

Chapter 7240

Charlie pondered for a moment and agreed,

"It must be so."

"She inherently possesses spirituality and must have started cultivating herself before the Dharma-ending Age,"

"Which is why she was able to undergo tribulation at Tianchi hundreds of years ago."

"But now, after her rebirth, it is the complete Dharma-ending Age, and she can hardly absorb spiritual energy from heaven and earth."

"If she is not intervened, even if she grows for tens of thousands of years, she will probably not be able to reach the strength to undergo tribulation."

"If we transplant her here, her cultivation speed will increase exponentially."

Maria said happily, "Then I humbly request that you take me to Antarctica again next year, young master."

"I want to bring the Mother of Pu Cha here so that she can live here!"

Charlie suddenly had a flash of inspiration and smiled,

"Why wait until next year?"

"Let's go back now and transplant her!"

"Now?"

Charlie's words left even the exceptionally intelligent Maria somewhat bewildered.

She asked him with a face full of doubt,

"Young Master, it's winter in Antarctica now."

"Aren't there any ships that can cross the Roaring Forties?"

Charlie smiled and said,

"I didn't say we are going to take a ship back."

Maria was even more surprised and couldn't help but ask,

"Then are we going to take a plane back?"

"Ordinary planes taking off and landing on the Antarctic ice sheet would be quite difficult."

Charlie shook his head mysteriously and smiled, saying,

"It's not by plane."

Maria found it strange.

To return to Aurous Hill from Antarctica, there were only two routes: sea and air.

But Charlie said neither was possible.

Could there be another possibility?

In that instant, she suddenly remembered the teleportation array Charlie had used to bring her in and exclaimed in shock,

"Young Master, could there be a teleportation array here that allows us to leave Antarctica?!"

Charlie looked at Maria with delight.

He knew Maria was intelligent,

But she always seemed to be pushing the boundaries of his understanding.

He couldn't help but exclaim,

"You are indeed exceptionally intelligent; you guessed it right away!"

Maria smiled modestly and said,

"Young Master, you flatter me."

"The reason I was able to guess it was a teleportation array is mainly that you personally experienced it with me just now."

"Otherwise, even if I thought about it for three days and three nights,"

"I wouldn't have been able to figure it out."

Charlie laughed, "Isn't that just a matter of intelligence?"

After saying that, Charlie continued,

"You guessed correctly."

"There are nine teleportation arrays in this place."

"Each corresponds to one of the nine different places on Earth, basically covering all continents."

"I'll take you back to China first."

"After we move the Mother of Pu Cha from Zijin Manor, I'll show you the other teleportation arrays."

Maria nodded excitedly and said,

"I'm already looking forward to it!"

Charlie took her hand, and all the teleportation arrays in the entire underground city appeared in his mind.

The Four Directions Pagoda has nine floors, and each floor has a teleportation array.

The Bagua diagram that can teleport to all parts of the world is located on the fifth floor of the Four Directions Pagoda.

As for what was on the other eight levels of the Four Directions Pagoda, Charlie hadn't had time to explore them all last time before returning to the research station,

So he planned to study them slowly after returning from Aurous Hill.

He simply recited the incantation for the fifth level of the Four Directions Pagoda's teleportation array in his mind,

And in the blink of an eye, Charlie and Maria appeared in the space of the Eight Trigrams Compass from that day.

Maria, who was proficient in the I Ching and the Eight Trigrams, immediately exclaimed after seeing the light circles in the eight directions—Kan, Gen, Zhen, Xun, Li, Kun, Dui, and Qian—"These eight light circles in different directions must be the teleportation arrays to various parts of the world, right?"

Charlie nodded, pointing to the central light circle and saying to Maria,

"There are nine teleportation arrays in total,"

"But only the one in the middle is in China."

"If we want to return to Aurous Hill, we must first use this teleportation array to get to China and then find a way to get there."

Maria asked him,

"Does Young Master know where in China this teleportation array goes?"

Charlie replied, "Western Sichuan, Crane Cry Mountain."

Maria nodded in sudden realization, sighing,

"Crane Cry Mountain makes perfect sense."

"It's the birthplace of Taoism, and presumably a sacred place for cultivators."

"Perhaps these cultivators from before the Dharma-ending Age attained enlightenment and entered the Tao here."

Charlie nodded, his brows furrowing slightly, and said,

"There's just one thing I don't quite understand."

Maria looked at him and said, "Please speak, young master."

"I'll see if I can answer your question."

Charlie took her hand and led her to the central circle of light, saying earnestly, "Let's talk as we walk."

The next moment, the two appeared in the special cave within Crane Cry Mountain.

Maria, having already been teleported twice, was basically unfazed by unexpected events.

Charlie, holding her hand, led her skillfully out of the cave.

As they walked, Charlie voiced his doubts to her:

"Miss Lin, I've researched some history. The origins of Taoism should be around 140 AD, which means it's less than two thousand years ago."

"If what we now call Taoism is the ancestor of all cultivation, then the entire history of cultivation is only a little over a thousand years, less than two thousand."

"And through Meng Changsheng's life story, we can roughly determine that in 664 AD, when he was born, the world had already entered the Dharma-ending Age."

"This means that from the beginning of cultivation to the arrival of the Dharma-ending Age, it's only a short five hundred years,"

"But Meng Changsheng has lived for a thousand years."

"For many high-level cultivators, their lifespan is probably even longer."

"How could this short five-hundred-year timeline possibly accommodate the cultivation and inheritance of several generations of cultivators?"

Maria listened to his doubts, pondered for a moment, and asked him a question:

"Young Master, the history of human civilization is only a short 5,000 years."

"Do you think a 5,000-year timeline can accommodate the development of the path of cultivation?"

Charlie thought for a moment and said seriously,

"In my opinion... Our current understanding of cultivation is probably only the tip of the iceberg."

"That's why I always feel that the history of cultivation must have taken an extremely long time to evolve."

"Even if we estimated 500 years, let alone 5000 years, it still wouldn't be enough for cultivation to go through its birth, rise, flourishing, decline, and the end of the Dharma era—a process spanning several epochs."

"If we consider it within the context of Earth's history, an epoch would probably take tens of millions of years."

Maria smiled and nodded, saying, "Modern human civilizations, under Earth's natural environment, can probably only sustain themselves for a few hundred thousand years."

"After that, all traces of human construction will likely vanish."

"Therefore, in Earth's billions of years of history, if a civilization primarily focused on cultivation truly existed, even with great supernatural powers, the traces they could leave behind after the passage of time would be negligible."

At this point, the two had already reached the cave entrance hand in hand.

Maria turned back to look at the completely unmarked rocks, marveling at the miraculous magic, and suddenly gaining some insight.

While admiring the long-lost, lush beauty of the mountains, Maria suddenly realized and said to Charlie,

"I understand! Although the manifestations left behind by great supernatural powers are minuscule, they are not nonexistent."

"There must still be some supernatural powers that have been preserved, just like the underground city we just visited."

"Therefore, I deduce that the reason why Crane Cry Mountain is the birthplace of Taoism is that, very long ago, there were cultivators active here."

"In other words, Taoism was not the originator of the path of cultivation, but rather a legacy left behind by the path of cultivation."

"It wasn't until two thousand years ago that the founder of Taoism was inspired by the miracles left behind by these cultivators, and then established Taoism!"

Charlie exclaimed with a look of sudden realization,

"So my initial thinking was wrong!"

"This question is not about which came first, the chicken or the egg, but about where the chicken came from and who its ancestors were!"

"If I remember correctly, the ancestors of chickens are dinosaurs!"