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Maria nodded, "That should be the case."

"However, I don't think this is necessarily a bad thing."

"From their migration, plundering, and then migration again,"

"We can see that they consumed too much spiritual energy, to the point that they couldn't form a healthy cycle of development."

"It's precisely because they drained Earth's spiritual energy that we, the later humans, adapted and embarked on the path of technological development."

"Although the individual strength of humans today is far inferior to theirs, their overall strength is not necessarily weaker."

"Moreover, I believe that technological development is the healthiest and most reasonable model!"

Charlie deeply agreed with Maria's viewpoint.

The path of cultivation is inherently a model of extremely high individual resource consumption.

It uses the most refined spiritual energy to infinitely enhance personal strength, which, from a macro perspective, is a tremendous waste.

This highly concentrated allocation of resources is equivalent to draining a planet capable of sustaining billions of people to feed only a few million or even fewer cultivators.

This model can hardly create a true human civilization; it can only be a celebration for a small elite group.

Therefore, according to his and Maria's speculation, it's very likely that before the formal formation of human civilization, a group of interstellar colonizing cultivators had already arrived on this land.

Like locusts passing through, they exhausted Earth's cultivation resources before leaving without looking back.

The teleportation array built within the Four Directions Pagoda, frankly speaking, was a channel for their frantic plunder of Earth's resources.

They dispatched countless worker-ant-like cultivators to frantically search for cultivation resources throughout the entire planet,

Depleting it to the point of Dharma decline before leaving without looking back to embark on the next journey.

Thinking of this, Charlie asked Maria, "Miss Lin, do you think they might have met with Earth's ape-men?"

"When the ape-men had just learned to walk upright and use stones as tools,"

"They already possessed the ability for interstellar migration."

"The scene of two species meeting tens or even millions of years ago is truly fantastical."

Maria nodded and said seriously,

"The scene you described, young master, could very well have actually happened in history."

After saying that, Maria looked at Charlie and said,

"And I suddenly thought of another question."

Charlie asked curiously,

"What question? Please tell me, Miss Lin."

Maria frowned and whispered as she walked,

"I'm wondering if some of those myths and legends that have been passed down for thousands of years might actually be true."

"Do they exist? Almost every ancient civilization has some peculiar records."

"Some in the form of murals, others in hieroglyphics."

"The content of these records is mostly about so-called miracles."

"Perhaps they even overlapped with those cultivators in history."

Charlie nodded, saying, "That makes sense."

"Even the legends about dragons and some mythical beasts may not be just the imagination of the ancients."

"Perhaps these things really existed, but they came with those cultivators and left with them."

"So no one has seen them since, leaving only some records that are difficult for later generations to verify."

Maria smiled and said, "Young Master,"

"If what we've been discussing were made public,"

"Wouldn't it completely change how billions of people see the world?"

"Definitely."

Charlie sighed, "There are so many things here that are beyond human comprehension."

"Who could have imagined that Earth, which humanity is so proud of,"

"Even a cosmic wonder might just be a piece of junk that was ruined and carelessly discarded by another group of people?"

Maria also sighed, "And their method of interstellar migration is too unimaginable."

"Can they really achieve interstellar travel just by using teleportation arrays?"

"Even if they come from the nearest star system, Proxima Centauri, that's still four light-years away."

"If they can really get there in the blink of an eye with a teleportation array,"

"It would completely overturn humanity's understanding of the universe."

Charlie smiled wryly, "Overturning our understanding might be secondary."

"The most important thing is that many people will be gripped by fear."

"When they don't have neighbors, they want to find one every day,"

"But when they know that a neighbor could walk into their house in the blink of an eye..."

Inside the room, his mood was completely different.

He then added self-deprecatingly,

"Thinking about these native cultivators on Earth, they're truly pitiful."

"They basically just pick up scraps left behind and force themselves into the Dao."

"Each one vainly trying to defy fate, transcend tribulations, and ascend to immortality."

"Resources have been plundered clean."

"How can the leftovers possibly support anyone's cultivation to that level?"

Maria noticed Charlie's somewhat dejected mood.

She knew it was a collapse of faith, or perhaps the bewilderment and disorientation of a frog jumping out of a well.

Originally, he thought the sky was only as big as the well opening,

And although the sky was bigger than himself, it was only limited.

After all, the ratio between the sky and himself was perhaps one hundred to one, or at worst, one ten thousand to one.

But after jumping out, he realized that the gap was perhaps one trillion to one,

Like the difference between a giant mountain and a grain of dust.

So, she gripped Charlie's hand tightly and changed the subject, asking,

"Young Master, how should we get from western Sichuan to Nanjing now?"

"Neither of us has our identification documents with us, and our normal identities have already left the country for Argentina."

"If our identity information suddenly appears in the domestic transportation system, it will trigger an alert."

Charlie thought for a moment and said,

"I'll have Chen Zekai send a private jet over, and see if we can pull some strings at the airport to board directly."

Maria shook her head and said, "Young Master, those who know we're going to Antarctica also know we can't suddenly return to China this season."

"Smart people know the ins and outs; a little thought will reveal something fishy."

"Only the most trusted person can handle this."

"It's best not to inform anyone else."

Charlie agreed. "Miss Lin is right."

"What do you think, Miss Lin?"

Maria smiled and said, "Let's talk to Old Sun and Old Qiu."

"I watched them grow up."

"They even know the secret of my four hundred years of life."

"They won't be surprised by this, they won't overthink it, and they certainly won't leak it."

Charlie smiled and said, "That's right."

"From that perspective, they are indeed the most reliable people."

Maria looked at Charlie with her big eyes and said earnestly,

“In my eyes, the only person I can trust in this world is you, Young Master.”

“The others are only in a lower tier than you.”

Charlie smiled and nodded. In fact, Maria felt the same way.

After they made up their minds, Maria called Ethan.

Larry, as a highly influential overseas Chinese, had a lot of connections and prestige in Nanjing,

But in terms of influence throughout China, Ethan was more powerful.

When Ethan heard from Maria that they were in western Sichuan, he asked almost no questions and immediately began making arrangements for the two of them.

He first dispatched dedicated personnel from the closest classified department in western Sichuan to drive to the town at the entrance of Heming Mountain.

Simultaneously, he arranged a private jet at the airport.

The jet’s operating company had a strong background and could easily bypass airport security and big data checks to transport Charlie and Maria to Aurous Hill.

In Aurous Hill, Larry was also prepared; the car drove directly into the airport, and the two were taken back to Zijin Villa as soon as they landed. After

Maria arranged everything, and the two began their trek from Heming Mountain.

As they emerged from the mountains, they encountered other hikers along the way.

After leaving the mountains, they arrived at a small town at the foot of the mountain.

Upon arrival, two green SUVs with special license plates were already waiting.

They didn't know Charlie and Maria's identities, only that they had two special guests who needed their escort to the airport tarmac.

These personnel were highly trained; after getting the two into the vehicles, they didn't ask a single question or say a word more than necessary, directly taking them to the airport.

As evening fell, an unremarkable-looking, older model Gulfstream G500 took off from Chengdu Airport, heading east towards Nanjing.