

A Demoness 351

Chapter 351: Traces of Luck

“Why are you here?” Gu Qing asked curiously.

Jiang Hao looked at her.

“Do they really think that you’re close to me, so they sent you to interrogate me?” Gu Qing sneered. “Are the people from the demonic sect really that naive? What’s a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator like you even worth? Do you even know why I approached you? It was to kill you. Unfortunately, it was one day too late. If it had been a day earlier, I could have done it. I wouldn’t have ended up in such a situation.”

Gu Qing found it difficult to accept it. She had escaped from the grasp of the Bright Moon Sect and eluded pursuit overseas. Never could she have imagined ending up as a prisoner in this place. She couldn’t believe it

He used Daily Appraisal on her.

Jiang Hao knew that words were futile, so he wanted to see if he could find anything.

[Gu Qing: Member of Fallen Immortal Clan. Her cultivation dissolved and was absorbed by the Lawless Tower. She has now dropped to the late stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. She evaded pursuit from the Bright Moon Sect and escaped from overseas, thinking she could rest and recuperate in the Heavenly Note Sect. However, she ended up as a prisoner here. She won’t let the Heavenly Note Sect gain anything from her even if it means death. She regrets not killing you earlier. Otherwise, she could have control over the Spirit Herb Garden. If her cultivation had recovered, she wouldn’t have been caught so easily.]

“Even if it means death?” Is she that determined?

Jiang Hao couldn't find anything that could break through her mental defenses for the moment.

According to the feedback from his divine ability, she had no weaknesses.

"Speak up. Aren't you here to interrogate me? Go ahead, ask me something, and see if you can get anything out of me." Gu Qing smiled and taunted Jiang Hao.

"Yeah, go ahead and beckon to her. If that doesn't work, you can beckon to me," said Mi Lingyue.

Jiang Hao remained silent. He hadn't spoken a single word since he arrived here.

He glanced at Mi Lingyue and left. He had to think of another way.

"Uh, why are you leaving so soon? Stop! Wait for a moment! At the very least, give an opinion," Mi Lingyue said.

After Jiang Hao left, she turned to Heavenly Hai Luo. "Your master seems to have lost."

"He is not my master. This king has always been domineering throughout his life. All the weaker ones are just jokes. I was joking with you. Only foolish people would fall for it. Did you fall for it?" Hai Luo stared at Mi Lingyue.

Mi Lingyue was speechless.

"Scumbag..." Zhuang Yuzhen said coldly.

"Why don't you come here and fight me one-on-one? This king will defeat you with one hand!" said the Heavenly King.

Zhuang Yuzhen looked at Mi Lingyue. "I suggest you be careful. Don't be rash with him. Some people shouldn't be provoked."

“Shouldn’t be provoked?” Mi Lingyue was incredulous. “But he hasn’t been able to make me yield until now.”

The conversation between these people felt strange to Gu Qing.

She had been here for quite a while, and many people had come to interrogate her.

But every individual, whether through combat or other methods, couldn’t make her budge at all. The others were equally stubborn.

However, all of them acted differently toward that Foundation Establishment Realm. It was as though all of them were apprehensive toward him.

What exactly was going on?

Jiang Hao left the Lawless Tower.

The black-robed woman wasn’t there.

There was no deadline, after all.

He could find them again when he had some leverage.

Jiang Hao set the thoughts aside for now.

Jiang Hao returned to his house and began to make talismans.

Right now, the demand was high, so he could see more.

When everything settled down, he could use the extra spirit stones to buy a couple of high-quality spirit herb seeds.

He wanted to test the waters first.

He wouldn't dare to buy too many. After all, his previous experience of fostering spirit herbs had ended in disaster.

If those spirit herbs weren't his, Gu Qing wouldn't have been so reckless.

Ultimately, anything that didn't match his current cultivation realm could easily attract trouble.

One or two plants in the courtyard would suffice. Having more than that wouldn't be safe.

For the next three days, Jiang Hao continued his usual work in the Spirit Herb Garden.

However, the spiritual energy in the courtyard began to rise once again. This surprised him.

In just a few days, it had returned to its previous state.

He was doubtful, so he appraised the spirit herbs sent from the Hundred Bones Forest.

[Thousand Clouds: Can draw and clear spiritual energy. Can be used to treat chaotic auras, and also be used to enhance cultivation. Planting it here was Bai Ye's idea. It uses an invisible method to gather spiritual energy for your benefit.]

"Hmm?"

Jiang Hao was astonished.

‘The spiritual energy was because of Bai Ye?’

When he thought about how the spiritual energy had diminished when Gu Qing had destroyed the herbs in the garden, it made sense.

‘What is he trying to do?’

Jiang Hao couldn’t understand it at all.

This was even more complicated than Bai Ye just putting a seal on him before. At least then, his intentions were clear.

Did Bai Ye introduce some kind of poison in the herbs? He had no choice but to wait and visit the Hundred Bones Forest to find out. At this moment, Jiang Hao felt the stone tablet vibrating.

The gathering would be tonight.

After three months, there was finally a gathering once again.

It was the perfect opportunity to try and spread the word about Gu Qing and Mi Lingyue.

Xing wanted him to find out about Gu Qing, and he could beat Gui on finding information about Mi Lingyue. Maybe he could get a reward for it. This time, he didn’t need to prepare a lot for the gathering.

At midnight, Jiang Hao entered the stone tablet as scheduled.

This time, all four of them arrived almost at the same time.

Then, Dan Yuan appeared.

“Senior.” They greeted him.

“Do any of you have cultivation-related questions?” Dan Yuan asked.

Jiang Hao and the others were already sitting cross-legged on the floor. This time, none of them had a question related to cultivation.

“In that case, who has information about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower?” The others all shook their heads.

“Then let’s discuss the new mission,” said Dan Yuan. “The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl has emerged, and it indicates the return of great luck to heaven and earth. The Bright Moon Sect might have sensed something because they are discussing going through with the Dao Conference. There are individuals who want the location of the place where Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was found. They want to find any traces that might be present there. I will transmit a secret technique to you. It can easily confirm the traces of great luck.”

“Can traces of great luck really be detected?” Liu asked.

He had heard similar rumors before.

Dan Yuan shook his head. “They can’t be detected, but the traces can be

utilized.”

“Senior, if I also want to learn this, will there be conflicts?” Xing asked cautiously.

“There won’t be any conflicts.” Dan Yuan smiled.

Xing looked at the others. “If anyone has information, you can also sell it to me. I will try to offer a price closer to Senior Dan Yuan.”

Finally, he looked at Dan Yuan. "Senior, what price should I pay for your secret technique?"

Dan Yuan smiled. "Don't be hasty. Perhaps there will be something you can help me with in the recent future."

"Alright." Xing nodded.

Jiang Hao was a bit surprised. Xing came from the bright Moon Sect. He couldn't possibly be unaware of a method to find traces of great luck.

There were probably only two possibilities: either Xing's status wasn't high enough, or he couldn't disrupt the normal transactions at the gathering.

Most likely the second one.

However, the traces of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl should have dissipated within the Heavenly Note Sect.

Maybe there were still some light traces left.

If that was true, the Heavenly Note Sect was in trouble..

Chapter 352: Surprised

"Everyone says that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl is in the southern region. Currently, only Jing and Gui are in the south."

Liu looked at the two.

Dan Yuan smiled. "We're looking for signs of great luck, and it doesn't necessarily have to be the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl."

The others nodded in agreement.

“There’s only one task for now, and the reward for this hasn’t been determined yet. You can propose your own terms. Just go ahead and suggest. As for the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, you can gradually provide information. There is no hurry.”

“Can I request a Snow God Pill as a reward?” Gui asked.

“Sure.” Dan Yuan nodded.

Jiang Hao was doubtful whether the Snow God Pill was as rare as everyone made it out to be.

Senior Dan Yuan had agreed so easily. Even if Jiang Hao could request it as a reward, it was too risky.

He didn’t really need magical techniques or cultivation methods, but he could inquire about how to retrieve treasures from a person’s body without causing damage.

At this point, a stone tablet appeared in front of everyone. On it was the secret method to explore traces of great luck.

This time, it wasn’t easy to learn, and Jiang Hao took note of everything.

“Can I?” Gui was surprised.

The content of the sixth stone tablet was acceptable in exchange.

She thought there would only be simple rewards, but she didn’t expect that the senior was willing to entertain her suggestion for anything at all.

“Sure.” Dan Yuan nodded.

"I want a Snow God Pill," Gui said without hesitation.

"Alright." Another stone tablet appeared in front of Gui.

Jiang Hao didn't know how they would trade. But if it was communicated between stone tablets, he wouldn't dare accept it.

He didn't want to be discovered.

It wasn't just because he was undercover, but also because his stone tablet was modified by Hong Yuye. If the owner behind the stone tablet intended to search for it, they might find him as well.

The purpose of being undercover was to find the target before they noticed him.

That was Hong Yuye's final goal.

However, up until now, he had only found clues about The End of All Things.

Beyond that, there was nothing.

"Friend Liu, you can also ask for something," said Dan Yuan.

"I think I'll keep my reward pending till next time."

He had many more things to ask for.

To perfect his understanding of all things, he needed to do a lot.

After Senior Dan Yuan finished his tasks, it was time for transactions among the others.

Xing looked at Jiang Hao. Jiang Hao understood what he intended to ask him. Xing wanted to ask about Gu Qing.

“She is in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. In heavenly Note Sect,” said Jiang Hao in a low voice.

“Thank you, Jing,” Xing said in gratitude. He had only asked him to find some

“Friend Jing, is it convenient for you to make a move?”

‘Don’t ask me that. I am not her match..

Jiang Hao was glad that people here thought he was strong, but sometimes, it didn’t work in his favor.
“There is no need to take action.”

Xing looked at him doubtfully.

“If nothing unexpected happens, she should have become a captive in that sect.”

“She was captured?! How?” Xing was surprised. After a while, he composed himself. “It seems the heavenly Note Sect isn’t as useless as we thought.”

“Have you all noticed that we’ve become increasingly focused on matters in the southern region? And the heavenly Note Sect gets mentioned every time, one way or another,” said Gui.

Jiang Hao couldn’t help but nod. This was becoming risky.

This was not only risky for him, but also for the Heavenly Note Sect. If everyone from four directions chose to attack, the sect didn’t stand a chance.

However, the Heavenly Note Sect was still very active. If they weren't taking prisoners, they were busy attacking nearby sects.

The demonic sects were truly something else.

"Do you need me to pay attention to anything else, Jing?"

Jiang Hao knew that he was offering him information. "The End of All Things."

After all, not only did he provide the location but also revealed the specific area Gu Qing was in.

Finding such information was dangerous. Rushing to the heavenly Note Sect was even more difficult.

However, if Gu Qing was in custody, things would be easier.

Jiang Hao could demand his reward. He couldn't refuse Xing's offer.

He didn't hesitate. As for whether it would be useful in the end, it didn't matter.

"Do you have any news about Mi Lingyue?" Liu asked.

"Yes," Gui said with a smile. "I feel that the Heavenly Sound Sect has been quite active recently. From what I know, many who entered the southern region were captured by the Heavenly Note Sect. It is likely that Mi Lingyue has been captured as well. I am curious, though. Do the other Heavenly Kings have romantic relationships like Hai Luo?"

"Some still do, like Hai Luo. He spent so much of his wealth to protect that Foundation establishment Realm cultivator that he married. Otherwise, after his disappearance, Miao Anxian would be the first in danger," said Liu. "But that doesn't mean Miao Anxian isn't remarkable by herself. Hai Luo fell in love with her because of her talent. She possesses unique talents, and her hands are renowned overseas for

their forging skills. Moreover, she excels in alchemy and talisman-making. While her formation skills lag behind a bit, she's still far superior to others."

Jiang Hao was speechless.

He remembered Mi Lingyue saying that she only had a basic understanding of formations. Fortunately, he hadn't embarrassed himself by asking her more questions.

She also claimed to be outstanding in forging, alchemy, and talisman-making.

Jiang Hao suddenly thought that they must be very rich if they had such skills.

"Such an important person actually went out on her own?" Gui was somewhat surprised.

"Yes, that's what everyone finds puzzling. Many suspect she has other motives.

However, the overseas cultivators wouldn't push her into a deadly situation. After all, such individuals are very rare. Someday, they might need her," Liu said.

Xing looked at everyone. "Does anyone else need to make a trade? If not, I want to talk about the Clear Sky School."

Everyone was interested to know about what was happening at the Clear Sky School.

Jiang Hao was no exception. He had already met Shang An and thwarted his plans too. Any information regarding him would be helpful to evade him in the future.

"Go ahead... What happened to that extraordinary genius?" Gui was curious.

"This person might be related to what Gui mentioned before."

“Really?” Gui looked puzzled. “Why would it be related to that?”

Jiang Hao was certain now that the person was definitely Shang An.

However, he didn’t know how far Shang An had progressed within the Clear Sky School.

‘Will he go to the Corpse Realm again in the future? Will he try to get the Charm Goddess out again?’

He hoped Shang An could move on in the coming years and find someone else.

Even if Shang An went for the Charm Goddess again, Jiang Hao definitely wouldn’t get involved..

Chapter 353: Finding a Way to Deal with Gu Qing

“This time, the Clear Sky School has revealed some information. Or rather, after inquiries from people in the vicinity, they’ve finally obtained a lot of information about that disciple.” Xing looked at Gui. “Firstly, they know his name now. I have confirmed from various sources that it is indeed Shang An.”

“Shang An?” Gui looked surprised. “You mean the same Shang An we heard about in the Blood Tide Forest? Has he been to the Corpse Realm?”

Xing thought for a moment. “That is hard to confirm, but he’s from the western region, and there are Corpse Realm Flowers there, so he’s likely been there.”

“So, you’re saying the extraordinary genius in the Corpse Realm was him?” Gui was astonished.

“Not necessarily.” Liu shook his head. “The timing does not match. According to what Xing said, the extraordinary genius in question had injuries when he came out. But the one from the Corpse Realm wasn’t injured at all.”

“That’s true.” Gui nodded.

“I watched him reach the summit, and there was no sign of serious injuries. But if Shang An was in the Corpse Realm, then why wasn’t he the extraordinary genius? Even the Vast Heaven Platform acknowledged this person’s talent, so why didn’t Heavenly Stele Mountain do the same?”

Even Jiang Hao was puzzled by that.

Shang An was indeed very powerful and talented. So, why had he not been able to attract the attention of Heavenly Stele Mountain?

“How old is Shang An?”

Xing thought for a moment. “I heard that he’s already at the Immortal Ascension Realm, so even with exceptional talent, he must be three or four hundred years old.”

Dan Yuan smiled. “Friend Gui, didn’t you say that the last extraordinary genius appeared two hundred years ago in the Corpse Realm?”

Gui and the others were all taken back.

As the words fell, Ghost Fairy and the others were all taken aback.

Jiang Hao was also shocked. He had never thought about the extraordinary genius from two hundred years ago.

However, he was certain now. The extraordinary genius from that time was indeed Shang An. He had been to the Corpse Realm twice.

He had arrived at the Blood Tide Forest. That meant that Shang An might have been at the Foundation Establishment Realm or the Golden Core Realm during that time.

So, within just two hundred years, he had crossed the Primordial Spirit Realm, Soul Ascension Realm, Return to Void Realm, and reached the Immortal Realm! He was truly terrifying.

Jiang Hao didn't know how many realms he had crossed.

"So, the current extraordinary genius is still a mystery." Gui frowned, then looked at Jiang Hao.

'Don't look at me. I haven't even confirmed that I was inside the Corpse Realm.' Jiang Hao remained calm.

"Well... whoever it might be, that doesn't affect us in anyway. So, then what happened next?" asked Liu.

"Shang An has accepted a master, but there seems to have been quite a commotion within the Clear Sky School. However, that didn't prevent him from becoming a True Disciple. He is regarded highly. But... only a few people have actually seen him. After accepting a master, he seems to have gone into seclusion. Many people wanted to catch a glimpse of him, but they never had the chance." Xing was quite puzzled.

Jiang Hao knew why. However, with the strength and power of the Clear Sky School, they might be able to clear the poison and the misfortune that afflicted Shang An.

The gathering came to an end.

Back in his room, Jiang Hao felt like he hadn't spoken up at all during the meeting. He had felt somewhat detached.

But what could he have said anyway?

There wasn't much to discuss, and saying too much could reveal his location.

There were no y significant matters from other sources either.

He stopped thinking about it and took out a book to note down the secret method for finding traces of luck.

When Hong Yuye came to visit, he could ask her to take a look at it.

He tried to gather his thoughts.

Firstly, there was the new task of finding traces of great luck. This might attract some people's attention, including Gui. He needed to be careful.

Secondly, he had completed Xing's task of finding Gu Qing's whereabouts and asked for Xing's help in finding out more about The End of All Things.

He had also learned about Mi Lingyue's strength.

The rest didn't matter much. Shang An's situation wouldn't affect him, so everything was fine.

Even if Gui had some doubts about the extraordinary genius being him, she had no evidence.

If it could elevate their perception of him, that was a bonus anyway. It was a good thing.

As long as they didn't guess his true identity, he didn't mind them speculating.

Jiang Hao suddenly had an idea.

'The "Forging Hand" is a unique talent. Could she possibly extract the treasure from Gu Qing's body?'

Jiang Hao put away his things and went to the courtyard.

He took out the Half-Moon Blade. He then smeared dust on it.

'If this is really possible, how can I explain how I know about this? Gu Qing was connected to Xing. Mi Lingyue was connected to Liu. If I do this, they might notice.'

After smearing the dirt on the blade, Jiang Hao took out some unused sub-rings and covered them with soil.

At this moment, he was still thinking about Mi Lingyue.

'I shouldn't take the initiative on this matter. However, since the other party's reputation is high, I might be able to ask about it from Heavenly Note Sect after some time. Then I can intervene.'

Not being able to deal with Gu Qing didn't mean he couldn't deal with Mi Lingyue. But he couldn't say too much, as he only had limited information.

Even if Mi Lingyue left and Gu Qing was taken away, it wouldn't have too much impact on him.

But there was a crucial point. What could he gain from this?

He rolled all the other sub-rings in the soil.

Jiang Hao then took out the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl and the broken fragment of the Earth Extreme Heart Devouring Pearl.

He also took out the stone tablet.

He also took out the nameless manual and hesitated.

Then the Nine Heavens Battle Armor and the Nine Heavens Wrist Guards were removed.

He tried them all, just in case wiping them might really trigger the release of bubbles.

This way, he wouldn't need to risk going to the mine at all.

He wouldn't need to go to the Spirit Herb Garden either.

He could focus on making talismans.

Then he continued wiping after obtaining two golden bubbles and one more treasure.

Once everything was in order, he thought about Gu Qing again.

'This matter probably won't bring substantial benefits, but it might draw some attention from the seniors. Maybe it would save my life one day. What if I am locked in the Lawless Tower one day? The seniors would probably become my lifeline. Besides, completing the tasks given by Elder Baizhi was always a good idea to be in her good books. But I can't get carried away. I need more information... For now, all I need to focus on is the Spirit Herb Garden and make sure I don't go out.'

After tidying up the courtyard, Jiang Hao looked at the moonlight and wondered if the spirit beast and Xiao Li were having a good time outside the sect.

It wasn't that he was worried about their safety, but he was concerned if they might bring trouble upon him.

He didn't have to worry about Cheng Chou. He had escorted Xiao Li out of the sect a few times already.

This was also the spirit beast's second time venturing out. The first time it went out, it stirred some problems with the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

This time, who knows whom it might offend?

Jiang Hao sighed. The spirit beast didn't let things slide easily. Jiang Hao felt uneasy..

Chapter 354: Everything Became Meaningless

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao placed several treasures on the ground in the courtyard.

Since returning from the Corpse Realm, he had been meaning to clean the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

He had forgotten about it due to other matters, but he remembered it now and immediately applied some dirt to it.

Dirt was more noticeable and could show actual effects. However, it would take at least a day.

Once he confirmed that there were no more items, Jiang Hao put away his things.

Then he approached the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

After watering it, he touched the flower petals softly. The top was just budding, and it had no trace of dirt on it.

After hesitating for a moment, Jiang Hao decided not to use dirt on it.

The Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower already gave him bubbles and dirtying it

was unnecessary.

Having completed these tasks, Jiang Hao went to the Spirit Herb Garden to tend to the spirit herbs.

He intended to wipe an item every day.

After wiping it clean, he would make it dirty again and put it away.

After a few days, he could determine if it was effective.

If it wasn't useful, he could try changing it every month or two.

On the second day, Jiang Hao took out the Earth Extreme Heart Devouring Pearl.

He gently wiped off the dust on it.

After wiping it several times, nothing appeared. He put it away after making it dirty.

On the third day, he took the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

Still nothing.

He made it dirty again.

On the fourth day, he took out the stone tablet.

Still nothing.

He made it dirty again.

On the fifth day, he took out the golden rings.

There were still four left. He wiped them all together.

Still nothing.

He made them dirty again.

On the sixth day, the Nine Heavens Battle Armor and wrist guards.

Still nothing.

He made them dirty again.

On the seventh day, Jiang Hao brought out the Primordial Heavenly Blade, Shiyu.

He lightly wiped it with a cloth.

He found the dirt had hardened and couldn't be wiped off.

He tapped it twice and when the dirt cracked and fell off. Then he wiped it with a cloth.

After wiping it twice, a white bubble dropped.

Then it flew into Jiang Hao's body.

[Spirit +1]

Jiang Hao's gaze remained calm, but his heart was filled with joy.

It had actually worked!

Although it was just a white bubble, it had happened.

This meant the treasures he had could be cleaned.

Even though no more bubbles appeared after wiping it, it was still a good start.

Afterward, he dirtied the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl again and decided to leave it for a month.

At the White Moon Lake, the woman in the black robe approached Baizhi.

“Received unexpected news.”

“Unexpected news?” Baizhi was standing by the lake. “What kind of unexpected news?”

“Our people were investigating overseas, but we learned about someone from there. They are known as the Forging Hand. It’s said their forging ability is unparalleled and that their hands can touch any treasure. They can even retrieve personal treasures from others’ bodies,” said the black-robed woman and frowned. “And this person isn’t elsewhere. They’re actually in the Lawless Tower.”

After thinking for a moment, Baizhi said, “Mi Lingyue?”

“Yes, she’s extremely famous overseas for her forging, alchemy, talisman crafting, and array formation skills. She’s a master in all aspects. Moreover, her attainments are incredibly high.”

Even Hai Luo had refused to mention it because they all wanted to protect the Forging Hand.

Such a person was a treasure in the overseas realm.

“Do you want to use her to retrieve the treasure from Gu Qing’s body?” Baizhi asked.

“Yes, I plan to try to persuade her in these two days.” Baizhi nodded.

Green Mountain Village was a very large village.

Today, many people stood at the village entrance and craned their necks in anticipation.

They were all looking upwards. It seemed like something would come down from the sky.

At this moment, a middle-aged couple dressed in luxurious attire stood at the forefront. Everyone gathered around them, even the other wealthy and influential individuals stood behind them.

After a short while, figures appeared in the sky. A group of people descended from the heavens on flying swords. In just a moment, they landed on the ground.

Leading the group was Zhou Chan. Behind her were three individuals: the spirited Lin MO, the graceful Zhao Qingxue, and the ordinary-looking Lin Zhi.

“Greetings, Elder!” Everyone respectfully greeted Zhou Chan. Zhou Chan smiled. “No need for formalities. We’re actually quite similar.” She then urged the people behind her to go and find their families.

Lin MO and Zhao Qingxue immediately ran to the front and approached their parents.

Lin MO said, “Dad! Mom! I’m here!”

It had been a few years since they had come back. They really missed their parents.

On the other hand, their parents were at a loss. They couldn’t believe their children were now disciples of a sect.

Lin Zhi was searching through the crowd for someone, but he didn't find the person he was looking for.

'It's fine. They might be busy in the fields...'

Lin Zhi tried to console himself. He quietly left the crowd and headed back to his own home.

Others didn't pay him any mind.

It seemed like everyone knew that he was just lingering at the sect and might not really become a disciple.

As Lin Zhi left the crowd, he felt people pointing at him and talking behind his back.

He even heard whispers.

"I heard he can stay in the sect only because of Young Master Lin. He's utterly useless. Why would they take in someone like him? My child is much stronger than him."

"Stop talking. After all, he managed to enter a sect. That alone is an achievement compared to us."

"Just look at him. Even he himself is insecure because he knows he is good for nothing. "

Lin Zhi hurried away. He ran back home.

Before long, he stood in front of his dilapidated house.

Looking at the open door and the clean and tidy surroundings, he finally smiled.

He ran inside happily. "Mom, I'm back! I met a very powerful beast. It promised me that it can help cure your illness!"

Lin Zhi ran to the door, but he didn't find his mother inside. There was only an old woman cleaning the house.

Lin Zhi was puzzled. "Granny Lin, where's my mother?"

"Lin Zhi?" Granny Lin looked surprised. "You've grown so big! I almost didn't recognize you."

"Where's my mother?" Lin Zhi was beginning to panic.

He noticed that two spirit tablets were placed in the living room.

He forced out a bitter smile. Maybe his mother thought her illness couldn't be cured, so she just prepared the stone tablet.

"Why are there two spirit tablets? It's creepy." He approached and took the spirit tablets down.

"Don't touch them," Granny Lin whispered.

Lin Zhi froze. He looked at Granny Lin. "Granny Lin, my mother is in the fields, right?" His lips trembled.

Tears were already falling from his eyes.

"Let me take you to your parents' graves."

Those simple words dealt a heavy blow. Even though he had known it somewhere in his mind, it was still difficult to hear.

He didn't remember how he made his way to his parent's graves. He didn't even notice that his father's grave had changed. He stood there frozen, as though his life had lost all meaning..

Chapter 355: Now I'll Tell You Two Words

"The tombs were brought here by some prominent families with the help of experts. But recently, I heard that you might be expelled from the sect, so they wanted to leave this spot for others entering the sect. Another villager has entered the sect in these two years," Grandma Lin said gently.

Lin Zhi was frozen in place. He couldn't even hear her properly.

Grandma Lin sighed. "They are waiting for you to return. If it's confirmed that you aren't a disciple anymore, they will take action. Figure out a way, okay?"

She couldn't do much to help him.

At most, she could help with cleaning the house.

She was doing this because Lin Zhi's mother had given her everything before she passed away, which helped her get through the hardest winter.

Otherwise, being as old as she was, she might not have survived that winter.

When Grandma Lin left, some strong men arrived with tools.

They weren't surprised to see Lin Zhi here, but they were somewhat worried.

"Master Lin, this place belongs to our family's old master. We want to take it back. Hope you can agree," one of the men said.

Lin Zhi stood still.

“What are you pretending for? We only call you “Master” because you made it into the sect temporarily. I heard that you could achieve nothing. Your talent is only a little bit higher than mine. What a joke!”
Someone mocked him.

Lin Zhi still stood there, frozen.

“Don’t blame us for getting physical.”

Someone moved forward to attack. They held sticks in their hands. As they came closer step by step, they were worried, but still, they swung down.

Bang!

The stick hit Lin Zhi’s head. He showed no reaction.

They grew bolder.

They began attacking him freely.

But Lin Zhi kept his head down. He looked at the tombstone without moving.

He couldn’t even feel the pain.

Just then, a stick was about to hit the tombstone.

In an instant, Lin Zhi moved. He grabbed the stick with one hand.

Bang!

The stick shattered.

Then he looked at the men behind him. His eyes were red. "What are you all trying to do?"

The sudden change frightened the men, and they started to retreat.

"This place belongs to our master. He will definitely want it back."

They were about to leave.

However, they hadn't gone far when they were flung into the sky and down to the ground.

They wailed and screamed.

At that moment, a beast soared through the air and approached Lin Zhi.

It was the spirit beast.

Lin Zhi looked at the beast and finally felt like he could confide in someone. He fell on his knees.

It seemed as though every ounce of strength had left his body. He cried in front of the graves of his parents.

The beast stood beside him and looked at the graves. "Heaven imposes heavy responsibilities on one with great talents. It first pains the mind, strains the sinews, starves the form and endangers life. Your body may go without comfort, your movements may be wild and confused, your mind may be vexed and worried, and your achievements may be lost."

Lin Zhi looked at the beast in confusion. "Lord Beast, what do you mean?"

“I’m telling you that those who are meant to accomplish great things will inevitably face difficulties along the way. The suffering you endure now will become your strength.”

“But can an ordinary person like me really be meant for great responsibilities?” Lin Zhi couldn’t believe it.

“I never lie. Have I ever lied to you?”

Lin Zhi felt a bit better.

He stood up and was about to find Grandma Lin to ask about his mother’s passing.

A little while later, Lin Zhi looked at Grandma Lin in disbelief. “My mother passed away on the second day I entered the sect? She was waiting for that

He finally understood many things. His mother had been terminally ill, and she had saved food for him if he couldn’t make it to any sect. If he did make it into one, she wanted to give everything she saved to someone in need.

“When your mother gave me the food she had saved, she smiled and told me she could finally rest easy,” Grandma Lin said.

Lin Zhi sat down. Tears streamed down his face.

Seven days later, in late April, Jiang Hao received a message from the Lawless Tower.

This time, they didn’t specify the matter. They just asked him to come over. “It feels like I’ve become a person of the Lawless Tower.”

Previously, they had used the name of Elder Baizhi. Now, they were addressing him directly.

This wasn't a bad thing. It would make it easier for him to become familiar with them. It could come in handy in the future.

It might be beneficial to him, like his relationship with Liu Xingchen.

But cooperating with fellow sect members didn't feel right. Cooperating with an insider from the Lawless Tower felt more secure.

Inside the Lawless Tower, they wanted him to interrogate Mi Lingyue.

"So... you don't want me to interrogate Gu Qing this time?" asked Jiang Hao in confusion.

"Yes. Gu Qing has some treasure in her body, which is difficult to extract. Mi Lingyue is special. There's a chance she can do it," said the black-robed woman.

Jiang Hao had already anticipated this and expected it sooner or later. It was just surprising that it had happened so soon.

After being briefed on the general situation, Jiang Hao stepped inside.

At this moment, Mi Lingyue was leaning against the cage bars in exhaustion.

"These people are ruthless. They almost killed me. They want my help now? If you've got the guts, just kill me."

"Didn't she say they would release you if you helped? And also help you recover some of your cultivation?" Zhuang Yuzhen asked.

"You expect me to believe that?" Mi Lingyue glanced at him. "They'll just use me and keep me here as a captive. How do you expect me to trust their empty promises? This is a demonic sect, not a respected immortal sect. Do you really believe them?"

Zhuang Yuzhen nodded. He had been deceived like that before.

After all, the Heavenly Note Sect's promises were unreliable.

Gu Qing lowered her head. She was worried.

She hadn't expected that the person next to her was the one referred to as the "Forging Hands."

Fortunately, this was a demonic sect, and Mi Lingyue didn't trust them.

"If you've got the guts, just kill me. Why don't you ask the Heavenly King to beg me to do it? Let's see if that works on me," said Mi Lingyue.

There was a sound of footsteps.

Everyone turned to look.

Zhuang Yuzhen noticed that it was Jiang Hao.

Hai Luo looked at him in contempt but didn't say anything.

"Ah, you're here too?" Mi Lingyue became more eager. "Do you want to use me

now? So, which few words do you plan to use to make me obedient?"

Jiang Hao stood before the cell and looked at her calmly. "Can you take out the treasures from her?"

He pointed at Gu Qing.

"Of course," Mi Lingyue said.

"Can you help us then?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Are you worthy of my help?" Mi Lingyue looked at him arrogantly. "Just a mere Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator dares to address me this way! How are you going to persuade me? Maybe you could kneel and beg." Mi Lingyue smirked.

Jiang Hao remained calm. He reached out and beckoned to her.

"Fine. I'll tell you two words. After hearing these two words, you will help me willingly."

Zhuang Yuzhen and Hai Luo both watched. They had experienced this terror before.

Would it work this time?

Mi Lingyue laughed and drew close.

She stood up and tilted her head to listen to him. "Speak, I'm listening."

Jiang Hao was surprised that she had actually approached him.

It seemed that Mi Lingyue was treated differently from others.

"I hope that after listening to me, you'll still be this optimistic." "I also hope that after you're done speaking, you'll still be this confident." Jiang Hao smiled faintly, then said the two words.

As soon as Mi Lingyue heard him, her smile vanished. She immediately looked at Jiang Hao in shock. Then her face turned ferocious.

“What do you mean by that?!”

Jiang Hao gazed at her. “It seems it’s of no use after all. Since that’s the case, let’s meet next time.”

With that, he turned and left.

“Wait! Come back! Tell me what you mean!” Jiang Hao walked farther and farther away.

Mi Lingyue had lost all her previous arrogance. “Come back, please!” she said.

“I’ll help you. I will do anything you want. Please, come back!” Hai Luo and Zhuang Yuzhen both looked terrified.

They had warned her.

Gu Qing felt a chill run down her spine.

She couldn’t understand how a mere Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator had taken control of what happened to her!

Chapter 356: The Demoness Discovers Dirt On The Stone Tablet

Seeing Jiang Hao leave, Mi Lingyue was filled with fear and helplessness. No matter how much she shouted, it was futile.

“It’s no use. When he leaves, he doesn’t turn back at all. If you don’t want this to escalate, talk to him properly when he visits next time,” said Zhuang Yuzhen. “A mere Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator who wasn’t even born when I was ruling overseas can make us bow to him like this...” Hai Luo sighed. “Wish they would just kill me. I don’t even feel like I’m worthy of being a king anyone.

At this moment, someone in.

Heavenly King Hai Luo shrunk back into his cage.

When he saw that it was the woman in the black robe, he was infuriated. "What do you want? Was I loud? I don't care! I can be even louder!"

A whip struck him.

"Is that all? You b*tch, haven't you eaten enough today? You can't even swing a whip!"

The black-robed woman glared at him and then ignored him.

Instead, she walked toward Mi Lingyue.

"I want to see him. I will do everything you ask," Mi Lingyue said loudly.

The woman in the black robe looked at the person in front of her in disbelief. Then she glanced at the other female prisoner.

Gu Qing had already fallen into despair. She smiled bitterly. "I'll cooperate on my own."

"No, let me do it! Let me retrieve it! I promise there won't be any problems," Mi Lingyue said pleadingly.

Jiang Hao knew that there shouldn't be any problems with the follow-up. It was just a matter of how they would handle it. However, they had to act quickly, or if Mi Lingyue abandoned her son, there would really be no way to deal with her.

Furthermore, apart from knowing what her son's name was, Jiang Hao was clueless about anything else. He actually had no leverage over her.

Relying on unpredictability was his only strategy. They wouldn't be able to gather more information from him if they couldn't continue the conversation. He left them guessing.

Jiang Hao felt different from before. He was no longer complacent, but rather reflecting on the terrifying nature of weaknesses.

He could threaten others using their weaknesses, but in the future, he might be threatened by others as well.

The only solution wasn't cutting off every weakness but becoming stronger.

He needed to become so strong that others wouldn't be able to threaten him at all.

He would also avoid unnecessary things to prevent trouble for himself, but unexpected situations were always possible. He had to learn to accept his impulsive side.

As long as he could bear the consequences, it would be fine.

Back in the courtyard, Jiang Hao planned to continue making talismans. After returning from the Corpse Realm three months ago, he could finally settle into his previous life. Whether it was the Grand Competition, the assault on the

Heavenly Saint Sect, or even Gu Qing's situation, they had all come to an end. Even the matter with Bai Ye could finally be put behind.

The great luck involved the Heavenly Note Sect, so he didn't need to worry about it for now. He just needed to focus on becoming stronger.

He caught a faint floral scent as he entered his room.

He was alert but then relaxed after realizing that the familiar fragrance belonged to only one person in the world.

Sure enough, he saw a woman in a red and white dress standing at his desk. Her black hair cascaded behind her. She looked very elegant. She held a talisman brush and was writing something.

Jiang Hao didn't dare to interrupt and could only stand quietly to the side.

After a while, Hong Yuye put down the talisman brush and looked at the talismans. "Do you know how to make talismans?"

"I know a little bit," Jiang Hao said.

With a swish, the talisman in Hong Yuye's hand fell in front of Jiang Hao.

"What kind of talisman is this?"

Jiang Hao picked up the talisman and examined it closely.

The intricate talisman characters were difficult to understand. However, he could grasp a bit from the strokes.

It was like he had only learned a bit on a surface level.

The more he looked, the more he felt the complexity of the strokes. Each stroke carried a distinct aura.

It was impressive.

When he looked up, it was already night. He looked around and found Hong Yuye outside on the balcony.

In the moonlight, her red and white dress stood out even more.

“Senior?” Jiang Hao called.

“Finished reading?” Hong Yuye turned to ask.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao nodded. “What kind of talisman is it?”

“This... I haven’t seen it before.”

He could actually appraise it, but he avoided using his ability in front of her.

In fact, in her presence, he preferred not to use any of his abilities unless absolutely necessary. She would notice it.

“What you know is still too little,” Hong Yuye said.

She walked into the room and sat on a wooden chair. “Bring out the stone tablet.”

Jiang Hao froze for a moment. Hong Yuye noticed it. She smiled. “Is it gone?” “Not gone... It’s here,” he said quickly.

“Is it on you?”

“Yes.”

“Bring it out then. ”

Hong Yuye’s terrifying aura surged like a wave.

Jiang Hao sighed inwardly.

Then, he handed over the stone tablet to her that was covered in mud.

Hong Yuye looked stunned. "What is this? What were you doing?"

Jiang Hao couldn't explain himself.

Bang!

A horrifying aura surged and hit Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao stood his ground despite the pain, then he wiped the dirt off the stone tablet and handed it over.

Only then did Hong Yuye accept the tablet. She took the talisman as well.

The talisman merged into the tablet, and Jiang Hao saw the characters transform into countless runes that spread throughout the tablet.

It seemed to be isolating something. It appeared to be blocking the ability of the true owner of the tablet from peering into it.

Once she finished, Hong Yuye handed the tablet back to Jiang Hao.

"Tell me about the gathering."

Jiang Hao had long been prepared and recounted everything.

Firstly, he mentioned the Heavenly Feather Spiritual Technique.

He had thought Hong Yuye might have some opinions about it, but she didn't seem interested at all.

Jiang Hao was curious. "Don't you think the spiritual technique is extraordinary, Senior?"

Hong Yuye looked at him.

All Jiang Hao could see in her eyes was disdain.

Thus, Jiang Hao stopped talking about it and continued with the contents of the gathering.

He talked about the vast heaven Platform.

Hong Yuye listened quietly.

He continued talking about the Heavenly Dao Foundation Building Realm.

"The Sage's Heart can indeed affect the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment Realm, but if used properly, it can also assist in the process," Hong Yuye finally said.

"How can it help?" Jiang Hao curiously asked.

However, Hong Yuye only smiled and didn't answer.

Jiang Hao could only move on to the next topic. The traces of great luck that he was tasked to find. He also talked about the secret technique for finding these traces.

"This is the technique." Jiang Hao handed over the written-down method.

Hong Yuye looked at it. "The traces of great luck do exist, but finding it is not easy. Only those heavily blessed with great luck can easily locate these places using the technique. It's not easy for others to find

them. However, the people from the Bright Moon Sect are likely just coming to take a look. They wouldn't touch the traces of great luck for the sake of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment..”

Chapter 357: The Female Demoness: “I’ll Make You Take A Bath With Me.”

“Isn’t it necessary?” Jiang Hao was puzzled.

“They only need to know whether great luck can return to the world. That alone would be sufficient. That way, someone in Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment Realm could obtain great luck quicker.”

She told Jiang Hao to continue with his findings.

Jiang Hao mentioned Gu Qing’s matter along the way, but he only said that he suspected Gu Qin was Gu Qing. Hong Yuye didn’t inquire further.

Next, he talked about Mi Lingyue.

Lastly, he brought up the matter of the extraordinary genius from two hundred years ago. He told her that he thought it might be Shang An.

Hong Yuye showed no interest in this.

“That’s roughly it,” Jiang Hao said.

In these two gatherings, there was no further clue about the origin of the tablet. Only some surrounding matters were discussed. He also couldn’t reveal Gui’s identity.

Xing might know about it. He was from the Bright Moon Sect.

The same went for Liu. Jiang Hao didn't know much about him.

As for the most mysterious figure, Dan Yuan, he could only attempt to start finding out a bit from Zhuang Yuzhen.

Hong Yuye rose slowly and went down the stairs. She then walked to the bathroom.

"Did you have defensive treasures on you before?" Hong Yuye asked.

"They were bestowed by the sect," Jiang Hao said.

"Then take them out. Let me see." Hong Yuye gazed at Jiang Hao with a half-smile.

Jiang Hao was speechless.

In the end, he took out the Nine Heavens Battle Armor covered in dirt.

Hong Yuye didn't seem interested in inspecting it.

"What made you cover yourself in mud all the way?"

Jiang Hao lowered his head and didn't answer.

Hong Yuye went to a new tub. She leaned against it and observed it.

Her indifference dissipated. She seemed to be satisfied with the tub.

Jiang Hao wondered if he had any Silver Moon Petals left. He breathed a sigh of relief when he realized that he had some left.

"I heard your sect is having a competition. Are you participating?" Hong Yuye asked.

"No," Jiang Hao said.

"What's your current cultivation realm?"

"I've reached the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm."

"Is there anyone in the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm that you're not a match for?"

"No. But if I win, I'll have to go to the Bight Moon Sect, and I won't be able to take care of the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower for you, Senior."

Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao. Since this explanation was acceptable, she didn't say anything.

Her presence gradually faded away.

"If I see you covered in mud again next time, I'll make you take a bath with me. Hopefully, when you are done bathing, you'll still be alive."

A distant voice echoed in Jiang Hao's mind.

Once the voice completely dissipated, Jiang Hao sighed in relief.

Hong Yuye always visited unexpectedly. He couldn't even prepare for it. She had to ask about the stone tablet today of all days!

Suddenly, Jiang Hao remembered something. He hurried to the courtyard and found that the Half-Moon Blade had long disappeared from the corner where he had placed it.

It was gone. Again.

The next day, in front of the main gate of the Bright Moon Sect, three people were gathered.

“Can’t I go?” Lan Jin seemed a bit displeased.

“Junior Sister, you should stay within the sect and cultivate well.” A young man laughed.

He stood there with a grand aura.

Xu Bai, a disciple of the Bright Moon Sect, looked elegant and radiant.

“We’re not going out this time for fun. We’re visiting every sect. Junior Sister, you should relax and stay back,” said Fang Jin.

He had already reached the Primordial Spirit Realm and had defensive abilities. It was only because of that he was able to accompany Xu Bai on this journey to the south. He had another intention too. He wanted to see Jiang Hao Tian again.

Lan Jin could do nothing but watch as her two seniors left.

Fang Jin used the teleportation technique in midair and traversed from the east to the south. Even with teleportation formations, the journey took quite some time.

On the way, Xu Bai asked curiously, “Did Junior Sister come to find you because she heard you were going out?”

“Yes.” Fang Jin nodded. “She wants me to help inquire about her young master.”

Xu Bai flew in the sky. He didn't slow down. "Really? I heard a little about the person, but I don't know which sect he might have joined."

"It's not only you, Senior Brother. Nobody knows about it. We only know he was taken away by someone, but we don't know where he was taken to," Fang Jin said.

"Oh?" Xu Bai was quite interested. "It seems you really trust that person."

"There are many reasons for that. But if we had known earlier about Junior Sister's exceptional talent, perhaps we would have brought him back with us. If anything happens, it will undoubtedly have a huge impact on her. So, when I find him this time, I will ask for his opinion. If they are willing, I'll bring him back to the Bright Moon Sect," Fang Jin said.

"As long as he's in a decent sect, we will visit and extend personal invitations to invite him to the Dao Conference. When you eventually find him, make sure you don't miss anything," said Xu Bai.

Fang Jin nodded.

This time, he didn't intend to just look for him. He wanted to search for him at all costs.

Jiang Hao Tian was the kind of person who didn't want to be discovered by anyone. Naturally, no one might be able to find him easily.

"We'll get a chance to visit some of the major sects in the south." Xu Bai smiled.

They continued ahead.

In the south, in the Heavenly South Prefecture, people emerged from the sea and met up with the people on the shore.

At this moment, two middle-aged men in the lead met with each other.

On the shore was a middle-aged man with a beard. He was from the Great Thousand God Sect. His name was Mu Qiu.

Facing him was a general under the command of one of the Twelve Heavenly Kings, Mu Longyue. He had white hair and was called Master Hong Cheng.

"It's confirmed. It's the work of Heavenly Note Sect," Mu Qiu said.

"What do you want to do?" Hong Cheng asked.

"I have a person who's extremely sensitive to misfortune among my people. His cultivation isn't impressive, but he's quite unique. Right now, we need to find a trace related to great luck. This way, he'll have a chance to find the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl," Mu Qiu said.

"And after you find it?"

"The current Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl must be under a seal. Once it's found, of course... we'll unseal it." Mu Qiu smiled sinisterly.

"What do the people tailing you feel?" asked Hong Cheng.

"They naively think that great luck can be captured and contained," Mu Qiu said mockingly.

"And what about the one looking for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl?"

"If his strength is sufficient, he will kill the person who obtains the pearl and then unseal it. If his strength is insufficient, he will return to us."

Hong Cheng looked deep in thought.

Finally, he nodded. "Then let's first find a way to locate the trace of great luck."

They were the first to discover the appearance of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. Hence, their progress was the quickest.

No one would find the pearl before them..

Chapter 358: Cultivation Has Dropped Again?

Green Mountain Village.

“The Immortal Elder has spoken. So, how could we not listen to you?” said a middle-aged man.

At this moment, the courtyard was in a chaotic state. Everyone had injuries.

Even the middle-aged man speaking had his teeth knocked out. He was fearful. He had come close to death.

“It’s not about listening to me,” Zhou Chan said helplessly. “I didn’t expect my Junior Brother to attach such importance to Junior Brother Lin Zhi. He actually dispatched his pet spirit beast, who is even more formidable than me.”

The middle-aged man thought of something. “Wasn’t Lin Zhi allowed to stay in the sect because of those two young disciples?” he asked fearfully.

Zhou Chan glanced at him. “No. It was the Master of the branch who personally permitted him to stay. He isn’t someone we can meet.”

The middle-aged man was scared out of his wits. He had tried to dig up the graves belonging to such a person.

The middle-aged man knelt before Zhou Chan. "Thank you, Immortal Elder, for saving my life once again."

Zhou Chan was also surprised that Jiang Hao's spirit beast was here. She had heard that this family was planning to dig up Lin Zhi's parents' grave, so she had arrived to persuade them to leave it alone.

She hadn't expected the spirit beast to arrive ahead of her and severely injure everyone.

Zhou Chan left. She wanted to see how Lin Zhi was doing.

After some time, Zhou Chan arrived at Lin Zhi's house.

She saw an old woman cleaning the courtyard.

"Hello," Zhou Chan said in greeting as she walked in. "Is this Lin Zhi's house?" "Yes, and you are?" Granny Lin squinted her eyes as she looked at the visitor.

She was hunched and her complexion was tan. Her movements were stiff.

Zhou Chan was surprised to see her. She had never seen a person that old.

"I'm his Senior Sister. I wanted to see how he's doing," Zhou Chan said as she took out some pastries and handed them over. "This is for you. They are delicious. Are you Granny Lin?"

"Immortal Elder?" Granny Lin was astonished. She almost knelt in respect.

Zhou Chan immediately helped her up. "Please don't do that."

After helping her up, Zhou Chan talked with her about Lin Zhi's household.

The more Zhou Chan listened, the more astonished she was. It was her first time hearing about Lin Zhi's mother. It was also the first time she learned about his mother's illness. She was waiting for her son to join a sect before she breathed her last.

"She must have felt relieved, right? I think she was still regretful. She didn't get to witness her son becoming immortal," Zhou Chan said.

"Yes... I remember that when she gave me food, she looked at peace. It was like she had finally let go of everything," said Granny Lin. "In fact, I come here to keep the place clean occasionally. It's not just because the food she gave me helped me through the tough winter, but also because she gave me an egg."

"An egg?" Zhou Chan was puzzled.

"Yes." Granny Lin smiled. "It was the first time I tasted an egg."

Zhou Chan was moved. "Are eggs that rare here?"

"They're not, but eggs are expensive." Granny Lin laughed. "We raise chickens only to save them. No one can afford to eat eggs here."

Zhou Chan stood up. A faint glow seemed to emanate from her.

Finally, she took a deep breath and sat down again. Looking at Granny Lin before her, she no longer felt pity toward her. Instead, she felt admiration and respect toward the old woman and the people in this village.

"Granny, why don't you tell me about your experiences? I need to wait for

Junior Brother Lin Zhi anyway," said Zhou Chan.

The Heavenly Note Sect.

Cliff of Broken Hearts.

After several days, Jiang Hao received a message.

The treasure had been extracted.

Gu Qing handed over the treasure without saying anything.

Jiang Hao could foresee her fate. Her cultivation would decline, and she would be sent to the mine to work.

‘Xing already knows she’s here. They should be sending someone. We just don’t know when.’

It wasn’t just Xing. Heavenly King Mu Longyue would soon be sending someone to get back Mi Lingyue too.

The message sent by the Lawless Tower didn’t mention Mi Lingyue, so he had to go and check it out himself.

For now, he wouldn’t bother with the matter too much.

He had cleaned his Nine Heavens Battle Armor and the wrist guards and put them on.

He decided not to deal with the stone tablet anymore.

He still had the Primordial Heavenly Blade and the rings. ‘It seems it’s time to make some arrangements with the spirit beast.’ The spirit beast sometimes triggered golden bubbles.

As long as he could get two of those, he could receive a treasure. It all depended on when the peach tree would bear another golden bubble.

‘The spiritual energy has returned to the level it was when I returned.’ Jiang Hao was surprised.

He couldn’t understand what Bai Ye was trying to do.

‘Maybe I should go and take a look tonight or tomorrow night.’

otherwise, he would keep feeling uneasy.

When he left the courtyard, he met Han Ming.

By now, he was no longer the naive youth of the past. He was twenty-six.

“Senior Brother Jiang, I’m here to challenge you again,” Han Ming said seriously as he looked at Jiang Hao.

His aura was as sharp as a sword.

After several rounds of training, he had already surpassed his peers. Now, as long as he could surpass Jiang Hao, he could continue to strive for the next stage.

Jiang Hao smiled. “Junior Brother Han, you are truly talented. Your aura alone tells me that you’re extraordinary.” The sparring began.

Jiang Hao launched five sword strikes.

Han Ming’s sword swung down.

The saber was already at Han Ming's neck.

"Junior Brother Han, do you admit defeat?" Jiang Hao retrieved his saber.

Han Ming gritted his teeth, picked up his sword, and asked, "Senior Brother

Jiang, are you really in the Foundation Establishment Realm?"

"I went to the Corpse Realm and got lucky," Jiang Hao said. His cultivation was only slightly above Han Ming's.

After that, Han Ming snorted coldly and left. "Senior Brother, you've been stuck in the Spirit Herb Garden for too long. Sooner or later, I'll surpass you." Jiang Hao didn't say anything. He appraised Han Ming.

[Han Ming: True Disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect's Cliff of Broken Hearts. Exceptionally gifted. In the late Foundation Establishment Realm. He is favored by the spirits of mountains and rivers and has the inheritance of a mighty figure. After killing enemies and tempering himself in mountains and rivers, his ability to move mountains and seas is taking shape. He's unwilling to be defeated by you. He wants to defeat you after his advancement.]

'He is indeed exceptional. It is no wonder people say he has the making of a top disciple.'

Among his peers, no one could surpass Han Ming. He was diligent, hardworking, and never admitted defeat.

He was always willing to fight whenever the Heavenly Note Sect needed him. Every time, he achieved considerable merits.

He just liked to show off.

That night, Jiang Hao stood before the Hundred Bones Forest.

He tried to sense Bai Ye's location.

Sure enough, Bai Ye was still inside.

However, when he sensed Bai Ye's cultivation, Jiang Hao was somewhat stunned.

Chapter 359: Finally, A Golden Legend

There was no mistake.

Jiang Hao found that Bai Ye's cultivation had indeed dropped from the mid-stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm to the early stage.

This was abnormal.

'His cultivation might have dropped from the late stage to the middle stage due to the curse. But this... this is strange. Unless...'

Unless he deliberately caused the drop in his cultivation.

Jiang Hao could clearly sense his own strength. His sealing technique would not cause his cultivation to drop so severely.

An attack that caused someone's strength and realm to drop so rapidly would definitely catch the attention of the Law Enforcement Hall.

'Is he intentionally lowering his cultivation to get the Law Enforcement Hall involved? No... the Law Enforcement Hall has been quiet lately.'

Jiang Hao suddenly thought of something. The abundant spiritual energy in his courtyard.

‘Could it be possible that he is deliberately using his cultivation to fuel mine as a way to ask me to spare him?’

Jiang Hao frowned. There was no way Bai Ye knew he was hiding his cultivation realm. So, how had Bai Ye known that it was him?

Were there any peculiar things around him that gave it away?

He only had the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower in his courtyard that was of any significance.

‘Bai Ye is extraordinarily knowledgeable about spirit herbs. Did he recognize the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower? If he did, what does he think it means?’

Jiang Hao thought for a moment but had no answer. He couldn’t figure out what Bai Ye intended.

‘If he saw the flower and assumed it was Elder Baizhi’s, then he must think she is backing me up. Maybe that’s why...’

Although it seemed that way, he knew that he was just bait for Elder Baizhi.

The big fishes had already taken the bait, and the smaller fishes had become more cautious. It all depended on when Elder Baizhi intended to close the net.

‘If he thinks he offended Elder Baizhi by attacking me, then it makes sense that he wants to lie low and repair the damage he did...’

After hesitating for a while, Jiang Hao turned and left. He would observe the situation further and then decide what to do.

If Bai Ye's cultivation fell from the Primordial Spirit Realm to the Golden Core Realm, it would bring trouble.

The Law Enforcement Hall would take action.

Bai Ye was a ruthless individual.

While sacrificing one's cultivation could be swift, recovering it would take decades.

Back at his residence, Jiang Hao began to craft talismans while also studying the comprehensive language guide.

Occasionally, he visited the library and offered spirit stones to the person in charge of the library for more information.

He asked about learning various languages. The in-charge recommended some books to him, which turned out to be useful.

They also recommended some individuals who were well-versed in different languages.

Throughout the Heavenly Note Sect, a single piece of spirit stone could make people very helpful.

Unfortunately, even though he tried to learn languages from others, Jiang Hao still couldn't find the language he had heard in the Corpse Realm.

In early May, the Immortal Peach Tree began to bloom, and Cheng Chou returned with Xiao Li.

"Senior Brother Jiang, this is for you," Xiao Li handed over a box of sweets.

When Jiang Hao took it, he felt like he had traveled back to the past. Xiao Li's mother would always send something for him.

He opened the box and found misshapen sweets inside. He appraised them.

[Tasteless sweets: After Jiang Xiao Li returned, she remembered her grandmother's words and brought gifts back for you. Since she only knows about sweets, she asked her neighbors about it and brought back three boxes of sweets.]

Jiang Hao was speechless.

This time they weren't poisonous, but they were indeed tasteless. Still, he ate one.

They tasted very bad.

Xiao Li was looking at him expectantly, so Jiang Hao praised her. He then closed the box and handed it back. "You can have the rest."

Xiao Li accepted the sweets. "Where is the spirit beast? I brought something for it too."

"It should be coming back in a couple of days," Jiang Hao said.

The spirit beast returned a bit late, which made Jiang Hao worry if it had caused any trouble.

But there was something he was more concerned about. Xiao Li's name had been different in the appraisal result. Instead of Xiao Li, it was Jiang Xiao Li. She had really taken his surname.

It wouldn't be a big deal, but it might be difficult when she was set free from here. He shouldn't have interfered in the past.

Two more days passed, and the spirit beast and Lin Zhi finally returned.

The spirit beast came running over to the Spirit Herb Garden.

“Master, I brought you a gift,” it said and took out beef jerky.

Jiang Hao took it and appraised it.

[Beef Jerky: Your spirit beast snatched this from a gang of bandits and got drugged with sleeping pills in the process.]

Jiang Hao was speechless.

Whether it was the spirit beast or Xiao Li, the things they brought back for him were equally strange.

However, they both had different experiences.

With Xiao Li, there were no problems. Cheng Chou and Xiao Li had returned to her old house and spent some time at her parents’ graves.

As for the spirit beast, it had an eventful return.

Under the pretense of assisting Lin Zhi, it wreaked havoc everywhere. It bullied everyone within a ten - mile radius.

Lord Beast’s name was taken in fear.

Not only did the spirit beast bully ordinary people, but even those with immortal connections. Even the disciples there received lessons from it.

“Infamous indeed.” Jiang Hao sighed.

However, he also understood Lin Zhi's plight. Fortunately, Lin Zhi hadn't given up.

"Which sect were the disciples from?" Jiang Hao asked the spirit beast.

"They're from Azure Mountain. They had two Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators. But they were aware of me and showed me proper respect." The spirit beast munched on the pastries Xiao Li had brought

Jiang Hao nodded.

However, he felt strange looking at the beef jerky. Last time, the spirit beast had brought him the Bitter Fruit.

He couldn't decide whether this was progress or failure.

"Master, I've been away for so long. Did you prepare a gift for me because you missed me?" the spirit beast asked.

Jiang Hao smiled and nodded. "Yes. You'll find out tomorrow." "What about me?" Xiao Li asked.

"When the peaches ripen, they are all yours," said Jiang Hao. Both Xiao Li and the spirit beast jumped up in joy.

The next day, Jiang Hao tied the spirit beast.

For safety, he first appraised it and confirmed that it would cost him 490 spirit stones a day for forty-nine days. A total of 24,010 spirit stones were needed.

Currently, Jiang Hao had 46,018 spirit stones.

“We’re starting this again?” asked the spirit beast.

It soon made itself comfortable.

“Master, isn’t this too much? Can I eat them some other day?”

It took the spirit beast until the evening to finish eating the 490 spirit stones.

The sect’s competition began, but Jiang Hao didn’t participate.

He was busy shuttling back and forth between his house and the Spirit Herb Garden.

However, he heard that the present competition was much fiercer than before, and it was expected to last for over a month.

When forty-nine days had passed, it was already the end of June.

Jiang Hao approached the spirit beast.

At this moment, the spirit beast was sleeping soundly. It smacked its lips as if it wanted to eat something.

The golden bubble around it merged into Jiang Hao’s body.

[Golden Legend +1]

He appraised the spirit beast.

[Spirit Beast: Possesses extremely high intelligence. At the peak of Foundation Establishment Realm. It has immense potential. It has a dormant bloodline of the evil beast. If it is fed with 490 spirit stones daily

for 81 days, the bloodline can be further awakened. Feeding it spirit stones every day will increase its goodwill towards you. It currently feels reverence toward you.]

Jiang Hao was puzzled. How could immense potential exist in a mere spirit beast?

‘490 spirit stones a day for eighty-one days.’ A total of 36,960 spirit stones.

Currently, he had around 22,000 spirit stones left.

Shaking his head, Jiang Hao untied the spirit beast. He could only wait and figure something out.

Now, he only lacked one more gold bubble to get another divine ability. After the Immortal Peach Tree’s incarnation, he could have more benefits..

Chapter 360: The Bright Moon Sect Is Coming

“You’re releasing me so early, Master? Shouldn’t you tie me up a bit longer?”

The spirit beast stood beside Jiang Hao.

“No.” Jiang Hao shook his head. “How about three more days?”

Jiang Hao ignored it.

“Two days?”

Jiang Hao walked out of the courtyard.

The spirit beast caught up with him. “One day? Surely just one day more?”

Jiang Hao glanced at the spirit beast. He then proceeded to water the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower and the Immortal Peach Tree.

The tree had started to bear fruit. In a month or two, the fruits on it would be ready to eat.

At that, he could determine how many spirit stones would be needed for its incarnation.

Based on experience, it would probably require around 20,000.

Looking at his current stash of 22,000 spirit stones, Jiang Hao felt reassured.

He planned to earn more in the next month or two, just in case.

At the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao learned from Miao Tinglian that she had almost become the winner in the grand competition.

“Almost? Did you lose to White Moon Lake in the end?” he curiously asked.

“No, I lost to someone from the Law Enforcement Hall,” Miao Tinglian said regretfully.

“The second place should have rewards too, right?”

“Yes, but I encountered someone from the Law Enforcement Hall right after leaving the Cliff of Broken Hearts... not at the competition.”

“Then how is it that you almost won?”

“Because the winner was the person I met. I almost won against him, though not in the competition. Isn’t that close enough?”

Jiang Hao was speechless.

“What about Senior Brother Mu Qi?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Mu Qi is attempting to advance to the Primordial Spirit Realm, so he didn’t participate in the competition,” Miao Tinglian said with some regret.

Then, she remembered something: “Junior Brother, how old are you now?”

“Twenty-seven,” Jiang Hao said.

He felt like he had gone from nineteen to twenty-seven in a flash. After a few years, he would be in his thirties.

“Not too young anymore. Have you considered finding a partner? I recently brought back a cultivator from the outer sect. She’s at the ninth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm. She is very beautiful and gentle. You can have her stay in the Spirit Herb Garden. She’s very suitable for you,” Miao Tinglian said with a smile.

Jiang Hao was at a loss for words. Why did Miao Tinglian always have to play the matchmaker? Didn’t she have anything else to do?

“Do you want to meet her?” Miao Tinglian asked.

Jiang Hao looked around and saw Mu Qi walking over to them.

“Senior Brother Mu Qi, I have something I’d like to ask you,” said Jiang Hao.

Miao Tinglian was speechless.

Jiang Hao did have a question to ask. He wanted to know who the winners of this competition were.

Ming from here, someone from Flowing Waterfall, one from the Law Enforcement Hall, and one from Ice Moon Valley. As for the Golden Core Realm category, there is someone from the Law Enforcement Hall, White Moon Lake, the Hundred Bones Forest, and Candlelight Pill Pavilion.”

“The Primordial Spirit Realm category isn’t done yet. They’re still competing,” Mu Qi said.

Jiang Hao nodded. All these people had the chance to obtain good-quality resources.

He couldn’t help but sigh. ” Junior Brother Han Ming indeed has the bearing of a top contender.”

Mu Qi smiled but didn’t say anything.

Jiang Hao was looking forward to Han Ming’s pursuit of the first rank. He was sure Han Ming would do well.

‘First place...’

If he wanted to pursue it, he had to stay within the normal speed of progress.

Han Ming was a perfect example.

He was fast in his advancement but not so fast to draw unnecessary attention.

If one person advanced too quickly, they would stand out. But if there were two or more at the same speed, it would seem normal.

“By the way, there’s another benefit to being a winner this time. You have a chance to spar with people from the Bright Moon Sect,” Mu Qi said.

“I’ve also heard about that,” Miao Tinglian said. “It’s said that people from the bright Moon Sect have already arrived in the southern region and have started visiting various sects. If a sect received an invitation before, they’ll come in person for a visit. Our sect has also received an invitation. So, people from the Bright Moon Sect will be coming here too.”

Jiang Hao thought of Xing. ‘Will he come too, or send someone else in his place?’

Jiang Hao felt that the Bright Moon Sect’s visit to this sect would be related to Gu Qing.

It seemed that Gu Qing was already sent to the mines.

After all, the Heavenly Note Sect doesn’t know about her other value.

However, it’s unclear whether she can endure becoming a Lifeblood Refinement Realm cultivator as the Lawless Tower gradually chipped away at her current cultivation.

Gu Qing knew him. Jiang Hao wondered how it might affect him if she was taken away from here by Xing.

He thought it might not be possible, after all.

He needed to inform Chu Chuan about this. With the arrival of the Bright Moon Sect’s people, Chu Jie must have asked them to fetch Chu Chuan.

There were some things that he didn’t want Chu Chuan to disclose about him.

And Lin Zhi also needed to avoid these people.

Jiang Hao felt regretful. Even unintentionally, he had gotten involved in too much trouble.

“How long will it take for the bright Moon Sect to arrive?” Jiang Hao asked.

“It should take quite some time,” Mu Qi said.

“They will spend some time in each sect, and our sect is relatively remote.

They’ll most likely come to us last.”

“They might not even make it to our sect this year,” Miao Tinglian said.

Jiang Hao nodded. Each sect had to be visited. It might take a long time. The southern region was vast, and there were numerous sects within it.

Jiang Hao couldn’t help but sigh. The people from the Bright Moon Sect were really patient.

He didn’t know how long Gu Qing could survive in the mine.

At the outskirts of Hidden Cloud Prefecture, a woman in a jade green dress descended slowly.

“Is it the Heavenly Note Sect again? I wonder if they’ve gained anything.” Bi Zhu looked to the left, and then to the right.

In order to obtain another Snow God Pill, she had come specifically to find traces of great luck.

“Jing should be near the Heavenly Note Sect too. If he found it, he would have said so already. Could it be that there’s none here?” Bi Zhu was puzzled.

Out of curiosity, she decided to investigate.

She didn't know Jing's real identity, but she remembered the purple light vividly.

She had seen it again at Heavenly Stele Mountain in the Blood Tide Forest.

Bi Zhu suspected that Jing had other matters of his own. It was even possible that the extraordinary genius was indeed him.

She had no evidence, but her intuition told her that it was most likely.

With that in mind, she started using a secret technique.

There was no response.

Then she moved to another location. She used the technique again.

Nothing.

By evening, she lost track of how many locations she had checked. But she still found nothing.

She suddenly heard someone talking.

"I heard that person has already set out to find the location of great luck. This area has traces of auspicious energy. We might find something."

"I always feel like we've been used. We should leave."

"Used? Why do you say that?"

“That person used traces of auspicious energy here. Could it be possible that we’ll suffer a backlash?”

“Elder Mu said that this might be dangerous. If you want to take a chance, you can stay. If you’re afraid, you can leave.”

Bi Zhu looked at the group of people. It was clear that they had very little understanding of auspicious energy.

They probably had very little knowledge of other things too, especially when it came to curses.

She saw a hint of red light on these people. It was the presence of a curse.

Although very faint, it made her wary.

Then she used her secret technique again and found something this time. There was a trace of auspicious energy here, but it was tainted by a curse.

‘Why is this happening?’

She felt uneasy.

She retreated and went to look for someone at the stone tablet..