

Chapter 651 - 319: Stabilizing the Lu Family's Situation, Black Crow Zhenren Dies

In front of the Lu Clan Territory, Longteng Qianyue stood with hands behind his back, hovering calmly in the sky thirty zhang high, surveying the land below. Within the Lu Clan Territory, chaos had already erupted, yet Longteng Qianyue remained unmoved, though the Lu Family were already on high alert.

Forced by circumstances, the Lu Family's Great Elder, Lu Taixuan, led several Elders to receive him at the door, but Longteng Qianyue sneered at them.

"To welcome me at the door, you, Lu Taixuan, are not qualified enough. Where is that old fellow, Lu Feng? Make him come out himself."

Longteng Qianyue directly called Lu Feng an old fellow in front of everyone, and even though the Lu Family felt anger in their hearts, they could only suppress it.

Lu Taixuan's expression remained unchanged, forcibly holding back his inner anger, raising his hand again in salute, and welcoming him respectfully, "Qianyue Zhenren, your visit truly is untimely, for the Ancestor is currently in seclusion due to cultivation and truly cannot come out to meet you."

Longteng Qianyue sneered coldly, questioning, "Seclusion sooner or later, yet just as I arrive he goes into seclusion. Lu Taixuan, do you believe this yourselves?"

"The matters of cultivation are inherently unpredictable."

Lu Taixuan replied with a smile.

Still very calm.

But behind Lu Taixuan, Lu Hongying and others were already filled with nervousness, their forced calmness only covering their tension.

Due to the friction between the Spirit Suppressing Army and the Outer Path Hidden Demon Sect, East Pole Immortal City remains without a City Lord, with the acting City

Lord merely at the Early Stage of Golden Core, not daring to interfere in such matters, nor having any reason to.

Thus, the Lu Family is now isolated and without assistance. If Longteng Qianyue suddenly attacked, even if the Mansion Protection Array could resist, it would only confirm rumors, pushing the Lu Family into a position where the entire world turns against them.

With a wave of his hand, Longteng Qianyue took out a Spirit Beast Ring, from which a thunderous roar of a spirit beast spread like rolling thunder. Emerging with the furious roar was a black one-horned Flood Dragon, stretching a hundred zhang long, its black scales deep like a black hole under the sun, its roar exuding a formidable dragon's might.

Tier Three Middle Realm Spirit Beast—Dark Curtain Void Dragon.

Exclusively belonging to the Longteng Family, descended from the True Dragon Spirit Beast that was the founder of the Longteng Family. Although after two or three thousand years the True Dragon had turned to bones, its descendants never again appeared in the true form of a dragon.

But with the bloodline of the True Dragon, the Dark Curtain Void Dragon, though a Flood Dragon, is much stronger than most spirit beasts.

Upon the appearance of the Dark Curtain Void Dragon, the Lu Clan Guardian Spirit Beast, merely at Tier Three Lower Realm, was filled with fear like a mouse encountering a cat. This was not only a matter of realm suppression but also bloodline suppression, and bloodline suppression is deadly. It is akin to Middle-Grade Golden Core facing Low-Rank Golden Core, Upper-Rank Golden Core facing Middle-Grade Golden Core.

"Dark Curtain Void Dragon!"

In the face of the sudden change in everyone's expressions, even Lu Taixuan, trying to remain calm, couldn't help but reveal a change in expression.

Longteng Qianyue smiled in satisfaction at the Lu Family's reaction. Lu Family, damn Lu Family, in the end, is just a force barely hanging on with a Middle Golden Core Realm, yet it aspires to become East Pole Immortal City's number one.

Truly laughable.

Were my previous hints not clear enough?

Qi Family is under my influence.

Want to be number one, did you ask me?

"Make that old geezer come out, he dares kill my subordinates and your Lu Family dares to seize my assets, why hide like a turtle now? I give you ten breaths' time, or else don't blame the Flood Dragon for overturning the seas!"

Longteng Qianyue spoke coldly, his voice spreading across East Pole Immortal City along with the Dark Curtain Void Dragon's rumbling growl.

Thousands of cultivators all looked toward the Lu Family.

Some sneered.

Some rejoiced.

Some lamented.

And some felt melancholy.

The Cultivation Realm is truly cruel. Just when the Lu Family had the momentum to dominate East Pole Immortal City, it seems they'll fall like a shooting star.

Once upon a time, the Lu Family was the pinnacle of East Pole Immortal City, a giant that all cultivators and loose cultivators dared not look upon directly.

But today.

This formidable giant has met its match.

Now.

This match might crush them.

"Once ambition swells beyond its rightful size, one must bear the consequences of backlash. A pity, it took the Lu Family two or three thousand years to reach today, yet it is but a fleeting bloom." A Golden Core Wanderer couldn't help but sigh, having practiced with caution for over seven hundred years, witnessing the rise and fall of many forces, he couldn't help but sigh.

This sigh also touched many Golden Core Cultivators around, for they were not even as well-off as the Lu Family.

If even the Lu Family faces such.

What fate awaits them?

However.

At this very moment, bursts of brilliant laughter rolled in from the sky, louder and more imposing than the dragon's previous roar. Under this laughter, Longteng Qianyue's rising pressure surprisingly showed signs of being suppressed, causing all faces to change.

Especially those of the Lu Family.

Their first reaction was, does Longteng Qianyue have additional assistance?

The world pushes over fallen walls, but hadn't they not entirely fallen yet?

But at this moment, Longteng Qianyue's expression changed dramatically, his confidence, his sneering disdain for the Lu Family, froze and was replaced with vigilance similar to facing a powerful adversary, staring tens of thousands of li away.

"Lu Feng!"

"You spent centuries severing ties with them, yet now you suddenly take this step, it truly is unexpected."

Longteng Qianyue murmured, looking in the direction of the voice, shortly thereafter a blood-red glow rolled in, covering the sky. On the red glow, a middle-aged cultivator in a fire robe, bare-chested, came into view.

Beside him was another person.

It was the Lu Family Ancestor.

Lu Feng.

But at this moment, no one paid attention to Lu Feng, their eyes fixated on the middle-aged cultivator in the fire robe, for he too was at the Middle Golden Core Realm.

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However, it's not just because he's at the Middle Golden Core Realm, but also because he has a title, known as Red Fire Zhenren.

A renowned Golden Core Zhenren of the Qi Guang Sect.

He is also the number one in the Middle Stage of Golden Core within Qi Guang Sect.

In terms of strength across the entire West Mountain Floating Domain, he ranks among the top; among those in the same realm, few can match him equally.

"Qianyue Zhenren, all is well, I hope." Red Fire Zhenren spoke warmly, as if meeting an old friend.

Longteng Qianyue was sullen, making the Dark Curtain Void Dragon advance a bit, but paid no heed to Red Fire Zhenren, instead staring at Lu Feng intently, "Lu Feng, who would have thought you dared to take this step. All I want is a justification, all I seek is the Qi Family's industries occupied by your Lu Family, yet you invited Qi Guang Sect's Red Fire Zhenren, careful that your Lu Family might be devoured to the bone."

Lu Feng responded calmly, "What do you mean by Qi Family's industries? Those are my Lu Family's industries, and now I've entirely offered those industries to Red Fire Zhenren as a birthday gift for his concubine's mother's sixtieth birthday last month, fully belonging to Red Fire Zhenren's concubine. Red Fire Zhenren is a good man who cherishes people, so he came to receive my Lu Family's industries with me. Qianyue Zhenren, if you have opinions, you can bring them to Red Fire Zhenren; my Lu Family's industries now entirely belong to Red Fire Zhenren's concubine."

"Concubine!"

Longteng Qianyue almost ground his teeth into fragments.

And last month!

"Your Lu Family beware of being eaten with not even bones left!" Longteng Qianyue glared at Lu Feng.

Red Fire Zhenren quickly followed up, laughing, "Qianyue Zhenren, perhaps old me can spar with you; you were defeated within a hundred moves last time, wonder if there has been any progress in your cultivation after thirty years."

"I have urgent matters, my concubine is due to give birth." Longteng Qianyue suddenly wanted to withdraw, not daring to linger further.

His strength was too weak compared to Red Fire Zhenren; he barely stepped into the Middle Stage of Golden Core as a Low-Rank Golden Core, whereas Red Fire Zhenren is a solid Middle-Grade Golden Core who has received the true teachings of the Qi Guang Sect ancestor. With what could he fight?

If a fight were necessary, it would be someone else from the Longteng Family, not him. The scenery changes, and the face lost today can always be reclaimed in the future.

"Your family ancestor dared to take this step; your Lu Family will cry one day." Longteng Qianyue glanced at Lu Taixuan and others, then transformed alongside the Dark Curtain Void Dragon into a Startled Swan, fleeing swiftly, not daring to linger more.

Seeing Longteng Qianyue retreat, the cultivators observing from the East Pole Immortal City were at a loss for words.

Those who predicted failure earlier could only smile wryly.

They almost forgot that the Lu Family is deeply connected to the Qi Guang Sect, and if the Lu Family ancestor hadn't severed connections with Qi Guang Sect hundreds of years ago, the Lu Family would still be one of Qi Guang Sect's subordinate influences.

"With Red Fire Zhenren's arrival, Longteng Qianyue's plan is ultimately thwarted; previous schemes were all in vain."

"Although the Qi Family industries were given away, it's better than giving them to Longteng Qianyue; the Lu Family ancestor has shown considerable courage. Although it seems the Lu Family gained nothing, becoming the first in the East Pole Immortal City promises significant benefits later."

"What's the difference though, with Red Fire Zhenren's arrival, won't the Lu Family still become Qi Guang Sect's backyard in the future?"

"What's absurd? Your Chen Family, a mere small Golden Core influence, dreams of becoming a subordinate of Qi Guang Sect? Not qualified. And the Lu Family has the clan mother, a descendant of the Qi Guang Sect ancestor, Qi Guang Sect surely wouldn't devour the Lu Family."

As the crowd discussed, Lu Taixuan, Lu Hongying, and others also breathed a sigh of relief. Regardless of the outcome, they ultimately forced Longteng Qianyue to retreat.

"Turns out the ancestor wasn't in seclusion but went to Qi Guang Sect. No wonder we weren't allowed to forcefully enter."

Lu Taixuan sighed and quickly led several elders forward to salute Red Fire Zhenren, also breathing a sigh of relief.

Though the Qi Family's industries were given away, it's better than letting Longteng Qianyue seize the opportunity to make trouble.

Looking back now, no wonder the ancestor's temperament suddenly changed a few days ago; it was because they made a decision that altered the Lu Family's fate.

"Welcome Red Fire Zhenren."

"Welcome ancestor."

Everyone bowed in unison.

...

Outside East Pole Immortal City, Longteng Qianyue had already stored the Dark Curtain Void Dragon into the beast ring, transforming into light and leaving in a hurry, almost grinding his teeth to bits, "Lu Feng, Lu Feng, back then you severed ties with Qi Guang Sect to be free from its constraints and returned everything Qi Guang Sect coveted about Lu Family; it took Lu Family decades to recover its vitality. Now because of me, you actually took the initiative to approach Qi Guang Sect."

"Fine, fine, fine!"

"I didn't expect you to be so decisive, not even giving me a chance to cause trouble. Alright, then let me watch as your Lu Family steps into the abyss step by step. That Red Fire Zhenren is even greedier than me; let's see how your Lu Family will satisfy him."

After secretly cursing repeatedly, Longteng Qianyue immediately communicated the matter to his family and urged the Qi Family members to withdraw quickly.

Simultaneously, Longteng Qianyue quickened his departure, worried Red Fire Zhenren might catch up.

However, as he rapidly fled, still thousands of miles away, beyond Longteng Qianyue's Divine Sense detection range, East Spring Undying Bone quietly followed, with Wen Jiu through East Spring Undying Bone keeping a close watch on Longteng Qianyue.

Still, they did not act directly.

Firstly, having just left East Pole Immortal City—any action would surely be noticed by Red Fire Zhenren.

What Wen Jiu desired was to quietly reignite conflict between Qi Guang Sect and the Longteng Family, because even if they were exposed, Qi Guang Sect would seize this opportunity to act, especially since Lin Yingyun Mountain's lifespan is nearing its end, but it's best to leave no traces to avoid investigation by the Domain Lord's Mansion afterwards.

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The East Spring Undying Bone Divine Sense had long since detected another person; a Mid-stage Golden Core Cultivator from the Longteng Family far beyond East Pole Immortal City, whose aura was comparable to Longteng Qianyue.

Previously, Wen Jiu couldn't be certain if this person accompanied Longteng Qianyue, but when Longteng Qianyue transmitted his voice and the person entered the range of the East Spring Undying Bone Divine Sense, it was almost certain that this was Longteng Qianyue's ally.

"Longteng Qianyue is really cautious, revealing the Dark Curtain Void Dragon is not enough, he also brought an ally of equivalent strength, seemingly intending to use this opportunity to kill off Lu Feng. If Lu Feng hadn't already moved to the Qi Guang Sect, I would have had to control the East Spring Undying Bone to act to resolve the Lu Family crisis."

If I take action, the consequences would be different, and the Domain Lord's Mansion would definitely launch a thorough investigation.

"No wonder this person is gnashing his teeth in hatred." Wen Jiu chuckled, still not making a move.

Because currently, Longteng Qianyue was very cautious, and the other Mid-stage Golden Core Cultivator was also heading towards Longteng Qianyue.

After several hours.

The two met.

It was a Female Cultivator, though at the Mid-stage Golden Core, she maintained the appearance of a woman in her thirties or forties, still charming. Upon her arrival, she complained, "Fellow Daoist Qianyue, things have reached this point, why did you call me here, that Red Fire Zhenren didn't chase after us."

"Better to be cautious." Longteng Qianyue forced a smile, "Thanks to Fellow Daoist Yun Meng's help, alas, if it weren't for Lu Feng seeking out Red Fire Zhenren, the Qi Family's territory and the Lu Family's assets would have been ours."

"This time the reward should not be short." The Female Cultivator reminded displeased.

"Naturally."

Longteng Qianyue quickly agreed.

"Alright, then I'll be going." The Female Cultivator turned to leave but was stopped by Longteng Qianyue just as she turned.

Longteng Qianyue hurriedly said, "Let's go together, don't find yourself alone, beware of Red Fire Zhenren suddenly appearing."

"You're truly scared stiff by this Red Fire Zhenren, if he wanted to chase you, he would have done so earlier. He is probably busy feasting on the Lu Family right now, no time to bother with us."

"Better to be cautious."

"Alright."

With that.

The two transformed into streaks of escape light, heading in the direction of the Longteng Family.

Wen Jiu quietly watched this scene, and couldn't help but praise, "Quite cautious, it's like seeing myself."

But they are merely Mid-stage Golden Cores after all.

Caution is in vain.

The disparity in strength is too great.

After the two departed, the East Spring Undying Bone followed.

...

In the blink of an eye, three days passed.

Sixty thousand miles away from East Pole Immortal City, Longteng Qianyue and the Female Cultivator still hadn't separated, during which the Female Cultivator asked to leave twice, but Longteng Qianyue did not allow it. All things considered, he was indeed rather cautious.

And after following for five or six more days, with the Longteng Family territory in sight, Longteng Qianyue finally permitted the Female Cultivator to leave.

"Thanks to Fellow Daoist Yun Meng for escorting me." Longteng Qianyue raised his hand in salute, seeing the Female Cultivator off.

After the Female Cultivator left, Longteng Qianyue's smile gradually diminished, "Although the Qi Guang Sect has accepted mediation, how can they easily let it go? Now that my whereabouts are exposed, if I'm not cautious, I might encounter an attack. Your carelessness will lead to your doom at the hands of the Qi Guang Sect one day."

With that said, Longteng Qianyue continued towards the Longteng Family. With the Longteng Family in sight, no matter how bold the Qi Guang Sect is, they wouldn't dare to strike here, and even if they dared, after all it's only a few thousand miles; even Red Fire Zhenren couldn't capture him.

Just after flying forward another thousand miles or so, there was an abrupt fluctuation of escape technique from behind him, and simultaneously, an unexpected ghostly aura was instantly detected by him. Longteng Qianyue didn't think twice before preparing to use his escape technique, but as soon as he intended to activate it, there was an anomaly within his Golden Core, a multitude of invisible Gu insects suddenly surged over his Golden Core, then his meridians and divine sense.

"How can there be a Tier Three Law-Devouring Yin Insect?" Longteng Qianyue was shocked; how could Tier Three Law-Devouring Yin Insects exist in the world? Fortunately, though Law-Devouring Yin Insects are strong, their weaknesses are fatal.

Stored within his Golden Core was Thunder Techniques, capable of easily dealing with the Law-Devouring Yin Insects.

But just as this thought arose, the power of soul capture suddenly descended, and realizing it was a Divine Technique, Longteng Qianyue's newfound confidence was shattered in an instant, he could only watch as five ghosts appeared, opening their eyes, causing his consciousness to grow increasingly blurred, he wanted to speak, but was powerless to do so.

"Long..."

The Longteng Family was merely eight to nine thousand miles away.

So near, yet so far.

He couldn't even manage to cry out.

Moments later.

The struggle in Longteng Qianyue's eyes gradually disappeared, replaced with tranquility and reverence. But instead of asking Longteng Qianyue anything, Wen Jiu completed the soul control and immediately executed the Blood Corpse Escape, leaving.

Simultaneously, Longteng Qianyue left as well, as if nothing had happened. Not long after, a Spirit Beast sliced through the sky, stopping at the location where Longteng Qianyue was controlled, moving at extraordinary speed.

After detecting remnant ghostly aura and divine power, the Spirit Beast transmitted a message, and the Female Cultivator returned not long after.

Several Golden Core cultivators from the Longteng Family gradually arrived, but after a thorough investigation, finding no injuries or abnormality within the Longteng Family, the turbulence subsided.

In the meantime, Wen Jiu was already a thousand miles away, having controlled the East Spring Undying Bone, although he had seen the entire scene through his divine sense.

Very precarious.

If he had been a step slower, he might have been targeted by the Spirit Beast.

He couldn't tell what the Spirit Beast was, though its strength was just Tier Three Lower Grade, its speed surpassed even a Late-stage Golden Core Cultivator.

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"Indeed, this kind of Golden Core major influence with a foundation of thousands of years cannot be underestimated. If thousands of years can achieve this, then those Nascent Soul major influences with tens of thousands of years must be tremendously powerful." Wen Jiu couldn't help but sigh, but he didn't dwell on it and continued to control the East Spring Undying Bone towards Qi Mountain.

Three days later.

Wen Jiu received a signal from Longteng Qianyue's Communication Stone.

"Master, what should the subordinate do?" Longteng Qianyue's respectful voice sounded.

Wen Jiu, controlling the East Spring Undying Bone, replied, "Return and continue to stir things up with the Qi Family people. In short, the Qi Family's assets must be obtained, even if it means going to war with Red Fire Zhenren."

"Understood!"

Longteng Qianyue responded.

After putting away the Communication Stone, Wen Jiu smiled with satisfaction. In this way, Qi Guang Sect has a reason to continue the war with the Longteng Family. At that time, even if the Longteng Family doesn't want to fight, they must. The western situation can become chaotic again.

However, even though it becomes chaotic, with the Domain Lord's Mansion there, the two family's ancestors should not openly act within a short period, so the conflicts will be at the lower levels at most. The more chaotic it is at the lower levels, the less attention can be given to the Lu Family.

The Lu Family can remain stable, and his corpse nourishing resources can also stay stable.

His goal is to cultivate the East Spring Undying Bone to the Tier Three Upper Realm before leaving the West Mountain Floating Domain.

Or even higher.

For this goal, he doesn't mind if some people die. Since embarking on the path of heterodox cultivation, he can only walk straight down it, dreaming of remaining unstained by the mud is forever impossible.

...

At the time when the East Spring Undying Bone was returning to Qi Mountain, Lu Feng suddenly communicated, reporting honestly the situation after Red Fire Zhenren came to East Pole Immortal City. In just seven days, Red Fire Zhenren took over all the Qi Family's territories in the Lu Family's hands with Qi Guang Sect's forces, forcibly driving away Longteng Qianyue's people.

Lu Feng in East Pole Immortal City didn't let it happen, not a step yielded, because once Red Fire Zhenren secures a foothold in East Pole Immortal City, it definitely wouldn't be without trouble, fortunately, Red Fire Zhenren also didn't ask for it proactively.

Wen Jiu wasn't surprised by this, after all, Qi Guang Sect sent Red Fire Zhenren, and the purpose wasn't to consume the Lu Family.

If the sole purpose were to destroy the Lu Family, it wouldn't be Red Fire Zhenren who'd come, but someone equal to Longteng Qianyue. Only by maintaining a stalemate for longer can the greatest benefits be obtained from the Lu Family.

It can even take the opportunity to revert the Lu Family to being a Qi Guang Sect vassal, annually offering an ample amount of cultivation resources.

Nevertheless, Red Fire Zhenren is no saint either, although not demanding the Qi Family's territory within East Pole Immortal City, they did take several Tier Two Top-Grade Spiritual Veins, particularly those areas close to the Longteng Family's influence, and purchased a large land piece within two Tier Three Spiritual Veins, officially to open a Trading House, but the real purpose is clear.

Whether it's to serve Qi Guang Sect's plan or for personal gain is unknown. Regardless of Red Fire Zhenren's purpose, the Tier Three Spiritual Veins are central to the Lu Family, Lu Feng did not immediately agree.

Lu Feng intended to discuss with the Lu Family Elders, but considering the gravity of the matter, he then communicated with the East Spring Undying Bone.

Wen Jiu pondered for a long time, not letting Lu Feng refuse, because the future of Qi Guang Sect is uncertain. Would they be able to spawn a late stage of Golden Core cultivator after Lin Yingyun Mountain's death? Can Lin Yingyun Mountain protect his family business thereafter?

In Wen Jiu's view, once Lin Yingyun Mountain dies, Qi Guang Sect will likely collapse, even with plans in motion, without spawning a late stage Golden Core cultivator, glory will surely gradually fade. Temporarily selling the land of the Tier Three Spiritual Vein to Red Fire Zhenren is of no consequence, won't be difficult to reclaim when East Spring Undying Bone achieves Tier Three Upper Realm.

Stabilize the Lu Family's position, secure the corpse nourishing resources, the time for East Spring Undying Bone to reach Tier Three Upper Realm won't be long.

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Just as Wen Jiu expected, after Red Fire Zhenren settled in, it was not merely opening a Trading House.

Within two Tier Three Spiritual Veins, Qi Guang Sect's subordinate influences slowly started appearing, though unseen are Qi Guang Sect cultivators, the subordinate influences of Qi Guang Sect frequently clash with Longteng Family's forces upon their appearance.

Other places are similarly affected.

Under Wen Jiu's orders, Longteng Qianyue indulged none of Qi Guang Sect's cultivators, with one command—fight!

The two families haven't declared war.

Yet the subordinates show signs of major confrontation.

Subordinates have already started fighting, be it Qi Guang Sect or Longteng Family, how could they remain unscathed?

Wen Jiu was indifferent to these matters, upon receiving Lu Feng's news, he merely listened like a story. While the Four Corpses and Five Ghosts continued their duties, the cultivation of living medicine Wen Jiu fostered in Donghua Immortal City progressed well.

With the corpse concealment yin array set by Gongyang Fu's cultivation method, the integration of Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine with the corpses accelerated. Further concealing the corpses with Yin Earth, within seven days, two Tier Three Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines were integrated with the corpses.

Of course, corpse nourishing medicine, since its origin is Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine, it should ideally be cultivated in Yin Veins or Land of Death, or Desolate Lands for optimal results, yet Gongyang Fu sent an abundance of yin fiend objects to Wen Jiu upon commencing cultivation, making up for the absence of Yin Veins during cultivation, thereby transforming Wen Jiu's cultivation chamber into a Land of Death.

The room was also cloaked in a Spirit Separation Array set by Gongyang Fu after midnight, preventing any Spiritual Qi from entering. After the integration in Yin Earth between Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine and corpses, the cultivation officially began.

Following this, Gongyang Fu's old steward visited every three days, seemingly inquiring about needs but in truth observing progress daily. After starting cultivation, it required the Nine Nether Qi for fostering, as Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine began converting to living medicine. Of course, a special cultivation method must be admired.

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Five Aggregates Soul-Severing Heart Sutra.

The sutra is a Yin Technique, a special method to guide the Nine Abyss Nether Qi. Because the Nine Abyss Nether Qi cannot be directly guided through Magical Power and fused with zombies or Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine, it requires the cultivator to absorb the Nine Abyss Nether Qi and supplement it with the Five Aggregates Soul-Severing Heart Sutra to help the fusion of the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine and Nine Abyss Nether Qi.

During practice, Wen Jiu discovered that this was a very peculiar Soul Technique, but it has no defensive power or destructive power, nor does it strengthen the Divine Soul. Its function is very singular—to guide the Nine Abyss Nether Qi.

He also found that even with the control of the Five Aggregates Soul-Severing Heart Sutra, the Nine Nether Demonic Qi gradually erodes the controller, but the speed of this erosion is very slow. Each time the Nine Abyss Nether Qi enters the body, it is very weak, imperceptible to anyone below the Late Stage of Golden Core's Divine Sense. But if accumulated, in eight to ten years, a regular Golden Core cultivator would likely perish within five to ten years. No wonder Gongyang Fu insisted it had to be him, and no wonder Gongyang Fu became his friend as soon as he learned he possessed the Tier Three East Spring Undying Bone.

If it were someone else, even if they had cultivated zombies or ghosts, they probably wouldn't last long before the residual Nine Abyss Nether Qi in the body reached a lethal amount. It seems only the Tier Three East Spring Undying Bone, Tier Three Body Cultivator can endure longer.

"Probably someone before me has already perished because of this, Gongyang Fu simply couldn't find a suitable replacement."

Wen Jiu felt his guess was almost certainly correct, but he didn't care. While Gongyang Fu was using him, he was also using Gongyang Fu. As for the Nine Abyss Nether Qi, the Undying Celestial Yin Golden Core can handle it.

The Nine Abyss Nether Qi entered the body, and the power of the Undying Celestial Yin Golden Core could easily refine it, even more easily than refining the Celestial Yin Qi. It makes sense, the Nine Abyss Nether Qi could find a way to be utilized, but currently, no one in the Hundred Floating Domains has been rumored to find a way to control the Celestial Yin Qi. Otherwise, would these Floating Domains be so tranquil? Wouldn't these major Nascent Soul level forces have come to dominate the Celestial Yin Mountain Range long ago?

Even though the Nine Abyss Nether Qi isn't harmful to him and can even be used for cultivation, Wen Jiu wouldn't use it for cultivation. First, because the amount is very small and using it is not as beneficial as using Celestial Yin Qi, and second, because cultivating with it is a pure waste of time. Waiting for the Four Corpses and Five Ghosts and Law-Devouring Yin Insect to provide feedback is his cultivation path.

Also, because Gongyang Fu's old housekeeper visited every three days, soon the surrounding Golden Core cultivators all knew about this. Many Golden Core cultivators came to inquire about the situation, but Wen Jiu did not see any of them.

Wuxinming also visited twice; Wen Jiu opened the door once, but he only inquired about Gongyang Fu, so Wen Jiu didn't bother to see him the second time.

During the orderly cultivation process, to ensure the cultivation speed was reasonable, Wen Jiu tried to control the daily cultivation time, not using the Gathering Yin Poison Technique, nor using the Cyan Wheat Three Techniques. However, to achieve some success and to give Gongyang Fu long knife's sweetness, Wen Jiu decided to occasionally swap out the Blood Demon Undying Bone to come to Donghua Immortal City.

He also wanted to try if the cultivated living medicine could be used to nurture the East Spring Undying Bone or Five Ghosts.

...

The next day.

Wen Jiu intended to go out for a walk and take a break, after all, it's rare to have leisure time, but unexpectedly Wuxinming visited again.

He initially didn't want to see him, but Wuxinming was blocking the doorway, showing no intention of leaving. Helplessly, Wen Jiu could only open the door.

"Master He, I bring you a once-in-a-lifetime piece of good news." Wuxinming pretended to be mysterious, his expression excited.

Wen Jiu suspiciously asked, "Are you sure this is good news for me?"

As far as he knew, Wuxinming had been lending Spirit Stones to Golden Core cultivators during this time, from as few as a hundred thousand middle-grade Spirit Stones to as many as three to five million.

This was only what had been revealed; nobody knew how many others were involved, or what this person's intention was.

Whatever the intention, it seemed to be Demon Sect's plan. Those Golden Core cultivators who borrowed Spirit Stones from him likely wouldn't have a good ending.

Wuxinming nodded, "Indeed, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you, and if you don't have Spirit Stones, I can lend you some. But don't rush to refuse, have you heard of the Tier Three Top-Grade Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill?"

"Never heard of it."

Wen Jiu shook his head.

Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills were precisely the Tier Three Top-Grade Yin Pill that Wuxinming and four others wanted to borrow Gongyang Fu to find Master Witch to refine.

Realm-Breaking Pill.

Wen Jiu did not understand why Wuxinming suddenly brought this up.

Wuxinming immediately explained the function of the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills briefly. "If you don't believe it, you can inquire anywhere, or ask Gongyang Fu's old housekeeper; he surely knows about the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills."

"Of course, I believe you, fellow cultivator, but why did you suddenly mention this?" Wen Jiu pursued.

Wuxinming did not immediately explain, instead shifting the topic, "Black Crow Zhenren Zhao Ya perished three days ago."

"Black Crow Zhenren died?"

Wen Jiu was taken aback.

Black Crow Zhenren Zhao Ya was quite prominent in Wen Jiu's memory, mainly because, like Lin Yingyun Mountain, he was shrouded in decay. However, when Wen Jiu calculated with the Corpse Fate Technique, his lifespan still had two or three decades left.

How could he suddenly die?

Besides, if he's dead, he's dead.

What does it have to do with him?

[At the beginning of the month, asking for monthly tickets!

Kneeling request!]

Chapter 656 - 320: Divine Techniques of Commerce, After Losing the Golden Core [8k-Word - —Seeking Monthly Votes!]

"Five days ago, a junior of Black Crow Zhenren was pursued by a Tribulation Cultivator. Before he left Donghua Immortal City, he intended to help, but three days ago, the Life Soul Lamp he left for Mad Saber Zhenren and me suddenly extinguished, signifying his death."

Wuxinming explained.

Wen Jiu questioned back, "But what does this have to do with me? I merely had a fleeting acquaintance with him, hardly more than a passing acquaintance. Are you suggesting, Fellow Daoist Wu, that I join you in tracking down his killer?"

"Not at all." Wuxinming didn't hesitate to elaborate further, "I previously mentioned finding Master Witch to conduct alchemy, and what we were refining is precisely these Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills. However, the materials for this pill are hard to come by; it's impossible for one person to gather them all. Therefore, I, Mad Saber Zhenren, Blood Moon Zhenren, and Black Crow Zhenren formed a cooperative alliance.

Now, after much effort, we have finally gathered the materials and reached out to Master Witch through Gongyang Fu, with the alchemy date set for half a year later. Yet, all of a sudden, Black Crow Zhenren met his demise, so we're missing the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine he was supposed to provide."

"What does this have to do with me?"

"It is related, very much indeed. The Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills, each batch typically yields three to four pills. Given Master Witch's expertise in Yin Pill alchemy, he's sure to produce four pills, maybe even five. So, if you were to step in and take Black Crow Zhenren's place among us, you wouldn't even have to pay for the alchemy costs—Black Crow Zhenren has already covered them. In half a year, you could obtain one Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill.

With a Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill, once you achieve Early-Stage Golden Core Perfection, you could consume it and ascend to Middle Stage of Golden Core status. Upon reaching Golden Core Middle Stage, the He Family could rise again and reach new heights. You would also be able to stand on higher grounds overlooking this

Cultivation Realm, without being subject to anyone's control, without having to hide away in Donghua Immortal City, and without needing to act according to others' whims."

Wuxinming spoke passionately, yet Wen Jiu's heart remained calm, for he did not need the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill for his breakthrough. No matter how precious or effective the Yin Pill was, it was useless to him.

However, even so, Wen Jiu was in no hurry to refuse, for although the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill was useless to him, it could be given to someone else. To someone who worked for him, someone who helped him solve the issue of Corpse Nourishing Materials.

For example, Lu Chan.

If Lu Chan progressed further, the Lu Family could expand and continuously provide him with essence blood.

Most importantly, it was free.

The essence blood was free, so he could use his Spirit Stones elsewhere, to purchase Demonic Evil Qi, to buy Ghost Cultivation supplies, or to nurture Law-Devouring Yin Insects. Even though he made a windfall during his time at Qi Mountain, for the Bottomless Pit-like Four Corpses, Five Ghosts and Law-Devouring Yin Insects, even another seven or eight million Middle-grade Spirit Stones wouldn't suffice.

Thus, saving some resources would naturally be better.

Although he didn't have the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine for the alchemy, Wuxinming surely had a solution if he approached him.

"But half a year is simply not enough time to gather the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine." Wen Jiu intentionally asked to test Wuxinming.

Wuxinming feigned distress, saying, "Indeed, acquiring the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine for the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills is no easy task. Even if given ten more years, it would still be difficult. It took us four several decades to barely gather them."

"Are you expecting me to lend you Spirit Stones to buy them? I'm quite destitute, so... I have other matters to attend to, we can talk another day."

Wen Jiu was speechless.

He purposely gestured to show Wuxinming out.

Enjoy playing this game?

Suit yourself!

Wuxinming froze, completely unprepared for Wen Jiu's response. To avoid being kicked out, he had to change his approach, "But the issue isn't unsolvable. In fact, Black Crow Zhenren sent me a message before his death, leaving behind the hiding place of the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine he had."

Seeing that Wuxinming dared not play tricks anymore and truthfully revealed the situation, Wen Jiu couldn't help but secretly chuckle, finally ceasing the act of showing him out.

It's you who needs me, not the other way around. If you continue playing games and tricks, you'll find yourself outmatched by me.

Wen Jiu deliberately showed a hint of delight that quickly vanished, followed by cautious skepticism, "If that's the case, why can't you go yourself? Could it be that Black Crow Zhenren's hiding place is extremely dangerous?"

Seeing that Wen Jiu was finally tempted, Wuxinming smiled contentedly and proceeded with the prepared response, "Alas, I would want nothing more than to acquire it myself, but the place where the medicine is kept is highly perilous. Relying on one person is simply not enough. As for Mad Saber Zhenren and Blood Moon Zhenren, they are Daoist partners with shared interests; if informed, they might turn the matter against me instead. Master He, you and your family's ancestor shared life-and-death ties, and I trust him, so naturally, I trust you too."

Wuxinming spoke with sincerity.

If Wen Jiu hadn't known this fellow was a cultivator of the Heart Demon Sect, and that he wasn't originally He Jiu, he might have actually believed him.

Wuxinming's words sounded pleasant, but whether they reflected his true intentions was another matter.

Reflecting on this, Wen Jiu immediately used the Three Thousand Blood Inks for Corpse Fate Technique divination on him and Black Crow Zhenren. The matter of Black Crow Zhenren's death, indeed, wasn't a fluke but part of a conspiracy.

However, it wasn't Wuxinming or Mad Saber Zhenren's conspiracy, but rather one orchestrated by an opposing force.

His most beloved junior was used as bait, luring him into an ambush, then eliminated with a Tier Three Middle Grade Killing Array. Normally, a Golden Core who had lived nearly a thousand years wouldn't be so reckless or foolish.

But having divined their relationship, Wen Jiu understood a bit more of the reason; in short, when affection comes into play, logic gets clouded.

Seeing this, Wen Jiu's heart remained indifferent, but he better understood the truth that in the path of cultivation, one must not have too many ties. Solitude should be embraced, and if one couldn't withstand loneliness, getting entangled in mundane affairs would lead to an end like Black Crow Zhenren. The Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills were on the brink of being crafted; half a year more and his plan would've succeeded. With that, he could step into the Middle Stage of Golden Core, extending his life for another two or three hundred years, opening up more possibilities for his future.

Chapter 657 - 320: Divine Techniques of the Merchant's Way, After Losing the Golden Core

Immediately afterward, Wen Jiu calculated again for Wuxinming. He suddenly thought of the earlier action by Wuxinming of lending Spirit Stone to others, so he attempted a divination on it first. However, to his surprise, this calculation instantly drained the corpse energy from the Three Thousand Blood Inks, and East Spring Undying Bone quickly helped to restore it, also drawing away thirty percent of East Spring Undying Bone's corpse energy.

This was already comparable to divining the fate and fortune of a Golden Core Perfection Cultivator level. Yet, Wuxinming was only at the Early Stage of Golden Core.

"It seems the issue lies in the plan," Wen Jiu thought to himself. He wasn't afraid of the excessive consumption of corpse energy.

For he had an abundance of corpse energy.

A moment later.

Even after consuming fifty percent of East Spring Undying Bone's corpse energy.

Just as Wen Jiu suspected, Wuxinming lending Spirit Stone to others was indeed setting up a scheme, one step at a time making those Golden Core Cultivators useful to him. But what caused the Corpse Fate Technique to consume such terrifying corpse energy was a special method practiced by Wuxinming, belonging to the category of Acquired Divine Techniques.

It is called the Path of Humanity and Righteousness!

This Acquired Divine Technique originates from the Heart Demon Sect, created by a Great Cultivator of the Nascent Soul Realm, classified under the Golden Core level of Acquired Divine Techniques. Not only is it a secret tradition of the Heart Demon Sect, but those who have mastered it over thousands of years are exceedingly rare. It does not belong to the Demonic Evil Technique.

Instead, it belongs to the trade path's method.

This is the first trade path's method Wen Jiu has ever seen. However, he is not surprised, as even planting flowers and grasses have their own methods. How could there be nothing for the trade path? After all, this is the Cultivation World.

Out of curiosity, he attempted a divination using the Corpse Fate Technique, and what Wen Jiu did not expect was that this Path of Humanity and Righteousness could transform human relationships into the heaviest righteousness in the world, even heavier than the grace of saving one's life or recreating one's life.

And those engaged in trade, who can avoid interpersonal exchanges?

Who can avoid owing someone a favor?

This trade path expert applied this aspect to the extreme, allowing those who owe him favors to bear great karmic ties invisibly. The bearer will not notice immediately, and by the time they fully realize it, it's already too late.

The Celestial Secret fortune shown by the Corpse Fate Technique reveals that even small matters or minor favors like lending a few Spirit Stones can be magnified to the level of saving a life, truly meaning a small favor demands a great repayment.

And you cannot dodge it.

Even if it's not about lending Spirit Stones, as long as you owe a favor, it pulls on karma, and the burden from the owed will increasingly grow.

Therefore, although it may seem that Wuxinming merely lent some Spirit Stones, the debt of favors accumulates easily but is not straightforward to repay.

And once karma gets involved, the owed favor is not something you can simply choose not to repay.

If not repaid, it can generate Heart Demons, create obstacles, more prominent than the Heart Demon Oath.

Of course.

There are exceptions.

Evil Dao is an exception.

No other reason, just because Evil Dao is Yin Poisonous, should such cultivators really reach the level of Golden Core, doing good deeds, keeping promises, and respecting karma would instead become their biggest barrier to Realm Breakthrough. This is why nearly all Golden Core Tribulation Cultivators belong to the Evil Dao.

Of course.

Even if you are of the Righteous Path, you can choose not to acknowledge the debt.

How does karma affect you?

After all, you might remain an Early Stage of Golden Core for your entire life, so why bother with obstacles?

Despite Wuxinming cultivating the Path of Humanity and Righteousness, he apparently knows this point, so he lends his Spirit Stones to ordinary Golden Core Influence's Golden Core Cultivators, those with ties, facing difficulties, and easy to manipulate kind of cultivators.

These cultivators, even if they later understand it's Wuxinming's trap, even knowing Wuxinming is a Demon Cultivator, still cannot escape the confines of Wuxinming's method, nor can they escape Wuxinming's clutches.

"This trade path method is interesting, indeed a bit dangerous. Luckily, I didn't take his Spirit Stone before," Wen Jiu thought to himself but suddenly remembered something, "Wuxinming seemed to have brought some gifts the first time he visited me. Does accepting the meeting gift count as owing a favor?"

Wen Jiu's face stiffened.

Thinking of this, Wen Jiu immediately used the Corpse Fate Technique to meticulously calculate and identify the karmic restraints he bore. Indeed, there were some, but they were insignificant, apparently, the meeting gift didn't count as owing a favor, at most it was an exchange of favors. Perhaps returning the meeting gift next time could resolve it.

Also.

If merely accepting a meeting gift means owing a favor, would Wuxinming still think of ways multiple times to lend Spirit Stone to me thereafter?

Of course.

Wen Jiu also entertained thoughts of killing Wuxinming.

Not even needing to return the meeting gift.

But this is precisely the wonder of the trade path's method, if Wuxinming is killed, the karma would instantly reach a peak.

Wen Jiu couldn't help but sigh, "No wonder the Heart Demon Sect would let a Golden Core Early Stage cultivator hide in a place like Donghua Immortal City."

"These Demon Cultivators, where are there any good people!"

Wen Jiu cursed in his heart.

He pondered again, "This visit, I fear is also to make me owe him something, seizing the opportunity to practice the trade path method."

Now, Wen Jiu can already confirm that Wuxinming didn't deceive him, and the duo of Mad Saber Zhenren indeed didn't know about this matter. As for Black Crow Zhenren hiding the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine, when Wen Jiu divined with the Corpse Fate Technique, he also confirmed that it is indeed dangerous for an Early-stage Golden Core Cultivator, Wuxinming didn't lie.

Fortunately, there is the Corpse Fate Technique.

"It's a pity, if only the Corpse Fate Technique reached Perfection, it could directly divine fortune and misfortune, without needing such meticulous peeling apart. The Great Success Corpse Fate Technique is still too weak, even consuming a large amount of corpse energy and mental effort to peel away, still cannot be completely sure of any oversight." Before closing the Dark Realm, Wen Jiu sighed with regret.

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"Master He, have you considered it? If you are willing to cooperate, I can help you obtain what Black Crow Zhenren has, and you won't need to pay any Spirit Stones during the alchemy process. You and my sect's ancestor were life-and-death friends, so this is also a chance to help the He Family. All you need to do is use Flower Spirit Stones to buy the information about the hidden location."

Wuxinming spoke again, appearing very generous and straightforward, his words very pleasing, unlike the last time when he asked for interest. If Wen Jiu hadn't just used the Corpse Fate Technique for divination, he might have been convinced.

However, Wen Jiu agreed without even thinking.

"Then thank you, Fellow Daoist Wu!"

Because he had just used the East Spring Undying Bone Corpse Qi to divine this, he discovered a way to break this method.

It wasn't a spell.

Just a trick.

This business method and Acquired Divine Techniques are domineering, but they have fatal flaws; otherwise, they wouldn't have fallen into the hands of the Heart Demon Sect. That is, if you want the future obliged party to repay kindly, you truly have to help them.

For example, lending Spirit Stones: if the party has millions of Middle-grade Spirit Stones, but you insist on lending them a hundred thousand, it doesn't create an obligation, much like the meeting gift Wen Jiu received earlier—it's just returning favors.

When realizing this, Wen Jiu could only sigh in regret that he hadn't gone directly to lending Spirit Stones.

Though ten million Low-grade Spirit Stones or a hundred thousand Middle-grade Spirit Stones are not much to him, they can buy thousands of Demonic Evil Qi.

No reason not to take them.

If it's merely a favor exchange, I'll just repay it when I leave the West Mountain Floating Domain.

Even now, a hundred thousand Middle-grade Spirit Stones are nothing, and in the future, they might as well be like a drizzle.

By the same token.

As he had already divined the hidden place of Black Crow Zhenren, even if Wuxinming helped him obtain those Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines, it wouldn't mean much. He could easily do it himself.

No matter what Wuxinming does, it's in vain. If it weren't for Wen Jiu needing the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills and having to cooperate with them for alchemy, he wouldn't even need to deal with Wuxinming himself.

And this business method has a particularly severe downside, that if unaware, forcibly using a spell can reverse cause and effect. However, it requires making Wuxinming owe him a favor.

In return, Wuxinming must repay him generously.

But Wen Jiu is not interested in Wuxinming's returns; he is more interested in his complete loyalty after soul control. However, there is a Third-grade top-grade spiritual beast in Donghua Immortal City, and since he must work on alchemy later on, this might be discovered by that spiritual beast.

Therefore, even if he wants to control Wuxinming's soul, it must be considered later.

While pondering this, Wuxinming spoke again, his eyes unable to hide their joy. Clearly, he's been waiting anxiously for this day.

"However, I know you're short on Spirit Stones, so we can skip that, but I do need a favor from you."

"Huh?"

Wen Jiu was taken aback.

Did I hear you right?

You want me to do you a favor?

Are you sure?

Wuxinming quickly added, "No need to worry, it's a small favor, you don't even need to take action."

"What kind of favor?"

Wen Jiu inquired.

Since you've come to me, I won't stand on ceremony.

Wuxinming continued, "It's concerning the family of Black Crow Zhenren, the Southern Zhao Family. To be honest, I want the Zhao Family, but if I get others involved, they will also want a share, so only you. Since you and my sect's ancestor were life-and-death

friends, I trust you. As long as you're willing to stand behind the Zhao Family with me, I'll help you get Black Crow Zhenren's Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine."

"What do you want the Zhao Family for?" Wen Jiu didn't immediately agree, because a decision made in a split second could dictate the fate of a millennium-old family and tens of thousands of people.

Wuxinming replied, "To establish a foothold in the West Mountain Floating Domain; I have wandered too long, it is time to settle down. Rest assured, you don't have to act; just reveal your title will suffice."

"Reveal my title? Are you sure?"

Wen Jiu was somewhat puzzled.

Right now, he's in disguise as He Jiu, a refugee cultivator from East Pole Immortal City, whose own family is in dire straits.

Standing behind the Zhao Family is more likely to get laughed at, isn't it?

"There aren't many Golden Core Cultivators who can cooperate with Gongyang Fu. The butler of Gongyang Fu comes every day, courteous and respectful, which everyone has noticed. Those eyeing the Zhao Family are average Golden Core influences, with your title added, along with me, even if they want to target the Zhao Family, they will have to consider it carefully. That's enough." Wuxinming finished speaking, secretly pleased. If He Jiu agrees, he would owe Wuxinming a huge favor and also find him a foothold in the West Mountain Floating Domain.

Two birds with one stone!

Thinking of this, Wuxinming couldn't help but almost laugh aloud. He Jiu, even if you can refuse millions in Spirit Stones,

You can never refuse the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills.

Zhao Ya.

You died beautifully!

"Alright." Wen Jiu feigned difficulty in agreeing, then emphasized, "If there's truly a Golden Core conflict, I won't take action, as I am not skilled in combat, everything will be up to you, fellow Daoist."

"Rest assured, with your title, they'll weigh their actions. Even if there's a Golden Core conflict later, I'll handle it." Wuxinming responded lightheartedly, still full of delight.

Chapter 659 - 320: Divine Techniques of Commerce, After Losing the Golden Core

Looking up.

Today's sunshine is truly warm.

Everything is developing according to plan.

There have been twists and turns.

But no surprises.

Truly wonderful!

...

Three days later.

After Gongyang Fu's old steward visited again, Wen Jiu and Wuxinming left Donghua Immortal City under the cover of night.

After five days, they finally arrived at the Southern Zhao Family.

The Southern Zhao Family, located on a Tier Three Spiritual Vein, does not have outstanding spiritual vein quality. If someone forms a core once, it might take a century for it to recover. However, regardless, the Zhao Family is still a Golden Core Influence.

With its spirit vein as the center, an area of three to four thousand miles belongs to the Zhao Family's territory, but there are also Golden Core Influences in its east, south, west, and north. Some are friendly, while others are in opposition to the Zhao Family.

To the south, the Huang Family, and to the west, the Beast Taming Zhong Family, are enemies of the Zhao Family. Each of the two families has a Golden Core Ancestor, on par with Black Crow Zhenren. However, the Golden Core Ancestors of both families still have two to three hundred years of life left, whereas Zhao Ya's lifespan is running short.

This is also why Zhao Ya sought a glimmer of hope in Donghua Immortal City. But due to his declining years, he dared not carry the last hope with him, so he left the collected Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine in the heart of the Zhao Family.

Protected by a Tier Three Middle Grade Killing Array and located deep within the Zhao Family, Black Crow Zhenren felt at ease to go to Donghua Immortal City.

This was the result of Wen Jiu's divination.

Wuxinming also mentioned something similar on the way.

As for killing Black Crow Zhenren, that was the doing of the Beast Taming Zhong Family's Ancestor, which Wuxinming was unaware of.

Wen Jiu didn't plan to tell him; whether he could discover it after taking over the Zhao Family was up to him.

Upon arriving at the Zhao Family, the heart of the family was still very calm, as if nothing had happened. However, with a sweep of Divine Sense, Wen Jiu discovered that six Fake Pill Cultivators were gathering in the core area of the Tier Three Yin Vein.

For a Golden Core Influence with only one Golden Core in residence, six Fake Pills probably constituted their entire foundation.

An illogical situation where all Fake Pills are gathered in the Yin Vein's core across a three or four thousand mile territory. Normally, the Lu Family's Golden Cores are scattered outside and have never all turned up at East Pole Immortal City together.

Even though East Pole Immortal City boasts superior spiritual veins compared to all their Tier Three Spiritual Veins, cultivation in East Pole Immortal City is faster.

"It seems Black Crow Zhenren informed them of some news before his demise, so they are waiting for us," Wuxinming said, pausing mid-air and overlooking Zhao Family's spirit veins. "Without a doubt, Zhao Ya has had arrangements made long ago, gaining easy access to those Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines would require passing through the Zhao Family members."

With that said,

Wuxinming looked down at the Zhao Family territory and couldn't help but laugh, "A vast Golden Core Influence is about to fall into my hands... Establishing such a Golden Core Influence, even with a Golden Core to recruit outsiders, would still take several hundred years to develop to such prosperity and foundation."

"Let's go down and take a look."

Wen Jiu had already used Corpse Fate Technique for divination, not missing any of the Zhao Family's six Fake Pill Cultivators.

After confirming there was no Celestial Secret or fate entanglement behind them, Wen Jiu calmly proceeded downward.

"Hmm-hmm."

Wuxinming transformed into a Startled Swan and charged into the Yin Vein, with Wen Jiu following closely.

When they appeared outside the Yin Vein's formation, the six waiting Fake Pill Cultivators rose in unison and transformed into Startled Swans to fly out. Led by Zhao Family's Great Elder, Zhao Hongtu, they simultaneously bowed in salute.

"Zhao Hongtu of the Zhao Family, along with all Zhao Family Elders, greets the two seniors, welcoming you to the Zhao Family."

"Welcome, seniors!"

"Welcome, seniors!"

All six bowed in succession, extremely respectful and somewhat akin to how Foundation Establishment Cultivators encounter a Golden Core.

When the children of the Zhao Family beneath the Yin Vein saw this scene, they prostrated themselves on the ground, their voices like waves continuously welcoming Wuxinming and Wen Jiu's arrival. In the Yin Vein, all the people kowtowed.

Tens of thousands of people knelt uniformly on the ground, a rather magnificent sight. And Wen Jiu, overlooking from above, saw everything clearly.

In truth,

This scene, to Wen Jiu, was still impactful but not surprising. Because a Golden Core Zhenren, even at the early stage, is a pinnacle existence in the Cultivation Realm. In the eyes of Qi and Foundation Establishment Cultivators, a Golden Core is like heaven.

As for the Middle and Late Stages of Golden Core, they already belong to legend in their eyes, seldom seen.

"Please, two seniors, this way!"

Zhao Hongtu was the first to speak, and the six of them immediately divided into two rows to welcome Wen Jiu and Wuxinming into the Yin Vein's core.

Wuxinming, with hands folded behind his back, flew ahead, and Wen Jiu followed closely. Just as they were about to reach the Lu Clan Territory, they found a grand banquet already prepared. Hundreds of graceful, scantily clad Qi and Foundation Establishment

Female Cultivators were waiting outside the hall. There were musicians, dancers, and even maids serving Spirit Wine.

However, Wen Jiu noticed their aura was similar to Zhao Hongtu's, clearly cultivating the same type of Zhao Family Technique.

In other words, they are of the same lineage as Zhao Hongtu.

The main lineage of the Zhao Family.

Wen Jiu even noticed a female cultivator who, despite having a bone age of only around thirty, had an extremely beautiful appearance and had achieved Qi Cultivation Perfection.

She would absolutely be considered a genius within the Zhao Family.

The type that should receive focused cultivation.

Yet today, she was merely a dancer welcoming them.

"Is this what a Golden Core Clan looks like without a Golden Core in residence?" Wen Jiu's gaze swept over everything, yet remained calm. If he were to truly attend this banquet, the one pouring him wine would probably be a Foundation Establishment Female Cultivator from the Zhao Family.

If he were a practitioner skilled in dual cultivation, the talented female cultivators of the Zhao Family would likely all serve as his concubines tonight.

Wen Jiu still had no surprises.

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Without the presence of a Golden Core cultivator to anchor them, the Zhao Family becomes easy prey, subject to the whims of the Beast Taming Zhong Family and the Huang Family, who could exploit them freely at any moment. Falling into their hands would undoubtedly be far worse than merely serving wine and warming beds.

A few moments later, Wuxinming and Wen Jiu arrived at the main hall of the Zhao Family, where the Female Cultivators had already knelt in greeting.

At a glance,

everything was a pristine white.

Wuxinming stepped forward to enter, "You are considerate. Master He, today we shall drink until we drop."

Wen Jiu did not move. Instead, he turned to look at Zhao Hongtu and the others. On their faces, Wen Jiu saw anxiety, tension, and the uncertain future of the Zhao Family. "Are you the Great Elder of the Zhao Family?"

Zhao Hongtu hesitantly stepped forward, "This junior, Zhao Hongtu, greets Senior He!"

"Take me to retrieve what Black Crow Zhenren left behind in your family," Wen Jiu expressed no intention of entering.

He merely glanced at the kneeling Female Cultivators, and from their eyes, Wen Jiu discerned a myriad of emotions.

There was endurance.

There was forced calmness.

And there was also a flush of color.

Of course, Wen Jiu was not a good person and had no intention of advising Wuxinming to treat them kindly in the future.

Because this is the Cultivation Realm.

Wuxinming paused in his step, "Master He, let's have a few drinks before we go."

"You can open a tavern and drink as much as you like," Wen Jiu replied indifferently, intending to head toward the heart of the Yin Vein. He could sense the location of the Tier Three Middle Grade Killing Array.

"This..."

Wuxinming glanced at the kneeling Female Cultivators and felt it was a shame.

At that moment, Zhao Hongtu suddenly knelt to the ground, "Esteemed seniors, please forgive Zhao Mou's rudeness. Before my ancestor passed away, he left a message. Should a Golden Core come to claim the items within the Yin Vein, they must agree to two conditions of the Zhao Family. If agreed upon, everything within the Yin Vein belongs to the seniors. If not, everything within the Yin Vein will turn to ashes along with Zhao Mou within it."

"Even the Divine Killing Array?" Wuxinming, after sensing Zhao Hongtu's Divine Sense fluctuations, was slightly surprised. "As expected of Black Crow Zhenren, a Golden Core Elder Cultivator who lived for a millennium, he truly had some impressive things at hand. The Divine Killing Array can connect with one's Divine Soul, but the cost is that the array and the soul exist together. If the soul extinguishes, the array is destroyed. Similarly, if the array is broken, the soul perishes. This array has no core; even a Spirit Array Master cannot unravel it. The only ways are to kill the person connected to the divine, or to break the array with brute force. Either method would immediately turn everything within the array to ashes."

Li Hongtu did not respond to this remark but looked forward unfazed, as if to demonstrate a certain attitude, "I am not afraid of death, but the Zhao Family should not perish. Afterward, Zhao Mou is willing to sever the connection to the Divine Soul and offer his life as atonement!"

"Great Elder!"

"Great Elder!"

The five Fake Core cultivators behind him were shocked.

The kneeling Female Cultivators were even moved to tears, with some joining in, trembling as they called out the words Great Elder.

Wuxinming scoffed coldly, "You dare to act with such resolve. Few have ever dared to threaten me. Regardless of whether I accept your conditions, you will die!"

"Zhao Mou's death is insignificant, as long as it can quell the seniors' anger," Zhao Hongtu declared resolutely.

Wen Jiu, feeling the Law-Devouring Yin Insect moving within him, calmed his mind and asked, "What are the two conditions?"

"The first condition is that the seniors must protect the Zhao Family for three hundred years, ensuring its survival; the second condition is that the seniors must take one member of the Zhao Family as a Direct Disciple, and both conditions must be sealed with a Heart Demon Oath."

Zhao Hongtu responded.

Wuxinming sneered, "You dare to make such audacious demands. Neither Master He nor I have ever taken a disciple, yet you wish for us to take one from the Zhao Family as a direct heir. Do you know the weight of being the first True Transmission of a Golden Core?"

Zhao Hongtu's expression tensed; he had never expected such a situation and did not know what to say.

The first True Transmission.

It is akin to being family.

How is the Zhao Family deserving of this honor?

Yet recalling the ancestor's words that unless it was a position of direct transmission, it could not correspond to the value of the items within the array, Zhao Hongtu summoned the courage to continue speaking, "Our Zhao Family's Sixth Elder has a granddaughter named Zhao Ming, with a Top-Grade Spirit Root. Although she is only fifteen, she is already at Qi Cultivation Seventh Layer. If properly nurtured, she will no doubt reach Foundation Establishment by thirty. I wonder if she catches the eyes of the esteemed seniors?"

Before Wuxinming and Wen Jiu could reply, Zhao Hongtu waved his hand, and a young Female Cultivator holding a musical instrument emerged from the crowd, hurriedly kneeling in front of the two, almost tripping due to her haste and nervousness.

To almost trip on the stairs at Qi Cultivation Seventh Layer was unheard of, revealing just how nervous she was.

"This junior, Zhao Ming, greets... greets the esteemed seniors. Wishing the two seniors longevity in the immortal way, a smooth path in cultivation, fortunate encounters on every outing, relics at every turn, a Dao companion as beautiful as an immortal, and descendants as talented as dragons and phoenixes..."

"What kind of nonsense is this?"

Wuxinming interrupted, displeased.

[Still eight thousand words.

Ask for monthly tickets!

Begging on my knees!]

Chapter 661 - 321: Innate Fate Derivation Object and Acting Collaboration

At the cold rebuke, Zhao Ming's face, which could barely maintain a facade of calm with a forced smile, changed dramatically, replaced by a terror stemming from the heart, causing her body to start trembling.

"Forgive me, Senior... Forgive me, Senior... Forgive me, Senior..." Zhao Ming kept kowtowing, her beautiful hair already in disarray.

But she dared not stop.

Because she knew very well that these two seniors before her held the fate of the Zhao Family in their hands; if she angered them, everything the Great Elder and others had done, putting aside their dignity, would be in vain.

Dozens of thousands of people in the Zhao Family would be displaced, or worse, their bodies exposed and abandoned.

Wuxinming spoke coldly, "Black Crow Zhenren really knows how to scheme. Initially, I offered him a chance to cooperate with me, and now not only has he delayed multiple Golden Core plans, but he also has the gall to make such unreasonable demands."

Wen Jiu glanced at Wuxinming, who seemed ready to make trouble, understanding that it was his strategy, and that what Zhao Ming said was essentially irrelevant.

The elders of the Zhao Family, frightened by Wuxinming, were already trembling with fear, each looking more and more grim.

Yet they dared not explain.

The anger of a Golden Core.

Would mean the end of the Zhao Family.

For now, it was best to say less to make fewer mistakes.

Zhao Hongtu explained fearfully, not daring to hope for too much, as his ancestor's words were decisive, whereas he was alive, "Forgive me, Senior, forgive me. If you are unwilling to take this girl as your disciple, merely agreeing to one condition would suffice."

"Let's look at the items first; if there's nothing missing, it won't be a problem for me to promise protection for your Zhao Family," Wuxinming ceased pressuring, but from Wen Jiu's perspective, this was likely just the beginning of his plot to subdue the Zhao Family.

However, Wen Jiu had no interest in meddling with such matters; without Wuxinming, the already lost Zhao Family without a Golden Core protector would have a worse fate.

Today, dignity might be lost.

At least they could survive.

If they lost Wuxinming.

The Zhao Family would certainly perish.

Wen Jiu shook off his thoughts and decided not to involve himself in these affairs, though his gaze fell upon that young Female Cultivator, Zhao Ming. The girl's tender appearance carried some cuteness, with a touch of baby fat, though she couldn't be considered plump. But this wasn't the point; the point was when Wen Jiu scanned her with Divine Sense, he felt an inexplicable resonance between her and the Undying Celestial Yin Golden Core. This resonance was intangible and undetectable by Divine Sense.

It piqued Wen Jiu's curiosity. He immediately controlled the Three Thousand Blood Inks to calculate her fate, only to discover that for someone merely at the Qi Cultivation Seventh Layer, predicting her should have consumed far less corpse energy than the recuperation speed. Yet it forcibly consumed a tenth of the Three Thousand Blood Inks' corpse energy, which seemed minor but was significant for a minor cultivator at the Qi Cultivation Seventh Layer. Forecasting a Fake Pill would only need a tenth of the corpse energy.

"Star Fate Chart..." Wen Jiu frowned.

This fate chart was the reason Zhao Ming consumed a tenth of the Three Thousand Blood Inks' corpse energy, but it wasn't an extraordinarily remarkable fate chart. It wasn't a situation like encountering someone with an innate special constitution in novels.

The so-called star fate was actually a meteor.

The Meteor Star Fate Chart, shining brightly while alive, but the downfall was swift, meaning this girl would not have extended longevity.

Now fifteen, she had ninety years left, whether she broke through to Foundation Establishment or achieved Golden Core.

Neither would extend her lifespan.

But according to the celestial secret destiny information from the Corpse Fate Technique, this girl's cultivation speed would be extremely fast.

"She actually started cultivating at ten," Wen Jiu continued to delve into her celestial secret destiny, somewhat surprised.

To reach the Late Stage of Qi Cultivation in five years was truly astonishing; indeed, she was the fastest Wen Jiu had ever encountered. Zhao Hongtu hadn't gone into detail, likely not out of fear of leakage, but because this little girl knew how to conceal her prowess.

Because those with the Star Fate Chart can conceal their cultivation so well that even Fake Pill Cultivators cannot discern it.

Perhaps Black Crow Zhenren noticed.

That's why Zhao Ming was pushed forward.

But Black Crow Zhenren surely didn't know about the Star Fate Chart, let alone that this girl started cultivating at ten.

"Interesting," Wen Jiu looked over at Zhao Ming twice, noticing Wuxinming becoming aware of this as well.

Wuxinming suddenly realized something, quickly saying, "Master He, why not take this female disciple in? You don't even have a servant in your mansion, which is quite inconvenient. Let her do some errands for you."

If he could make Zhao Ming Master He Jiu's disciple, his plan would succeed more gloriously; he desperately needed He Jiu's backing for the Lu Family.

With Zhao Ming, he could go spread the word in the Golden Core Circle of Donghua Immortal City, establishing that the Lu Family was supported by He Jiu.

Who would question it?

"Let's see the items first." Wuxinming's words did make him slightly tempted.

But not tempted to take in a disciple.

He was interested in something within Zhao Ming.

Because although the Star Fate Chart was rare, it didn't count as a heavily celestial fate chart, thus the Corpse Fate Technique forecasted more detailed information. While Wuxinming spoke, he saw something in the Dark Realm.

The Star Fate Chart, if cultivated to the Foundation Establishment Realm, would give birth to a special object within the body, known as the Inference Object.

Zhao Ming's Star Fate Chart was innate, not acquired by accident, so that Inference Object could be termed an Innate Fate Derivation Object. The Innate Fate Derivation Object has no grade, belonging to a unique Heaven and Earth Spiritual Object, but can't be used for alchemy or cultivation. It has only one highly unique function.

Which is serving as a Fate Bearing Object.

As a Fate Bearing Object, it carries destiny and celestial secrets, just like the Life Plate used by the Three Thousand Blood Inks when employing the Corpse Fate Technique. The Life Plate is a Fate Bearing Object, a Magical Artifact for utilizing the Corpse Fate Technique, and a necessity for manifesting destiny insights that cultivators can comprehend in the Dark Realm.

Chapter 662 - 321: Innate Fate Derivation Object and Cooperating in an Act

However, using the Life Plate to perform the Corpse Fate Technique requires bearing a certain amount of celestial backlash, much like how Wen Jiu now divines others' fate, which results in loss of the corpse body's Yin fortune and is rejected by heaven and earth, thereby making the Thunder Tribulation stronger during the crossing.

But that's not much of a problem, at worst, Three Thousand Blood Inks can place it at the final crossing for realm breakthrough.

Yet the Innate Fate Derivation Object has an even greater function, which is to reduce the consumption of lifespan for the performer. This is a divine artifact for Fate Technique Cultivators, and a valuable tool for Wen Jiu.

Once the Corpse Fate Technique is perfected, one can calculate their own fortune and life, which varies depending on circumstances, while the lifespan of others requires at least a century. If one possesses this object, it might reduce the consumption of lifespan.

Even if it only saves a few hundred years each time, saving these few hundred years of lifespan is enough to perform the Cyan Wheat Three Techniques multiple times and cultivate more Tier Three Blood Corpse Mushrooms, Tier Three Celestial Yin Demon Blood Medicine.

Saving equates to gaining.

But acquiring the Innate Fate Derivation Object causes irreversible harm to Zhao Ming, and later when forming a core, the difficulty will likely double. Core Formation is already challenging, even with complete resources and superior Core Formation Spiritual Objects, barely one in ten succeeds. With the difficulty multiplied several times, Zhao Ming may never form a core throughout her life.

He doesn't consider himself a good person, might even be a bad person, but to do this to a little girl who won't live many more years.

He is still somewhat hesitant.

Meanwhile, Zhao Hongtu spoke up at this moment, "Two elders, please forgive Zhao Mou's rudeness. I humbly request both elders to make a Heart Demon Oath, afterward Zhao Mou is willing to die to atone for Zhao Mou's rudeness."

"Make it."

Wen Jiu looked at Wuxinming.

He added another sentence, "If the things inside have no issues, then you shall fulfill your promise honestly."

Wuxinming was startled, "Master He, this..."

"I only conduct transactions with you, not with the Zhao Family," Wen Jiu replied blandly. The Death Corpses Five Ghosts are not present, and a Heart Demon Oath is something he would never make. Even if those Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines are not needed.

Wuxinming was pleased, "Okay."

As the words fell.

Wuxinming immediately made the Heart Demon Oath.

Once the Heart Demon Oath was made, Zhao Hongtu finally breathed a sigh of relief and quickly guided Wen Jiu toward the core.

They passed through the Tier Three Middle Grade Killing Array, where, at the center of the array, a masterless storage bag lay quietly. Wuxinming raised a hand and took it over for detailed inspection, while Wen Jiu surveyed the surroundings, always ready to perform Blood Corpse Escape. Even though this array posed no threat, the unpredictability of people's minds was daunting.

"How is it?"

Wen Jiu asked.

Zhao Hongtu stood nervously by, not daring to speak or disturb.

Wuxinming immediately used Divine Sense Communication, "There are no issues, all the required Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines are inside. Among them are Tier Three Middle Grade Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines, and the most important Tier Three Top-Grade Divine Concealing Flower is also perfectly preserved, without any Yin Spirit leaking. But later, I need Fellow Daoist's cooperation in performing a play."

After the divine sense communication, Wuxinming frowned and spoke, "What's the matter, how come there's still a missing Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal?"

These words fell.

Zhao Hongtu's face changed dramatically, and he quickly explained, "Elder, the ancestor said that what should be collected has been collected, there shouldn't be any mistakes. Moreover, I have checked repeatedly, there are a total of nine items, all present."

"Nine items? Is Zhao Ya muddled, there should be ten items!" Wuxinming revealed a trace of anxiety and glanced at Wen Jiu beside him, "Master He, what should we do? There's only a month left before the furnace is to be opened, where can we find a Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal?"

Wen Jiu secretly laughed in his heart.

This is you actively seeking my help.

Don't blame me in the future.

Wen Jiu deliberately frowned and said, "Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal belongs to commodities that technically have no market price in Tier Three Middle Grade, we might have to visit the East Splendor Divine Palace again, the entire West Mountain Floating Domain probably only they have it in stock."

"Just afraid that they don't have it, the chance for Master Witch to open the furnace was obtained through great difficulty, delaying it would not only affect alchemy but also offend Master Witch. We..." Wuxinming's face showed even more concern.

Zhao Santu was so frightened that he fell to his knees and explained vigorously, saying he was willing to mobilize the whole clan's power to help Wuxinming collect the Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal. Wuxinming then became angry again and reprimanded Zhao Hongtu nearby.

Wen Jiu knew they were still acting.

That's the state of a Golden Core Clan without a Golden Core presence, they can only be arbitrarily exploited, even when Zhao Hongtu knows a Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal is not needed.

"Forget it, let's head back to Donghua Immortal City first, solve the issue, it's just a Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal, there's always a way," Wen Jiu cooperatively spoke, "Spirit Stones will not be needed from you, Fellow Daoist Wuxinming and your ancestor are life-and-death friends, his reprimanding of you was due to sudden impatience, truly even without a Heart Demon Oath, he would protect your Zhao Family... But Fellow Daoist Wuxinming is concerned that if you are helped too easily, your Zhao Family might use his name to cause trouble, hence this play outside. If you send someone to investigate at Donghua Immortal City, Fellow Daoist Wu is kind-hearted, willing to help others, an exemplary figure among our cultivators."

Wuxinming froze.

Life-and-death friends?

The words seem familiar.

The further he listened, the happier Wuxinming became; Master He's words provided great assistance.

Took over the Zhao Family.

Just at this moment.

"Master He!"

Wuxinming feigned displeasure.

Seeing such acting, Wen Jiu felt amused, "Alright, I don't have the time to play the villain with you. If you intend to shelter the Lu Family, just say it. The furnace is about to be opened, I should hurry to the East Splendor Divine Palace to get the Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal."

"Master He, you agreed earlier, to accompany me in a performance... You..." Wuxinming was full of complaints.

But Zhao Hongtu's face, shrouded in gloom, suddenly brightened, and a glimmer of hope climbed into his eyes.

"Junior Zhao Hongtu is grateful for Master Wu's deep concern, the Zhao Family will undoubtedly remember your great kindness and virtue!"

Zhao Hongtu fell to his knees again with a thud.

"This, this, this..." Wuxinming sighed, "Do not tell anyone outside after the performance, other than the elders. Since the Zhao Family experienced this, you should seize this opportunity for rebirth."

Zhao Hongtu replied gratefully, "Thank you, Master Wu!"

"You shouldn't just thank me; you should also thank Master He. Master He has accepted my invitation and can be your Zhao Family's patron. Master He's clan has two Golden Cores and is a friend of Gongyang Fu from Donghua Immortal City. With his help, your Zhao Family should seize the opportunity for advancement."

Wuxinming's expression suddenly became earnest and kind; those not in the know might mistake him for a virtuous and respectable elder.

Wen Jiu watched, regarding it as a spectacle.

"Zhao Mou on behalf of himself, and the whole Zhao Family, thank Master He for the great grace." Zhao Hongtu bowed his head toward Wen Jiu again.

Wen Jiu lifted him up with a wave of his hand, then glanced at Wuxinming's eyes filled with cheer, and couldn't help but laugh as well.

Laugh away, laugh away.

You won't laugh for long.

Return a favor in abundance for a small kindness.

Watch how you laugh then.

Wuxinming continued, "Continue the banquet, host it grandly, let those coveting your Zhao Family see."

"Yes!"

Zhao Hongtu was even happier.

The gloom from the ancestor's death disappeared completely.

"I will only make an appearance, the Mountain-Suppressing Soul Crystal matter still needs addressing," Wen Jiu responded, preparing to see Zhao Ming before leaving.

Although he's not a good person, since it concerns a little girl's future, some issues still need mentioning.

In this way, if she still wishes to follow, he will accept her as a disciple, guaranteeing her ninety-some years will be spent peacefully. It may be considered compensation for taking the Innate Fate Derivation Object.

"Fellow Daoist better leave a word," Wuxinming continued.

Wen Jiu understood what Wuxinming meant, it was just letting Master He's pseudonym leave a comment.

That's fine.

"I will speak in front of the Zhao family," he replied.

"Thank you, Master He." Wuxinming raised his hand in salute.

Zhao Hongtu also bowed in gratitude.

"After the banquet, I will talk to Zhao Ming alone; if she wishes to follow me, she will be my disciple, but not a direct disciple," Wen Jiu continued.

Zhao Hongtu quickly responded, "It's already a blessing for Zhao Ming to become an elder's disciple; there's no reason not to go with you."

"After she establishes her foundation, I will take something from her, which might prevent her from ever achieving Golden Core status."

These words fell.

Zhao Hongtu's face became resolute, stunned in place.

[The second update is at eight tonight.

Requesting monthly votes!]

Chapter 663 - 322: The First Disciple, Zhong Qi Comes to Visit

Zhao Hongtu was taken aback.

"I wonder what the senior wants to take from that girl?"

That girl, Zhao Ming, was clever and mischievous, and he was quite fond of her. Her cultivation aptitude was also outstanding, and with the Zhao Family's foundation, her potential to achieve Golden Core in the future was quite high. So when he heard that she might not achieve it, he was a bit hesitant.

He could accept the girl becoming a concubine, or maybe a named disciple, or even serving as a servant beside a Golden Core cultivator.

He didn't want to see that girl's path in cultivation cut off.

However, after asking, Zhao Hongtu immediately realized he had no qualification to question.

"Forgive me, Master He, this junior acted out of affection for that girl... momentarily losing my composure."

Wen Jiu didn't mind, "No matter. But what she will be taken is something I cannot reveal to you. You just need to know that even if you prepare Core Formation Spiritual Objects and complete resources for her, her chances of reaching Core Formation are still minimal."

"For that girl to be by Master He's side is already a tremendous blessing, how could she dare ask for more? But..."

Zhao Hongtu struggled internally, not daring to speak further.

He truly couldn't bear to see Zhao Ming's path in cultivation cut off.

Beside him, Wuxinming was about to speak but was interrupted by Wen Jiu, "Everything depends on her own thoughts. If she doesn't want to, so be it."

The Innate Fate Derivation Object is indeed good, but it's not irreplaceable. Thus, Wen Jiu was not willing to deliberately harm a little girl for such an item. Of course, the most crucial thing was that there was a substitute available.

If there was no substitute, Wen Jiu wasn't sure if he would act senselessly.

After all, innate objects are indeed rare encounters.

"Thank you, Master He!"

Zhao Hongtu bowed respectfully, full of gratitude.

...

Soon after.

Wen Jiu attended the banquet, taking a few sips of wine, and left a message saying they could reach out to him anytime if they needed something in the future.

Of course.

That's just what he said.

He wouldn't take it seriously.

If the Zhao Family actually came to him for every matter, he'd be too lazy to even meet them.

After getting what he wanted, Wuxinming saw Wen Jiu out of the hall. Wen Jiu then took that little girl Zhao Ming to a forest nearby, set up a sound insulation barrier, and informed her of the consequences of following him. "I promised Zhao Hongtu I wouldn't force you if you didn't want to come with me... It's entirely up to you."

"Senior, you're handsome, elegant, personable, with excellent cultivation skills. Zhao Ming is surely willing to follow you, even if not as a direct disciple, becoming an ordinary disciple will do, or even just serving tea and water," Zhao Ming nodded without hesitation.

But Wen Jiu could see a trace of hesitation in her smile; clearly, she also pondered over the pros and cons.

But ultimately, for the Zhao Family.

She chose to erase her hesitation.

"This girl seems lively and young, but her heart is more delicate than many and she understands the balance of pros and cons," Wen Jiu thought to himself, secretly admiring her. Making such a girl his first disciple wasn't a bad idea.

Wen Jiu spoke again, "Do you have any family you need to bid farewell to? You have a quarter of an hour."

"Thank you, Master, I wish Master an eternal path of immortality and overflowing fortune," Zhao Ming complimented him and then ran off.

A quarter of an hour later.

Wen Jiu took Zhao Ming and vanished like a startled swan.

Wuxinming returned to the main hall, indulging in the singing and dancing, enjoying the company of beauties on both sides, thoroughly entertained.

He was very happy.

All the plans succeeded.

The Zhao Family was in his grasp.

He Jiu also owed him a significant favor.

Zhao Ming was also accepted as his disciple, binding the Zhao Family to He Jiu forever.

Everything was so perfect.

Everything went so smoothly.

...

Several days later.

Wen Jiu brought Zhao Ming back to Donghua Immortal City, finding a side room in Hua Mansion for her to stay in.

"From now on, your task is simply to tidy up the courtyard. No need to do anything else, and there's no need for you to serve tea or water. Don't disturb me without cause," Wen Jiu reminded her before returning inside to continue cultivating the corpse concealing elixir.

Zhao Ming nodded obediently, her movements like a pecking chick.

Once Wen Jiu left, Zhao Ming couldn't help but look around, her initially nervous heart calming. When she heard her master was a corpse cultivator, she had been tense all the way.

But seeing that her master, upon returning to East Pole Immortal City, didn't cause chaos and only asked her to cultivate, she let out a big breath of relief.

"Then let's start with tidying up the yard." Zhao Ming eagerly began to clean the courtyard, organizing flower beds, fish ponds, etc. However, shortly after starting, she felt a shiver.

Because it was cold.

Even with the array isolating it, the corpse concealing elixir and Nine Nether Qi still caused the temperature of Hua Mansion to drop significantly.

Drop to a level that a Seventh-Layer Qi Cultivation cultivator could hardly bear.

The fish pond, which had just been cleaned, turned into ice blocks in no time.

She finally understood.

Why there were no longer any fish in the pond.

"Master truly is worthy of being a corpse cultivator!" She exclaimed, before hurriedly returning inside to warm up, not daring to step outside again.

When Wen Jiu came out of his room at dusk and sensed Zhao Ming shivering, he couldn't help but chuckle softly.

"Living alone for so long, I forgot there was someone else." Wen Jiu immediately took out a piece of magical armor from his storage bag.

Tier Two Lower Grade.

For Zhao Ming, it was a treasure.

But for Wen Jiu, it was something he could take or leave.

Wouldn't fetch much if sold.

"Put on this armor," Wen Jiu said as he pushed the door open, tossing the armor over.

Zhao Ming caught it happily, "Master, you're the best! There's not another corpse cultivator like you in this world, unique and unparalleled, unrivaled and peerless..."

"That's enough."

Wen Jiu was speechless.

Where did this girl learn such a set of phrases?

"Hehe." Zhao Ming grinned, then asked, "Master, you said you would take something from me when I establish my Foundation. What exactly is it? Can I give it to you in advance?"

Chapter 664 - 322: The First Disciple, Zhong Qi Pays a Visit

"No way to do it early."

Wen Jiu didn't hide anything and told the truth.

This included the matter of the Star Fate Chart.

Because hiding it would only make Zhao Ming suffer more. Now, while she's young, the pain of knowing the truth can still fade with time.

"Master..." For a moment, Zhao Ming couldn't accept the result, her bright smile like a moon overshadowed by dark clouds.

Wen Jiu didn't offer comfort.

Because he didn't know how to comfort.

"Accompany me for a walk."

Zhao Ming slowly nodded, forcing a smile.

However.

Wen Jiu originally thought Zhao Ming would be gloomy and melancholic for a while, but unexpectedly, as soon as they hit the streets and saw the strange and exotic items lining the way, the storm of shadows on her face completely passed.

A bright smile once again appeared.

And she began to spend wildly without any care.

Of course.

She wanted to spend.

There was nothing in Donghua Immortal City that a small Seventh-Layer Qi Cultivation Cultivator could afford.

But even if she couldn't buy anything, it didn't dampen her enthusiasm for looking.

"This girl..." Wen Jiu shook his head and laughed, not knowing how to evaluate her.

He hoped the girl truly didn't care, rather than burying her pain inside.

Anyway.

Since Zhao Ming has made her choice, whether she truly wants it or is forced to accept it for the Zhao Family, he will definitely acquire the Innate Fate Derivation Object.

...

In the days that followed, ever since Zhao Ming moved into the Hua Mansion, its once-lonely atmosphere eased quite a bit. The pond, which was always fishless, improved since Zhao Ming bought some Tier Two Spirit Fish.

After Wen Jiu mentioned it was decent, Zhao Ming eagerly began decorating the Hua Mansion's courtyard.

The flowerbeds, grasslands, stone paths, and so on were adorned with various exotic flowers and plants, making the place resemble the Hua Mansion much more. When the old steward Gongyang Fu visited, Zhao Ming warmly welcomed him, saying things that made the old man's heart bloom. After all, hearing certain words from a child has a very different effect.

The cultivation of the Corpse Concealing Elixir showed no significant progress, and there were no major changes from the Lu Family's side either.

Before they knew it, a month had passed, and Wuxinming finally returned. He seemed unaltered, clearly indicating he hadn't yet begun applying the Path of Humanity and Righteousness.

On this day, Wuxinming came again, accompanied by Mad Saber Zhenren Zhong Qi and his Dao companion, Blood Moon Zhenren Li Zhi. But it seemed this time Wuxinming was forced to come.

"Fellow Daoist Zhong, Fellow Daoist Li, things really happened as I said. Black Crow Zhenren was accidentally killed, and then Master He and I went to the Zhao Family and luckily retrieved his part of the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine."

Wuxinming reiterated at the door.

Clearly.

His words sounded less like an explanation and more like a reminder to Wen Jiu.

Zhong Qi stared coldly at Wuxinming, "Talking more is useless, when we see He Jiu later, everything will be clear."

"Fine, fine." Wuxinming was somewhat helpless, stepping forward to knock.

Zhao Ming quickly ran over to open the door. Seeing Wuxinming and the two other unfathomable cultivators, her face tensed but she immediately bowed, "Zhao Ming greets Master Wu and the two seniors."

"This He Jiu seems quite honest usually, but didn't expect him to raise a little girl at home. Indeed, all Corpse Cultivators are like this." Blood Moon Zhenren Li Zhi couldn't hide the disdain in her eyes.

Upon hearing her master being misunderstood, Zhao Ming bravely explained, "Senior, you misunderstood. Master He is my master. And he isn't the kind of person you say he is, he's actually very good."

"Master?"

Li Zhi looked dubious.

She understood the ways of the Corpse Dao.

Not to mention an apprentice.

Even a fellow master was the same.

There's no good person among Corpse Cultivators.

At that moment, a voice resounded, "Blood Moon Zhenren, what did you eat this morning for your mouth to smell so rank?"

The voice fell.

Wen Jiu walked out from the mansion.

Li Zhi's face tensed, angered, "He Jiu, what did you say?"

"You're courting death!"

Zhong Qi also spoke angrily.

The sudden confrontation startled Zhao Ming, turning her face pale, and leaving her not knowing what to do.

Seeing this, Wen Jiu comforted her with a word, "Go back and cultivate."

"Yes, Master."

Only then did Zhao Ming calm down a bit, quickly retreating.

After Zhao Ming left, Wen Jiu spoke again, "If the two of you still intend to refine alchemy, then clean up your mouths a bit. If not, I can just turn around and sell this Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine to a Mid-stage Golden Core Cultivator."

"You!"

Li Zhi was choked with anger.

Seeing this, Wuxinming quickly stepped in to mediate, "Everyone, don't be hasty, let's not argue here; let's settle matters inside, inside."

"It's unnecessary. Although I am taking refuge in Donghua Immortal City, I am not a person without a temper. Whether you believe me or not, you have to believe. Else, I'd sell the items to Mid-stage Golden Core Cultivators."

Wen Jiu merely wanted to live a low-key life in Donghua Immortal City and wasn't keen on unnecessary conflicts, but truly, don't push him.

He can't be pushed.

And none of you can withstand beating.

"He Jiu, if we're not refining alchemy, then you won't be refining either." Zhong Qi stated angrily.

Wen Jiu waved his hand dismissively, "I'm indifferent; I've just entered the Golden Core, and still have over eight hundred years of life to squander."

Zhong Qi and Li Zhi's faces tensed.

They had only two to three hundred years left.

Not to mention squandering.

If this opportunity is missed, it would be hard to gather alchemy materials in the future.

Seeing the atmosphere stiffen, Wuxinming quickly intervened to advise, "Fellow Daoists, let's not sever ties; it benefits no one. Currently, that piece of Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine is with Master He, even if you don't trust me, there are no other options."

"Fellow Daoist Wu, if it weren't for your sake, I..." Zhong Qi looked earnest with anger.

But he was already retreating.

Li Zhi was supremely unwilling but said nothing more. Compared to the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills, nothing else mattered. If He Jiu indeed sold that Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine to the Mid-stage Golden Core Cultivator, would there be any share of the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills left for them? Likely, those Evil Yin Spiritual Medicines would only bring disaster upon them.

"Fine, fine, for my sake." Wuxinming echoed a few words, pushing Zhong Qi toward the other side of the street.

Wen Jiu couldn't be bothered with the two and turned back to close the door.

But upon re-entering the mansion, he saw Zhao Ming standing there nervously, holding Spirit Tea and carefully asking, "Master, did I cause trouble for you?"

In Zhao Ming's mind, those two were surely Golden Core Cultivators, and if she caused her master to clash with a Golden Core Zhenren because of herself, she'd be at huge fault.

She clearly remembered the situation when Master Wu and her master visited the Zhao family; everyone in the Zhao Family was on edge.

"Where's the talk of trouble? You even knew to speak up for me, which is quite good." Wen Jiu reassured her with a smile, lifting his hand to send over a few bottles of Qi Cultivation Pills. Since Zhao Ming had come to Donghua Immortal City, he had witnessed her fear and caution; otherwise, she wouldn't dare to continue even decorating the yard if not for hearing his approval.

This girl, who was so cautious and afraid of everything around her, was bold enough to stand up for him against a Golden Core Zhenren.

Truly remarkable.

He couldn't deny, he really kind of liked this disciple.

Regrettably.

She's bound by a Star Fate Chart.

Destined to be a fleeting moment in his Dao journey.

"Thank you, Master." Zhao Ming accepted the reward, her heart filled with warmth, and she explained, "As your disciple, I couldn't bear to see anyone tarnish you, Master. You, as a Golden Core Zhenren, neither bullied others nor treated Zhao Family female cultivators as handmaidens like Master Wu did. Where else can such a good Golden Core Zhenren be found under heaven? ... Yet to unjustly defame you, she really was despicable."

"Alright, go cultivate."

Wen Jiu gave a helpless smile.

If you knew that your master had lived like this for a long time, would you be angered to death on the spot?

Being misunderstood was the fate of those who followed the Heterodox Dao.

In fact.

It seemed Zhong Qi and Li Zhi could each receive a Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill.

Today they misunderstood him.

Even startled his only disciple.

Perhaps he'll don a disguise tomorrow to take lives and seize their possessions.

That wouldn't be excessive, would it?

Doesn't that sound reasonable?

[Two Chapters completed.

Begging for monthly tickets!

Bosses, let's say, could you spare a few monthly tickets for Feique?

Thank you very much!]

Chapter 665 - 323: Living Medicine Complete, Sudden Mishap

In the blink of an eye, another two months passed.

Zhong Qi and Li Zhi did not come looking for trouble again. After becoming increasingly skilled in the Five Elements Soul-Lowering Heart Scripture, the progress of the Corpse Nourishing Medicine increased significantly, reaching more than ten times its usual efficiency.

As for why the effect was so exaggerated, it was purely due to the difference in skill. The amount of Nine Nether Qi that could be controlled and guided was vastly different. Finally, after several months of nurturing, the first life medicine successfully transformed.

The moment it transformed successfully, all the accumulated Yin Evil Qi from the corpses was instantly absorbed.

What was originally a faint Demon Spirit became very solid at this moment. However, since it was newly formed, the Demon Spirit was not strong, but it already qualified the

life medicine to cultivate into a demon, walking a path that would have taken plant and tree demons unknown years to traverse. To put it bluntly, it's quite monstrous.

But after the success of the first life medicine, Wen Jiu did not rush to inform Gongyang Fu. Firstly, because he wanted to research, and secondly, because the progress was too fast, which might trigger other thoughts in Gongyang Fu.

Such is human nature.

After thorough research, though uncertain whether it could nourish four corpses or five ghosts, Wen Jiu discovered that the Demon Spirit born from the life medicine showed no signs of increasing intelligence. Whether this was due to extremely slow growth or whether it would not grow at all, it was currently uncertain.

Wen Jiu attempted to divine with the Corpse Fate Technique, exhausting Three Thousand Blood Inks and the corpse Qi of the East Spring Undying Bone before obtaining a result.

The significant consumption was something Wen Jiu had not anticipated. However, as long as divination was possible, what does the consumption of corpse Qi matter?

The celestial secret and fate information derived from the Corpse Fate Technique showed that the Demon Spirit, induced by the Five Elements Soul-Lowering Heart Scripture and Nine Nether Qi within the life medicine, did not possess the potential to increase intelligence. In other words, even if it were nurtured, it would likely remain a dumb creature, foolish and lacking in cultivation value.

"In that case, it can only serve as a resource," Wen Jiu closed the Dark Realm. Unfortunately, he did not divine any information on whether it could be used for Corpse Nourishing or Ghost Cultivation. It seems no one has ever attempted such a thing.

"Maybe I can test it with the East Spring Undying Bone and the five ghosts."

As for the Blood Corpse Mushroom, it will certainly need a replacement in the future. After all, high-quality essence blood will become increasingly difficult to obtain, and the effectiveness of the Blood Corpse Mushroom will degrade. But Wen Jiu cannot wait for this day to arrive.

He must make preparations for future contingencies.

Most importantly, Nine Nether Qi and Celestial Yin Qi alike are freely available within the heavens and earth.

Getting things for free brings him joy.

In the blink of an eye, another month passed.

The old steward Gongyang Fu visited again, "Master He, my master is urging strongly. Could you let this old man see the progress this time? If I don't see any progress today, this old man's little life might be hard to preserve."

In order to conduct research, or rather to hide a life medicine, Wen Jiu had not allowed the old steward to check the progress for two consecutive months, with the excuse of being in closed cultivation. Gongyang Fu did not say much, only continued to visit every three days.

To handle Gongyang Fu, Wen Jiu spent the past month cultivating the second life medicine without rest, ready to use as an excuse. The second one had formed the previous day, just waiting for the old steward's visit.

"You came just in time, the first life medicine has already been successfully cultivated. You can take it back to your master later."

Wen Jiu handed the life medicine, which had long been placed in a Jade Box, to the old steward. The old steward explored it with the Divine Sense and couldn't help but become delighted.

The exact life medicine he had seen before.

"However, the cultivation of life medicine consumed too much Nine Nether Qi, only three-tenths remain. You should inform your master that another supplement is needed," Wen Jiu reminded, his face unchanged and calm. Cultivating two consumed more than seventy percent of the Nine Nether Qi, which was somewhat outrageous. However, Wen Jiu was unconcerned, because Gongyang Fu could only seek him out.

When this message was passed to Gongyang Fu by the old steward, Gongyang Fu paid no attention, but was instead excitedly examining the Tier Three Lower Grade life medicine, praising, "Its quality is excellent, and the time taken to cultivate one is two to three months less than before. Although the consumption for cultivating this life medicine is seven to eight times greater than normal, it is within acceptable limits."

Tomorrow, bring more Nine Nether Qi. If possible, ask him to cultivate more in batches. As many as can be cultivated simultaneously, cultivate them. Resources will be plentiful, and Nine Nether Qi will be ensured sufficient."

As soon as he finished speaking.

Gongyang Fu thought of another matter.

"Oh right, I heard He Jiu accepted a disciple?"

"Yes, it happened several months ago," the old steward answered truthfully.

Gongyang Fu hesitated for a few moments, "Find an excuse, say I was in isolation, just found out, and send a gift to him."

The old steward nodded in agreement.

But found the term 'isolation' strangely familiar.

Almost forgot.

Over the past two months, it was the term he heard the most.

"Oh right, also bring him some Corpse Nourishing Items. The He Family is currently in turmoil; its downfall is only a matter of time. If he's given a taste of the rewards, when I breakthrough to the Middle Stage of Golden Core, perhaps he can completely be at my disposal. Dual Cultivation of Body and Technique, and possessing a Tier Three East Spring Undying Bone, such a corpse cultivator is rare."

Gongyang Fu remarked.

The old steward immediately caught onto the key point, "Master, are you preparing to advance to the Middle Stage of Golden Core?"

"Everything is ready, anytime is possible, but for the sake of caution, it is better to wait a little longer." Gongyang Fu's eyes were filled with confidence. Based on his Middle-Grade Golden Core foundation, breaking through to the Middle Stage of Golden Core was a certainty.

After breaking through to the Middle Stage of Golden Core, resources can be concentrated to nurture the medicine. Once the Medicinal Spirit Yin Pill is achieved, there will be an opportunity to advance to the Late Stage of Golden Core.

"Then I prematurely congratulate the master," the old steward congratulated with a smile, "If He Jiu knows you're about to breakthrough to the Middle Stage of Golden Core, with future hopes of reaching the Late Stage of Golden Core, he'd surely throw in everything to serve under you."

Chapter 666 - 323: Living Elixir Success, Unexpected Incident

"Forget about subordinates. Such Golden Cores that are not cultivated by oneself can never be as loyal as you are. However, you can still hint at the fact that I'm about to reach the Middle Stage of Golden Core, to make him more devoted to nurturing the Corpse Nourishing Medicine." Gongyang Fu smirked slyly, his face filled with confidence.

The old housekeeper also smirked slyly.

He bent his waist even lower.

...

In the days that followed, Wen Jiu received the Nine Nether Qi delivered by the old housekeeper multiple times, yet he could not comprehend why the old housekeeper always mentioned, whether intentionally or unintentionally, that Gongyang Fu was about to break through to the Middle Stage of Golden Core.

After several repetitions, Wen Jiu finally understood, and he reacted with surprise and amazement twice. Truth be told, he wasn't a good actor.

Acting is indeed really difficult.

Reflecting on it now, he truly misunderstood those little fresh meats from his previous life. Their bad acting was understandable because they really couldn't act.

During this period, Wen Jiu quietly left Donghua Immortal City once, because the East Spring Undying Bone was located just beyond the city, ten thousand miles away. To his delight, the East Spring Undying Bone yielded excellent results after refining the Corpse Nourishing Medicine.

A single Tier Three Lower Grade Corpse Nourishing Medicine had three to four times the Corpse Nourishing effect of a Tier Three Lower Grade Blood Corpse Mushroom.

To know, for a Blood Corpse Mushroom to grow to Tier Three, it would need the Blood Demon Undying Bone to consume over a hundred years of lifespan using the Cyan Wheat Three Techniques. Whereas the Corpse Nourishing Medicine only needed a short four to five months.

Comparing the two.

The Corpse Nourishing Medicine can completely replace the Blood Corpse Mushroom; in the future, using the Cyan Wheat Three Techniques to raise its grade, one can always use it for corpse nourishing.

The only difficulty might be in the procurement channels for the Nine Nether Qi, but this problem, although an issue for now, won't be a problem in the future for sure.

From then on, Wen Jiu began to pursue dual strategies, cultivating his own Corpse Nourishing Medicine while also helping Gongyang Fu cultivate his. The more he could speed it up, the better, since apart from the Nine Nether Qi, all other resources were obtainable in Donghua Immortal City, even if bought openly.

Because he is a Corpse Cultivator.

As for the crucial Nine Nether Qi, Gongyang Fu would supply it. He just needed to control the time for successful cultivation, to let him savor the sweetness, and Gongyang Fu wouldn't mind the large consumption of Nine Nether Qi.

Just when Wen Jiu was indulging in the joy of getting free Nine Nether Qi, Wuxinming visited again after two months.

"Fellow Daoist He, Master Witch is about to start alchemy! Just now, Gongyang Fu has sent word that the alchemy will begin in seven days, and Master Witch wants us to prepare well, or there will not be another chance. Mad Saber Zhenren and Blood Moon Zhenren have also received the news and are on their way to Donghua Immortal City. They'll arrive in three days."

In Wuxinming's eyes, Wen Jiu saw an uncontrollable excitement.

Wen Jiu also performed an act of expectation and happiness, showing better acting compared to before.

Seven days later.

After giving Zhao Ming a few instructions, Wen Jiu left Hua Mansion and went with Wuxinming to Gongyang Fu's abode.

When they arrived at Gongyang Fu's residence, Wen Jiu found that Zhong Qi and his wife had already arrived. As they entered the courtyard, they happened to hear the two praising Gongyang Fu. It was evident that the couple truly wished to climb up to Gongyang Fu's status.

Unfortunately.

Gongyang Fu had no intention of recruiting them, appearing rather indifferent. But when Wen Jiu and Wuxinming appeared, Gongyang Fu's gaze suddenly fell on Wen Jiu, with a look of surprise in his eyes.

"Master He?"

Gongyang Fu seemed a bit surprised.

Wuxinming hurriedly explained, "Fellow Daoist Gongyang, here's the thing. Black Crow Zhenren was harmed by villains a few days ago. Before he died, he transferred his share of the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine to Master He, so he will be replacing the fourth person."

"I see." Gongyang Fu didn't say much more, as changing people temporarily seemed not to be a big deal for him, "Congratulations to Master He, with the help of the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills, you're well on your way to the Middle Stage of Golden Core."

He finally understood why the old housekeeper, when reporting back a few days before, said Wen Jiu was hardly moved by his breakthrough to the Middle Stage of Golden Core.

Only after dropping a few hints did Wen Jiu show some surprised expressions, but his acting was honestly atrocious.

It turned out to be because of this matter.

"It seems there's no hope in recruiting him. If he reaches the Middle Stage of Golden Core, he might even catch the Dharma Eye of my master, so I need to think of a way to deepen our relationship to maintain long-term cooperation." Gongyang Fu pondered in his heart, and then seemed to have thought of something.

Isn't the opportunity right in front of me?

"Since everyone is here, come with me. This time, my master's alchemy isn't just for the four of you, so there may be some time variations." Gongyang Fu didn't say much more, put away his thoughts, and reminded them before soaring into the sky.

Wuxinming and the other three hurriedly followed.

Wen Jiu followed behind the group.

Soon, they reached the East Splendor Divine Palace. Led by Gongyang Fu, the group smoothly entered the interior of the East Splendor Divine Palace and arrived at the core of the Tier Three Top-Grade Spiritual Vein. However, by the time they reached Master Witch's alchemy area, the Pill Hall doors were still tightly shut, and the Tier Three High-grade Grand Array outside was still active.

Obviously.

The previous batch of Elixir Pills hadn't been successfully refined.

But after waiting for half a day, a fragrance of pills permeated everywhere, which even the Tier Three High-grade Grand Array couldn't completely conceal.

Soon after, the doors of the Pill Hall opened in response, and an elderly man in a long robe walked out alongside a polite, young-looking cultivator. The young cultivator expressed gratitude with a bow and then transformed into a Startled Swan and left.

When the young-looking cultivator left, Gongyang Fu quickly stepped forward and saluted, "Master, Wuxinming and the other four have arrived."

(p>The elderly man in the long robe fixed his gaze on Wen Jiu, and Wen Jiu immediately felt a powerful Divine Sense fall upon him.

This Divine Sense was even stronger than Lin Yingyun Mountain, and it had already surpassed the current East Spring Undying Bone.

It was the strongest Divine Sense Wen Jiu had encountered.

"Good thing I never thought of controlling Gongyang Fu's soul." Wen Jiu sighed quietly. If the Five Ghosts in the Tier Three Lower Realm controlled Gongyang Fu's soul, the strongest Yin Alchemy Master in the West Mountain Floating Domain would surely sense something.

Master Witch's Divine Sense only briefly scanned Wuxinming and the other two, but it lingered on Wen Jiu for seven to eight breaths. Even the three beside him didn't notice.

But after seven to eight breaths, this Master Witch ultimately moved his Divine Sense away, showing no abnormalities on his face.

"This time, my disciple will watch the alchemy process, and you may also observe, but you must not make any sound to disturb. If you disturb and cause a failure, the consequences are yours to bear." After a brief warning, Master Witch turned back into the hall.

Wuxinming immediately nodded, "Thank you, Master Witch!"

Zhong Qi and his partner also quickly responded.

Their eyes were full of undisguised excitement and anticipation.

Wen Jiu also showed anticipation; this time it wasn't an act. He truly wanted to see how a Tier Three High-grade Yin Alchemist conducted alchemy.

But just as they headed into the Pill Hall, Gongyang Fu suddenly whispered in secret, "Master He, regardless of what happens later, I'll be on your side."

After transmitting his message, Gongyang Fu walked into the hall as if nothing had happened. Wen Jiu frowned in confusion, unable to understand what Gongyang Fu meant. Could there be any unexpected turn during the alchemy process?

Given Master Witch's status, it's unlikely he would commit to misappropriating the elixirs, right?

After all, the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills are quite precious for someone in the Early Stage of Golden Core, but for Master Witch, they should be nothing.

Just after entering the hall and before starting the alchemy, a female cultivator who had reached the Early Stage of Golden Core unexpectedly entered from outside. After simply raising her hand in greeting, she lined up by Gongyang Fu's side without saying much.

Wuxinming and the others didn't pay much attention, assuming she was a disciple of Master Witch. Still, Wen Jiu, standing behind the group, sensed something unusual. Out of caution, Wen Jiu promptly used the Corpse Fate Technique for a divination.

Celestial Secret Magical Artifact Hidden.

Unable to spy.

Moreover, the Celestial Secret Magical Artifact she wielded was not inferior to the Tier Three Top-Grade Demon Artifact of the Divine Absolute Thousand Peaks One Thought Mountain.

During the divination, the female cultivator seemed to feel the probing of the Corpse Fate Technique, her figure quivered but did not look towards Wuxinming and the others. Although the Corpse Fate Technique couldn't reveal her origin, it did foretell her cultivation level.

Middle Stage of Golden Core.

Not the Early Stage.

"It's unlikely that Master Witch would tarnish his reputation with such an act, but this female cultivator's appearance must be no trivial matter."

Wen Jiu collected his thoughts and observed silently. Regardless of what happened later, he couldn't just leave now that he had come. However, this incident made Wen Jiu even more determined to elevate the Corpse Fate Technique to perfection sooner.

These hidden troubles are indeed treacherous and hard to defend against.

[Second update at 8:00 PM.

Please vote for the monthly ticket!]

Corpse Burier: I Can Nourish Corpse -

Chapter 667 - 324: Here for Me?[1,348 words]

"Take out the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine." Master Witch's voice echoed in the somewhat dim Pill Hall, "I believe my disciple has already explained to you that the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills, one furnace can guarantee at least four pills. However, if my hands are in good shape, occasionally five or six pills can be produced."

Wuxinming nodded, "Master Witch, Fellow Daoist Gongyang has already mentioned it."

Zhong Qi and Li Zhi also responded affirmatively.

Master Witch continued, "Today's situation is a bit different. If we produce five or six pills, I would hope you sell the extras to me."

Upon hearing this, Wen Jiu subtly showed a trace of doubt. Would Master Witch really need to reach the point of buying Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills from an Early-stage Golden Core Cultivator?

While Wen Jiu was pondering, Wuxinming had already looked at him, and Zhong Qi and Li Zhi nodded without hesitation. Since they, as a couple, only wanted one pill each, selling the extra to Master Witch was no issue.

"Alright."

Wen Jiu replied.

It was only then that Wuxinming spoke, "Master Witch, my fellow Daoists have no objections, you can take the extras."

"That's good." Master Witch smiled satisfactorily, gesturing for everyone to step aside, then carefully examined the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine. After confirming there were no issues, he started throwing them one by one into the ten-foot-tall Pill Furnace.

The Yin Fire roared up, but instead of bringing heat, it carried a chill, a chill so eerie that even Golden Core Cultivators felt uneasy. Wen Jiu did not act, as he was a Golden Core Corpse Cultivator after all.

During this time, everyone barely dared to breathe, their eyes fixed on the situation inside the Pill Furnace, even though it was at least seven or eight days until the pills would form. But Wuxinming and the other two were already looking forward to it.

Gongyang Fu watched from the side intently, seemingly genuinely learning the alchemy techniques, as if the vocal reminder just now did not exist. The Golden Core Female Cultivator at the Middle Stage was also doing the same.

As time ticked by, four days later, the refinement of the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine was completed.

Even though Wen Jiu was not a Yin Alchemy Master, he knew the next step was the fusion of the medicinal liquid. Outsiders watch the excitement, insiders watch the details. Wen Jiu was not interested in pondering over the techniques and was only pretending to focus on the Pill Furnace for the Middle Stage Golden Core Female Cultivator. After some consideration, Wen Jiu now felt Master Witch's earlier actions might be related to the Golden Core Female Cultivator.

If that's true.

Then Gongyang Fu's vocal reminder made a lot of sense.

If five pills cannot be formed.

What will happen?

It's unknown.

In the blink of an eye, two more days passed, and the Condensing Pill stage was in its final phase, with the pill's aroma starting to rise. Wuxinming and the two others' faces were filled with anticipation. Although they didn't dare to release their Divine Sense to probe directly into the Pill Furnace, purely by perception, Wen Jiu could still sense some subtle nuances within the furnace.

He only sensed the waves of four Yin Pills; a fifth seemed to appear but only lingered for half a quarter of an hour before vanishing in the Yin Fire. Wen Jiu even thought he had sensed incorrectly, but when he saw Master Witch's brows suddenly furrow, he understood that his senses were not mistaken at all.

What he least wanted to see had still happened.

But he was not particularly worried; after all, the Golden Core Female Cultivator was merely seeking a pill, and if she targeted him, it wasn't a big deal to give it to her. The Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill wasn't the only option.

At worst, he could take it back later, perhaps with interest.

On the seventh day.

The pill's aroma intensified abruptly, reaching its peak, and the soaring Yin Fire gradually weakened inside the Pill Furnace. The smaller the Yin Fire, the stronger the pill's aroma, and Wuxinming and others' faces grew brighter and more joyful.

However, when the four crimson cyan Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills appeared, Gongyang Fu's brows furrowed.

Master Witch also sighed, "Four pills formed, what a pity. I tried my best to condense a fifth pill, but due to a slight mishap in fire control, the fifth had to be sacrificed to the Yin Fire."

"Master Witch, don't blame yourself. Across the entire West Mountain Floating Domain, only you can stably produce four pills in a furnace of Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills," Zhong Qi said excitedly, flattering.

Wuxinming did the same.

"With time, you'll certainly achieve Tier Three Top-Grade Yin Alchemist status, making a name throughout the Hundred Floating Domains."

At the side, Li Zhi was equally excited, his eyes clinging to the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills, unable to move away.

Wen Jiu didn't join in the conversation, just watched quietly without offering flattering words, for it wasn't directed at them.

It was meant for the Middle Stage Golden Core Female Cultivator.

Sure enough.

The Middle Stage Golden Core Female Cultivator slowly spoke, her cold voice echoing in the Pill Hall, "Senior Brother, no need to blame yourself; my luck wasn't enough for five pills. You take a rest; I'll handle the next steps myself."

Master Witch nodded, adding a reminder, "Don't force things and damage your reputation. Be sure to provide the necessary compensation."

"Be assured, Third Senior Brother." The female cultivator spoke again, removing her Alchemy Master's robe to reveal an exquisite Tier Three Top-Grade Red Robe, her gaze landing on Wen Jiu.

"Is this Fellow Daoist Zhao Ya? I am Du Yueqing of the Celestial Splendor Treasure Pavilion. My master is Duan Qianren, the Golden Core Perfection Cultivator of the pavilion. I'm sure you've heard of his name. If not, just know that Master Witch is my Third Senior Brother." Du Yueqing focused intently on Wen Jiu.

Wen Jiu furrowed his brows.

Zhao Ya?

It seems this female cultivator had already known about Wuxinming and the others, planning in advance.

As for Duan Qianren, Wen Jiu knew nothing, but upon hearing of the Celestial Splendor Treasure Pavilion and Master Witch being her Senior Brother, it was clear she had notable origins.

But before Wen Jiu could respond, Gongyang Fu took a respectful bow and quickly said, "Mistress, you're mistaken; he isn't Fellow Daoist Zhao Ya. You came in a rush and hadn't been informed. Fellow Daoist Zhao Ya unfortunately passed unexpectedly, and the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine he collected was entrusted by Zhao Ya's descendants to this Master He."

"So it's Master He." Du Yueqing once again bowed politely, but then her tone shifted, "May I ask if Master He would be willing to relinquish the pill to me? I am willing to double the value of the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine to compensate. If you find that insufficient, I am open to tripling or quadrupling it."

Wen Jiu assessed Du Yueqing, suspecting the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill was sought not for herself.

But for whom?

Wen Jiu did not care.

Since it was directed at him, he might as well sell it.

Alas.

Forcing him to alter plans.

What misfortune.

But just as Wen Jiu was about to nod, Gongyang Fu suddenly bowed again and hastily said, "Master, Mistress, this Master He is in very good relations with me, and we have collaborated numerous times. Moreover, his family's current turmoil has them relying on him to make a comeback.

Although Master He is seeking refuge in Donghua Immortal City today, his Dual Cultivation of Body and Technique has both reached the Golden Core Realm, possessing great potential. With this Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill, he's sure to progress to the Middle Golden Core Realm."

[The second update is shorter.

Apologies.]

Chapter 668 - 325: Counter by Counter, East Spring Water Demon

Gongyang Fu's words made Du Yueqing's face tense up, and a trace of coldness appeared in her eyes. It fell on Gongyang Fu, causing him to tremble, and he could only muster a smile as he hurriedly apologized for his actions.

But as Gongyang Fu had previously communicated, he stood firmly on Wen Jiu's side.

"Aunt Master, Master, it's all my fault. If you want to punish someone, then punish me. But please don't make things difficult for Master He." Gongyang Fu suddenly knelt down with a thud, in a posture clearly willing to protect He Jiu's elixir pills to the end.

Master Witch looked displeased, but ultimately didn't say much more, "You rascal..."

His gaze fell on Du Yueqing.

Clearly waiting for Du Yueqing's reaction.

Du Yueqing's eyes showed displeasure, but she didn't lose her temper. She just responded indifferently, "Dual cultivation of body and technique reaching the Golden Core Realm is indeed remarkable, but this Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill is intended for your uncle-master. His talent in the Yin Array path is exceptionally high, far surpassing your master's alchemy talent. However, his cultivation aptitude is not good, without the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill, he has no hope of a realm breakthrough."

Gongyang Fu glanced at Wen Jiu not far away, and seemed to be looking at someone else. But regardless of whoever it was, whether it was Wuxinming or the couple Zhong Qi, it tightened their hearts, making it hard for them to breathe.

Just now rejoicing in others' misfortune, the Zhong Qi couple were now trembling with fear, their hearts were in turmoil. They were usually stable as Mount Tai in the Golden Core Realm, but the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill was too important.

As the saying goes, concern leads to chaos, making it difficult for them to maintain calm.

Wen Jiu saw all this, regardless of Gongyang Fu's reasons for firmly helping him, he didn't want to make wild guesses.

If Gongyang Fu truly managed to change Du Yueqing's mind, it would save East Spring Undying Bone from making a trip.

Even if Du Yueqing's fate was not about to end.

At this moment, Gongyang Fu decisively spoke up, "Mad Saber Zhenren, Blood Moon Zhenren, would you be willing to sell a Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill? I will definitely compensate you generously. If in the future you need any elixirs made or assistance, I can help without reservation!"

The four words 'without reservation' were emphasized heavily, seemingly to demonstrate his steadfast resolve. Of course, this was intentionally done by Gongyang Fu, not only to provide a promise to the Zhong Qi couple, but also to put on a show for He Jiu.

For the Medicinal Spirit Yin Pill, for living medicine, and to maintain a more extended collaboration with He Jiu, he had no choice but to do so.

Of course.

Actually, he could do nothing, but his vision was not so short-sighted or narrow.

He Jiu's breakthrough to the middle stage of the Golden Core would only bring benefits to him.

"We..." Zhong Qi was in a quandary, seeing that Du Yueqing and others hadn't spoken, expecting his reaction, he understood that escaping today's situation was unlikely. With hatred, he looked towards Wen Jiu.

Sensing the hatred, Wen Jiu was indifferent, as the couple was already sentenced to death in his mind.

Li Zhi hesitated for a moment before speaking first, forcing a smile, "Husband, why don't we sell my pill to this Elder Du Yueqing? It doesn't matter which of us reaches the middle stage of Golden Core. Your strength is my strength, and my foundation is weaker. Even

with the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill, breakthrough is not guaranteed."

But Wen Jiu could hear her teeth almost grinding to pieces.

"Then thank you, Fellow Daoist Li Zhi. If there is anything in the future, I will certainly do my best to assist." Before Zhong Qi could speak, Gongyang Fu rushed to say, afraid that Zhong Qi would suddenly interrupt.

Seeing the situation come to this, Zhong Qi understood that if he continued to oppose, not only would it leave Gongyang Fu with a grudge, but it would also displease Master Witch and others.

He just couldn't understand why He Jiu, a destitute Golden Core, could be held in such high regard by Gongyang Fu?

And the He Family, how did they develop the foundation to cultivate a dual cultivation of body and technique prodigy into Golden Core?

"As you wish."

Reluctantly speaking, Zhong Qi was filled with killing intent towards Wen Jiu, because if it weren't for Wen Jiu, his Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill would never have been lost.

Du Yueqing nodded with satisfaction and then glanced at Gongyang Fu, saying, "Nephew, today, on your account, Aunt Master will change trades."

Gongyang Fu hurriedly thanked her, "Thank you, Aunt Master."

Seeing Du Yueqing's gaze come towards him, Wen Jiu also put on an act, "Thank you, Fellow Daoist Gongyang, thank you, Elder Du."

Sigh.

Actually, you should thank Gongyang Fu.

Thank me.

If Gongyang Fu hadn't stepped up, once you left Donghua Immortal City, you would have died.

...

Soon.

The trade was completed.

Du Yueqing indeed gave three or four times in return, but the Evil Yin Spiritual Medicine needed to refine the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill has always been priceless. So even if given more, it's still difficult to buy the materials for alchemy.

The most important thing is what happens after buying it, without the contribution from Wuxinming and Zhao Ya, ultimately, it's impossible to refine pills. Wuxinming surely won't go to the extent of painstakingly refining it again, so even if given ten times more, Zhong Qi and Li Zhi may have no chance to refine the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill in this lifetime.

However, Zhong Qi and Li Zhi ultimately had no choice but to accept this outcome, because Master Witch was their senior brother.

Outsiders view him as negotiating.

If there were no outsiders.

It would be outright robbery.

Not long after, the group left the Pill Hall, Gongyang Fu naturally standing before Wen Jiu and started another act.

"Master He, I initially thought the one refining pills was Black Crow Zhenren, didn't expect it to be suddenly you. Fortunately, Aunt Master showed me some face, ultimately protecting your Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pill."

Chapter 669 - 325: Turning the Tables, East Spring Water Demon

Gongyang Fu looked relieved.

Wen Jiu knew what Gongyang Fu wanted and raised his hand in a salute, "Fellow Daoist Gongyang, rest assured, wherever and whenever you need me in the future, I will spare no effort to help you cultivate living elixirs."

"Thank you, Master He."

Gongyang Fu smiled in return.

This was exactly what he wanted.

Wen Jiu also smiled with satisfaction.

Getting Nine Nether Qi for free.

Truly delightful!

After exchanging a few more polite words, Wen Jiu and Wuxinming returned together. Zhong Qi and his companion had transformed into departing trails of light after leaving the Pill Hall, ignoring Wuxinming and leaving with eyes full of killing intent towards Wen Jiu.

Wuxinming was unconcerned because he wished He Jiu would have more troubles, which would make it easier for He Jiu to become useful to him.

Now that the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills had been refined, it was time to go back and perform the technique.

Honestly, he was worried before that He Jiu's Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills might be confiscated. If they were taken, the resulting karma during the casting would be much less, greatly reducing the gratitude He Jiu would owe in the future.

Unexpectedly, Gongyang Fu had stood up at the crucial moment to help He Jiu preserve the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills.

Moreover, he was even more pleasantly surprised to find that He Jiu was a person of Dual Cultivation of Body and Technique.

And had an unusual relationship with Gongyang Fu.

So his plan could be further advanced, aiding the Heart Demon Sect in establishing a deeply rooted and pervasive foundation within the Donghua Immortal City. Watching Wuxinming leave satisfied after the pleasantries, Wen Jiu also smiled knowingly.

Preparing to go home and wait for Wuxinming to come looking for him.

...

A few days passed after the alchemy with nothing happening, but Wen Jiu could feel the birth of karma.

It was evident that Wuxinming had performed his technique.

However, since the karma was just beginning to manifest and hadn't intensified, Wuxinming hadn't come looking for him.

"It seems that the caster does not know the exact situation until the karma fully amplifies."

Before Wuxinming arrived, Wen Jiu was not in a hurry and continued to freely collect Nine Nether Qi to cultivate his Corpse Nourishing living elixers, while also focusing on practicing the Corpse Fate Technique. After this incident, Wen Jiu began fervently practicing the Corpse Fate Technique.

The Three Thousand Blood Inks trained daily without pause. Despite no movement from Wuxinming, Zhong Qi and his companion reacted. The Zhong Qi couple left Donghua Immortal City immediately without lingering.

Just a few days after their departure, rumors of Mad Saber Zhenren's suspected realm breakthrough spread through Donghua Immortal City.

But this information came to Wen Jiu from Zhao Ming. Zhao Ming had heard people discussing it when she was out buying food. Honestly, this was already a blatant clue, and Zhao Ming and her husband were definitely doing it intentionally.

Others might listen for amusement, perhaps merely curious about whether Mad Saber Zhenren could successfully break through.

But if he were to hear it, it would be completely different. Because the Zhong Qi couple had previously made no attempt to conceal their murderous intent. If he were really He Jiu, he would definitely seize this opportunity to attack, rather than waiting for Zhong Qi to break through.

Who would want to gain a dead enemy at the Middle Stage of Golden Core?

Especially since Zhong Qi had already reached the peak of the Early Stage of Golden Core, it was his time to break through, but it was not the case for He Jiu. So in Zhong Qi's eyes, He Jiu would definitely not let him break through so easily, even knowing it's an obvious plot, He Jiu could only choose to fall for it.

What a pity.

Zhong Qi thought well, but he miscalculated one thing.

He was not He Jiu.

Nor was he some fledgling who had just entered the Early Stage of Golden Core.

"Since that's the case, let's play along and take his Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills." Wen Jiu immediately commanded the East Spring Undying Bone to head to Donghua Immortal City. Since Zhong Qi dared to act knowing he was a Dual Cultivator of Body and Technique entering the Golden Core Realm, he clearly had backup plans, so Wen Jiu had no hesitation in deploying the East Spring Undying Bone.

At the same time, Wen Jiu also went to perform a little act by visiting Wuxinming's residence, intentionally letting those secretly watching see him.

After leaving Wuxinming's place, Wen Jiu then went to Gongyang Fu's residence for a short while.

After visiting the two places, Wen Jiu finally left Donghua Immortal City, and he did so quietly, without even those secretly watching him noticing. This only made his actions more convincing, making Zhong Qi believe it even more.

As he predicted, within a few days someone came knocking; Zhao Ming, as usual, promptly went out to meet the visitor.

Afraid that the visitor might not be an ordinary person, delaying their matter.

The visitor disguised themselves as a loose cultivator looking for someone, and Zhao Ming foolishly revealed that he was not home. This was all anticipated by Wen Jiu; Zhao Ming was young and couldn't keep secrets, so he might as well use her sincerity.

As for Zhao Ming's sincerity, Wen Jiu did not plan to change it. With just a lifespan of ninety-five years, being a bit foolish is fine, especially with him protecting her.

Ninety-five years will pass in the blink of an eye; as long as the girl is happy, it doesn't matter if after her Foundation Establishment she doesn't want to cultivate further.

...

Meanwhile.

Within a Tier Three Spiritual Vein fifty thousand miles outside Donghua Immortal City, Zhong Qi sat cross-legged in the cave atop the peak, seemingly consolidating his cultivation and making final preparations for his realm breakthrough. Not long after, Li Zhi returned from outside, her face full of joy.

"Husband, that He Jiu indeed couldn't hold back; he first went to see Wuxinming and then sought out Gongyang Fu. A few days ago, he suddenly left Donghua Immortal City. Initially, he hid it well, but unfortunately, he has a silly girl he brought from the Zhao Family, who revealed the truth with just a couple of questions," Li Zhi said with a smile.

Zhong Qi smiled with satisfaction, "How could he possibly hold back? If I break through, the He Family will gain another enemy at the Middle Stage of Golden Core. Whether for the He Family or for himself, he has to come to disrupt my breakthrough."

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"What if Gongyang Fu and Wuxinming help him?" Li Zhi asked.

Zhong Qi smiled faintly, indifferent, "So what if they help? Who doesn't have a backup plan? Even though the matter of the Divine Storage Three Thousand Spiritless Yin Pills has already been bound by a Heart Demon Oath and Silencing Spell, ensuring it cannot be spread, there will still be those willing to act against them if he comes seeking us. We don't even need to lift a finger."

"Husband, did you contact them?"

Fleeting fear appeared in Li Zhi's eyes.

Zhong Qi nodded, "I had to reach out to them, but it's okay. Even if Gongyang Fu knows we have Demon Cultivators assisting us, he won't expose us. Whether it's the East Splendor Divine Palace or the forces behind them, they all have close ties with Outer Hidden Demons. As for Gongyang Fu, unless he enters the Middle Stage of Golden Core, our use for him is certainly greater than that for He Jiu. Would he turn against us for the sake of a dead He Jiu?"

"As long as you are confident, husband, I won't say more. I'm just worried that by cooperating with Demon Cultivators, we might end up with nothing."

"Some grudges must be avenged, even if there's no benefit in it. Besides, once I break through to the Middle Stage of Golden Core, He Jiu and the He Family will have to repay us tenfold." Zhong Qi spoke bitterly.

The next moment, Li Zhi embraced Zhong Qi like a little woman, holding him tightly.

"Husband, meeting you is the luckiest thing in my life."

Zhong Qi smiled blissfully but then sighed, "It's a pity we can't both reach the Middle Stage of Golden Core; you're only a Low-Rank Golden Core, and of poor quality at that. Breaking through on your own is as difficult as climbing to heaven."

"It's all He Jiu's fault!"

Zhong Qi's last words were sulky beyond compare.

His gaze toward Li Zhi was as tender and loving as it was furious when mentioning the name He Jiu.

...

Seven or eight days later.

East Spring Undying Bone arrived at the Independent Practitioner Market where Wen Jiu resided, and once East Spring Undying Bone arrived, Wen Jiu promptly boarded the Tier Three Flying Ship of East Splendor Divine Palace within the Independent Practitioner Market to return to Donghua Immortal City.

As soon as the Flying Ship took off, East Spring Undying Bone exited the Independent Practitioner Market and headed straight for its destination.

When the Flying Ship landed at Donghua Immortal City, East Spring Undying Bone also arrived at the Tier Three Spiritual Vein where Zhong Qi was located.

At this moment, Zhong Qi was undergoing a Realm Breakthrough.

Clearly intentional.

East Spring Undying Bone's Divine Sense immediately detected the presence of a concealed Demon Cultivator thousands of miles away.

A Middle Stage Demon Core cultivator.

Wen Jiu paid little heed to Demon Core cultivators at the Middle Stage, but upon detecting this one, his Divine Sense couldn't look away. For the first time, Wen Jiu sensed a Demon Cultivator emitting the aura of East Spring River, in resonance with East Spring Undying Bone, and its bloodline aura even surpassed that of East Spring Undying Bone.

Fortunately, East Spring Undying Bone could employ Hidden God Technique and Ghost Concealment Three Rivers, and his Divine Sense was far superior, so the Demon Cultivator did not detect East Spring Undying Bone's presence. Yet this provoked considerable curiosity in Wen Jiu.

He immediately used Corpse Fate Technique for divination, and luck was on his side. Though this Demon Cultivator possessed a Celestial Secret Magical Artifact, it was of low

grade, and Wen Jiu could indeed perform divination on it, albeit at several times the usual cost.

But as the saying goes, the cost isn't the issue, the inability to divinate is.

The expenditure in corpse energy exceeded Wen Jiu's expectations, and to divine the detailed information of its Demon Body, it instantly depleted Three Thousand Blood Inks, Formless Demon Corpse, and the energy and spirit of the five ghosts.

Truth be told, it was the largest consumption of corpse energy for the Golden Core stage that Wen Jiu had encountered, yet it turned out that the true drain of energy was for the Demon Body nurtured by East Spring River, yielding exceptional celestial secret and fate information.

Its Demon Body was named East Spring Water Demon Body, requiring nurturing at the end of an East Spring River. The river's end was boundless, and no cultivator could reach it regardless of how they flew.

However, there existed Qi Fortune Takers, a type of people who, although not fated to become immortals or ancestors like in novels, possessed luck far above ordinary people, perhaps just once, but that's enough to soar to great heights. This reason allowed reaching the end of East Spring River.

Based on this alone, this person must die. Wen Jiu needed its memory to see if a method to reach the end of East Spring River could be found.

Employing Corpse Fate Technique for calculating East Spring River's end location proved more challenging than divining a Nascent Soul Cultivator.

Because of this difficulty, East Spring Water Demon Body was stronger than East Spring Undying Bone, with celestial secrets far more profound.

Initially, Wen Jiu observed celestial secret and fate information concerning the former owners of East Spring Water Demon Body, each related to Nascent Soul-level celestial secrets. While not all are alive, their deaths after obtaining Demon Infant Dao Fruit indicated the pathway to the Nascent Soul Realm was inevitable for those cultivating East Spring Water Demon Body, its potency akin to his True Spirit Root.

Additionally further celestial secret and fate information was quite astonishing, primarily that the Demon Cultivator with East Spring Water Demon Body had a powerful ability to enter Nine Abysses and traverse Lifeless Netherworld.

Little could be divined of Nine Abysses with Corpse Fate Technique, but knowledge of Nine Nether Qi was considerable. It's key in cultivating live medicines, and a special vital energy for spawning Demon Spirits. Besides cultivation, as far as Wen Jiu knew, Nine Nether Qi could enhance Demon Spirits or Corpse Souls.

Enhancing Demon Spirits was felt by Wen Jiu during live medicine cultivation and directly strengthening the Corpse Soul was evidenced when live medicine created by Wen Jiu was devoured by East Spring Undying Bone, though no experience was gained, the Corpse Soul showed some enhancement. Of course, it was minimal, possibly enabling the cultivation of the five ghosts.