

A Demoness 251

Chapter 251: Did I Make You Wait?

‘The Law Enforcement Hall is investigating the death of Du Yong...’

In theory, it should be impossible to find any evidence against him, so Jiang Hao had nothing to worry about. Otherwise, he would have been taken into custody already.

The worst-case scenario was that he would remain on their suspect list.

Jiang Hao didn’t mind. His freedom was restricted, but he was nowhere near as strong as the person from the heavenly Joy Pavilion.

If Jiang Hao was able to surpass that person in strength and power, perhaps he could also solve the matter with the Heavenly Saint Sect and Sunset Immortal Sect.

Also, Zhuang Yuzhen must not be allowed to escape. If he did, the Divine Corpse Sect would surely regard Jiang Hao as an enemy.

If that happened, even the Heavenly Note Sect might not be able to stop them.

After a short while, Jiang Hao arrived at the place where they were supposed to meet for the mission. This mission involved ten people from eight branches of the sect.

There were five men and five women in total. Three men and one woman had already arrived by the time he reached the place.

The men were in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, and the woman was in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Jiang Hao greeted them and stood at the side.

The people were rather cold toward him. They neither acknowledged him nor greeted him back. Jiang Hao didn't know why they were acting that way.

He secretly observed the people's aura, spiritual energy, and behavior. He did that to determine whether they were hiding their cultivation like he was.

Three more people arrived. Two were still not here.

"Why haven't the two from the Ice Moon Valley arrived yet?" said a man from the Flowing Waterfall.

"Maybe something delayed them. Let's wait a little longer," said a woman from Misty Cloud Peak.

The others remained quiet.

The two remaining people still didn't come.

"We can't wait anymore. Let's go," said a frail man from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

"Let's just wait a little longer. We still have time," said a woman from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion.

Jiang Hao didn't say anything but waited with the others.

Most of these people were in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Only one was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. That was Wen Qi from the Flowing Waterfall, who had spoken before.

Among the two men, there was no one in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Among the women, only one was in the middle stage and was from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion. It seemed that she was also an alchemist.

Apart from these, Jiang Hao also noticed something. These people carried spiritual energy that other cultivators didn't have, and they were all young.

He used Daily Appraisal on one of them and found out that they were all very talented disciples.

This was a team of geniuses. If he hadn't been given the mission, Han Ming would have been the one accompanying them. He was a True Disciple, unlike Jiang Hao.

'It is no wonder they were cold toward me. They are all extraordinarily talented..

After a while, two women from the Ice Moon Valley finally arrived.

They were dressed in white, with their hair tied up in simple buns. They walked over to the group while talking and laughing with each other.

Wen Qi was displeased when he saw them being so tardy and without any remorse. "Do you know that you're late?"

"So?" One of the women, the tall and slender one, glared at Wen Qi. "Did it kill you to wait a few minutes longer? No one else, except you, seems to have a problem with it."

"That's right! Did we ask you to wait for us?" said the other woman. "If you had a problem with waiting, you could have gone on ahead without us." "You..." Wen Qi was enraged. An aura surged forth from him.

"Just at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm and you show this much attitude?" said the tall woman from the Ice Moon Valley. She stepped forward and released her aura. She was also at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

“Let’s go!” Wen Qi left on his flying sword.

Others followed suit. Jiang Hao was at the very back.

He didn’t care about these people. He knew they would never pay any attention to him since he was only in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm in their eyes. Besides, his talent wasn’t as high as theirs. So, they naturally ignored him.

However, the last two women who had arrived were very easily offended. The tall one was Ye Shan and the other was called Wan Xi.

They both had extraordinary talent, but they were still inner sect disciples. They hadn’t yet been promoted to True Disciples.

In fact, if Han Ming had come, he would have been the only True Disciple here.

However, judging from their aura and spirit, they were not on the same level as Han Ming.

Han Ming had gone through it all. He ventured out of the sect in search of adventure. He had faced life and death.

He even made remarkable contributions during the fight with Azure Mountain.

Han Ming never stopped improving himself. He was full of determination and perseverance. He had experienced more than anyone else in the sect.

In terms of their aura and spirit, they weren’t as refined and strong as Han Ming.

Jiang Hao realized how exceptional Han Ming actually was. He had exemplary talent and numerous resources and opportunities, yet he still put in the effort to improve.

After a short while, they reached Spirit Mountain.

The one who received them was a senior in the Golden Core Realm. He appeared dissatisfied as he stared at the group that had just arrived.

However, he didn't say anything and told them to follow him.

'This is not good. A senior was waiting. Just because the two from the Ice Moon Valley were late, now the senior thinks we are all disrespectful.'

When they reached the mountaintop, the senior stood in front of the spirit field and faced them.

"There are three types of spirit herbs here. They are divided into ten areas. Your task is to cultivate these spirit herbs with all your effort and make them grow. The duration of this mission is three months. You must be present here every day for these three months. Otherwise, you can head to the Law Enforcement Hall with your excuses and accept your punishment. Now, come forward one by one and take this manual from me."

Ye Shan from the Ice Moon Valley was the first to walk up to him. She accepted the manual.

Wen Qi was next. The others walked up to the senior, one after the other, and took a copy of the manual.

Jiang Hao was the last one to approach.

He approached the senior, accepted the manual, and offered him a spirit stone under the book.

"I apologize for keeping you waiting, Senior Brother," said Jiang Hao apologetically.

The senior in the Golden Core Realm was momentarily stunned, but he discreetly accepted the spirit stone.

A small booklet was secretly handed to Jiang Hao beneath the manual. Jiang Hao was delighted. He thanked the senior.

“Now, your mission officially begins.” The senior then flew away on his flying sword.

The group of people started searching for their respective spirit fields.

The spirit field was divided into ten portions. So, everyone would be next to one another.

Jiang Hao found his portion right at the end. There were a total of nine spirit herbs there.

Three of them had grown tall and lush. The other three were coiled around each other and were about two meters long.

The last three were the most ordinary herbs. They looked like white flowers and were the size of a person’s palm.

‘I’ve never seen this before.’

Jiang Hao checked the surroundings. He wasn’t in a rush to find a trace of Bai Ye yet.

He opened the manual to determine his task. He had to complete the task first before proceeding to other matters.

Jiang Hao learned the names of the three types of spirit herbs from the book. It was all recorded in the manual.

But that was all there was. There was no other information.

While others were still contemplating how to cultivate the spirit herbs, Jiang Hao opened the small booklet the senior had secretly handed him.

After flipping through it, Jiang Hao understood his mission and also learned about some characteristics of the spirit herbs.

He needed to nourish the herbs with spiritual energy, determine the influence of talent on specific spirit herbs, and then decide whether it was better to cultivate important herbs together to increase the chance of success.

After looking at the small booklet, Jiang Hao could only think of Bai Ye. Bai Ye was indeed a genius when it came to understanding spirit herbs.

He couldn't let Bai Ye become one of the top ten disciples. If that happened, he couldn't take any action against him. He would become even more terrifying..

Chapter 252: If He Can, Why Can't You?

A talented person like Bai Ye was probably rare even in the Hundred Bones Forest.

The book resembled Bai Ye's style from every perspective.

Unless Bai Ye's master is also considered such a genius among such strong individuals...

He couldn't figure out who had issued the mission. He felt like he was a test subject.

Regardless, he couldn't refuse the mission from the sect.

Jiang Hao didn't mind the mission. As long as no one provoked him, everything would be fine.

If he succeeded in this, the number of people keeping an eye on him would decrease.

Jiang Hao confirmed the names and characteristics of the spirit herbs. The tall spirit herb was called Bright Sun Grass. It needed to face the sun to grow well.

Jiang Hao looked at it and found that the position of the three Bright Sun Grasses was unsuitable. So, he moved them to face the sun.

Their positions needed to be changed twice a day. Once in the morning, and once in the afternoon.

The spirit herbs that were entwined together were called the Bodhi Flowers. They bore fruits, and their roots coiled around nearby plants.

Jiang Hao surrounded it in a circle so that the herb could grow without taking up much space.

The last type of spirit herb was called White Spirit Flower. The spirit herb thrived well on moist grounds. It needed constant watering.

After completing the tasks, Jiang Hao sat down and began to cultivate. He infused spiritual energy into the soil. This way, he could synchronize the growth of the herbs with his own strength.

However, the purity of the spiritual energy would directly affect the quality of the herbs.

Jiang Hao was not worried about his pure spiritual energy being discovered. He didn't need to be cautious to that extent.

He didn't fear the people below him on the cultivation level, and those stronger than him didn't have a reason to fear him anyway.

Only people between these two levels would target him. However, the ones here in the group posed no threat to him.

Occasionally, they might cause him some trouble, but that was okay.

He glanced at the others. Most of them weren't very good at cultivating spirit herbs.

The two individuals from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion were carefully studying the spirit herbs.

Jiang Hao paid no attention to them and focused on his meditation.

When the spirit herbs matured, he would be allowed to take away three, one of each kind.

Perhaps they would be worth several hundred spirit stones in the market.

It was a difficult task. If the spirit herbs failed to mature in three months, he wouldn't be allowed to take any of them with him. It would also mean that the mission would be considered a failure.

In the afternoon, Jiang Hao, who was meditating, was awakened by an argument.

"What does your withered flower have to do with me?" said Wen Qi.

Jiang Hao looked over at them. He saw that Ye Shan from the Ice Moon Valley was confronting Wen Qi about something.

"You're not at fault? Do you not see that my flower needs sunlight, but your stupid grass is blocking everything?" Ye Shan berated him loudly.

"Am I to blame if your flower withers? Did I complain to you when my flower was withering?" said Wen Qi.

"This is ridiculous!" Ye Shan said. "What does your withered flower have to do with me?"

"I ask you the same question. It's not my fault if your flower withers." "Your grass is blocking my flower. Can't you move it back just a bit?" Ye Shan sneered.

"How can I move it? The grass was planted here from the beginning," said Wen Qi as he pointed at the field next to Jiang Hao. "Just see for yourself. It's not blocking anything, and yet the flower is withering."

"That's just stupid!" Ye Shan scoffed. "If he can move it, why can't you? You still think you're special?"

"You..." Wen Qi felt like he couldn't breathe properly in his rage.

His aura surged violently as if he was about to attack.

Ye Shan showed no weakness and emitted a similar aura.

Jiang Hao listened to their argument and sighed inwardly. It seemed it was impossible to avoid trouble.

"That's right! If he can move his spirit herb, why can't you?" asked Wan Xi.

Wen Qi furrowed his brows in frustration. The others had the same question.

If Jiang Hao backed off from this, he would be treated like an outcast. However, if he agreed with them, Wen Qi would suffer.

Their gazes toward Jiang Hao turned unfriendly.

Jiang Hao was stunned. He hadn't done anything to anyone, and yet these people were causing trouble. He was just an innocent bystander. He hadn't even talked to them much.

He felt that the exceptional talents of the two women from the Ice Moon Valley were simply a waste when it came to them. Their temperament and attitude would get them killed sooner or later.

Their childish bickering was going to affect him too!

Jiang Hao didn't say anything. He remained quiet and left Spirit Mountain late at night to return to his house.

He then focused on reading the nameless manual. He also set aside some time to refine the third move of the Heavenly Blade.

He had made great progress. Coming back from visiting Xiao Li's parents had opened his mind.

His understanding of the Light and Dust Technique became even more profound.

After three days, Jiang Hao constantly saw the three people arguing over petty matters while he cultivated in silence.

On the seventh day, the spirit herbs of the others had started withering, but Jiang Hao's herbs remained fresh.

Surprisingly, not a single person inquired about it.

It seemed that these people genuinely looked down on Jiang Hao, a disciple with above-average talent.

Even if their mission failed, they wouldn't lower themselves to ask for help from someone like him.

Jiang Hao didn't pay them any attention.

It wasn't until the tenth day that they finally made a breakthrough. They visited the senior in the Golden Core Realm.

Ye Shan kept cursing under her breath. Jiang Hao didn't know how much they had paid for the booklet, but they had gotten it too. It seemed that the price was quite high.

Jiang Hao wondered why they had acted that way if they knew it would be difficult.

If they had been respectful, one spirit stone would have sufficed.

Not only were they late, but they also didn't apologize for making the senior wait. Didn't they think it would leave a bad impression on the senior?

It was a big deal, and yet these people treated it so lightly.

Sometimes, a little bit of goodwill can make a person feel much better, and they would be more willing to help. It was just a matter of attitude.

'Do they think they have to be rude and fierce all the time just because they are from the demonic sect?'

If that was the case, Jiang Hao truly felt sorry for these people. They had exemplary talents, so they looked down on everyone.

On the fifteenth day, when Wan Xi was watering the White Spirit Flower, some of it splashed onto Jiang Hao's side of the field.

"Junior Brother, the water spilled a little to your side. Shouldn't be a problem, right?"

Jiang Hao shook his head. He didn't mind.

On the eighteenth day, Wan Xi deliberately splashed some more water toward his side.

"This spirit herb needs a lot of water, so I am trying to water it a lot." Jiang Hao still didn't say anything. He had no intention to engage with them.

However, his silence caused a commotion for others.

Ye Shan pointed to Jiang Hao. "Look at him. If he can endure it silently, why can't you? Are you all inferior to that above-average disciple when it comes to tolerance? The worst among you has superior talent. What a waste! "

The others were indignant. They were angry and wanted to take action but seemed unsure.

Jiang Hao glanced at them and closed his eyes to continue his cultivation..

Chapter 253: Defeat

As time passed, the conflicts among the others escalated. It seemed like they would start fighting at any moment.

Jiang Hao sat in front of the spirit field and watched quietly. He didn't know whether the senior across from him really didn't take him seriously or was just annoyed by his calmness.

When the second month arrived, she watered the White Spirit Flower and approached his Bright Sun Grass.

If she strayed a bit further away, Jiang Hao wouldn't have minded.

However, the Bright Sun Grass was of the fire element. If she watered it any closer, it would affect the growth of his spirit herb.

"Senior Sister, I would be grateful if you could be careful with the water."

"It's just a little splash. It's fine," said Wan Xi. "Besides, the Bright Sun Grass isn't that delicate."

“Senior Sister, it’s not just a little...” Jiang Hao walked to the Bright Sun Grass and pointed at the boundary. “You’ve crossed the boundary quite a bit. I even moved the spirit herb back a bit. Otherwise, your water would have drowned my spirit herb.”

Wan Xi walked over to him. “Then why don’t you move it back further? You still have plenty of space, right?”

“Why do I need to move it further? If you could just water your own field and not cross the boundary, it’ll be fine.”

“No one else has any objections. Why do you have so many? Everyone is doing the same. No one seems to mind except you!”

She pointed at Jiang Hao’s White Spirit Flower. “You also water that flower. I never stop you, do I?”

“Senior Sister, the water that splashes in my boundary is affecting the growth of my Bright Sun Grass,” said Jiang Hao.

“I’ve been careful, haven’t I? What more do you want from me?” Wan Xi glared at Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao stared at the person in front of him calmly. He didn’t understand if she was doing this intentionally or if this was her nature.

“Senior Sister, can we talk in private?” Jiang Hao asked.

“What do you mean? Just say what you have to say right here,” Wan Xi said.

Ye Shan smirked. “Yeah. If you want to solve this with spirit stones, you can give them to her right here. Why sneak around?”

They already knew that Jiang Hao was able to grow his spirit herbs because he had slipped spirit stones to the senior on the first encounter.

Jiang Hao glanced at the people around him. He didn't know how it had come to this. He had always remained silent and done his own thing, yet he seemed to have offended everyone.

He guessed he couldn't really fit in anywhere.

Jiang Hao didn't think much about it. He looked at Wan Xi. "Senior Sister, I'll be very grateful if you could just water on your own field and not splash the water on my side."

"Are you done nagging?" Wan Xi glared at Jiang Hao. "I already said— Clang!"

A long saber unsheathed from its sheath and slashed down.

Wan Xi didn't even know what had happened until blood spurted from her neck.

When she was about to attack Jiang Hao, a long spear stabbed her through her stomach and sent her flying backward.

She crashed into something and slid to the ground.

Jiang Hao walked to her and stepped on her chest with his right foot. "Can you make sure you water only your side, Senior Sister?"

Wan Xi clutched at her neck. "Jiang Hao, are you trying to kill me?! A fellow disciple? If you dare, just do it!" The Half-Moon Blade slashed down again.

Crack!

Bang!

The Half-Moon Blade only hit air. Wan Xi had disappeared. She must have used a treasure.

Wan Xi was leaning against a tree and gasping. Her eyes were filled with fear. Jiang Hao would have really killed her!

If it wasn't for her treasure, she would have been dead!

"Senior Sister. save me!" cried Wan Xi desperately.

The others finally reacted.

They were shocked that the silent and quiet Jiang Hao had actually drawn his weapon and would have killed someone just as easily.

Ye Shan was furious. "How dare you try to kill a fellow disciple? I will make sure you face the Law Enforcement Hall!"

She charged at Jiang Hao while unleashing the aura of the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Jiang Hao dodged her attack and appeared behind her.

A dagger appeared in his hand. He stabbed it into Ye Shan's neck.

'What a fool! She is at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm and still isn't vigilant of her surroundings!'

Jiang Hao couldn't believe she had exemplary talent and was considered a genius.

Jiang Hao then elbowed her on the stomach and stomped her head into the ground.

He then approached Wan Xi.

Wan Xi retreated in fear.

Jiang Hao placed the knife against her neck. "I'll ask you again... Senior Sister, can you please make sure you water only on your own side?"

Wan Xi nodded. "Y-yes!"

"Can you say within your own field?"

"I-I can."

"If others don't mind it, but I do. Will that pose a problem for you?"

"No. Others are all the same, but... you're different."

Jiang Hao sheathed his knife. "Then I am very sorry to trouble you for it, Senior Sister."

"It's no trouble at all." Wan Xi shook her head.

Jiang Hao approached Ye Shan. He helped her up. "Senior Sister, considering the situation, do you think I acted reasonably?"

"Y-yes!" said Ye Shan in fear.

"That's good." Jiang Hao nodded and then returned to the spirit field. He sat down and started cultivating.

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

The person that they all ignored and looked down on was very powerful.

Shortly after, the two women from the Ice Moon Valley were rescued.

The others sat quietly in their own spirit fields. No one dared to argue.

Wen Qi of the Flowing Waterfall looked at Jiang Hao. He was confused. How was Jiang Hao so fast in his attacks? Or were the two people from the Ice Moon Valley really incompetent?

Jiang Hao's aura hadn't exceeded that of someone in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, after all.

Maybe it was because Ye Shan and Wan Xi didn't have any combat experience. But this incident would surely bring more trouble.

After all, the disciples sent on the sect's mission were all geniuses. Ice Moon Valley would definitely demand an explanation.

However, they weren't murdered, so the Law Enforcement Hall wouldn't get involved. At most, Jiang Hao's resources would be confiscated, and he might have to pay a fine. Jiang Hao didn't care.

The only thing he was concerned about was how Ice Moon Valley would handle this incident. When he had killed Yun Ruo, the Heavenly Joy Pavilion sent someone to avenge her.

Three days later, Han Ming learned about the incident from Mu Qi.

"Senior Brother Jiang defeated someone who was at the peak of Foundation Establishment Realm?" Han Ming was surprised. "But he is only at the late stage!"

“Yeah... but the ones at the peak stage were inexperienced in combat. The consequences weren’t severe. However, several disciples in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm have sent letters from Ice Moon Valley challenging him to a fight.”

Mu Qi took out some envelopes from his pocket. He looked helpless.

Han Ming asked for the envelopes and the addresses of the two people who had picked a fight with Jiang Hao.

After that, he intercepted them.

Wan Xi and Ye Shan had just recovered from their injuries. They looked at Han Ming in confusion.

“Hello, I’m Han Ming from the Cliff of Broken Hearts. I want to challenge you to a fight, Senior Sister Wan Xi.”

Wan Xi looked shocked. “Senior Sister Wan Xi, do you accept the challenge? He looked at the envelopes in his hand. He planned to challenge them all one by one.

Han Ming hadn’t been able to defeat Jiang Hao even once, and these people wanted to challenge him!

Chapter 254: Famous Because Of His Fights

Jiang Hao still maintained his usual routine of taking care of his spirit herbs at Spirit Mountain. He always went there early and returned home late at night.

He was waiting for someone from the Law Enforcement Hall to come and question him, but three days had passed and no one had come.

No matter how weak Ye Shan and Wan Xi had been, they were still exceptionally talented disciples. After he had injured them heavily, the Ice Moon Valley, or the sect, was bound to say something.

However, after the incident, everything had been quiet.

The others got along well. They greeted and spoke with each other politely, and they went about their own business.

Jiang Hao understood that these people had been sheltered their whole lives. They brought shame to the demonic sect.

Jiang Hao still remembered how Wen Qi had stayed silent when Ye Shan had berated him. Both were geniuses at the same level. Wen Qi should have taken action against her long ago.

‘After a few days, I’ll have to watch over the Immortal Peach Tree as it undergoes another incarnation.’

After leaving the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao began to think about the next incarnation of the peach tree. This time would be different.

He urgently needed to find a third purple bubble to obtain a new divine ability.

Before he could even leave the Cliff of Broken Heart, he saw Liu Xingchen approach him.

‘Finally!’ Jiang Hao had prepared for his visit mentally. He didn’t know how many spirit stones he would have to pay as compensation, but he had no choice. If the fine exceeded two thousand spirit stones, it would be troublesome for him.

If it exceeded three thousand, he would have to go sell more talismans in the next few days.

The incarnation of the Immortal peach tree required 14,000 spirit stones. He had around 17,000 spirit stones on him right now.

“Junior Brother Jiang, you don’t seem surprised to see me,” Liu Xingchen said.

“Senior Brother Liu, you must be pulling my leg,” said Jiang Hao politely.

“It seems you understand the consequences of your action, Junior Brother

Jiang,” said Liu Xingchen. “But... you are wrong this time.”

“How?” Jiang Hao was somewhat surprised. ‘Is it even more serious than I thought?’

“Do you think the situation is that grave?” Liu Xingchen teased him.

Jiang Hao thought for a moment. “If you came alone, the case might not be very serious.”

Liu Xingchen laughed. “Indeed! It’s not a problem at all.”

Jiang Hao was baffled. “Really?”

“Yes. The people from the Ice Moon Valley wanted you to pay five hundred spirit stones as compensation. The Law Enforcement Hall didn’t want to get involved because it was just a simple fight between disciples of two branches. However, they did agree that five hundred spirit stones were good enough to pay as compensation. However, your master refused,” said Liu Xingchen. “The Cliff Master asked how someone could demand compensation after being defeated by someone at a lower level than them. The negotiation broke down completely after that.”

“The negotiations broke down?!” Jiang Hao was astonished.

“Yeah. So, there was no agreement, but your master said his branch was ready for a fight if they wanted it. This time, it seems the Cliff of Broken Hearts wants to protect you. It’s only natural. You have made so many contributions to the branch, after all.”

Liu Xingchen chuckled. “Besides, you are already on our suspect list. Junior Brother Jiang, this time you don’t need to pay any compensation. The only trouble is that the cultivators from Ice Moon Valley might

come to challenge you. They will do it for the sake of their reputation and to please the two people who picked a fight with you. Someone is always trying to make trouble.”

Jiang Hao suddenly realized that making contributions had its benefits. As long as he had achievements to his name that benefited the branch, they would have his back.

Even when the Law Enforcement Hall had arrested him, he had to be released sooner than the others because he was one of the top ten disciples at the time.

This time, the merit he had gained from making the Corpse Realm Flower bloom helped him.

His master was willing to argue and fight to see him treated well!

But the challenges...

“I’ve never received a challenge before,” Jiang Hao said.

Liu Xingchen nodded. “You know, whether you pay the compensation or not, it will be the same. People will try to target you anyway. The situation won’t get too serious, though. Ice Moon Valley has other disciples they need to focus on. I asked around and found out that many people are praising your combat skills.”

Jiang Hao understood how unpleasant the two disciples had been. It was only natural for others to dislike them.

However, he was surprised that no one had tried to take action against him until now.

Perhaps the ones who were talented didn’t want to engage in petty matters like these. Those who were exceptionally talented usually wanted to live longer to get stronger.

After that, Liu Xingchen went to the mines again.

Currently, he was still in a state where two remnant souls had banded together against him. If he found another remnant soul, the three souls would fight against him. It was unclear who would win in the end.

Jiang Hao planned to look around the spirit field at Spirit Mountain for traces of Bai Ye. The main reason he took on this mission was to do just that. He couldn't delay any longer.

When he arrived at Spirit Mountain, he found that Ye Shan and Wan Xi had returned to their respective spirit fields.

Their injuries had completely healed, but Wan Xi looked quite disheveled. Jiang Hao wondered what had happened to her.

When the two of them saw Jiang Hao, they lowered their heads and didn't meet his eyes.

Jiang Hao's ruthlessness had intimidated them.

At first, they thought that they were looking down on Jiang Hao because he was someone with only average talent. However, it now seemed that Jiang Hao had looked down on them instead.

Now, whenever Jiang Hao said something, they listened carefully. They were afraid he would draw his saber again.

Jiang Hao had been so fast in his attacks that no one dared confront him.

Wan Xi moved her spirit herbs further away from the boundary so that water wouldn't splash on Jiang Hao's spirit field.

Jiang Hao's attitude toward these people remained the same. He was calm and polite with everyone.

After that, he tended to the spirit herbs and wandered around the area. His spirit herbs were about to mature and didn't need constant supervision.

He didn't care whether the others would try to destroy his herbs when he was away. No one had dared to do that so far. If they did, he would deal with it.

In the third month, Jiang Hao's spirit herbs had fully matured. He was now waiting for the end of the mission.

During that time, he observed his surroundings.

He used Daily Appraisal on the spirit herbs in other people's fields. However, nothing was strange. The spirit herbs in the field of the Candlelight Pill

Pavilion disciples were the same as those belonging to the disciples from the Hundred Bones Forest.

He especially paid attention to the spirit herbs in the spirit field, overseen by those from Hundred Bones Forest. He wanted to see if he could find any trace of Bai Ye. But so far, he had found nothing.

There was one surprising news during this time. Han Ming had accepted so many challenges that were meant for Jiang Hao. Most of his opponents were in the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

As someone in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, he had no extra advantage. He had suffered multiple injuries. However, Han Ming had persevered. He had won three challenges and lost four.

However, in the eighth fight, he made a breakthrough amidst his injuries and advanced to the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

He had become famous for his endless fights and determination. Whenever Jiang Hao met Mu Qi, he praised him to the skies.

As fellow disciples with exceptional talent, Ye Shan and the others were as weak as those with below-average talent.

However, Han Ming was extraordinary. Even with exceptional talent, it was impossible to reach the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm at the age of twenty-three.

Jiang Hao sat in the spirit field and began to think about the Immortal Peach Tree.

It was now mid-November. The incarnation of the tree couldn't be delayed anymore.

'I'll go back early today and help with the incarnation.'

Once the incarnation succeeded, he might be able to obtain a new divine ability..

Chapter 255: The Demoness Stays Back and Wants To Take A Bath

At the Hidden Cloud Prefecture, upstream of the Huangsha River, Bi Zhu floated midair.

She looked down at the river.

"It seems like this is the place. I wonder if I can find what I'm looking for."

The location Jing had provided was right here. It was time to confirm everything.

"I want to see if Jing was bluffing. If not, let's see how he dealt with the dragon.

His methods might not have been effective."

She wasn't in a hurry. She continued to float down along the riverside.

"It should be this area."

Bi Zhu floated in the air. Her green dress swayed in the breeze.

She stared at the river. As she continued downstream, the turbulent river slowed down.

She stopped in her tracks.

She had imagined the dragon to be huge, but it was so small in reality. She had almost missed it.

“It can’t be... Is this the only thing that is left?”

Doubt filled her mind as she slowly descended. The water separated, revealing the riverbed.

She saw a purple sphere. “Huh?”

She gestured to it, and the sphere flew to her hand.

She left the surface of the river and floated up into the sky. She examined the purple sphere. She could see a tiny dragon inside.

It was so small that she would have missed it if she hadn’t been paying attention.

She was intrigued by the technique that was used to seal the creature.

“I have never seen something like this!”

Jing was not as simple as she had thought. An ordinary cultivator wouldn’t have a technique like this.

“It seems that he’s not pretending to be mysterious. I’ll have to be more vigilant in the next transaction.”

She put away the dragon and looked at the distant village. Bi Zhu thought that she might be able to find out more by asking around.

However, there was no need to draw attention to the matter right now. She left from there and prepared for the next gathering.

In the Heavenly Note Sect, Jiang Hao returned to his residence a little early.

At this moment, the spirit beast was with Xiao Li. They were secretly picking peaches from the tree.

"We picked so many. What if Senior Brother Jiang scolds us?" Xiao Li was a little afraid.

"He won't. Master will never scold me."

"What about me?"

"Just mention my name. Everything will be fine." "Really?"

"Have I ever lied to you?" asked the spirit beast.

"I didn't know spirit beasts liked peaches," said Xiao Li.

"Spirit beasts eat people. Later, we'll go and... and find some carrots! I love carrots!"

Jiang Hao had just stepped through the gate when the spirit beast sensed his presence. He was surprised. The beast seemed to sense him, no matter how well he hid himself.

"Master, you're back!" said the spirit beast.

Xiao Li was so startled that she dropped two peaches on the ground.

“S-Senior Brother J-Jiang!” She picked up the peaches from the ground and lowered her head guiltily.

Jiang Hao looked at her. “Are the peaches sweet this time?”

“Yes. Very.” Xiao Li nodded.

‘Indeed...

Jiang Hao let Xiao Li and the spirit beast pick more peaches. She looked very happy that she wasn’t punished.

When there were only three peaches left on the tree, Jiang Hao told them to stop.

Xiao Li hopped back to her house happily with a peach in her mouth.

Jiang Hao watched Xiao Li leave and turned around. He saw that the spirit beast was battered and bruised, and it was hanging from a ranch.

“Do you know who your junior is?” asked a pleasant voice.

Although the tone of her voice was casual, Jiang Hao didn’t let his guard down.

Jiang Hao saw Hong Yuye appear near the tree in a red and white dress. Her hair was tied up in a bun.

She plucked a peach from the branch and took a bite.

Jiang Hao felt as though his heart would give out. It was racing too much. Hong Yuye looked particularly beautiful at that moment.

'Is she using enchantment on me?'

Jiang Hao was baffled. He could withstand every enchantment directed at him, except hers. The Heaven Extinction Gu Poison had no effect when he faced her.

"This is sweet." Hong Yuye looked disappointed. "It seems like you're wrong again."

Jiang Hao lowered his head. "Perhaps that was the only sweet one, and you happened to eat it."

"Tell me about your junior. Do you know what she is?" Hong Yuye sat on a wooden chair and bit into the peach again.

"Senior, do you know it already?"

A tremendous force surged forth. With a bang, Jiang Hao crashed into the wall.

"I'm the one asking you... not the other way around."

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief and stood up. "Junior Sister Xiao Li is a dragon."

"Do you know what kind of dragon she is?" Hong Yuye asked again.

"No." Jiang Hao shook his head.

"Tell me how she joined you here."

Jiang Hao explained Xiao Li's situation and how he had helped her with meals from the cafeteria because it wasn't enough for her.

“So, you recruited her into the sect... It’s not surprising.” Hong Yuye chuckled. “She is still young. She will treat whoever treats her well with kindness. You gave her a meal. She will always remember that.”

“Are dragons really that vulnerable emotionally?” Jiang Hao asked.

Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao and smiled. “Don’t you see it?”

Xiao Li had lost her memory and her power. Jiang Hao was hoping to learn more from Hong Yuye.

“Eat the peach.” Hong Yuye pointed to the peach tree. “Can we proceed with the incarnation today?”

“We can.” Jiang Hao nodded.

He had planned to do it today anyway.

After eating the peach, he began to arrange the spirit stones in a formation. 14,700 spirit stones were gone just like that!

He only had about three thousand with him now.

Hong Yuye sat on the wooden chair and watched as the last peach absorbed all the nutrients and spiritual energy.

In the middle of the night, the peach tree withered. Early the next morning, the fruit fell to the ground.

The entire tree turned to ash.

“It’s almost done.”

He didn’t expect Hong Yuye to stay overnight at his place.

“What’s next?” Hong Yuye asked.

Jiang Hao picked up the peach tree seed and planted it again at the same spot. “The next step is to water it for six days. It’ll sprout again. It’ll be a new cycle.”

“Is that all?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao nodded.

Hong Yuye stood up and walked inside the house. “Prepare some hot water. I want to take a bath.”

Jiang Hao still felt a dull pain in his back from the time he had crashed into the wall. He didn’t dare refuse her.

“Oh, by the way...” Hong Yuye suddenly stopped and turned around. “Use your divine ability on me again.”

‘Divine ability? Does she mean Daily Appraisal?’

Chapter 256: Do You Think I Can’t Take A Bath By Myself?

Jiang Hao was puzzled because of Hong Yuye’s sudden request.

Since he had advanced, he hadn’t really tried using Daily Appraisal on her.

It was easy to be caught. He had postponed it until he got stronger.

He had no choice but to use it this time.

He adjusted his breathing and concealed his aura. Then he activated the Daily Appraisal.

The feedback came slowly. Hong Yuye was too powerful, so the ability took its time to show the information.

The feedback finally came!

[Hong Yuye: Infected with the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison. Her Yin Poison forms a unique pair with your Yang Poison...]

Jiang Hao was surprised. The feedback wasn't full of question marks like before. However, it still didn't reveal much.

He wondered if he would be able to uncover more if he advanced further. But he had to get Hong Yuye's permission to use the ability. Otherwise, it would be risky.

"I used it," Jiang Hao said.

"Have you tried the techniques from the Seven Forms of Heavenly Blade book that I gave you?" asked Hong Yuye. "How far did you reach?" "The third form," Jiang Hao said truthfully.

He didn't know when he would be able to learn the fourth form.

Hong Yuye didn't ask anymore and waited in the hall while Jiang Hao heated the water.

After heating the water and pouring it into the tub, he sprinkled some silver moon petals on the surface.

This time, he only used one packet of the petals. He didn't know if that would be enough to cover the surface.

He then informed Hong Yuye that the water was ready.

Hong Yuye walked in and reached out to check the water. She then turned to

Jiang Hao. "Do you think I can't take a bath by myself?"

Jiang Hao stepped back. "Of course not. I'll leave now."

He was just waiting to see if Hong Yuye would have a problem with it.

Jiang Hao stood at the door behind him as he left. He took out the book on Light and Dust Technique. This cultivation technique was related to one's state of mind.

He always felt a little dazed whenever Hong Yuye visited.

If he hadn't practiced mindfulness, he would have been very flustered right now.

He read the book for a while until his heart stopped pounding. The stone tablet trembled in his pocket.

He checked it and saw that Dan Yuan had called for a gathering a month later.

It had been nearly five months since the last gathering, and it was indeed time for another one.

However, the notification came earlier this time. They had to wait for a month!

He glanced at the messages.

It was a conversation between Liu and Xing.

Liu had tracked down the person Xing was looking for. He was asking if Xing needed them alive.

Jiang Hao felt that Liu was incredibly powerful.

He needed to be prepared for the gathering.

Gui's mission was already done. He was just waiting for the next gathering to collect his reward.

Liu was just focusing on his cultivation, while Xing didn't really have any tasks at hand.

Jiang Hao couldn't fulfill Xing's mission even if he had the ability. Liu was already assigned to it. It wouldn't look good to snatch away another person's target. If he did that, they would resent him.

Some things couldn't be rushed. There was still time.

It was better to obtain the curses to deal with Bai Ye first.

Putting away the stone tablet, Jiang Hao turned to look at the door behind him.

It had been a long time since Hong Yuye had gone inside. She still hadn't come out. Jiang Hao wondered if it would be the same as last time.

He wanted to check to make sure she was okay. But after the last incident, he didn't dare open the door. He had no choice but to wait.

"Come in," said the voice from inside.

Jiang Hao was startled. He calmed himself and got up.

He knocked and informed her that he was opening the door. Then he went in.

She was standing beside the tub, dressed in a blue and white gown. Her hair cascaded down to her waist.

She leaned down and stirred the water. "This tub is too small. Get a larger one."

Jiang Hao nodded. He saw that the silver moon petals were still scattered on the surface.

The room was spacious enough to accommodate a larger wooden tub.

Hong Yuye turned to face him. "If the tub is still the same next time I visit, I'll stuff you in it."

Jiang Hao promised to replace it.

Then Hong Yuye faded away.

Jiang Hao saw her vanish. He noticed that her red and white dress was still draped across the screen.

He thought Hong Yuye had forgotten her dress. In the next moment, the dress vanished.

He then went to the market to find another tub. He found one that had curved edges. It was larger than the one he had before. It had some stones edged onto the side. They were sunset red.

He thought Hong Yuye would like this tub. Fortunately, it wasn't very expensive. It cost him only one spirit stone.

After installing the tub, Jiang Hao continued with his own work.

He headed to Spirit Mountain and walked around the area. He still didn't find anything.

On the sixth day, Jiang Hao returned to his courtyard to see the spirit beast drooling beside the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower. He also saw a purple bubble beside the peach tree seedling. [Divine Ability Fragment +1]

[Spirit +1]

[Strength +1]

White bubbles occasionally appeared in the courtyard, but they weren't as important as purple bubbles.

Jiang Hao sat on the wooden chair and glanced at his interface.

[Divine Ability: 3/3 (can be obtained)]

Without any hesitation, he chose to acquire it.

He was excited to see what kind of divine ability he would get this time.

After acquiring it, the numbers instantly reset to zero.

At that moment, he felt changes throughout his entire body. He felt energy rushing from his skin to his bones.

It felt as though countless ants were crawling within and outside his body. It made him feel a bit uncomfortable.

The sensation disappeared after a while.

Although he didn't know what divine ability he had obtained, he was sure it had something to do with physicality.

After a while, his body returned to normal.

There were no substantial changes in his body. He didn't feel anything different.

'Maybe the divine ability isn't very powerful this time...' He sighed and opened his interface to confirm it..

Chapter 257: Fifth -Ranked Disciple

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 24]

[Cultivation: Middle Stage of the Primordial Spirit 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, Divine Might, Revival of Withered Tree]

[Lifeflood: 36/100 (can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 34/100 (can be cultivated)] [Divine Ability: 0/3 (cannot be obtained)]

'Revival of Withered Tree?'

Jiang Hao was quite surprised.

‘It is no wonder I couldn’t use it. It doesn’t seem like a common type of divine ability.’

This divine power targeted the entire body. It was supposedly a passive divine ability. Maybe it could be activated after getting injured.

He hefted his Half-Moon Blade and made a small cut on his palm.

As expected, the Revival of Withered Tree activated by default and healed his cut at a rapid speed!

The divine ability acted quite fast because it was only a small cut. It didn’t even consume his energy. He wondered what would happen if he was severely injured.

‘It seems I need to test the limits of this ability...’

Jiang Hao felt that having such an ability was useful in the long run. It made him feel safe.

However, the extent of the sense of safety would depend on the limits of the ability.

Jiang Hao checked his lifeblood and cultivation. By next year, he should be able to advance to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm.

He just hoped that he wouldn’t be sent on other missions that would prevent him from collecting bubbles.

Currently, most bubbles came from the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

‘Nowadays, ordinary spirit herbs rarely produce bubbles. I wonder if mining is any useful... In the past, I could get twenty bubbles in a day, but now, I get two at most.’

Unfortunately, he couldn’t go to the mines without a good reason. The downside of having merit was that he couldn’t be punished for petty misdemeanors by being sent to the mines.

Seven days passed in a flash. Jiang Hao realized that there were only two weeks left until the end of the sect’s mission.

Jiang Hao headed to the Law Enforcement Hall to pay the remaining one thousand spirit stones for his previous failed mission. The senior at the reception expressed her regrets and informed him that he couldn’t accept any more missions for the time being because he had recently run into trouble.

“I understand,” said Jiang Hao. “Thank you, Senior Sister.”

He also constantly tried to test the Revival of Withered Tree ability.

It could heal all sorts of injuries. Injuries caused by treasures, spells, poison, or weapons were all able to heal.

However, the time it took to heal the injuries varied. Sometimes it would heal in no time. Other times, it took a while. Regardless, it was still faster than the body’s natural healing ability.

Jiang Hao also felt some improvements in his cultivation and meditation. The Revival of Withered Tree was more useful than he had anticipated.

As mid-December approached, there were only three days left until the end of the sect’s mission. Three months were almost over.

By now, most people’s spirit herbs had matured.

However, Wan Xi still had one White Spirit Flower that hadn't grown well. It was because she didn't water it very well.

After the last incident where Jiang Hao had drawn his saber, there had been no further disputes among the group.

Today, everyone talked and laughed among themselves. They seemed happy that the mission was finally coming to an end.

Jiang Hao walked along the border of the Hundred Bones Forest, which was close to the spirit field. He walked along the path and observed the spirit herbs.

If he still didn't find anything, he would have to return empty-handed.

After walking for a while, he saw a girl carrying a basket. She was heading up the mountain.

Her hair was in double braids, and she wore the attire of the sect. Jiang Hao was startled to see her.

Although she seemed to be in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, she emanated indescribable power. Her strength surpassed even that of someone in the Primordial Spirit Realm.

"Senior Brother, why are you staring at me?" asked the girl curiously.

The Heaven Extinction Gu Poison worked its magic in keeping him calm. "I'm very sorry if I have offended you in any way, Junior Sister. It's just that I haven't seen anyone else on the mountain in the past few months."

"That's alright," said the girl and smiled. "Senior Brother, are you curious about the spirit herbs found here?"

Jiang Hao nodded. "I work in the Spirit Herb Garden in my branch. I wanted to familiarize myself with these spirit herbs. They look unique."

"I see. However, these spirit herbs here can only be looked at and not touched.

Most of them are our master's favorites. Unfortunately, not many of us in the

Hundred Bones Forest know much about spirit herbs, except Senior Brother Bai Ye. But Senior Brother Bai Ye chooses to stay holed up in his own house and refuses to come out. So, I'm trying to take care of them, but I don't know much either."

"I see." Jiang Hao nodded. "I heard Senior Brother Bai Ye has challenged Senior Brother Manlong for the title of one of the top ten disciples."

"I've heard about it too, but I feel that Senior Brother Bai Ye will fail. He's not good at fighting. It might require absolute strength to win the title of one of the top ten disciples of the sect. If it was based on talent, maybe he would have a chance..." The girl pointed to some spirit herbs at a distance. "Would you like to follow me there, Senior Brother? I need to take care of those herbs."

"Sure." Jiang Hao nodded.

The girl walked ahead. Jiang Hao finally activated the Daily Appraisal on her.

[Ye Yaqing: The fifth top disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect. A True Disciple of the Hundred Bones Forest. Her cultivation base is at the late stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. Bai Ye's recklessness has stressed her out. She has a fondness for cultivating spirit herbs and possesses extraordinary talent. She chose to cultivate strength instead of alchemy, despite being gifted at both. Although she looks ordinary, people have always admired and looked up to her.]

Jiang Hao was astonished. She was actually in the fifth rank among the top ten disciples of the sect!

Manlong was the tenth. He was at the peak of the Primordial Spirit Realm. Ye Yaqing was already at the late stage of the Soul Ascension Realm!

The gap in power and strength was ridiculously huge!

Jiang Hao wondered how powerful that first-ranked disciple would be.

He had known that the top ten disciples were incredibly powerful, but he was still astonished. Now that he had seen the disciple who ranked fifth, he realized how massive the gap between him and her was.

If he could catch up in a few years, he still had hope.

“Why do you think Senior Brother Bai Ye will fail, Junior Sister?” asked Jiang Hao. “I feel that he might have a shot at winning.”

Ye Yaqing squatted down and looked at a white flower. She seemed deep in thought. “I don’t know... I think that Senior Brother Bai Ye’s strength isn’t enough to win the title of one of the top ten disciples.”

‘Not enough?’

If she was actually at the Foundation Establishment Realm, Jiang Hao wouldn’t have believed her. However, she was in the Soul Ascension Realm. If she felt that Bai Ye didn’t have a chance, then he believed her.

However, he wouldn’t give up on finding a way to deal with Bai Ye.

“Are there many other people who want to see Senior Brother Bai Ye fight?” he asked.

“Yes.” Ye Yaqing smiled and looked at him. “Many people want to see how powerful Senior Brother Bai Ye is. They have even placed bets. Whenever a challenge is issued in the sect, that happens. Recently, some people wanted to meet Senior Brother Bai Ye to buy his pills. They wait for him to become one of the top ten disciples and sell the pills at a higher price. A pill made by one of the top ten disciples is considered very valuable.”

“Oh... by the way, I have some pills here. Senior Brother Bai Ye made them. The market price is thirty-five spirit stones, but I’ll sell them to you for forty. If

Senior Brother Bai Ye wins, you can sell them at the market for fifty or more.

These are genuine!”

Chapter 258: So, A Top Disciple Can Lie Too

Jiang Hao accepted a bottle of pills. He felt disappointed. He had no use for Foundation Establishment Pills.

However, if they were truly refined by Bai Ye himself, he could use them to place a curse on him!

Casting a curse was tricky. He would need more pills. “Is it really refined by Senior Brother Bai Ye?” Jiang Hao asked. “Of course, I would never deceive you,” Ye Yaqing said solemnly.

“Is there more?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Yes, of course! But do you have enough spirit stones? You are only at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, after all.’

“Junior Sister, your cultivation seems even lower than mine, yet you have so many pills! If you have pills, then I can have spirit stones.” For a moment, Ye Yaqing was stunned. Then she nodded.

“Of course, Senior Brother. You’re right!”

She took out nine more bottles of pills. “Here... a total of ten bottles. That will be four hundred spirit stones.”

“Is there more?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Senior Brother, you have an unexpectedly large amount of spirit stones!” “I’ve saved them for many years,” Jiang Hao said.

Many people knew that he sold talismans. Why else would the people from the Law Enforcement Hall keep an eye on him every day? They wanted to rip him off.

Talisman makers, pill refiners, artifact forgers, and formation masters were all money-making professions.

Some earned a lot in their field, while others... not so much. But it required patience and talent to make these things. Otherwise, everyone could do it, and the items would have no value at all.

“I’m out of pills right now... What about a magic artifact? However, it’s a little damaged. I was planning to take it for repairs.” Ye Yaqing looked around and took out a palm-sized shield. “This Wishful Mountain Shield can be used for defense. You can even activate automatic defense with it.”

“Automatic defense treasures are very rare. They withstand all Foundation

Establishment Realm attacks and even some Golden Core Realm attacks too. However, the Wishful Mountain Shield is broken. It costs three thousand spirit stones to repair it. The market price should be around 2,500 spirit stones for this broken shield.”

“So, I will have to pay you 5,500 spirit stones if I want it?” asked Jiang Hao.

“Six thousand, actually. You need to pay an extra five hundred spirit stones.

Otherwise, there is no profit for me.”

Jiang Hao was stunned. Where would he get so many spirit stones?

However, if it was really Bai Ye's personal treasure, it would be useful for him. It would increase the success rate of his curses.

The pills cost him four hundred spirit stones. The shield was six thousand. It was simply too exorbitant.

However, both the pills and the magic artifact could be sold. Jiang Hao didn't think it would take so much to repair a broken shield.

"I'll take the pills for now... I'll consider the magic artifact and get back to you." Jiang Hao gave her four hundred spirit stones. "Let's meet here tomorrow. I'll confirm with you whether I want the magic artifact then."

"Alright. I'll wait for you here tomorrow." Ye Yaqing accepted the spirit stones joyfully. "Do you really have six thousand spirit stones?"

"I only have three thousand. As for the other three thousand for repair, I might have to wait and think about it."

If she was willing to sell him the shield for three thousand, it would be great.

Ye Yaqing nodded.

After that, Jiang Hao returned to his spirit field, while Ye Yaqing continued to tend the spirit herbs.

The next day, Jiang Hao set up a stall at the marketplace to sell talismans.

He was stalling for time to decide whether it was worth it to buy the shield. He wanted to appraise it first. It was ridiculously expensive, so he wanted to confirm if it actually belonged to Bai Ye.

If it did, he would buy it.

He needed more spirit stones. He currently had 1,300 spirit stones.

He put the fifteen Healing Talismans, fifteen Hundred Thousand Swords Talismans, and fifteen Earth-Shattering Talismans on display.

If he could sell them all today, he would have enough spirit stones to buy the artifact. That was unlikely, unless...

“Do you have a Power Manipulation Talisman?” asked a voice.

Jiang Hao looked up and saw a familiar face. He knew the person. He was always rude, but he paid well.

“No.” Jiang Hao shook his head.

“No?” Duan Guan said disdainfully. “You can’t even make such a simple talisman? Is your late stage in the Foundation Establishment Realm just for show? I’ve never seen such a lousy talisman-maker. You have talent, but you’re lazy. You might be killed sooner or later. Just go back to your home and farm or something.”

After he finished speaking, Duan Guan swept away all the talismans on display and left behind 2,250 spirit stones.

Jiang Hao was dumbfounded. Duan Guan was very impolite, but he always bought everything from him. How did he have so many spirit stones?

This time, the sole reason Jiang Hao had set up a stall in the market was to wait for Duan Guan.

He did have a few Power Manipulation Talismans, but he didn’t really sell them.

Duan Guan found faults in Jiang Hao no matter what he did. He didn’t want to offend him by appearing capable. He was afraid Duan Guan might stop buying talismans from him. It would be more trouble than it was worth.

Jiang Hao hoped he would encounter Duan Guan in the coming months too. Even Leng Tian would do. She usually bought a lot of talismans.

After that, he headed to the border of the Hundred Bones Forest at Spirit Mountain. Ye Yaqing was waiting for him.

“Senior Brother, you actually came! Have you made up your mind?”

“Can I see the item first?”

“Of course.”

After receiving the magic artifact, Jiang Hao used the Daily Appraisal on it.

[Damaged Wishful Mountain Shield: After being refined, it can move according to one’s will. It is as steady as a great mountain, with extremely strong defensive power. It was an important magic artifact for Bai Ye when he was in the Golden Core Realm. However, it was damaged badly and was later found by Ye Yaqing. Even if it’s repaired, it won’t have the same effect as before. Ye Yaqing is waiting to sell it to a poor fool.]

Jiang Hao was speechless. It was indeed Bai Ye’s artifact!

‘A poor fool...’ He felt embarrassed.

However, he didn’t mind. He could happily be the fool.

“I’ll buy it.” He handed over three thousand spirit stones.

He was now left with only five hundred spirit stones.

“Are you sure?” Ye Yaqing was surprised. “Yeah. If everything goes well, I can sell it for more.”

“You’re really playing big. I wish you luck.”

Jiang Hao bid her farewell. Neither of them tried to find out more about each other. It was strictly a business transaction. It was better that way.

The next day was the final day of the sect’s mission.

Jiang Hao appraised the pills. The first bottle wasn’t refined by Bai Ye. He had been scammed!

He sighed. ‘I never thought someone who ranked fifth among the top ten disciples would scam others for spirit stones...’

It seemed like everyone was in need of spirit stones.

He understood the need. He was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, but he didn’t even have as much money as someone at his stage would have.

‘After completing the sect’s mission today, I will wait for the midnight gathering..’

Chapter 259: The End of All Things

On the last day, when Jiang Hao arrived at the foot of Spirit Mountain, he found that the senior was already waiting for them.

He quickly went over to greet him and then waited for the others.

After a while, the others arrived one by one.

Finally, Ye Shan and Wan Xi arrived.

When they saw the senior, they walked up to him and apologized for making him wait. The senior was surprised. These people had changed in a couple of months.

“Now that everyone is here, let’s go up and see your achievements.”

The others nodded in agreement.

A group of eleven people arrived at the top of Spirit Mountain. All the spirit herbs had matured, except for one White Spirit Flower that belonged to Wan Xi.

“If they have matured, you can take away one-third as your reward, and I will take the rest,” said the senior. “You can choose which one to take with you.”

Jiang Hao hesitated for a moment and chose the best Bright Sun Grass, a medium-grade Bodhi Flower, and a low-grade White Spirit Flower.

Once everyone made their choices, they were escorted away from Spirit Mountain.

Before leaving, Jiang Hao noticed that Ye Shan and the others had a relieved smiles on their faces. These people were still too naive.

Jiang Hao felt that they wouldn’t live very long.

After a while, he received a reward of one hundred spirit stones from the Law Enforcement Hall for the mission. It was less than he had expected.

On his way back to the Spirit Herb Garden, he saw someone being beaten in the woods.

It turned out to be Lin Zhi.

“You used all the spirit stones and pills? What’s the point of using them when you can’t even advance beyond the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement

Realm?” A girl in the fourth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm kicked Lin Zhi.

“Yeah, in three months, he will be expelled from the sect.”

“Hard to say. I heard that his two friends have found someone to help him extend his time limit. It’s good to have such friends. Too bad this trash can’t amount to anything.”

“It’s been almost three years, and he’s still only at the first stage of the

Lifeblood Refinement Realm. I’ve never seen a disciple with such poor talent.” “Let’s go. We can always snatch the spirit stones next time.”

Jiang Hao shook his head and walked away. There was nothing he could do. He couldn’t intervene.

As the mentor, the spirit beast would guide Lin Zhi, not him. He couldn’t get too involved in this.

“Sister Zhou, there is no need to be so polite. It’s just one year. It’s no problem at all,” said a disciple in the Foundation Establishment Realm, who was in charge of managing the outer sect disciples. Zhao Qingxue gave him two spirit stones in gratitude.

“Thank you, Junior Brother.” Zhou Chan turned to leave with Zhao Qingxue.

They had visited specifically to request to extend Lin Zhi’s stay. Another year should be enough for him to reach the second stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm.

Before leaving, Zhao Qingxue also expressed her gratitude. “Thank you so much, Senior Brother.”

"It's nothing," said the disciple in the middle stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm with a smile.

After seeing them off, he let out a sigh of relief. He then looked at the two spirit stones and smiled.

As for Lin Zhi, he took out the list. Lin Zhi's name was crossed out. He didn't have any time limits at all. Somehow, the two people were unaware of it.

Lin Zhi could stay for another year. He could stay here indefinitely. He didn't know why Lin Zhi was allowed to stay.

He had just received an order the other day. It was an order from the highest authority on the Cliff of Broken Hearts.

After spending some time in the Spirit Herb Garden and tending to some spirit herbs, Jiang Hao returned to his own courtyard.

He placed the things he had recently obtained on the table.

There were three spirit herbs, which should be worth about seven hundred spirit stones in total.

Adding the one hundred he had received, he now had a total of eight hundred spirit stones.

Jiang Hao had no plans to sell the three spirit herbs. He wanted to see if their effects were similar to other spirit herbs.

He also had ten bottles of Foundation Establishment Realm Pills and the magic artifact.

The magic artifact had already been appraised, along with one bottle of pills.

They could all be used as mediums to place the curse. The success rate would be higher.

After putting away the items, he waited. The gathering would be held tonight.

For Jiang Hao, who was in the Heavenly Note Sect, the gathering was the only way for him to know what was happening outside.

The gathering would be quite helpful for him. He had learned about Zhuang Yuzhen's visit to the sect through the gathering.

Midnight finally arrived.

Jiang Hao entered the stone tablet and waited in the public area.

Today, besides Senior Dan Yuan, four other people were attending the gathering.

Jiang Hao had always been curious about who else was involved in this.

But for now, it would be better if they weren't here. With too many people, he wouldn't be able to build a mysterious persona and make them trust him.

After greeting Senior Dan Yuan, they asked questions about cultivation.

Only Xing raised doubts about a cultivation technique that sounded quite powerful.

It was called "Vast Sun and Moon."

Senior Dan Yuan seemed to be quite familiar with the technique and patiently answered Xing's questions.

“Now that there are no more questions, let’s talk about the previous mission.”

Dan Yuan looked at everyone. “Did you find anything about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower?”

The others shook their heads.

“That’s alright.” Dan Yuan smiled. “Jing, I have the information you wanted. Should I say it in front of everyone, or would you want to talk privately?” “Privately,” Jiang Hao said.

This matter could be related to him personally, so it was better to be cautious.

“Okay.” Dan Yuan nodded, and then a stone tablet appeared in front of Jiang Hao. “Place your hand.”

When Jiang Hao placed his hand on it, he received a piece of information in his mind.

The content of the information was:

“The Great Thousand God Sect is investigating the past and present of the Heavenly Note Sect, as well as its current location, important matters, important individuals, and important objects. The reason the Great Thousand God Sect is investigating the Heavenly Note Sect is that they are working for a mysterious person who is probably looking for something related to the end of all things.”

‘The end of all things?’ Jiang Hao was surprised.

This was too powerful. They provided such detailed information.

It was no wonder Senior Dan Yuan could hold such a high position. It was understandable why everyone worked so hard to finish the mission they were given. The information that they got in exchange was worth it.

Jiang Hao calmly withdrew his hand. “Thank you, Senior Dan Yuan.”

“Now, let’s talk about another mission.” Dan Yuan looked at everyone again.

“The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl should be somewhere in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. Now, I will pass on a sealing technique to all of you. If you encounter it, you can seal it using this method. If you have any information on it or can successfully seal it, you can request any information you want. But it would be best to inform the sect as soon as possible to suppress it..”

Chapter 260: I Have a Better Way

‘The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl has been discovered?’

Jiang Hao listened attentively. The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was still in his possession, so handing it over was out of the question.

Everyone said that the pearl was extremely terrifying, and once it broke free from its seal, it would bring about a catastrophic disaster.

Therefore, he could only continue to keep it hidden. However, now that others roughly knew its location, he worried that its exact whereabouts would be revealed.

At that time, everything would depend on whether the Heavenly Note Sect could withstand the attacks.

After Dan Yuan finished speaking, a stone tablet appeared in front of the four people.

Jiang Hao already understood that this was the sealing technique. He placed his hand on it. The technique was called the Seven-Stars Seal.

Using seven stars as anchor points, it connected to space and sealed the objects inside it.

The speed of sealing was fast, and the effect was powerful.

However, the duration of the seal was short. It only lasted seven days. It could be used up to seven times, sealing the item for forty-nine days.

"I created the sealing technique. So far, only five of us know about it. No one else does," said Dan Yuan. "Please don't share it with others for the time being." Jiang Hao and the others nodded.

In other words, in the future, if they saw this sealing technique, it would be one of the five people who possessed it.

Once they received the sealing technique, the gathering continued.

Dan Yuan didn't issue any more missions, and it was now time for them to talk among themselves.

Gui looked at Jiang Hao. "I have confirmed the sealed dragon. There are no issues. The curses are ready for you. Do you want it now?" Jiang Hao felt relieved. It meant he had passed her test.

He remained calm. "Yes, I want it now."

Gui looked at Dan Yuan. A stone tablet appeared in front of the two of them.

Once Gui finished transmitting the information, Jiang Hao examined it.

Rather than trying to study its contents all at once, he simply wrote everything down and planned to study them more thoroughly later.

After double-checking and confirming that there was no problem, he withdrew his hand.

"I found three people. I have detained them, and they are a little injured.

However, they said there was a fourth person.”

“Alright. I’ll find a way to bring them to me. After that, our deal will be complete.” Xing nodded.

Liu nodded and then glanced at everyone. “Actually, I have been thinking if there is a better way to recultivate. I hope you can help me gather information in this regard. As for the reward, I can offer spirit stones, cultivation techniques, and information.”

“A better method?” said Jiang Hao. “I think I saw something about it in an old

book I found. Interestingly, this method also involves borrowing from the power of all things.”

“Borrowing power from all living things?” Liu looked at Jiang Hao. “Friend Jing, please go on.”

The others were also curious.

Gui had a strange feeling that Jing was being truthful. He might actually know of such a technique.

After witnessing the way he had sealed the dragon, she believed him.

Jiang Hao didn’t keep them waiting any longer. “Have you ever heard of a secret technique called Shifting Stars from the Bright Moon Sect?” he asked.

“Shifting Stars?” Liu looked at Xing.

Xing thought for a moment. “Indeed, I have heard of this secret technique, but

I remember it being a temporary method to enhance one’s own strength.”

“This secret technique needs to be used in conjunction with the Myriad Bodies Technique?” Gui was quite puzzled.

Jiang Hao shook his head. “I only saw it in the ancient book. I haven’t fully understood it yet...”

He turned to look at Dan Yuan. The others did the same.

“Indeed, it is possible. If it weren’t for Jing’s reminder, I wouldn’t even have thought about it.”

Liu was delighted. “Please enlighten us, Senior. In return, I will offer the promised reward.”

Dan Yuan nodded. “In order to use the Shifting Stars Technique, it requires a clone that can be incorporated into the body. It is best to use a portion of the Primordial Spirit as the foundation for the clone. Once the clone is successfully condensed, it can begin complete cultivation. When the cultivation foundation is solidified, the clone and the main body are merged, and the Shifting Stars Technique can be used to transfer the cultivation method. During this process, one’s cultivation will fluctuate, so it is best to experiment to reduce unexpected injuries. I wasn’t the one who proposed the technique, so I won’t claim the reward. However, I can provide the formation for half of the reward promised. If you have any further questions, you can ask me at any time. With this, the previous transaction is considered complete.”

“Thank you, Senior.” Jiang Hao accepted the formation, considering the trade complete.

Liu looked at Xing.

“Obtaining the Star Shifting Technique is not difficult, but it will take some time. As for the price, we don’t need to rush. Perhaps someone will show up overseas soon, and you can help me out,” Xing said.

“Alright.” Liu nodded and then looked at Jiang Hao. “Friend Jing, what do you need?”

Jiang Hao had only intended to create a mysterious and reliable persona of himself. He hadn’t intended on making a trade. However, he couldn’t refuse.

"I need some information about the End of All Things... Anything will do. Whether it's about the sect or any hidden meanings behind it."

"No problem." Liu nodded.

After the trading session concluded, the group discussed various matters.

"The Bright Moon Sect has begun sending out invitations, inviting people from various sects to the conference. Some outstanding individuals can not only enter the sect but also obtain many treasures. It seems that the true geniuses of the Clear Sky School will also be attending this time."

"I have heard about it as well. It is said that the Immortal Mansion may hold great opportunities. However, the situation overseas has not been peaceful lately. The sea is turbulent, and some people believe that hidden realms may appear in the deep sea."

"I encountered people from the Divine Corpse Sect. Many of them are in the southern region. They are most likely heading to the Heavenly Note Sect."

After the last gathering, everyone understood one thing: the powerful individual who had gone into the Heavenly Note Sect was from the Divine Corpse Sect.

Jiang Hao wanted to say something, but he didn't.

He had been in the Heavenly Note Sect all this time, but he couldn't reveal anything. It was better to be quiet.

After some time, Dan Yuan announced the end of the gathering.

Jiang Hao and the others left the public area.

Returning to his room, Jiang Hao immediately took out a notebook and began recording.

He wanted to write down the curse technique he had just obtained. He also wrote down everything he had found out about the Divine Corpse Sect and the End of All Things..