

Eternal Life 101

Chapter 101: Foundation Building's Foundation

He finished the two cups of spiritual tea.

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Shopkeeper Qu left the private room and went downstairs to keep himself busy. However, before he left, he said, "No matter who makes the decision in Qingyang City, it's a small matter. To the True Treasure Pavilion, a special-class guest elder is the most important thing. Since Talisman Master Shen has the qualifications, you have to seize the opportunity."

He walked on the bustling main street. There was an endless stream of cultivators. The shops on both sides were either imposing, elegant, or simple.

Shen Ping looked straight ahead, his thoughts fluctuating slightly. What did a special-class guest elder mean?

Up until now, he had only deduced from Shopkeeper Qu's words that the status was extraordinary and he could enjoy more treatment and resources. Even a mid-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator with a deep background like Shopkeeper Qu was eager.

He did not know the details. But just as Shopkeeper Qu had said, since he was qualified, he had to grasp it. In this cultivation world where danger lurked everywhere and the water was as deep as the sea, opportunities were precious. He thought of Cloud Mountain Parlour again.

If not for his identity as a guest elder of the True Treasure Pavilion, he would have experienced countless dangers. He could avoid it once, dodge it twice, but three times... there would always be a life and death calamity.

"Talisman Dao. Puppet. His thoughts sank as he lowered his eyes. These two techniques required years of accumulation and talent, especially puppets, talent was even more indispensable. However, if he tried to use the Dao of Talismans in the future, then the puppet technique would have to be temporarily concealed. At the very least, he could not expose his ability to make Level Two puppets.

While he was thinking, the Hidden Spirit House gradually came into view. Shen Ping suppressed his confusion and retracted his thoughts. He stepped in. After settling it at the counter, he sat in the private room and sent Mu Jin a message. He thought that he would have to wait for a while.

Unexpectedly, after ten minutes, a sound came from the door of the private room.

After opening it, a slender figure in a jade-patterned dress stood sideways. As the array formation in the private room was activated, Mu Jin's eyes under the hair on her forehead were both shy and repressed.

Shen Ping shifted his gaze. The dress that did not have any creases propped up a half-circle that made one's imagination run wild. The ribbon at the waist was decorated with embroidered patterns, and under the skirt was a straight date tree.

At this moment, there seemed to be breathing beside his ear. The curves in front of him also came alive, as if his heart was beating. Mu Jin smiled sweetly. "Talisman Master Shen, what were you watching when you followed me in the guest assessment that day?"

"To see if the material of the clothes is firm." Shen Ping smiled.

"And? Do you see the results?"

As the two of them spoke, they arrived at the private room one after another. Spiritual light was already flickering on his body. This was a sign that he was about to use his Dao technique.

Shen Ping said in a deep voice, "It's very sturdy. It looks like it's made of peach skin. But I know that a real tailor needs to touch the depths of the fabric and stretch the flexibility back and forth. Coincidentally, I was a tailor before I stepped into cultivation."

Mu Jin bit her lip, her eyes shining. Her voice was suddenly intermittent, accompanied by a slight tremble. "What else can you see from the material other than it being sturdy?"

Shen Ping stared at Mu Jin and shook his head gently. "I didn't see it clearly."

"Then Talisman Master Shen, you must take a good look at this material today. Does it match your—" As soon as she finished speaking, the Dao technique instantly drowned the private room. After a few exchanges, Mu Jin's voice was mixed with a hint of tears. "Talisman Master Shen, it's difficult for me to advance to the late stage of Qi Refinement. Please impart your experience!"

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It was almost evening.

Huiquan Alley, Cloud Fir Street.

Shen Ping's white robe was clean and neat, and only his fingertips still had a fragrance. Thinking of Mu Jin's last request, he couldn't help but shake his head and sigh.

Last time at the Hidden Spirit House, he knew that Mu Jin cultivated a relatively special water-element cultivation technique. This cultivation technique needed to preserve the female primordial yin as much as possible before building a foundation. Even if it was completely preserved, it would only increase the chances of building a foundation in the end.

If she lost her primordial yin before the late-stage of Qi Refinement, it might damage her foundation.

Mu Jin's words were completely ambiguous. Although Shen Ping had taken the opportunity to transform into a flood dragon and Mu Jin wouldn't say anything after that, he still didn't impart his experience.

The more he tasted the spiritual tea, the more fragrant it became. He walked to the small courtyard. Shen Ping stopped for a moment. His fingertips flicked, and the fragrance faded until it disappeared. However, when he stepped into the courtyard, he sighed in his heart. "That material is indeed very sturdy!" Cloud Mountain Parlour.

The Acacia Faction's flying ship landed with a bang.

The Qi Refinement disciples filed out. Among them, a delicate purple figure stepped on it with the sounds of bells and quickly arrived at the market. She walked to Yunhe Alley with familiarity and stood at the entrance of the small courtyard she had once lived in. She looked at the second house.

Chen Ying gritted her teeth. "This detestable middle-aged Talisman Master is so cunning. He must have escaped long ago." She came to visit. As expected, an unfamiliar cultivator appeared in Room 2. A faint smile appeared on her lips, but she quickly snorted. "It's good that he escaped. It saves me the trouble of not being able to find him to settle scores in the future."

She walked briskly. Chen Ying left Yunhe Alley and stood in front of the True Treasure Pavilion. After hesitating, she stepped in and sized up the familiar yet unfamiliar environment. She walked around and finally received a response: Qingyang City.

"He actually ran so far! Damn it, just you wait!"

The sun and moon spun, the cold came and the heat went. The boring cultivation life passed day by day. In the blink of an eye, it was the Lantern Festival of the Wei Kingdom the next year.

And after this day, Shen Ping would welcome his 52nd year. In the quiet room of the spirit pool. He meditated and circulated his cultivation technique. The spiritual energy in his dantian was constantly increasing and compressing as he advanced towards the limit of his meridians. With the help of various resources, ever since he broke through to the ninth level of Qi Refinement, his spiritual energy had already reached 80%.

Another 20%, and he would step into the Perfected Qi Refinement Realm.

Most cultivators would make preparations for Foundation Establishment at this point. They would either seek Foundation Establishment Pills or purchase rare spiritual herbs that could assist in the success rate of Foundation Establishment. Those with connections could wait for the True Treasure Pavilion's auction. Those without could only constantly take risks and seek opportunities.

It was already extremely lucky for individual cultivators to obtain a Foundation Establishment Pill. Even the disciples of the sect had to work hard for the support materials for Foundation Establishment. After paying a certain price, they had to seek the first threshold of longevity.

A moment later, Shen Ping's aura calmed down. He opened his eyes and smiled faintly.

Foundation Establishment Pill.

He had already bought two with his status as a guest elder and his accumulation over the past few days. This was the limit of a third-grade guest elder. Although he estimated that the success rate was extremely high if he were to advance to the Foundation Establishment Realm without the help of the Foundation Establishment Pill, he had to be stable.

After his spiritual energy was perfected, if everything went smoothly, there was naturally no need for the Foundation Establishment Pill. Then, the two could be used as backup for Yu Yan in the future.

"Support Treasures for Foundation Establishment."

Thinking of this, Shen Ping's smile disappeared and turned into a long sigh. Every time such a rare treasure appeared in an auction, the competition was very intense. He had once bid for it but failed.

He was unlucky to encounter a late-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator who personally participated.

At that time, he understood why Shopkeeper Ding's Foundation Establishment opportunity had been delayed.

Luck, strength, and opportunity. Not a single one could be missing. Shaking his head, he stood up and walked out of the quiet room. The sky was dim, and dark clouds covered the top of Qingyang City.

The cold wind in the small courtyard whistled, but it could not blow away the lights in the hall.

"Husband, you're cultivating a little late. The food is ready. Today, I specially added your favorite delicacies." As Wang Yun spoke, she opened the jade plate.

Immediately, a fragrance filled the air.

Shen Ping flicked his sleeves and strode to the hall. He sat down and took a look. His eyes could not help but light up. "Isn't this the jade cherries that Senior Fu from next door gave me a few days ago? You actually made them into delicacies. Your culinary skills are getting more and more exquisite. You have the demeanor of a chef. I'm in for a treat today."

He couldn't wait to taste it.

"Husband, how is it?"

His wife and concubines looked at Shen Ping with anticipation in their eyes.

Shen Ping closed his eyes and carefully savored the taste. He suddenly opened them. "This jade cherry is really delicious. Qjng'er, Ying'er, try it quickly!"

Bai Yuying was the first to taste it. Then, she could not help but praise, "Delicious, even more delicious than my husband."

Luo Qing was speechless. Yu Yan ate it with a smile. "It's indeed not bad. Husband, I didn't expect that Senior Fu to have such a treasure."

Shen Ping nodded and said, "This is the foundation of Foundation Establishment. Yun'er, Ying'er, I want to see your foundation tonight."

His wife and concubines smiled at each other..

Chapter 102: Mortals Can't Cultivate

The shaking of the bed ended late at night. His wife and concubines were so tired that they did not want to move.

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Shen Ping opened the virtual interface and glanced at it. Talisman Daoism, spiritual root, puppet master, divine sense, resistance to spells, and lifespan and physique were all increasing. The advancement of his divine sense and physique was relatively slow.

Although his physique could increase his endurance and expand his meridians, he had to immerse himself in dual cultivation to have an effect. He had tried many times, but it was very difficult for him to have such an effect on his wife and concubine. Only when he had sex with Yu Yan would he occasionally obtain a physique.

However, what Shen Ping valued the most was his divine sense.

His Talisman Dao had broken through to the High-grade Level Two two years ago. His spiritual energy had been polished to 80%, if he cultivated at this speed, he would be able to truly perfect his spiritual energy at the end of the year. At that time, he would only have his divine sense left.

He looked at the spiritual sense that was still quite a distance away from the mid-stage Foundation Establishment Realm.

Shen Ping frowned.

Cultivators who reached the Foundation Establishment Realm at the age of 60 had a high chance of failure unless they had the help of many rare treasures and the Foundation Establishment Pill to protect their foundation. However, they would still fail.

Although his lifespan was constantly increasing, he still did not want to build his foundation after he was 60 years old. The ideal time in his heart was before he was 55 years old.

“Three years! I’m afraid it will be very difficult!” He sighed in his heart. Even if he increased the number of dual cultivation sessions with Yu Yan every day, it would still be very difficult.

“Husband,” At this moment, Wang Yun, who was breathing evenly, suddenly opened her eyes.

Shen Ping came back to his senses and touched his wife’s beautiful hair. He said gently, “Why aren’t you asleep yet?”

“I’ve been thinking about something these past few days.” Wang Yun said gently.

“What is it?”

“I’ve been married to you for nearly ten years. In another four years, I’ll be over 30.” Wang Yun hugged Shen Ping’s arm and lowered her head as she continued, “A mortal woman will decline at the age of 30. At 50, she can be called an old woman. At 60, she will have a head of silver hair. Yes, I have martial arts skills and often nourish myself with precious medicinal pills, and the Beauty Pill given by you ensures that I won’t age, but, but...”

Speaking of this, tears blurred at the corners of Wang Yun’s eyes, and her voice was nasal. “In the end, I’m just a mortal. It’s difficult for me to accompany you until you die. That spiritual date tree grows day by day, but my lifespan decreases day by day. Husband, you’re a sentimental person. Instead of making you sad, why don’t...”

Shen Ping suddenly interrupted, “Yun’er, I won’t let you leave!” He reached out his palm and wiped the tears from the corners of his wife’s eyes. He said heavily, “Definitely not!”

Even if there was no golden frame, his wife had a place in his heart. The moment Cloud Mountain Parlour sent the flying ship, Shen Ping understood his heart. Although he knew that love would develop over time, no matter what kind of love it was, it could not erase Wang Yun's status.

"You're my wife. My first wife." He lowered his head and kissed Wang Yun's forehead. This was the first time he had revealed his feelings.

Tears flowed from the corners of Wang Yun's eyes like a spring until the worry in the depths of her heart completely disappeared. She smiled blissfully. "Husband, you once said that I would hold your hand and grow old with you. Yun'er is willing to stay by your side when my hair turns white."

She kept repeating it until she fell into a sweet sleep. The golden frame did not change, but the dazzling golden light became deeper and deeper.

It was a normal and ordinary night, the resplendent night sky flickered with starlight.

Early in the morning, the steam was rising from the wooden bucket in the room. Shen Ping's expression was calm. Seeing that he was uninterested, Yu Yan could not help but ask, "Husband, you seem to have something on your mind?"

Shen Ping shook his head and said in a rare low voice, "Can mortals really not cultivate?"

Yu Yan was stunned. Soon, she fell silent. She wanted to say something to comfort him, but she could not say it. It was common knowledge in the cultivation world that mortals without spiritual roots could not cultivate. Even those Nascent Soul cultivators could not change it.

"It's just adding to my worries. I'll leave those matters to the future." Shen Ping suddenly laughed. Then, as the sound of water rippled, he leaned forward and looked at the sweet grapefruits. He gritted his teeth and said, "Today, I will definitely grind down your Great Dao!"

He seemed to be sulking. Yu Yan's charming tongue outlined on her lips as she provoked, "You want to destroy my Great Dao? Fellow Daoist Shen, can you do it?"

There was no response, only heavy Dao techniques were fighting.

At the beginning of February, Senior Fu from next door invited Shen Ping and Yu Yan to his courtyard for a drink again.

They came and went several times. Shen Ping knew that this Senior Fu was the same as him. They were both cultivators who liked delicacies and spiritual wine. Although Senior Fu's Dao Companion looked gentle like jade, she was actually quite domineering. She often suppressed Senior Fu with a few words. "Fellow Daoist Shen. Fellow Daoist Yu."

Under the wooden frame wrapped in green vines, they sat around the stone platform. Senior Fu smiled and raised his wine glass. "This is the newly brewed nectar wine. Try it to your heart's content."

Shen Ping raised his head and drank a cup. After carefully tasting the taste, he said, "This wine seems to be the same as the last time at Qingyang Lake—"

He didn't finish when Senior Fu smiled in satisfaction. "Fellow Daoist Shen, you're really a wine taster. Not bad. This wine is an imitation of the Ice Dew Jade Treasure Wine."

Shen Ping was a little embarrassed. He was really just being polite. He did not expect Senior Fu to take it seriously.

Senior Le's gentle face glared at her dao companion and she hurriedly said, "This wine can't compare to the Icy Dew Jade Treasure Wine. Fellow Daoist Shen, don't praise me too much. Otherwise, my dao companion will probably believe you."

Shen Ping nodded repeatedly. He drank a few glasses.

Yu Yan's face turned red. After all, this Sweet Dew Wine was brewed by Senior Fu calmly. Although it did not have half the effect of the Ice Dew Jade Treasure Wine, it was still difficult for a cultivator at the seventh level of Qi Refinement to drink more.

Shen Ping could continue, but his words were slurry.

Senior Fu hesitated for a moment and asked, "I wonder if Fellow Daoist Shen is close to Senior Chong?"

Hearing this, Shen Ping understood. After the small banquet at Qingyang Lake last time, Senior Fu had interacted more with him. He guessed that something must have happened. Now, it was indeed the case.

He pondered for a moment. He replied, "Senior Chong is a straightforward and enthusiastic person. He's just flattering me."

Senior Fu looked disappointed.

On the other hand, his Dao Companion, Senior Le, smiled warmly. "Fellow Daoist Shen, you're too modest. At the small banquet on the pleasure boat, even Senior Chong's disciple did not drink the Ice Dew Jade Wine. I'm afraid this friendship is more than just acquaintances. It's like this. My little girl's spiritual root aptitude is not weak, but she likes to fight. The cultivation technique she cultivates is also related to Senior Chong. Therefore, when Senior Chong returns, can you help introduce him to my daughter and make her his disciple?"

Shen Ping was puzzled. "This, it's a good thing to become a disciple. With the cultivation of the two seniors and your relationship with Senior Chong, it shouldn't be difficult, right?"

He could invite them to a small banquet. They must have some relationship with Chong Ji. Senior Fu laughed bitterly and said bluntly, "Fellow Daoist Shen, Senior Chong's requirements for taking in disciples are not harsh. There's only one thing. Their appearance must be ordinary."

Shen Ping subconsciously glanced sideways. From the corner of his eye, he saw the girl who was secretly standing by the door and listening. The corners of his mouth twitched. He wanted to say that a girl would change drastically when she grew up. In a few years, she might not be as cute as she is now, but in the end, he did not say it.

After thinking about it seriously, he replied, "Senior Chong will be back in a few years. At that time, if I see Senior Chong, I'll try to mention it. Seniors, don't have too much hope."

It would be too embarrassing to reject them directly, so Shen Ping could only say this tactfully. Fortunately, this couple understood and did not continue this topic.

Ten days later, Shen Ping, who was making talismans, received a very surprising message. He stopped writing. Looking at the flashing communication talisman, he said, "Spring Garden is here.."

Chapter 103: This Is Spring Garden!

Virtue Tower was a famous restaurant in Qingyang City. Most of the people who could enter and leave this place were Foundation Establishment cultivators and some cultivators with connections. Qi Refinement cultivators rarely came to such a place.

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Today, Shen Ping came.

This was the third time he had been to Virtue Tower. The black-robed man was already sitting at a table by the window. The difference was that he did not have the familiar blood-colored mask. After sitting down, a voice sounded in Shen Ping's ear. "I heard that this place is quite expensive."

"It's worth it." He replied, then raised the wine glass that was filled on the table and said seriously, "Thank you for letting us leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp safely last time." As he spoke, he drank it in one gulp.

The black-robed man had an ordinary appearance, but his eyes were similar to Bai Yuying. He also finished his spiritual wine and shook his head. "Senior, you're too polite. What I did was insignificant. Senior, I'll forever remember your kindness for sending my sister away first."

Shen Ping smiled and cupped his hands. "I'm Shen Ping, a guest elder of the True Treasure Pavilion."

The black-robed cultivator suddenly smiled. "Bai Yuxiu, a member of the Blood Silk Guards of Spring Garden."

Upon hearing this, Shen Ping was not surprised. Previously, Bai Yuxiu could ride a purple flying ship and even speak up at the critical moment to make that Foundation Establishment Cultivator give way. Clearly, his status in Spring Garden was no longer at the edge.

The two of them were silent for a while. Bai Yu Xiu poured another cup of spiritual wine.

"Do you want to arrange to see your sister? She misses you a lot."

"There's no need. With my status, it's destined that I'm not suitable to have any worries. Moreover, I can only stay in Qingyang City for a few hours." Bai Yuxiu's voice was low. Then, he took out a jade slip from his body. "Senior Shen, help me give it to my sister. In the future, we'll try our best to meet less. I'll show my face when the time is right." He raised his head and finished his drink again. Then, he stood up and left.

Shen Ping looked at his back. He sighed softly. It was not easy for everyone. Bai Yuxiu spoke very little, but there was concern for his sister, Bai Yuying, buried in his heart. His eyes revealed his desire to meet her, but Bai Yuxiu did not.

What kind of power was Spring Garden? Bai Yuxiu knew better than him. Since he had done this, there was a reason for him to do so.

He picked up his glass. Shen Ping looked at the bustling street outside the window. He drank half a cup of tea before the wine glass reached the bottom.

An hour later, at the entrance of an inconspicuous shop in South City. He looked up at the two words.

Spring Garden.

Shopkeeper Qu had once advised him to interact less with such a force. Even if he had connections, he had to pay more attention to avoid being scammed. But he had come anyway.

Stepping over the threshold, the rich and familiar smell of cosmetics wafted into his nose. He glanced around and saw that there were many cultivators waiting in front of the counter. Three to four of them were at the eighth level of Qi Refinement. There were quite a number of cultivators in Qingyang City who had such needs.

After a while, Matchmaker Ceng swayed her hips and sent a cultivator away. She glanced at Shen Ping from the corner of her eye, and the smile on her face widened. "Aiyo, I just arrived in Qingyang City, and Talisman Master Shen came to take care of my business. It's really overjoying. Please come in!"

The other cultivators frowned and did not say anything.

Soon, the two of them sat down in the private room on the second floor.

Shen Ping smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Ceng, it's all thanks to your reminder last time. Otherwise, I wouldn't have the fortune to see you again."

Matchmaker Ceng's cultivation aura was thick. After not seeing her for a few years, she had clearly broken through to the late-stage.

"Talisman Master Shen, you're being too polite. What kind of friendship do we have? Besides, it's rare to see a generous Fellow Daoist like Talisman Master Shen nowadays." Matchmaker Ceng waved the silk in her hand nonchalantly. She rolled her eyes and said with a smile, "I wonder what kind of Dao companion Talisman Master Shen needs this time. Tell me."

When Shen Ping heard this rather confident tone, he could not help but joke, "Fellow Daoist Ceng, could it be that you can find me a Foundation Establishment Dao companion?"

"What's so difficult about that?" Matchmaker Ceng leaned closer and continued, "As long as Talisman Master Shen is willing, not to mention Foundation Establishment, it's not impossible for there to be a Golden Core Dao Companion!"

Shen Ping was shocked. He was just casually saying it just now and testing the strength of Spring Garden. He did not expect that she could even find a Golden Core!

In this cultivation world, a Golden Core Daoist could be considered a small expert in a region. He could enjoy a lifespan of five hundred years. Not to mention summoning the wind and rain, even in an Immortal Dao Sect like the Danxia Sect and the Acacia Faction, he could sit in an extraordinary position. Moreover, the number of female cultivators who reached the Golden Core Realm was even fewer.

It was very difficult for such a person to be restrained.

For Matchmaker Ceng to say this, he guessed that it was mostly an exaggeration. Of course, if it was in Cloud Mountain Parlour, she would definitely not dare to say the latter. Her status in Qingyang City had probably increased a lot.

But no matter what, even if a Golden Core Dao companion was placed in front of him, he would not dare to touch it.

“Fellow Daoist Ceng, you must be joking. I don’t have the strength.” He quickly said.

Matchmaker Ceng was a little disappointed, but her enthusiastic smile did not decrease at all. “As for Foundation Establishment Dao companions, Talisman Master Shen is different from before. You have to choose carefully when you marry another Dao companion. If she’s a mortal like the first, I’m afraid it won’t last long!”

Shen Ping suppressed his shock and shook his head to voice his thoughts. “I’ve been a little interested in puppets recently. I hope to find a Dao companion who’s good at making puppets. The other conditions won’t change. As for cultivation and strength, it’s fine at the middle and late stages of Qi Refinement.”

He raised his requirements for his Dao companion a little.

Matchmaker Ceng closed her eyes and thought for a moment. Then, she sighed helplessly and said, “It’s relatively difficult to master skills like Alchemy, Talisman, Weapon and Formations. It also takes time to accumulate. I believe Talisman Master Shen knows this better than me. For female cultivators, looks and cultivation will always be the first. Unless they have talent in skills, they rarely cultivate those skills.

“There are even fewer people who choose the Puppet Dao. There’s no one who meets Talisman Master Shen’s criteria for the time being.”

As she spoke, she smiled and said, “Talisman Master Shen, do you want to consider a Foundation Establishment Dao companion? Don’t worry, there will definitely be no trouble. You have already experienced the credibility of our Spring Garden.”

Shen Ping frowned slightly. There were indeed very few female cultivators with skills, but he did not believe Matchmaker Ceng’s words. Spring Garden was huge, and they could transport someone from the Ze Kingdom to the Wei Kingdom in a short period of time. How could they not find a Dao companion who met his criteria?

Just as he was about to emphasize that skills only needed to be elementary, Matchmaker Ceng suddenly said, “Talisman Master Shen, may I ask if that mortal called Wang Yun is still by your side?”

Shen Ping narrowed his eyes. “Fellow Daoist Ceng, what do you mean?”

“Just asking.”

“She’s still here.” Shen Ping did not believe that Matchmaker Ceng would ask about this on a whim.

Matchmaker Ceng laughed until her waist trembled. “Talisman Master Shen is indeed a person who values relationships. That day before we left Cloud Mountain Parlour, I could tell!” She cupped her hands and said, “I’m impressed! In the situation at Cloud Mountain Parlour, Talisman Master Shen didn’t even abandon the mortal wife. If I were twenty to thirty years younger, I’m afraid I would really disregard everything and become Dao companions with Talisman Master Shen.”

Shen Ping said calmly, “Fellow Daoist Ceng, if you have something to say, just say it.”

Matchmaker Ceng’s smile faded a little. “If Talisman Master Shen is willing to take in a Foundation Establishment Dao companion, I can give your mortal wife a chance to cultivate.”

This was a trap!!

The moment Shen Ping heard this, he instinctively became extremely vigilant. Mortals could not cultivate. This was destined. Even if Spring Garden had a huge background, it was impossible for them to defy fate.

However, his hand that was holding the teacup still trembled. It was as if he had returned to that night. His wife’s words echoed in his ears. “I’m just a mortal. I can’t accompany you for long!”

This sentence was like an explosion. Shen Ping closed his eyes. He knew that Matchmaker Ceng was definitely paying attention to all his reactions. “Fellow Daoist Ceng, goodbye!” He opened them again.

Shen Ping suddenly stood up and left.

Matchmaker Ceng sat on the spot with a faint smile. “I’ll definitely prepare a dao companion, who is in the early stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm, good at making puppets and is obedient and sensible, and has taken the Beauty Pill, for Talisman Master Shen!”

He walked out of Spring Garden. He turned around and looked at the two words again. Shen Ping felt a chill run down his spine.

Mortals could cultivate...

Even when he stood at the entrance of Small Courtyard Al 3 in Huiquan Alley again, this sentence from the bottom of his heart still lingered in his ears.

“Will I go again?” Shen Ping asked himself. However, there was no response. The moment he crossed the small courtyard, he understood something in the depths of his sea of consciousness.. “I’m really being controlled this time!”

Chapter 104: Perfected Qi Refinement

The boring life was repetitive.

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After returning from Spring Garden, Shen Ping forgot himself and devoted himself to cultivation. He even canceled his daily escort. The time arranged was very tight. He was even thinking about

the spirit pattern circuit of making medium-grade Level Two talismans during dual cultivation. He did not dare to let his heart relax.

Just like that, five months passed.

Qingyang City was just as Shopkeeper Qu had deduced. After the Danxia Sect and the Acacia Faction moved in, it became even more prosperous and lively. The number of rogue cultivators from Jinzhou, Yue Kingdom, and other countries increased, and the alleys in the city were filled to the brim.

Therefore, the two sects of the two countries built a small market around Qingyang Lake to accommodate other uninhabitable rogue cultivators and sent a Golden Core elder to oversee it.

Yu Yan watched for two to three months. In the end, she rented a shop in South City and specialized in selling the Level One talismans and puppets made by Shen Ping. Due to the good quality and the availability of quantities, the shop gradually prospered after operating for half a month.

Although the shop did not earn much spirit stones overall, his wife and concubines were very excited.

It was almost August.

Cloud Mountain Parlour's Shopkeeper Ding had returned from his Foundation Establishment.

It was spacious and bright in the private room of Virtue Tower. Shopkeeper Ding's face was red, and there was an indescribable confidence between his eyebrows. There was also a faint spiritual pressure on his body that was deliberately restrained.

Once he stepped into the Foundation Establishment Realm, he could become a true cultivator.

"Senior Ding, congratulations on building your foundation. Congratulations on building your foundation!"

Shen Ping originally thought that Shopkeeper Ding would be able to successfully build his foundation last year. He did not expect him to delay until now. However, as long as he could successfully build his foundation, all the preparation and patience before would be meaningful.

Shopkeeper Ding laughed and said, "Talisman Master Shen, don't call me senior in the future. There's no need to be so distant between us. Please take a seat."

There was indescribable joy in his tone.

Not long after, Shopkeeper Qu and the other third-grade guest elders arrived one by one. But there were no second-grade guest elders. Chong Ji had yet to return from his training with his disciples. He sent his disciples to participate and gave them two additional congratulatory gifts.

It was almost noon when all the invitees arrived. There were a total of 30 to 40 Foundation Establishment Cultivators and two mid-stage Foundation Establishment Cultivators.

Although it could not compare to the small banquet at Qingyang Lake, this was all because of Shopkeeper Ding's connections.

At the banquet, Shopkeeper Ding chatted with every Foundation Establishment Cultivator. Shen Ping and the other late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators were also as relaxed as a spring breeze.

Looking at this scene, Shen Ping could not help but think of the first time he went to Virtue Tower for the welcoming banquet.

That day, although he had invited Senior Chong and other Foundation Establishment guest elders, Shopkeeper Ding's attitude was warm and respectful.

Now that Shopkeeper Ding had broken through to the Foundation Establishment Realm, he could already face every Foundation Establishment guest on an equal footing. Even when he was with Shopkeeper Qu and the other two mid-stage Foundation Establishment cultivators, he was no longer as reserved as before.

It ended at five in the evening.

Shopkeeper Ding gave out two items. With a sincere expression, he said, "Talisman Master Shen, I was able to build my foundation when I'm close to sixty. That rare treasure played a huge role. If not for Talisman Master Shen's generosity, I wouldn't have today's glory. These two items are not expensive. I hope you can accept them."

After accepting it, Shen Ping's footsteps slowed down on the way back from Virtue Tower. He looked at the Cloud Fir with its lush leaves and could not help but think to himself, "When can I build my foundation? Soon!" He answered himself firmly, and a smile immediately appeared on his face.

He returned to the quiet room in the small courtyard. He opened two exquisite jade boxes. One of them was the Foundation Establishment Pill. He almost blurted out, "Shopkeeper Ding is really trustworthy!"

Hidden Spirit House.

At the entrance of the private room, Mu Jin, who was wearing an emerald green loose robe, stood up.

Shen Ping looked over and quickly noticed that the jade beads on her earlobes had been replaced by tiny bells. There was some makeup on her lips and eyebrows, and her black hair had already spread to her waist.

Although she was no longer curvaceous today, it still made his eyes light up. They didn't speak. The moment the door closed and the array was activated,

Shen Ping smiled and said, "That's right. I really want to rip off your robe now."

After so many exchanges, although he could imagine the wrinkled rock layers left behind by time with his eyes closed, every time he saw Mu Jin, whether it was the material, the patterns, or the hair, there was always a different feeling. It was a very strange feeling.

A faint smile appeared on Mu Jin's lips. "If you want it, then do it. I really want to feel your power and see if it's as heavy as a mountain!"

Psst.

The emerald green robe had already fallen with the sound. Shen Ping's breathing tightened. He stared at Mu Jin. Her round and curvy outline was stuck to the jade robe with golden threads. Although it covered her fair luster, it had an indescribable charm.

Mu Jin turned around. Her black hair parted quietly.

“This is the Golden Silkworm Jade Robe. I’ve put in a lot of effort. Its material should be enough to make Talisman Master Shen happy.” As she spoke, she leaned forward slightly. The honeydew instantly became heavier and heavier.

Soon, the wind and rain blew down. A faint voice came from the private room.

“Thanks to Talisman Master Shen, I can step into the late stage of Qi Refinement in half a year!”

In an instant, the rain became even more intense.

After relaxing, Shen Ping returned to his calm cultivation life. The thought in the depths of his mind faded. Even when he thought of Spring Garden, he did not have the urge.

Another two months passed.

In the quiet room of the spirit pool, under the support of the Snow Ganoderma Pill, spirit liquid, and various other resources, the spiritual energy in his dantian at the ninth level of Qi Refinement was finally filled.

At this moment, no matter how Shen Ping circulated his cultivation technique, absorbing the spiritual energy in the spirit pool could not increase his spiritual energy at all. The meridians that his physique had expanded were also completely filled. He carefully sensed with his divine sense that the total spiritual energy in his dantian was nearly 50% stronger than other Qi Refinement cultivators of the same level.

If he used a high-grade defensive Dharma artifact now, he could last for a long time.

“Perfected Qi Refinement!” He stood up. Shen Ping paced around the quiet room. It had been ten years since he got married. Back then, he was still a low-level cultivator at the third level of Qi Refinement. Now, he had officially reached the perfection of Qi Refinement.

The next step was Foundation Establishment!

A moment later, he arrived at the talisman making room and carefully took out three talisman materials from his storage bag. These materials were used to make mid-grade Level Two talismans.

“Unfortunately, my divine sense is still half a step away from the mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm.”

These days, through the hard work of his wife, Wang Yun, his level in the Dao of Talismans was considered relatively outstanding among the high-grade Level Two. Even with his deep experience and the unique understanding of the Dao of Talismans produced by the golden frame, Shen Ping still did not have the slightest confidence in truly producing a mid-grade Level Two talisman.

If it was the Foundation Establishment Realm, he had a 30% chance of successfully making a high-grade Level 2 talisman, let alone a mid-grade Level 2 talisman. He looked at the materials.

Shen Ping hesitated for a long time. In the end, he gritted his teeth and began to pray silently.

The process ritual was completed.

He picked up the talisman brush and placed the first stroke on the mid-grade Level 2 talisman.

Nowadays, the requirements for talisman masters are getting lower and lower. As long as one could successfully outline the spirit rune circuit and master every detail of the brushwork, one could become a talisman master with a little effort. However, if one wanted to make high-level talismans, level two talismans, it would test one's control over the spirit rune circuit.

On the other hand, there were more than 600 spirit rune circuits on the mid-grade Level Two talismans. Every one of them was complicated and had additional changes. They were no longer the simple circuits from before.

Therefore, it was very difficult to successfully make talismans of this level.

There were many talisman masters in the True Treasure Pavilion who could satisfy the requirements of third-grade guest elders, but the number of talisman masters who were second-grade guest elders decreased drastically. It was the same for cultivation families in the sect.

Time passed slowly.

Shen Ping was fully focused on drawing every spirit rune. The blood ink and high-grade talisman brush collided with the Level 2 talisman paper. His mental strength was also quickly depleted.

Before production, he even specially swallowed a high-quality Spiritfount Pill. However, as he outlined it, he gradually felt tired even with the nourishment of the Spiritfount Pill.

Swoosh!

When he drew 400 spirit patterns, Shen Ping made a mistake and the entire talisman burned. It was a failure. He lay heavily on the ground and hurriedly consumed another Spiritfount Pill.

Several hours later, Shen Ping looked at the remaining two sets of materials and shook his head. "My spiritual energy and divine sense can't complete a mid-grade Level 2 talisman independently."

He frowned. Since the True Treasure Pavilion had a special-class guest elder with the skill of a talisman master, it meant that a cultivator who had Perfected Qi Refinement had definitely succeeded in making it.

"What's the difference?"

If it was only the restriction of his divine sense, he still had a direction to work towards. However, after making it just now, he had already discovered that the spiritual energy in his dantian, which had reached the perfection of Qi Refinement, could not support him until he completed the entire talisman. During this period, he had to take the Spirit Revitalization Pill.

However, once the production process paused for a moment, it would be even more difficult to complete.

No matter how he thought about it, he could not figure it out. So he simply came to the True Treasure Pavilion..

After waiting for an hour, in the private room on the second floor, Shopkeeper Qu walked in late. After taking a sip of spirit tea and sitting down, he smiled and said, "I was discussing some matters with the Golden Core Deacon and made you wait."

...

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "Shopkeeper Qu, you're too polite. I didn't wait long."

Just as Shopkeeper Qu was about to ask what it was, his eyes lit up. "Your spiritual energy aura is thick and round. Have you perfected your Qi Refinement? Haha, congratulations!" He seemed to be even happier than Shen Ping.

Shen Ping said helplessly, "Shopkeeper Qu, I'm here for this matter. I wonder what conditions are needed for a Talisman Master's special-class guest elder assessment?"

Previously, they had talked several times. Shopkeeper Qu did not explain in detail. This time, he tried to make a mid-grade Level Two talisman and discovered a problem. Only then did he come to ask. If he really could not reach it, he could only give up and build his foundation.

After all, he was not young. He could not delay any longer.

Shopkeeper Qu did not respond. Instead, he stood up with a face full of enthusiasm and said, "Talisman Master Shen, I only know a little about the conditions involved in this special-class guest elder assessment. Only deacons and above in the headquarters of the True Treasure Pavilion in Qingyang City know about it. Moreover, we have to apply to the deacons for the assessment. Let's go. I'll take you to the deacon."

Shen Ping was stunned and could not help but ask, "Meet Deacon Xia?"

Above the guest elders of the True Treasure Pavilion were deacons. The lowest cultivation level to become a Deacon was at the Golden Core Realm.

At Cloud Mountain Parlour, although he had seen deacons, elders, and even Nascent Soul ciders, that was just a meeting. When he arrived at Qingyang City, he could only see deacons, first-grade, and second-grade guest elders when there was something to inform them. Usually, not to mention deacons and elders, it was rare to even see second-grade guest elders, let alone befriend them.

Now, he suddenly had to deal with a Golden Core cultivator.

Honestly, he was a little nervous.

Shopkeeper Qu smiled and said, "Don't worry, Deacon Xia treats people gently. Moreover, you're applying for the special-class guest elder assessment this time. If Deacon Xia knows, he will definitely support you fully. This is a huge matter for the headquarters."

Seeing this, Shen Ping took a deep breath and followed. Golden Core Realm cultivators rarely stayed in the True Treasure Pavilion. However, there was something on in the building today, and Shopkeeper Qu had come late because of this.

Hence, Deacon Xia happened to be in the room in the backyard. Of course, even if he wasn't around, Shopkeeper Qu would at most bring Shen Ping along.

At the door of the room, the aura of the Golden Core surged over.

"Deacon Xia."

“What is it?”

A gentle voice came from the door.

Shopkeeper Qu did not say anything. Instead, he gave Shen Ping a look. Shen Ping hurriedly went forward and cupped his hands. “I’m Shen Ping, a third-grade Talisman Master guest elder of the True Treasure Pavilion. I’m here today to apply for the special-class guest elder assessment—”

Before he could finish speaking, Deacon Xia’s figure was already standing at the door. He retracted the aura of his magic power and glanced at Shen Ping with bright eyes. “I know you. You can pass the Talisman Master assessment at the Cloud Mountain Parlour at the Qi Refinement Realm. Your level in the Talisman Dao is not bad. However, do you know the minimum conditions to apply for the Talisman Master assessment?”

The last voice exploded in Shen Ping’s ears.

Shen Ping’s spiritual energy circulated rapidly. It was a long time before he came back to his senses. He suppressed his restless spiritual energy and slowly said in a low voice, “Senior Qu once told me that I have to be at the Qi Refinement Realm to be able to create a low-grade Level Two talisman!” As he spoke, he released a trace of his Foundation Establishment Divine Sense.

Deacon Xia immediately smiled. “Come in.”

The two of them walked into the room. Shopkeeper Qu still stood respectfully outside the door.

“Sit.”

“Thank you, Senior Xia!”

Shen Ping sat on the chair and leaned forward slightly with a respectful expression. The person in front of him was a Golden Core Perfected. Moreover, ordinary Golden Core cultivators could not be a deacon at the headquarters.

Deacon Xia said gently, “Guest Elder Shen, since you already know the minimum requirements for the special assessment and have a Foundation Establishment Divine Sense at the Qi Refinement Realm, I think you can make a low-grade Level Two talisman. However, the requirements to really pass the assessment are much harsher.”

Shen Ping cupped his hands. “Senior Xia, please tell me.”

Deacon Xia said bluntly, “Every special-class guest elder is the core of our True Treasure Pavilion. Therefore, any applicant will first undergo the qualification assessment. The evaluator needs five Golden Core Daoists, and three of them must have the ability of a high-grade Level Two Talisman Master.

“After confirming your qualifications, the headquarters will send a Nascent Soul elder to escort you to a place. You have to undergo three assessments there. You will only obtain the special-class guest elder token after passing all three. However, this is only temporary.”

Shen Ping was secretly speechless. Although he had guessed that the special assessment would be very strict, he did not expect it to be so complicated. Just the qualification assessment required a Golden Core Daoist to evaluate.

At this moment, he vaguely felt that this special-class guest elder was not simple.

“Guest Elder Shen, if you have any doubts, feel free to speak.” Deacon Xia said seriously.

The main base of the True Treasure Pavilion had been stationed in Qingyang City for so many years. It was not that there had never been a special-class guest elder applicant, but more than 90% of them had not even passed the qualification assessment. None of them had passed the next three assessments.

Even so, every time he met an applicant, Deacon Xia would tell him everything.

Shen Ping raised his eyes and asked, “Senior Xia, I wonder what conditions are required for this qualification and the next three assessments. For example, the number of low-grade Level 2 talismans produced, the efficiency...”

Deacon Xia shook his head gently. “I don’t know the content of the assessment either. I only know that it seems to be different every time..”

Chapter 106: Qualification Assessment (2)

Shen Ping could not help but feel disappointed, but he quickly asked, “Senior Xia, may I ask how long the assessment will last? To be honest, I’m already old. If I exceed 60 years old, I’m afraid it’ll be difficult for me to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm.”

...

Deacon Xia glanced at Shen Ping. Almost instantly, Shen Ping felt a divine sense attack. His expression was calm, but he was a little nervous. “You’re indeed not young anymore. But it’s fine. As far as I know, the assessment will last for at most two years. If it goes smoothly, it will only take a year, or even half a year.” Deacon Xia smiled and said, “Guest Elder Shen, do you have any other questions?”

Shen Ping stood up and bowed. “I understand. Thank you for your patient explanation, Senior Xia.”

“Then, do you want to apply for the special-class guest elder qualification assessment now?”

Hearing this, Shen Ping said solemnly, “Yes!”

Deacon Xia clapped his hands and said, “Alright, go back and wait patiently. I’ll immediately arrange this matter. When the other Golden Core evaluators reply, I’ll get Fellow Daoist Qu to send a message to you. This will take at most a month. I hope you can make full preparations during this period of time.”

At the entrance of the True Treasure Pavilion, Shopkeeper Qu personally sent him out. “Talisman Master Shen. A special-class guest elder is very important. Even this qualification test has to be taken seriously. If you can really pass the qualifications, there will be endless benefits.”

Hearing the voice transmission, Shen Ping cupped his hands in response. "Thank you for your reminder, Senior Qu." He returned to the small courtyard in Huiquan Alley. His wife and concubines had yet to return from South City.

Sitting alone in the hall, he closed his eyes and recalled what Deacon Xia had said. A sense of motivation slowly rose in his heart. After working hard for ten years, he had never slacked off or hesitated. Even if he was tired, he gritted his teeth and persevered.

Be it the snow or rain, the sun or wind, his Dao heart never wavered for a moment. It was precisely because of this that he possessed such a standard in the Dao of Talismans. And in another month, it would be time to refine true metal.

He suddenly opened his eyes. Shen Ping flicked his sleeves and walked out of the hall into the talisman making room. Regardless of whether the fish could leap over the dragon gate, he had to be fully prepared.

Days passed.

Other than dual cultivation, Shen Ping spent the rest of his time in the talisman-making room, allowing him to maintain his familiarity with the talisman at all times.

In the blink of an eye, a month passed.

At dawn, he first prayed for peace of mind, then changed into a brand new white robe with embroidered patterns and stood in the talisman-making room. His wife and concubines carefully tidied his hair, eyebrows, and cleaned any flaws on his face. Then, they checked every texture of his robe several times.

In the remaining time, his wife and concubines stayed by Shen Ping's side. Yu Yan guarded the entrance of the small courtyard. They knew that today was the most important day for their husband. The sky gradually turned bright. The morning sun shone on the tip of the date tree in the small courtyard, emitting a fragrance.

When a ray of morning light pierced through the clouds and sprinkled on the small courtyard, Shen Ping's communication talisman vibrated slightly. Shopkeeper Qu's voice quickly sounded. "The assessment for a special-class guest elder begins. Talisman Master Shen, please come to True Treasure Pavilion for the assessment."

Shen Ping, who was still standing, took a deep breath. He stepped out of the talisman making room. His wife and concubines followed behind. The moment he stepped out of the small courtyard, "Husband!" Wang Yun called out to Shen Ping.

He turned around. Suddenly, he saw Yu Yan, Wang Yun, Bai Yuying, and Luo Qing clench their hands into fists and brandish them at him.

"Go for it!" He added silently in his heart. Then, he smiled and walked forward resolutely.

True Treasure Pavilion.

In the past, there were many cultivators entering and leaving, but today, there was no one. Shopkeeper Qu stood at the door and waited. Seeing a familiar figure not far away, he smiled and

hurriedly went forward. “Senior Qu. How can I trouble you to welcome me personally? I really don’t deserve it!” Shen Ping smiled bitterly.

Shopkeeper Qu shook his head. “Talisman Master Shen, you just have to remember one thing today. Pass the assessment seriously and with all your might. Don’t take anything else to heart.” In the end, he said, “Don’t be affected. Let’s go!”

Shopkeeper Qu brought Shen Ping across the threshold.

Almost instantly, many gazes gathered over. There was no aura, nor was there any spiritual pressure. However, Shen Ping felt a heavy pressure like a mountain. The third-grade guest elders stood on both sides. They looked at him with a smile.

He followed Shopkeeper Qu all the way over. Just as he stepped into the backyard, the pressure suddenly increased by ten thousand times.

Second-grade guest elder.

First-grade guest elder.

Even the Golden Core Perfected, Deacon Xia, was standing at the entrance of the small courtyard. Their eyes were filled with curiosity, laughter, doubt, and disdain. All kinds of emotions overlapped.

Even though there was no aura or sound, this silence made Shen Ping feel like he was stepping into a mountain of blades and a sea of flames with every step he took.

Shopkeeper Qu led the way. Shen Ping finally understood what the other party meant just now.

Don’t be affected. In the face of this silent pressure, how could he, a Qi Refinement cultivator, not be affected?

“No one is here. They’re not human.” Shen Ping kept hinting in his heart. He looked at Shopkeeper Qu and couldn’t help but think that it would be good if it was Mu Jin. He walked to the door of the hall with difficulty.

Deacon Xia smiled and said, “Go in.”

Shopkeeper Qu stood at the side and extended his hand to invite him in. Shen Ping nodded and stepped in.

Unexpectedly, there was a beautiful woman sitting in the hall. She had a faint smile on her lips and was wearing a brownish-purple, round-necked, silver silk brocade robe. Her exquisite and enchanting figure was undoubtedly prominent.

She stood up and took a few steps. Her round face trembled slightly. “Guest Elder Shen, I’m in charge of this special-class guest elder qualification assessment. I’ll be by your side the entire time. If you have any questions, you can ask..”

“Follow me.”¹¹ As she spoke, she twisted her waist. Under her black hair, there was an even more majestic roundness.

...

Shen Ping followed behind unhurriedly. His eyes landed on the round material and observed it carefully. The nervous pressure in his heart quickly dissipated. He smiled as if he had been relieved of a burden.

Arriving at the second room on the left side of the hall, the furnishings were almost identical to the third-grade guest assessment last time.

The beautiful woman stopped and turned around. The smile on her charming face seemed to have increased. “Guest Elder Shen. There are three sets of Level Two talismans on the jade table. You just need to successfully make them. This is just the first step.”

Hearing the beautiful woman’s words, Shen Ping looked at the jade table. He was very familiar with these three materials. They were the Armor Spirit Talisman, the Lightning Talisman, and the Flamefall Talisman.

But there were only three sets. This meant that he had to succeed in one go.

“Senior, is there a time limit?”¹

“No. You just have to succeed to pass this first step.”

Shen Ping nodded and walked to the jade table. He closed his eyes for a moment. Then, he calmed down and prayed again. He picked up the talisman brush and buried his head in making talismans without any hesitation.

On the right side of the hall, the five Golden Core Perfecteds sat in the same room.

They were a little surprised when they saw the scene. Apart from testing the applicant’s Talisman Dao level, the special-class guest elder qualification assessment also had to do some simple tests on the applicant’s temperament.

The moment he stepped through the threshold of the True Treasure Pavilion, the temperament assessment began.

Facing second-grade and first-grade guest elders who were stronger than him, the invisible pressure was very difficult to withstand. Even tenacious people would feel pressure and need to adjust their mental state. However, the person in front of them was quite fast.

However, no one spoke. They watched intently. He had passed the temperament test, but it was not so easy to make talismans next.

This was because no one could guarantee that they could make all the talismans in one go. And there were only three sets of materials in front of him. Even a mid-grade Level Two Talisman Master in the Foundation Establishment Realm might not be able to pass this test safely.

Therefore, this step required both strength and luck

The familiarity of making talismans must be maintained at his peak. Then it would succeed.

Shen Ping had been making talismans non-stop for a month. When he was sketching the first spiritual rune, the familiar habit that was almost engraved in his muscles and blood attacked him with the talisman brush.

He was completely focused. There were only talismans in front of him. It was as if he had come to the scene of the golden light breaking through. He stood in front of the jade table and made talismans day and night. Regardless of whether he succeeded or failed, all that was left was the talismans.

The guest elders in the small courtyard left. However, there were still some who had not left. They sat in the room and tasted tea.

“The last qualification assessment was more than 200 years ago.”

“It’s a pity that although that person obtained the qualification, he still didn’t pass!”

“A special-class guest elder.. There hasn’t been a single one in the past thousand years in the 12 national bases of the Wei Kingdom, Jin Kingdom, and Yue Kingdom. It’s difficult to obtain one.”

“That’s right. Even this qualification is extremely difficult.”

Several second-grade guest elders conversed with each other. They then looked at Shopkeeper Qu. Shopkeeper Qu shook his head and smiled. “Fellow Daoists, don’t look at me. I don’t know if Guest Elder Shen can pass.”

Someone could not help but say, “If he did, Shopkeeper Qu would have built a good relationship in advance.”

The other guest elders smiled meaningfully.

Shopkeeper Qu said, “We’re just acquaintances. Let’s taste our tea, it might take a few days.”

“I have nothing to do. Let’s wait.”¹

Inside the house, the beautiful woman standing behind Shen Ping was even more surprised. She really did not expect this Qi Refinement Talisman Master in front of her to enter the state so quickly. When he entered the room earlier, she naturally sensed that gaze, and it was scorching.

At that moment, the beautiful woman determined that the applicant this time would fail. However, there were only five spirit patterns left in the first Lightning Talisman.

In particular, the other party’s control over the Dao of Talismans was extremely strong. From the beginning to the end, his talisman brush had never slowed down. Clearly, the applicant had long been familiar with the making of Lightning Talisman.

A moment later, Shen Ping put away the talisman brush. The complicated spirit pattern circuit of the Lightning Talisman instantly flickered. The special talisman paper and blood ink quickly reacted and fused with the spirit pattern.

The first talisman was a success!

“Congratulations!” When Shen Ping was consuming the pill, the beautiful woman said with a smile.

“Thank you.” Shen Ping closed his eyes and replied.

In the room on the right, after seeing that the first Lightning Talisman was successfully drawn, there was finally a sound in the room.

“Not bad.”

“It’s passable.”

“It’s okay.”

Soon, it quietened down again.

After Shen Ping’s spiritual energy and spirit had completely recovered, he was not in a hurry to write. Instead, he stood up and walked around the house.

The beautiful woman smiled and thought to herself that he was still nervous. However, she quickly noticed that the Qi Refinement Talisman Master’s gaze once again glanced at her brownish-purple dress, especially at her round outline.

She found it funny and speechless. Just as she was about to remind him to focus, that glance moved away.

Soon, Shen Ping came to the jade table again and worked hard to make talismans. For the second set of materials, he chose the Armor Spirit Talisman.

Although it had been made many times, the difficulty of the Armor Spirit Talisman was much higher than the Lightning Talisman. The probability of failure was not low.

Shen Ping, who did not feel any pressure, waved his talisman brush with a relaxed expression and quickly drew spirit patterns on the talisman paper.

Time passed quietly.

The second Armor Spirit Talisman was successfully made in one go.

In the room on the right, the five Golden Core Perfecteds revealed surprised expressions one after another. The Armor Spirit Talisman was completed in one go. How commendable!

“Very good!”

“It’s not bad.”

“His temperament is alright.”

“Looks like there’s no problem with the first step!”

“Indeed.”

There were two more sentences in the room than the first time. Then, it fell silent again.

In the room of the small courtyard, the waiting guest elders were still patient. In fact, their faces revealed anticipation. This was because the longer it took, the closer the person in the assessment was to success. However, they did not reveal anything.

After all, it was still early.

The third set of Flamefall Talisman was even easier. Although Shen Ping did not do it in one go like the Armor Spirit Talisman, he spent nearly half the time compared to the Lightning Talisman.

Spirit patterns flickered and instantly hid on the talisman paper. The beautiful woman's voice sounded, "Congratulations, Guest Elder Shen, for passing the first step!"

Shen Ping heaved a sigh of relief. He turned around and bowed solemnly. "Thank you, Senior!"

The beautiful woman was stunned. She smiled and reminded, "Guest Elder Shen, don't be anxious. Recover your spiritual energy and spirit first. The second step is relatively difficult."

Shen Ping nodded and quickly consumed the medicinal pill. He closed his eyes and meditated. This time, three days passed. He slowly opened his eyes and looked at the beautiful woman. "Senior, you can begin the second step."

The beautiful woman revealed a charming smile and gently waved her hand. The jade table in the room disappeared. Immediately after, another jade table was displayed. "Guest Elder Shen. The second step requires you to make a special talisman. It doesn't matter how many times you fail this time, you just need to succeed in the end.."

Chapter 108: Congratulations, Fellow Daoist Shen

The level of a Talisman Master was affected by many factors. There are two most important factors. One was the level of control of the brush technique. The older the Talisman Master, the stronger his control. The other was the level of understanding of the spirit rune circuit.

...

When Shen Ping heard the content of the second step, he understood that it was a test of his comprehension. His control could be improved through the accumulation of time. However, other than the accumulation of experience in talismans, his comprehension ability also required some talent.

He walked to the jade table. There was a special talisman placed on it.

Spirit Stabilizer Talisman.

Shen Ping, who was originally a little nervous, heaved a sigh of relief when he saw this talisman.

The Spirit Stabilizer Talisman was indeed a relatively special second-grade talisman. Although this talisman did not have as many spirit runes as compared to other second-grade talismans, it was complicated and varied. It tested the talisman master's understanding of spirit runes.

Most importantly, almost no cultivator would use such a talisman.

For example, the Armor Spirit Talisman, the Lightning Talisman, the Flamefall Talisman, and other Level Two talismans. Foundation Establishment Cultivators often needed them for battle and exploration, as well as for life-saving and escape. Therefore, this was the first choice for Level Two Talisman Masters to try to make talismans.

Talisman masters rarely expended their energy to study special talismans like the Spirit Stabilizer Talisman. Even if they wanted to improve their understanding of spiritual runes, they would choose talismans that are of higher grade and are commonly used.

If it was any other Talisman Master in the qualification assessment, they would probably have a headache if they encountered a Spirit Stabilizer Talisman. However, among the breakthrough experiences and comprehension that Shen Ping absorbed, there was the production of a Spirit Stabilizer Talisman.

He calmed his mind, and prayed. He finished his familiar movements. He picked up the talisman brush and buried his head in the talisman paper to sketch. He did not have to worry about failure. With the successful memories engraved in his blood and muscles, Shen Ping did not feel any pressure at all.

The beautiful woman standing behind him sized up this Qi Refinement Talisman Master with interest.

The complexity and variability of the Spirit Stabilizer Talisman was comparable to a mid-grade Level Two. Most Level Two Talisman Masters at the Foundation Establishment Realm would not study and make it, let alone Qi Refinement Talisman Masters.

Moreover, even if he had made the Spirit Stabilizer Talisman before, he might not succeed if he tried again. It was indeed very harsh to use such a special talisman to test Qi Refinement cultivators.

According to her understanding, the applicants for Talisman Masters at the main station of the True Treasure Pavilion had basically fallen at this step.

In the room on the right, the five Golden Core Perfecteds had indifferent expressions. They were quite satisfied with the applicant during the first step of the assessment.

However, the second step was the key.

As long as he could successfully make it, it meant that this person's comprehension of spiritual runes was not low. His talent in the Dao of Talismans was extraordinary. After he built his foundation in the future, it was only a matter of time before he advanced to a high-grade Level Two Talisman Master.

In the room in the backyard of the True Treasure Pavilion, the Foundation Establishment Guests were still waiting patiently. The longer it took, the higher the possibility of passing the qualification test.

At this point, regardless of whether the applicant would eventually pass, this potential was already worth befriending.

Shopkeeper Qu tasted the spiritual tea and the anticipation in his heart became stronger.

The sun rose and set.

In the assessment room, Shen Ping failed again and again. Even though he had the experience and memory of making the Spirit Stabilizer Talisman, the difficulty of his first attempt exceeded his expectations. Fortunately, he did not need to consider the problem of the materials. Otherwise, just the failures these few days would have increased his pressure.

During this period, he had taken more than 16 Spirit Revitalization Pills and Spirit Accumulation Pills. Every failure required time to recover. There were only four sets of materials left on the jade table.

The beautiful woman behind him swayed her waist and walked to Shen Ping's left. She waved her fingers elegantly and added another stack of materials. Her fragrant lips parted slightly. "Talisman Master Shen, do you want to rest for half a month and adjust your condition?" She smiled meaningfully and said, "When you relax completely, it might be easier to succeed."

Shen Ping acted as if he did not hear anything. The talisman brush in his hand did not stop at all. As the last spirit rune of the Spirit Stabilizer Talisman landed, the entire talisman paper flickered.

The beautiful woman glanced down. Soon, the faint smile on her face turned into shock. Amidst the flickering of the spiritual patterns, the blood ink on the talisman quickly reacted and finally hid a spiritual light.

The Spirit Stabilizer Talisman was completed!

A long-lost smile appeared on Shen Ping's face.

"Congratulations to Talisman Master Shen for completing the second step of the assessment!" The outline of the beautiful woman's brownish-purple dress rose and fell slightly. She first congratulated him, then couldn't help but say, "It's extremely difficult to make the Spirit Stabilizer Talisman. I didn't expect Talisman Master Shen to complete it within twenty sets of materials. This attainment in the Dao of Talismans is truly admirable!"

Shen Ping turned around and subconsciously asked, "Senior, I'm curious about how many sets of Spirit Stabilizer Talisman materials are prepared for the second step of the assessment?"

"A hundred." The beautiful woman stared at Shen Ping. "Although there are no restrictions, if you can't complete one within a hundred sets, there's no need to continue."

Shen Ping smiled and said, "It seems that I'm quite lucky. Senior, is there a third assessment next?"

"Yes." The beautiful woman's eyebrows were charming and moving. She said casually, "The third assessment is very simple. Talisman Master Shen only needs to answer what a talisman is."

The immortal cultivation techniques such as pills, talismans, weapons and arrays, were all broad and profound. It was very difficult for beginners to have any profound understanding. For example, in the Dao of Talismans, a Level Two or even a Level Three Talisman Master might not be able to understand what talismans were.

Therefore, as long as there were not too ridiculous comments, he could basically pass the third step.

However, Shen Ping was not in a hurry to reply. In fact, he was a little puzzled as to why she asked such a question. In his opinion, the talisman was just to earn spirit stones and resources. Since the other party asked, this might be the process. Moreover, looking at the beautiful woman's expression and tone, he seemed to be able to answer casually.

He thought for a moment. He did not answer her question. "The talisman is in my heart."

What was a talisman? How could he have any understanding? In any case, he could reply whatever he wanted.

In the right wing, when the five Golden Core Realm cultivators heard this, different smiles appeared on their faces.

"What a trick."

"Every talisman master has their own understanding. Of course, the talisman will be in every talisman master's heart. It's not easy. Our Wei Kingdom's True Treasure Pavilion finally has a talisman master who can pass the qualification assessment!"

"That's right. It's easy to cultivate as a Talisman Master, but it's as difficult as ascending to the heavens to be truly proficient in this path and have some attainments."

"Pill, talisman, weapon and arrays... Most Talisman Masters are just mediocre."

"There's finally a result after waiting these few days. What's everyone's evaluation?"
The Golden Core Daoist who spoke last looked at the other four.

"Pass!" The four Perfecteds replied in unison.

"Good!" The Golden Core Perfected clapped his hands and smiled. He raised his finger and wrote a large word in the air. "Pass!"

The words flickered and quickly disappeared into the house.

In the assessment room, the beautiful woman already knew the evaluation given by the five Golden Core cultivators. The charming smile on her face became more enthusiastic. She looked at Shen Ping and said seriously, "Congratulations, Talisman Master Shen, for passing the qualification assessment of the True Treasure Pavilion!"

As she spoke, she flipped her palm. A jade token with the word 'true' carved on it floated in the air. "This is the qualification jade token. After refining it, if you encounter danger during the period before participating in the special-class guest elder assessment, it can save your life at a critical moment."

"Talisman Master Shen, you have to keep it well. The five Golden Core cultivators who evaluated you have already left. After you obtain the special-class guest elder's wooden token, you will have a chance to see them again."

Shen Ping nodded. Then, he followed the beautiful woman out of the room.

After arriving at the hall, the beautiful woman suddenly turned her enchanting and plump body. “Not only is Talisman Master Shen’s standard in the Dao of Talismans formidable, even your courage is really great. But since you’ve passed the qualification test, I won’t hold it against you for your rashness from before.”

With that, she was the first to step out of the threshold. Her laughter entered his ears. “My surname is Qiu. You can see me at the large-scale auction that happens every five years in the True Treasure Pavilion.”

Shen Ping was stunned and then looked surprised. Then he quickly shook his head and took two deep breaths. However, he could not suppress the joy in his heart. Although he only had the qualifications to be a special-class guest elder, he took this step.

It meant that he had refined the metal! His past hard work and perseverance were not in vain at this moment. While he was struggling in the darkness, there was finally a glimmer of light.

Shopkeeper Qu was standing at the entrance of the hall. He was wearing a wide robe and looked at Shen Ping with a smile. When he came back to his senses, he lowered his sleeves and cupped his hands. “Congratulations on passing the qualification assessment!”

“Congratulations, Fellow Daoist Shen...”

Immediately after, five or six voices mixed with sincere smiles sounded..

Chapter 109: That Joy

Qingyang City.

...

Tongquan Alley.

The Level Three spiritual vein at the bottom of the lake gathered at the core. Spiritual fog rose here all year round. Every day, when the sun rose and set, it would flicker with multicolored light. Even ordinary Golden Core Perfecteds would find it difficult to live here.

However, most Golden Core cultivators would find a spirit vein cave abode to live in and rarely chose to live in Qingyang City.

As the deacon of the True Treasure Pavilion, Deacon Xia spent most of his time here. Although the spacious independent courtyard was not as hidden and quiet as the spirit vein cave abode, he was used to it after living here for a long time.

“The qualification test...”

In the past few days, he did not go to the True Treasure Pavilion, but he was still worried about the qualification assessment of the Qi Refinement Talisman Master. A Golden Core Daoist lived for 500 years. It seemed that he could experience the changes of the world and watch the storms in the mortal world, but in fact, this lifespan was not enough for many Golden Cores.

The advancement of each small realm was easily hundreds of years. If one encountered a bottleneck, sometimes it would take decades. If one cultivated hard to the perfected Golden Core Realm, they had to prepare all kinds of resources to advance to the Nascent Soul Realm. It was fine if they succeeded, but if they failed, all their previous efforts would be wasted.

Those whose minds were tenacious could try again. Those who were unable to withstand the blow became dispirited and stopped.

The True Treasure Pavilion was spread across the five continents and four seas and had abundant resources. Even so, a chief deacon like Deacon Xia could not easily obtain advancement resources. However, if a special-class guest elder appeared, the situation would be completely different.

“It’s difficult!” In the small courtyard, Deacon Xia drank the spirit wine alone and sighed. He was already over 400 years old. In another few decades, he would have to prepare all kinds of longevity elixirs and treasures. But he knew his own situation. Even if he extended his life by another 100 years, it would be very difficult for him to touch the threshold of the pseudo Nascent Soul, let alone form the Nascent Soul!

Buzz-

At this moment, the communication talisman vibrated slightly. It was a message from Shopkeeper Qu. He was actually a little nervous for a moment.

“Senior Xia, congratulations!”

Hearing the voice, Deacon Xia’s eyes widened. Then, he suddenly stood up, picked up the jade gourd, and poured the spirit wine into his mouth. “Good, good!”

At the entrance of the True Treasure Pavilion, Shopkeeper Qu personally sent Shen Ping off. After the other guest elders congratulated him, they did not continue to chat. Instead, they tactfully bade farewell and left. In the future, when Talisman Master Shen’s joy was calm, it would not be too late for them to befriend him.

“Senior Qu! Thank you for your guidance!” Shen Ping bowed respectfully. Before and after the qualification assessment, Shopkeeper Qu had helped him a lot. Perhaps it was just a small matter, but he accepted this favor.

Shopkeeper Qu smiled and said, “Talisman Master Shen, don’t stand on ceremony. You were the one who fought for the qualification assessment. Even if I don’t say anything, with your Talisman Daoism standard, you will be able to stand out in the True Treasure Pavilion sooner or later. I won’t disturb you today. I believe that Talisman Master Shen wants to see your family more at this moment.”

He cupped his hands and turned to leave. Hearing this, the faces of his wife and concubines appeared in front of Shen Ping. He could no longer suppress the urge to go home.

In Small Courtyard A13 of Huiquan Alley.

Yu Yan sat cross-legged on the bed in the room. Her eyes would open from time to time and look at the courtyard door through the wooden window. Wang Yun carefully watered the date sapling with a gourd ladle, but her gaze was fixed not far away.

Bai Yuying, who was usually the most active in cultivating in the quiet room, also sat beside the stone platform in boredom. She held her chin in her palm and stared at the small courtyard. Luo Qing meticulously wiped the table and wooden chair in the hall. She had been repeating this action for the past few days.

The setting sun dyed the sky red. The four women shook their heads and sighed. Bai Yuying counted with her fingers. "One day, two days... Husband has already left for many days. Why isn't he back yet? Ying'er is about to die of discomfort."

Just as Wang Yun was about to ask if she wanted to cook today, she saw a long figure approaching from outside the small courtyard. Overjoyed, she rushed out. "Husband!" She bumped into his chest.

Wang Yun hugged Shen Ping's broad waist tightly and sniffed the familiar smell in the depths of her flesh and memory. Shen Ping smiled and looked up. Bai Yuying, Yu Yan, and Luo Qing were already standing at the entrance of the small courtyard. He extended his arms. Bai Yuying quickly buried herself in his chest.

A moment later, he walked to the small courtyard and looked at Yu Yan and Luo Qing. He said gently, "I've made you wait for so many days. We have to celebrate tonight!"

Yu Yan crossed her arms in front of her chest, her curves almost visible. She smiled. "Husband, why do you need to do it at night? Why don't we do it now?"

Bai Yuying shook Shen Ping's arm. "Husband, Ying'er can't wait a moment longer."

Shen Ping was stunned. He looked at his wife and concubines one by one again. He confirmed the desire in their eyes.

How could he lose such an opportunity!

He immediately took a step forward.

In a flash, there was no longer anyone in the small courtyard.

In the bedroom, there were four beautiful undergarments—Pink, Purple, White, and Pink. Sweet grapefruits could be vaguely seen. There were also cute upside-down jade bowls, delicate peaches, and crisp and delicious apples.

Shen Ping lowered his back and reined in his horse. Occasionally, he would wander around the winding and rugged mountains, and sometimes, he would cross the spring water under the small bridge. Only when he passed through the flat grassland did he have the time to stop and look at the hoof marks left behind.

The mountains were far away. The clear spring flowed gently. The grassland was fertile. The hooves were thick. Every scenery was worth immersing in. Even Shen Ping, who had experienced the glory before, did not know which part of the beauty he should miss at this moment.

He could only do his best.

They shared the joy in their hearts.

A few days later, the light of dawn poured into the bedroom along with the wooden window. The cold winter air swept in. The rich warmth quickly faded. Shen Ping came to the small courtyard and stretched refreshingly. He looked at the morning sun and smiled for the first time in a few days.

At this moment, Yu Yan, who had changed into her robe, walked out. “Husband, the shop in South City hasn’t opened for a while. I’ll go take a look.” “I’ll go with you. I should relax. I’m afraid I’ll be busy in a few days.” Shen Ping could not help but explain when he saw Yu Yan’s surprised expression.

Over the past few days, he had completely released the joy in his heart. However, passing the qualification assessment did not mean that he could relax for a long time. This was because the day before yesterday, Shopkeeper Qu had sent a message asking him to make a trip to the True Treasure Pavilion at the end of next month.

Although he did not say the specifics, it was most likely related to the special-class guest elder assessment. Having come this far, regardless of whether he could pass the assessment, he had to give it a try.

It was early in the morning. The two of them arrived at the main street of South City.

The noise immediately rose and fell. Among them, the cultivators who set up stalls sold all kinds of talismans, medicinal pills, and Dharma artifacts. Compared to the other main streets of Qingyang City, the South City may have looked relatively chaotic, but it was a place where rogue cultivators often came.

The shop Yu Yan rented was not big, but it was not far from the entrance of the main street. The rent was slightly higher. She brought Shen Ping into the shop as if she had walked into another place. The noisy voices in his ears immediately disappeared.

His fingers flicked. The dust on the shelves in the shop was quickly cleaned. Soon, the entire shop looked brand new.

Shen Ping walked behind the counter and looked at the cultivators outside. He had a new feeling as a shopkeeper. He subconsciously thought of Shopkeeper Chen of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion and sighed softly.. “I wonder how the old pagoda tree in the backyard is...”

Chapter 110: Reward and Treatment

There were only two rows of shelves at the counter, and the end could be seen at a glance.

...

Yu Yan had been busy since she entered. She took out talismans and puppets from her storage bag and carefully placed each one in a homemade exquisite wooden box.

Shen Ping looked at Yu Yan quietly. The curves of her waist-length robe became even more magnificent. Her black hair was tied up, and her eyebrows were not only enchanting, but they also revealed a mature charm.

She seemed to have noticed the gaze. Yu Yan could not help but smile. “Husband, you’re always so energetic.”

Shen Ping smiled. “Yu Yan, the pink shirt you wore last night is not bad. It’s silky and faintly discernible. It’s just lacking something.”

“What is it?”

“A string of jade beads.”

Yu Yan subconsciously tightened her robe and felt a faint chill rise. She quickly glanced at the door of the shop, took a few steps forward, and said in a low voice, “Tomorrow at seven, I want you to put it on for me personally.”

“How do you want it?” Shen Ping asked with a smile.

Yu Yan did not say anything, but the tip of her tongue circled around her lips.

“Shopkeeper Yu, the shop is finally open today. As usual, give me a few...” A voice sounded at the door.

Yu Yan immediately retracted the seductive look at the corner of her eyes and revealed a standard smile. “Okay.”

Happiness was short.

Although Shen Ping missed the life of his wife and concubines, he also knew that the joy of having such a precious day took up a lot of credit.

For the next month or so, his cultivation gradually calmed down. He, who had perfected his spiritual energy and could not advance an inch, had more time to make talismans, but he did not forget to eat and sleep like before.

In the blink of an eye, the end of the month arrived. He stepped into the True Treasure Pavilion again.

Nothing had changed inside, but Shen Ping noticed that there was a hint of respect in the gaze of the external member. There were even two female members who accidentally bumped into his arms.

Unfortunately, it didn’t feel good. He came to the counter. Shopkeeper Qu smiled and said, “Deacon Xia is in Room C in the backyard.”

Before they reached the room, Deacon Xia’s voice sounded. “Talisman Master Shen, come in.”

There was a faint smell of spirit wine in the room. After sitting down, Shen Ping originally thought that Deacon Xia was going to talk about the special-class guest elder assessment. However, that was not the case.

“The success of Foundation Establishment depends on two main factors. One is the spiritual sea, and the other is the spiritual energy in the dantian and meridians.”

Deacon Xia looked at Shen Ping and smiled. “The reason why most old cultivators fail to build their foundation is mainly because their meridians and spiritual energy are affected by their bodies. It looks like they have been polished to perfection, but they are actually damaged. If their willpower is insufficient, they are destined to fail in building their foundation.

“And the use of the Foundation Establishment Pill, other than providing a huge supply of spiritual energy, it also protects one’s meridians to prevent their dantian

and meridians from being damaged after failing to build their foundation, this way, there is still hope of building their foundation.

“Last time, I checked. The spiritual energy in Talisman Master Shen’s dantian and meridians is perfect and even richer than ordinary perfected Qi Refinement cultivators. Coupled with your Foundation Establishment Divine Sense, there’s a high chance of success even without the Foundation Establishment Pill.”

Shen Ping listened respectfully. He knew that Deacon Xia would not mention this for no reason.

Deacon Xia waved his hand, and three exquisite jade boxes surrounded by resplendent spiritual light floated up. Soon, the jade boxes opened, revealing the items inside. “Talisman Master Shen. This is your reward for passing the qualification test. Choose one of the three.”

Shen Ping was slightly stunned. “There’s a reward?”

Deacon Xia said with a serious expression, “Our True Treasure Pavilion values every cultivator with outstanding skills and talent. Pill, talisman, weapon and arrays, as long as you can show your talent in any of them and pass the qualification assessment, you will be rewarded.

“However, it’s rare for a Qi Refinement Guest Elder like Talisman Master Shen. It’s already rare for a Qi Refinement rogue cultivator to become a Guest Elder.”

Shen Ping nodded with emotion.

Most low-level rogue cultivators had mediocre aptitudes. Even if they had talent in terms of skills, it was very difficult for them to survive the early stages. Without resources and the guidance of their seniors, it was easier said than done to rely on themselves to cultivate diligently.

If not for the fact that he could rely on dual cultivation to increase his experience in the Dao of Talismans every day, how could he have reached a cooperation with the True Treasure Pavilion and finally become a guest elder?

Talent, hard work, and resources were indispensable if one wanted to have attainments in the four main arts of cultivation.

He collected his thoughts and looked at the three items: medicinal pills, rare treasures, and Dharma artifacts.

Deacon Xia’s voice sounded again. “The medicinal pill is a Spirit Channel Pill. It can greatly expand the meridians and increase the accommodation of spiritual energy and magic power. The rare treasure in the middle is the Hundred Flowers Sun Shell. It’s a rare Foundation Establishment-level treasure. On the right is the top-grade offensive artifact, the Blue Sea Pearl.

“Among these three, the Spirit Channel Pills are the most helpful to you at the moment. Your spiritual energy is perfect. After consuming this pill, your meridians will expand. During the next special assessment, you can continue to polish your spiritual energy to the limit. Once you build your foundation in the future, your spiritual energy will be 20 to 30% stronger than other Foundation Establishment cultivators of the same level.”

Hearing this, Shen Ping hurriedly cupped his hands and said, "Thank you for your reminder, Senior."

He really had no use for rare treasures and Dharma artifacts now. When he reached the Foundation Establishment Realm, he might have other methods to obtain such items. He didn't hesitate anymore. He chose the Spirit Channel Pill.

Deacon Xia continued, "I've already applied to the headquarters for a special grade assessment. If everything goes smoothly, an envoy from the headquarters will come to pick you up in two months to take the assessment."

Shen Ping said yes respectfully and hesitated. "Senior Xia, I have a question and would like to ask."

Deacon Xia took a sip of spirit wine. "Go ahead."

He took a deep breath. Shen Ping said slowly, "What kind of treatment does a special-class guest elder receive? Even a Golden Core Daoist like you values them so much."

Deacon Xia did not look surprised. He stood up and walked to the door of the room with his hands behind his back. He stood for a while before turning around and answering an irrelevant question. "Talisman Master Shen, you've been a guest elder of the True Treasure Pavilion for a while. You should know what's the most important thing in the True Treasure Pavilion, right?"

"Contribution, authority." Shen Ping replied.

"That's right! This is the True Treasure Pavilion." Deacon Xia's voice became low. "As long as you have enough contribution points and the corresponding identity authority, you can buy rare treasures, medicinal pills, cultivation techniques, and so on. The Foundation Establishment Pill was placed in the auction and many cultivators will bid for it. In the True Treasure Pavilion, you can easily buy it with contribution points as a third-grade guest status. Although there's a limit to the number, there's no need to fight for it.

"It's the same for Golden Core, Nascent Soul, and other supplementary resources. What is the most fundamental thing for us cultivators to pursue longevity? Resources! The True Treasure Pavilion is spread across the five continents and four seas. How can ordinary cultivators imagine the resources it has?"

Speaking of this, Deacon Xia sat down again and continued to drink the spirit wine. There was a hint of envy in his tone that could not be erased. "I'm not sure about the specific treatment of a special-class guest elder, but I know one thing. The identity and authority of a special-class guest elder can buy most of the resources of the True Treasure Pavilion, and it's not limited to contributions."

Shen Ping's body trembled when he heard this. Authority was too important.

Snow Ganoderma Pill. Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment. These two dual cultivation resources were extremely helpful to cultivators at the Qi Refinement Realm. The spirit liquid was secondary to the fact that he could break through to the perfected Qi Refinement Realm so quickly. It was mainly because of the support of the Snow Ganoderma Pill.

However, he could not buy it in the True Treasure Pavilion. He could only wait for the auction or go to the pill hut of that alchemy expert who liked to dance to buy it.

On the surface, the True Treasure Pavilion's Snow Ganoderma Pill and Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment were both scarce. But in fact, he had heard from Shopkeeper Qu that a second-grade guest elder could reserve a certain amount of Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment every month.

Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment was even more effective than the Snow Ganoderma Pill. If he used such an item when dual cultivating with his wife and concubines, Yu Yan would probably only need three times to successfully break through to the eighth level!

"Thank you for clearing my doubts, Deacon Xia!" Shen Ping stood up and bowed respectfully.

Then, Deacon Xia talked about some matters regarding the special-class guest elders and asked Shen Ping to leave. However, before he left, he added, "Talisman Master Shen, don't feel pressured. Just wait patiently. You have the qualification jade token now. Your identity and authority are comparable to a second-grade guest elder. It's fine even if you don't pass the special-class assessment in the future. When you build your foundation and become a first-grade guest elder in the future, you can continue to apply!"

He walked out of the room in the backyard. Shen Ping could not wait to go to the contribution room on the second floor of the True Treasure Pavilion. He took out the qualification jade token. Indeed, his identity and authority had increased.

He could buy more resources and items. Among them, the Snow Ganoderma Pill, the Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment, and a few Foundation Establishment treasures that could only be seen at auctions were included.

Most importantly, the number of Foundation Establishment Pills had increased to six. However, Shen Ping quickly realized that if he wanted to buy these items, he could only use the contribution points of the True Treasure Pavilion and could not use spirit stones.

He did not care. Instead, he immediately took out the Level Two talismans he had accumulated over the past few days and exchanged them for contribution points.

"Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment, buy!"

"An excellent Qi Refinement Support Pill. Buy!"

"A higher concentration of spirit liquid, buy!"

"Pill ginseng that nourishes one's vitality. Buy!"

"Foundation Establishment Treasure... My contribution points are gone!"

He had lost all his savings.

Shen Ping looked at the dazzling array of resources and items and could only sigh to himself. He would come back when he had accumulated enough contribution points in the future.

It was almost noon. He returned to the Cloud Fir Street in the small courtyard in Huiquan Alley. The warm winter sun shone on his body. He walked slowly in a good mood.

With the qualification jade token, after reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm, he could also use talismans to quickly obtain resources at the Foundation Establishment Realm. At that time, his cultivation speed would still not fall much.

Moreover, his wife and concubines had hopes of stepping into the Foundation Establishment Realm. Most importantly, it was Luo Qing. Previously, Shen Ping had seen spirit wine that could solve Luoqing's physique problem on the resource items. It was a little expensive, but it could be bought at any time.

He was about to reach the corner of the street when a beautiful figure walked over.

It was Fairy Cai Shang.

Shen Ping did not expect to see this Foundation Establishment female cultivator in the same position again. This time, he did not greet her. However, just as they passed each other, Fairy Cai Shang's voice sounded, "You live here?"

Shen Ping stopped in his tracks. He cupped his hands and replied, "Yes." Then, he walked away quickly.

Fairy Cai Chang's beautiful face flashed with shock. However, she shook her head indifferently. So what if he lived in Huiquan Alley? A Qi Refinement cultivator was most likely a relative of a mid-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator..