

A Demoness 421

Chapter 421: We Were Tricked. Hahaha...

"Isn't that so?" The middle-aged man expressed some regret. "I wonder who composed it. Could you introduce me to the author?"

Jiang Hao shook his head. "He probably passed away."

"I see." The middle-aged man didn't press him further but raised the wine bottle in his hand. "Would you care for some wine, fellow disciple?" "Thank you for your kind offer, but I don't drink," Jiang Hao said.

"It seems it really wasn't your poem. What a pity..." The middle-aged man sighed in disappointment.

Jiang Hao didn't say anything.

"Well then, sorry for bothering you." The middle-aged man turned and walked away.

Jiang Hao paid no mind and moved away from the area and continued downstream.

Hong Yuye didn't turn around, and he didn't dare to look at her either.

The wooden boat didn't need to be returned. So, they left it downstream.

The middle-aged man watched the boat leave and stood beside the drunken man. "Such a shame... really a pity.'

The intoxicated man lay at the bow of the boat and gazed at his reflection in the water. He chuckled. "Unaware of the heavens while drunk. Sound asleep while crossing the Milky Way. I like it. Hahaha..."

His hair was disheveled, and his eyes were unfocused. He was pretty good-looking.

The middle-aged man beside him had a bit of stubble. He looked wise.

"Let's see where this poem came from."

With a wave of his hand, the starry river surged, and the constellations shifted.

Soon, he was left dumbfounded in place.

"Where are we?" the middle-aged man asked.

The man at the bow of the boat suddenly burst into laughter. "Right here! We were tricked. Hahaha..."

He laughed so hard that he couldn't stop. He found it amusing that they were deceived.

He trembled with laughter and suddenly fell into the water.

The middle-aged man paid no attention to his cries for help. "It really is him. It seems he doesn't like us. No, I should go see where they are and pay them a visit. "

"First...ugh... save me, please!" The drunk man struggled in the water.

Early the next morning, Jiang Hao walked out of the inn.

After returning from the river yesterday, they found an inn. It cost three spirit stones for one night.

They had taken two rooms.

The location was a bit secluded, and it was not a popular inn, but the facilities were decent.

It cost them six spirit stones a day for two rooms. That was about 180 spirit stones a month.

The sect's resources for three months wouldn't be enough to cover one month's stay here.

In places with more people, some things were cheap, while others were expensive.

Lodging shouldn't be a necessity for cultivators, but the prices were still steep.

The entire inn was covered by formations.

That morning, he brewed tea for Hong Yuye and bought some pastries. After that, he wanted to go out and attend to his own matters.

First, he needed to find a place to set up his stall. Then, he wanted to visit the Twin City Peak.

It was already May. In another month, the Dao Conference would take place. He had to be present then. Otherwise, the mission would fail.

In a few days, the gathering would likely begin again.

Xing might inquire about their location to make sure they could arrive on time.

The Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment wasn't a small matter. No one dared to be careless.

During the day, the streets were bustling with more people than at night.

People roamed the streets in groups of twos and threes.

Everything seemed normal.

After a while, Jiang Hao found a spot for his stall, which required spirit stones to activate.

After getting a rough idea of the prices, he spent ten spirit stones to open the stall for the day.

This time he displayed spirit herbs, pill formulas, pills, magical treasures, and talismans in his stall.

He didn't bring out the Blood Gourd. It might come in handy, so he wanted to keep it.

Before long, a woman appeared at his stall. She looked at the pill formula.

"How much is this?"

"Three thousand spirit stones," Jiang Hao said.

He wasn't sure about the value of the pill furnace in other places, but here it wasn't worth much.

Three thousand was the average price. Others were selling it for less. "This is too expensive." The woman took a quick look and put the furnace down.

It seemed she didn't even intend to negotiate.

Jiang Hao was speechless.

He could only wait.

“How much for a healing talisman?” asked a young man.

After hearing the price, the person walked away. “Too pricey.”

Jiang Hao had priced the items according to the standards of the Bright Moon Sect. He had also asked around about the prices here. While they might be a bit cheaper, the difference wasn't that significant. He didn't know why these people found his things so expensive.

Helplessly, he could only continue to wait.

By afternoon, Jiang Hao hadn't sold anything yet.

Doing business was proving more difficult than he had anticipated.

Although many people asked about his products, they didn't buy any. It was either too expensive or the items were too ordinary.

It wasn't until evening that he finally understood what was happening. He lacked competitiveness.

His items were commonplace and abundant in this place.

Anybody could find cheaper options at another stall. Even if the prices were similar, the other vendors had a variety of the same product. There was simply no reason for anyone to choose him.

‘Looks like I need to lower the prices.’

But he wasn't in a rush. He closed his stall and walked around. He asked for items and their prices to compare them to his own. He couldn't set the price too low, after all.

At the same time, he wanted to assess the strengths of these vendors, so he could prevent them from retaliating.

In the end, he decided to raise his cultivation to the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit Realm and lower the prices for his items.

He would only lower the items for the products that weren't available here.

And by leveraging these lower prices, he could encourage people to buy other things as well.

After bringing some food back to the inn, Jiang Hao once again set up his stall.

At night, with more people around, he didn't slack off. Luckily, the stall was reserved for the whole day, so he could use it any time.

"How much is this pill furnace?" asked a woman.

"Two thousand three hundred," Jiang Hao said.

"Too..." The woman was about to put it down when she caught herself.

She didn't voice her thoughts but picked up the pill furnace again to examine it more closely.

This time, she was looking at it with great interest.

After making sure the quality was decent, she doubted that she had heard wrong.

"How much for this in spirit stones?"

“Two thousand three hundred,” Jiang Hao said again.

He had seen similar pill furnaces before. The lowest price for it in this area was two thousand eight hundred.

Initially, he had priced it at three thousand, which was a fair valuation. Now, he was offering it at a cheaper rate than the market price.

Anyone who knew the market wouldn’t change their vendor unless they got a better deal.

“What about these pill formulas?” The woman didn’t put down the pill furnace this time.

“Five hundred for one,” Jiang Hao said. The pill formula was of the Gold Core Realm. It was ordinary but still worth five hundred spirit stones.

“What about these spirit herbs?” she asked again.

In the end, the woman spent seven thousand spirit stones in purchasing the pill furnace, some spirit herbs formulas, and pills.

With seven thousand spirit stones in hand, Jiang Hao sighed in relief. He realized that the items in Yu Xuan’s storage treasures were very valuable.

There was also a spirit sword. At the very least, it could be sold for four or five thousand spirit stones. In the sect, it would fetch five or six thousand.

Prices for magical treasures were generally lower here.

In the end, he sold the spirit sword for a lower price too. Unfortunately, the person only bought the sword and nothing else.

Fortunately, three thousand five hundred spirit stones for a spirit sword wasn't much of a loss.

He now had a total of 21,600 spirit stones.

At this point, even though he still had spirit herbs and pills to sell, Jiang Hao wanted to find a place that traded in magical treasures.

He still had a fair number of spirit swords to get rid of.

"You want to sell magical treasures to us?" The woman at the counter of one of the pavilions that dealt with magical treasures was amused. "We don't buy regular magical treasures here. What kind of magical treasure do you have?" Jiang Hao took out a spirit sword. It was just an ordinary one.

"This spirit sword is priced at ten spirit stones here, but we're not interested." The woman shook their head.

"I can sell it to you for four spirit stones each, and I have several thousands of them," Jiang Hao said.

The woman at the counter was taken aback. "Several thousand?"

"Fellow disciple, please come this way," the woman said politely and led the way..

Chapter 422: True Harmony

"Esteemed guest, please take care," said the woman as she bid him farewell. "Next time you have magical treasures, please consider us first. The prices are negotiable."

Jiang Hao gave a simple nod in return and turned to leave.

This time, he had sold all the spirit swords, spirit sabers, and spirit spears.

He had over four thousand spirit weapons. He sold them all and earned around sixteen thousand spirit stones.

Accumulating a lot of spirit weapons over the years wasn't without benefits.

He still had a few daggers left, but he kept them for sneak attacks.

Now, he had over thirty-seven thousand spirit stones.

The Immortal Peach Tree would cost over twenty or thirty thousand spirit stones for the next incarnation. He would still be left with several thousand spirit stones after that. For a moment, he didn't know how to spend it all.

Since he had reached a higher realm in cultivation, some spirit herbs no longer produced enough bubbles to help him in his cultivation.

The further he went, the more he needed divine and sacred items to trigger blue bubbles.

Even high-grade spirit herb seeds, which had a high probability of producing blue bubbles, had a much lower chance now.

'After returning, I need to find a way to get the Candlelight Pill Pavilion to send me some high-grade seeds for nurturing. If I somehow display a Golden Core

Realm cultivation, they might agree willingly.'

It was already late at night, and he should be heading back.

However, on his way back, two people blocked his path.

One was a disheveled-haired youth, and the other was a middle-aged man with a scruffy beard.

Jiang Hao remembered these two. He had met them both during that time on the boat.

Their strength exceeded his expectations.

"Fellow disciple, we meet again. It seems fate is at work." The middle-aged man smiled. "I am Wan Xiu. I'm Just a commoner who enjoys poems." The disheveled youth hiccuped. "I'm... Si Cheng."

"I am Jiang Hao Tian. What can I do for you, Seniors?" Jiang Hao asked.

It was clear they had come looking for him.

"We want to ask... does the poet you mentioned have any more verses in that poem?" Wan Xiu asked politely.

"I only remember that one verse," Jiang Hao said truthfully.

"Just one verse?" Wan Xiu sighed. "Will you be able to remember the rest of the verses?"

Jiang Hao frowned. The person seemed to be implying something.

'Does he think I composed the poem?'

Jiang Hao felt troubled. Such powerful individuals couldn't be easily fooled by a cultivator like him.

It would be best to clarify the situation as soon as possible.

“Senior, you might have misunderstood. I didn’t compose the poem,” Jiang Hao said.

“Then, is it the young woman from yesterday?” Si Cheng asked.

‘Young woman?’ Jiang Hao’s heart raced, but he remained calm.

“Not quite. It was composed by a deceased senior.”

Wan Xiu and Si Cheng exchanged a glance. They felt that Jiang Hao wasn’t being dishonest. Had they made a mistake?

The two invited Jiang Hao to their loft for a drink.

When an expert extended an invitation, he could only go along.

With Hong Yuye not around, he needed to be cautious in the presence of such seniors. Provoking them wouldn’t benefit him in any way.

Indeed, the city was brimming with formidable experts.

At the riverside loft, Jiang Hao and the two sat by the window. It overlooked the boats sailing on the river. It was quite lively tonight, with many figures bustling about on the largest boat.

“It’s a wonderful thing to be young. I heard that there’s a young woman on that boat, and she is exceptionally talented. I wonder if any of you will get to meet her,” Wan Xiu said with a smile.

“This wine is just average.” Si Cheng shook his head.

Jiang Hao focused on his food.

As for the bustling boat below, he wasn't interested at all.

In his eyes, even the most extraordinary woman was no different from an ordinary one.

"Aren't you curious about this young woman?" Wan Xiu asked.

"She's just the alchemist from the Bright Moon Sect. She shows off a little magic here and there. Her talent isn't that remarkable," Si Cheng casually said.

"Oh? Then who would you consider truly remarkable?" Wan Xiu asked. "Could it be that you fancy that newly recruited young woman?"

"She's still young and can't be considered truly remarkable. Mainly because she lacks her own opinions. Without unique ideas that leave an impact, she can't truly be called remarkable." Si Cheng sipped his wine.

"You should just focus on your drink," Wan Xiu said. "Don't be so critical. When you're young, that doesn't apply. It's impressive to be exceptionally talented to astound their peers."

He looked at Jiang Hao. "What do you think, fellow disciple?" "I think both perspectives are valid," said Jiang Hao.

Wan Xiu burst into laughter but didn't press him further.

Instead, he looked at the large boat outside.

At that moment, a figure flew out from the boat.

The first to emerge was a woman dressed in white. She appeared ethereal under the moonlight. Following closely behind was a scholarly-looking man. The two of them seemed to be comparing their movement techniques.

'Soul Ascension Realm...' Jiang Hao was surprised.

They were weaker than he had anticipated.

He had thought the majority of experts on this boat would be at the Return to Void Realm. It seemed that wasn't the case everywhere.

This made him feel safer. At least he wouldn't easily encounter those above the Soul Ascension Realm.

If they were at the Soul Ascension Realm, he could afford to escape. After all, with the Nine Heavens Battle Armor and the golden rings, he would have some means to flee from danger.

However, he couldn't be reckless. A moment of carelessness might mean severe injuries that he wouldn't be able to recover from.

"Is that young woman playing games with someone? Her movement technique is quite impressive," Wan Xiu said.

Si Cheng squinted his eyes and glanced outside.

"Her Thousand Dragon Step isn't bad. As for the person behind her... Is he using the Light and Dust Technique from the Astronomical Academy?"

"Light and Dust?" Jiang Hao asked.

"You don't know? That's normal. Few people practice Light and Dust, after all,"

Wan Xiu said.

Jiang Hao squinted and looked at the man more carefully.

There was indeed a vague resemblance in the technique he used.

However, it was just a faint similarity, and everything else was completely different.

He could barely keep up.

The reason why the man was able to keep up with the woman so far was solely due to his cultivation advantage.

The Thousand Dragon Step was quite formidable, while Light and Dust from the Astronomical Academy was rather ordinary.

“So... this is Light and Dust Technique...” Jiang Hao sighed.

This technique was different from the one he practiced.

“Speaking of Light and Dust, according to the people from the Astronomical Academy, it’s an extremely powerful body technique, but no matter how their people practice it, it ends up like this. It’s not too bad, but it’s not outstanding either,” Wan Xiu said.

“Is it a lost technique?” Jiang Hao asked.

“Not exactly. This body technique was learned by a relatively senior disciple of the Astronomical Academy while he was outside. It was a fortuitous encounter.

When he returned with it, he claimed it could astonish the world.

Unfortunately, he spent his whole life without achieving much with it. In the end, he left it within the Astronomical Academy for others to learn. He hoped someone would fulfill his last wish and achieve true harmony with the light,” said Wan Xiu.

“Unfortunately, after so many years, it’s still the same. No matter how one learns it, it remains like this. Maybe he didn’t learn it fully, or perhaps he created it himself... Either way, the end result is the same. That person was so sure when he spoke about it. It didn’t sound like he was lying. I’m also quite curious about the Light and Dust Technique that he envisioned,” said Si Cheng.

“I see.” Jiang Hao nodded.

It seemed that he had learned the complete Light and Dust Technique.

Just a moment ago, he was worried about being accused of stealing the Astronomical Academy’s technique. Now, it seemed they had learned it from outside their academy as well.

In that case, there was nothing to worry about..

Chapter 423: Don’t You Feel An Impulse To Compose A Poem?

Jiang Hao and the two seniors watched the two people chasing each other in the sky.

They didn’t use any other techniques. They just flashed by in the sky like stars.

It was breathtaking.

Boom!

The two figures suddenly clashed.

Immediately after, the man from the Astronomical Academy fell.

With a thud, he crashed into Jiang Hao and the others.

Thankfully, the loft wasn't damaged.

"Fellow disciples, did you lose?" Wan Xiu asked with a smile.

"Isn't it obvious?" Si Cheng munched on some peanuts.

Jiang Hao remained silent.

The opponent was at the middle stage of Soul Ascension Realm, which was roughly equivalent to his own strength. It was best to avoid unnecessary interactions.

However, he was quite curious about how he appeared right now.

Had these two seniors seen through him?

Hong Yuye hadn't given him any indication that she had seen through him. The young man looked at them. "Apologies... Seniors."

He hesitated for a moment. It was probably because he noticed that one of them was at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Jiang Hao understood the young man's hesitation. He always displayed his cultivation realm at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

At first, he had displayed his cultivation at the peak of Foundation establishment Realm, but Hong Yuye seemed to prefer it when he was at the late stage. So, he lowered his realm.

It was probably because Hong Yuye might have set her cultivation at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm. If he set it at the late stage, then he would be the junior and she would be the senior. He didn't mind this arrangement.

"Your talent is not bad. Why are you so determined to be just like everyone else and cultivate the Light and Dust Technique?" Wan Xiu asked.

The young man sighed. "I think it was my arrogance. I wanted to be the one to surpass everyone else who had failed at this."

At that point, the woman also landed in front of the loft. "Apologies for disturbing you, Seniors."

"No problem." Si Cheng waved his hand. "We three just happened to be sitting here. Don't worry."

Hua Han nodded. She was quite puzzled as she looked at Jiang Hao. She didn't understand why someone at the late stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm was present with the other two seniors.

Then, she respectfully said, "Then, I won't disturb you anymore."

"Wait a moment. Since we're here anyway, it would be stingy of us not to give you some guidance." Wan Xiu looked at Si Cheng and Jiang Hao. "Which one of you will come with me?"

"My abilities are limited," Jiang Hao said.

He couldn't guide these people.

These people were in the Soul Ascension Realm and were from immortal sects. What authority did he even have to provide them with guidance?

These two might have a slightly better impression of him due to Hong Yuye's influence.

“My abilities are also limited,” Si Cheng said.

Hua Han thought Jiang Hao was being honest, but when the other senior said the same, she was confused.

She wondered if this Foundation Establishment Realm cultivator could really provide her with some guidance.

The disciples of the Astronomical Academy remained silent.

Wan Xiu looked at Hua Han. “Alright then, you can choose one of us at random.

If they’re willing to guide you, it’s your fate. If not, then it’s not meant to be.”

Wan Xiu’s casual approach made Jiang Hao feel that the strong were often unpredictable.

It would be best to choose Senior Wan Xiu.

After all, he was the one who initiated this.

Hua Han fell silent for a moment, then she looked at Jiang Hao. Following that, her white sleeves flicked, and she whisked away the Half-Moon Blade Jiang Hao had placed at the side.

“Senior, please pardon me.”

Instantly, she activated the Myriad Dragon Travel Technique and left.

Jiang Hao was speechless. That blade had cost him three thousand spirit stones!

He hadn’t expected his saber to be snatched away.

“This kid doesn’t know her own limit.” Si Cheng sighed.

“Fellow disciple, do you want to intervene or should I?” asked Wan Xiu.

“I’ll handle it,” Jiang Hao said helplessly.

The opponent was at the early stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. Luckily, he could keep up.

Then, his cultivation changed. He was now also at the early stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. This surprised He Gu from the Astronomical Academy.

Wan Xiu and Si Cheng were not surprised. They seemed interested in seeing how Jiang Hao would retrieve the item.

Under the moonlight, a faint light radiated from Jiang Hao’s body, but it quickly became as insignificant as dust.

Soon, he vanished from his spot.

He Gu didn’t know how it was possible, but Jiang Hao seemed to be everywhere in the moonlight and nowhere at all.

He Gu felt deeply moved. He felt that he was looking at something extraordinary. Yet, he couldn’t put a finger on it.

At this moment, Si Cheng opened his mouth in astonishment, “Light and

Dust?”

“Indeed... Light and Dust.” Wan Xiu was also surprised.

They suddenly understood why Jiang Hao had asked about the Light and Dust Technique before. It turned out this was how Light and Dust was supposed to be truly used.

“To comprehend the heavens and the earth with one’s state of mind, to merge with them, and borrow power from them... Impressive! I wonder how it will be at its peak.” Wan Xiu looked at the drunk man next to him with a smile. “Weren’t you just saying you wanted to witness what true harmony with Light and Dust looks like?”

“Walking through the world while hiding among the crowd.” Su Cheng chuckled. “It is no wonder he seemed extraordinary.”

At this moment, He Gu was filled with excitement. ‘This is what Light and Dust is supposed to be like!’

Just a glance told him it was real. To be in harmony with the light and the dust at the same time...

The reason he couldn’t learn it properly was because he couldn’t enter the right state of mind.

In the next instant, Jiang Hao was back. The blade was at his side again.

Hua Han, who was still flying in the sky, felt puzzled. But when she noticed the blade was missing, she knew that Jiang Hao had already taken action.

Returning to the loft, she assumed the two seniors had done it.

However, before she could speak, He Gu suddenly bowed to Jiang Hao. “Thank you so much, Senior. It was an honor to see you do that.”

Jiang Hao didn’t know what to say. He had two movement techniques that he used. One was Demonic Sound Thousand Miles, and the other one was Light and Dust Technique.

Demonic Sound Thousand Miles was too obvious, so he had chosen to use Light and Dust.

Hua Han was astonished. She didn't even know what had happened.

"Alright. That's it for today." Si Cheng waved his hand, and the two people returned to their boat.

"Fellow Disciple, what are you doing at the Bright Moon Sect?" Wan Xiu asked.

"I am here for the Dao Conference," said Jiang Hao. "Do you know the purpose of this conference?" Wan Xiu asked.

Jiang Hao shook his head.

Being too truthful might lead to trouble.

Wan Xiu didn't mind. He looked at the beautiful scenery below. "Don't you feel an impulse to compose a poem at such a beautiful scene?"

'They still don't believe that I didn't write that poem.' Jiang Hao felt helpless.

Afterward, they pulled Jiang Hao onto a boat.

In the end, he still didn't compose a poem.

They were a bit disappointed.

After that, Jiang Hao bid them farewell.

This way, they probably wouldn't bother him anymore.

Even if they really believed that he wrote that poem, he was truly out of ideas.

“Take this with you.” Si Cheng tossed him a jade pendant. “This item will allow you to enter the Bright Moon Sect and participate in the Dao Conference.” “Thank you, Senior.” Jiang Hao was a bit surprised but still nodded in gratitude.

Then, he turned and left.

In the Eternal Traveler Inn, Chu Chuan felt restless.

He looked at the beast before him and sought its advice.. “Lord Beast, what should I do tomorrow so that Chu Jie won’t think I’m poor?”

Chapter 424: Lord Beast is Influential

The spirit beast stood on the table and said solemnly, “As long as you are spiritually rich, your Chu Jie won’t ever see you as a poor wretch.”

“Spiritually rich?” Chu Chuan asked. He didn’t understand.

“Clothes,” Xiao Li said. “My mother used to tell me not to wear torn clothes, or else people would think our family can’t afford clothes, which means we’re very poor. But my parents never bought clothes for themselves. They always bought them for me.” Her voice trembled as she spoke.

Chu Chuan felt that Xiao Li was still like a child. After all these years, she hadn’t grown much taller. He was now much taller than Xiao Li, but unfortunately, he still couldn’t match her in strength.

Now that Chu Chuan had advanced to the Foundation Establishment Realm, he was excited. However, as he got closer to his goal, the only thing that worried him was seeing Chu Jie again.

He couldn't quite imagine what Chu Jie might look like now.

The next day, Chu Chuan said, "Spirit beast, I'm setting off. How about... you come with me?" He was dressed in some decent outfit that he had bought yesterday. It had cost him two spirit stones, and he felt a bit reluctant.

Only the spirit beast and Xiao Li could afford not to care about spending spirit stones on unnecessary things like these.

"Don't worry, Chu Chuan. Although I don't have much else, I do have many friends. Just mention my name when you're out, and it will be fine," the spirit beast said in assurance.

"Really?" Chu Chuan couldn't believe it. However, the spirit beast had no reason to deceive him. Seeing Xiao Li nodding, he suddenly thought that maybe it would really work.

But for such matters, it was better not to use it unless absolutely necessary. After saying goodbye to the spirit beast and Xiao Li, Chu Chuan took a deep breath and headed to the location.

On the way, he straightened his clothes and fixed his hair. He was afraid of embarrassing himself if he appeared messy.

'Why am I so nervous?' Chu Chuan wondered. After all, he was just meeting Chu Jie. There was no need to be so nervous.

Perhaps it was because of his imagination. Chu Jie had become something of a prodigy.

They were supposed to meet outside the city on the way to the Bright Moon Sect. There was a large tree there.

When Chu Chuan arrived, he didn't see anyone. That was expected since he had arrived early. He thought that coming early would help him prepare mentally, but waiting made him feel even more anxious.

He kept wondering if Chu Jie would be disappointed and if he would embarrass himself in front of her. Besides these concerns, he also wanted to make a good impression.

After some time, Chu Chuan saw a figure approaching. It was a young woman wearing a light blue robe. In just a few breaths, they were less than a foot apart.

Her hair was tied into a bun. Her skin was as fair as snow. She was beautiful.

Although her robe was simple enough, she still looked radiant. It was like she was a moon among the stars.

Chu Chuan couldn't believe his eyes. Despite Jiang Hao's repeated warnings that Chu Jie was extraordinary, and she might have changed over the years, Chu Chuan was still taken aback.

Her presence was too captivating. It made everyone else feel insignificant.

"Chu... Chu Jie?" Chu Chuan stammered.

She opened her mouth as if to address him as "Young Master," but she couldn't

bring herself to say it.

"Just call me Chu Chuan." He smiled awkwardly.

"Young... Young Master," Chu Jie said hesitantly. Chu Chuan smiled softly. "Have you been well? I almost didn't recognize you." "I didn't recognize you either," Chu Jie said.

She approached Chu Chuan somewhat awkwardly. "You're different from what I imagined."

"What did you imagine?" Chu Chuan asked curiously.

“Like some of the seniors here... Elegant and refined.. ‘

Chu Chuan chuckled. He had always been on the receiving end of beatings. How could he be elegant and refined?

“Have I changed a lot?” Chu Jie asked.

“Well, yes... in a good way. You stand out like a blossoming flower,” Chu Chuan said.

Chu Jie nodded absentmindedly as if she had heard similar compliments many times before.

“By the way, since we rarely get to see each other, how about we go shopping? I’ll buy you a gift,” Chu Chuan said.

“Sure.” Chu Jie nodded and smiled. “I know a place with beautiful hairpins.”

“Then, let’s go,” Chu Chuan said.

A hairpin was something he could afford.

After a while, the two of them arrived at a quaint street with few people. However, Chu Chuan could sense that this place was extraordinary. He couldn’t quite put his finger on what made it special.

“It’s up ahead,” Chu Jie said.

Chu Chuan nodded and followed along. There was no turning back now.

He had over five hundred spirit stones on him, so he should be able to buy something nice.

Soon, they arrived at a shop that sold wooden products. There weren't many customers there. Behind the counter sat a young woman.

"This is it. The hairpins here are the most beautiful, and they don't have duplicates," Chu Jie said and smiled.

Chu Chuan nodded. "Then, I'll buy one."

Chu Jie looked at some of the things and showed them to Chu Chuan. In the end, she picked a light blue hairpin. Chu Chuan looked at it carefully and realized that it was just an ordinary hairpin. It wasn't a magical treasure. He felt relieved.

However, when the receptionist told him the price, he was taken aback. "Six hundred spirit stones?"

"Yes, six hundred," the shopkeeper said.

Chu Chuan was stunned. How could a simple hairpin cost six hundred spirit stones? He only had 570 spirit stones on him. Should he ask Chu Jie to pay for it? That was too embarrassing.

"Um..." Chu Chuan recalled what the spirit beast had told him. "Please, Lord Beast, help me," he whispered.

"Huh? Did you say something?" asked the woman at the counter.

"I was just asking where do I put the spirit stones?" said Chu Chuan. His face turned red.

"Put them here," said the woman as she brought out a treasure bowl. "If it's the full amount, it'll glow. But if the money is short, it'll spit it out."

"I see," Chu Chuan said awkwardly.

He then placed all the spirit stones into the bowl. He was only short by thirty.

He hoped it could be overlooked. "Please, Lord beast, help me."

As soon as Chu Chuan placed all the spirit stones into the bowl, it lit up. That meant the bowl was full of all six hundred spirit stones.

'Huh?' Chu Chuan was stunned. 'Is the spirit beast really that powerful?'

"No, thank you." Chu Jie quickly shook her head.

The two of them walked out of the store. On the side of the shop, Jiang Hao stood at the entrance. He let out a sigh.

Even from a distance, he could tell how uncomfortable Chu Chuan had felt. If it weren't for the spirit beast's sudden intervention, Chu Chuan would likely have faced some difficulties.

The reason the treasure bowl was filled was that the spirit beast had used its innate talent for deception to supplement the missing spirit stones.

When he turned to look at the other side, Xiao Li was following along with the spirit beast.

Jiang Hao sighed softly. Some things and some people never changed..

Chapter 425: A Simple Poem

Watching them leave, Jiang Hao understood that Chu Chuan's journey was just the beginning.

When he entered the Bright Moon Sect later, he might face some challenges, but those challenges wouldn't crush him.

Everything that couldn't kill him would ultimately make him stronger.

However, he couldn't predict the direction where those two would end up.

The human heart is the most difficult thing to understand. Chu Chuan was somewhat predictable, but he had no knowledge of Chu Jie's personality. It was impossible to guess.

Afterward, he began searching for flower petals.

Hong Yuye wanted a bath, and he needed to find Silver Moon Petals.

The Silver Moon Petals were expensive, but they were also rare.

This street was the only place to find them. This street had stalls from seniors of the sect who had nothing better to do. They sold various items, including handicrafts, pills, and magical treasures that they didn't want to throw away.

Therefore, the prices were uncertain, and there were many different things. After searching for a long time, he finally found the Silver Moon Petals. They cost five hundred spirit stones per portion, which was relatively cheap. He bought five portions in total to ensure he had enough for later. He now had thirty-five thousand spirit stones left.

When he returned to the inn, he felt the stone tablet vibrating. It was a gathering scheduled for tonight. It was probably a last-minute meeting related to the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment.

Back at the inn, Hong Yuye was bathing. Jiang Hao faced away from the folding screen as she bathed. To distract himself, he mentioned the gathering.

"Tonight?" Hong Yuye asked.

“Yes, tonight.” Jiang Hao nodded.

Soon, the sound of water pouring over her body followed.

To avoid thinking too much, he decided to go to the Twin City Peak first to gather information.

“Do you have a map of the Bright Moon Sect?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Yes.” Jiang Hao nodded. He had seen one while setting up his stall and bought a copy. It wasn’t too expensive, but there were cheaper versions with limited information. Those only covered the surrounding routes and names. When he took it out, the map flew to the folding screen behind him.

“Where do you want to go?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Twin City Peak,” Jiang Hao said. He hoped she would offer some insight.

However, she remained silent. It seemed she had nothing to say.

The water splashed.

Jiang Hao couldn’t help but wonder if she was still looking at the map.

Turning around might be fatal, so he waited patiently. After a long while, he heard her stepping out of the water.

Soon, she stood beside him. She was dressed in a red and white gown.

A faint fragrance entered his senses. It was somewhat familiar and unfamiliar at the same time.

He glanced sideways and saw that her long hair was damp at the tips.

"Let's go out," Hong Yuye said. She opened the door and walked out.

Jiang Hao glanced at the tub. With a wave of his hand, he disposed of the water.

Inside the Bright Moon Sect, He Du was deep in thought in one of the courtyards. He felt like he missed something. He paced around and hoped he would figure it out soon.

'Perhaps it's the state of mind? What kind of state of mind is needed to use Light and Dust?' He Du understood how to practice it, but he didn't know what he was doing wrong.

At this moment, a middle-aged man walked in. "Are you still thinking about Light and Dust? Just give up. It's useless. If it were really that powerful, the one who left the technique behind wouldn't have met a tragic end."

"No, Senior Chang, you're wrong," He Du said in excitement. "I've seen the real Light and Dust Technique being used. He was nowhere and everywhere at once."

"Is it a kind of body technique?" Chang Zizai asked.

"Yes, that's right." He Du nodded. "I received guidance from a senior, but I still couldn't comprehend it. Perhaps it's my state of mind that's lacking. The most crucial aspect of Light and Dust doesn't seem to be the technique itself but the state of mind."

"State of mind?" Chang Zizai shook his head. "Many people have a high state of mind, but no one has been able to learn that technique perfectly. Who is this person you're talking about?"

"Well..." He Du thought for a moment and then shook his head. "I don't know, but Hua Han from the Bright Moon Sect might know. It seems she knew one of the seniors that we met."

"Tell me the whole thing," Chang Zizai said.

He Du recounted everything that had happened, and Chang Zizai listened attentively. After hearing it all, he was surprised. It seemed that those three individuals were quite something.

"I need to go and ask," Chang Zizai said.

"By the way, our disciples have been criticized for morning reading exercises outside the sect. Should we consider suspending it?" He Du asked.

"No need. It doesn't affect them," Chang Zizai said.

"But we've been unable to refute their claim, and it's quite uncomfortable," He Du said.

"Don't worry about it," Chang Zizai said.

"Alright."

"Has anything else happened lately?"

"Well, not much, but I heard a poem in the Star River."

"A poem?"

"Yes, or half of one anyway. It goes, "Unaware of the heavens while drunk.

Sound asleep while crossing the Milky Way.""

Chang Zizai looked surprised but quickly shook his head. "It's just a line from a poem. It doesn't mean anything. Focus on your cultivation."

He Du nodded. His mind was focused on Light and Dust.

At night, Jiang Hao stood atop the Twin City Peak. These mountain peaks were extremely high and offered a wide view of the city below.

“Is this place truly just a simple location? It looks so grand.” Jiang Hao was
amazed.

“It’s at the end, so the location isn’t important,” Hong Yuye said. She then turned to face him.
“Tomorrow, let’s go and check out the Bright Moon Sect.”

“Alright.” Jiang Hao nodded. It would be easy to enter with the item given to him by that senior. If he were alone, he might not dare to use it, but with Hong Yuye, it was much safer.

They stayed on the mountain peak until midnight when the gathering finally began. Jiang Hao didn’t hesitate and took out the stone tablet and entered it.

Soon, all four of them were gathered there. This time, Dan Yuan didn’t appear.

“This is an impromptu gathering. It seems Senior Dan Yuan has urgent matters to attend to,” Xing said.

Liu and Gui weren’t surprised. It seemed that such things had happened before.

Jiang Hao remained silent.

“Have you all arrived?” Xing asked.

“I’m already in Star-Moon City,” Gui said.

"I'm here too," Jiang Hao said.

"From what I know, many people outside are aware of the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment. Although many hope for success, some want to take advantage and disrupt it," Xing said as he looked at Jiang Hao and Gui. "So, it could be quite dangerous, but your area isn't that important, so the level of danger will be reduced. However, I'm not sure if it's suitable for you. Have you checked out the location?"

"I have no issues. But there's something I need to remind you. I'll be entering that area, and it's best if your people don't get too close. Otherwise, I can't guarantee their safety," Gui said.

"No problem." Xing nodded. Then, he turned to Jiang Hao. "What about you, Jing?"

"I'm fine with it," Jiang Hao said. Hong Yuye hadn't made any requests.

"That being said, I must remind you that The End of All Things might also participate. They're unpredictable, and your situation may not be as optimistic as you expect," Liu said.

Jiang Hao, on the other hand, felt delighted. This might be an opportunity to capture someone from The End of All Things. It would greatly help with his investigation.

After all, it was more dangerous for him if he made no progress in this undercover task..

Chapter 426: In Need Of An Extraordinary Genius

It wasn't surprising that The End of All Things was involved, given their goal of destruction.

The Bright Moon Sect should be able to handle them.

However, it was a bit troublesome because they were everywhere, and no one knew if they had already entered the Bright Moon Sect.

Anyone from any sect could potentially be a member of The End of All Things.

"It's early June right now. You'll need to go to the respective areas. I'm not entirely sure how long you'll need to stay there, but it might tentatively be three months at most," Xing said.

"Three months without doing anything is a bit boring. Can we at least watch the Dao Conference?" asked Gui.

"You can use formations to teleport, or you can enter the Bright Moon Sect during regular times to watch the conference. The most crucial part is being there during the critical moments," Xing said.

Jiang Hao nodded. This arrangement was convenient for him.

Getting there was easy. Moreover, he had the golden rings, so it was convenient. If Hong Yuye decided to lend a hand, it would be even easier.

"I think there might be quite a few people taking action this time. I've heard some rumors that suggest that the Bright Moon Sect is planning to seize others' luck to complete their Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment. This is not good news and could potentially affect the Dao Conference," Liu said.

"I've heard about it too, but many people tend to believe rumors rather than the confirmations provided by the sects," Gui said.

Jiang Hao hadn't heard of such rumors. Even if he had, he wouldn't have believed them. They were just using the situation to their advantage. If there were any issues, Hong Yuye would have told him.

Besides, depriving others of their luck was not as easy and contradicted the principles of Heavenly Dao. It was impossible to complete the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment and become a person of great luck.

"That's indeed what I've heard. It was probably spread by the Fallen Immortal Clan. If things get too serious, it might affect the success of the Heavenly Dao

Foundation Establishment. However, the current Sect Master of the Bright

Moon Sect has gone to the Clear Sky School. It seems he intends to invite

Shang An to assist with the Heavenly Dao. I believe the genius in the Corpse Realm could also accomplish this, but we don't know where they are. Do any of you have any information about that?" Xing asked. He looked at Gui and Jiang Hao. They were the only ones who had entered the Corpse Realm.

Unfortunately, both of them shook their heads.

Jiang Hao knew that the extraordinary genius was probably Hong Yuye because he had been there with her. Since she was attending the conference, there should be no problem. There was no need for Shang An to be involved.

After discussing some more details about the Bright Moon Sect, Liu brought up something important.

"There's something I need to remind you all of. Do you remember the changes in the seabed? It seems someone has entered it and discovered that it's not about a treasure, but about someone breaking a seal. This happened several years ago. Also, the issue with the small island that we discussed earlier has been uncovered. It was someone from The End of All Things searching for something. Now, they are under attack. Although it was destroyed, it's unclear whether they found what they were looking for."

Jiang Hao grew concerned. "Earth Extreme Silent Pearl," he said.

It made sense that they would search for the Earth Extreme Silent Pearl using the remnants of the Earth Extreme Heart Devouring Pearl.

This was a matter that Jiang Hao could only remind them of. He couldn't get involved. However, it left others feeling concerned.

Jiang Hao's words shocked everyone. He had mentioned it before too and told them that The End of All Things was looking for it. Gui was aghast.

"Looks like I need to pay more attention to this." Liu sighed. This time, he was in trouble overseas.

After some more discussion, they ended the gathering. When Jiang Hao woke up, he saw the moonlight. Under the moonlight stood an elegant person with her hair swaying in the wind. There was also a faint fragrance in the air. When she turned around, her gaze was calm. She said, "Tell me everything." Her eyes, even though calm, were still astonishing under the moonlight.

After taking a deep breath, Jiang Hao began to tell her everything about the Bright Moon Sect, the arrangements made by Xing, the rumors, and the sect's response. Throughout his explanation, Hong Yuye remained silent.

When he mentioned the Earth Extreme Silent Pearl, she raised an eyebrow. "Do you think the pearl is overseas?"

"Isn't it?" Jiang Hao was a bit surprised.

However, Hong Yuye didn't respond. Instead, she smiled mysteriously.

For a moment, Jiang Hao felt uneasy but couldn't get an answer. Helplessly, he continued to speak about other matters.

Apart from the Earth Extreme Silent Pearl, they didn't need to pay much attention to anything else for now.

The Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment would require patience. They didn't need to worry too much about what might happen. The Bright Moon Sect would handle it on their own. They could only do what was within their capabilities.

Once they had confirmed the situation, they would proceed to the Bright Moon Sect.

Ordinary people couldn't approach the Bright Moon Sect easily, as it was covered by formations.

However, since the Dao Conference was happening, finding the Bright Moon

Sect was now easier. Nevertheless, not just anyone could enter the sect's gates.

Before dawn, they arrived at the Bright Moon Sect's gate. It was a passageway leading to the mountains. The moon cast silvery shadows.

Jiang Hao was astonished. It was indeed different from the gates of the Heavenly Note Sect.

At the mountain gate, there stood a woman. There was also a young man beside her who was drinking.

Jiang Hao was impressed. The auras of these two individuals seemed endless. It was like a vast ocean.

Their spiritual energy surged like tumultuous waves.

"May I ask if you two have an invitation?" asked the woman.

Jiang Hao took out the jade pendant given to him by the man yesterday. It had the words "Bright Moon" written on it, with sun and moon motifs surrounding it.

When the woman saw the jade pendant, she was somewhat surprised. She then gestured for the young man sitting on the ground to take a look.

With a glance, the young man instantly sobered up.

He then stood up and returned the jade pendant with both hands. "I apologize for not recognizing two esteemed seniors. Please forgive my rudeness." "Please forgive us for any inconvenience," said the woman in respect. Jiang Hao took back the jade pendant. He felt a little embarrassed.

The strength of these two individuals far exceeded his.

The reason he possessed this jade pendant was because of Hong Yuye, but he couldn't reveal that.

After exchanging some polite words, he walked inside with Hong Yuye.

Watching the two depart, the woman let out a sigh of relief.

"Has the grand master come out of seclusion?" she asked.

"How should I know? Anyone who can obtain the ancestral jade pendant is not ordinary. But they seem to be from different stages of the Foundation Establishment Realm. I thought they were from some small sect and were here to join the event," said the young man.

"Being gatekeepers is not an easy task." The woman, Ning Yin, sighed.

"If it weren't for you, we wouldn't have been sentenced to a hundred years of gatekeeping," said the drunk man, Ying Shuitian.

"What's there to be scared of? Many seniors are still waiting in line behind us to take their turn as gatekeepers. It's said that they're scheduled for duty a thousand years from now. We got ahead of them, so we can be a bit proud,"

Ning Yin said.

Ying Shuitian was speechless.

When he thought about it, it made sense. Most juniors who weren't strong enough didn't get a chance at all. They didn't have the same level of freedom as Ning Yin and Ying Shuitian, who could engage in conversation while on gatekeeping duty..

Chapter 427: I Can't Stop Laughing

Entering the Bright Moon Sect, Jiang Hao felt somewhat strange.

Were the people of the Bright Moon Sect really this powerful?

Even the gatekeeper was so strong that he felt like even the leaders of ordinary sects might not be able to match them.

If the Bright Moon Sect was like this throughout, then the Clear Sky School must be similar. It was no wonder Shang An's master wasn't even allowed through the gates.

By now, it was already getting brighter outside.

Jiang Hao looked around the Bright Moon Sect. It was surrounded by a road of magical patterns, and immortal cranes circled in the sky.

The spiritual energy here far surpassed that of the Heavenly Note Sect.

Before, he thought that the Heavenly Note Sect was pretty good, but compared to this place, it seemed somewhat poor.

The foundation of the Bright Moon Sect was simply incomparable to sects like the Heavenly Note Sect.

In their sect, disciples in the Soul Ascension Realm were rare. But here, even Return to Void Realm cultivators were quite common.

"This place is indeed extraordinary." Hong Yuye glanced at Jiang Hao. "Where did you get that jade pendant?"

“It was given to me by a senior. The one who got drunk on the Star River? He gave it to me,” Jiang Hao said.

“Why don’t you stay here, then?” Hong Yuye asked.

Jiang Hao shook his head.

The real reason he was being valued wasn’t because of the poem he recited. It was because Hong Yuye was by his side.

To make them look at him with higher regard, she must be on equal footing with them.

If he wanted to stay in the Bright Moon Sect with the jade pendant, Hong Yuye would have to stay, too.

If that happened, it didn’t make much difference where they went.

Furthermore, offending the Heavenly Note Sect would lead to trouble. Even if they crossed the boundaries of the East and West, they would come after them.

It wasn’t worth it.

After walking for some time, they heard some disciples reading aloud.

Jiang Hao looked over and saw that there were scholars far away engaged in morning reading.

They exuded a strong aura of righteousness.

“I can’t stand these scholars. They disturb our rest every day. Can’t they do their morning reading somewhere further away?” said a woman.

Jiang Hao was curious and approached them.

Hong Yuye followed. She seemed curious about the scholars too.

But the closer they got, the more they felt unwelcome.

"Here they come again... Louder every day as if they're afraid the others won't know they're reading in the morning." A young man sighed. "Every day at this time, I have to get up and listen to them reading. It was interesting at first, but now it's just noisy."

"I've already reported it to the Bright Moon Sect's people, but it seems they haven't responded," said a woman helplessly.

"Why not use some sound-proof formations?" Jiang Hao asked.

"No way, their righteous aura is too strong. Ordinary formations are useless. Besides, it doesn't really have that much impact. No one wants to put in the effort to set up such a formation," said a young man.

"That's true." Jiang Hao nodded.

There really wasn't much that could be done.

"Then, why not find another place?" he asked.

"Who should find another place? Them or us?" asked a woman at the Primordial Spirit Realm.

"If they won't move, why should we? They can read, and we can complain. Let's see who can stand it longer," said someone furiously.

“Is that so? It seems you have quite a grudge against the scholars of the Astronomical Academy. The aura of righteousness can cleanse the evil energy of the world. If you listen attentively, there are benefits to it,” said a middle-aged man as he walked over to them.

He was a senior at the Astronomical Academy and had come over to see if he could persuade these people to let the scholar be.

“That’s true, but after the first cleansing, what’s the point of further cleansing? Isn’t that just asking for trouble?” asked someone.

“Just listen attentively and understand the wisdom of the sages. Gain insight into the hearts of the sages,” said the middle-aged man.

“These are scholars from the Academy of Celestial Arts, not just the

Astronomical Academy. The world has more than just one Astronomical

Academy. Everyone has their own path and ideals. If the Astronomical Academy is considered correct just because it’s powerful, then where does the Clear Sky School stand?” a man asked.

Chang Zizai froze. He then smiled.

Jiang Hao was just listening on the sidelines and didn’t participate in the debate.

There was really no right or wrong in such matters. After all, no one could prove it.

Some people read in the morning, while others just made noise. It was common behavior. After all, in the world of the Four Great Sects, how could just one sect be dominant?

“Do you also find the morning reading too noisy?” Chang Zizai asked Jiang Hao.

“Not really.” Jiang Hao shook his head and looked at the scholars from the Astronomical Academy.

The sound of disciples reading reminded him of something.

Upon hearing this, Chang Zizai was delighted that someone had not come to speak ill of them.

However, the people beside him were not convinced. “Why? Because you’re also from the Astronomical Academy? Are you also one of them?”

Jiang Hao pointed to the brightening sky. “Three watches see the lamp’s light glow. Five times the rooster’s crow. This is when a true man studies.”

Chang Zizai suddenly froze. He repeated Jiang Hao’s words. “Three watches see the lamp’s light glow. Five times the rooster’s crow. This is when a true man studies... Wonderful!”

He wanted to ask Jiang Hao about the continuation of this poem. But when he looked up, he was gone. ‘Where is he? Where did he go?’ In his shock, he had lost the opportunity to befriend the person.

“Did you see where that person went?” Chang Zizai asked the people around him.

They also seemed surprised by the poem. None of them had seen where Jiang Hao had gone.

Chang Zizai left in frustration. He needed to go and find the person.

Meanwhile, Wan Xiu and his companion happened to arrive there while wandering around.

They had also heard that someone was cursing the scholars from the Astronomical Academy, so they came to join in on the commotion.

“I’ll curse them later, and you throw a few spirit stones to cheer for me. Others will surely follow suit and pay you in spirit stones. Then, I’ll buy you a drink, ” Wan Xiu said.

"You have no shame." His companion gave him a disdainful look. "Unless you're buying Flower Wine tonight."

"Of course." Wan Xiu laughed.

The two heard the sound of reading and quickly approached the crowd and found that these people didn't seem to be complaining anymore.

Something was not right.

Wan Xiu approached someone and asked, "Aren't you angry?"

"No... I'm not angry anymore," the person said.

"Why?"

"Three watches see the lamp's light glow. Five times the rooster's crow. This is when a true man studies."

After saying that, he took out a book.

Wan Xiu was astonished. "Did you write that poem?"

"No, it's not mine. It's from someone... I don't know where they went," said the young man.

Wan Xiu asked about the person who had recited the poem.

The answer he got was that the person was nothing special. It was just an ordinary person along with a woman. He was at the late stage and the woman was at the peak of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

Wan Xiu was stunned.

Meanwhile, his companion burst into laughter. "You've been fooled again. He said he didn't remember, and now he suddenly comes up with another line.

He's just messing with you. Hahaha! I can't stop laughing."

His companion was laughing so hard that he was holding his stomach.

Wan Xiu looked around. He saw a large lake and kicked his companion into it.

With a loud splash, the drunk man fell in and called for help..

Chapter 428: A Toad Chasing After A Swan

In the Bright Moon Sect, the narrow mountain path was imbued with magical patterns along the stairs. It seemed to transform into something extraordinary by the influence of immortal energy.

Every step gave off a sense of stability and peace. It made the mind and the heart calm.

The surrounding flower bushes were extraordinary as well. Their auras harmonized, and the spiritual energy flowed.

Frequently, cranes flew by in the sky.

Jiang Hao and Hong Yuye were side by side as they walked up the stairs.

“Was that poem you just recited taught to you by your father?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Yes, I heard it from my father when I was a child.” Jiang Hao nodded.

It was indeed true, but it was not his father.

“Is it good?” Hong Yuye asked.

“Not necessarily. It might evoke some feelings in scholars, but other cultivators might see it as pretentious or meaningless,” Jiang Hao said.

“And you don’t mind it?” she asked.

Jiang Hao nodded.

A thousand people would come and go. Jiang Hao only needed to stay true to himself.

As time passed, his cultivation would continue to grow, and his lifespan would increase. He would encounter many people along the way.

Some would just pass by, while others would barely cross paths with him. These people often held grudges or spoke ill of him because of a single word he said. Should he really care about them?

They were just passing travelers and were fleeting like clouds in the sky. Such people would be plentiful in the world. Why should he bother with them?

The sound of footsteps resounded, and Hong Yuye continued toward the mountain peak.

On the way, she looked at him and smiled. "What if someone still wants you to compose poetry for them?"

"I really don't know how to." Jiang Hao smiled wryly. Hong Yuye fell silent and continued to climb the stone steps.

Jiang Hao followed her.

After a while, they reached the top of the mountain, which seemed to be a place for practicing techniques.

Many people were engaged in discussions. This kind of cultivation environment was beneficial to many.

Jiang Hao's gaze stopped at a corner. Chu Chuan was also practicing there.

Although he had already reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, he had not stopped cultivating. It seemed he was eager to become stronger. At this moment, a few people approached Chu Chuan. Jiang Hao was curious.

He watched to see what would happen.

Chu Chuan also noticed that some people were approaching him. Three men and two women.

He stopped cultivating and looked at the five people.

"Are you Chu Chuan?" the leader of the group asked with contempt.

"Who are you?" Chu Chuan asked politely.

"I heard you're from the same hometown as Chu Jie." Yu Sha sneered. "With your shabby appearance, you're not here to swindle Chu Jie's spirit stones, are you? She's still young and inexperienced. What vile things are you planning?"

"Do you think we don't know what people like you might be up to?" Chu Chuan frowned. "What could I possibly be planning?" he asked coldly.

"Don't you know yourself?" Yu Sha stepped closer to Chu Chuan, and his aura spread out.

In an instant, a powerful aura pressed down on Chu Chuan.

"Do you really think it's so remarkable to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm at a young age?" Yu Sha sneered. "It looks like you're solely focused on improving your cultivation while being utterly clueless about everything else. Do you honestly think we would believe you when you say you came all this way just to meet the person from the same hometown? You're probably a toad chasing after the swan."

Chu Chuan was infuriated as he stared at the person in front of him. He seemed ready to fight.

But at this moment, Yu Sha's hand rested on Chu Chuan's shoulder, and his strength was suppressed.

"Am I right? Are you angry because you're embarrassed you got caught?" Yu

Sha asked. "Look into the mirror once in a while. Don't you know who Junior Sister Chu Jie is? She is the most precious treasure of the Bright Moon Sect. One of the most powerful sects in the world."

"And what are you worth?" Chu Chuan retorted.

"You country bumpkin, don't provoke me. During the Dao Conference, I'll request a suppression of cultivation to fight you. Then you'll understand what despair is, and you'll realize you're nothing," Yu Sha said.

Yu Sha withdrew his aura and turned to leave.

At this point, a young woman looked at Chu Chuan. “How many spirit stones does your sect provide per month?” she asked kindly.

Chu Chuan was puzzled by her question. But he couldn’t bring himself to answer and remained silent.

The young girl sighed in helplessness and turned to leave.

The five people from the Bright Moon Sect left, and the people around them began to gossip and point fingers.

It seemed like they were mocking Chu Chuan. They enjoyed the drama.

In the end, Chu Chuan returned to his original spot and resumed his cultivation. His eyes were filled with anger, and his fist techniques were even fiercer than before.

The humiliation and pressure did not make him buckle. Instead, it ignited his inner desire to become even stronger.

Jiang Hao watched him and breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, there hadn’t been a fight. If they had clashed, Chu Chuan would have had to endure even greater humiliation.

In the eyes of others, it would be like treating him as an outcast. Such an experience might make him grow stronger faster, but his peace of mind would be eroded. In the end, he wouldn’t be himself anymore.

“He’s not bad,” Hong Yuye said.

“Yes, but I’m afraid he might not be able to control himself. He might end up causing trouble,” said Jiang Hao.

The Bright Moon Sect was a suitable place for Chu Chuan. Due to Chu Jie's presence, there would inevitably be people targeting him, but those people wouldn't dare to take real action.

They wouldn't clash with him because of Chu Jie, and also because this was an immortal sect. An immortal sect had strict laws against harassment and indiscriminate killing of disciples.

The person who had just confronted Chu Chuan had no intention of attacking him at all, and he needed a valid reason to do so. The Dao Conference would be such an opportunity.

"What did you teach him?" Hong Yuye asked.

"I told him to conceal his abilities, and only act at the right moment," Jiang Hao said.

"Like how you faced me?" Hong Yuye asked with a half-smile.

Jiang Hao's heart skipped a beat. "I wouldn't dare."

Hong Yuye chuckled but didn't press him further. She walked towards an empty area.

The young girl who had left with Yu Sha and the others didn't follow them. Instead, she went her own way and arrived at a loft.

The moon was shining brightly here, and the spiritual energy was several times denser than outside. Magical formations surrounded the area. There were stars everywhere. It was like something out of a fairy tale.

This was Chu Jie's residence.

"Junior Sister Chu Jie," the young woman, Tao Yun, called out.

The door opened, and a young girl in a white gown appeared. Starlight surrounded her as she walked out.

“Senior Sister Tao Yun, you’re looking for me?” Chu Jie smiled. “Yes.” Tao Yun nodded.

At this moment, she noticed the hairpin on Chu Jie’s head.

“Is that a gift from the person who’s from the same hometown as you?” Tao Yun asked.

“Yes.” Chu Jie nodded. “I was worried that he might not have enough spirit stones, so I didn’t suggest buying a magical treasure. This is very ordinary and not so expensive.”

“Not expensive?” Tao Yun had wanted to talk with her about something else, but she couldn’t bring herself to say it.

In truth, six hundred spirit stones were indeed not expensive here.

After hesitating for a moment, she finally asked, “Chu Jie, do you think six hundred might actually be a lot of spirit stones for your fellow townsman?” “It can’t be...” Chu Jie thought about it for a moment. “My seniors spend several thousand or even more spirit stones when they buy something. Five or six hundred spirit stones wouldn’t be enough for them to purchase anything..”

Chapter 429: Stripping Away Of Luck

Tao Yun fell silent. At this point, she had already entered Chu Jie’s courtyard.

She sat down and thought about how to make her understand. “Is your relationship with your fellow townsman good?”

“It was good when we were kids, but... when we met today, it seemed like there was a kind of distance between us,” said Chu Jie truthfully.

"Then, when he gave you the gift, was he trying to burden you?" Tao Yun asked.

"Of course not!" said Chu Jie immediately.

"Then, let me explain it to you, Junior Sister Chu," Tao Yun said. "Do you know which sect he belongs to?"

"I heard it's a demonic sect," Chu Jie said.

"Yes, the Heavenly Note Sect. It's an obscure sect in the southern region. It is a demonic sect," said Tao Yun. "Their strength is decent, but their sect has only been established for a few decades since they expanded. In contrast, our Bright Moon Sect is incomparable."

"Then, in such a sect, how many spirit stones would an outer sect disciple typically earn?" Tao Yun said. "The Heavenly Note Sect is different from us. The disciples only become inner sect disciples after reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm. Your fellow townsman reached the Foundation

Establishment Realm only recently. Maybe around a year or two ago."

"How many spirit stones does an outer sect disciple earn?" Chu Jie asked with concern.

The answer far exceeded her expectations.

Tao Yun stretched out one slender finger. "One. Outer sect disciples there typically start their journey with one spirit stone. It increases to twenty when they reach the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm. Even with twenty spirit stones a month, saving a hundred or six hundred spirit stones might take several years if he can be very frugal with his spending. It goes without saying that cultivators constantly need magic treasures, pills, and talismans to improve their cultivation," she said. "How many years do you think it took him to save six hundred spirit stones considering the fact that he only recently achieved the Foundation establishment Realm? How could he have managed to save so many spirit stones?"

Chu Jie was left stunned. She found it unbelievable. "I... I didn't know."

She stood up. She wanted to find Chu Chuan but quickly sat back down. "I can't leave. My master said I could only see him once. I have to wait until I've successfully achieved the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment."

She then looked at Tao Yun. "Senior Sister Tao, can you talk to him for me, please? I really don't know what to do."

Jiang Hao walked around the Bright Moon Sect.

He wanted to find where disciples from the Clear Sky School were located.

He wanted to see how strong the Clear Sky School was. He was also curious whether Lui Xingchen would be recognized by members of the Clear Sky School. If they did recognize him, what would happen?

It had been almost two years, and he had no idea about the condition of the remnant souls in his body. Without seeing Lui Xingchen, he couldn't assess the situation.

He spent the entire day wandering aimlessly and following Hong Yuye around.

It wasn't until evening that Hong Yuye left the Bright Moon Sect, and they returned to their inn.

"Don't disturb me for the next few days," she said before heading back to her room.

Jiang Hao didn't mind. Tomorrow, he could continue with selling his wares. He had extra time to craft talismans and cultivate. By now, he had reached the middle stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. He could now learn the fourth form of the Heavenly Blade.

He could also try practicing the techniques from the Hong Meng Heart Sutra too. Over the next few days, Jiang Hao rarely ventured outside.

Aside from clearing away any excess items on his person, he spent his time studying the fourth form of the Heavenly Blade and brushing up on the three other forms he had learned before.

He also took out the nameless manual and studied it again. He gained new insights into the Light and Dust Technique.

The Bright Moon Sect was a vast place, and he would inevitably encounter people he didn't want to meet again, like Wan Xiu and his companion.

On the third day of selling his wares at the stall, they found him and asked if he remembered any other poems. Jiang Hao could only shake his head in defeat.

Then, they asked about his father, which made Jiang Hao feel uncomfortable. These senior cultivators had no sense of restraint. Jiang Hao had always felt like he was being watched when he went outside. He knew it was them.

To avoid them, he chose not to go outside at all.

Fortunately, he had sold all of his items, so he only had to concentrate on his cultivation.

It had been half a month, and he was primarily focusing on comprehending his previous techniques, particularly the nameless manual. He felt that he had gained a deeper understanding to control his powers.

From rough understanding to minute details, he studied everything. The more he studied, the more he felt that he had greater control over the power within his body.

However, compared to Xu Bai, he was still nowhere close to reaching his level. But there was no need to rush. He took it step by step.

In this half a month, Hong Yuye still hadn't come out of her room, and Jiang Hao wasn't sure what she was up to. On the other hand, he had successfully understood the fourth form of the Heavenly Blade.

This move was called “No Regrets.”

It was about going forward relentlessly and leaving no room for retreat or fear.

The more fearless the wielder, the greater the power unleashed by this strike.

However, using this move might result in temporary mental damage that might leave the wielder unable to use the blade anymore.

If used without hesitation, this strike could be incredibly powerful, but it bordered on self-sacrifice.

Whether it drained the user’s strength depended on the power released by the strike. If it far exceeded the user’s current strength, they might become powerless, but if it was used in moderation, it wouldn’t affect the user much.

“This move mainly depends on one’s state of mind. This needs the mindset of putting your life on the line to achieve the greatest power,” Jiang Hao read aloud.

However, he felt that this move wasn’t suitable for him.

He never allowed himself to reach such a desperate situation.

Even in danger, he always tried to conserve his strength and look for opportunities rather than confront the situation head-on.

If there truly were no alternatives, he would use it, but he would try to avoid it as much as possible. It was unlikely that he would be able to use this move effectively in ordinary situations.

‘Maybe I can modify it and let Chu Chuan take a look. It might be more suitable for him.’

Chu Chuan was someone who grew stronger with each battle, and his path was anything but smooth. His unrelenting state of mind fit the technique.

However, Jiang Hao was only just learning these forms of the Heavenly Blade. Modifying it would be too challenging for him.

After putting away the book, Jiang Hao headed downstairs to have a meal.

At the table, there were people discussing something.

"Have you heard this rumor?" a middle-aged man whispered. Jiang Hao sipped his tea and listened to what the rumor was about.

"What rumor?" a young man at the table asked.

"I heard that the reason why Bright Moon Sect invited so many cultivators this time is for one purpose only," the middle-aged man said cautiously. He looked around before speaking again. "It's said that they invited so many to strip away the luck of those participating in the Dao Conference so that a genius disciple can achieve Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment."

"Stripping away luck? Is that true?" asked a skeptical girl at the table.

"Where there's smoke, there's fire. Moreover, the Bright Moon Sect hasn't responded to this rumor at all. Even if it's not true, it might still harm the cultivators' luck," the middle-aged man said.

"The rumor must be false. I mean... Why would the Bright Moon Sect do something like that? The people from the Clear Sky School, the Mountain Sea Sword Sect, and the Astronomical Academy are all here," said a young man in disbelief.

"But is it possible that they want to join forces to harvest our luck?" the middle-aged man asked.

"I don't believe that," the young man said.

Jiang Hao felt worried when he heard this. The rumors had started to spread.

It had already begun.

It might spread so rapidly that it might end up affecting the Dao Conference.

If it reached that point, Shang An would come over.

He wondered how the Bright Moon Sect would deal with this in the future..

Chapter 430: I Love Making New Friends

Jiang Hao went out for a stroll and found that the rumors were spreading.

Some even started to think seriously about it.

Once rumors spread, they couldn't be stopped.

No matter how much the truth is explained, those who doubt will continue to doubt it.

"You're truly ignorant. Even though you can't get close to the main gate of the Bright Moon Sect, you're worried about what will happen after you enter it. If you're afraid, you can just turn around and leave. Go far away from Star-Moon City."

"But how do you know if it's true or not?"

"Ridiculous! It's obvious that someone can't stand the success of the Bright Moon Sect and has spread these baseless rumors."

“Why would someone be risking their lives to spread the information?” Jiang Hao wandered around various places and found many people debating whether the rumors were true.

“Fellow Disciple Jiang, we meet again,” said a surprised voice from behind.

Jiang Hao felt helpless as he turned to look. It was Wan Xiu and Si Cheng once again.

They seemed to be watching him.

Basic courtesy was still important, no matter what he felt. “Seniors, what a coincidence.”

Si Cheng laughed. “How about a drink?” Jiang Hao had no choice but to agree.

They went to the same loft as before.

The massive river was clear and still during the day. He saw an occasional boat pass by.

Even during the day, there were people around. The place still looked beautiful.

“Where do you study, my friend?” Wan Xiu asked curiously.

“Just a small place,” Jiang Hao said.

“Your father must be highly educated, right?” Wan Xiu asked again.

“No, he was just an ordinary scholar. Compared to you two, he is nothing,” Jiang Hao said truthfully.

These two seemed to like poetry and calligraphy, but it was useless to them.

According to them, it was just a way to be cultured.

Wan Xiu didn't ask any further questions, and he looked at the people on the opposite shore. "I heard a lot of rumors lately. People say that the Bright Moon

Sect wants to steal people's luck."

"I heard about it too," Jiang Hao said.

"What do you think, my friend?" Wan Xiu asked.

Jiang Hao looked at them and shook his head. "I'm not very knowledgeable on such matters."

"Do you feel like it's true or false?" Si Cheng asked.

Jiang Hao always felt that these two were trying to persuade him to join them.

Because of Hong Yuye, they thought he was someone important.

If he didn't say anything, they wouldn't let him be.

"Seniors, there's no need to test me. I'm just here out of curiosity and to explore. Of course, I'm also curious about Foundation Establishment." Wan Xiu chuckled awkwardly. "Do you think it's possible, my friend?"

Jiang Hao remained silent for a moment. "It's possible."

The two of them paused, then smiled knowingly.

“By the way, that young lady... is she your partner?” Si Cheng asked. He was a little drunk.

Jiang Hao almost spat out the wine.

“She’s my Senior Sister,” Jiang Hao said.

Wan Xiu and Si Cheng looked at each other and nodded with a smile. “I see.”

Jiang Hao felt like they might have misunderstood something.

But it didn’t matter as long as Hong Yuye didn’t find out.

In a little over ten days, the Dao Conference would begin.

It should be quite lively by then, and he could also see the power of various sects.

Most importantly, he might encounter The End of All Things. Maybe he could capture someone alive from there and interrogate them.

He didn’t expect to find the person behind the stone tablet, obviously. However, it would be great if he could find a way to contact them.

He also needed to be cautious of the Fallen Immortal Clan. They had special methods to pry into others’ secrets.

He wanted to avoid them if possible. If he did encounter them, he would try not to attract their attention.

“Friend, do you feel like reciting a poem?” asked Wan Xiu.

Jiang Hao was speechless.

He was curious if all high-level cultivators were like this.

Back at the inn, he waited for time to pass.

By now, he had sold everything he could. He now had 38,650 spirit stones.

He had also bought a lot of materials for making talismans.

Even though the things he sold were cheap, the materials he bought were cheaper.

It seemed that there was fierce competition here, and the cost was low.

Another ten days passed.

Jiang Hao realized that there were only three days left until the Dao Conference.

Hong Yuye still hadn't come out of her room.

It had been quite a while.

It might be dangerous for him to go to the conference alone.

The Bright Moon Sect was an immortal sect, and the other sects that were attending weren't weak.

He was at the middle stage of the Soul Ascension Realm. He was considered only decent, but he would be a match for any of the seniors if it came to a fight.

With Hong Yuye by his side, many things would be easier.

'It was supposed to be two days, but she's been locked in for over twenty days.' Jiang Hao was becoming concerned.

He used his spiritual sense to check. There was an aura behind the door.

He hesitated. He didn't know whether to go in. 'I'll wait for two more days.'

Jiang Hao could only sit and wait in the inn.

He listened to the rumors to see if there were any new developments.

"In my opinion, we have the right to know. But the bright Moon Sect hasn't said a word... It makes us lose faith in them."

"The Bright Moon Sect is an immortal sect, and we should trust them. These are just rumors."

"Are we choosing to believe in the rumors more than the Bright Moon Sect?"

"But the Bright Moon Sect hasn't said a word, and I'm worried. They should at least explain or clarify things."

"What do you think, fellow disciples?"

"It makes sense. I've been waiting for the Bright Moon Sect to clarify things, but they have been very quiet."

Jiang Hao turned to look at the young man who was speaking. He initially expressed disbelief in the rumors, but later expressed his concern that the

Bright Moon Sect hadn't clarified anything. It certainly made the Bright Moon Sect look suspicious.

'He appears to be in the early stage of the Golden Core Realm. But... his cultivation is somewhat inscrutable to me.'

At this point, the other person seemed infuriated. "I won't say anything more. I'm going to go and ask about this whole thing."

Jiang Hao appraised him.

Outside Star-Moon City, some people had gathered in a cave.

"The rumors have spread far and wide. Even the Bright Moon Sect can't withstand such rumors. With people's doubts in their faith, succeeding in the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment will be extremely difficult." Someone let out a laugh.

"That's not enough. When the disciple who is about to start the Foundation Establishment appears at the Dao Conference, we'll make the people voice their doubts. By then, will the Bright Moon Sect still be able to complete the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment?"

"That's still not enough. The Earth Extreme Heart Devouring Pearl has already been sent. When the Earth Extreme Heart Devouring Pearl disrupts the great luck, a little kid about to start the Foundation Establishment won't be able to bear it."

"The Saint Bandits are also keeping an eye on that little kid. Even if the Bright

Moon Sect manages to protect the child, they won't be able to succeed with the

Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment. "

Succeeding in the Heavenly Dao Foundation Establishment was extremely difficult as it was. Any disturbance could easily lead to failure.

“By the way, where’s Lu Quan? Why hasn’t he come yet?”

“He went to the city to spread rumors.”

“Why would he do that?”

“Forget it. Let’s go and make sure he doesn’t get us into any trouble.”

A few people agreed. Just as they were about to leave, a man with a bottle of wine in hand walked into the cave with a smile.

“Done so soon? Aren’t you going to talk about it more? After all, we only heard a little.”

The others were shocked. “Run!”

However, just as they tried to flee, the whole cave collapsed, and a figure appeared in the sky in a radiant light.

“Why run? We’re all friends here. Sit down and talk. I love making new friends..”