

A Demoness 391

Chapter 391: Continuing Undercover Work

The gathering came to an end, and Jiang Hao took out a book to record the key points of this gathering.

First, the task from Dan Yuan was to investigate the Saint Bandits, who were said to be capable of stealing anything under the blessing of heaven and earth.

Second, his true identity had attracted their attention, so he needed to be careful in handling it.

Third, he needed to make contact with “Jiang Hao” as Jing.

‘That’s roughly it. Matters related to the Xuanyuan Clan and overseas are not relevant for now. However, I’m the one who planted the ancient flower seed. If Xuanyuan Tai and Xuanyuan He expose everything, it will bring me quite a bit of trouble.’

The more he did, the more likely he would be associated with others. This was unavoidable.

So, he rarely engaged in troublesome matters unless they were advantageous or necessary.

People like Xiao Li and Lin Zhi had no benefits. He had taken care of Chu Chuan for the benefits he would get from the Bright Moon Sect.

Xiao Li had a knack for getting into trouble. He hoped she would improve as she grew up. Otherwise, setting her free would be a headache.

With the matters of the gathering settled, Jiang Hao began to make talismans.

He wanted to integrate what he had learned so far.

In a few more years, he could continue purchasing higher-grade talismans and start crafting them.

That would allow him to earn more spirit stones.

For Golden Core Talismans, an extravagant amount of spirit stones would be needed. It was almost double the cost of the ordinary ones.

This would increase the speed of earning money by twofold.

That was how it was with talismans. If it were pills...

Where could one buy suitable Golden Core pills for just a few dozen spirit stones? If they existed, they would be the most basic ones.

Anything of decent quality was quite expensive.

In early February, Jiang Hao finally finished reading "Notes of the Mountains and Seas."

He had also obtained a secret technique that could enhance his cultivation. Coincidentally, it was a sword technique called the Blood Demon Saber Technique.

It circulated one's own blood energy, then ignited it. It then made it go berserk like a demon and finally unleashed the strongest strike. This sword technique was indeed formidable.

However, Jiang Hao only intended to learn it and not use it.

The sword technique was far inferior to the Seven Forms of the Heavenly Blade.

The first form, Moon-Slaying, could match the power of this technique.

The second form, Mountain Suppression, was already beyond what this technique could compare to.

‘However, this approach is feasible. If I use this method to execute the Moo-Slaying, it should take the move to a new level.’

However, the aftereffects would be significant.

If he could avoid using it, he should.

He was still curious about how effective it would be.

After all, he had the Revival of the Withered Tree ability if it took too much out of him.

He then brushed off his thoughts. He was daydreaming.

After finishing the Blood Demon Saber Technique, he quit his job at the library.

It had been two or three months since he had been working there. It was normal for him to leave.

However, in Hua Le’s eyes, Jiang Hao had most likely mastered the secret technique and was eager to leave for cultivation.

Jiang Hao didn’t mind.

Coincidentally, there were some matters in the Spirit Herb Garden that he needed to deal with.

However, learning the language wasn't progressing quickly. He still didn't know the content of those people's conversations. He only understood a few isolated words.

It wasn't urgent. In another month or two, he should be able to learn them.

Outside the Heavenly Note Sect, Mi Qian descended from the sky on a remote peak.

"Do you have any news?"

A group of black-robed individuals received him. They were members of the Fallen Immortal Clan.

"Yes." Mi Qian nodded.

"Good," said the middle-aged man in the lead. "Tell us the details."

"I entered the Heavenly Note as a wandering cultivator and heard about someone called Gu Qin. I figured out that this person might be Gu Qing, so I asked around and found out that she was working at the Spirit Herb Garden in the Cliff of Broken Hearts. I went to investigate that Spirit Herb Garden and found that her trail was lost there. Feeling curious, I inquired about the one in charge of the Spirit Medicine Garden, Jiang Hao. I found out that he's just an ordinary inner sect disciple and should have no connection with her." Mi Qian looked at his seniors. "I believe that Gu Qing was captured there, but the trail went cold. So, I went to places people like her might visit, such as the mining site. "

"Gu Qing has a distinguished identity and considerable strength, plus she had a treasure on her. How could she end up in a mining site?" Someone raised their doubts.

"Let him continue," said the middle-aged man.

Mi Qian couldn't refute the doubts. He had thought the same at first. However, there was simply no other option left.

"I found a lead at the mines. There were two in total. Gu Qing was indeed sent to the mining site. As for what purpose, I don't know."

This made the person who had questioned him earlier feel embarrassed. He gave a cold snort but didn't speak.

"What were the leads?" asked the middle-aged man.

"The first lead has only two words: Jiang Hao," said Mi Qian.

"Jiang Hao?" The middle-aged man was taken aback. "The person you mentioned just moments ago?"

"I believe it's him." Mi Qian nodded.

"What did he do to make Gu Qing leave his name?"

"I don't know. The first lead doesn't have anything else, just those two words.

I'm not sure if it's a good or bad sign." "What's his cultivation realm?" "Peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm."

This stunned the others.

Why would Gu Qing leave his name?

"What about the second lead?" the middle-aged man asked. "Bright Moon Sect, Dao Conference, Foundation Establishment."

"I know about the Bright Moon Sect's Dao Conference, but what does Foundation Establishment mean? Is it related to Jiang Hao who's at Foundation Establishment?" someone asked.

“Doesn’t seem like it. These should be two entirely unrelated matters. It seems like the Bright Moon Sect’s Dao Conference is connected to something about the Foundation Establishment. This needs to be discussed and determined by the elders of our clan,” said the middle-aged man.

This matter was important. After all, it involved the Bright Moon Sect.

“So, we need to figure out more about this Jiang Hao now.” The middle-aged man looked at the crowd. “What do you all think?”

“Gu Qing left behind a lead. The second one should be what she heard at the Bright Moon Sect. As for the first one, it might be related to her situation. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have bothered to write down his name,” said a man in his twenties.

“Regardless of what it is, it indicates one thing: Jiang Hao isn’t as simple as he appears on the surface. Gu Qing must be certain that we won’t help her take her revenge, and killing a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator would be pointless. Maybe she might think we can’t kill this person. So, she left a name for us to guess.”

“True. But Gu Qing has already accepted defeat. What we need is to identify this

person. Let’s see if he can pose a threat to our clan. If he can, we must

eliminate him.”

“If that’s the case, why didn’t she just write everything in detail? We still have to intervene even if it turns out to be a fake.”

“Perhaps he only has a way to target Gu Qing, not our entire clan. So, she left only the name, omitting the rest. That’s why we need to take it seriously.” The middle-aged man frowned. “Mi Qian, continue your undercover work. We will take this information back. No matter what, the elders of our clan will investigate this person. If he has something special, we’ll surely find out a thing or two..”

Chapter 392: Becoming The Top Disciple First

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao walked along the riverbank. He felt like he had been doing too much lately.

Although he hadn't drawn attention within the sect, he had certainly attracted attention from outside the sect.

However, it wasn't easy for outsiders to find him.

Apart from a few reckless or desperate individuals, there shouldn't be anyone daring enough to lay hands on him within the Heavenly Note Sect.

For instance, the people from the Sunset Immortal Sect had been watching him for so many years, yet none of them had tried to attack him.

Throughout his cultivation journey, there weren't many who were willing to die with a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator.

Only a senior in the Golden Core Realm had pretended to be from the Heavenly

Note Sect and approached him for revenge because of Yun Ruo.

Such people were few and far between.

The stronger they were, the calmer they tended to be. For example, the expert from the Heavenly Joy Pavilion was like that. If he wanted, he could have ended Jiang Hao a long time ago. However, he held back.

The others were the same. But some were very reckless. Jiang Hao had to notice them and hide in the Lawless Tower if he couldn't deal with them.

The things he had done in the Lawless Tower so far grabbed the attention of others. However, that place was an excellent refuge for him.

Everything had a price. That was the unfortunate truth. Fortunately, he could afford to pay it.

‘It’s better this way. I just hope I won’t cause any more trouble. Over time, no one will remember me anyway.’

Cultivators indeed had good memories. But not many people remembered a cultivator in the Foundation Establishment Realm.

There was an alternative way. He could eliminate anyone who had seen him enter the Lawless Tower. That way, he would be safer.

Unfortunately, he couldn’t really do that.

“Master, Xiao Li has advanced to the eighth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm,” said the spirit beast as it hopped out of the river.

After that, it jumped back into the water and continued swimming upstream. ‘Eighth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm...’

Her progress was too fast. She could be accepted as an inner sect disciple with progress like that.

He needed to visit his master and see what he would think about it.

When he arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden, he saw Han Ming waiting for him.

“Junior Brother Han, is there something you need?” Jiang Hao asked with a “Senior Brother Jiang, Master wants you to visit him,” Han Ming said.

Nowadays, he no longer looked like how he used to be when he was just eighteen. He looked more mature and determined.

He was calm, reserved, and his spiritual energy circulated with a strength that would erupt at any moment.

"I heard you are either working in the library or managing the Spirit Herb Garden lately. Is that true, Senior Brother Jiang?"

"Yes." Jiang Hao nodded.

"Does this make you stronger? Does it make your combat experience richer?" "Not really."

"In that case, Senior Brother Jiang, you are in trouble. I'll be out dealing with some troubles in the surrounding area in two days. It's a matter of life and death. By the time I come back, I'll surely surpass you, Senior Brother Jiang."

"That's to be expected. You have exceptional talent and determination. It's something I cannot compare to."

Han Ming snorted coldly and turned to leave.

Jiang Hao didn't mind. Junior Brother Han had grown quite a bit. He hadn't paid much attention to it before, but now, he could see that his temperament and strength were very refined.

He used to think that Han Ming's personality would bring him a lot of trouble and that he might not survive in the demonic sect. However, it seemed now that he was handling everything quite well.

'Twenty-seven years old. Indeed, not young anymore... When necessary, he shows his edge. Usually, he's reserved. An aura of strength is hidden beneath the surface. He is truly a promising disciple. It is no wonder some people think he has the makings of a top disciple.'

However, Jiang Hao felt that precisely because others said he had the bearing of a top disciple, he demanded the treatment of one.

Jiang Hao watched him leave. He felt that he might become a top disciple before Han Ming.

If he did, he wouldn't stop at the tenth ranking.

That way, there would be no chance for Han Ming to become a top disciple.

But it would take quite some time to go from tenth to ninth ranking.

Hopefully, when that time came, Han Ming would learn to be patient.

Thinking of Han Ming's determined face, Jiang Hao decided to add a bit of challenge when they sparred next time. Perhaps six strikes...

He was certainly deserving since he put in so much effort.

A moment later, he arrived at the Cliff Master's residence.

"Xiao Li has reached the eighth stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm?" Master Ku Wu Chang looked expressionless.

"Yes." Jiang Hao respectfully bowed his head.

The Cliff Master always looked indifferent, but his face was always like that. Jiang Hao didn't know if his face was naturally like that, or if he saved his indifference just for ordinary disciples.

"According to her progress, she could be promoted to an inner sect disciple.

However, to become a True Disciple, she would have to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm,” said Ku Wu Chang. “You recruited Xiao Li, so you know her more than anyone else. Do you think she will continue to cultivate diligently after becoming an inner sect disciple?”

‘Is the Master worried that Xiao Li might not work hard?’

There was that possibility. Xiao Li ran around causing trouble everywhere, after all. She had no interest in her studies or her cultivation. She often disobeyed her seniors.

If she became an inner sect disciple, no one would supervise her any longer.

Who knew how long it would take for her to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm after that? However, it seemed that the Cliff Master wanted her to succeed, so she could become a True Disciple.

“She probably will,” Jiang Hao said.

Xiao Li was obedient if handled with care.

Jiang Hao believed that her cultivation would steadily improve.

“Go and bring her here,” Ku Wu Chang said.

After a while, Jiang Hao returned to the Cliff Master’s residence with Xiao Li.

“Master.” Xiao Li bowed.

Ku Wu Chang nodded. Though his face remained gloomy, his tone had become much gentler. ‘Whatever you need in the future, feel free to ask me.’

Jiang Hao could sense his delight. The Cliff Master really wanted Xiao Li as his True Disciple. She was too outstanding, after all.

Ordinary Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators were already no match for her.

After that, Jiang Hao left. The Cliff Master would want to teach Xiao Li from now on.

Ku Wu Chang looked at Xiao Li. Her innocent appearance made him feel that she wasn't suitable for the Heavenly Note Sect.

He then began to discuss cultivation methods with her.

However, his brows quickly furrowed. While he was explaining, Xiao Li had fallen asleep.

Ku Wu Chang was speechless.

After Xiao Li became an inner sect disciple, the Cliff Master didn't give her any tasks.

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

He was most afraid of others competing with him for control of the Spirit Herb Garden. That would cause him to lose quite a lot of bubbles.

Although there were very few blue bubbles here, there were many white ones. With time, the white bubbles would prove to be very useful.

Jiang Hao frowned as he walked into the garden.

There were a lot fewer ordinary non-cultivators working here today.

Cheng Chou approached him. "Senior Brother Jiang, today, there are quite a few people who fell ill. They are drowsy and sluggish. While they can continue to work, they might make mistakes. So, I just let them rest." Jiang Hao walked inside and began to absorb the bubbles.

[Strength +1] [Spirit +1] [Endurance +1] [Saber +1]

[Dagger +1]

"Did you check what illness it is?" Jiang Hao asked.

"It's the same as before. It's just a common cold," Cheng Chou said.

"Has this been happening repeatedly?" Jiang Hao asked.

He hadn't been paying attention, so he didn't know the details.

Now that everything had been dealt with, he finally had some spare time.

Xuanyuan Tai, Mi Lingyue, Gu Qing...

All the matters had been settled. He was free now.

If his speculations were correct, the matter might be related to that woman that he had provoked.

Maybe it was Qian Chen causing all this from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion.

Qian Chen had impressive strength, but his exact cultivation realm remained uncertain for the time being.

'I wonder if he's in the Primordial Spirit or Soul Ascension Realm...'

If he was in the Primordial Spirit Realm, things would still be... manageable.

However, if he was in the Soul Ascension Realm, it would be troublesome.

Would someone at the Soul Ascension Realm resort to such a level to deal with a mere Foundation Establishment Realm?

Perhaps it was someone else causing this.

“Take me there..”

Chapter 393: Five Hundred Years

“At first, although they fell ill, they recovered quickly. It wasn’t a very big deal,” said Cheng Chou as he walked with Jiang Hao. “But later, it changed. It started with one group falling ill and then recovering, but now it’s become a cycle where one group falls ill just as another recovers. If this continues, we’ll have no choice but to find more workers.”

Jiang Hao shook his head. If this was a deliberate attack, it wouldn’t matter how many new people they recruited to work here.

By that time, the Cliff of Broken Hearts would become their purgatory.

“Master.” The spirit beast jumped onto Cheng Chou’s shoulder. “A friend told me that people are discussing you.”

“Discussing me?” Jiang Hao was puzzled.

“Yes, a friend told me about it,” the beast said.

“What are they saying?” Jiang Hao asked.

“They say that your previous hypocrisy is starting to unravel. Nowadays, you’re using those who willingly stay here to practice an evil technique called the Path of Blood Wish. This technique requires people to willingly offer their blood to use as nourishment for the technique. The Path of Blood Wish allows for rapid cultivation improvement and breaks the shackles. That’s why your cultivation has progressed so rapidly. All those years of so-called righteous deeds were for this purpose. Now that you’re on the verge of making it to the Golden Core Realm, you don’t have enough to go on. So, the truth has come to light,” said the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao was surprised. ‘Path of Blood Wish...’

This was the first time he had heard of such a cultivation technique.

“Is this technique inherently evil?” Jiang Hao asked.

“The full name it seems is the Refinement Technique of the Blood Wishing Path. In short, it’s called Path of Blood Wish Technique,” said the beast.

“Senior Brother Jiang, if everyone thinks like this, what will you do?” Cheng

Chou seemed concerned.

He always felt that Jiang Hao was different from other seniors. He had always been kind and righteous.

If he was slandered, he would be affected the most.

“How will that affect me?” Jiang Hao asked calmly. “Tell me, what kind of sect are we?”

"I know... But many people who respect you genuinely will come to fear you. They'll even become more reserved around you. Everyone views you as a righteous immortal disciple, but now, they might see you as some kind of demon."

"People who respect me?" Jiang Hao turned to look at Cheng Chou. "Are you referring to those who work in the Spirit Herb Garden?"

Cheng Chou nodded.

"How long can they live anyway?" Jiang Hao said as he walked on ahead. "The lifespan of ordinary people is short. It ranges from twenty to thirty years to a

hundred years at most. What do they have left after a hundred years? A mound of dirt. And what about us after a hundred years?"

Jiang Hao stopped and turned to face Cheng Chou. "Junior Brother Cheng, now that you've reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, how long do you think you will live?"

"About two hundred years or so," Cheng Chou said.

"With your talent, there's hope for advancing to the Golden Core Realm. After that, how many years do you think you will live as a Golden Core Realm cultivator?" Jiang Hao asked.

"About five hundred years or so," Cheng Chou said once more.

"Yes... five hundred years," Jiang Hao said. "So, looking back, do you need to be concerned about the attitudes of those who only have a few decades of lifespan? What harm can their misunderstandings bring to your long life? We can cherish the good things, but the rest are just passers-by in our lives. Fleeting as smoke. Whether they respect me or fear me doesn't make an ounce of difference to me.

"Senior Brother Jiang, you are indeed magnanimous," Cheng Chou said.

He couldn't quite achieve that state.

"Is that so?" Jiang Hao said.

He felt that he wasn't truly magnanimous. Sometimes he would intervene in certain matters that didn't concern him. For example, he had gotten involved in Lin Zhi, Xiao Li, and Shang An's matters. Each of these matters brought him trouble, but in the end, he still did what he had to.

He didn't care whether these people were grateful to him or if they hated him. He just did what he thought was right at the time. Just like now, even if these people hated and feared him, he didn't mind. As long as it didn't affect his cultivation, he didn't care.

"Junior Brother Cheng, you can also broaden your perspective. Perhaps it will be helpful in your advancement to the Golden Core Realm," Jiang Hao said calmly.

Cheng Chou nodded.

As for reaching the Golden Core Realm, he felt like he didn't have any hope for it in this lifetime.

However, if Jiang Hao said there was a chance, he believed it. He would try to understand and practice according to Jiang Hao's advice.

Perhaps he really did have a chance to become a Golden Core Realm cultivator.

In the past, he never dared to think about reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm, but now, he was actually beginning to think about advancing to the Golden Core Realm!

Cheng Chou felt like he was going crazy.

However, he stopped thinking about it and decided to practice his cultivation more diligently.

Jiang Hao noticed the change in him.

He felt that although the hope for the Golden Core Realm was slim, sometimes hope could change a person's attitude.

"Master, it seems like I'm about to become a Golden Core little demon," said the spirit beast.

"I thought it was the Golden Core great demon," said Jiang Hao.

"Master, you're joking! Being in the Golden Core Realm is nothing! I'll still be considered a little demon," said the spirit beast solemnly.

Cheng Chou was dumbfounded.

Jiang Hao had to admit that the spirit beast's progress was very fast.

Although it couldn't compare to Xiao Li, it was still impressive. The spirit beast had no limitations, so it was easier for it to advance quickly.

"Master, I'm in the early stage of Golden Core Realm. Will this collar soon become unusable?" the beast asked.

"It can still be used," Jiang Hao said.

Buying a new one was too expensive. He didn't have many spirit stones left.

After a short while, Jiang Hao arrived at the place where ordinary non-cultivators lived.

He entered a small courtyard where eight people lived. Four men and four women.

They were around fifteen or sixteen years old.

These eight people had fallen ill together.

“I’ve asked about their diet. They’ve been eating and drinking usual food, just like everyone else,” Cheng Chou said.

Jiang Hao walked to a young man. From his gaze, it was clear that he was feeling weak due to the cold.

However, there seemed to be a different kind of aura within him.

He wasn’t a medical expert, so he didn’t understand what exactly it was.

He used his spiritual energy to help the young man heal his body.

Quickly, the young man recovered, but Jiang Hao could clearly see that it was only on the surface.

That strange aura was still present and corroding his body. After some time, he would fall ill again.

Only those who had read the nameless manual like him could perceive these things.

Cheng Chou couldn’t.

He used the Daily Appraisal on the young man.

[Chen Sangou: Captured by the Heavenly Note Sect in his childhood. He finally built a stable life on the Cliff of Broken Hearts. Likes Xiang Xiang and hopes to accumulate enough years of work to exchange for a marital room, then confess his love to Xiang Xiang and live together. He is grateful, respectful, and loyal toward you. Afflicted by a specially made Toxic Wind and Cold by Yu Xuan. She wants to force you to buy medicine from her and obtain your spirit stones over a long period of time. She wants to cut off your chance of advancing to the Golden Core Realm.]

'Yu Xuan?'

Jiang Hao thought this might be the doing of Qian Chen, but it turned out to be someone else. He had never heard of this person before.

'Specially made toxins... Wind and Cold...'

It shouldn't be difficult to find her based on this information. However, she didn't seem to plan on letting it go after a single encounter.

Instead, she wanted to strip him of his spirit stones for a long time to come.

It was probably to prevent him from accumulating enough spirit stones for the Heavenly Rejuvenating Pill.

"For now, rest well," Jiang Hao said to the young man and got up.

"Thank you so much, Immortal Elder." Chen Sangou knelt on the ground and expressed his gratitude..

Chapter 394: Bowing Down

Jiang Hao looked at other people. They all had that trace of aura. The toxin of the Wind and Cold.

The poison was just difficult to detect.

If he wanted to remove it, it wasn't very difficult. Even for someone at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm, it was quite easy.

But he wanted to find the root cause of this ailment.

‘Yu Xuan... I don’t know which branch she’s from.’

“Senior Brother Jiang, what’s wrong with them?” Cheng Chou asked.

“Has anyone claimed they can cure them?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Cure them?” Cheng Chou thought about it. “I heard some seniors say that we should try to find someone from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion,” Cheng Chou said.

“Then go and give it a try.” Jiang Hao handed Cheng Chou five spirit stones. “If it doesn’t work, ask someone who has experience in this area.”

Cheng Chou nodded.

Finding the person should be relatively easy. The only difficulty was in what came after.

Given that the other person wanted to keep receiving spirit stones, their attitude will undoubtedly be very unapproachable and arrogant.

They will expect the Cliff of Broken Hearts to beg for it.

Jiang Hao looked in the direction of the Lawless Tower and had a feeling that everything was troublesome within the sect.

However, he wasn’t in a hurry. He needed to find Qian Chen first.

If he was involved, then he might be the source of everything.

If Jiang Hao found the source, the others would behave. This way, it would be beneficial to everyone.

Back at the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao tended to the spirit herbs.

He observed some of the workers there.

However, this time was different from before. When the people saw him, they showed fear.

Jiang Hao knew this was due to the rumors.

‘Are they trying to get under my skin?’ Jiang Hao wondered.

However, he didn’t care about these people’s feelings. He just observed them.

Those people lowered their heads after a while. They were afraid he might attack them.

After making sure of their conditions, Jiang Hao frowned.

‘Most of them are affected. It seems that it won’t be long until no one is well enough to work at the Spirit Herb Garden. In that case, I either have to buy the antidote or recruit a new batch of workers. Once that’s done, the rumors will spread even further.’

Jiang Hao shook his head helplessly.

After that, he returned to his residence and began crafting talismans. He had accumulated quite a few talismans. He needed to sell them.

Three days later, Cheng Chou gathered the necessary information.

"After searching for a while, I heard that Sister Yu Xuan from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion can completely cure this type of illness. Some seniors told me about it when they saw me searching for a solution."

"Hm... can you call her here?" Jiang Hao asked calmly.

The next day, Cheng Chou returned empty-handed.

"They said Sister Yu Xuan is doing her alchemy and won't come out of seclusion until tomorrow."

"Go tomorrow once again."

On the second day, Cheng Chou returned alone yet again.

"Today, Senior Sister Yu Xuan said she'll be discussing alchemy with other fellow disciples, so we'll need to wait for two or three days." Three days later, Cheng Chou went to get her again.

"They said I should come tomorrow."

Cheng Chou was getting a bit annoyed, but there was nothing he could do.

The next day, Cheng Chou hesitated,

"What did she say?" asked Jiang Hao calmly.

"Senior Sister said my strength is inadequate to make decisions, so she asked you to come find her, Senior Brother Jiang. But not today... maybe tomorrow. She's going to be doing her alchemy tonight," said Cheng Chou hesitantly.

Jiang Hao nodded. In that case, he would pay her a visit.

The next day, Jiang Hao followed Cheng Chou to a courtyard.

However, from the others who were gathered there, he found out that Yu Xuan was busy, and they needed to come back tomorrow if they wanted to meet her.

Jiang Hao nodded.

Another day passed, and Jiang Hao arrived at the courtyard again.

“Senior Sister just left to meet her friends.”

Jiang Hao left.

From inside the pavilion, Yu Xuan watched Jiang Hao leave with a cold smile. “Junior Sister, did you see that? That is how someone looks when you know their weakness. He has no choice but to come and wait here for me day after day. Let’s see how many spirit stones he is willing to spend.”

Yi Lian was a little worried. “Won’t that make him hold a grudge against you?”

“So? What does it matter?” Yu Xuan scoffed. “He is only at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.”

“I don’t know... I feel like he is not as simple as he appears to be. When he attacked me, he was ruthless,” said Yi Lian.

“Ruthless? There are plenty of people like that here. What makes him so special?” Yu Xuan looked amused. “Moreover, it was Senior Brother Qian Chen who thought of this plan for us. He supports us. He is only at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Do you think he’s stronger than Senior

Brother Qian Chen?”

“What if he doesn’t care about ordinary non-cultivators and just lets them die?” Yi Lian asked.

Yu Xuan smiled. “Everyone says he’s a righteous person. People like that are the most easily burdened by their reputation. For us, killing ordinary people doesn’t weigh on our hearts at all. It doesn’t matter to us. Even if he doesn’t care, we have our own ways. When the time comes, whether it’s ordinary people or fellow disciples, they will all accuse him. Every death will be attributed to his anger and impulsiveness. In the end, even if he’s not that kind of person, he’ll become one. No one will listen to his explanations. No one will believe him. His path within the sect will become incredibly difficult. Furthermore, if he doesn’t do anything to solve this, the Spirit Herb Garden will face problems. By then, no one knows what kind of punishment he’ll receive.”

“Then, will he be forced into a corner?” asked Yi Lian with worry.

“What does it matter? He doesn’t know about the poison I administered. Even if he knew, what could he do? With my Golden Core Realm and successful foundation building, he can’t do anything to me. I hope he takes action against me. This way, he’ll surely die.” Yu Xuan sneered.

Suddenly, she thought of something. “I suddenly came up with an idea. I’ll have him prepare spirit stones and then tell him that I’ll be going out in three to five days. If he can’t gather them during this time, he should wait for my return to solve the problem. If he manages to gather them early, I’ll tell him that I left ahead of time. Let’s see what he will do then...”

On Jiang Hao’s third visit, he still didn’t see her.

However, Yu Xuan had set a condition.

“Senior Sister Yu Xuan says that she is aware of the problem you face. The matter is very complex. Please gather five hundred spirit stones within five days, and she will personally come to you to help you. However, she is going out after five days, so if you can’t gather the spirit stones during that time, you’ll have to wait till her return.”

“Five hundred?” Cheng Chou couldn’t believe it.

Five hundred spirit stones were a year’s worth of sect resources.

Who could come up with that in such a short time?

“Yes. Senior Sister Yu Xuan is a Golden Core Alchemist. She earns more from her work. She’s giving you her time,” said another disciple.

‘Golden Core Alchemist...’

Cheng Chou was speechless. It took a huge price to hire a Golden Core Alchemist.

Jiang Hao nodded. “Alright.”

After that, he left.

But he didn’t go to gather the spirit stones. Instead, he kept an eye on Yu Xuan’s residence.

Five days later, he didn’t go to the Candlelight Pill Pavilion. Yu Xuan didn’t leave the sect either.

Jiang Hao had no choice but to visit her again.

This time, the disciples informed him that Yu Xuan had gone out, and they didn’t know when she would be back.

“Toying with someone in the Foundation Establishment Realm is quite entertaining.” Yu Xuan laughed.

“Let’s drag this out for a couple more months. When the people from the Spirit Herb Garden fall one by one and no one can handle it, he will become anxious. At that time, it won’t be just five hundred, it will be eight hundred or a thousand spirit stones. If he can’t afford it, we’ll be generous and charge him five hundred, and he can pay the rest slowly.”

However, the next day she received a task from Senior Brother Qian Chen and actually had to go out.

She sighed. 'I really have to go out for real this time.'

She would be setting out at night..

Chapter 395: You Wanted Me to Come Out Of The Sect?

Jiang Hao watched as the number of people working in the garden became fewer and fewer as they fell ill.

It seemed he needed to take action first and help some of them heal so that they can continue working.

However, if he didn't solve the problem at the source, it would only get worse. He couldn't possibly eradicate all the poison. It would be suspicious.

"It seems a lot of people here are falling sick, " said a voice behind Jiang Hao. It was Senior Sister Ming Yi.

"Senior Sister, it's been a long time since I last saw you," said Jiang Hao politely.

"Oh, Junior Brother Jiang, you're being too polite." Ming Yi smiled. "I looked for you before, but you were out at the time. Do you want me to help? Your people here seem quite ill. But since I'm a Golden Core Realm cultivator, I can work for you for five spirit stones."

Ming Yi extended her five fingers with a smile. Jiang Hao felt that she was dangerous. Her smile hid danger.

However, he had no reason to refuse. If she was willing to help, he would let her help.

As long as he knew her intention, he would always be prepared.

Fortunately, medical treatment wasn't very expensive in the sect. However, the cost of the medicine itself was quite high.

However, there were medicinal herbs available at the Spirit Herb Garden.

"It's not possible to completely eradicate it. This illness is quite strange. I can suppress them for a while so that their bodies can recover," said Ming Yi as she wiped the sweat on her forehead with the back of her hand.

Jiang Hao thanked her.

"Next time I ask for your help, Junior Brother, please don't charge me too much." Ming Yi smiled.

Jiang Hao nodded. "Of course."

After Ming Yi left, Jiang Hao sighed helplessly. This was only treating the symptoms. He needed to figure out a solution for the root cause.

As long as Yu Xuan was around, the illness wouldn't disappear.

He would bide his time and see if he could find a way to threaten or eradicate her.

Late at night, Yu Xuan arrived outside the sect.

She waited for a while. A man landed beside her.

"Senior Brother Bai Ji, you are here quite early today," Yu Xuan said with a smile.

“Junior Sister Yu Xuan, you are also here early. But let’s not delay. Let’s go retrieve the items. Senior Brother Qian Chen must be getting impatient,” Bai Ji said.

They both flew away on their swords.

On the way, Bai Ji asked curiously, “I heard you’re still targeting Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts?”

“Yes, anyway, I’m not doing anything else. I heard he’s good at making talismans, so he should have a fair amount of spirit stones. I’m just trying to get a share,” Yu Xuan said with a smile.

“How much have you managed to get?”

“Not much yet. He’s still hesitating. But the rumors are spreading. Not only ordinary people, but even those who know him, are starting to doubt him. He might be angry, but unfortunately for him, it’s just helpless rage.”

“One Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator being targeted isn’t too bad, but if it goes on for too long, the people from the Cliff of Broken Hearts might notice. The Spirit Herb Garden doesn’t belong to Jiang Hao. It belongs to the Cliff of Broken Hearts. If it goes too far, you might suffer losses, Junior Sister.”

“In that case, I’ll target him without harming the Spirit Herb Garden. I want to see how long Jiang Hao can hold on. The longer he does, the lower he will have to bow,” said Yu Xuan.

“To be honest, if you catch him alone at night and break one of his legs, it will make things much easier afterward,” Bai Ji said.

“Is that so? Maybe I’ll have him break his own leg later for a discount of five hundred spirit stones. Do you think he’ll agree?” Yu Xuan asked.

“He might. Five hundred spirit stones are a lot for a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator,” Bai Ji said calmly.

"I think so too." Yu Xuan laughed.

"If he could go out of the sect, things would be much easier. Unfortunately, he's not allowed to go out." Bai Ji sighed.

"If he could go out, I'd torture him at will. Whatever price he's willing to pay in spirit stones, he'll have to pay it. Eventually, I'd send him to his death."

After some time, they felt something strange

"The sky seems somewhat dark," Bai Ji said in puzzlement.

"Yeah, but you can still see the starlight. I don't know why, but it's strangely dark," Yu Xuan said with some confusion.

At this moment, she suddenly felt someone else beside her.

"Who's there?" she shouted.

In an instant, a dagger flashed by and pierced her neck.

Blood splattered.

Yu Xuan covered her neck and retreated, but she didn't see anyone.

Bai Ji activated his protective treasure.

However, just as the defense took shape, the dagger appeared again.

It stabbed into the defense and shattered it.

The dagger then pierced Bai Ji's neck. Blood gushed out.

"Who is it?" he shouted. He still didn't see anyone.

Boom!

At this time, Yu Xuan released a magical technique into the sky. It was to ask for help.

Just as she thought she might be saved, a long sword pierced through her body.

After that, a long spear whizzed toward her in the next instant.

With a bang, it pierced through her heart and pinned her to a tree.

Yu Xuan roared in terror and anger, but it was in vain.

Bai Ji was pinned to the ground by a long spear that descended from the sky.

Both of them were utterly defenseless.

"Se-Senior, we have no grievances with you. If you seek wealth, we're willing to give it all to you," Bai Ji pleaded weakly.

Yu Xuan was terrified.

"If... If you need us to do anything, we're willing to do whatever it takes. Please spare us, Senior."

“No grievances?” said a cold voice and a figure came into the light. “Weren’t you just thinking of breaking my legs?” Unfortunately, I can’t go out of the sect. But now that I’m outside, how do you plan to torture me?”

Looking at the man before her, who was surrounded by purple light, Yu Xuan found it hard to believe.

She felt fear. She wanted to speak, but a blade fell on her and blocked her vision.

Just moments ago, she was laughing and joking. Now, she was completely silenced by fear.

Bai Ji stared at the person in front of him. He found it hard to believe. How could this person be Jiang Hao from the Cliff of Broken Hearts? “Senior, I haven’t provoked you.”

“What is Senior Brother Qian Chen’s cultivation realm?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Soul Ascension.” “More details, please?” “I don’t... I don’t know.”

“Will he avenge you?”

“Senior, if you spare me, I’ll leave the Heavenly Note Sect forever and never return.”

“Good.”

Jiang Hao nodded and struck down as Bai Ji was overjoyed.

Once Bai Ji was dead, Jiang Hao looked through his storage treasure.

For safety’s sake, he slashed a few more times. He finally set the storage treasure on fire. Then, he disappeared into the darkness. Under the starlight, something looked like it was on fire.

After that, ashes fell on the ground.

A gentle breeze blew and scattered the ashes. It was as though nothing had ever happened in that place.

Jiang Hao appeared in the courtyard. He breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, he sat in the courtyard and gazed at the night sky.

The spirit beast had gone to find Lin Zhi but hadn't returned yet.

"I wonder if the people from the Law Enforcement Hall noticed that I left. They shouldn't have...

He had originally planned to keep an eye on Yu Xuan and was still hesitating.

He didn't expect her to suddenly leave in the middle of the night.

It had allowed him to eliminate the source of the problem.

The others were being treated by Senior Sister Ming Yi for now.

The matter should be over soon.

He just didn't know how Senior Brother Qian Chen would react. He also needed to observe the reaction of the Law Enforcement Hall..

Chapter 396: Assumed To be A Demon Lord

For Jiang Hao, this time going out was actually quite risky. There were two potential dangers.

First, if the people from the Law Enforcement Hall found out, the consequences could be significant.

Second, there was a high probability that someone was observing him from outside. Mishandling the situation could lead to trouble.

So, before going out, he used the Breath Concealment Talisman to hide his celestial insight.

Then, he suppressed his aura. He shrouded himself in purple energy and followed behind Senior Sister Yu Xuan.

Although an unexpected situation had emerged, he was still in control.

He didn't know if the people from the Law Enforcement Hall had come looking for him, but no one from outside seemed to notice him.

After reaching the sect, he used the Heavenly Cauldron ability to seal the two people within it. This way, it would be difficult for anyone outside to detect them.

After dealing with them, he decided to return using the golden rings.

The time spent wouldn't be much. Theoretically, no one would discover anything.

"After all, it is still outside the sect. Neither of them has any notable achievements. The Law Enforcement Hall probably won't be overly involved."

The people from the Law Enforcement Hall had many matters to attend to. They couldn't manage everything outside the sect, nor did they need to.

Unless it was someone important, like matters concerning a True or a Top Disciple.

The matters that went on outside the sect were of no concern to the Law

Enforcement Hall. They wouldn't employ the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling

Mirror. That mirror terrified him.

He didn't know when he would be able to bypass that mirror.

He opened Yu Xuan's storage treasure.

After a thorough inspection, he found 2,123 spirit stones, several pills, a small number of spirit herbs, some pill formulas, an unfamiliar spirit sword, an alchemy furnace, and a blood gourd with an intricate design.

She was definitely wealthy.

She was the wealthiest Golden Core Realm cultivator he had ever met.

However, the spirit sword and the alchemy furnace weren't easy to sell, and the blood gourd would bring trouble.

The pills and herbs could fetch a good price. Maybe around two to three thousand.

Upon closer inspection, he realized that the spirit sword and alchemy furnace were only average treasures.

Finally, he focused on the blood gourd. The scent of blood was strong.

However, he didn't understand what it was for.

It was definitely superior to the alchemy furnace and spirit sword in terms of quality.

After packing everything up, Jiang Hao opened Senior Brother Bai Ji's storage treasure.

There were 972 spirit stones, several pills, a manual on cultivating flesh and blood, and another blood gourd.

Jiang Hao felt that the treasures they had were similar in nature. They were both alchemists, after all. Alchemists from the Candlelight Pill Pavilion did make substantial spirit stones.

But...

"Why do both of them have a blood gourd?"

Jiang Hao took out the two blood gourds. It gave off a strong scent of blood. They were identical.

He first collected the spirit stones and pills.

He now had around 4,600 spirit stones.

If he sold the pills and the herbs, he would get around four thousand more.

He decided to leave the treasures for now, as they were risky to sell.

Soon, he realized that the pills were also hard to sell. They were of the Golden Core level.

He would leave it for now. He casually flipped through the manual on cultivating flesh and blood. Jiang Hao put it away.

It was useless to him.

His lifeblood far surpassed the results of this cultivation.

Early in the morning, Jiang Hao took out the blood gourd and activated his Daily Appraisal ability.

Yesterday, he used it to identify Bai Ji. So, he had to wait until early morning to use it once more.

[Blood Wish Gourd: A gourd refined by Qian Chen from the blood and flesh of countless people. It is used to detect Blood Wishes.]

There wasn't much information given, but one line was enough to alarm Jiang

Hao.

'Countless people?!'

A blood gourd made out of the flesh and blood of countless people...

And there were two blood gourds!

Jiang Hao fell silent. He could never do something like this.

He wouldn't hesitate to kill when it meant protecting himself, but he couldn't murder innocent people needlessly.

After placing the gourd away, Jiang Hao thought about Qian Chen.

'So, he is the one following the Blood Wish Path... It all makes sense now. Yi

Lian's repeated attempts to participate in the Dao Conference... the meetings... It was all Qian Chen. He was manipulating her to sway people's hearts.'

'Even the recent event where Yu Xuan targeted me... He must be behind that too.'

'A Soul Ascension Realm cultivator standing up for a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator is an effective way to win the latter's heart.'

Jiang Hao realized that if a senior helped him while he was getting bullied, he would do anything in return for that senior out of gratitude.

Within demonic sects, self-interest played a prominent role.

Once one entered a group led by a strong senior, they would receive protection and cultivation experience. Everyone would be willing to be a part of such a group.

'But why spread rumors everywhere that I'm cultivating the Blood Wish path? Is someone paying attention to those who cultivate the Blood Wish Path?' Jiang Hao frowned. It was highly likely that someone was behind this.

It might not necessarily be the Heavenly Note Sect who was keeping an eye on those people. Maybe someone from other sects...

The Blood Wish Path was too ruthless. Other sects might want to put an end to it.

If the rumor reached them, they would surely target him!

By then, wherever he went, he would be labeled a Blood Wish Path Demon.

Jiang Hao sighed. He had only considered the impact within the sect.

Fortunately, he hadn't gone out of the sect lately.

Looking at the blood gourds, Jiang Hao felt somewhat relieved.

If the Heavenly Note Sect was an immortal sect, he would have believed that whatever happened tonight had been a trap set for him. Someone wanted to blame everything on him.

If anyone was investigating the matter, they would assume he was following the Blood Wish Path even if he wasn't.

However, in the demonic sects, it was acceptable. People would just assume he did it to advance to higher cultivation realms.

If everyone assumed he followed the Blood Wish Path, he wouldn't need to constantly come up with excuses to justify the rise in his cultivation realm.

Jiang Hao gazed at the Blood Wish Gourds. These things could be used as evidence.

Of course, he wouldn't admit it openly.

"Now that Senior Brother Qian Chen has lost two Blood Wish Gourds, I wonder if he will take drastic actions to get them back."

Jiang Hao started meditating to calm his mind.

As for the Blood Wish Gourds, he applied the Breath Concealment Talisman and then sealed it using the Universe in a Palm Technique.

Hong Yuye would probably detect them, so he tried to be extra careful while disguising their aura.

Otherwise, he would be the one at a disadvantage.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao didn't sense any changes from the sealed gourds.

Even ten days later, no one from the Law Enforcement Hall came to find him. The people from the Spirit Herb Garden gradually recovered. There were no accidents and no new causes for concern.

There was complete silence from Senior Brother Qian Chen's side.

The Law Enforcement Hall was the same.

Even Liu Xingchen hadn't come to him.

From the looks of it, Senior Sister Yu Xuan's death hadn't brought about any consequences.

Jiang Hao was quite puzzled. Why was there no action from Senior Brother Qian Chen?

Jiang Hao went to the Hundred Bones Forest.

He wanted to check on Bai Ye.

Unfortunately, Bai Ye's cultivation was still at the early stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm. His injuries hadn't fully healed.

It had been so long since he last attacked him. It shouldn't have been like this.

He decided to set aside the matter of Bai Ye for next time.

Overall, the Spirit-Sealing Technique was a success.

Bai Ye was in the courtyard. He gazed at the sky. He was wondering why Jiang Hao hadn't made a move for such a long time.

He felt that maybe he had finally escaped disaster..

Chapter 397: Are You Ready for Marriage?

"Senior Brother, it seems that the sick people of the Cliff of Broken Hearts have recovered," said Lian Qin as she approached him.

"Have they found out who's behind it?" Bai Ye asked.

"They are looking for Junior Sister Yu Xuan for now. She seems to have a close connection with Senior Brother Qian Chen," Lian Qin said.

"Qian Chen?" Bai Ye shook his head. "That's unlikely. The situation at the Cliff of Broken Hearts has been going on for several months. If it were Qian Chen, he wouldn't have dragged it out like this. Based on my investigations, he doesn't seem like a person who drags things out. And what about Yu Xuan?" "She seems to have gone out of the sect for now. I asked around," Lian Qin said.

"Why did she go out?"

"I don't know."

Bai Ye frowned. "Then she might not come back. I don't know much about Qian Chen, but I sort of know Jiang Hao. He usually deals with troublesome individuals in one go. If Yu Xuan is behind the trouble at the Spirit Herb Garden, he won't leave her be. He won't let her drag it out for months, as it would affect him greatly. Who else has gone out of the sect recently?"

"Let me think." Lian Qin thought for a moment. "Our branch's Bai Ji, for one. As for other branches, I'm not sure."

“What has he been doing lately?” Bai Ye asked.

“He captured a partner of one of the inner sect disciples. He has been torturing him incessantly and breaking their legs whenever he feels like it,” Lian Qin said.

“How long has this been going on?” “About three to five months.”

“Is this a common occurrence?”

“Not very common. There have been other incidents too.”

“Then, he might not come back alive,” said Bai Ye.

“Do you think Senior Brother Qian Chen finally took action?” Lian Qin was surprised.

Bai Ye didn’t answer.

“Do you want to inform the Law Enforcement Hall?” Lian Qin asked.

“No need. This matter involves the Cliff of Broken Hearts, and the outcome is uncertain.” Bai Ye shook his head. “Keep an eye on the Cliff of Broken Hearts. Provide whatever spirit herbs are needed, but don’t make it too obvious. Let people gradually notice it, or it’s fine if they don’t notice at all. We still have plenty of time.”

“Senior Brother... Are you not planning on advancing to the Soul Ascension Realm?” asked Lian Qin.

Bai Ye gazed at the starry sky. “First, I need to survive.”

Jiang Hao was tending to the herbs in the Spirit Herb Garden.

The Wind and Cold illness had completely passed.

The disappearance of Yu Xuan hadn't made any impact so far.

No one from the Law Enforcement Hall had intervened, and Senior Brother Qian Chen remained silent.

This made Jiang Hao realize something. Venturing out of the sect was dangerous. The Law Enforcement Hall didn't care what happened to disciples outside the sect at all.

If he were discovered going outside, he didn't know how much danger he would be in.

However, one thing hadn't gone away with Yu Xuan's disappearance. That was the rumor.

Even now, there were still rumors that he was practicing the Blood Wish Path.

Previously, they were concerned that his lifespan wasn't sufficient, so he had to start absorbing fresh blood on a large scale to break through to the Golden Core Realm.

Now, the rumors were that he was trying to ease the people's minds, so he was deliberately putting everything on hold.

There were a few individuals who claimed to be his victims.

Jiang Hao hadn't investigated the mastermind behind these rumors, nor did he care about them.

For him, these rumors helped him to some extent.

He didn't care about the opinions of other people.

As long as he remained inside the sect, it wasn't a big deal. He couldn't venture out anyway.

However, despite the rumors, everything seemed to have settled down.

He didn't plan to do much. He just focused on tending to the spirit herbs in the garden.

He needed to accumulate bubbles and focus on his cultivation if he wanted to advance to a higher realm.

In another two or three months, he would be ready.

There was something he was concerned about. Someone notified him to collect his resources.

The three-year withholding period had ended. He obtained three hundred spirit stones. Now, he had over five thousand in total.

It was strange that the Heavenly Joy Pavilion didn't decide to withhold his resources longer than this.

He was worried about what they might be planning against him.

'Charm Vessel...

Jiang Hao sighed. He needed to find a solution.

There were only two methods to solve the problem.

First, he could wait long enough for the others to let go of their grudge against him.

Second, he could help them find a Charm Vessel so that they could get off his back.

The first option was almost impossible.

Even a hundred years might not be enough for the others to let go of their grudge against him.

If he could go to the mine and take the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower with him, he could hide there for a few years.

Unfortunately, it's not feasible to go there right now.

"Hello, Senior Sister Miao," said Jiang Hao. "Everything is okay now. A Senior Sister offered to help."

"Senior Sister?" she asked. "Which Senior Sister is this? What does she look like? Is she available for marriage?"

Jiang Hao was speechless.

He wondered whether this was all she ever thought about.

He noticed that Miao Tinglian had already reached the late stage of the Golden Core Realm. Her progress was quite fast.

"Don't you want to share with me?" Miao Tinglian said in disappointment. "I heard that you had some issues, and I immediately came over to see if I could help. But it seems that my sincerity is useless."

"Senior Sister, you might want to discuss that with Senior Brother Mu Qi," Jiang Hao said helplessly.

"Mu Qi, come here! I have something to tell you." Miao Tinglian waved to Mu

At that moment, Mu Qi was talking with other legacy disciples.

Jiang Hao felt uneasy. Miao Tinglian was drawing too much attention to him. He found it a bit hard to bear.

Mu Qi walked over to them. Miao Tinglian hooked her arm around his. “I heard that there was an incident at the Spirit Herb Garden. Someone suggested that Junior Brother Jiang should go work in the mine... you know, for a change in the environment. Mu Qi finds that place too bitter and tiring, so he put in a word to defend you. Now, you can work here forever. We treat you well, don’t

Jiang Hao was dumbfounded.

He bowed and thanked them. “Thank you, Senior Brother and Senior

Sister-in-law.”

“Sister-in-law sounds nice, but it’s too obvious. Just call me Senior Sister,” Miao Tinglian said with a smile.

Jiang Hao was speechless. This couple was going to ruin his life.

His shortcut of earning more bubbles was severed, all thanks to the couple.

He had thought that maintaining a good relationship with them would have more advantages, but now, it seemed like the disadvantages weighed heavier than the advantages.

In the evening, as Jiang Hao was about to return, Mu Qi and Miao Tinglian accompanied him.

They were going deep into the woods to look for something. It was on the way.

As they neared Jiang Hao's lodgings, Miao Tinglian said, "Junior Brother Jiang, you really don't want to consider my offer? I recently met a sweet and charming Junior Sister. It seems she's eager to find a partner. She has both talent and cultivation. If you miss this opportunity, it's gone forever."

Jiang Hao shook his head lightly. He was unsure how to respond. He had declined her offer many times already.

However, Miao Tinglian was still relentless.

He had never seen her make such an offer to the other disciples. Was it because he had helped reunite her with Mu Qi that she constantly pestered him to find a partner?

Finally, he bid farewell to the two of them and returned to his courtyard.

As soon as he entered, he saw a woman in a red and white dress who was looking at him with a half-smile.

"Are you ready for marriage already?"

Chapter 398: You Continue to Make Things Up

Jiang Hao was shocked by the sudden appearance of Hong Yuye.

Unlike other women, the one in front of him made him feel normal.

He was used to being calm and indifferent. For a moment, he was unfamiliar with those emotions.

As for the matter of marriage, he obviously denied it.

“Senior, you must be joking. She’s just a bored Senior Sister looking for something to do.”

“How old are you?” Hong Yuye suddenly asked.

At this moment, she stood under the peach tree. The tree had grown taller than her now.

“Twenty-eight,” Jiang Hao said.

He remembered that he had first met Hong Yuye nine years ago.

Nine years...

It felt a little unbelievable.

Similarly, the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison had been in his body for nine years. These nine years had been unexpectedly peaceful.

The only restless days were the days he spent with Hong Yuye. Apart from the long period they spent together outside the sect, the rest of the days they met might not even make a month if combined.

“Twenty-eight years old?” Hong Yuye felt a bit emotional.

“In a normal family, wouldn’t you have married by twenty-eight?”

“That’s for ordinary families.” Jiang Hao lowered his head respectfully. “I have been focused on cultivation and have never considered such matters.” Hong Yuye gazed at Jiang Hao.

She seemed unused to hearing truths from the person before her. She looked taken aback by his honesty.

“What’s your cultivation realm she asked.

“Peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm,” Jiang Hao said.

Hong Yuye nodded. “When will you advance?”

“It might still take some time,” Jiang Hao said.

It would take some time to advance to the Golden Core Realm.

Hong Yuye didn’t say anything further. She turned around and walked into the house.

“Prepare the water.”

‘A bath?’ Jiang Hao was surprised.

It had been a long time since the last one.

Nonetheless, he quickly entered the bathroom.

But as he was preparing the water, he suddenly froze. The Silver Moon Petals were gone.

He remembered there was still a packet left.

He searched through his storage treasure, but he couldn’t find the Silver Moon Petals anywhere.

This wasn’t good. He hadn’t rushed to buy more flowers because he thought he still had more. He remembered he still had some left.

Glancing at the closed window, Jiang Hao wondered if he could go out now to buy more in time.

He shook his head. If he went out now, he would be exposed. Going out would undoubtedly expose him.

Suddenly, footsteps sounded behind him, and Hong Yuye entered.

She stood beside Jiang Hao and looked at the water. "Did you forget to buy the flower petals?"

"No," said Jiang Hao. "There was an accident."

"An accident?" Hong Yuye sneered. "What kind of accident?"

Jiang Hao remained silent.

He didn't know what had happened.

Hong Yuye checked the water temperature and motioned for Jiang Hao to stand outside the folding screen with his back turned.

"Don't worry. Think carefully about it. I hope you'll figure it out before I'm done washing. Otherwise..."

Her words were followed by a cold laugh.

Jiang Hao heard her enter the tub. It seemed she had started bathing. He had expected Hong Yuye to act immediately, but the lack of action made him feel even more uneasy.

If she had made a move right away, there might not have been any issues.

Now, the situation seemed more serious.

Experts were temperamental. A slight misstep could lead to disaster.

If there wasn't enough time, he couldn't make himself stronger.

At this moment, he felt that nine years were too short.

If he had ninety years, perhaps he would be able to fight her.

"What are you thinking?" Hong Yuye asked suddenly.

"I'm thinking that next time, I won't let such accidents happen," Jiang Hao said.

"Don't worry about that. Just focus on what the accident was," Hong Yuye said.

Jiang Hao found himself unable to speak for a moment. He could only remain silent.

He listened to the splash of water behind him. He couldn't think of anything.

It was as if the effects of the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison were taking hold.

Now, all he could hope for was that the person behind him would fall asleep like before. She might forget about all this after waking up.

In an instant, the image of her bare back flashed through his mind. He brushed the thought aside.

Jiang Hao stood there quietly and waited for her to fall asleep.

After a while, he suddenly felt someone behind him. He turned around. A figure dressed in red and white stood behind him and gazed at him.

“Have you figured it out?” Hong Yuye twirled her wet hair.

“Yes,” Jiang Hao said.

“What was it?” Hong Yuye changed into fresh clothes and walked out of the room.

She made her way to the second-floor balcony, and Jiang Hao followed. His mind raced as he thought.

“I’ve been busy lately with your matters, Senior.”

“What matters of mine?” Hong Yuye turned to look at Jiang Hao.

“There is going to be some progress soon on finding the owner of the stone tablets,” said Jiang Hao.

“A reasonably unexpected accident.” Hong Yuye gestured for Jiang Hao to stand beside her.

As he approached, Jiang Hao remained cautious. He wasn’t sure if Hong Yuye would attack him.

Even a clash of their auras would be impossible for him to resist.

“Tell me what you learned at the gathering,” said Hong Yuye with a smile.

Jiang Hao nodded. He told her about the Saint Bandits.

Hong Yuye had no interest in that information.

After that, he told her that those in the gathering had been asking about him. He also told her that he had volunteered to get in touch with himself so that he could avoid danger.

“You’re being followed?” she asked.

“Yes,” said Jiang Hao. “It’s because I’ve acted a bit recklessly.”

“Weren’t you always cautious in what you do?” Hong Yuye asked.

“My actions were to complete your mission as soon as possible, Senior. It was worth it,” he said.

Hong Yuye looked at him mockingly. There wasn’t an ounce of truth in that statement. However, his words were still worth listening to.

“It seems there are many surprises this time.” Hong Yuye chuckled.

Jiang Hao remained silent. He didn’t dare say too much.

It wasn’t until Hong Yuye prompted him to continue that he spoke about the events involving the Xuanyuan Clan and their dealings overseas.

Hong Yuye showed no interest in these matters.

“When is the Bright Moon Sect’s Dao Conference?” She asked as she smoothed her hair against the wind.

“I have no news about that yet. It might take some time,” said Jiang Hao. “Why don’t you take this as an opportunity to go to the Bright Moon Sect?” “I want to take care of your flower, Senior.”

In truth, he couldn’t go to the Bright Moon Sect. In the past, no one paid him any attention, but things were different now.

Xing had noticed him.

During the gathering, each person had their own designated area of focus.

Xing was in the Bright Moon Sect.

Liu was overseas.

Gui was in the Heavenly South Prefecture.

As for him, everyone knew that he was in the Hidden Cloud Prefecture. They also knew he was in contact with the Heavenly Note Sect.

So, those who were keeping an eye on things would focus here, which made him the most suitable target.

If he were to go to the Bright Moon Sect, he would draw the attention of Xing.

This would greatly increase the danger.

The Bright Moon Sect was no longer as safe as the Heavenly Note Sect unless he were to hide his identity completely. Under the moonlight, a gentle breeze rustled.

Jiang Hao remained vigilant.

He was afraid that she might make a move.

At this moment, a voice came from outside.

“Little beast, is it okay to bring something for Senior Brother Jiang to eat so late at night? Will he get angry?”

“He won’t. Master has never tasted jujubes in his entire life. He’ll be happy about this..”

Chapter 399: Relying On The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl to Save My Live

He heard the spirit beast’s voice.

Jiang Hao felt somewhat helpless. When had he ever said that he had never eaten jujubes before?

However, since the beast had said it already, he didn’t care much about it.

Hong Yuye stood on the balcony and smiled. Then, she moved her index finger. The trace of power was something Jiang Hao couldn’t even perceive.

At this moment, Xiao Li exclaimed in surprise.

“Little beast, what’s happening? Why has your face become so big? Little beast, say something!”

Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao. This made him uneasy.

“Do you remember the progress you mentioned earlier?” Hong Yuye said in amusement. “I hope there will be good news next time.”

Her figure began to blur.

Then, she disappeared from sight.

Jiang Hao breathed a sigh of relief.

While she didn't do anything to him, he still felt immense pressure.

Standing on the balcony, he constantly felt as though he could be sent flying at any moment and crash to the ground. It was mentally very stressful.

At this moment, Xiao Li rushed in while holding the spirit beast in her hands.

"Senior Brother Jiang, something bad has happened..."

Jiang Hao leaped from the balcony to the courtyard.

The beast in Xiao Li's arms had a swollen face and was barely alive.

"Put it aside. It will wake up on its own," Jiang Hao said.

Xiao Li gently placed the beast under a tree.

Immediately after, she took out some jujubes and handed them to Jiang Hao.

Jiang Hao accepted them.

He took a bite. The fruit wasn't sour or sweet. It was just okay.

Xiao Li sniffed around the area and looked surprised.

"It's that Senior Sister's scent!"

Jiang Hao didn't think much about it. If Hong Yuye was okay with it, then so be it.

However, this scent was far from that of any Senior Sister. It was the scent of a demoness that could potentially end their lives.

At most, she appeared as a beautiful woman.

He didn't know when Xiao Li's cultivation realm would surpass Hong Yuye's.

Jiang Hao sighed.

At that moment, the beast suddenly cried out.

Xiao Li turned her attention back to the beast.

In the following days, things started to calm down.

Apart from the rumors of the Blood Wish Path, there were no other issues.

Jiang Hao made many talismans, but he rarely sold them.

He continued accumulating experience.

Selling the talismans wasn't easy.

What was more important was to accumulate his cultivation. He did not want any more issues.

During this time, he spent two thousand spirit stones to buy two packets of

Silver Moon Petals-

If Hong Yuye visited him once every few months, then he would lose a lot of spirit stones.

Out of the five thousand spirit stones, he had already spent two thousand. He spent another one thousand on materials.

He continued to make talismans.

In early April, Jiang Hao opened his interface after collecting bubbles.

[Lifeblood: 85/100 (can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 84/100 (can be cultivated)]

‘Just another two months...’

The Soul Ascension Realm was within reach. He just needed to wait a bit more.

It was a pity the Spirit Herb Garden had run out of spirit herbs. They would have been quite helpful.

While Jiang Hao accumulated points for his cultivation, the Fallen Immortal Clan members who were investigating Gu Qing returned to their residence.

It was a natural cave. They had passed through a special barrier and intended to deliver the information to their clan’s elders.

However, when they arrived, they found the cave empty.

Though the residences were still intact, there was no sign of their clan members.

“You’ve returned?” An elder appeared before them.

“Elder, where are the others?” The middle-aged man at the forefront asked.

“After Gu Qing and the others were discovered, we knew that they would take the Sky-Piercing Shuttle. We’re just making preparations. With that treasure, it won’t be long till the Bright Moon Sect finds this place. That’s why we evacuated the place,” said the elder. Then, he asked about their trip.

“From the clues left by Gu Qing, we obtained some information, but some of it is unclear,” said Bu Cang, the leader.

“What kind of clues?” The elder led them to a clearing. After they sat down, he took the highest seat.

“There were two clues,” Bu Cang said.

“One is related to a person named Jiang Hao. He’s an inner sect disciple of the Heavenly Note Sect...”

He revealed Jiang Hao’s identity, cultivation realm, and some speculations they had made.

“Is he really only at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm?” asked the elder.

“Yes.” Bu Cang nodded.

“That is strange. What can a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator do?” The elder shook his head. “Put that aside for now. Once we’re ready, we can go investigate his surroundings. Nothing can escape my gaze. What about the second clue?”

“Bright Moon Sect, Dao Conference, Foundation Establishment,” Bu Cang said.

The elder frowned. He stood up and paced around.

After a long while, he seemed to have thought of something. "Spread the news to the clan. I recall there being records about this within the clan. We need to thoroughly investigate this."

"But the people within the clan have already left. How do we contact them?" someone asked.

"Right, I forgot. I'll go myself," said the elder.

"You can help set up the altar. After some time, I'll go investigate Jiang Hao." The others nodded in agreement.

One month later, Jiang Hao felt impatient as his points had already reached around ninety.

The Soul Ascension Realm was within reach!

He quickly realized that his mind was restless. He tended to the spirit herbs

calmly.

He waited quietly.

An unstable mindset could lead to immense danger. This was the downside of rapid advancement in the cultivation realm.

Not being able to control one's power would lead to destruction.

His virtue didn't match his disposition.

Without the Heavenly Extinction Gu Poison, he didn't know if he could have stabilized his mental state.

When the future was promising, people tended to believe they were invincible. They would often seek out stronger enemies.

As long as he had enough time, they could reach the pinnacle of the immortal path.

That was how disaster would start. With things going that way, he was unsure about his own survival.

He had to be vigilant against his own arrogance and impatience. That was the most important thing.

Back in the courtyard, Jiang Hao saw the peach tree was about to bloom.

It was happening quite fast. But it was within reason.

As he sat down to read a book and have some tea, he suddenly felt anxious.

He sensed someone's gaze on him. Someone was spying on him!

'What was going on? Someone is prying on my secrets? No... this feels different. What is this? Is it the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling Mirror?' Jiang Hao didn't think so.

The person seemed to be craning their neck to see more.

What would happen if he was seen? He had no way of knowing.

Without hesitation, he activated the Heavenly Secrets Hidden Talisman.

It worked. It blocked the person's gaze.

However, that gaze didn't disappear.

Jiang Hao circulated the Hong Meng Heart Sutra and tried to blind his enemy.

But he didn't understand what was happening. The method the person was using to probe wasn't what he had expected.

He didn't even know how to respond to it because he didn't know what method it was.

Just as the person's gaze probed again, Jiang Hao thought of something. He took out the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

He then threw it in the direction of the gaze.

He felt the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl tremble as if it wanted to break its seal and emerge.

The moment the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl became apparent, the gaze disappeared.

Jiang Hao used all his might to seal the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl that was about to break free of its seal.

At that moment, he also used the Immortal Mountain and Sea Shield.

Soon, everything returned to normal.

"Who could it be?"

Jiang Hao frowned. This was definitely the consequence of his previous actions. It was beyond his expectations..

Chapter 400: Stay At The Demoness' Place?

In the cave where the Fallen Immortal Clan resided, there was an altar in the center.

Eight people stood there, with the elder in the very center.

At this moment, the elder opened the third eye on his forehead and peered through endless space to spy on hidden secrets.

Everything went smoothly at first, but soon, his brows furrowed as if he encountered some obstruction.

He increased his power, and the third eye began emitting a golden light.

Everything seemed to have returned to normal.

Bu Cang and the others, who were further away from the altar, were waiting. They wanted to know what was special about Jiang Hao.

With the elder's intervention, dealing with someone at the Foundation Establishment Realm should be easy.

Just when they thought it would be over soon, the golden light suddenly vanished from the elder's third eye.

"Is it over?" someone asked.

Others wanted to ask the same.

However, just as they were about to approach, the elder's third eye shattered. His skin began to rot, and his flesh fell away.

Bu Cang and the others were stunned.

For a moment, no one dared to approach the elder.

The old man's flesh fell away slowly, and his movements were stiff. He turned to look at Bu Cang and the others. But his eyeballs fell out of their sockets.

"Misfortune... Pearl," he said with the last bit of strength he had left before turning into ashes.

The eight others tried to flee, but in an instant, their bodies withered away. They turned into piles of white bones and dropped to the ground.

In the span of a breath, all their remains were wiped out.

This was so sudden that Bu Cang and the others found it hard to accept it.

They retreated slowly. They were afraid that they would be next.

"The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl?!" someone exclaimed in astonishment.

"Elder mentioned that? What was he trying to tell us?"

"The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl... It has been causing a commotion everywhere lately," said Bu Cang.

"Elder might have been referring to that pearl while he was spying on Jiang Hao. This pearl is likely in his possession."

Several people found it hard to believe. After all, Jiang Hao was merely at the Foundation Establishment Realm.

How could he have something so dangerous?

“We must inform the others,” Bu Cang said without hesitation.

While they had located the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, they were unsure whether this was good news or bad.

However, it was important to convey the news to their clan before any unexpected events occurred.

Suddenly, a flying shuttle breached the protective barrier and appeared above them.

“What news do you want to send back? Can you share it with me?” A figure emerged from within the barrier.

He stood aloft. He appeared refined and elegant and gave off an imposing aura.

“Xu Bai?” Bu Cang was shocked.

The fact that Xu Bai arrived so quickly caught him off guard.

“I have important matters at hand, and I arrived somewhat belatedly. I apologize for not bringing gifts due to the rush. How about this? Why don’t you accompany me to the bright Moon Sect? I’ll make up for my lack of manners with a proper gift.” Xu Bai smiled.

“Go to the Bright Moon Sect?” Bu Cang sneered. “Xu Bai, do you really think you can take us away?”

Even before he finished his words, a few people made their move.

Three of them flew away while the rest attacked Xu Bai.

They didn't need to win. Their goal was to spread the news.

Xu Bai smiled softly as he faced the attacks.

A folding fan appeared in his hand. He unfolded it.

After a while, Xu Bai stood before the altar. He folded and unfolded his fan leisurely.

He didn't do much. He merely toyed with the object in his hand.

However, behind him, Bu Cang and the others fell to the ground. They were severely injured.

It didn't matter whether they hid in the shadows or fled. No one could escape this place.

"You... when did you..." Bu Cang was shocked.

"It's not that surprising." Xu Bai looked at the altar ahead with his brows furrowed. "What did you do? What did you discover?"

Everyone remained silent.

"No answer, huh?" Xu Bai looked at them calmly. "Then, let's head to the Bright Moon Sect for now."

"It's useless! We won't say anything. You should understand that," Bu Cang said in a low voice.

While they might not be strong, the Fallen Immortal Clan members were not the kind to compromise easily.

Xu Bai didn't doubt it, but the misfortune connected to the altar made him anxious. He couldn't let it go unattended.

It wouldn't be good if the Fallen Immortal Clan had any ulterior motives.

Jiang Hao sat cross-legged. The recent events had him worried.

'Who could be spying on me? Are they looking for something in particular or just spying on me?'

Jiang Hao thought about every scenario.

'If someone was trying to find a treasure, the backlash from the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl probably might have killed them. But if they were spying on me specifically, then they would have discovered the presence of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. They might spread the news...'

Jiang Hao couldn't imagine what would happen when the entire cultivation world learned that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was with him.

'The first possibility doesn't have much impact. I just need to be careful. As for the second possibility... It's beyond my power to handle the situation. I must find a way to save myself.'

He couldn't keep the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl on him any longer.

'Should I give it to Elder Baizhi? No, that won't work. Besides, Elder Baizhi might not even have the ability to seal it. Then, should I give it to the Sect Master through Elder Baizhi?'

Jiang Hao shook his head.

The Sect Master was in seclusion. It was even unclear whether they were alive or dead.

People in long-term seclusion usually didn't fare well.

"Should I give it to Hong Yuye?" Jiang Hao paced back and forth. "Not the best option. I don't even know if she would accept it. Even if she did, she wouldn't be able to explain it to the outside world, let alone the sect. That means I still have to deal with the consequences."

Jiang Hao could only think of fleeing the sect.

But where could he escape to?

He now knew that the Heavenly Secrets Hidden talisman couldn't defend against some gazes. Besides, there was the Heavenly Essence Soul Modeling

Mirror. That artifact was even more terrifying than the recent gaze he had encountered.

Suddenly, an idea struck him.

'Hong Yuye's place!'

Her place would definitely be fortified against spies and probing gazes.

But...

The future was unlikely to offer any other possibilities.

Besides, Hong Yuye might not be willing to take him in. He didn't want to go to her place if he could help it.

Jiang Hao sat down again and began to think.

Perhaps he could involve other people in this matter. He could find a sect or an individual with enough strength and trustworthiness. He could have them take the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl away, and then publicly declare that the item was in their possession.

This way, he would be much safer.

Furthermore, with other targets in the picture, not many would believe that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was in the hands of a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator.

‘So, who should I give it to?’ Jiang Hao thought about it.

There were powerful immortal sects that he could contact, like the Clear Sky School. He could contact them through Liu Xingchen.

However, he only wanted to watch.

Perhaps, he only wanted to see how things turned out for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

It wasn’t suitable to contact him.

He had only one option left: the Bright Moon Sect..