet was in his possession, but he was hiding within the Heavenly Note Sect.

Hong Yuye looked at him and smiled. "Why don't you try it? But I want to remind you... I'll save you just once, but I'll want something in return. Maybe a limb... or an eyeball?"

Jiang Hao was speechless.

"I'm very cautious. I'll make sure not to get caught." "How old are you this year?" Hong Yuye asked.

"I'm twenty-three," Jiang Hao answered truthfully.

"When I was as young as you, I often looked up at the sky and felt like I could soar." Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao in confusion. "But you... your way of living doesn't match your age."

"Is there something wrong with my behavior?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It's not about your behavior," said Hong Yuye. "You're missing something." "What am I missing?" Jiang Hao was puzzled.

Hong Yuye slowly stood up, took a step towards the door, and then turned back. "The recklessness of youth."

Before he could respond, she disappeared.

"Do your undercover work well. If you don't make progress, I'll make you live as an undercover agent in the sect forever."

'Am I not reckless enough?' Jiang Hao wondered.

He always felt that he was too reckless for his own good. Being more impulsive than this would mean death. But Hong Yuye clearly wasn't referring to that.

However, he understood her a little. Looking back at his life, it felt like he had lived a long, long time. It was understandable that he avoided being reckless, considering the events that had happened in his life so far.

After finishing the remaining tea, Jiang Hao took out the stone tablet and glanced at it. He noticed that the stone tablet seemed much brighter now.

Hong Yuye had mentioned that she would save him once, but Jiang Hao didn't want the situation to get to that.

He went to the Spirit Herb Garden. He was told that the Cliff Master was looking for him. That surprised Jiang Hao. His master never asked for him.

"Senior Brother Jiang, there's a list here that requires your confirmation." A person from the Spirit Herb Garden approached him. Since it involved the cultivation of herbs with certain difficulties, it required the approval of the person in charge of managing the garden.

"I'll look at it when I come back," Jiang Hao said.

Chapter 168: Advancing To The Primordial Spirit Realm

“Junior Brother, it’s been a long time,” said Mu Qi when he saw Jiang Hao in Ku Wu Chang’s house.

“Senior Brother Mu Qi, it has indeed been long,” said Jiang Hao.

Mu Qi and Miao Tinglian had treated him well. Although they hadn’t interacted much, they were on good terms, especially after Miao Tinglian arrived in the sect.

Jiang Hao was glad and hoped it remained this way. He never expected people to help him. He was good as long as people didn’t kick him when he was down.

“You all are here.” Ku Wu Chang appeared in the courtyard. “I called you here today because of the situation with the Devil’s Den.”

“Devil’s Den?” Mu Qi was surprised. “Didn’t Senior Sister Ning Xuan go there recently?”

“Yes.” Ku Wu Chang nodded. “However, the situation seems to have gotten worse. We need more people to go in there to balance things out.

“However, the situation inside seems to have gotten worse. We still need to add more people to the various branches to balance things out. This time, we are hoping to send someone in Golden Core Realm and Foundation Establishment Realm together. Do you have anything else to do?”

“I’m not busy,” said Mu Qi.

“Me neither,” said Jiang Hao.

The Immortal Peach Tree had sprouted successfully, and the spirit beast had further awakened its bloodline. Jiang Hao had learned the Light and Dust technique too.

Hong Yuye's request was almost fulfilled. He only needed to stock up on tea and figure out the stones tablets. There was no problem.

However, Jiang Hao hoped he could get three months before venturing into another Devil's Den.

"We'll set off in two months. Please make the necessary preparations during this time. When the time comes, you'll meet with the disciples from other branches and enter the Devil's Den together. Also, don't underestimate the Demon Dwellers. You might encounter other creatures too. There have been... other entrances to the den. Be mentally and physically prepared for this," said Ku Wu Chang solemnly.

"Other entrances?" Mu Qi asked.

Jiang Hao was also very concerned.

"I'm not entirely sure. It might be in the sect or around it," said Ku Wu Chang. Jiang Hao's heart sank. This was dangerous. If he hadn't agreed beforehand, he could have made an excuse and said he had to cultivate to get out of the situation.

"Don't worry too much. The people from the Law Enforcement Hall and the White Moon Lake will keep an eye on the new entrance. It won't be easy for others to enter," Ku Wu Chang said in assurance.

"What you need to worry about are the Demon Dwellers inside. Go to the Law Enforcement Hall to accept the mission when you're ready."

After that, Ku Wu Chang dismissed them. Jiang Hao and Mu Qi were the only ones left behind.

Jiang Hao didn't know what Mu Qi wanted to talk about with the master, but he didn't care. He was worried that he only had two months. He didn't want to go on this mission without advancing further in his cultivation realm.

There was also a possibility that there were other entrances to the Devil's Den. People from other sects could sneak into the Devil's Den. If that happened, he would be in danger.

'It's safer to advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm in these two months before heading to the Devil's Den.'

The only way to get more bubbles to get close to advancing faster was to find more herbs to plant in his courtyard.

However, where could he earn more spirit stones to buy more of those?

Even if he sold the remaining Red Azure tea, it wouldn't fetch him much.

When he returned to the Spirit Herb Garden, an outer sect disciple handed him an order. "Senior Brother Jiang, the planting requirements for this herb are complicated, so I have to show it to you."

Jiang Hao nodded. He looked at the new order and frowned. It was an order for planting some Black Lotus seeds.

'An order from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion?' Jiang Hao was surprised. He looked at the requirements. He was only asked to help till they sprouted.

It would take about two weeks for them to sprout into seedlings. Then, they could be transplanted.

"Is this credible?" Jiang Hao asked.

"As long as you agree, they will pay enough spirit stones for it. However, they hope to carry out the transplantation within two months."

"Have you checked the seeds?"

"There's no problem with them. They even paid a fixed price. However, they won't pay for spirit liquid."

“In other words, under normal conditions, the seeds will sprout in two months, and they want to take them away after that.”

“Yes.”

“How many seeds are there?”

“Fifty.”

‘So many?’ Jiang Hao was a little surprised. When he had bought one Black Lotus seed, it had cost him three hundred spirit stones. Fifty seeds must cost around fifteen thousand spirit stones.

Jiang Hao wondered if the seeds could germinate in a month without spirit liquid. Even if the Spirit Herb Garden was in great condition, it seemed highly unlikely for the seeds to sprout without spirit liquid during that time. Jiang Hao was silent for a moment. “Leave the seeds with me.”

Jiang Hao accepted fifty Black Lotus seeds from the outer sect disciple. There was no problem with the seeds at a glance.

Jiang Hao found a fertile area in the garden and planted the seeds. It was not easy for this lotus to germinate. Even with spirit liquid, it took seven whole days. Without spirit liquid, even a month might not be enough for it to sprout.

On the bright side, Jiang Hao could depend on these plants to give him some bubbles, so he could advance to the primordial Spirit Realm soon.

Even if he suffered a loss from this, he needed to plant these seeds. If even half of them could spawn bubbles, that would mean twenty-five bubbles in total!

For the next two days, he watered the Black Lotus seeds with diluted spirit liquid, hoping that it would grow faster.

If he used one bottle of spirit liquid a day, that would mean nine hundred spirit stones for thirty days.

‘I hope everything goes well.’

He returned to his courtyard. Jiang Hao took out the stone tablet. It was still not ready.

After two days, he checked it once again. Finally, it could be used!

To be safe, Jiang Hao used his Daily Appraisal on the stone tablet.

[Secret Message Tablet: A Dharma Treasure. Three-in-one. It can only be used after temporarily assigning a master. After assigning a master, it will not be discovered by its true owner, nor can it be spied on. If you find a similar type of stone tablet, you can combine them into one again and obtain more authority.]

Jiang Hao wasn't surprised. It was fairly obvious.

“I wonder how many stone tablets there are in total.”

Jiang Hao didn't think too much about it. He went to his room and began to refine the magic treasure. Hong Yuye had taught him the method. He projected his mind to sense the changes in the stone tablets. He sensed nine cubes floating in the tablet.

He then began to refine it. Everything went smoothly.

He had complete control over the stone tablet. It felt completely different from having only one stone tablet at hand. He had more control over it now.

Jiang Hao noticed that countless stars had appeared on the tablet, forming a pattern. The huge constellation occupied the stone tablet.

The constellations formed a word: Jing.

“Jing?” Jiang Hao was puzzled.

After that, the image disappeared, and he saw the messages appear and disappear. He couldn’t figure out where they were coming from. Jiang Hao saw something flash in the distance. He followed it.

He suddenly heard a voice. It was a woman’s voice.

“I heard that the Heavenly Saint Sect is anxious. They want to attack the

Heavenly Note Sect. Which one of you stays near the Hidden Cloud Prefecture?

I heard the Heavenly Note Sect has many treasures...”

He saw someone turn to look at him.

Jiang Hao was stunned..

Chapter 169: Is This A Group Chat?

It was a boundless void. Within the circle of light, Jiang Hao checked on himself. He blended with the mist.

He noticed other figures there. Their voices reached his ear.

Jiang Hao could make out three people from the sound of their voices. He knew their names!

The woman who spoke first was known as Gui. The taller individual was Liu and the slender one was Xing.

Jiang Hao was astonished. The three people turned to look at him.

"I apologize for the interruption," he blurted out.

"Jing?" asked Liu, the tall man. He had a deep voice. "Are you new?"

"Having a newcomer at this stage is quite unexpected. Do you know the rules?" asked Xing.

Jiang Hao shook his head. He knew one thing for sure. He was known as "Jing" to these people.

The stone tablet seemed to have given him an identity.

"The first rule is to introduce yourself. Tell us your name and where you're from," said Gui with a teasing smile.

'My name?' Jiang Hao didn't think there was a rule like that. Even if there was one, he wouldn't follow it.

He needed to make sure he wasn't discovered as an undercover agent.

He was only sure of the one thing he had heard. The Heavenly Saint Sect was planning to attack the Heavenly Note Sect. He didn't know if the information was accurate, but there was a possibility that it could be related to him and the incident in the mines from before.

"In that case, I won't disturb you further. Goodbye."

Jiang Hao couldn't give away his name or his secret! He decided to leave and prepare a plan before coming back here.

He disappeared from sight before they could respond.

“Uh... he disappeared.” Gui sighed. She had hoped he would fall for her tricks.

This was the first time she had seen a rookie retreat so decisively.

“It seems that your plan to uncover his identity was a failure,” said Xing with a smile.

Gui was slightly disappointed. “He’ll come here again.”

“That’s true. Let’s wait.” Liu nodded.

Jiang Hao left. He was surprised. He could enter the tablet and talk with other people!

However, he did not know if there were any disadvantages to it.

He took the stone tablet and looked at it again. He saw that messages kept appearing on the tablet.

[Gui: What were we talking about before we were interrupted by the newcomer?]

[Liu: We were talking about the Heavenly Saint Sect planning to attack the Heavenly Note Sect.]

[Gui: Right... The Heavenly Saint Sect has gone crazy! I need to get going. Talk to you next time.]

Jiang Hao watched as the messages disappeared. He was a little impressed by the tablet. How did someone create such a thing?

He had discovered something. He could see the conversation on the tablet, but if he wanted to participate in the conversation, then he needed to enter the tablet.

If he went in, he could see others, and others could see him. He needed to be careful next time. The messages had completely disappeared.

“Let’s wait and see.”

Although he was surprised by the features of this magic treasure, he had to figure out something first. There was someone far stronger behind everything. There were currently four users, and they had their own codenames:

Jing, Xing, Liu, and Gui.

What he was certain about was that others possessed a similar stone tablet. As an undercover agent, his mission was to find the person behind this. He needed to collect as many stone tablets as he could.

After that, Jiang Hao put away the stone tablet and began to make talismans. He needed to earn more spirit stones because he needed more spirit liquid to help the Black Lotus seeds sprout faster. He also needed to prepare good quality tea for Hong Yuye.

After about twenty days, Jiang Hao used his Daily Appraisal on the Black Lotus seeds in the Spirit Herb Garden. The feedback he got from the ability informed him that the seed would sprout the next day.

Jiang Hao was excited. It had been almost a month. The day was finally here!

He had invested more than a thousand spirit stones to make the seeds grow. He had to work hard to sell numerous talismans to save up enough spirit stones.

‘I wonder how many bubbles will appear tomorrow.’

He Degan co count. Even 11 only nail me nowers gave Diue DUDD1es, ne woma have twenty-five bubbles!

Jiang Hao checked the lifeblood and cultivation in his interface.

[Lifeblood: 78/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 80/100 (can be cultivated)]

‘There is still time left. I have a month before I head to the Devil’s Den. That is enough time for me to advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm.’

Jiang Hao was looking forward to it. He calmed himself and began tending to the spirit herbs.

After that, he sat down on a bench and observed the garden. He saw a sixteen-year-old girl walking unsteadily.

“You are moving about unsteadily,” said Jiang Hao.

The girl was shocked. She lowered her head. “I’m sorry. I hope I didn’t damage the spirit herbs.”

“Do you know how expensive those spirit herbs are?” Jiang Hao said coldly. “Your breathing is unstable, and you’re out of balance. If you damage any of them, can you afford to compensate?”

Watching the girl panic, Jiang Hao cast some healing spells on her. “Go and rest. Come back to work tomorrow when you are better.”

The girl was ill. She had a high fever. Why was she in the Spirit Herb Garden when she was unwell?

After that, he instructed the caretakers to stay home and not tend to the spirit herbs if they felt ill. If any of them were damaged, who would pay for them?

Jiang Hao told them to rest and recover before coming to work.

In the evening, Jiang Hao returned to his house. He sat in the courtyard. He couldn't calm down because he was simply too excited about tomorrow. If all the Black Lotus seeds spawned bubbles, he would have fifty bubbles!

While waiting for the sun to rise, Jiang Hao looked at the stone tablet.

He noticed that the conversation was always between those three people he had seen before. He even suspected that the area consisted of only four of them. The three people were talkative with lots of time on their hands. If he could blend in with them, he could find out more about the tablets!

However, he didn't really have so much time on his hands. He only observed their conversation that appeared on the stone tablets occasionally.

After observing it for a while, he realized that their conversation wasn't related to anything important. He no longer paid any attention to it.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao found two bubbles near the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. He then woke the spirit beast which was sleeping near the flower.

"Let's go to the Spirit Herb Garden."

The spirit beast rubbed its eyes.. "Master, why are we up so early today? Are you going to meet your mistress?"

Chapter 170: The Possession

'Mistress?'

Jiang Hao felt bitter. With the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison in his body, it was impossible for him to feel attracted to any other woman.

Although there was Hong Yuye who made him... feel things. She was out of the question. The poison was simply ineffective against her.

However, the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison had helped him out multiple times, so he was optimistic about it. Moreover, it wasn't like the poison's effect couldn't be cured. It was fine as long as he kept getting stronger.

"Master, I only have one collar. Isn't it a bit shabby?" said the spirit beast.

"When can we get another one?"

"When we have the time and the opportunity," said Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao had planned to buy a Golden Core Realm collar for the beast when he could save up enough spirit stones. "Can I choose it myself?"

"No." Jiang Hao didn't hesitate at all.

"Master, you have to understand that I'm good at that stuff."

Jiang Hao chuckled.

After a while, they arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden.

"Oh, right, I have to find that outer sect disciple today," said the spirit beast and ran out of the garden.

"Little brat, I'm going to get you," it shouted as it ran away.

Jiang Hao glanced at the beast. It was about to advance yet again. 'It's about to reach the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. It is advancing way too fast!'

Jiang Hao frowned. The collar for the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm had cost him about a thousand spirit stones. The price would be above 1,500 for higher realms.

'It seems the beast will advance rapidly after every step at awakening its bloodline.'

Jiang Hao walked into the Spirit Herb Garden. There were only a few people there.

The sky was lightening. People were just waking up, so there weren't that many people in the garden yet.

If what Gui said was true, then there would be a battle soon. They would have no time to rest.

Both the Heavenly Note Sect and the Heavenly Saint Sect were demonic sects.

They had similar strengths and manpower. It was difficult for the Heavenly Saint Sect to win against the Heavenly Note Sect without casualties. Usually, people from any sect wouldn't think of invading other sects without a proper plan, but the Heavenly Saint Sect was fanatical.

Jiang Hao stood in the garden and looked at the area where he had planted the Black Lotus seeds. He sighed in relief. 'It worked!'

He calmed himself. He didn't show his emotions.

Looking at the blue bubbles in the distance, he finally relaxed. This was the first time in his life that he was collecting so many bubbles in one go!

This was indeed the fastest way to get bubbles. He only had to walk over to absorb those bubbles into his body.

Jiang Hao walked to the area and bubbles swarmed over to him.

The prompts appeared to inform him of his gains.

[Lifeblood +1] [Cultivation +1]

[Cultivation +1] [Lifeblood +1]

[Lifeblood Pill +1]

The values on his interface constantly changed. [Lifeblood: 80/100 (can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 82/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Lifeblood: 89/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 90/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Lifeblood: 96/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 98/100 (can be cultivated)]

In another week, he could advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm, and there was still a month left till he left for the Devil's Den.

He was in a good mood. He calculated the bubbles he had received.

"My lifeblood should have increased by 17 points, and my cultivation should be at 16 points. One of the pills came from another spirit herb. So... there were a total of thirty-three blue bubbles.' Only forty-eight lotuses had sprouted this time.

He didn't know if that was an accurate figure, but he liked the odds. The

Candlelight Pill Pavilion had also benefited from this. They could have their

flowers back in another fifteen days.

Fortunately, he hadn't suffered a loss.

Two days later, the remaining seeds also sprouted. A blue bubble appeared near them.

Jiang Hao walked to his courtyard to collect the two bubbles that had just appeared in front of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. At this point, his cultivation and lifeblood had both reached 100.

[Lifeblood: 100/100 (can be cultivated)]

[Cultivation: 100/100 (can be cultivated)]

He could advance now. He decided to wait until that night. The array formation was ready.

However, as soon as he arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden, he saw Liu Xingchen waiting at the entrance.

Liu Xingchen's aura had changed again. The impenetrable dark aura had almost disappeared.

Jiang Hao wondered if the magic was gone from him.

Liu Xingchen looked the same as ever. However, his aura was no stronger than it had been a few months ago.

Jiang Hao was speechless. How did Liu Xingchen become so powerful in just a few days?

He activated the Daily Appraisal on him.

[Liu Xingchen: True Disciple of the Heavenly Faction. Born with the aura of a dragon. He was bored and let the sorcerer possess his body. Unfortunately, the Grand Wizard found the remnant soul of the True Dragon at the last moment and chose to act cautiously. He was cautious for a month. In order to make the Grand Wizard regain his confidence, he swallowed most of the wizard's soul and deliberately forced it to where the True Dragon's soul was. Then, he pretended that he hadn't found it and waited for the Grand Wizard and the True Dragon to cooperate and possess his body. He is an undercover agent of the Heavenly Note Sect's Law Enforcement Hall. He is on good terms with you because he wants to get close to the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower to watch it carefully. Very interested in you.]

Jiang Hao was stunned. First it was the dragon, and now a wizard!

Jiang Hao wondered what he would find next time when he appraised Liu Xingchen. Would the Grand Wizard and the True Dragon have a chance to turn the tides?

However, something bothered Jiang Hao. Liu Xingchen was very interested in him. What was he so interested in?

It was troublesome to be targeted by such a person. Liu Xingchen had never caused trouble for him so far. He even encouraged Jiang Hao to ask him for help if he ever needed it. Maybe there was no need to worry about him..