

Bottleneck 81

Chapter 81: Destined to Succeed

Capital.

Imperial Palace.

At this moment, compared with before, the Imperial Armys defense is tighter than ever. With the news of Emperor Kaipings sudden death, the Crown Prince moved into Weiyang Palace overnight.

After all, a country cannot be without a ruler for even a day. The Crown Prince must now hold court in the palace to reassure the people and deter villains.bender

Its a pity that during Emperor Kaipings reign, he was domineering and overbearing, holding all power tightly in his hands, never giving Crown Prince Ye Kai a chance to show his face.

As a result, the Crown Prince has never been involved in the court, and at first, the Imperial Army didnt have much confidence in him wielding power.

Fortunately, the Crown Prince has loyal subjects around him, most of whom are capable. Moreover, during the crisis, he single-handedly broke into the Five Armies Commanders Mansion, showing his kingly aura.

It is precisely because of Ye Kais actions, coupled with the military power at hand, that the Dayan Imperial Court has been temporarily stabilized, and the capital has not experienced major problems.

However, everyone knows that this is just a temporary solution. If the Crown Prince cant appease the court and suppress the worlds rebellions in the future, there may be a change in the Dayan Imperial Courts name.

Under such apprehensive circumstances throughout the capital, both ordinary people and aristocratic families are afraid to leave their homes at night.

As a result, a curfew has once again appeared in the capital, and the situation is more severe than any previous time, affecting even the businesses in the Red Light District.

Imperial Palace.

At this moment, Crown Prince Ye Kais expression is gloomy. If the late Emperor had allowed him to get involved in politics earlier, perhaps the Dayan would not have declined to such an extent.

Only after taking charge of the house, does one know the extent of its decay. This is what Ye Kai thinks now.

When Emperor Kaiping first ascended the throne, although there had been Prince Pingans rebellion earlier, the National Treasury was full, and all was peaceful under heaven.

However, in just twenty years, Emperor Kaiping caused the National Treasury to become empty, and endless factional strife emerged in the court.

Although the situation around the capital is still controllable, the further away it is, the worse the situation becomes locally, causing the people severe hardship.

After specifically checking the recent reports from the southwest, the Crown Prince couldnt help but sigh in his heart. The rebellion in the southwest was actually an inevitable result.

What he felt fortunate about now was that although his father had died, at least the rebellion in the southwest had been scattered for now.

Although there are still rebellions all over the country, they are not as serious as the southwest. As long as he ascends the throne and focuses on recovery, Dayan should still be salvageable.

Ye Kai quietly reassures himself, unwittingly walking to the Grand Temple, and then staring at it in a daze. Before, he had followed his father in paying homage to their ancestors, praying for the fortune of the Dayan Kingdom.

Now, with Emperor Kaipings sudden death and his body soon to be brought back to the capital, he has to truly take charge of the unruly Dayan.

With this thought in mind, his expression grows even more somber, as he pushes open the main gate of the Grand Temple. At this moment, among the flickering candlelight in front of the ancestral tablets, a wisp of green smoke lingers.

There is an elderly figure with white hair and beard, dutifully replacing extinguished incense with new ones.

Ye Kai couldnt help but feel warmth in his heart, You can leave now. I want to sit here alone for a while, and no one will hold you accountable.

Since he had not yet ascended the throne, Ye Kai could only call himself His Majesty. The old eunuch who was guarding the temple didnt leave upon hearing this, causing Ye Kai to frown.

However, before Ye Kai could speak, the white-haired old man took the initiative to speak, You are quite good, but unfortunately, you were born at the wrong time.

Originally regarded as a eunuch guarding the temple, the moment he opened his mouth, the Crown Prince realized something was off.

Who are you?

Who am I? Your father should have been the one to tell you, but since hes dead now, Ill have to tell you myself.

As the white-haired old man turned around, who else could he be but the Old Sect Master of the Lifeless Sect? At this moment, Ye Kai does not call for the Imperial Armys help. His composure made the Old Sect Master nod in approval.

As the Old Sect Master continued, Ye Kai became increasingly shocked by his story. But when it ended, he decided to believe everything the other party had said.

Because everything mentioned matched up with the facts, and the Nine Provinces Tripod was in the hands of the Lifeless Sect at this moment. Emperor Kaiping personally guarded this important artifact, and it could only be touched with his permission by the descendants of the Ye family.

Anyone who touched the Nine Provinces Tripod without permission would suffer from the backlash of the dynastys luck and have their lifespan shortened.

Ye Kai calmed down and said, So youre saying that my unknown-generation Uncle Ye Chen has decided to go with the popular sentiment and is preparing to overthrow Dayan and establish a new dynasty?

Ye Kais complexion darkened. No wonder the Lifeless Sects power was growing; it turned out there was such a secret hidden in the background. Almost all territories south of Dayan were now in their control.

We have no choice. Your father has plunged the world into chaos, and its beyond help. We can only go with the flow and establish a new dynasty.

Moreover, you are still young, and your Martial Arts skills havent faltered. Once the new dynasty is established, you can form a new sect and become the guardian of the new dynasty.

Hearing this, Ye Kais expression became complicated. How could he accept this? After all, he belonged to the legitimate lineage. The Old Sect Master noticed his reluctance and couldnt help but laugh, Do you know why our Lifeless Sect branch of the Ye family has been able to hide in the darkness for so many years?

At the mention of this, Ye Kai was taken aback. In the heat of the moment, he hadnt considered this question.

Because Dayan is only a small part of the vast world, we are merely the guardians of the cultivation worlds powers.

Every hundred years, we gather enough fortune and the Upper Sect sends resources to us for cultivation. Why else do you think our Ye family's innate talents have remained strong? Is it really just because of an abundance of geniuses?

Aside from providing resources, the messenger also selects people to enter the cultivating world. Our Lifeless Sect branch is willing to lurk in the darkness because we have priority. Only when our disciples lack merit, will he choose someone from the main imperial family branch of the Ye family to follow the Upper Sect into the cultivation world.

Now you understand why our Lifeless Sect branch is willing to live in the shadows, don't you? When the new dynasty is established, your branch will also have priority.

This was the wisdom of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan. Only in this way can we ensure the continuous inheritance and everlasting prosperity of the Ye family.

If it weren't for the fact that Dayan is beyond saving, or perhaps we could still have ten-odd years to support it, I wouldn't be willing to have our branch come out now to control Dayan since the messenger is about to arrive.

Unfortunately, the situation is pressing, and for the sake of the Ye family's continuing legacy, our Lifeless Sect branch has no choice but to do so.

Hearing this, Ye Kai remained silent for a long time.

But what if there comes an extreme situation where neither the main imperial family branch nor the Lifeless Sect branch can shoulder the responsibility, and the dynasty's fortune is taken by others? What should we do?

The Old Sect Master of the Lifeless Sect couldn't help but nod when he heard this. Ye Kai was indeed outstanding as he thought far ahead, and his eyes were filled with appreciation.

Your question is excellent. Do you know why I want to keep the Nine Provinces Tripod? Because if that situation occurs, it will tell us how to enter the cultivation world.

The Nine Provinces Tripod?

Yes, but I cant tell you this secret now. When you become the guardian hiding in the shadows of the new Ye Dynasty, I will tell you everything.

If I dont live to see that time, someone else will replace me to tell you everything. So have you made your decision now?

Alright, I agree with you. However, I want to try and see if the world really collapses, only then will I resign myself to the situation and become the Lifeless Sect of the new dynasty.

Of course, you can.

Ye Kai stared deeply at the Old Sect Master of the Lifeless Sect and decisively left without any hesitation. However, after leaving the Grand Temple, his brows furrowed even more.

Is this world truly beyond saving?

At the same time, not far away, Liang Sheng looked towards the Imperial Palace with a deep gaze, as the result he was waiting for was getting closer.

As long as he waited for the Dayan Dynasty to crumble, that would be the moment he seized the Nine Provinces Tripod, and by then he should know the secrets of the cultivation world.

At this moment, Liang Sheng wasnt anxious.. The Nine Provinces Tripod was as good as his!

Chapter 82: Invincible Under Cultivation

Capital.

Peaceful Mind Studio.

At this moment, the steamed bun shop across the street is not open for business, not because Old Zhang is slacking off, but because the Capital is currently under lockdown. How could he find any extra flour or raw meat to make steamed buns?

Of course, due to Liang Sheng's advice beforehand, Old Zhang had hoarded a few supplies. Although he couldn't do business, he had at least ensured his family's food and clothing needs were met.

Old Zhang didn't tell anyone about this. Given the current situation, revealing it would only bring trouble, as people's intentions were hard to predict.

In these turbulent times, everyone needed to just mind their own business and survive, which was already quite a feat.

This was the case in the Dayan Capital, let alone other places. Emperor Kaiping's body had returned to the Capital, but since the urgent matter at hand was to quell the rebellion, Ye Kai naturally wouldn't be distracted by it.

Emperor Kaiping probably never imagined that the situation at his death would be so desolate, with a hasty burial and no grand show befitting a deceased emperor.

Under such circumstances, Ye Kai didn't pretend to mourn and instead directly ascended the throne, with the new reign name of Jianyuan.

Ye Kai originally thought that his diligent governance would help stabilize the foundation of the Dayan Kingdom, but he never expected that in the short span of twenty years, the Dayan Dynasty had spiraled downward so irreversibly. Even with his great talents and strategies, he had no capable people under him and could only lament his powerlessness.

In the spring of the first year of Jianyuan, the southwestern part of Dayan completely fell out of the dynasty's control, and the insurgent Lifeless Sect swept into Jiangnan.

In the autumn of Jianyuans first year, the whole of Jiangnan fell, the south united, and the Lifeless Sects rebels established a country, named the Great Ming.

In the spring of Jianyuans second year, the central plains were lost, and the decline of the Dayan Dynasty was inevitable. Local garrison troops in various places either deserted or surrendered on the spot.

The Lifeless Sect attracted ordinary people with the concept of a homeland without birth and death, refraining from massacring the cities they conquered. They even redistributed land, and it was precisely because of this that their momentum became irresistible, engulfing the entire Dayan Kingdom.

Whenever the Lifeless Sect rebels arrived at a place, local people eagerly welcomed them, causing the remaining territory of the Dayan Kingdom to be only in the north.

Capital

Damn!

Atop the Golden Hall, Emperor Jianyuan Ye Kai angrily threw the memorial on the ground, his face full of rage, as if he wanted to eat someone.

A hundred thousand strong army. Even if it were a hundred thousand pigs, they would have to be slaughtered for days and nights. How on earth does that idiot Wu Chun wage war?

At this moment, Emperor Jianyuan Ye Kai vented his anger, causing the entire Golden Hall to be silent. Just then, another piece of bad news arrived from outside the hall.

Report! Urgent news from 800 li away. The insurgent Lifeless Sects army has crossed the Yanhe River, and the entire Dayan Beijun has fallen into enemy hands.

The next moment, Emperor Jianyuan slumped down in his seat.

Dayan was finished!

Once the rebels crossed the Yanhe River, they would be able to attack the Dayan Capital directly, leaving the Capital without any barriers to protect it. The various officials in the hall had different expressions, and seeing this, Emperor Jianyuan couldnt help but laugh bitterly in his heart.

It seemed that Dayan was utterly beyond saving. Since peoples hearts had already been lost, there was no point in talking about a revival. If that was the case

Thinking of this, Emperor Jianyuan didnt wait for the eunuch to announce the end of the court session, instead directly exiting the Golden Hall. It was time for him to talk to that person.

After all, he was right. This world was beyond saving. Even though the dynastys name would no longer be Dayan after that, the world would still bear the Ye surname.

Moreover, according to what that person had said, if someone from their lineage was lucky enough to be chosen when they arrived thirteen years later, there would be no need to worry about this worldly power and influence.

Emperor Jianyuans sudden departure left the Golden Hall silent. However, after a brief moment of surprise, the officials orderly left the hall.

It was time for them to think about their families. This world, whoever it belonged to, couldnt do without their powerful families

Imperial Palace.

Grand Temple.

Youve come?

Ye Kai had just entered the Grand Temple, and the old sect master of the Lifeless Sect had not even opened his eyes. Ye Kai silently looked at him, nodding slightly.

I agree to your conditions, but how should I proceed?

Seeing Ye Kai's performance, the old sect master was not surprised at all. There is no need to worry, when the capital is broken, you can leave. Have you thought of a name for your sect?

White Lotus Sect.

Good.

In the second year of the Jianyuan era in summer, the Lifeless Sect attacked the Dayan capital, causing no harm to the civilians. That night, the nine provinces of Dayan were shaken, the fate of the Dayan Dynasty was shattered, and its allotted time had come to an end.

In and out of the palace in the capital, fighting continued incessantly. The Five Armies Commanders Mansion, the Divine Machinist Camp, and the Imperial Army were engaged in a life-or-death struggle inside the palace. The Lifeless Sect rebels were fearless and relentlessly pushed forward.

However, Ye Chen, who led the elite forces of the Lifeless Sect, did not pursue at full speed because he needed to give Thirteenth Uncle time to tie up loose ends.

Before the Grand Temple, the old sect master of the Lifeless Sect took out the Nine Provinces Tripod in front of Ye Kai and explained a few things. Ye Kai finally understood everything.

From now on, this will be the secret of your White Lotus Sect. If the Great Ming Dynasty ever encounters a day like this, you must do as the Lifeless Sect did today and let the world continue to be surnamed Ye.

Today, the Dayans fate has run out. The last wisp of the Kings aura within the Nine Provinces Tripod needs to be extracted by your last king.

After Ye Kai extracted the last wisp of the Kings aura from the Nine Provinces Tripod according to the old sect masters description, there seemed to be a wailing between heaven and earth. Everyones heart trembled for a moment, and then there was no more sensation, as if it was just an illusion.

Outside the royal palace, Ye Chens spirit was lifted, and everything was ready. He raised his arm and shouted, Kill your way into the palace, and today, the Great Ming will become the rightful heir to the world.

Kill!

Inside the Grand Temple, the old sect master saw that things were going smoothly and could not help but breathe a sigh of relief. After that, his lineage would become the legitimate lineage of the dynasty and establish the Great Ming.

But at this moment, Qin Gang outside the door shouted loudly. The old sect masters heart tightened, and before he could react, a white-haired man appeared in front of them, reaching out for the Nine Provinces Tripod with both hands.

This man was none other than Liang Sheng, who had changed his appearance. He had been waiting for this opportunity for two years since he returned from Mount Kunwu.

As a result of his hard work and patience, he finally caught the moment when the old dynasty of the Nine Provinces Tripod was dead, and the new king had not yet risen, so seizing the tripod would not be contaminated by cause and effect.

At this time, the old sect master also realized what was happening and tried to stop Liang Sheng. However, Liang Sheng merely slapped him back effortlessly. The old sect master was struck by the blow, and as if he had been hit by lightning, he could not speak a word, leaving only an angry glare in his eyes before he died.

He didnt even have time to tell Ye Kai all the secrets of the Ye Family, including the matter of the Nine Provinces Tripod, and he died with unresolved grievances.

Seeing this, Ye Kai was filled with grief and horror. The old sect master was an Innate Master, but he had been killed so easily. Who could the other party be?

Thinking of this, Ye Kai hurriedly retreated. Just then, Qin Gang, who had been keeping guard outside the Grand Temple, rushed in with a small sword in his hand. However, by this time, Liang Sheng had already lifted the Nine Provinces Tripod, preparing to leave.

Seeing this, Qin Gang, in his haste, spat a mouthful of essence blood onto his small sword, and a horrifying aura enveloped the entire Grand Temple.

But this time, Liang Sheng did not dodge the attack. According to the records of Mount Kunwu, this was nothing more than a half artifact that absorbed the essence blood and consumed the lifespan of its owner, thereby doubling its power. Prince Pingan and Xuan Kong had died by this sword.

But Liang Sheng, who had broken through the twelfth level of the Golden Dragon Technique, was still in the Innate Realm. He faced the sword without panicking and blocked it with one move.

How is this possible!?

Upon seeing this, Ye Kai and Qin Gang could not help but be at a loss. However, Liang Sheng did not linger after blocking this sword and directly attacked with full force. Qin Gang, as an Innate Master, could not even react and fell immediately.

Below the path of cultivation, I am invincible!

Liang Sheng then reached out with his left hand to seize the small sword, and holding the Nine Provinces Tripod, he quickly left the palace. The two sides fighting outside had not yet comprehended what was happening when Liang Sheng completely disappeared into the night.

Only Ye Kai was left in the Grand Temple, staring blankly at the two corpses on the ground, shivering all over. These were two Innate Grandmasters, who had died so easily. Who was the other party?

The mysterious white-haired old man had the power of a god, Ye Kai and Ye Chen dared not delve too deeply and could only wait for the arrival of someone from the other side thirteen years later to inquire.

Afterward, the Dayan Dynasty perished, and the Great Ming was established. However, in the shadows, the White Lotus Sect was born in response to the circumstances, dependent on each other.

As for the lost Nine Provinces Tripod, it became an unsolved mystery, and the Great Ming Dynasty could only recast the Mountain River Tripod to suppress the mountains and rivers!

Chapter 83: A Visitor From the Cultivation World

Capital City.

Whenever there is a change of dynasties, there will always be people who rise to the top overnight, and there will also be noble families who are reduced to prisoners in an instant. Life is full of unpredictable ups and downs, just like this.

However, as long as the common people do not get involved in the struggle, their lives will remain unchanged once the dynasty is settled.

For example, Old Zhang from the north of the city, even if Dayan has become Great Ming, he still sells his steamed buns in the north of the city as before, except that due to the chaos, his property has shrunk a lot.

In his spare time selling steamed buns, he occasionally looks across the street, where Peaceful Mind Studio has been replaced by another business.

During the night of chaos in the capital city, Liang Sheng disappeared after the establishment of the new dynasty. Old Zhang did not know whether Liang Sheng had suffered from military disasters or not.

As for this, Old Zhang only hoped that Liang Sheng was safe and sound, and that he had left the Capital City in a hurry to avoid disaster.

Three hundred miles outside the Capital City.

Dangyang Mountain.

On the night of Dayans upheaval, Liang Sheng forcefully killed two innate grandmasters and left the capital with the Nine Provinces Tripod that very night.bender

The tripod of the Nine Provinces looked somewhat black, engraved with flowers, birds, insects, and fish. At first glance, it did not seem to have anything special about it, but at this moment, Liang Sheng's heart was surging with excitement.

180-Year Lifespan!

An innate grandmaster's lifespan was capped at this amount, but Liang Sheng lost 180 years of his lifespan just by stealing the Nine Provinces Tripod.

Name: Liang Sheng

Age: 112

Talent: Innocent Foolishness (Top-Grade)

Techniques: Golden Dragon Technique (11th level), Twenty Life-Nurturing Techniques (14th level)
Unmoving Ming King Seal (5th level)

Realm: Innate

Lifespan: 4146

This is the price Liang Sheng paid for seizing the Nine Provinces Tripod at the most appropriate moment. If it weren't for Ye Kai removing the last trace of the old dynasty's king's aura and the new dynasty's dragon aura not yet formed, the backlash Liang Sheng would suffer would be even more severe.

Even so, after all, the Nine Provinces Tripod was once a sacred treasure of the Dayan Kingdom. Liang Sheng paid a heavy price of 180 years of his lifespan for his actions.

But it was all worth it. After exchanging his lifespan, the Nine Provinces Tripod was no longer connected to the Dayan Kingdom and the Nine Provinces.

It is now just a cauldron containing the secrets of cultivation. After two years of waiting after exploring Mount Kunwu, Liang Sheng finally got the result he wanted.

If it weren't for the change of dynasties or the fact that the person stealing the tripod was Liang Sheng, perhaps no one could have done this, because, in the mortal world, who could have a lifespan as long as Liang Sheng's?

Liang Sheng usually keeps his emotions in check, but at this moment, he is full of excitement. After all, he has taken another step closer to the path of cultivating immortality. How can he not be happy?

He recalls the murals in Mount Kunwu and confirms that there are no omissions. Without any hesitation, he places his hands on the Nine Provinces Tripod, and his innate true energy, which is almost condensed into a liquid form, follows the patterns on the tripod.

Liang Sheng sits and refines the tripod for an entire night. When the sun rises and the morning sun shines on him, the golden light spreads, staining Dangyang Mountain red.

At this moment, Liang Sheng opens his eyes, exhales gently, and sighs in his heart that the Nine Provinces Tripod, as a national treasure, is truly extraordinary. To fully refine the tripod, he will need to spend some time.

Liang Sheng has been in this world for nearly a hundred years and has long learned to endure loneliness. If everything goes as smoothly as the murals in Mount Kunwu say, refining the Nine Provinces Tripod will be just a matter of time, and he can wait patiently.

Thinking of this, Liang Sheng can't help but feel fortunate. He has prepared himself in advance and placed living supplies on Dangyang Mountain, allowing him to stay on the mountain for a while.

In fact, not only Dangyang Mountain, but also several safe houses prepared by Liang Sheng in the suburbs of the Capital City, for who would put all their eggs in one basket?

Since then, Liang Sheng's life has been very regular. He wakes up early to refine the Nine Provinces Tripod, then cultivates to recover his internal energy before starting to refine the Nine Provinces Tripod again. During his spare time, he also plays with the mysterious little sword.

Although it's only a half-artifact and doesn't need refinement, the sword is quite useless. After all, Liang Sheng's strength is already no less than the sword, and using it still consumes his lifespan. So why bother?

Since then, life has continued in a cycle. Liang Sheng has stayed on Dangyang Mountain for half a year, unaware that it has already become winter. Wearing only a single layer of clothes on the mountain, Liang Sheng doesn't feel the cold at all.

Today, Liang Sheng's heart is slightly excited. His palms repeatedly strike the Nine Provinces Tripod, and the sound of metal ringing is endless. Indeed, the tripod is quite resistant.

However, even with such a sturdy Tripod, it is likely to be completely refined under Liang Sheng's uninterrupted attacks today. At that time, the last resort of the Ye Family and the secret of cultivation will appear before his eyes.

As time goes by, the refining process reaches its final stage, and even Liang Sheng has a slight sweat on his forehead.

He stares intently at the Nine Provinces Tripod, his hands striking faster and faster. What seems like a terrifying force is, in fact, very light and entirely focused on the tripod's body.

Boom!

Suddenly, a crisp sound, and the next moment, Liang Sheng's face finally shows an expression, the corners of his mouth involuntarily rising.

Numerous cracks appear on the Nine Provinces Tripod, and then the tripod collapses with a loud bang, leaving only a black iron command.

The Black Iron Command is covered with lines, and next to it are the archaic characters for Hua Tian. Liang Sheng can't help but feel overjoyed upon seeing this.

The murals in Mount Kunwu did not lie. This is the symbol of the Hua Tian Sect, the hidden power behind the Ye Family in the cultivation world.

The mortal world is just a tiny speck to the cultivation world. They are like numerous stars surrounding the cultivation world, providing offerings to the cultivation world..

Chapter 84: Finally, Someone from the Cultivation World Arrives

As for why things were turning out this way, Liang Sheng had some speculations in his heart. After all, he had failed miserably as a web novelist in his previous life, so what kind of wild ideas had he not entertained?

But as for the specifics, they would only be revealed later.

One month later,

Liang Sheng had not yet cracked the secret of the Black Iron Command, nor was clearer about how to use it to seek immortality. However, as it was the only clue he had obtained thus far about cultivation, he did not dare to destroy it recklessly.

If that were the case, Liang Sheng could only temporarily give up, as according to the old master of the No-Life Sect of Ye Family, the hundred-year period of provisioning the Cultivation World was drawing close.

Which meant, roughly thirteen years from now, when the Ye Family had completed storing up the luck of the dynasty, someone from the cultivation world would descend to the mortal world.

Of course, this was his own conclusion drawn from various clues. Even if he got it wrong, it wouldn't matter. Since there was no turning back, he might as well practice the Twenty Life-Nurturing Techniques for another thousand years. By then, his lifespan would likely be so extended that waiting for a cultivator to descend into the secular world would be no issue at all.

As long as the Cultivation World still needed the luck of the mortal world's dynasties, there would always be a connection. After all, where there was demand, there was possibility.

Time, the most terrifying thing in the world, was actually what Liang Sheng feared the least, because it was just time.

Thinking of this, without any hesitation, Liang Sheng turned and left. If that was the case, he would wait for another thirteen years. The results would reveal themselves in time.

In summary, safety first!

The capital of Great Ming.

The thirteenth year of Zhaowu.

After Ye Chen, the founder of the Great Ming and Zhaowu Emperor, ascended to the throne, he proved to be of great ambition and determination. The capital had long since regained its former prosperity and was no longer the pathetic spectacle it had been at the end of the Dayan era.

Although the noble class in the capital might have changed, the lives of the common people hadn't been greatly affected after the turmoil. They were still carefully living in this world.

However, people found it strange that the Great Ming Dynasty, established under the leadership of the No-Life Sect, couldn't escape the incessant problem of rebellions that had plagued the Dayan Dynasty.

Even more oddly, the active rebels in Great Ming were known as the White Lotus Sect, a name that inevitably made people ponder about the cycle of karma.

But these problems were for the lords to worry about, having nothing to do with the common people who spent all day fretting over basic daily necessities. The rebellion of the White Lotus Sect seemed very far away from them.

And now, thirteen years had passed like a blink since the founding of the Great Ming.

Liang Sheng had finally arrived in the capital. During these thirteen years, he had traversed all over the Great Ming. As the first person below the level of the innate master and above that of a cultivator, he now had no equal in the mortal world.

Along his journey, he had stopped intermittently to admire various beautiful scenes, meet different people, hear numerous stories, and even kill quite a few people.

Especially in Great Ming, with its vast territories and unique regional customs, he had savored the gentleness of many beautiful women. Among them, there were also some fiercely independent roses, each was unique and interesting.

He had seen the sunrise from the sea level at the easternmost part of Great Ming, where the sky and the sea seemed to be one; the snow falling everywhere in the northernmost part, covering everything in a beautiful silver; the endless yellow sand in the westernmost part, with the setting sun by the long river; and the thriving green in the southernmost part, where it was like spring all year round.

The tranquil journey of these thirteen years had allowed him to witness the magnificent landscape of Great Ming. Meanwhile, Liang Sheng's cultivation level had steadily improved.

The fifth layer of the Unmoving Ming King Seal increased his cultivation speed once again, to a whole new level compared to before, fully justifying its status as the staple technique of the Dharma Sect. The Unmoving Ming King Seal seemed to be gradually loosening in a mysterious way.

Name: Liang Sheng

Age: 125

Talent: Innocent Foolishness (Top-Grade)

Techniques: Golden Dragon Technique (Twelfth Layer), Twenty

Life-Nurturing Techniques (Fourteenth Layer), Unmoving Ming King Seal (Fifth Layer)

Realm: Innate

Lifespan: 4133

However, he still didn't know how powerful an actual cultivator was, and how his own abilities would stack up, so he couldn't measure the gap between them. But since his own realm was still innate, there had to be a significant difference.

But within the territory of the Great Ming, as long as the cliché plot of a hidden cultivator appearing didn't occur, his abilities were enough to walk unhindered in the mortal world.

At this moment, thirteen years had passed, and Liang Sheng, having seen the splendid landscapes of the world, finally decided to set off to the Capital. The Cultivators from the Cultivation World should be about to descend to the Mortal World. How could he possibly miss out on this opportunity?

The time of his arrival in the Capital happened to be just after nightfall, under a brilliant starry sky. The city gate guards were no longer a threat. He went directly into the city unnoticed.

Liang Sheng visited the Imperial Palace the same night, still very cautious. After making a round, he confirmed that the Cultivator had not arrived yet.

While sighing in relief, he also felt regret. After all, the closer it got to the time, the closer he was to the mysterious veil of the Cultivation World. How could he not look forward to it?

However, he was also in awe of the strength of the Great Ming Dynasty, which was much stronger than the Dayan. In the Imperial Palace, apart from Emperor Zhaowu, there were three Innate Grandmasters a testament to the extraordinary power of the Great Ming Dynasty.

Yet to Liang Sheng, all these held no interest. After ascertaining the situation, he left the Imperial Palace and went directly to the Dusty Garden.

He wondered if the Flower Chief of Dusty Garden, thirteen years later, had changed or if each held its unique charm?

Early the next morning, Liang Sheng left Dusty Garden without any nostalgia. As soon as he stepped out of the door, he was greeted by the hustle and bustle of worldly life.

Immersed in the hustle and bustle of secular life, dressed in a white robe, Liang Sheng exuded the grace of an exquisite nobleman.

Before he knew it, Liang Sheng had arrived at the North City. The Peaceful Mind Studio was no longer there, but the steamed buns shop across the street was still in business.

However, Old Zhang was not there, his son had taken over his shift, busy in the back kitchen.

Two cages of steamed buns and a bowl of soy milk please.

Liang Sheng took a seat at the small table outside the shop, showing no signs of ceremony. Soon, the steamed buns were brought up. Liang Sheng enjoyed his buns and soy milk with complete satisfaction.

It seemed that Little Zhang had fully inherited Old Zhangs skills. The shop was full of people buying steamed buns. The taste of the buns had evidently won over many people.

From time to time, the people eating steamed buns in the store glanced over at Liang Sheng. Even if he wanted to keep a low profile, it was impossible. All he had to do was sit there, and he would attract the attention of others.

After all, such grace was extraordinary. Although there were many rich merchants in the North City, it was rare to see a young man with such an extraordinary demeanor.

However, Liang Sheng paid no mind to this. After eating and drinking his fill, he left the money on the table and left the shop.

At this time, Little Zhang came to clean up the table where Liang Sheng had been sitting. Watching Liang Shengs departing figure, he felt an inexplicable sense of familiarity.

Had he seen this nobleman somewhere before? But why couldnt he recall anything?

But soon, he cast aside his thoughts. He was too busy to dwell on these matters. Meanwhile, Liang Sheng aimlessly wandered around and soon arrived at his mansion.

However, someone else now owned this place. He suddenly left when the New Dynasty was established. The land deed of Dayan had been registered and replaced long ago. Since no one took care of this house, it was naturally confiscated.

There were many such houses in the Capital. Apart from the occasional lament from the elderly about the previous owners of these houses, probably no one remembered who the original owner was.

Liang Sheng didnt go into the mansion to look around, but just glanced at it and moved on without regret. However, as he turned the next corner, the corners of his mouth curled up slightly, for he saw a familiar face.

An elderly man with white hair was lying on a deck chair at the gate, enjoying the warmth of the early sun. Beside him were several chubby little boys playing with clay.

Old Zhang!

This chap hadn't changed a bit. The deck chair from his Peaceful Mind Studio was somehow in Old Zhang's possession. For some reason, Liang Sheng felt warmth in his heart.

However, Liang Sheng did not disturb Old Zhang. They were just passers-by in his life. Since they were now living well, why should he intrude?

Just then, Old Zhang seemed to sense something and opened his eyes to look at the corner. He only saw a white robe, and the figure seemed familiar.

But despite thinking for a long time, he didn't recall who the person was. He laughed wryly and shook his head. His mind was indeed not what it used to be in his old age.

Just then, his eldest grandson saw him open his eyes and laughed as he threw himself into his arms. Old Zhang picked him up, and his tinkling laughter echoed throughout the lane.

For the following days, Liang Sheng enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the Capital. Occasionally, he went to Dusty Garden to comfort those poor girls. Soon, a curfew was put in place in the Capital.

The Heavenly Son was on a national tour.

This happened quite abruptly. Three Innate Grandmasters accompanied him on his journey. En route, the Imperial Army led the way. It was a grand tour that first went to Mount Kunwu and finally ended up at Xigu Pass in the Far West.

Liang Sheng secretly followed them. Ye Chen first knocked the Nine Ding in sequence at Mount Kunwu to make contact with the Cultivation World. He then went to Xigu Pass. Seeing this, Liang Sheng couldn't help but feel extremely elated with only one thought left in his mind.

A person from the Cultivation World should be coming!

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Xigu Pass.

At this moment, the Imperial Army is stationed at the foot of a mountain, with a guard post every five steps, and no idlers are allowed to enter the territory of Xigu Pass. If anyone intrudes without permission, they will be killed without question.

Not to mention that there are three Innate Grandmasters guarding the mountain trails from above, making it impossible for anyone to approach.

At the top of the mountain, inside a cave shrouded in thick fog, Ye Chen, as the ruler of a dynasty, and the White Lotus Sect Leader Ye Kai, have been waiting here for three days. They have no impatience, but they stay as far away from the cave as possible, not daring to set foot inside.

This once-in-a-century Immortal Destiny is the greatest secret of the Ye Family, as well as the source of their confidence throughout their inheritance.

Moreover, every one hundred years, they need to go to Mount Kunwu using the Nine Ding Formation to communicate with the Cultivation World. If others don't know about it, they won't be able to contact the Cultivation World even if they are aware of the century-old secret.

However, Ye Chen could never have imagined that there would be someone in the secular world who had broken through ordinary innate strength but wasn't a cultivator, and everything he had done before had fallen into the hands of that person.

Time gradually passes in their waiting, and the loss of the Nine Provinces Tripod makes Ye Chen slightly uneasy since it hides their last resort for the Ye Family.

Just then, a voice suddenly sounds near them, and the Innate Grandmasters below hear the sound and react accordingly.

At this moment, their eyes flash with horror. If the other party were to make a move, they might be killed before they could even react.

People of the Ye Family?

We pay our respects to the Immortal Master.

Upon hearing the voice, Ye Kai and Ye Chen immediately knelt down on the ground. The man on the other side was somewhat impatient and asked them to stand up.

Only now could Ye Chen and Ye Kai see the appearance of the person in front of them, who turned out to be a young man with an extraordinary appearance.

As now, Ye Chen felt an involuntary chill, as if the pressure from the young man was immense even though he hadn't done anything.

Enough, we don't need to waste time. These are the ten Barrier Breaking Pills agreed upon by your ancestors. Your dynasty's supply of luck has encountered issues before, so this time I will only give you one Market Quota. As for how to distribute it, it's up to you.

After saying that, the young man casually threw a jade bottle and a Profound Iron Token, then left impatiently.

Being in this mundane world is unbearably filthy, so he wanted to return to the Cultivation World as soon as possible, especially since he felt uncomfortable all over now.

If he were at the Foundation Establishment Realm and could seal his Qi Sea, he wouldn't have to care about these small issues. However, he is just a Qi Cultivation Third Level cultivator.

But that's why he took on this sect task, which doesn't involve danger, just hard work, and the reward is two Mid-Grade Spirit Stones.

Upon hearing this, Ye Chen was confused and couldn't help asking, Market?

You young ones of the Ye Family don't even know this anymore? The Market is where the so-called Immortal World Quota you speak of is located. It is mostly populated by loose cultivators, relying on the Three Sects and Six Orders for survival, and my Hua Tian Sect is one of the three.

With the Profound Iron Token, no one will stop your person from entering the Market. As long as he finds the Hua Tian Sect's shop in the Market, someone will receive him.

You don't even know about this, no wonder the supply of your dynasty's luck was shaken up years ago. It turns out you didn't pass down even basic knowledge.

If you could expand your dynasty's territory and accumulate more luck, it would be possible for you to provide cultivation techniques and even Qi Refining Pills. Why do you have to wait until the Immortal Masters visit you once every hundred years?

But after your Taizu [dynasty founder], there were only those who didn't know how to advance, guarding this small area, and hoping that those sent to the Market would succeed in their cultivation. How ridiculous!

Never mind, I won't say any more about that. Just decide for yourselves how you want to do this.

After saying that, the young man grew even more impatient. Considering how far the Ye Family had fallen, he had no patience left. After all, it was just a quota for the mortal world to reach the Market.

Entering the Market doesn't mean that person can cultivate immortality, and everything depends on their own fortune. Previous generations may have helped to select suitable candidates, but he doesn't have the patience, especially since he hasn't yet entered the Foundation Establishment Stage.

Moreover, even if there is an accident and the Ye Family doesn't have anyone reach the Market, it isn't essential because a mere mortal's life is not worth worrying about.

You have a limited time. Our Hua Tian Sects Outer Disciple manager will only wait three days. Make sure to select the right person and have them go alone. If they exceed the deadline, they will bear the consequences.

Thinking about this, he no longer wanted to deal with these mortal people. All he wanted to do was hurry back and collect Spirit Stones for cultivation. He immediately activated his mana and disappeared into the thick fog as a streak of light.

Emperor Zhaowu, Ye Chen, felt bitter in his heart. After all, Emperor Kaiping died halfway, and the Old Sect Master was suddenly killed by someone while passing on the Nine Provinces Tripod, so how could they possibly know anything about what the Immortal Master had said?

Ye Kai looked at the most talented children of their lineage, who had passed numerous tests, and couldn't help but feel somewhat troubled. Now that there was only one Profound Iron Token, to whom should he give it?

Just as Ye Kai hesitated, Emperor Zhaowu, Ye Chen, suddenly spoke, Why not give this Profound Iron Token to me? I can give you one more Barrier Breaking Pill.

Hearing this, Ye Kai frowned, just about to burst into laughter at Ye Chen's good calculations. He actually wanted to exchange a mere Barrier Breaking Pill for the Profound Iron Token.

However, before he could speak, Ye Chen spoke up again, and his words made the other party hesitate, We've already lost the Nine Provinces Tripod, and there's still no news about that mysterious master. The Nine Provinces Tripod was originally our last resort..

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However, now we only have the Mountain River Tripod forged by the Great Ming Dynasty, and we need to merge this Black Iron Command into it, so that it can act as the last safeguard for our Ye Family.¹¹

Ye Kai heard this, thought of what the Old Sect Master of the Lifeless Sect had said earlier, and after a moment of silence, he gritted his teeth, Add two more Barrier Breaking Pills!

Deal!

Then Ye Chen readily handed over the two Barrier Breaking Pills to Ye Kai, who at this time gathered the children he brought with him, feeling somewhat helpless.

He comforted the children and then looked up at Ye Chen, Ye Chen, I hope your lineage can last for a hundred years, and don't make the same mistake as us.*

Hearing this, Ye Chen nodded, of course, he would not repeat the same mistake, and then Ye Kai took his people away, fearing that if he stayed longer, he would regret his decision. After all, he was doing this for the Ye Family.

After getting the Black Iron Command, Ye Chen immediately summoned the three Innate Grandmasters outside to guard his sides, and then he hurried down the mountain.

On the way down, sitting in the imperial carriage, Ye Chen thought of the words of the young cultivator and couldn't help but shake his head and smile bitterly.

Cultivation? So difficult? Our ancestor Taizu was so talented, yet even when he got the Immortal Cultivation Technique, he couldn't even enter the entry level. There must be a reason why Taizu decided to put it aside and not let the younger generation get involved.

As for expansion? Hmph which country around the Great Ming is easy? Defending what we have can guarantee the unbroken inheritance of the Ye Family. Maybe one day our descendants will enter the Cultivation World and ascend to the heavens, then we can talk about other things.

Greed comes at a price. This is the ancestral admonition engraved in the Grand Temple. Even the indulgent Emperor Kaiping only made grave mistakes domestically.

Zhaowu Emperor murmured, then fell silent and cheered up again. At least their Ye Family was still the ruler of the Great Ming Dynasty.

At this moment, outside the cave, Liang Sheng took a deep breath. With his Attribute Panel Concealment, even cultivators couldn't discover him hiding not far away. Then, he no longer hesitated and stepped into the thick fog with his left foot, half of his body outside and motionless.

He couldn't distinguish the directions within the thick fog, so he directly took out the Black Iron Command. Then, he saw the fluorescent light from the command indicating the direction, and Liang Sheng couldn't help but feel pleasantly surprised.

If the Black Iron Command he had was invalid, he would have to go back and talk to Ye Chen, who would probably be willing to hand over his Black Iron Command to him.

At this point, Liang Sheng focused his mind, and although he didn't know the principle behind the use of the Black Iron Command, it must involve the separation method and rules between the Cultivation World and the Mortal World. Without it, he feared that even with his cultivation level, he would get lost in the thick fog.

With that thought in mind, Liang Sheng no longer hesitated and continued walking. He felt a force pressing on him, making him walk on foot. He wondered if cultivators were the same way.

He didn't know how long it took before the thick fog in front of him suddenly began to dissipate. He could see that he was almost at the end, but instead of leaving the fog, he turned back.

He was unmatched in the mortal world, but he was afraid that he was even worse than an ant in the Cultivation World. With his long Lifespan, why risk going to the Cultivation World now? Wasn't it like sticking one's face in the grass?

Moreover, the young cultivator had made it very clear that the Barrier Breaking Pills were just the requirement of the Ye Family's Ancestor. If they could acquire more territories and provide more

fortune, they could exchange for techniques and resources without having to wait for a hundred years like the Ye Family did.

In that case, why not plan and plot in the secular world until he had the ability to protect himself before ascending to the Cultivation World?

As for the Ye Family's Ancestor, Liang Sheng regretted not being able to meet him. They were definitely like-minded. Why would they need to wage war when they could enjoy the luck of a nation in peace? Would it be a tragedy if someone wiped them out?

Ye Chen would rather not gamble on the Ye Family's descendants entering the Cultivation World, and instead ensure he had a last resort. It seemed that being cautious in the family tradition had already been etched into the bones of the Ye Family.

However, the fact that the Ye Family's Ancestor had acquired the cultivation techniques, as mentioned by the Zhaowu Emperor, still needed to be planned.

After confirming his guess, Liang Sheng did not hesitate anymore and immediately set off in the direction of the Capital. At this moment, Liang Sheng's eyes were deep, and he already had a rough plan in his heart.

In life, safety comes first!

Great Ming, the Capital.

The first thing Emperor Zhaowu, Ye Chen, did after returning to the capital was to secretly summon skilled craftsmen from all over the country. The Imperial Army guarded closely, with innate Grandmasters guarding all around, and outsiders were not allowed to enter.

Their mission was to meld the Black Iron Command into the Mountain River Tripod. Once the work was completed, all the craftsmen involved would be executed.

However, their families would receive generous compensation, and as long as they were willing to live honestly, they would have a worry-free life.

At this time, peace prevailed in the Great Ming Dynasty, and Ye Chen worked even harder to govern the country, developing peoples livelihoods and nurturing resources.

Subsequently, various policies to encourage childbirth emerged one after another. After all, without people in the country, where would the fortune of the dynasty come from?

However, just when Zhaowu Emperor was striving for prosperity, a rumor suddenly spread in the capital, saying that the current Great Ming Imperial Family was actually the bloodline of the Dayan Dynasty, which had lasted for thousands of years.

Back then, the Lifeless Sect was actually the dark child of the Dayan Imperial Family. They acted both openly and secretly to ensure that the rulers of the world would always be surnamed Ye.

What was even more explosive was that the current White Lotus Sect was actually the dark child of the Great Ming Dynasty, and the White Lotus Sect Leader was none other than Emperor Jianyuan Ye Kai, who had led the Dayan Dynasty to its demise back then..

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As soon as this rumor came out, the whole world was in an uproar.

Previously, when the Great Ming Dynasty was established, the Wen Yuan Pavilion in the Imperial Palace served as the archive for the Dayan Royal Family's books, including records of the Dayan Royal Family's lives, should have been destroyed.

But Emperor Zhaowu was indifferent to it. At that time, the civil and military ministers praised Emperor Zhaowu's broad-mindedness. However, upon hearing this rumor now, it did make people a little puzzled and confused.

Moreover, the Dayan Imperial Mausoleum remained undamaged. After the establishment of the Great Ming Dynasty, Emperor Zhaowu ordered countless skilled craftsmen to build the Great Ming Imperial Mausoleum next to the Dayan Imperial Mausoleum.

Zhaowu Emperor, Ye Chen, only said one thing, the national treasury was empty, and frugality was important. Furthermore, if the Great Ming could overthrow Dayan, would they still be afraid of the Dayan ancestors causing chaos?

What should have been a bold statement from the founding emperor became increasingly suspicious after the spread of rumors, and more and more people felt that there were indeed many doubts after the establishment of the Great Ming Dynasty.

As soon as the rumors spread throughout the capital, the Imperial Army, the Jingzhao Mansion, and others began to search the rumor spreaders intensively.

However, the more people they caught, the more ridiculous the rumors became. The endless stream of words could never be stopped. In fact, the more they caught, the more doubts arose.

In the Imperial Palace's Imperial Library, the sound of porcelain being smashed occasionally echoed. These days, Emperor Zhaowu's anger was burning sky-high.

Who on earth had exposed the secret of the Ye Family to the public? Beneath his fury, fear lurked in his heart.

He was an intelligent man. After learning about the rumors, the first person who crossed his mind was the mysterious master who Ye Kai had once mentioned stealing the Nine Provinces Tripod.

Perhaps the other party already knew the secret of the Ye Family, otherwise, why did he steal the Nine Provinces Tripod back then? Moreover, there was the terrifying strength of the other party.

At that time, the Innate Grandmaster, wielding the saint sword, was not a match for the mysterious expert even with one move. It truly struck fear into one's heart. It was only because the Great Ming Dynasty had been established for more than a decade without any movement that he had gradually put the matter out of his mind.

But now, at this moment, Ye Chen could only be angrily incompetent and helpless. Just then, a helpless sigh emerged behind them. Turning round to look, who could it be if not Ye Kai?

“Did you find the person spreading the rumors?”

Ye Kai shook his head upon hearing Ye Chen’s questioning. Seeing this, Ye Chen’s expression turned even worse.

The White Lotus Sect gathered three teachers and nine streams, but they were unable to obtain accurate information, indicating just how deeply the person being the curtain is hiding.

“Actually, I’m not afraid that the other party is hiding, I’m just afraid that the other party might be the mysterious master who took the Nine Provinces Tripod. In that case, we might be...”

Ye Kai was also thinking about the mysterious master who had taken the Nine Provinces Tripod. Although his words were not finished, Ye Chen naturally understood his meaning.

For a short while, the two of them fell silent. As rulers of the world, they were both somewhat at a loss, unsure of how to proceed.

At this moment, they did not know that Liang Sheng, who was causing them headaches, was actually in the Imperial Palace. He was frowning at Wen Yuan Pavilion, flipping through the records and biographies of Dayan’s descendants.

The Grand Ancestor of Dayan had indeed obtained an Immortal Cultivation Technique, but he was unable to master it. Eventually, he advised his descendants not to engage in cultivation and locked the cultivation technique away in a high loft.

However, the Dayan Dynasty had a national fortune spanning thousands of years, so there must have been descendants of the Ye Family attempting to cultivate. That is why Liang Sheng was staying in the Wen Yuan Pavilion, searching for clues about them.

As for whether someone in the palace would discover him, how could that be possible? Besides, even if an accident were to occur, who could warn him beforehand?

The uproarious rumors in Dayan Capital indeed came from Liang Sheng's schemes. Since the dynasty's luck can be converted into cultivation resources, how could Liang Sheng not make arrangements?

Anyway, he was now ready for either eventuality: either find the Immortal Cultivation Technique left by the Grand Ancestor of Dayan or use the dynasty's fortune to pay tribute to the Cultivation World, and then exchange resources to obtain the Immortal Cultivation Technique.

It's just that now, Liang Sheng's focus was still on finding the Immortal Cultivation Technique left by the Grand Ancestor of Dayan. As for the external situation, he didn't need to intervene too much, as there would naturally be people stirring up the waters.'

After all, people's hearts are greedy, and some would be unable to resist the temptation of being co-rulers of the world!

Things were indeed developing in the direction Liang Sheng predicted. However, the first to fall into chaos was the White Lotus Sect. Regardless of the situation, the Great Ming Dynasty was the legitimate rule; who would dare to provoke it easily?

But the White Lotus Sect was different; they were just the rats on the streets of the Great Ming Dynasty. If the Ming Imperial Family really made a move against the White Lotus Sect when they were in trouble, it would mean that the rumors were true.

If the White Lotus Sect continued to be isolated and unsupported, it would also be an opportunity to eliminate them, and at that time, they could even claim credit with the Great Ming.

Anyway, dealing with the White Lotus Sect would not be a loss. For a short while, even though the church members of the White Lotus Sect were hiding discreetly, they could not help but expose their traces when the whole world was hunting them down.

For a short while, the White Lotus Sect suffered heavy losses, and more and more martial arts masters were drawn into the fray. At this point, many noble families had also begun to intervene in secret.

“Damn it!”

At this moment in the Imperial Palace, Ye Kai was gritting his teeth, his face flushed with anger as he sat opposite Ye Chen. The situation was even worse than they had thought.

“Make sure that the Ye Family bloodline remains silent as soon as possible. As long as you are safe, it won’t matter if all of the church members of the White Lotus Sect die.

We must hold on. We have now obtained so many Barrier Breaking Pills. As long as we endure, we will rise again.

As long as we survive this period, the Great Ming situation will stabilize, and no matter what happens, everything will be easier to handle. For the time being, bear with it. I will get a Barrier Breaking Pill for you, and you have to believe that time will eventually be on our side.”

After Ye Chen finished speaking, he went into the secret room. After a series of complicated theft-proof measures, he took out a jade bottle from a very hidden wooden box.

As he opened the jade bottle and comforted Ye Kai, his words suddenly stopped, and he exclaimed in surprise, “Where’s the Barrier Breaking Pill!?”

Ye Kai could not help but be stunned upon hearing this and hurried over, only to find that the jade bottle was empty. In an instant, the two of them were full of panic and anger.

They felt as if there was a net above their heads, which they could not see who was pulling the net and manipulating everything behind the scenes.

At this moment, in the Wen Yuan Pavilion, Liang Sheng sneezed softly and could not help but touch his nose, feeling a bit bewildered. With his current level of cultivation, how could he have any physical ailments?

So....

“Who’s cursing me?”

Chapter 88: The Upper Pure Immortal Sutra

Capital.

Above the Golden Hall, there was a dead silence.

Emperor Zhaowu, Ye Chen, had a solemn expression on his face. After the civil and military officials finished their routine reports on national affairs, the atmosphere suddenly quieted down.

Jingzhao Mansion’s governor, Deng Xingzhi, sighed inwardly before taking the initiative to step forward and report on the progress of his investigation into the spreading rumors. As he spoke, the atmosphere in the hall became increasingly oppressive.

After Deng Xingzhi finished speaking, the court remained silent. It wasn’t until much later that Emperor Zhaowu’s voice was heard from above, “Deal with this case according to your opinion.”

Emperor Zhaowu issued no further orders, but Deng Xingzhi’s brow furrowed even more. It was then that he heard the Eunuch Supervisor’s voice, “The court is adjourned.”

As the civil and military officials left the Golden Hall, they all had different thoughts. Those who were familiar with each other exchanged glances, tacitly agreeing to discuss the matter at the usual place.

Especially those from noble martial families; their hearts surged with emotion. As the rumors in the capital grew louder, more and more people began to believe that they were not just baseless gossip.

There were too many pieces of evidence, too many coincidences.

Emperor Zhaowu’s overthrow of the Dayan Dynasty had been supported by the No-Life Evil Cult. Many of the current nobles were once desperate fugitives, fighting and shedding blood for their cause.

In the hearts of the more ambitious ones, a faint voice whispered, "The world is being manipulated by the Ye Family. At this moment, people's hearts are wavering, and the foundation of the world is unstable. Since I myself come from the Lifeless Sect, why can't I take that position?"

Though it was a sunny day outside the great hall, everyone felt a chill. Unrest hinted at instability within the revitalized Great Ming Dynasty. In the Grand Temple, even the royal aura surrounding the newly cast Mountain River Tripod seemed somewhat constrained.

Emperor Zhaowu, Ye Chen, looked at a few ancestral tablets placed on the altar in the Grand Temple, all belonging to his own lineage.

After paying his respects, he stepped to the side and opened a hidden door. Inside was the ancestral hall of the Dayan Dynasty, perfectly preserved and filled with offerings, showing that someone had been attending to it daily.

At that moment, a voice from behind Ye Chen said, "The royal aura of the Mountain River Tripod has been fluctuating lately. It seems the hearts of the people are wavering, too."

The one who spoke was none other than the Sect Leader of the White Lotus Sect, Ye Kai. After making sure his disciples were settled, he had brought his most core members to hide in the Imperial Palace.

Ye Chen nodded at his words. He was, of course, aware of the changes to the Mountain River Tripod, but he was not afraid of the wavering royal aura.

He had the means and the ability to deal with the discontent of the people; what he really cared about was the mastermind behind this plot.

Was the person behind this scheme the mysterious expert who had taken the Nine Provinces Tripod? The fact that the Barrier Breaking Pills he had hidden within the palace had been stolen the day before was especially unsettling.

"Did you bring the Barrier Breaking Pills?"

Ye Kai nodded and handed over the jade bottle in his palm, "There are exactly four Barrier Breaking Pills left, it's fortunate that we had requested two more before, otherwise..."

Ye Kai's words were full of relief, but Ye Chen's face darkened. At this moment, he finally made up his mind, determined to fight to the bitter end.

Whether the mastermind was the mysterious expert or not, that person would almost certainly have six Barrier Breaking Pills. This would be the most brutal test for the Great Ming Dynasty.

"We will not worry about it. Let us quickly select loyal people, preferably from our family juniors. We will do our best to create Innate Experts.

At that time, I want the world to see that the foundation of my Great Ming Dynasty is unshakable and that no one can ever think of replacing it."

Ye Kai did not object to Ye Chen's words because the unrest was just beginning to take root so it would be fitting to use all their might to squash it.

Otherwise, if the turmoil were allowed to spread, the entire world would become a broken sieve, leading to endless troubles.

As Ye Chen prepared to fight to the death, Zhong Liangsheng in the Wen Yuan Pavilion was, at this moment, extremely excited after piecing together a clue from hundreds of biographies.

"Well played, Grand Ancestor of Dayan, for not cultivating immortality and bringing the Immortal Cultivation Techniques into the imperial tomb for your descendants. It's quite ruthless."

As for why the Grand Ancestor of Dayan didn't just destroy the Immortal Cultivation Techniques directly, Zhong Liangsheng couldn't figure it out at the time. However, if it weren't for Zhong Liangsheng's careful reading, this information might never have been discovered.

The Imperial Mausoleum was built with the most robust Vajra Rocks, and the exterior was heavily guarded, all armed with God Slaying Crossbows.

Moreover, at this time, the Great Ming Dynasty had even dispatched Innate Grandmasters to stand guard at the mausoleum. Even if other Innate Grandmasters came here, it would be almost impossible for them to destroy the Imperial Mausoleum.

After confirming this clue, Zhong Liangsheng immediately left the Imperial Palace in the capital city and headed towards the city's outskirts to visit the Imperial Mausoleum. Though it was daylight, he moved swiftly, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

The Dayan Imperial Mausoleum.

Heavily guarded both inside and outside, the Dayan Imperial Mausoleum should not have had such strict security as it belonged to the previous dynasty. However, its security measures were currently no different from those of the Great Ming Dynasty.

Zhong Liangsheng quickly located the entrance to the Dayan Taizu's tomb.

This Sealing Dragon Stone was indestructible, and even an Innate Grandmaster would not know how long it would take to break through.

However, Zhong Liangsheng was not an ordinary Innate Grandmaster. He stepped forward, placed both palms on the Sealing Dragon Stone, and carefully probed it. Then, his inner energy surged out, but there was no sound.

But if you looked closely, you would see the Sealing Dragon Stone trembling slightly. At this moment, Zhong Liangsheng's expression was solemn as his inner energy circulated ceaselessly, gradually seeping into the Sealing Dragon Stone of the Dayan Taizu.

Then, with a light shout, Zhong Liangsheng's palm caused the Sealing Dragon Stone to turn to dust, and with a wave of his hand, the wind blew and the dust scattered..

Chapter 89: Shangqing Immortal Scripture

Liang Sheng repeated the operation, and in no time, an entrance appeared on the Sealing Dragon Stone without causing any commotion.

Hmm, it is indeed the hardest Sealing Dragon Stone in the mortal world. Even an ordinary Innate Master might struggle to break it in a short time. It can only be me.”

At this moment, Liang Sheng couldn't help but boast. Then, without hesitation, he headed straight into the tomb chamber of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan.

On the way, various traps and weapons appeared constantly, but all of them had no effect on Liang Sheng.

After all, he wasn't an ordinary Innate Master but had broken through his limits twice; his battle strength couldn't be measured by secular standards.

Liang Sheng had already found the structure of the Dayan Imperial Mausoleum in the Wen Yuan Pavilion, so he moved quickly and found the tomb chamber of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan in no time.

At this moment, even he couldn't help but be a little excited deep down.

Immortal Cultivation Techniques!

Although Liang Sheng was already tremendously powerful, it was only relative to the secular world. Only by cultivating Immortal Cultivation Techniques and achieving qualitative changes could he truly embark on the path of immortality under the Dao Protection.

Now, as he looked at the coffin of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan, Liang Sheng didn't intend to disturb his peace. He carefully searched for the Golden Boy and Jade Girl Palace Lamp nearby.

Liang Sheng explored a bit, found a hidden entrance, lightly pressed it, and a little jade box popped out. By this time, he had already put on his gold silk gloves and carefully opened the jade box.

At this moment, Liang Sheng dared not take the jade box out. The tomb chamber of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan had been kept in a low oxygen environment all year round, which allowed its contents to be well preserved. If he took the box out, the items inside would probably oxidize and weather in an instant, which would make him laugh or cry.

As for the gold silk gloves on Liang Sheng's hands, they were just for precaution. The truth was that he could use his inner energy to easily expel any general severe poison. It would hardly be a problem.

When he opened the jade box, Liang Sheng was delighted, and then he was puzzled to find that there were two jade books inside.

Huh?

Jade was surprisingly used for writing books. No wonder it was the work of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan. Liang Sheng carefully took out the books and found that one of them was an autobiography of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan, while the other one was Liang Sheng's target the Immortal Cultivation Technique.

At this time, Liang Sheng couldn't help but grin. Since the books were made of jade, there was no need to worry about weathering. However, Liang Sheng still carefully read through the entire Immortal Cultivation Technique to make sure he remembered it correctly before leaving with the two books.

Today, I've got the immortal Cultivation Technique, and I can't help but be overjoyed!

The Capital.

After the establishment of the Great Ming Dynasty, Emperor Zhaowu had only been ruling the country for more than a decade, but the whole world under heaven was already prospering, and the capital regained its bustling nightlife. However, due to rumors of the unity between Great Ming and Dayan, a curfew was reimposed in the capital nowadays.

Although more and more people started to believe in the authenticity of the rumors, and the relationship between the White Lotus Sect and the Imperial Family also became widely known, the government office's action of capturing the rebellious White Lotus Sect had never stopped.

As for the reason, people with a heart could guess. Either the Great Ming would now admit that it was indeed a continuation of the Dayan Dynasty, or it would deny it vehemently and crackdown on the White Lotus Sect to prove its innocence.

Obviously, Emperor Zhaowu chose the latter path. As long as Ye Kai's lineage was fine, the deaths of the White Lotus Sect's church members wouldn't matter.

In the end, after this incident subsided, Ye Kai could just establish a Blue Lotus Sect, which wouldn't be a big deal.

People's memories would always fade with the passage of time. After the Great Ming Dynasty had been passed down for a hundred years, who would still remember this incident?

However, plans always lag behind changes. The theft of the Dayan Grand Ancestor's Imperial Mausoleum had infuriated Emperor Zhaowu, who was already prepared to let things go, because it had crossed a line for him.

The Grand Ancestor of Dayan was, after all, the spiritual belief of the Ye Family's inheritance. If it hadn't been so, how could the so-called guarding of the Ye Family, both overtly and covertly, have survived until now?

The Imperial Army, the Five Armies Commander's Mansion, the Divine Machinist Camp, the Six Fan Gate... all the violent departments of the dynasty were operating at full capacity, searching the capital for the culprit around the clock.

Damaging the Dayan Grand Ancestor's Imperial Mausoleum couldn't have been the work of an individual but a team of criminals, otherwise the Sealing Dragon Stone wouldn't have been destroyed.

The guards stationed at the mausoleum who didn't discover the suspects must bear the main responsibility. The third-class general and soldiers who guarded the mausoleum were beheaded instantly, while those who hadn't been on patrol that night were driven away to Lingnan.

For a time, the capital became somewhat unstable, and the elderly who had experienced dynastic changes were particularly worried.

They hadn't enjoyed peace for long yet. Why has the situation suddenly become so volatile? The common people just want to live their lives in peace.

At this time, Ye Chen's decision under his rage exposed the relationship between Dayan and Great Ming, making many observant people wait for the response of the Great Ming Dynasty.

There have always been ambitious people in the world. As long as they find the right moment, they will take risks, because the rewards are the entire world under heaven.

At this moment, there were many meritorious nobles in the Great Ming Dynasty who had deep hatred with Dayan. The situation in Great Ming became rather strange and unpredictable.

Perhaps realizing this, Emperor Zhaowu, Ye Chen, decided to go all out and suddenly declared a sacrifice at the Grand Temple.

But this time, he not only worshipped his ancestors but also moved the Dayan Royal Family's ancestors and forefathers out of the closet.

At this moment, the entire world was in an uproar, and it didn't take long for the princes and grandsons of the Great Ming Dynasty to be attacked. After all, too many people had had their families destroyed and loved ones lulled during the fall of the Dayan Dynasty..

Chapter 90: Upper Pure Immortal Scripture

Surprisingly, the thriving Great Ming Dynasty fell into turmoil once again in a short period of time, but Ye Chen remained extremely calm. Instead of boiling the frogs slowly in warm water, it was better to directly provoke those with ill intentions to show themselves.

Ye Chen was not Emperor Kaiping, and in the face of this situation, he was both suspicious and trusting, choosing his people wisely. Under the leadership of various generals of the Great Ming, small-scale battles were fought one after another, and the situation of the Great Ming did not seem to have reached a dead end.

In the blink of an eye, three months passed, and on the outskirts of the Capital, Liang Sheng, deep in thought, was holding the immortal cultivation technique Upper Pure Immortal Scripture in his hands.

After taking the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture from the Imperial Mausoleum, Liang Sheng, enduring his excitement at the time, did not immediately practice it, but instead copied several versions of it. Then, he found a few death row prisoners in the Sky Prison, brought them here, and made them begin practicing the techniques.

However, an interesting incident occurred during the journey. The current warden of the Sky Prison was still a Mr. Zhou. His family continued to hold their position even after the change of dynasties.

Liang Sheng was forced into this decision due to the concerns that the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture might have potential problems, and he had to be cautious as the Grand Ancestor of Dayan was also a cultivator.

As for the autobiography of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan, Liang Sheng had finished reading it. He never expected the reason why the Grand Ancestor of Dayan did not let his descendants practice the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture to be so complicated.

First of all, this Upper Pure Immortal Scripture was not the inheritance technique of Hua Tian Sect, but rather acquired by the Grand Ancestor of Dayan after expelling the subordinates of the Upper Green Sect, one of the sects in the Three Sects and Six Orders, and breaking the power of the Seven Great Sects).

Actually, the territory of the Dayan Dynasty was just average, and the dynasty luck contributed by Dayan was not enough to exchange for the Hua Tian Sect's cultivation techniques. Therefore, the Grand Ancestor of Dayan had no choice but to settle for the Barrier Breaking Pills.

This way, at least they could build a large number of innate experts to help pass on the Dayan Dynasty and prevent the interruption of the innate generations.

Anyone in the world can cultivate, but to enter the path of cultivation, one needs to have a deep blessed opportunities.

Talent, resources, and in general, wealth, love, law, land, and fortune can all be referred to as blessed opportunities.

The reason why the Grand Ancestor of Dayan abdicated later in his life and passed the throne to the First Ancestor was because he considered himself a man of blessed opportunities. He managed to successfully cultivate the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture of the Upper Green Sect, and then took the Black Iron Command to enter the Cultivation World.

The Cultivation World near the Dayan Dynasty was not the Hua Tian Sect, but a Cultivation Market, with many Loose Cultivators, although the Three Sects and Six Orders all had a presence there)

Originally, the Grand Ancestor of Dayan, with his Black Iron Command, could have directly joined the Hua Tian Sect, but due to having practiced the techniques of the Upper Green Sect, he was sent away by the Hua Tian Sect with a bottle of Qi Refining Pills.

As for the Upper Green Sect, the Grand Ancestor of Dayan would never dare to fall into their trap. After all, he personally took action to eradicate the Seven Great Sects and turned Dayan into a vassal of the Hua Tian Sect.

Then, the Grand Ancestor of Dayan stayed in the Cultivation Market for several decades. By the time his lifespan was about to end, he had only reached the Qi Cultivation Third Level. Seeing that his cultivation dreams were hopeless, he could only return to Dayan with resignation.

In the end, he endured the urge to destroy the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture, as it was an extremely precious immortal cultivation technique.

He had also learned the art of refining weapons in the Cultivation Market during that time, but as a Loose Cultivator, the Grand Ancestor of Dayan did not dare to flaunt his skills. He was afraid of being discovered by the people of the Upper Green Sect, so he ended up being a mediocre weapon refiner.

Back then, the half-artifact small sword of the Dayan Dynasty was forged by the Grand Ancestor of Dayan himself. Because of his own experiences, he would naturally not allow his descendants to practice the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture of the Upper Green Sect.

After all, as long as the descendants of the Ye Family had the chance to enter the Cultivation Market, they could successfully join the Hua Tian Sect and practice the techniques of the Hua Tian Sect. Why did they have to suffer like he did?

In addition to the mediocre weapon refining skills of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan recorded in the jade book, there was also the art of talisman curse attached to the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture. It was indeed a cultivation technique of the Upper Green Sect.

However, it was unknown why, after the Dayan Dynasty was passed down for thousands of years, the inheritance of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan's teachings was still passed down, but the reasons behind it had been completely forgotten by later generations.

At this moment, Liang Sheng's eyes were filled with a deep gloom. But at the same time, he felt a sigh of relief in his heart. The fact that the Dayan Dynasty had only a Cultivation Market as a gateway to the Cultivation World was a good thing for him, because there were very few cultivators at the Qi Cultivation Ninth Layer in the market.

Among the market, the only Foundation Establishment Expert was sent by the Three Sects and Six Orders to manage the market, with each sect taking turns sending a disciple at the Foundation Establishment Stage every one hundred years.

In other words, the situation of the market was similar to the rookie village in the Cultivation game of his past life. There were mostly unremarkable Loose Cultivators in the market, rushing around every day to collect cultivation resources.

These Loose Cultivators had no Black Iron Command from the Hua Tian Sect, so they did not dare to enter the fog. That is to say, as long as Liang Sheng did not act recklessly when dealing with the mundane world and the Hua Tian Sect, he would be extremely safe in the mundane world.

Moreover, Liang Sheng felt fortunate that he had restrained his greed at the time; otherwise, entering the market recklessly would have been a terrible decision.

After all, he was not a descendant of the Ye Family, and he did not know how the Hua Tian Sect would treat him. Perhaps they would treat him with equanimity, or maybe they would just give him a single technique and send him on his way. In the crowded market full of Loose Cultivators, anything could have happened.

However, Liang Sheng now had the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan, which was a pleasant surprise. Although he still could not confirm whether this technique had been tampered with and whether it was safe, he did not have to rush to think about this issue now.

After another nine months, the death row prisoners had been practicing the techniques for a year. Liang Sheng checked their condition every day, and none of them had successfully entered the cultivation path, but they were still lively.

Liang Sheng dared to carry out such an experiment as he had taken reference from the autobiography of the Grand Ancestor of Dayan. Though Qi Cultivation First Level only involved the change of internal energy transforming into spiritual energy, the secular world had limited spiritual energy, and even prodigies would need at least three years to succeed without specific resources.

After practicing for a year, the death row prisoners had no problems, which proved that the technique was fine.

The most important thing was that he could now officially start practicing the Upper Pure Immortal Scripture, but he didn't know what the outcome would be.