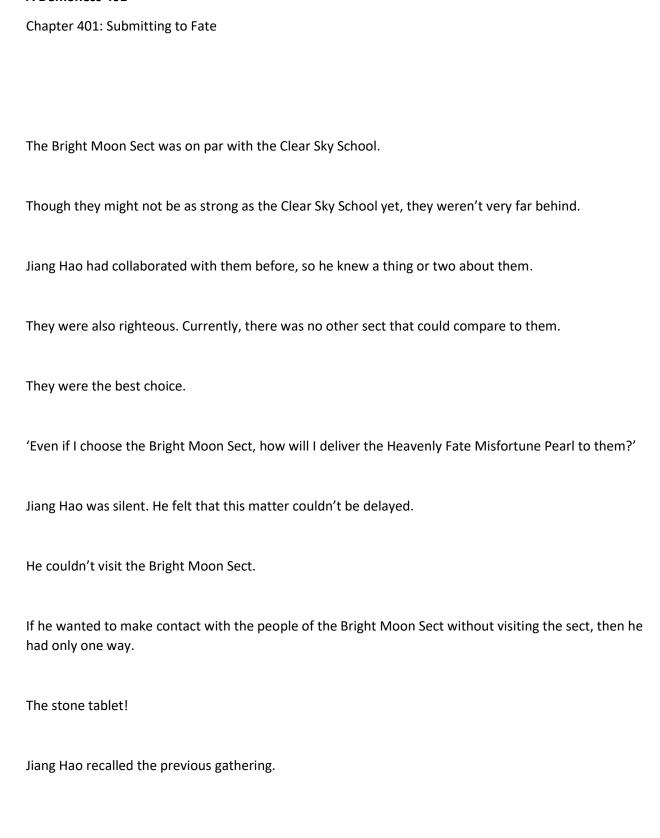
## A Demoness 401



Xing had mentioned that the suppression of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was related to the purple energy, and Gui had hinted that the purple energy had something to do with him. After thinking through everything, Jiang Hao felt that this way might be feasible. It was still risky, but it was the best possible way for now. However, the question was whether he should offer to hand over the pearl. He needed to wait for the next gathering. He hoped it would be soon. The previous probing gaze was bound to set off chain reactions. Of course, there was another major issue to consider. He wasn't certain what the spying person wanted. He didn't know which possibility was the right one. If it was the former, everything he was planning now was unnecessary. Moreover, he would expose himself. Jiang Hao realized that he had attracted a lot of attention because of his previous actions, especially when he knew people were spying on him. With a sigh, he took out a book and began studying. He was now able to distinguish the majority of the languages of the Heavenly Spirit Tribe.

Soon, he would be able to understand what those people were talking about in the Corpse Realm.

Seven days passed, and Jiang Hao hadn't heard any news from the outside world.

He frequently had Cheng Chou inquire about events happening outside the sect. Nothing significant had happened yet. The only thing he learned was that the people from the Heavenly Saint Sect were being wiped out by their sect. Han Ming was making contributions once again. Jiang Hao didn't pay much attention to that. What he wanted to know were updates about the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. Unfortunately, he had received none. If there was any news, he wouldn't need Cheng Chou to ask around. The Lawless Tower would have informed him if anything had happened. They would have even invited him over. 'What should I do?' His only hope was the gathering. He decided to make plans on the assumption that the person was spying on him for the second reason. He had to treat it as such regardless. He hoped the impact would be contained. Otherwise, it would be increasingly difficult for him to cultivate peacefully. Seven more days went by. It was already mid-May. Still, there was no news. During this period, he went to the Lawless Tower a few times. The attitude of his fellow disciples there

hadn't changed at all. He asked about Zhuang Yuzhen's experience inside the tower, so he could be

prepared. With the Reappearance of the Hidden Spirit, he might be able to avoid his cultivation from getting absorbed entirely.

He also asked about how Zhuang Yuzhen had learned about the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.

The answer was still the same. He had learned about it from a "mysterious person."

When Jiang Hao asked about the identity of this "mysterious person," he got the same answer again. The mysterious person was mysterious because he didn't know anything about their identity.

Jiang Hao was speechless.

There was a chance that this "mysterious person" was actually Dan Yuan, but the likelihood was not very high. Such a person wouldn't expose themselves so easily.

He wanted to know more about it because he wanted to prepare for the next gathering. The things he was going to say would have a huge impact. He needed to understand what the others were like.

He had interacted with Gui to some extent. Although they weren't close, she did have principles. Lan Qian had returned alive and safe. It meant that Gui didn't kill him unnecessarily after she took over his body.

And she knew that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was in the south and wanted to escape. It seemed like she was afraid of death.

Liu was overseas. It was impossible to ascertain what he was like as a person. The only thing Jiang Hao knew about him was that Liu was trying to modify his cultivation method.

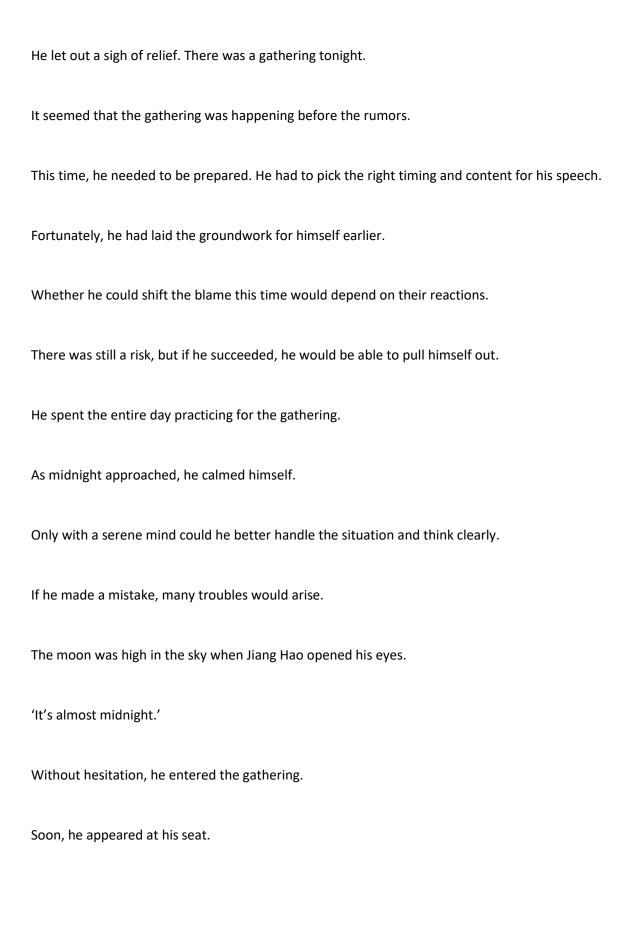
Theoretically, Jiang Hao was safe from him because he was overseas and couldn't make it here quickly.

Xing was the safest of them all. After all, he belonged to the Bright Moon Sect. If he didn't trust Jiang Hao's idea, he would simply cast it aside.

Dan Yuan was the most mysterious. That's why he needed to find out more about him. He didn't know much about Liu. He could also inquire about the overseas situation through Hai Luo. In the end, he didn't find any clues, but he wasn't bothered. He waited quietly. Whether the gathering came first or the rumors, he could handle it. As for the outcome, he was unsure. He could only try his best. If he ran out of options, he had a last resort. Apart from a tiny minority, no one wanted to die willingly. He could still threaten the spy with death if nothing worked. However, he didn't want to do that. It wouldn't end with the death of only a few individuals. Countless people would perish. He had followed the demonic path, but he wasn't an evil person. He had never killed innocent people. Up to this point, he had cultivated and gained power, but he hadn't done it at the expense of others. He gazed calmly at the night sky.

He had thought about it a lot and planned ahead. Now, he was ready.
He only had to wait for whatever consequences that would unfold.
There was no need to do anything else.
'I feel at ease having done what I could and accepting the things I can't change.' Jiang Hao sighed.
He had made the choices himself, so he had to accept the consequences, regardless of them being bad or good.
"Master, what are you thinking?" the spirit beast asked.
He glanced at the beast and smiled. "Go to sleep. There are spirit herbs to transplant tomorrow."
"Master, I often see you sitting here alone. How about finding a mistress? It would make the house livelier. But don't pick someone like Miao Tinglian. She doesn't respect me at all."
Jiang Hao chuckled. "Maybe I will if I have an opportunity in the future." There would probably be no such opportunity.
First, he needed to get rid of Hong Yuye. When that day came, how would he handle it?
He didn't know.
Would he need to escape at that time? Probably not.
Would his life go on like it was now?
Shaking his head, Jiang Hao returned to his room and started studying the Light and Dust Technique.

For some reason, he wanted to study it.
He felt as if his body was becoming indistinct. It felt like he was margining with the light and with the dust.
Observing these changes, Jiang Hao's mind became clearer. A journey of a thousand miles could be accomplished in a single step.
At this moment, the fusion of spiritual energy and consciousness seemed to
nave broken some snacRles.
After a while, everything returned to normal. Jiang Hao was astonished.
"I actually entered the second level!"
In an instant, he disappeared from his original position and reappeared soon after.
"What incredible speed!"
Sensing these changes, Jiang Hao felt that no one of the same level could compare with him anymore.
However, he had no idea how to cultivate his spirit. It couldn't expand.
If he could cultivate such a movement technique, others could too.
Early the next morning, Jiang Hao felt the stone tablet vibrate.



He observed the others. There seemed to be no changes in their expressions. It seems there were no rumors regarding the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl yet.
He couldn't discern anything from Dan Yuan's face.
But he'd have to wait until the gathering formally started to know for sure. Even if the rumors had reached here, he was prepared to handle it
Chapter 402: I've Exposed Myself
The gathering began.
After greeting Dan Yuan, everyone sat down cross-legged on the floor.
Jiang Hao wasn't in a hurry. He waited quietly.
He couldn't afford any mistakes in the impression he left behind. Otherwise, it would invite suspicion.
It wouldn't be favorable for what follows.
"Any issues with your cultivation progress?" Dan Yuan asked.
No one spoke up.
Several months had passed, and they hadn't made much progress at all.
Advancement wasn't an easy task.

"What about the news of the Saint Bandits?" Dan Yuan asked again. "I've heard some news about them," Xing said. "The Saint Bandits have been secretly searching for individuals with average talents who seek ways to enhance their cultivation. Especially those who use unconventional methods... Most of them belong to demonic sects. They are the main target of the Saint Bandits." "Moreover, they also steal talents from some individuals, but strangely, they never take special talents from ordinary people. It seems they can only steal talents that have manifested." "Lately, the Bright Moon Sect seems to be targeting the Saint Bandits, but they still can't find their true identity." 'Searching for individuals who use special methods to enhance their cultivation?' Jiang Hao thought of the Blood Wish Path. 'Does that count?' There was also Bai Ye's method, which should also be considered. The black pearl formed from the land's nutrients was used to enhance his cultivation. 'If the Saint Bandits are looking for people like that all over the place, they'll probably find me too. But with so many demonic sects, it's unlikely they'll signal me out.' Jiang Hao didn't think much about it. Even if the Saint Bandits came looking, it wouldn't pose a significant problem for him. If these people stole a disciple's talent from the Heavenly Note Sect, the Law Enforcement Hall would intervene. Something like that was no different from killing a disciple.

Dan Yuan nodded. "Anything else?"

No one else spoke up. The Saint Bandits were in the eastern region, while the others were not. It was too difficult to gather information about them. With no further information and no follow-up tasks, the gathering moved on to the next phase. Jiang Hao noticed that news about the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl had not spread yet. It seemed those who were trying to spy on him wanted the information to remain secret for now. Maybe they wanted to take matters into their own hands. "Will you all be in the eastern region for the next few years?" Xing suddenly asked. "I'm already on my way. What task do you have?" Gui asked. "During the Bright Moon Sect's Grand Dao Conference, I'd like you all to take certain positions," Xing said.

"For the sake of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment?" Liu asked.

"More or less. This matter will attract a lot of attention, and there might be

some trouble at that time," Xing said.

Jiang Hao nodded. If he went, it would accelerate the appearance of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment. An individual with the potential for great luck in the future would benefit any sect they were born into.



The Bright Moon Sect wasn't lacking in power or strength.

Even if many people spied on them, they could withstand it as long as the other sects didn't launch a large-scale attack or incite internal conflicts.
After that, there were no more tasks.
This led to the final phase of the gathering.
Jiang Hao was the first to speak up. His voice was low and devoid of emotion. "I have something to say to you all."
Everyone was surprised that Jing had spoken up. Usually, Jing just listened attentively and avoided initiating conversation.
Everyone was curious. They wondered if something had happened near the Heavenly Note Sect again.
But their eyes widened when they heard what he had to say.
"I gave the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl to Jiang Hao of the Heavenly Note Sect."
In just a few words, a multitude of messages were conveyed.
Gui and the others were stunned. It was difficult for them to calm themselves.
Gui looked at the others beside her in astonishment.
The Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl they had been discussing was in the hands of this person right beside her.

She recalled how Xing had said that purple energy had prevented the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl from erupting before.

The only person she could associate with the purple energy was Jing. Suddenly, it made sense.

Jing had gone to the Heavenly Note Sect and found that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was about to erupt. So, he might have intervened and acquired the pearl.

The others also guessed the same.

After all, whenever purple energy was mentioned, Gui always looked at Jing.

However, they were still puzzled.

"I remember Jiang Hao is only at the Foundation Establishment Realm. Is it safe to entrust it to him?" Gui asked.

Giving such a dangerous item to someone at the Foundation Establishment Realm seemed risky.

Gui had asked a valid question. Xing and Liu also wanted to know the answer.

They had considered the matter beforehand and were certain that Dan Yuan was also watching Jiang Hao closely at this moment.

With the appearance of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl and it being held by someone at the Foundation Establishment Realm, no one would be at ease. Jiang Hao thought for a moment. "If you're concerned, you can ask him for it."

Gui was the first to back off. "I won't ask for it. I'm afraid I won't be able to suppress it."

Liu didn't say anything. He looked at Xing.

Xing was silent. He seemed lost in thought. "Is there a reason that you arranged it that way, friend Jing?" asked Dan Yuan. Jiang Hao had already considered that question. The only suitable answer was greater safety. "After careful consideration, I thought that placing it there is the safest option," Jiang Hao said. "Is it due to the unique nature of the Heavenly Note Sect, or is it because of some special quality of the individual?" Gui asked. "Both," said Jiang Hao. Suddenly, Xing seemed to have thought of something. "I heard that disciples of the Bright Moon Sect attacked a certain faction. They witnessed an extremely terrifying misfortune there. Just as the people from that faction were about to spread the news, they were wiped out by the Bright Moon Sect. Now, they refuse to disclose what they have discovered." Jiang Hao was taken aback. Those might be the people who had spied on him before. But why would they spy on him in the first place? Who had enmity with the Bright Moon Sect? Among those with enmity with the Bright Moon Sect, very few had any connection to him. Jiang Hao thought of one possibility. 'Gu Qing from the Fallen Immortal Clan...'

This was the only thing he could think of. Most of his trouble started with the captives from the Lawless Tower.
There were two people who had managed to leave from the Lawless Tower: Gu Qing and Mi Lingyue.
Mi Lingyue was certainly not the one behind this, so Gu Qing was the likely suspect  Chapter 403: Going to the Bright Moon Sect
Jiang Hao was confused about how Gu Qing had managed to pass on the message to the Fallen Immortal Clan.
She had been at the Lawless Tower all along and was later taken away by Xu Bai. She didn't have any contact with others. At most, he had gone there for a visit.
Suddenly, it dawned on Jiang Hao. 'The mines?'
The mining site was the most unregulated place and the easiest place to pass on information.
Gu Qing had a grudge against him, so she would undoubtedly use various methods to spread unfavorable news about him.
'I should have followed her to the mining site on her first day there.' Jiang Hao sighed.
He had nothing more to say.
Unfortunately, there wouldn't be another chance.
He could only deal with the current situation for now.

However, the outcome he had imagined had not yet come to pass.

"I have a question," Gui said. "According to Xing, there will always be people spying on the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. If everyone knows that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl is in Jiang Hao's hands in the Heavenly Note Sect, what will we do? It would be impossible for the whole Heavenly Note Sect to defend it, let alone a Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator." She had asked a good question, and Jiang Hao was pleased. That was the exact question he needed the answer to.

If no one brought it up, he would have had to bring it up himself.

Now that Gui had asked it, he was pleased.

Xing hesitated for a moment. "Can I take it away when the time comes?" he asked Jiang Hao.

"Of course." Jiang Hao agreed without hesitation.

He had planned for the Bright Moon Sect to take it away anyhow.

However, since the person spying on him had been caught and no news had leaked, he didn't need to rush.

Furthermore, he now had a guarantee of safety.

All eyes turned to Dan Yuan.

"Then, it's settled." Dan Yuan nodded.

Jiang Hao understood that no one was willing to take responsibility for the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.



She realized that Jiang Hao wasn't very reckless and ambitious. He was a very calm and stable person.

She should have tried to get him on their side back then. But it was too late now.

Jing handing the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl to him spoke volumes.

"The matter of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl will certainly continue for some time. Those people won't give up so easily. With the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl in hand, there are far too many people it can intimidate," Liu said. "Didn't I mention a group of people suddenly appearing overseas before? These people seem to be plotting something, and the surrounding seas have suddenly quietened down. Now, some Heavenly Kings are planning to investigate the matter."

Jiang Hao felt that quite a few strange things were happening overseas.

First, there was a strange phenomenon on the seabed, and now, there was more strangeness on the small islands.

But they hadn't brought about any significant impact, and he didn't know why.

After that, Jiang Hao remained silent and listened to their discussion about the recent events.

Gui asked the most questions, so Jiang Hao could also learn a lot.

For instance, he learned what to be wary of when traveling to the eastern region.

Although the Clear Sky School and the Bright Moon Sect were present there, one still needed to be extremely cautious.

After all, the demonic sects in the eastern region were not to be underestimated.

The eastern region was prosperous and filled with talent.

A small misstep could easily lead to danger.
Some time passed, and Jiang Hao exited the gathering.
He let out a heavy sigh.
Then he took out his notebook and began jotting down the key points of the gathering.
First, the Saint Bandit's mission was still ongoing. The individuals involved haven't been identified yet, but they are likely to contact those who advance using special methods.
Secondly, it was important to attend the Bright Moon Sect's Dao Conference to promote the emergence of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment.
Finally, the revelation that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was given to "Jiang Hao." He learned from Xing that the spying individual might be from the Fallen Immortal Clan. The news hadn't spread yet. If rumors become widespread, the Bright Moon Sect will take over the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.
These were the three main points. There was no need to be concerned about the other people targeting the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl for now.
He didn't know much about overseas matters.
Having a general understanding of the situation was enough.
Of these three points, the first wasn't too important.
The second required some consideration.

The third was the most crucial.
'Now they all consider me to be associated with Jing. It's not necessarily a good thing for me, but at least I have a shield. As long as Jing stands firm, they won't do anything to me, which will buy me more time.'
'Exposing the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl also carries risks, but currently, they don't seem interested in getting their hands on it.'
Jiang Hao thought it over and realized that once a karmic connection was established with the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, it would likely cause a lot of trouble.
However, Jing could prevent the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl from erupting. Thus, it gave them a greater advantage.
Naturally, Jing's arrangement received some recognition.
More importantly, the impression that Hing had left in the gathering was significant.
He seemed mysterious, quiet, and eccentric. Those were enough for now. The only thing lacking was a clear demonstration of strength.
This upcoming trip to the Bright Moon Sect would expose his true identity.
Jiang Hao sighed.
He stopped overthinking things.
He had made all the necessary arrangements, and everything seemed reasonable.
He had arrived in the southern region as Jing, and when the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl was stopped from erupting by the purple energy, Gui associated the purple energy with Jing.

Furthermore, Xing had mentioned his name before and considered it special. He had also casually mentioned his intention to get in touch with him.

It made sense that he had given the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl to him.

Even if someone had spied his name and seen the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl, it would still be within the realm of reason.

This way, everyone attending the gathering would be implicated. If a major danger arose, Xing or Dan Yuan would undoubtedly intervene.

Standing on the balcony, Jiang Hao exhaled a breath of relief.

Everything was going relatively smoothly, but how long it would remain stable was uncertain.

For now, he needed to focus on ascending to the Soul Ascension Realm.

[Name: Jiang Hao]

[Age: 28]

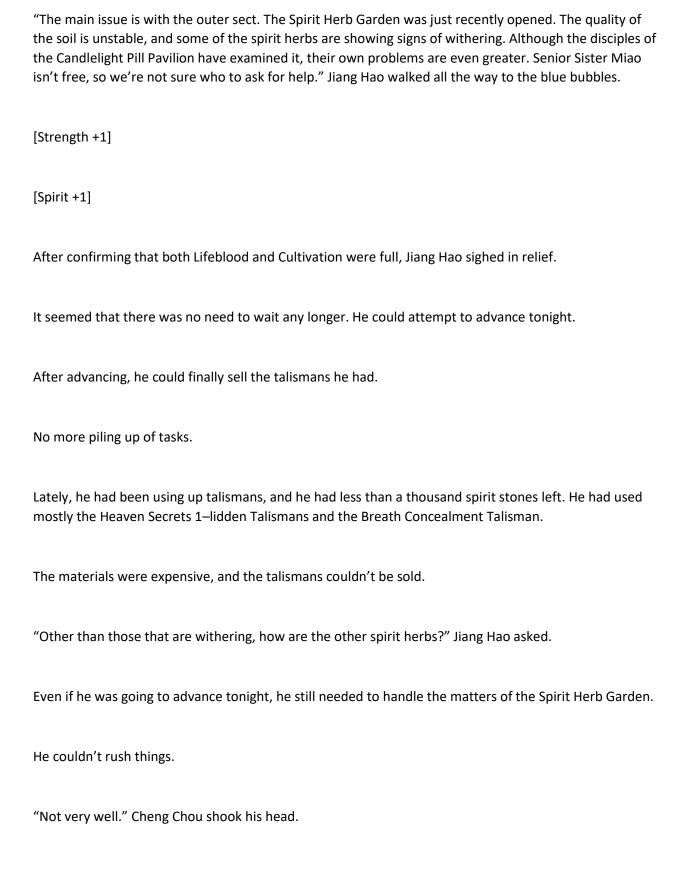
[Cultivation: Peak Stage of Primordial Spirit Realm]

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

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

Clear and Pure Heart, Reappearance of Hidden Spirit, Divine Might, Revival of

Withered Tree, Heavenly Cauldron] [Lifeblood: 98/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Cultivation: 97/100 (Can be cultivated)] [Divine Abilities: 0/3 (Cannot be acquired)] Only ten more days remained.
Soul Ascension Realm was right within reach!
In a sect near the sea in the southern region, Xu Bai woke up from his meditation.
He stepped out of his room and arrived at the place where the Fallen Immortal Clan members were imprisoned.
"Xu Bai, just kill us. You won't get any information from us!" Bu Cang shouted.
"Is that so?" Xu Bai asked softly "Any last wishes?"  Chapter 404: Spiritual Fire
[Cultivation +1]
[Lifeblood +1]
Jiang Hao looked at his interface. He still lacked a bit of cultivation and lifeblood. He then headed to the Spirit Herb Garden.
If he could find another blue bubble, he would be able to advance tonight.
Cheng Chou who was standing at the entrance of the Spirit Herb Garden immediately rushed over to report the situation.



"The spiritual energy there is insufficient, and the land can't be compared to a normal Spirit Herb Garden. It's mainly because it's too large. The resources are spread thin after distribution, and the effects are slow."

Jiang Hao nodded. This was a situation he had no control over.

However, as long as there were more spirit herbs, the environment there could be changed. Once they persisted through this phase, they would enter a bountiful phase.

As for the withering of the spirit herbs, it naturally needed attention. After all, many of them belonged to him. Even if they weren't his, too much withering could cause trouble.

Everything would be dealt with calmly so that the seniors weren't alarmed.

Having understood the surrounding situation, Jiang Hao didn't think much about it.

This was his responsibility, but he had lived through similar situations in all these years. Compared to the other things he had faced, this was ordinary.

"Oh, by the way..." Cheng Chou hesitated. "Although the rumors aren't increasing in recent days, they are deeply rooted. They feel that you have accepted the Blood Wish Path. Even the ordinary people are wary of you."

"Are they doing their tasks properly?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Yes." Cheng Chou nodded.

"That's good. Don't worry about it," Jiang Hao said.

There was nothing inherently wrong with pursuing the Blood Wish Path. It not only made him seem more like a disciple of the demonic sect, but it also provided him with a reason for advancement.

Now, his excuse for advancement didn't have to depend solely on fortuitous encounters. People would assume the Blood Wish Path played a part in it as well.

Everything was going smoothly, except Han Ming. He still had to reach the peak of the foundation Establishment Realm.

When that time came, he would wait a bit longer before displaying his cultivation at the Golden Core Realm.

Once he achieved the Golden Core Realm, his status in the Heavenly Note Sect would rise.

Under his watch, the Spirit Herb Garden wouldn't encounter issues, and it would facilitate his cultivation.

The only trouble was whether he could continue guarding the Spirit Herb Garden.

When it was evening, Jiang Hao returned to his courtyard. After making sure that everything was alright, he attempted to advance to the next realm.

He had used the last of his spirit stones to purchase an array formation to prevent any unpleasant surprises.

He also activated some Heaven Secrets Hidden Talismans around his house.

Only then did he close his eyes and begin to cultivate.

His lifeblood and cultivation were extracted. Boundless spiritual energy surged around him.

The Hong Meng Heart Sutra circulated, and immediately, a purple aura enveloped him.

Advancement was an extremely perilous process. Jiang Hao didn't dare to be distracted. At this moment, he felt the spiritual energy surging toward his Primordial Spirit.

For a moment, it felt like the peak of the Primordial Spirit Realm was being consumed by flames.

Intense pain spread through his body. The burning sensation covered his entire being.

Amidst the burning, Jiang Hao felt a light appear between his eyebrows.

This was a divine ability of the Primordial Spirit called the Divine Might.

The Divine Might was tempered by the flames of the Primordial Spirit.

At that moment, Jiang Hao felt that his spirit was becoming increasingly pure and condensed.

Under the flame of the Primordial Spirit, his lifeblood was also ignited. It tempered his body.

Only by doing so could he support a powerful Primordial Spirit and unleash his full strength.

This tempering process lasted for three days.

At dawn, the purple energy gradually dissipated, and Jiang Hao's body appeared within the purple aura.

When the purple aura completely dissipated, he opened his eyes.

An inexplicable pressure emerged around him, and an intangible flame seemed capable of igniting everything around him.

It was the spiritual flame of divine ability.

'This divine ability is quite powerful.'
After his advancement, Jiang Hao could perceive that the most significant change this time was in his divine ability.
Previously, Divine Might could protect his Primordial Spirit and impose pressure on others.
Now, his Divine Might was like a flame that could ignite with his consciousness.
Those with weaker strength would experience unbearable suffering.
If the flame wasn't extinguished, the agony wouldn't stop.
Moreover, he could sense the power of a refined spirit. What was previously an intangible Primordial Spirit had now become solid, robust, and colossal.
It could easily overpower the Primordial Spirit.
Indeed, the process of refining the soul was terrifying.
His former self was so weak compared to his current self.
A short while later, he began absorbing the remaining cultivation to refine his realm.
During the night, he made some changes to his backup treasures.
For instance, the Nine Heavens Battle Armor Set. The set hadn't been activated fully yet because his cultivation had been weak.

Now, he could fully make use of its potential. The Moon- Slaying and Mountain Suppression Techniques in his wrist guards needed to be replaced as well. Jiang Hao also needed to modify the Reappearance of Hidden Spirit between his brows. At noon, he once again reached his peak. Afterward, he went to the courtyard to water the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flowers. This time, he needed to see how long it would take for the bubbles to appear. After he was done with his advancement, everything began to return to normal. During the day, he tended to the Spirit Herb Garden. At night, he meditated and examined himself. He had only just advanced, and he needed time to adapt to his current power and strength. At twenty-eight years old, he was at the Soul Ascension Realm. He felt as though the entire sect was no match for him. It was easy to entertain thoughts like that which would lead him astray. The future was promising, so he felt that he had become invincible.

Once such thinking became a habit, it would be hard to acknowledge one's flaws. One would feel as

though their arrogance was just a natural state of being.

That was the most terrifying thing.
He needed to calm himself. It would be best if he spoke as little as possible during the next few days.
Even five days later, no bubbles appeared near the Heavenly Fragrance Dao
Flowers.
There was none on the sixth day too. On the seventh day, two blue bubbles appeared.
[Cultivation +1]
[Lifeblood +1]
'An extra two days, but that's okay.'
That meant one cultivation point in seven days. Around four each month
Fifty-two in a year.
Two years would be needed for the next advancement.
'It's slower than before. It's a pity that Xuanyuan Tai's flower won't be here for long, or else I could get blue bubbles from it too.'
'But it might take twenty years to advance beyond the Soul Ascension Realm. I was already quite fast in my advancement.'

Moreover, in a few more years, the Immortal Peach Tree might become a divine tree. By then, he might get more blue bubbles.
This would further increase his speed.
He might advance in one year instead of two.
He just needed to wait for the Immortal Peach Tree's next incarnation.
The future held promise
Chapter 405: Name List For The Trip To The Bright Moon Sect
In early June, Jiang Hao stood before the peach tree and noticed that it had started to flower and bear fruit again.
Moreover, the weather had become slightly hotter.
The heat would become more apparent in the summer, but it was hard to feel it within the sect during the winter.
He appraised the peach tree and found that it still needed three more incarnations to become a divine tree.
'It seems becoming a divine tree will take another decade or so It's alright, but I'm afraid something unexpected might happen during that time.'
After that, Jiang Hao woke the spirit beast, and they headed to the Spirit Herb Garden.



"Ye. She often goes to that stern person's house, and she insists on taking me along. But every time, she falls asleep." The spirit beast sighed. "Master, that person shows no respect for me."
"He is my Master," said Jiang Hao.
"Oh, then I should show him a little respect," said the spirit beast.
"Is Xiao Li willing to go there?" Jiang Hao asked.
"Not very," the beast said.
"Why?"
"It's a bit far from the cafeteria."
Jiang Hao nodded.
He decided to have Cheng Chou inform Xiao Li that if she could advance to the ninth stage soon, then she might make it to the Foundation Establishment Realm by the end of the year. That way, she won't have to keep listening to the teaching every day.
"What about Lin Zhi?" Jiang Hao asked.
"Very stable, " said the spirit beast.
"Under the guidance of me, Lord Beast, he can now take a hit without being injured."
"How's his cultivation?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Still at the first stage of the Lifeblood Refinement Realm. Many people in the sect feel that he's a waste of resources. Some are clamoring to ask seniors to intervene or report directly to the Law Enforcement Hall," the spirit beast said.

Jiang Hao wasn't concerned. His Master had allowed Lin Zhi to stay.

Which inner disciple would dare to go against the Cliff Master's orders?

Even True Disciples wouldn't dare to challenge the Master's decision.

As for the Law Enforcement Hall, they had no authority over the different branches.

This was the Cliff of Broken Heart's internal matter. It was beyond the jurisdiction of the Law Enforcement Hall. They wouldn't step in until a disciple was physically harmed.

"At what stage is he at for the Sun-Moon Lifeblood Refinement Cultivation Technique?" Jiang Hao asked.

"At the fifth stage. Although he feels more star energy entering his body, his cultivation realm hasn't increased much," said the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao nodded. It seemed that the spirit beast hadn't been slacking off in its duties. On the contrary, it seemed to enjoy it.

When they arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden, a communication talisman appeared before them.

It seemed the Cliff Master wanted Jiang Hao to meet him. 'What's the matter this time?'

Jiang Hao didn't hesitate. He rushed over immediately.

He found Han Ming, Mu Qi, Xiao Li, and Ning Xuan, along with a few other rarely-seen seniors.

"Senior Brother Jiang." Xiao Li rushed over to him. Jiang Hao introduced her to the others one by one. He led her to Han Ming last. "You can call him Senior Brother Han," Jiang Hao said. "Senior Brother Han, hello," Xiao Li said in greeting. Han Ming looked at her. "In the future, if you have any questions about cultivation, you can ask me. Although my strength is average, I can still offer some guidance. As for combat tips, I can help you much better in that aspect. Senior Brother Jiang doesn't have much combat experience." "Indeed, Junior Brother Han's strength and abilities are beyond doubt," Jiang Hao said with a smile. Xiao Li nodded. She was thinking about going to the Spirit Herb Garden when she was done here. Cheng Chou had gone out of the sect. He promised her he would bring her some delicious food. After a short while, they all entered Ku Wu Chang's courtyard. Ku Wu Chang got straight to the point. "The sect has already decided. In a few months, we will be going to the Bright Moon Sect. As I will be leading the team this time, I can take a few more people with me. From Lifeblood Refinement Realm, I'm taking Xiao Li along. From Foundation Establishment Realm, Jiang Hao. From Golden Core Realm, Mu Qi and Jiu Wu. And from Primordial Spirit Realm, Ning Xuan and Tian Li. Be prepared. We might depart at any time in the coming months." Jiang Hao was surprised. This was different from what he had expected. "Why isn't Senior Brother Han included?" Xiao Li asked softly.

"Because he's too qualified," Mu Qi said with a smile.

"Oh." Little Li nodded. "Senior Brother Han does seem really amazing." She was often at the Spirit Herb Garden. Miao Tinglian and Mu Qi also visited the garden frequently. They knew Han Ming quite well. Han Ming smiled and felt proud of himself when he heard their praises. Jiang Hao saw it now. Han Ming, at twenty-seven, was fundamentally still the same as he was years ago. If someone complimented and acknowledged him, he became approachable. But why was he chosen to go along? That left him completely puzzled. This journey wouldn't just take a few months. How would the Law Enforcement Hall agree to it? And it wasn't part of his plan. Xiao Li didn't mind. It would be a chance for her to go out and explore. Though the others were surprised, seeing Jiang Hao and Xiao Li arrive had prepared them mentally. They didn't say much. After all, most of them were going because their master was leading them. Ku Wu Chang dismissed them after that.

Jiang Hao followed the seniors and left. However, he returned to his master's house after a while again. "Do you need something?" asked Ku Wu Chang. He wasn't surprised to see Jiang Hao back here. "Master, can I request to give my spot to someone else?" asked Jiang Hao. "To whom?" asked Ku Wu Chang. "Junior Brother Chu Chuan," he said. "Chu Chuan?" asked Ku Wu Chang with a frown. "Why don't you want to go?" "There's quite a bit of work in the Spirit Herb Garden, and I might need to stay behind to take care of it." Ku Wu Chang looked at Jiang Hao. He was silent for a long while, then he said, "Alright." Jiang Hao thanked him and left. He felt that his master could remove his name from the Law Enforcement Hall's suspect list. However, he felt that it was safer for him to be on the suspect list and inside the sect. He had offended too many people. If not for the list, the sect would have sent him on various missions. It would have been dangerous for him. Three days later, the list of names for the trip to the Bright Moon Sect was revealed. Many were chosen from the Cliff of Broken Hearts. From the Lifeblood Refinement Realm, the cliff had two names.

One was Xiao Li and the other was Chu Chuan. Both had recently become inner sect disciples. And both were quite young.
"Senior Brother Jiang, are you not coming with us?" Xiao Li asked with concern.
Jiang Hao nodded. "Take the beast with you."
"Really?" Xiao Li smiled.
"Master, have you finally discovered my potential?" asked the spirit beast.
"Get used to the outside world and evaluate Chu Chuan's progress on the way. I also need you to do something important."
"What is it, Master?" the spirit beast asked.
"When you arrive at the Bright Moon Sect, find a place and activate the ring like I taught you, " said Jiang Hao
Chapter 406: Mocked Again
Before the names were announced, Jiang Hao's intention was for the spirit beast to take Chu Chuan to the eastern region.
However, it was too dangerous.
So, he planned for Xiao Li to go to the Master and request to go to the Bright Moon Sect, and then take Chu Chuan along.

Xiao Li was no ordinary disciple. She was the next True Disciple.

The plan was to wait for Xiao Li to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm. But the name list was announced faster than expected.

And he was on it too.

It would be fine for Xiao Li to go, but he absolutely couldn't.

At least not now when he had attracted the attention of Xing.

Going to the bright Moon Sect was like throwing oneself into a trap.

Furthermore, his plan would be severely restricted.

Also, if he gained any merit on the trip, it would be difficult to make it to the Law Enforcement Hall's suspect list in the future.

A few of the spies he knew had further use. There was no need to expose them yet.

It was already enough for Xiao Li to go. As for Chu Chuan, he always wanted to visit the Bright Moon Sect. He would go on his own even if not with the team. The worst-case scenario would be letting the spirit beast accompany him there.

With enough spirit stones, magical treasures, and the spirit beast, the trip would be safe.

This saved him a lot of trouble, but he still had to give them some spirit stones for emergencies. And talismans too!

When going to the eastern region, these things might not be very useful, but it's always good to have them at hand.

After teaching the beast how to use the rings, he let it play by itself. However, he instructed the beast that it needed to activate the ring outside the sect. It might not be possible to use it within. It was safer outside. Activating it Inside the Bright Moon Sect was too dangerous. After all, it was a genuine immortal sect. Who could if experts were constantly inspecting the surroundings for such behaviors? If they were discovered, there would be no chance to escape. "Why aren't you going, Junior brother Jiang?" asked Miao Tinglian curiously. "There's a lot to do in the Spirit Herb Garden," Jiang Hao said helplessly. "It's just some outer sect matters. But I don't have the time to help you guys anymore. The sect's mission this time is to investigate the Heavenly Saint Sect. Don't they know what I did there in the past?" Miao Tinglian said indignantly. 'Perhaps they do know, which is why they sent you?' Jiang Hao didn't dare say it aloud. "Forget it! I'm going to the Law Enforcement Hall to get some people." With that, Miao Tinglian turned and left. Watching her leave, Jiang Hao decided to go to the outer sect.

He needed to see what was going on with the withered spirit herbs.

When he arrived at the outer sect, he found many people discussing the upcoming trip to the Bright Moon Sect. They seemed envious of people who were getting the chance to go there.

Some even thought that after they became inner sect disciples, they might have a chance to go next time.

Jiang Hao just listened quietly.

Opportunities could sometimes be so unbelievable. Taking a step forward might lead to life-changing things. One would either be soaring to the heavens or plummeting to the abyss.

This applied to his situation with the Bright Moon Sect as well.

However, he chose to stay put. He didn't need more opportunities.

Arriving at the Outer Sect's Spirit Herb Garden, he saw both Foundation Establishment Realm cultivators and Lifeblood Refinement Realm cultivators all over the place.

Sometimes Jiang Hao wondered why he, a Soul Ascension Realm cultivator, was mingling with them.

One of the Top Disciples had a perfect Primordial Spirit Realm.

Jiang Hao could compete for the ninth top disciple position.

He caught himself. This kind of thinking would bring him down.

Looking down on anyone might bring bitter consequences.

Others were careless in their regard for him and attacked him recklessly. If he acted the same way, he might very well end up the way others had. Pushing aside unnecessary thoughts, Jiang Hao arrived at the Spirit Herb Garden. Nowadays, numerous spirit herbs were cultivated here. The spiritual energy was denser, but the soil was still unsuitable. It took a long time for cultivation. "Senior Brother Jiang," said one of the outer sect disciples in greeting. Jiang Hao nodded in acknowledgment. He looked around and found that most spirit herbs had withered. After inspecting it, he realized it was a common problem. The soil lacked nutrients, and the surrounding spiritual energy was insufficient. A vial of spirit liquid could solve the issue. But there were so many spirit herbs here. One vial per herb would consume an enormous amount. After hesitating, Jiang Hao said, "Bury all the withered herbs in the spirit field as nourishment." This surprised the others, but they still obeyed him. As he watched them bury the spirit herbs one by one, Jiang Hao felt like a pile of spirit stones was

slipping away from him.

However, it couldn't be helped.
The soil here couldn't support so many spirit herbs. Sacrificing the ones that were about to wither so others with stronger vitality could survive was inevitable.
Letting go now would prevent even greater loss.
Many understood this principle, but few had the courage to make this decision.
Cheng Chou didn't dare, nor did the other disciples.
Jiang Hao did it. It wasn't just about taking a chance with the seniors. He had his own reasons.
Jiang Hao asked some questions about the situation. He wanted to find out whether anyone had come here to influence them.
The answer he received was no.
The person in charge of the Candlelight Pill Pavilion still treated them well.
Jiang Hao took a look around. It was still the same senior as before.
He had been in charge all this time.
Jiang Hao took his leave after watching them bury the spirit herbs.
On the way, he heard some people whisper about him.
"Is that the one from the Cliff of Broken Hearts who cultivates the Blood Wish path? Is he kind to others, or is it all for their blood?"

"Perhaps, but I heard the Blood Wish Path is... bloody. I was lucky enough to have seen what it is about. It was truly gruesome. That senior looks gentle and righteous, but I never expected him to be so cruel." "Even if you see a kind and gentle senior in this sect, you still have to be cautious." "We've seen plenty of this type of people in our sect. It's just that it's the first time it feels so shocking. I used to think he was a kind person. I really envied those people who worked under him, but now... I should consider myself fortunate not to be among them." Jiang Hao didn't pay them any mind. They were just talking behind his back, after all. And once the Blood Wish Path was established, there was nothing wrong with it. In the beginning, he had been used by various people precisely because he was a good person. Senior Sister Yun Ruo had been like that too, as were some others in the Hundred Bones Forest. Now, they would weigh things carefully. As for his reputation... After a hundred years, or a thousand years, or even ten thousand years later, what would it matter? If he lived long, everything would become distant memories. The next day, after dealing with the spirit herbs, Jiang Hao went to set up a stall to sell talismans.

The spirit beast and the others were heading out, so he needed to prepare some things for them, and

that required spirit stones.

Just as Jiang Hao had set up his stall, a senior in the middle stage of the Golden Core Realm approached him.
"Hey, it's been a couple of years since we last met. You seem to have advanced to the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Does that mean you already know how to draw the Six Golden Core Talismans?" Duan Guan sneered.
Jiang Hao looked at the senior in front of him. "Senior Brother, you must be joking! I still can't."
Indeed, he couldn't.
"You still can't do that? It's really surprising that you're already at Foundation Establishment Realm and yet show no sign of progress," Duan Guan said mockingly. "I suppose you haven't even learned the Power Manipulation
Talisman yet?"
"I learned it," Jiang Hao said.
"Learned it? Then why aren't you selling it? Aren't you just boasting? Even I could say I know how to make them." Duan Guan snorted coldly. "With your attitude, you're practically wasting your talent for talisman-making."
After saying that, he threw down three thousand spirit stones and took all of Jiang Hao's talismans.
Jiang Hao looked astonished.
'Three thousand? Was this senior really wealthy? Could he possibly be an alchemist as well?'

In truth, Jiang Hao had quite a few Power Manipulation Talismans, but he just wanted to provoke the

senior. Whenever the senior looked pissed, he ended up buying everything.

Next time, if he didn't buy his talismans, he could take out the Power Manipulation Talismans. Who would have thought that this senior would inquire about the Six Golden Core Talismans? He hadn't even prepared those. There was indeed nothing he could say. However, it was still surprising that the senior had bought all of Jiang Hao's talismans so unexpectedly... Chapter 407: People Change For the next half month, Jiang Hao sold talismans. Unfortunately, after Senior Brother Duan, his sales weren't doing well. He happened to know his name, and it seemed that he was indeed an alchemist. Moreover, his status was not low. Otherwise, with that mouth of his, it would bring him a lot of trouble. In the past half month, he had only earned a total of 1,500 spirit stones. After that, he sold some ordinary yet valuable items, which were left behind by Yu Xuan and Bai Ji. The total amount of spirit stones he had was 6,235 spirit stones. If it weren't for Duan Guan, his earnings would have been half.

Although his words were harsh, he was wealthy and generous.

Unfortunately, he didn't encounter such opportunities often.

During this month, there had been no news about the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.

It seemed that the information hadn't been leaked yet, and he didn't know how long it could be kept hidden.

Once Xiao Li and the others headed to the eastern region, he could set up a teleportation formation there. In case there were real problems in the future, he could escape there.

However, there were too many experts over there. Once the teleportation formation was taken by someone, it would deactivate, and he wouldn't be able to use it to escape.

He would have lost a valuable resource.

The sect decided to depart in early September.

The heads of the three main branches would lead the teams. Those ranches were the Cliff of Broken Hearts, the Heavenly Joy Pavilion, and the Law Enforcement Hall.

For a while, Jiang Hao began to understand why his master had asked him to go with them.

With the Master of the Law Enforcement Hall present, he would naturally be under his surveillance, and he could stay there for as long as needed.

As for the Master of the Heavenly Joy Pavilion, he couldn't attack him with the other masters around. As long as he performed well and the master was willing to speak for him, he was safe from danger, and he might also be removed from the suspect list of the Law Enforcement Hall.

Regrettably, he had declined the offer.

His master had intended to lend him a helping hand, but he lacked the determination. Although it was somewhat regrettable, he still hoped to ease the resentment in the heart of the person from Heavenly Joy Pavilion. Only in that way could he be completely safe. Now that person was heading to the Bright Moon Sect, and they probably wouldn't return for a year or more. He could feel a bit more at ease. In the afternoon, Jiang Hao sought out Chu Chuan. Before their departure, there were some things he wanted to discuss with him. "Are you going to test me this time?" Chu Chuan asked with excitement. Chu Chuan shouted loudly and attacked. He used fist techniques and spells. He constantly switched between them and did it fast. His awareness was strong, and his attacks were strong. He balanced offense and defense well, and his techniques were quite good. Although there were some flaws, it was quite impressive. After his opponent exhausted his moves, Jiang Hao began to counterattack. Every move struck Chu Chuan's weakest points. He didn't use much force, just enough to let him feel it.

After a while, Chu Chuan collapsed to the ground.

In the first half of the fight, he felt joy, but now, he only felt pain.
It was really tormenting.
"Actually, you did quite well. Who taught you those spells and techniques?" Jiang Hao asked curiously.
"Lord Beast taught me. Senior Brother Cheng gave me some guidance too, and I also figured out some myself," Chu Chuan said as he sat up.
Jiang Hao nodded.
The beast was taking its job seriously.
"Did you come here because of the matter with the Bright Moon Sect, Senior Brother Jiang?" Chu Chuan was curious.
"Yes." Jiang Hao nodded. "There are a few things I need to talk to you about." "Is it to tell me not to tell Chu Jie anything about you?" asked Chu Chuan.
Jiang Hao shook his head. "Not really."
Chu Chuan looked puzzled. If not that, then what?
After a moment of silence, Jiang Hao asked, "How long have you been in the sect?"
"Six years, " Chu Chuan said.
"How many years apart were you and Chu Jie when you parted ways?" Jiang Hao asked again.

"I was ten years old, and Chu Jie was nine." Chu Chuan was puzzled for a moment. "Do you know what kind of sect the Bright Moon Sect is?" "It is extremely powerful." "Yes, extremely powerful. One of the strongest sects there is. And Chu Jie is a disciple of that sect. She is not an ordinary disciple, but one of the gifted ones." Jiang Hao lowered his head. "Six years ago, you were just children and living your ordinary lives. But from the moment she entered the Bright Moon Sect, she became a treasure of that sect. Do you understand what I'm trying to say?" Chu Chuan shook his head. "I don't understand." "During these six years, Chu Jie was far from the servant girl you knew. She is now the most prominent disciple of the Bright Moon Sect. She is admired and respected by thousands of people. Her insights and perspectives will undergo drastic changes in such an environment." Jiang Hao looked at Chu Chuan. "Do you mean that Chu Jie might have changed?" Chu Chuan asked. "Given the circumstances, she probably hasn't," Jiang Hao said. "She sent Fang Jin to look for you, after all. However, her unintentional words or actions might make you realize the gap between you two. You need to accept that, even if it isn't her intention. Moreover, she's in the Bright Moon Sect. Even though it is an immortal sect, there is no lack of jealousy among people. If someone like Chu Jie is close to you, it will invite prejudice and malice. You need to be able to handle that." "How should I handle it?" Chu Chuan was completely clueless. "Hide your true abilities, act when the time is right, see through people's faults without making a fuss, sense deception without getting angry, be as inscrutable as water, and as steady as a mountain," said

Jiang Hao. "Always

keep your mind calm, and let it guide your actions."

Chu Chuan might not be crushed by any hardships, but he might attract trouble and meet an early demise.

Teaching him when to advance and when to retreat would prevent him from getting into trouble.

He had to grow up eventually.

Although this was the demonic sect, Xiao Li and the beast made sure to provide guidance for Chu Chuan.

There were benefits, but also drawbacks.

He didn't understand the complexities of human emotions and the cunning of the human heart.

Even if he reached eighteen by the time he entered the Bright Moon Sect, he still wouldn't understand many things.

And his unwillingness to comply might invite trouble, which could lead to fatal consequences.

This restraint might be a good way for him to become stronger, but it could also easily ruin him.

Anger and humiliation might make him stronger, but does he want to live his whole life in that kind of anger?

Acting when the time is right and resolving everything with the force of thunder while trying to make others let go of their grievances toward them was the right thing to do.

When Jiang Hao left, Chu Chuan was already back to practicing his moves.





Jiang Hao was taken aback. 'He is going to the Bright Moon Sect?' Quickly, he realized there wasn't much difference. The Clear Sky School was also located in the eastern region. "This trip will take quite a while. I won't be able to come back in one to two years. I wonder what might happen within the sect during that time." Liu Xingchen sighed. "That long?" Jiang Hao also felt that was too long. With Liu Xingchen not around, he wouldn't have access to the information about the Law Enforcement Hall. He was familiar only with Liu Xingchen. Moreover, they could conveniently use each other without any pressure since they were both undercover. Both had benefited without any trouble. "It takes at least two years round-trip, and the Dao Conference lasts from three months to half a year," Liu Xingchen said. "What do you think, Junior Brother Jiang? 'Three to four years?' Jiang Hao had thought about this, but he still felt that it was quite a long time. Fortunately, he wasn't going. Three or four years would have been wasted. In four years, he could advance twice. "Are you setting off in a few days, Senior Brother Liu?" Jiang Hao asked.

"Yes." Liu Xingchen nodded. "I heard that you got the chance to go too, but you chose not to?"
"It's too dangerous outside for me," Jiang Hao said.
"You do tend to stand out with your accomplishments." Liu Xingchen chuckled. "But your current situation isn't as perilous as it seems. I heard that the person from the Sunset Immortal Sect gave up because they couldn't wait for you to leave the sect any longer."
"Gave up?" Jiang Hao was surprised.
Only eight years had passed since the incident.
The threat from the Sunset immortal Sect was gone. Now, only the Heavenly Saint Sect remained.
The Heavenly Saint Sect was getting wiped out. So, they probably won't linger in the sect for long.
For a moment, he felt much safer.
What remained were only the Heavenly Joy Pavilion and the Fallen Immortal
Clan.
The Fallen Immortal Clan had spied on him once. If they were to do it again, the matter of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl would be discovered.
By then, he wouldn't be able to cultivate with peace of mind.
However, the people from Sunset Immortal Sect had only temporarily given uD. Once they acceased in front of him again. conflicts would still arise.

As for the Heavenly Saint Sect, they hadn't given up altogether. It was just that they couldn't approach him yet.

'I should wait for the right time. A hundred years from now, I'll go find them and ask them to let go of past grievances. If a hundred years isn't enough, then a thousand. Someday, they'll listen to me.'O

"It's been several years. There are so many matters in the cultivation world. Who remembers things that don't bring benefits? Eight years is enough time for a person to let go of their recklessness and assess the situation. It's not that difficult," Liu Xingchen said. "Perhaps one day, Junior Brother Jiang, the sect will have internal conflicts. Continuing to wait and consume resources might not be as worthwhile as pursuing other avenues."

Jiang Hao nodded. It would be best if things unfolded that way.

However, regarding the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower, they probably wouldn't give up.

For example, Senior Sister Ming Yi was always hovering over him.

She was still executing her plan. Eight years had passed, and she occasionally appeared to help him in the garden and disappeared again.

'Was she planning something big?'

Before Liu Xingchen left, he told Jiang Hao that the Law Enforcement Hall had mentioned him again.

Jiang Hao could only smile politely.

He didn't want to give spirit stones to the Law Enforcement Hall, but He might not have a choice.

When the Dao Conference began, he would have to go there, and it wasn't certain how much time that would take. But three months should be enough.

Arriving at the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao began guiding Cheng Chou in his cultivation. Cheng Chou hadn't experienced any fortuitous encounters, nor did he possess any extraordinary talent. Luckily, he was willing to work hard and didn't waste his time. With Jiang Hao's guidance, he was progressing at a reasonable pace. As for how far he could go, Jiang Hao couldn't be sure. However, the Golden Core Realm was definitely within his reach. It would be much more difficult to achieve beyond that realm. r Two months later, in early September, Jiang Hao gave the spirit beast three thousand spirit stones. He hesitated for a moment, and then he gave a thousand spirit stones to Xiao Li. A total of four thousand spirit stones. Resources for the sect gathered over nine years of Foundation Establishment Realm would amount to that much. It seemed like a lot, but it would be scarce once they reached the eastern region. Looking at Chu Chuan, Jiang Hao sighed. After all, they were going to meet geniuses there. It would be embarrassing to not have enough spirit stones.

Jiang Hao gave him eight hundred.

Close to five thousand spirit stones were gone, just like that. He gave them most of what he had earned so far. He also gave them various talismans and pills. "If there is danger, let Xiao Li handle it. If there is a dispute, the beast will handle it," said Jiang Hao. "Then, what should I do?" Chu Chuan asked. 'Eight hundred spirit stones...' Chu Chuan hadn't seen that many spirit stones in his life. He felt like he was floating in the air. "Listen to the beast's instructions," Jiang Hao said. "Remember to obey the Cliff Master's orders. Don't wander around, and don't cause trouble." "Master, leave everything to me. The future of the eastern region will be filled with Lord Beast's legends soon," said the spirit beast. "My courtyard is small. There's no room for legendary beasts of the east," Jiang Hao said. "Master, you have no sense of humor at all. I was just joking," said the beast with a sigh. "That's why you haven't been able to find a mistress, Master." "Mistress?" Xiao Li looked puzzled. "It's your sister-in-law," said the beast. Xiao Li thought for a moment, and she recalled the Senior Sister she had seen before.

"I guess so." She wasn't entirely sure.

Jiang Hao didn't pay them any further attention but instructed them to wait at the Cliff Master's place. Watching the three of them leave, Jiang Hao sighed. He couldn't help feeling worried about them. Chu Chuan possessed an indomitable spirit because of his Immortal Heart, but aside from that, he wasn't particularly outstanding. Xiao Li could fight and eat but didn't excel in other areas. The beast was quite versatile, but it tended to cause trouble easily. The deceptive creature was anything but reassuring. However, the beast was about to achieve the Gold Core Realm. Having a Gold Core demonic beast around should be safer. Jiang Hao stopped thinking about it and headed to the square outside the sect. There were quite a few people gathered there. This was where they could watch the team leave. Jiang Hao saw a massive sword fly out of the gate. Xiao Li and the others were on the sword. "Senior Brother Jiang, I'll bring you some delicious food when I come back!" Xiao Li waved and shouted from above. Jiang Hao watched them leave without saying anything.

With them gone, there would be no leader at the Cliff of Broken Hearts. He hoped no one would cause trouble.
Without Xiao Li and the beast, it seemed like there were many more things to worry about.
He wouldn't have anyone he could ask about things.
The beast was talented in deceiving and hiding its true abilities. It was quite suitable when he had to send it to gather information.
'It'll have to leave someday, and I'll have to get used to it slowly.'
Jiang Hao smiled faintly and stopped overthinking
Chapter 409: Are You Trying to Drag Me Down?
Returning to the Spirit Herb Garden, Jiang Hao began his peaceful days.
He still had three thousand spirit stones at hand.
He didn't know how much it would take for another incarnation of the peach tree, but he wasn't worried for now.
Because in a while, he would also head to the eastern region.
There were things he had to deal with there.
The Peach Blossom Tree still had two years left for the next incarnation, so there was time.

If time ran short, then he could wait an extra year.
There was no rush.
After all, both purple and golden bubbles were at zero right now, so it didn't matter.
The next day, Jiang Hao watered the Immortal Peach Tree and the Heavenly Fragrance Dao Flower.
He noticed that the peaches were ripening, but Xiao Li wasn't around to eat them.
'Suddenly, I feel that Xiao Li wasn't completely useless.'
Shaking his head, Jiang Hao went to the Spirit Herb Garden to start his work. This was a good opportunity to refine his state of mind.
His cultivation had now reached the Soul Ascension Realm. Even with the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison calming him, his state of mind was sometimes unreliable.
Tending to herbs and doing ordinary work relieved him. It reminded him to stay humble.
Power and spirit stones were both alluring. Only when one's state of mind was aligned with their cultivation realm could one avoid trouble.
Every day, Jiang Hao would pick a peach from the tree for breakfast.
However, he couldn't finish all the peaches on the tree even if he ate them every day. So, he gave some to Lin Zhi and Cheng Chou.
Since the beast wasn't around, Jiang Hao occasionally went to guide Lin Zhi in his cultivation.



This was his third time coming to look for Lin Zhi. But outside the sect, many ordinary people were striving to get through the winter. "Greetings, Senior Brother Jiang." Lin Zhi quickly stood up and bowed. "What were you thinking about?" Jiang Hao nodded in acknowledgment. "I don't really know." Lin Zhi lowered his head. "Maybe I miss my mother a bit." "Are you doubting the path of cultivation because you can't advance?" asked Jiang Hao. "No." Lin Zhi quickly shook his head. "It's just that things feel a bit strange. How can I change my current situation? I don't want to stay in one place forever. " Jiang Hao fell silent for a while. "There's no need to rush. You're fine for now." "Is this really okay?" Lin Zhi was puzzled. "Will I ever achieve something if I don't do anything about my current situation?" A gentle breeze blew by as Jiang Hao looked up at the starry sky. His robes gently swayed in the wind. "The Great Dao is simple. It's unyielding when desireless, and all-encompassing when idle." Lin Zhi looked baffled, but he had learned something. "Don't rush it." Jiang Hao looked at him. "Some people are born brilliant, while others are late bloomers."

But Jiang Hao didn't say anything more and started guiding Lin Zhi in his cultivation.

Lin Zhi still didn't quite get it.

His learning was decent, and his comprehension was also quite good.
Jiang Hao noticed that Lin Zhi would always sweep the fallen leaves every day before starting his cultivation.
He stopped asking questions and didn't seem perplexed anymore.
Lin Zhi's path was destined to be different from Chu Chuan's.
Although both had been beaten up over the years, their experiences were entirely different.
One was beaten up in a test for progress, while the other was bullied.
Three more months passed in this way.
In early March, Jiang Hao stood by the riverside and watched the ripples in the water. He closed his eyes and felt the changes in the water's flow.
His thoughts seemed to follow the sound of the water. He felt calm and serene.
Over the past half-year, he had come to understand something: peace alone wasn't enough. What was needed was a firm state of mind. It should be full of vitality yet tranquil.
The mind should be like a creek where water poured in constantly but didn't cause any huge ripples.
Suddenly, he felt someone standing beside him. A faint fragrance wafted up to his nose.
Hong Yuye.

Her image appeared in Jiang Hao's mind. He opened his eyes and saw a woman dressed in an orange and red gown. She stood beside him and looked at the water. "Senior, greetings." Jiang Hao greeted her respectfully. Her sudden appearance had disrupted his state of mind. The Heaven Extinction Gu Poison had lost its effect. It made his heart restless. "What have you been up to lately?" Hong Yuye looked at the water's surface. "Waiting for news," Jiang Hao said. He had been refining his state of mind during this time, but he had also been paying attention to information about the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. Fortunately, there hadn't been any rumors circulating yet. So, he could maintain his calm for a while longer. As he interacted with the outside world, his future would be exposed to everyone's eyes. It was unavoidable. However, if he surpassed everyone in strength before that happened, everything would work out naturally. "Waiting for the clues I mentioned earlier?" Hong Yuye turned to look at him.

"Yes," Jiang Hao said with a brave front.

Being stared at like this made him feel stressed. Hong Yuye chuckled and walked into the courtyard. "Did the stone tablet have any gathering?" she asked. "Yes, once." Jiang Hao nodded. "Tell me what happened." Hong Yuye sat on a wooden chair in the courtyard. Jiang Hao followed suit and prepared some tea. "Things are a bit complicated." "Complicated?" Hong Yuye sounded intrigued. Jiang Hao didn't plan to hide the matter regarding the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl. This was an important issue, and perhaps she could advise him. However, he wasn't in a rush to explain everything. He started from the beginning. He began by talking about the matter with the Saint Bandits. Hong Yuye looked at Jiang Hao. "The so-called unique technique involves the blood energy you absorbed from the Saint Bandit? The Blood Wish Path?" "Your insight is extraordinary, Senior," said Jiang Hao in praise. He had only touched the gourd once. Why was the aura still on his body? It should be quite faint. Otherwise, Hong Yuye wouldn't be speaking to him so amiably.

Then, Jiang Hao continued with his explanation.

He talked about his intention to go to the Bright Moon Sect.

"The appearance of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment indeed has its benefits. When the time comes, I can go take a look," Hong Yuye said. "Senior, are you planning to go as well?" Jiang Hao was surprised.

If Hong Yuye went along, it would be advantageous for him.

First and foremost, his identity wouldn't be easily exposed.

However, Hong Yuye didn't answer him. She just gestured for Jiang Hao to continue.

After that, Jiang Hao began to talk about his own matters.

"I informed them that the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl is in the hands of "Jiang Hao," which I, as "Jing" handed over," he said.

Hong Yuye, who was sipping tea, paused for a moment. Then, she lifted an eyebrow as she looked at him.

She placed her teacup down and smiled. "Tell me more."

Taking a deep breath, Jiang Hao told her that someone had spied on him. Therefore, he had to expose himself as a representative from the Heavenly Note Sect.

The fictitious Jing would serve as a smokescreen.

Furthermore, when danger arose, it could also implicate the Bright Moon Sect.

"Now that you're telling me this, are you also trying to drag me down with you?" Hong Yuye asked with her eyebrows raised. Then, she chuckled..

Chapter 410: Struck by the Demoness' Palm

Jiang Hao remained calm at Hong Yuye's questions. He acknowledged that his knowledge was inferior to hers. He knew his plan wasn't flawless, and he could not afford to offend her. Dragging the Bright Moon Sect into this was his only option.

His success wasn't due to his exceptional skill, but because the Bright Moon Sect was in the light while he operated in the shadows. This was the key to his high success rate.

These thoughts flashed through Jiang Hao's mind as he shook his head.

"Senior, you're overthinking. I've never considered that."

Hong Yuye's brows slightly furrowed. "Is it that you dare not, or you don't want

Jiang Hao knew that it was because he didn't dare to.

He had never considered this question before and didn't know how to respond. Therefore, he chose silence. If he talked less, he would make fewer mistakes.

"Aren't you usually very cautious? Why did you expose yourself this time?" Hong Yuye raised her teacup to her lips once again.

The leaves on the peach tree rustled softly, and Hong Yuye's dress swayed in the wind. She waited for Jiang Hao's response.

After glancing at her briefly, Jiang Hao averted his gaze. Her posture and demeanor always influenced him. It was inevitable.

Over the years, due to the influence of the Heaven Extinction Gu Poison, he had never harbored any thoughts about other women. No matter how beautiful they were, it didn't faze him at all.
They were all the same.
However, when Hong Yuye appeared, it always affected him.
Fortunately, he could suppress these feelings and avoid getting embarrassed.
"It was my recklessness that led to this outcome," Jiang Hao said.
He should have made a better choice in dealing with Gu Qing.
While drinking tea, Hong Yuye gestured for Jiang Hao to continue.
That was probably all there was to the gathering.
He went into detail regarding the events revolving around the arrangement of the Heavenly Fate Misfortune Pearl.
If the cultivation world discovered that the pearl was in his possession, they would hand it over to the Bright Moon Sect.
"Why didn't you go to the Bright Moon Sect?" Hong Yuye curiously asked.
Jiang Hao shook his head. "If everyone assumes that the Heavenly Fate
Misfortune Pearl is in the Bright Moon Sect, no one will focus on me."

Going to the Bright Moon Sect with his current identity wasn't ideal. Besides the troubles it would invite, most of the people in the Bright Moon Sect wouldn't trust him. It would be better to stay where he was in case things went south.

Seeing that Hong Yuye didn't say much, Jiang Hao continued with his explanations. He talked about the overseas individuals retreating and the anomalies on the small island.

Hong Yuye listened without commenting on these matters.

"That's about it," Jiang Hao said.

"How long have you been at the gathering?" Hong Yuye suddenly asked.

"Six or seven years," Jiang Hao said.

His time undercover was almost as long as his time with Chu Chuan.

"Do you still remember the reason I had you go undercover?" Hong Yuye asked while sipping her tea.

"To find the stone tablet and the mastermind behind it," Jiang Hao said.

He still remembered it.

However, that investigation had come to a halt. There was no progress on that front

"The last time I came, you said you had information. And now?" Hong Yuye asked with a smile.

"I'm still waiting," Jiang Hao said.

Hong Yuye let out a laugh. "Put down your teacup."

Perplexed, Jiang Hao placed the teacup on the table. He suddenly felt a vast aura assaulting him.
Bang!
Before he could react, he found himself crashing into a wall. His back throbbed with pain.
"You can continue waiting for your information. I'm not in a hurry," Hong Yuye said nonchalantly while sipping her tea.
Jiang Hao sensed that things weren't looking good. He couldn't understand Hong Yuye's intentions. It used to be threats, but now, the approach had changed. This only made him more uneasy.
He should quicken the search for the End of All Things. A bit of progress could buy him a few more years.
"How long has Xiao Li been gone?" Hong Yuye looked at the peach tree and asked.
The peach tree no longer bore fruits now. However, it wouldn't be long before it blossomed and bore fruit again,
"About half a year," Jiang Hao said.
"Half a year does that mean the Bright Moon Sect's Grand Dao Conference is about to commence?" Hong Yuye poured herself another cup of tea and also refilled Jiang Hao's cup.
Jiang Hao hesitated to pick up his teacup. He feared she might attack him again.
"It should still be some time away," Jiang Hao said.

Lately, he would occasionally check the encrypted stone tablet, where the three individuals often talked. From that, he learned about the upcoming Grand Dao Conference of the Bright Moon Sect.
It was planned for next year in June.
That meant there was still over a year for him to go there.
One year should be sufficient for the Heavenly Note Sect to reach the Bright Moon Sect. Jiang Hao's concern was whether Chu Chuan could achieve the Foundation Establishment Realm before they arrived.
If he was on the brink of advancement, there were Foundation Establishment Pills with the beast. Although his master might give them to him, Chu Chuan's growth would be observed throughout the journey.
Despite his ordinary talent, his speed of advancement and his unyielding spirit were definitely commendable. These traits warranted a Foundation Establishment Pill as a reward.
"It seems you'll be going there soon as well." Hong Yuye beckoned Jiang Hao with a wave of her hand.
Jiang Hao recalled making the same gesture in the Lawless Tower. He now understood how the Heavenly King and the others had felt. However, he couldn't afford to ignore her. He could only move forward slightly.
At this moment, Hong Yuye's palm rested gently on his chest.
Jiang Hao could hear his own heartbeat. With her palm pressed on his chest, there was only an arm's length between them. He could smell her fragrance.
Such close contact made him feel concerned.

"Your heartbeat is a bit fast," Hong Yuye said.

"Recently, my cultivation has improved significantly, and my lifeblood and cultivation have become vigorous. It's natural for my heartbeat to be faster," Jiang Hao said hurriedly. "Is that so?" Hong Yuye sneered, and then she began to exert some force on her palm. Jiang Hao felt something leave marks on his body. He felt a prick of pain, but it quickly passed. When it was done, Honz Yuve withdrew her hand and looked at him. "Look at your chest." Jiang Hao saw a red palm print on his chest, with crimson lines spreading around it. "What is this?" Jiang Hao asked in surprise. "Do you want to learn it?" Hong Yuye gestured for Jiang Hao to make tea. Unknowingly, they had already finished a whole pot. "Try a different kind of tea this time," she said. Jiang Hao could only take out Snow Queen Spring tea. It was worth fifty spirit stones. The one they had previously was the Thousand Flower Snow tea, which cost two hundred spirit stones per unit. It seemed he had to go buy some tea leaves again. Naturally, he couldn't improve his status, or else he wouldn't be able to afford it within a few years. He brewed a fresh batch of tea. "Does this technique have to be used like it was just now?"

"More or less," Hong Yuye said while sipping her tea.

Jiang Hao looked at the woman before him. However, her eyes turned icy, and he lowered his head involuntarily.

"What were you just thinking about?" Hong Yuye suddenly asked.

"I was thinking that I probably won't be able to learn this technique," Jiang Hao said reluctantly. He still didn't understand the purpose of this technique.

Later, he could appraise it. He wanted to see what kind of palm technique was involved, so he could understand his situation better..