

Eternal Heart 99

Chapter 99: Rumors and Insect Pets

After a moment.

Surrounded by tens of thousands of Iron Moon Corpse Worms, they dispersed, leaving only some poisoned worm corpses behind.

All was deathly still at the original spot.

Chen Yu sat cross-legged, small injuries across his body gradually healing under his strong self-healing capacity.

However,

Chen Yu's complexion was fluctuating uncertainly.

...

The swarm might have left, but inside his body, there seemed to be an Iron Moon Worm King remaining.

Even if it wasn't the Worm King, it was some kind of mutant.

Fortunately,

The silvery Iron Moon Strange Insect, under the suppression of the mysterious heart, was completely immobilized inside his body.

Indistinctly,

Chen Yu felt a mysterious aura emerging from his heart, carrying a trickle of warm flow that enveloped the immobile strange insect.

Suddenly, Chen Yu felt a strange connection with the strange insect inside his body.

At the same time,

An image appeared in his mind, a silvery blur of a strange insect, wrapped by a blood-colored cocoon, trembling timidly.

Seemingly sensing Chen Yu's presence, the strange insect's compound eyes blinked pitifully.

For some reason,

Chen Yu discovered that he felt a bizarre sense of connection, as though linked by flesh and blood with this insect.

Intuitively,

The strange insect no longer felt threatening at all, even exuding a slight sense of familiarity.

Chen Yu's gaze flickered, contemplative.

"This place is not safe to stay."

Chen Yu stood up, cautiously surveying his surroundings.

He circled around the broken sword and remains, casting one last glance at the broken sword, then leaped away.

On the way back,

Chen Yu surprisingly encountered not a single worm, although many other ominous beings such as scorpions, centipedes, and spiders appeared from time to time.

"This underground mine is vast, and Iron Moon Corpse Worms might be the most terrifying group amongst them," Chen Yu analyzed in his mind.

On the way back, although there were many ferocious creatures, they all seemed somewhat panicked, probably disturbed by the recent swarm.

The area Chen Yu traversed was just a small part of the underground mine. He had no idea how many more vicious creatures there were in other areas.

Moreover,

During the brief encounter with a Qi Transformation Realm demon beast, Chen Yu noticed that its strength wasn't fully restrained.

From what Chen Yu knew,

Some demon beasts reached the Qi Transformation Realm and possessed a strength akin to True Qi, which should be affected here, but the native creatures seemed different.

After 15 minutes,

Chen Yu fought fiercely several times, ran out of meat chunks in his pocket, and barely made his way back to the starting point.

Along the way back, he was even bitten by a few poisonous creatures; fortunately, his body's defense was robust, immune to most severe poisons.

When Chen Yu returned to the well's base, his clothes were in tatters. As for the Half-precious Soft Armor, it was shattered after the swarm encounter.

"Are you alright?"

Elder Mao and the other two grabbed the chains and pulled Chen Yu up.

Phew!

Chen Yu breathed out a long sigh of relief and changed into a new set of clothes.

The three elders opened the storage bag and saw a full bag of Moon Spirit Ore, weighing over three hundred pounds, their joy uncontainable.

"Targeted by the swarm, almost trapped. I used two Yin Fire Pearls, the Half-precious Armor

Chen Yu briefly explained the situation.

In this account, he omitted details of the mysterious heart and the Worm King.

Beside that,

In the Light Silver Crystal Space inside Chen Yu's heart, there rested a Yin Fire Pearl and a piece of Moon Spirit Crystal Ore.

He kept these items to himself.

After all, Chen Yu's risky adventure was akin to flirting with death—anyone else from the Qi Transformation Realm venturing there would have perished.

He felt no guilt whatsoever.

"Yu'er! You did well to get so much Moon Spirit Ore."

Elder Mao's face glowed with excitement.

As per the prior agreement,

For every ten pounds of Moon Spirit Ore, Chen Yu would receive one pound.

From the total Moon Spirit Ore, which was about three hundred and fifty pounds,

Chen Yu would get thirty-five pounds.

Elder Mao laughed heartily, sharing out Chen Yu's portion without waiting for the others' agreement.

Afterward,

How the other nine-tenths of the Moon Spirit Ore was divided among the three others, Chen Yu did not care.

But he could tell that Elder Mao gained the larger share.

Once the benefits were distributed,

The three elders began asking about more details of the mine.

Chen Yu described everything about the Array Formation Platform and the encounter with a Qi Transformation Realm level lizard in detail.

"That lizard must be a Black Moon Lizard. Being born and bred here, it's not much affected by the force field and can exert about seventy to eighty percent of a Qi Transformation Realm's power," Elder Pan mused.

He had guarded this place for many years and knew more about the Moon Mine.

"What is that Array Formation Platform?"

Chen Yu asked.

He did not mention the entire wall of Moon Spirit Ore, to avoid being pressured by the three elders to continue the perilous adventures.

Array Formation Platform?

The three elders looked at each other, their expressions turning peculiar.

"That's a Transmission Array!" Elder Pan stated firmly, then sighed, "It seems the rumors are true."

As Chen Yu looked puzzled, Elder Pan recounted a legend.

The rumor was,

This mining area was once a vital resource site for an ancient Sword Cultivator sect.

At some point, a protecting sect powerhouse, at least a mid to high-rank member of the Sword Sect, discovered the Moon Spirit Ore hidden underground.

At that time, the quantity and quality of Moon Spirit Ore in Chu Country were undoubtedly superior to today's.

However, the sect powerhouse did not report the news of the ore mine to his sect.

He chose to conceal it and hoarded the vast quantity of Moon Spirit Ore!

"Hoarded?"

Chen Yu could imagine that, faced with such huge benefits, anyone might do the same.

"Not only did he hoard it, but that sect powerhouse also rapidly enhanced his strength through the benefits from the Moon Spirit Ore, colluded with external sects, and used the natural array formations underground to set up an ancient array, thus creating the environmental force field we see today. He did this to prevent the leakage of the Moon Spirit Ore news."

Elder Pan said with a smile.

"And what about the transmission array? What's that about?"

Chen Yu was deeply curious.

He suddenly thought of the broken sword and skeleton, wondering whose corpse it might be.

"In the end, the news still leaked. But that powerhouse, having operated here for many years, was said to have prepared an escape route long ago, even establishing a transmission array deep in the mine to transport the Moon Spirit Ore to a distant country and cultivate his own forces. At that time, Chu Country didn't even exist

Elder Pan paused here.

"However, the ultimate fate of that person remains a mystery. But not long afterward, that Sword Sect perished, and some of his descendants are said to still be on this continent."

Upon finishing, Elder Pan shook his head with emotion.

This rumor dates back at least thousands, if not tens of thousands, of years.

...

As dawn broke, the moonlight dimmed.

At this moment,

The force field around the Ancient Moon Well grew slightly stronger, and a surge of invisible gravity made it difficult to move.

Chen Yu looked astonished.

The next moment,

He saw blood-ink-colored waves rising inside the well, accompanied by the sound of splashing water.

"Let's go,"

Elder Mao said; "Only during the full moon is it possible to enter this place. Moreover, every six months, the mine absorbs the power of the moonlight to produce new Moon Spirit Ore."

On the way back,

Chen Yu was still riding the Cang Ying, Elder Nangong's flying bird, while Elder Pan stayed behind in the secluded mine area.

"Elder Nangong. As this flying bird is your spirit pet, do you share that mysterious connection with it, erm, like the spirit pet contracts mentioned in ancient texts?"

Chen Yu asked curiously.

At that moment, the strange insect within him maintained a mysterious connection with him.

Chen Yu could sense the insect's condition at any time.

"No."

Elder Nangong shook his head: “Pets of this level can only execute simple commands after being tamed by a beast tamer, similar to hunting dogs or horses. To reach that level of mental resonance needed for a spirit pet pact, the pet itself must possess spiritual intelligence and can only be bonded with creatures from the Qi Transformation Realm or above, often ancient or demon beasts.”

Qi Transformation Realm or above?

Chen Yu understood that ordinary ferocious beasts were of a lower rank and their ferocity clouded their nature.

Once they gained spiritual intelligence and attained a certain level, they would become demon beasts. The lizard he encountered in the well was likely just stepping into that threshold.

Demon beasts possess an innate ability to cultivate.

Like practitioners in the Qi Transformation Realm, they could harness similar forces, like demon spirit energy!

As for ancient beasts, they are powerful species passed down from ancient times.

It is said that today’s ferocious beasts and demon beasts all possess, to some degree, the bloodline of ancient creatures.

"Below the Qi Transformation Realm, it's completely impossible to form a contract?"

Chen Yu pursued further.

"It's not completely impossible. Some ancient creatures or mutant species, which are of higher rank and develop intelligence early, can form spirit pet contracts even before reaching the Qi Transformation Realm."

Elder Nangong looked curiously at Chen Yu.

Chen Yu did not dare to ask further, only adding that he also wanted a flying bird mount.

"If you want a flying bird mount or other items, you can trade with me using the Moon Spirit Ore you have."

Elder Nangong said smilingly, his eyes showing a touch of eagerness.

"Heh, Old Man Nangong, trading is fine, but don't cheat my disciple."

Elder Mao laughed.

Chen Yu thought for a moment and said, "I'd like a slightly larger storage bag and also need the Hundred-year-old Earth Spirit Ginseng."

"Ordinary storage bags are only so big; slightly larger ones cost double, and even larger ones increase exponentially in value by many times."

Elder Nangong said with a wry smile.

Ultimately,

Chen Yu traded four catties of Moon Spirit Ore for a larger storage bag from Elder Nangong.

This storage bag was shaped like a coffin-shaped rectangle inside.

Its volume was a bit larger than the standard water tank-sized bags, and its value was at least double.

Importantly, the bag could accommodate Chen Yu's Xuan Heavy Sword.

Additionally, he kept thirty-plus catties of Moon Spirit Ore for personal use.

On one hand, this ore could enhance the grade of his weapon.

On the other, he always felt he had seen Moon Spirit Ore somewhere before; it felt familiar and might be useful to him.

In the inner sect residence.

Chen Yu returned to his dwelling and rested well for the night.

Upon waking, the first thing he did

Was sense the Iron Moon Strange Insect in the blood cocoon, looking pitiful.

Sensing Chen Yu's attention, the insect appeared tearful.

"How do I get it out?"

Chen Yu tentatively confirmed that under the influence of the mysterious heart, a bond akin to a spirit pet pact mysteriously formed between him and the insect.

How to get it out?

He couldn't just conjure it out, could he?

Suddenly,

Chen Yu had a flash of inspiration, and his thoughts concentrated on the blood cocoon housing the Iron Moon Strange Insect.

Swoosh!

The next moment,

The blood cocoon appeared in the Light Silver Crystal Space, its three inches of thickness perfectly accommodating it.

Out!

With a thought from Chen Yu, the blood cocoon appeared in his hand.

Crack!

The Iron Moon Strange Insect, overjoyed, bit open the blood cocoon and swallowed it.

Then,

The insect affectionately rubbed against Chen Yu's hand, displaying a docile and dependent demeanor.

"Little bug, what abilities do you have?"

Chen Yu clearly remembered how this insect easily bit through his Copper Statue Technique defense, its biting power was terrifying!