

Eternal Life Begins with Taking a Wife

Chapter 11: Co-Rental

Shen Ping was filled with a sense of accomplishment. Being able to reach the breakthrough condition so quickly was the result of his hard work every day. He had spent countless tonics and ingredients.

But when he saw the narrow room, this sense of accomplishment instantly disappeared without a trace.

Life was so barren. What was there to be proud of!

He took a deep breath and headed for the cubicle. Calming his mind and crafting talismans... he began his fulfilling and boring daily life.

Due to the elevation of the metal and wood spiritual roots to medium-grade, he also had to spend some extra time meditating and cultivating, in addition to making talismans, dual cultivating, and suppressing the poison. His originally poor time suddenly became tight.

Hence, Shen Ping adjusted the exercise during his lunch break to night time. This caused him to only be able to rest for five minutes before continuing.

"Once I get rid of the poison in my body, I can save three hours a day." Shen Ping gritted his teeth and persisted. Actually, if he gave up on resting after midnight, there would still be plenty of time. However, considering his wife and concubine's mental state, he still put away such thoughts.

Fishing in the swamp can destroy the ecological environment.

Days passed just like that. His experience in the Dao of Talisman and Metal and Wood Spiritual Roots had been slowly improving. Ever since that robber cultivator died, nothing happened in the alley near the Red Stone River. Everyone's life gradually returned to its former peace.

Mid-June.

A large flying boat of the Golden Sun Sect hovered above the edge of the marketplace. A large number of cultivators came out from it. These cultivators were recruited from the marketplaces and cultivation clans in the main sect's area, as well as from the cultivation cities.

Back then, Shen Ping had taken such a flying ship to Cloud Mountain Swamp.

Twenty years of pioneering.

This region was gradually being controlled by the Golden Sun Sect. Every five or ten years, several batches of cultivators would be transported over from the main sect.

Of course, more than 80% of the people who came to the swamp were ordinary cultivators like Shen Ping who had no hope of reaching the Foundation Establishment. The remaining 20% were ambitious people who wanted to make a name for themselves, or people who came to seek opportunities or establish cultivation clans to develop.

The next afternoon.

Just as Shen Ping was making talismans in the cubicle, he heard the sound of thick spiritual energy coming from outside.

"I am a deacon of the Golden Sun Sect. Those who stay in the house, show your heads!"

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Rows of houses opened one after another in Red Willow Alley.

Shen Ping also walked out of the house. His gaze landed on the Golden Sun Sect's outer sect deacon not far away. Behind him was a team of patrolling cultivators. Those who could be patrolling the marketplace had to be at least at the seventh level of Qi Refinement and had extraordinary combat strength.

A moment later, the Golden Sun Sect's deacon said, "From today onwards, the annual rental fee for Red Willow Alley has increased to 50 low-grade spirit stones. Those who are short, hurry to the market's Deacon Hall to make up for it. Those who have already paid the rental fee in advance will be deducted according to the current rising price. The deadline is two weeks. We won't wait once it's due."

With that, the Golden Sun Sect's deacon led the patrolmen to the next alley as they made ward rounds.

After they left, Yu Yan immediately complained, "That's too ruthless. It increased so much all of a sudden. Red Willow Alley isn't even close to the main road. It actually costs half a mid-grade spirit stone. How can we live?!"

The cultivators nearby also chimed in.

“Yeah, it’s more than doubled. It’s almost as expensive as the alleys around the main road.”

“The days ahead will be even more difficult!”

“Sigh, it’s only a matter of time. A large-scale flame gold mine has been discovered in Cloud Mountain Swamp. If news of this spreads, more cultivators will definitely come. In other regions, a single mine can support tens of thousands of cultivators.”

“That group of cultivators yesterday is only the beginning. In the future, there will be more and more.”

Listening to these discussions, Shen Ping frowned. If it was more than a year ago, he would have moved immediately without hesitation. How could he afford to pay 50 low-grade spirit stones a year? But now, he only needed four talismans to earn this fee. Even so, he was still worried.

This was because there would be more cultivators in the market in the future. Once there were too many cultivators, there would inevitably be chaos. Red Willow Alley belonged to the periphery of the market. Even if the rent rose to 50, the Golden Sun Sect would not increase the number of patrols to guard this place.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, do you want to pay the rental fee together?” At this moment, Yu Yan invited him.

Shen Ping came back to his senses and hurriedly nodded. Every time he went out, it was a life and death test for him. With Yu Yan, a female cultivator at the fifth level of Qi Refinement, accompanying him, his sense of security soared.

He immediately returned to his room and told his wife and concubine. Then, he closed the door and followed Yu Yan to the market. During this time, other cultivators saw this and joined the team.

Before they reached the main road, the team had already increased to 20 to 30 cultivators. There were also many teams in the other alleys who went to pay the rent like them. Rarely would one-time payments be made for several years. After all, no one knew when they would die.

As soon as they stepped onto the main road, everyone’s faces relaxed a lot, and some of them started chatting. When they arrived at the Deacon Hall, there were many cultivators lined up in a long line.

Shen Ping and the others could only queue at the back. They waited for more than two hours. When it was almost evening, it was their turn.

Originally, he wanted to make a trip to the Spring Embroidery Pavilion to sell the talismans in his storage bag and buy some materials. However, in this situation, he immediately gave up on the idea.

After paying the rental fee, the team dispersed and returned to their rooms after returning to Red Willow Alley.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, Red Willow Alley is the periphery after all. It’s not as safe as the market. Do you want to consider renting it together in the market?”

Shen Ping was about to return to his room when Yu Yan spoke. He looked startled. He looked at Yu Yan’s slightly beautiful face and rather voluptuous body. He subconsciously thought of something.

However, he soon laughed dryly. “Fellow Daoist Yu, I still have a wife and concubine to raise. It’s really inconvenient. Moreover, the price of houses in the market has probably increased quite a bit.”

With that, he quickly pushed the door open. A disdainful voice immediately sounded in her ear. “You really don’t have the guts. I’m not even willing to let you sleep for free.”

After he closed the door, Shen Ping secretly heaved a sigh of relief. A widow living alone was too scary. How would he dare to provoke her? However, since Fellow Daoist Yu suggested renting a house in the market together, it seemed that she had some savings. Perhaps she was really the one who killed the robber cultivator.

“Husband, the rental price of houses in Red Willow Alley has increased. Why don’t we move to Ningshui Alley next year? The price there is very low.” During dinner, Bai Yuying suggested it considerably.

Wang Yun also chimed in, “That’s right, husband. You’ve been working hard all day. Sister Yuying and I really can’t bear to see you like this. We don’t care if we live a poor life. As long as you can accompany us, we’ll be satisfied.”

Shen Ping held his wife’s wrist and said gently, “Don’t worry. I’m a mid-grade Talisman Master. I can still afford to live in Red Willow Alley. Ying’er, you can’t fall behind in your daily cultivation. If you don’t have spirit stones, feel free to tell me.”

Ningshui Alley was already at the edge of the market. Almost all the cultivators there were at the bottom of the Qi Refinement Realm. It was chaotic all year round, and there were killings and robberies every day.

If he moved there, he might be able to rely on the talismans to protect his wife and concubine, but it would also attract covetous eyes. Perhaps one day, when he went out to sell the talismans, he would be surrounded and killed by a group of cultivators.

After dinner, Shen Ping took out a Communication Charm and injected spiritual energy into it to activate it. He asked, "Shopkeeper Chen, what's the rental price of the houses in the market now?"

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Chapter 12: Followed

After a while, the Communication Talisman flashed.

Shopkeeper Chen replied, "The cheapest alley is rented for five medium-grade spirit stones a year. A group of cultivators just arrived yesterday, so there's basically no free houses. Now, only some of the places in the market that can still be rented are left with small courtyards. This kind of place is worth more than twenty medium-grade spirit stones a year, and it depends on the location and environment!"

Fine.

Shen Ping completely gave up on the idea. But just as he was sighing, the talisman flashed again. "Fellow Daoist Shen, if you want to live in the marketplace, you can wait a little longer. According to the internal news, the Golden Sun Sect has recruited a lot of cultivators to develop the Flame Gold Mine. Yesterday was only the first batch. There will be even more later.

"The entire market is a little small, so the Golden Sun Sect is planning to expand the market to the east. When the time comes, they will build some small courtyards to accommodate more high-level cultivators."

Upon hearing this news, Shen Ping immediately replied, "Shopkeeper Chen, I can't afford to live alone in a small courtyard!"

Shopkeeper Chen said, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you can share the rent with other cultivators."

Shen Ping was dumbfounded. "You can rent a small courtyard together?"

One had to know that those who had the ability to rent a small courtyard to live alone were mostly late-stage cultivators above the eighth level of Qi Refinement. Some were even Foundation Establishment cultivators.

What they were considering was not the price, but the spiritual energy environment.

Not to mention, cultivators cared a lot about their privacy. No one was willing to share a house with other cultivators. They saw each other every day and it was easy to expose all kinds of information.

Shopkeeper Chen replied, "I'm not too sure about the details. We'll know when the small courtyard is built. Fellow Daoist Shen, these are secondary. The most important thing now is to hurry up and make talismans. In the future, there will be more and more cultivators, and the price of talismans will increase."

Shen Ping quickly replied, "I understand!"

After it ended, he fell into deep thought.

Shopkeeper Chen actually knew some of the Golden Sun Sect's subsequent plans. This undoubtedly meant that there was an inner disciple of the Golden Sun Sect behind him, or even a cultivator of a higher status.

It seemed that he had to increase his cooperation with the Spring Embroidery Pavilion in the future. Like the news this time, the other party only gave it to him because they had worked together many times.

"I have to break through to the middle stage of Qi Refinement as soon as possible and make high-grade talismans."

The market was much safer than Red Willow Alley. After getting rid of the poison in his body, Shen Ping would rather spend more spirit stones to move over. This was very important to him.

In Red Willow Alley, every time he went out, it was a matter of life and death. He had lived such a precarious life for many years and was already tired of it.

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Next, Shen Ping began to reduce his rest time. He would wake up at three in the morning to make talismans. Such hard work made his wife and concubine's hearts ache even more. Even Bai Yuying's favorability towards him increased by 5 points.

Knock, knock.

A sound came from the door of the house. Shen Ping opened the door. "Fellow Daoist Shen, I'm a newly rented cultivator from nearby..."

It was their new neighbor.

In addition to Fellow Daoist Yu, the house next to him had been empty for more than half a year. That cultivator was the first to venture into the Cloudy Mountain Swamp to

explore. Although no news of his death had spread, it seemed that he was most likely dead.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, the other party left. In the days that followed, more and more cultivators came to visit.

After all, Shen Ping was one of the few mid-grade Talisman Masters in Red Willow Alley and had lived here for many years. Most of the newly rented cultivators would come over and ask about the general situation in Red Willow Alley.

There was no way he could refuse the visit. That would make him look a little arrogant and aloof. Therefore, he could only brace himself and talk to these cultivators. Until the beginning of July, the number of cultivators visiting decreased greatly.

It was mainly because there were basically no empty houses in Red Willow Alley.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, our Red Willow Alchemist, Fellow Daoist He, died in the wilderness two days ago.”

On this day, when Shen Ping went out to relax and ease his boring thoughts, Fellow Daoist Yu happened to splash bathwater and told him this news.

“Dead?” He was slightly stunned. He still remembered Fellow Daoist He’s arrogance when he first came to introduce himself as an alchemist. Later on, he was in a sorry state because he couldn’t bear to leave the brothel. He didn’t expect that not long after, he would die.

Yu Yan sneered. “What a loss. Who asked you to lend him spirit stones?”

Shen Ping ignored Yu Yan’s sarcasm and asked, “How did he die?”

“That guy’s reputation has long been tarnished. Recently, many unfamiliar cultivators have come. He took the opportunity to borrow a lot of spirit stones under the pretext of being an alchemist. Then, he spent them all on the female cultivators of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion. Two of the cultivators he borrowed were at the late stage of Qi Refinement...”

Yu Yan returned to her room and said, “Fellow Daoist Shen, it’s not easy for you to break through to become a mid-grade Talisman Master. Don’t die on the belly of a woman.”

Shen Ping smiled bitterly. It turned out that Yu Yan had told this news to take the opportunity to mock him. “Could it be that this widow has really taken a fancy to me?” He touched his middle-aged greasy face and shook his head secretly.

Another ten days passed.

Under the painstaking creation of talismans, he had finally used up all the talismans and materials he had bought last time. It was dozens of days earlier than he had expected.

“The price of the high-rank Poison Dispelling Pill has increased again. Fortunately, the price of the amulet and Fire Talisman has also increased slightly. After selling this time, I can buy the Poison Dispelling Pill!”

Shen Ping carried a large number of talismans worth nearly 30 mid-grade spirit stones and walked out of his house. Along the way, he was extremely vigilant. Currently, there were more unfamiliar cultivators in every alley, so no one knew how many robber cultivators there were inside.

He had just walked halfway when he sensed a cultivator following behind him.

Shen Ping immediately became nervous. He held the fire talisman, the earth trap talisman, and the freezing talisman in his hand. This time, he had pasted more than fifteen amulets on his body. They could activate his protective spiritual light more than ten times. As long as he was not an advanced cultivator, he could last for dozens of breaths.

He quickened his pace. After turning a corner, he saw a few cultivators conversing. The cultivators following behind him noticed and immediately hid in a dark corner. He felt a little more at ease and took the opportunity to quickly shake it off.

One of the high-level cultivators glanced at Shen Ping and saw that he was only at the third level of Qi Refinement. He passed three more corners in a row. The main road was right in front of him.

It was very rare for robber cultivators to make a move in such a place. As long as there was any movement, it would attract the attention of many cultivators. It was very difficult for robber cultivators to deal with corpses and plunder.

Not long after, Shen Ping arrived at the market safely.

This time, he did not go to the Spring Embroidery Pavilion directly. Instead, he went to other shops and sold half of the talismans. After deducting the materials he had bought, he had ten mid-grade spirit stones on him before entering the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, quickly enter!” Shopkeeper Chen welcomed him warmly.

It was the same old rules. Shen Ping took out the talismans from his storage bag. This time, in addition to the amulet, the fire talisman, there were also several Earth Trap Talismans and Freezing Talismans.

Shopkeeper Chen's eyes lit up. "Fellow Daoist Shen's talisman skills have improved again. Congratulations, congratulations!"

"I was lucky enough to succeed." Shen Ping replied humbly. He was just showing off his value. Shopkeeper Chen's background was not small. Perhaps he could obtain more information from him in the future.

Shopkeeper Chen settled the bill readily. After deducting the cost of the materials, he obtained eight mid-grade spirit stones from here. Including the savings in the storage bag, he now had 35 medium-grade Spiritual Stones.

"Shopkeeper Chen, I wonder if there are any high-grade Poison Dispelling Pills left?"

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Chapter 13: Mid-stage Qi Refinement Realm

Most of the demonic beasts in the Cloud Mountain Swamp were poisonous, so the Poison Dispelling Pill had always been a popular medicinal pill in the Cloud Mountain Market. It sold even faster than Spirit Concentration Pills, Spirit Tempering Pills, Spirit Boosting Pills, and other medicinal pills that could increase spiritual energy. Previously, the entire market had been in a shortage.

In recent months, the Golden Sun Sect's main sect sent over a large amount of materials for the Poison Dispelling Pill. Only then did the various shops replenish their stock. However, it was not easy to refine a high-grade Poison Dispelling Pill. It was available in small quantities.

On the other hand, the Spring Embroidery Pavilion shop was relatively small. It had only been open for a short period of time, and the supply did not exceed five bottles each time.

Shen Ping was just asking casually.

Indeed, Shopkeeper Chen shook his head. "High-grade Poison Dispelling Pills are sold too quickly. I haven't even supplied them yet, but high-level cultivators have already reserved them. If Fellow Daoist Shen needs anything, you can go to the True Treasure Pavilion to take a look."

He left the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. Shen Ping walked for two minutes before arriving at the True Treasure Pavilion on the east side of the market.

The streets here were very prosperous. More than 70% of the cultivators who came and went were at the late stage of Qi Refinement. Not far from it were expensive small courtyards. The concentration of spiritual energy was higher than in other areas.

He rarely came here when he was selling talismans because he often encountered Golden Sun Sect's disciples here. Cultivators who could enter the Golden Sun Sect had to have at least three elemental spiritual roots. Moreover, once they became disciples, they would instantly have storage bags, immortal treasures, and robes.

If one's talent was outstanding, they could even obtain a high-grade artifact.

Therefore, these disciples more or less had pride. If a rogue cultivator like him accidentally bumped into the other party or caused the other party to feel uncomfortable, the consequences would be very troublesome.

Now that he wanted to buy a high-rank Poison Dispelling Pill, he had no choice but to make a trip here. In the future, when he made high-grade talismans, he would probably have to come here often.

Soon, Shen Ping entered the True Treasure Pavilion.

"Fellow Daoist, what can I do for you?" A beautiful and sweet female cultivator came forward. To be able to serve other cultivators in the True Treasure Pavilion, her monthly income was probably higher than his hard work in making talismans.

"I want to buy a high-grade Poison Dispelling Pill." He stated his needs.

"The high-grade Poison Dispelling Pill is on the second floor. Please follow me, Fellow Daoist."

Shen Ping heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, there were still goods here. Otherwise, he would have to come to the market again in a few days. Thinking of the mid-stage cultivator who followed him today, his heart sank.

A moment later, the transaction was completed. He only had two medium-grade spirit stones and fifty-six low-grade spirit stones left. This amount of spirit stones was enough for two months of daily expenses.

Of course, if he were to be more economical, it could last for half a year. Moreover, there was half a month's worth of spirit rice and meat at home.

He thought for a moment. Shen Ping bought another month's worth of living expenses. When he was done, it was almost noon.

The scorching sun roasted the Cloud Mountain Market. He left the market, but when he returned to the alley, he hesitated. If he encountered another robber cultivator tailing him, he might not be lucky.

“Let’s wait a little longer. Perhaps I can encounter the cultivators near Red Willow Alley.”

There were not many cultivators like him who rarely went out in Red Willow Alley. Most of the cultivators were like their next-door neighbor, Yu Yan. They would usually come to the market or go to the wilderness every few days, as well as hunt in the periphery of the Cloud Mountain Swamp deeper in.

Alchemists, artifact masters, and talisman masters had a stable source of income, but many of them did not have the talent in this area and were unwilling to cultivate patiently. They could only constantly increase their combat strength and hunt demonic beasts to obtain materials to sell. Moreover, this could temper themselves and increase their chances of breaking through compared to cultivators who often stayed indoors.

Many powerful cultivators grew through such battles and tempering. As Shen Ping strolled around the stall, he glanced in the direction of the north street. After waiting for a full two hours, he saw a familiar figure. “Fellow Daoist Yu, what a coincidence!” He quickly went forward to greet her.

Yu Yan’s robe was still stained with blood, and her body emitted the smell of blood. She looked exhausted. “Fellow Daoist Shen, you’re actually willing to come out of your house?” She forced herself to stay awake and clicked her tongue in wonder.

Shen Ping laughed dryly. “There’s no more rice at home, so I came out to buy some. Fellow Daoist Yu, are you hunting demon beasts outside?”

It was very difficult for cultivators at the mid-stage of Qi Refinement to hunt demon beasts. Therefore, cultivators would form teams with each other. They could form teams in the recruitment hall of the market. This kind of team had restrictions. It was rare for them to fight internally unless they could break the restrictions.

Yu Yan said sarcastically, “I’m not a Talisman Master like Fellow Daoist Shen, who just needs to stay in the house and dote on his wife and concubine every day.”

Shen Ping looked embarrassed, but he still took the initiative to ask, “Fellow Daoist Yu, shall we go back together?”

Yu Yan immediately understood what Shen Ping meant. She waved her hand. “Let’s go.”

Recently, there were many unfamiliar cultivators in the streets and alleys outside the market. It was no longer as safe to go out as before. Even she had to be vigilant. There were no accidents along the way.

They reached Red Willow Alley safely, Shen Ping said gratefully, "Thank you for your care, Fellow Daoist Yu." As he spoke, he took out a Freezing Talisman and handed it to Yu Yan. "Recently, I've made some progress in the Dao of Talismans. Fellow Daoist Yu, if you lack such talismans, you can buy them from me."

Yu Yan didn't stand on ceremony. Freezing talismans were very useful, but because the circuits of the spirit runes were complicated and the price was low, many talisman masters were more willing to make amulets, fire talismans, and so on.

Furthermore, the consumption of Freezing Talismans was far inferior to that of talismans. Fire Talismans were used by cultivators at critical moments, causing the price of Freezing Talismans to not increase.

"Fellow Daoist Shen's talisman skills have improved. Congratulations."

The two of them quickly separated. He walked into the house.

Shen Ping finally felt relieved. He was finally safe.

"Husband!" His wife and concubine surrounded him, and the worry on their faces disappeared. After all, there were many unfamiliar cultivators outside, and they were afraid that Shen Ping would not return.

One of them was a mortal, while the other was a cultivator at the first level of Qi Refinement. If Shen Ping died, it would be impossible for them to survive in Red Willow Alley. Shen Ping held his wife and concubine's wrists and comforted them a little before eagerly entering the cubicle.

A few days later, there was only a little venom left in his body. In the cubicle, he calmed his mind, retracted his consciousness. Then, he carefully took out the brown high-grade Poison Dispelling Pill and swallowed it without hesitation.

The pill entered his stomach. It immediately turned into a rich medicinal power.

He quickly circulated his cultivation technique and circulated his spiritual energy through his meridians. The medicinal power of the Poison Dispelling Pill spread to his limbs and bones along with his spiritual energy.

Psst.

Almost instantly, Shen Ping's entire body started to ache as if it was cramping. He gritted his teeth. This pain disappeared very quickly, but as soon as it disappeared, it came again. It completely disappeared after five or six times in a row.

Boom.

As the poison hidden in the depths of his body was completely eliminated, the spiritual energy that had been suppressing the poison and constantly seeping into the depths of his body seemed to have been released and erupted.

Shen Ping's expression changed. He used all his strength to restrain this explosive spiritual energy and let it enter his meridians.

At this moment, the mid-grade spiritual roots of the metal and wood attributes took effect and increased the speed of the circulation of spiritual energy by several times, preventing the spiritual energy gathered in the meridians of the dantian from becoming violent.

Four hours passed.

The explosive spiritual energy was completely absorbed by his body.

Click.

Shen Ping did not even attempt to break through. His spiritual energy actually broke through the blocked meridians automatically, causing the circulation to increase. At the same time, the aura on his body suddenly increased.

Just like that, he broke through to the fourth level of Qi Refinement. He felt the increase in the total spiritual energy in his body.

Shen Ping could not help but cry tears of joy. He had been tortured by the demonic beast's poison for so many years. Now that he had finally gotten rid of it completely, he no longer had to endure pain every day and night to suppress the poison.

He stabilized his spiritual energy. He got up and walked out of the cubicle. Looking at his beautiful wife and concubine, his excitement was obvious. "Yun'er, Ying'er..."

He picked up his wife and concubine and pressed them on the bed.

It was destined to be a sleepless night.

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Chapter 14: Unable to Rent

The next day at dawn, Shen Ping slowly calmed down. He glanced at his wife and concubine who were immersed in their sleep and opened the virtual interface.

[Talisman Master: Level One Mid-Grade (13,036/10,000). Can be broken through.]

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[Metal Spiritual Root: Mid-grade (1,820/10,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: Mid-grade (1,714/10,000)]

He could have made a breakthrough with his experience in the Dao of Talismans a long time ago, but he was limited by his cultivation. Even if he made a breakthrough, he could not create talismans, so he had been suppressing it.

Now that he had officially broken through to the fourth level of Qi Refinement, there was no need to suppress it anymore. He got out of bed quietly. Then, he went to the cubicle. After meditating and sitting cross-legged, he chanted in his heart, "Break through!"

Boom.

The virtual frame shook slightly.

A large amount of information about the experience and comprehension of the Dao of Talismans surged into Shen Ping's sea of consciousness. This time, he seemed to have seen a figure. He had been crafting talismans for many years and was constantly accumulating experience to improve his Dao of Talismans.

A few dozen breaths later, he opened his eyes, and his pupils flickered with joy. From today onwards, he was a high-grade Talisman Master. He got up and came to the kitchen. He scooped the rice, cut the meat, and cooked the rice.

When his wife and concubine woke up, the smell of spirit rice mixed with the fragrance of meat filled the room.

"Husband, y-you seem to have broken through?" Yesterday, Bai Yuying did not even have the time to sense it before she went to bed. Today, when she woke up and saw Shen Ping, she felt a little different.

Shen Ping smiled and said, "That's right. I'm already a fourth level Qi Refinement cultivator!"

Wang Yun immediately became excited. "Congratulations, husband! Congratulations, husband!" She wasn't even dressed properly, and her chest was trembling.

Bai Yuying also hurriedly congratulated him. However, compared to Wang Yun, she was not that excited. After all, the fourth level of Qi Refinement was still at the bottom.

After dinner, his wife and concubine went out to dry the brocade on a rope made of date trees outside the house. At the same time, they cleaned up and dealt with the trash.

Shen Ping looked at the narrow house and thought to himself.

Now that the poison in his body had been removed, although he no longer needed to accumulate spirit stones to buy the Poison Dispelling Pill, he had to buy a mid-grade dharma weapon after his cultivation broke through to the middle stage. The price of such an item was not low.

Attack and defense, especially defense, could not be skipped. This was a matter of safety. In the past, he had no money and his cultivation was insufficient, so he could only make do. However, he had to make arrangements now.

The other was the living environment.

Red Willow Alley was not safe. He had already gone out very few times, but there were times when he had no choice but to go out. To avoid danger, moving to the market was the only way.

However, the streets and alleys of the market were already full. So he could only wait. Cultivators fought for their lives with the heavens. They were in danger every day. Perhaps it wouldn't be long before there were empty houses in the market.

If there really wasn't any, then he had no choice but to consider co-renting the small courtyard that Shopkeeper Chen mentioned.

"In the future, my expenses will increase. My family background is still too poor. First, I'll use up all the mid-grade talismans in my hands. Next, I'll try to make high-grade talismans."

Shen Ping did not buy high-grade talisman materials last time. Firstly, he did not have enough spirit stones. Secondly, he was worried that he did not have enough experience in the Dao of Talismans and the success rate of making them would be low, causing the materials to be wasted.

After developing a plan, he got busy again. After so many years of cultivation, he had long developed a busy habit. Even though he had just broken through, he was unwilling to idle and enjoy a moment of time.

...

Early August.

The temperature gradually rose.

Red Willow Alley was scorching under the scorching sun, and it was filled with an unpleasant smell. The growth of mosquitoes in the streets caused low-level talismans like Cleaning Talismans and Insect Repelling Talismans to sell.

In the past, Shen Ping would accumulate his wealth during this season, but this year, he did not join in the fun.

On this day, the Golden Sun Sect's large flying ship once again stopped at the edge of the market. Another group of cultivators arrived. The prices of houses in Red Willow Alley did not change, but the prices in the various streets and alleys of the market rose. Even so, there were no idle houses for rent.

Under the circumstances of being overcrowded, the Golden Sun Sect announced that they would expand the market and open up an area in the east to build a medium-sized courtyard.

As soon as this news was released, many cultivators rushed to the outer sect's Deacon Hall of the market to ask about the specifics. When Yu Yan returned from the market and saw Shen Ping outside the house, she sighed repeatedly. "I can't afford it, I can't afford it!"

Shen Ping's expression changed as he asked, "Did Fellow Daoist Yu go to the Deacon Hall?"

Yu Yan nodded. "This time, the Golden Sun Sect is going to build three hundred medium-sized courtyards in the east. Each courtyard has six houses, divided into two floors. You can rent them individually or share them."

The corner of Shen Ping's mouth twitched. The Golden Sun Sect was really getting better at doing business.

However, there were indeed too many cultivators in the marketplace. It was said that a portion of the cultivators had moved out of the marketplace and moved to another marketplace near the edge of Cloud Mountain Swamp. That marketplace was established by a cultivation clan under the jurisdiction of the Golden Sun Sect last year. In terms of strength and safety, it was far inferior to Cloud Mountain Market.

"What about the price?"

"Fifteen medium-grade spirit stones!"

Shen Ping smiled and said, "This price is not bad. If we share a house—"

Before he could finish speaking, Yu Yan interrupted, "What are you thinking about? It costs 15 mid-grade spirit stones to rent a single room in the small courtyard!"

Shen Ping almost blurted out, "What? A single room? This is too expensive!"

The courtyard where Late-stage Qi Refinement Level-8 and Foundation Establishment cultivators lived only cost 20 spirit stones a year. In the end, this medium-sized courtyard cost 15 spirit stones a room.

It was no different from snatching.

One had to know that his annual net profit was only about 40 mid-grade spirit stones.

This was also because his success rate in making talismans was very high and the market was good. For a rogue cultivator like Yu Yan, who was at the fifth level of Qi Refinement, just by relying on hunting demon beast materials and other income every year, she could at most earn 20 mid-grade spirit stones. Of course, if she was a robber cultivator, the income would be high, but it was also very dangerous.

"Even if it's expensive, it's still good. The deacon said that there will be a large-scale Spirit Gathering Array in the medium-sized courtyard built this time. It will also be connected to the spiritual vein of the Golden Sun Sect. Not only that, but each individual house is quite big. There will be a quiet room, a material processing room, and other small compartments inside."

Hearing this, Shen Ping fell silent. Just the fact that it was connected to the spiritual vein of the Golden Sun Sect was enough to tempt countless cultivators.

The Golden Sun Sect's branch sect was located on top of the spiritual vein in the Cloud Mountain Swamp. The spiritual energy inside was abundant, and it was not something that the market could compare to.

Spiritual veins were very important to cultivators. The higher the level of a cultivator, the more they needed a spiritual vein environment.

"Sigh, what a pity. Not only can't we afford it, but after it's built, it won't be our turn!" Yu Yan shook her head and sighed. "Many high-level cultivators are watching it now. How can us mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivators beat them?" With that, she turned around and returned to her house. She knew about Shen Ping's breakthrough a few days ago, so she only congratulated him.

"Shopkeeper Chen, that medium-sized courtyard..." Shen Ping returned to his room and sent a message to Shopkeeper Chen.

Not long after, Shopkeeper Chen replied, "Fellow Daoist Shen, I don't think it's possible. I didn't expect the Golden Sun Sect to connect the medium-sized courtyards to the

spiritual vein this time. Now, 100 of the 300 courtyards have been reserved. The rest will be provided to late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators first.

“However, it will take at least half a year to complete the construction. Fellow Daoist Shen might have a chance.”

Shen Ping’s heart sank. Previously, he had found it expensive, but in the end, he could not even rent it. “Shopkeeper Chen, please help me keep an eye on the house. If there are any empty houses, please inform me immediately.”

“No problem!”

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Chapter 15: A Not-so-Small Matter

During dinner, Shen Ping was still thinking about moving. If he could not squeeze into a medium-sized courtyard in half a year and there were no empty houses in the market, he would have to show the ability of a high-grade Talisman Master. Only then would he be qualified to rent an even more expensive single-family courtyard.

Until now, there were very few high-grade Talisman Masters in the entire market. However, when the time came, he had to hide his identity. He could not let others know about his previous situation. He could not even go to the Spring Embroidery Pavilion again.

After all, the advancement of a Talisman Master required time. No one would believe that he didn’t have any secrets since he had advanced to High Grade so quickly. Although it was safe in the market, this did not mean that he could rest easy and recklessly expose his information.

At this moment, Bai Yuying suddenly said, “Husband, today...”

“Sister Ying’er, don’t!” Wang Yun said anxiously.

Shen Ping collected his thoughts and looked at his wife and concubine in confusion. “What’s wrong?”

“Nothing.” Wang Yun picked up a piece of meat for Shen Ping. “Husband, come and try this piece of meat.”

Shen Ping looked at Wang Yun calmly. His wife immediately lowered her head and turned to Bai Yuying. "Tell me, what's the matter?"

Only then did Bai Yuying continue, "In the afternoon, Sister Yun'er and I were bathing in the Red Stone River and washing our silk scarves when the wind accidentally blew on a female cultivator senior. The other party slapped Sister Yun'er and even called her a piece of trash who could not cultivate. The scolding was really unpleasant.

"Fortunately, there was a female cultivator who visited you and persuaded her to restrain herself. Otherwise, Sister Yun'er's meridians might have been crippled. That female cultivator used to be from Red Willow Alley, but she's moved to Stonewood Alley now."

When Shen Ping heard this, he roughly understood the reason.

Stonewood Alley was two peripheral alleys north of the Red Stone River. Because it was close to the wilderness, it was much less safe. However, the price of houses in Red Willow Alley had increased. Many cultivators at the bottom of the Qi Refinement Realm could not stay there and moved there.

Wang Yun was only a mortal, but she could still stay in Red Willow Alley. Therefore, the female cultivator was jealous and used the silk scarf as an excuse to vent.

"Husband, it's all my fault for causing you trouble." Wang Yun's face was filled with apologies.

Shen Ping held his wife's soft and weak hand and looked at her side profile. As expected, there were still palm prints and bruises there. He had been too focused on moving previously and had indeed not noticed. "Yun'er, you don't have to blame yourself. It's my fault for making you suffer. In the future, you have to carry amulets with you when you go out. I'll give you a few later. Tell me when you've run out of them."

He knew what Bai Yuying meant. She did not want him to stand up for her, but she was worried that the female cultivator would find an opportunity to take revenge. Even if the other party was a cultivator at the third level of Qi Refinement, she still had methods to make Wang Yun and Bai Yuying suffer.

"Thank you, husband." Bai Yuying heaved a sigh of relief.

Wang Yun hesitated and said, "Husband, isn't it too wasteful?"

Shen Ping smiled and said, "I'm a Talisman Master. What's there to waste? Listen to me."

Although this was a small matter, it was a big matter for his wife. If it was not handled well, it might cause a huge mistake.

Therefore, in the next few days, he specially took time to accompany his wife and concubine to the Red Stone River. This action made some female cultivators envious. They all thought that wives and concubines like Wang Yun and Bai Yuying were just tools for Shen Ping, the Talisman Master, to give birth to his descendants.

In the end, they did not expect the other party to value his wife and concubine so much. Especially when they saw the several amulets on the two women's bodies, their eyes lit up. They wished he could replace them.

The amulet had already risen to 18 low-grade spirit stones. One amulet was equivalent to half a year's rent in Red Willow Alley.

When the female cultivator who attacked them found out about this, she was so frightened that she did not dare to show her face in the Red Stone River for several months. After all, Shen Ping was not only a mid-grade Talisman Master, but also a cultivator in the mid-stage of Qi Refinement.

...

Days passed. In the blink of an eye, it was mid-October. A cold wave swept over from the depths of the swamp. The temperature of the market dropped sharply.

The fragrance lingered inside the warm brocade blanket at the end of the day.

[You have dual cultivated with your wife once. You have received +2 Experience in Dao of Talisman.]

[Current wife's favorability: 100]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 4]

[Talisman Master: Level One High-grade (6,012/50,000)]

...

[You have dual cultivated with your Dao Companion once. You have obtained a metal-element spiritual root aptitude +2, wood-element spiritual root aptitude +2.]

[Current Dao Companion's favorability: 90]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 3]

[Metal Spiritual Root: Mid-grade (4,052/10,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: Mid-grade (3,946/10,000)]

He looked at the flashing words on the virtual interface. Shen Ping sighed softly in his heart. A Talisman Master needed a lot of experience to break through to the High Grade. At the current speed of hard work every day, it would take four or five years to break through again.

He didn't care about this. After all, when a high-grade Talisman Master made a breakthrough, he would be at the second level. His cultivation had to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm before he could continue to make it, and he was very far from the Foundation Establishment Realm.

However, according to his experience in the Dao of Talismans, it was very likely the same when one's Spiritual Root reached the high-grade. Fortunately, ever since the silk scarf incident, Bai Yuying's favorability with him had increased by five points, and the bonus had doubled.

When he noticed the changes, he sighed with emotion. He had to take good care of his wife and concubine. Otherwise, if he purely treated them as tools, the favorability would definitely make him cry to death.

"I have to go to the market tomorrow!" At the thought of this, Shen Ping could not help but feel a headache.

He had to go out again! In fact, he had consumed most of the spirit rice, meat, and ingredients to replenish his Qi and blood half a month ago. However, he gritted his teeth and endured for another half a month.

But now he had to go out. Otherwise, he wouldn't even be able to withstand the Qi-sealing technique during sex.

The next day, the cold wind was bone-chilling. Drops of rain mixed with snowflakes fell. The streets and roads were covered in a thin layer of ice. Shen Ping walked out of the house and quickly walked next door while his wife and concubine were worried.

Knock, knock.

Soon, the door opened. Yu Yan's hair was disheveled, and she only had a corset robe on her. Her rising and falling outline made Shen Ping take a few more glances. "Fellow Daoist Shen? What a rare guest. He actually took the initiative to knock on my door! Why? Can't you satisfy your beautiful wife and concubine?" She leaned against the door frame and crossed her arms in front of her chest. Her smile was sarcastic.

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "Fellow Daoist Yu, don't misunderstand. I'm preparing to go to the market. Is Fellow Daoist Yu going out today?"

When Yu Yan heard this, she immediately lost her motivation. She turned around and entered the house. "Wait outside. With your guts, you won't be able to find another person in the entire Cloud Mountain Parlour!"

Shen Ping cupped his hands, "Thank you, Fellow Daoist Yu!"

Yu Yan usually wouldn't go out in today's slightly bad weather. She only agreed because of her neighbors. After waiting for ten minutes, Yu Yan finished dressing up, her plain-colored robe made her face look more murderous and cold.

"Let's go!"

The two of them walked quickly towards the market.

Although Yu Yan was only at the fifth level of Qi Refinement, she had fought for many years and her battle experience was not something Shen Ping could compare to. This kind of cultivator often had a unique temperament. Almost everyone could tell at a glance.

As for robber cultivators, they would usually only take action when their opponent's cultivation realm was two levels lower than their own or when their numbers were three times higher than their prey.

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Chapter 16: Light at the Dark Side

As soon as they stepped onto the main road, Shen Ping's expression visibly relaxed. Yu Yan was filled with disdain. "Fellow Daoist Shen, you're at the mid-stage of Qi Refinement, not the low-level cultivator from before." Without waiting for Shen Ping to speak, she said, "Alright, I'll go shopping for a while. Hurry up."

He looked at Yu Yan's back. He buried his gratitude in his heart.

In the market.

Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

When Shopkeeper Chen saw Shen Ping, he greeted him with a smile. After sensing his aura, his eyes lit up. "Congratulations on your breakthrough, Fellow Daoist Shen. You're one step closer to the Great Dao!"

As expected of a businessman, he knew how to compliment.

“Fifty amulets, thirty fire talismans, ten freezing talismans... As for the talisman materials, I want less this time. Give me eighty sets of amulet materials, forty sets of fire talismans materials, twenty sets of freezing talismans materials, and ten sets of earth-trap talismans materials.” Shen Ping said skillfully.

Shopkeeper Chen calculated in his heart and smiled as he took out 10 mid-grade spirit stones from the counter and handed them to Shen Ping. Then, he said, “Fellow Daoist Shen, more than half of the medium-sized courtyards on the east side of the market have been built. There are more than 200 reserved houses, and they all rely on their own connections. If Fellow Daoist Shen really wants to rent them, there’s a chance.”

Shen Ping was shocked. How long has it been? So many houses had been reserved! Those who could make reservations were definitely of a higher status than him, so he asked, “What opportunity?”

Shopkeeper Chen said, “Recently, there’s an inner disciple from the Golden Sun Sect who has just joined the sect. He plans to go to the Cloudy Mountain Swamp to do a mission and needs help. He’s still lacking a few helpers. If Fellow Daoist Shen can take the opportunity to build a good relationship with him, it won’t be difficult to get a spot.”

Shen Ping shook his head without hesitation. “Shopkeeper Chen, I don’t like to take risks.”

It was obvious that this kind of mission was to find cannon fodder. If he went, he wouldn’t be able to come back.

When Shopkeeper Chen saw this, he did not say anything else. He naturally knew that such an opportunity was extremely dangerous, but at the same time, the benefits were also great. As long as he could establish a relationship with the Golden Sun Sect’s inner disciples and give them some financial support when they were weak, the returns would be generous once he reached Foundation Establishment in the future.

He left the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

Shen Ping went to the other shops one after another and sold the remaining talismans. Shopkeeper Chen did not harm him because he knew that it was indeed an opportunity for ambitious cultivators who were not afraid of death.

Unfortunately, he was not the ambitious type and was even more afraid of death.

“22 spirit stones...” He looked at the storage bag’s savings. He walked towards the True Treasure Pavilion. This amount of spirit stones seemed to be a lot, but he could not buy many high-grade talisman materials. The materials for the most common Golden Light

Talisman cost one medium-grade spirit stone, and the upgraded version of the amulet, Spirit Protection Talisman, cost two medium-grade spirit stones.

This was also the reason why there were so few high-grade Talisman Masters.

He couldn't afford to spend it.

Talisman masters and alchemists were both fed with materials. Therefore, the number of cultivators decreased drastically when they reached the high-grade level. Only cultivation families could afford to nurture them.

Shen Ping bought five sets of materials for the Spirit Protection Talisman and seven sets of materials for the Golden Light Talisman. He only had five mid-grade spirit stones left.

"One spends faster when they earn more!" He sighed and continued to buy spirit rice and other daily necessities. He also bought some new clothes for his wife and concubine, as well as a more private undergarment and cotton-colored silk scarf.

He returned to the main road outside the market. There were only 132 low-grade spirit stones left in the storage bag.

"Are you done?" Yu Yan was shopping at a nearby stall when she noticed Shen Ping and walked over. Shen Ping smiled and handed over two amulets. "Tsk tsk, how rich." Yu Yan put it into her storage bag without hesitation. "If there's such a good thing in the future, try to call me!"

The price of these two amulets cost close to a year's worth of rent. Even if she went out and formed a team, she might not be able to earn so much money.

Shen Ping had indeed given her too much, but this concerned his own life. He would rather spend more than make the other party unhappy. They returned to Red Willow Alley safely.

The dull and fulfilling life continued.

However, Shen Ping was not in a hurry to make high-grade talismans. Instead, while making mid-grade talismans, he continued to accumulate and improve his comprehension of the Dao of Talismans through sex with his wife.

In the blink of an eye, it was the Wei Kingdom's Lantern Festival. There was no festive atmosphere in the Cloud Mountain Market.

However, as the construction of the medium-sized courtyard in the east was gradually completed, the entire market was filled with restlessness. Those with connections walked around frequently, wanting to obtain the remaining 600 spots.

Actually, if it was last year, this quota could be given to Shen Ping. At that time, there were not many high-level cultivators in the market. However, in the second half of this year, five consecutive batches of cultivators were transported from the main sect, causing the number of high-level cultivators to skyrocket. Although most of them were at the seventh or eighth level of Qi Refinement, these cultivators still took away 200 small courtyards.

“Should I ask Shopkeeper Chen to see if he can use his connections to fight for a spot?” Shen Ping was conflicted. In the end, he gave up.

Strictly speaking, he did not have a deep relationship with Shopkeeper Chen. He could not overestimate his status and value. Moreover, Shopkeeper Chen had given him a chance last time.

“Focus on creating talismans. When the success rate of high-grade talismans increases, my safety will also increase greatly.” He calmed himself down and continued to craft talismans.

The mid-grade talisman materials had been used up last month, but he still endured it and did not move. Now that his experience in the Dao of Talisman was close to 10,000, it should not be a problem to make the Golden Light Talisman and the Spirit Protection Talisman.

Knock, knock.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, it’s me!” Yu Yan’s voice sounded.

He opened the door, and the cold wind blew in. Snowflakes fluttered. “Get in the house.” Shen Ping hurriedly said.

The moment Yu Yan walked in, she noticed Wang Yun and Bai Yuying. The two of them were cultivating when they had nothing to do. Although the house was small, it was not a problem for them to meditate and absorb it.

“Greetings, Senior Yu!” The two women bowed respectfully.

Yu Yan nodded and went straight to the point. “Fellow Daoist Shen, I have a spot here. Do you want to rent it together?”

Shen Ping was stunned for a moment before he said happily, “Fellow Daoist Yu, are you talking about the quota for the medium-sized courtyard?” He was worried about this matter.

Yu Yan smiled and said, “That’s right. Personally, it’s very difficult for me to bear the rental fee of 15 mid-grade spirit stones. The separate house in the small courtyard is

divided into two floors. If we co-rent, I'll stay below while you and your wife and concubine will stay above. The privacy is a little lacking, but it's safe."

Shen Ping bowed and said, "Thank you for taking care of me, Fellow Daoist Yu. Don't worry, how about we settle the rent on June 4th?"

Yu Yan smiled and said, "Sure." She could still afford six mid-grade spirit stones a year.

When Wang Yun and Bai Yuying heard this, they could not hide their excitement. After all, moving to the market meant that they didn't have to worry about safety anymore. As long as the Golden Sun Sect did not fall.

Their husband could earn money. They could live for decades without any problems.

"In three months, the market's Deacon Hall will officially sell the small courtyard. Don't forget." With that, Yu Yan turned around and left.

As soon as she left, Wang Yun said happily, "That's great, husband!"

Shen Ping was in a good mood. He directly walked into the cubicle to pray for blessings. Then, he dipped the blood ink into the talisman paper and drew spirit runes. There were more than 120 spirit runes in the Golden Light Talisman. There was no pause in between. He had to focus all his attention on it.

Without a mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivation, it was very difficult to support such mental exhaustion. He was immersed in the crafting of talismans. The outline of the spirit brush was as smooth as flowing water. It only took him twenty minutes to successfully make it.

"Golden Light Talisman, succeeded in making a high-grade talisman!"

Double happiness was at the door. Shen Ping was in a very good mood. After resting for a while and recovering his mental state, he walked out of the cubicle and carried his wife and concubine to the bed.

The bed quickly swayed.

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Chapter 17: Change It

Half a month later, all 12 sets of high-grade talisman materials were used up. Among them, only one of the Spirit Protection Talisman had succeeded. Two of the easier Golden Light Talismans were successfully made. The remaining materials were all scrapped.

This meant that Shen Ping had wasted 13 mid-grade spirit stones on his first attempt at making a high-grade talisman. Among the high-grade Talisman Masters, this was already a very good situation.

"I'm going out again, but the days of being on tenterhooks will soon end."

Shen Ping looked forward to his beautiful life after moving to the market. Then, he placed the three high-grade talismans in his storage bag and instructed his wife and concubine to be careful. He left the house and went next door.

"Fellow Daoist Yu, it's me." He didn't knock, he just called out softly.

"One moment." After a while, the door of the house opened. A refreshing fragrance wafted over.

Shen Ping's heart couldn't help but ripple.

Yu Yan seemed to have just finished taking a bath. Her black hair was still wet, and one could clearly see the tiny blood vessels and tendons on her white and slightly red skin. They were like spider webs that extended downwards. Some led to gullies, while others climbed the pearl-shaped mountain peaks.

"You're going out?" She asked lazily.

"Yes."

In such a harsh season, Fellow Daoist Yu would only leave the house for the market after five to six days, sometimes, ten days to half a month. Shen Ping had only come to visit because Yu Yan was resting today.

"Wait here." Yu Yan could not be bothered to mock her timid neighbor. After returning to her room to pack up, she went out fully armed.

On the way.

From the corner of his eye, Shen Ping noticed that the widow's robe beside him was different from the last time. Although it was still at the mid-grade, there were more than ten spiritual runes on the surface of the robe. This meant that the function of this robe had increased.

Ordinary robes only had the effect of avoiding dust. The mid-grade robe added a Light Body Array that could increase the speed of one's movement technique. On the other hand, a robe of a higher grade also had defensive spirit gathering functions.

"Fellow Daoist Yu, have you made a fortune recently?" He asked curiously.

Yu Yan glanced at Shen Ping and said casually, "I joined a relatively strong team a while ago and made a small profit."

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "Congratulations."

"Alright, stop flattering me. Hurry up and do your work. I'm still waiting to go back and take a hot bath. I'm getting old, so I have to take care of my face and protect myself. Otherwise, I can't find someone to rely on when I don't want to work hard in the future." Yu Yan said meaningfully.

Shen Ping did not dare to speak. They arrived at the marketplace safely. He walked straight to the True Treasure Pavilion. High-grade talismans were items that attracted more attention. Only shops like the True Treasure Pavilion that had a good reputation and a strong background would be safe.

At the very least, it rarely aroused greed. Not to mention high-grade talismans, even if it was a talisman treasure, the True Treasure Pavilion would not be tempted.

Two Golden Light Talismans cost 52 medium-grade spirit stones. The Spirit Protection Talisman was sold for 43 medium-grade spirit stones.

The profits were high.

However, most high-grade Talisman Masters could only make one out of ten sets of materials under normal circumstances. If they were unlucky, they might not even be able to earn back the cost of the materials.

If he wanted to become proficient and increase the success rate, he would have to waste a lot of materials in the early stages.

Shen Ping's rapid enhancement in the experience in the Dao of Talismans was equivalent to the painstaking work of other Talisman Masters who had just broken through to High Grade Talisman Master for more than ten years. Not only did it save a lot of time, but it also saved a lot of expense.

"I need to buy 25 sets of Spirit Protection Talisman materials and 30 sets of Golden Light Talisman materials."

"Alright, please wait a moment."

The cultivation and appearance of the female cultivators hired by the True Treasure Pavilion were indeed very good. It could make people feel like they were bathing in the spring breeze.

A moment later, Shen Ping's storage bag had an extra 15 mid-grade spirit stones after leaving the True Treasure Pavilion. He looked at the bustling main road. He was determined. "Soon, I'll be a regular here."

...

Next, he sold the mid-grade talismans he had made in the Spring Embroidery Pavilion and bought the daily necessities with ease. He returned in less than two hours. As usual, he handed Yu Yan two amulets.

The other party winked at Shen Ping in satisfaction and said with a smile, "If you went out a few more times, I wouldn't have to risk my life in the Cloud Mountain Swamp."

Shen Ping smiled and did not reply. He knew that Yu Yan was only joking.

Most cultivators risked their lives not to enjoy themselves, but to improve themselves, increase their cultivation, and pursue immortality. Even the Golden Sun Sect's disciples with Heavenly Spirit Root could not stay in the cave dwelling to cultivate.

For someone like him who made talismans, sold them, and stayed at home to cultivate, he basically cut himself off from Foundation Establishment and longevity.

...

Late at night, Shen Ping, who had been busy all day, got up and did a chest expansion gesture. He walked out of the cubicle. Wang Yun, who had long crawled into the blanket, straightened her waist and asked shyly, "Husband, does this pink mandarin duck dudou I'm wearing look good?"

Shen Ping had yet to reply when Bai Yuying wrapped her arms around Wang Yun's waist from behind and rested her chin on her shoulder. She winked and said, "Sister Yun'er, you can't show the full charm of this dudou. If it were anyone else, I'm sure they would be able to charm your husband."

The two girls immediately snickered.

"Good, you actually learned to tease your husband. Looks like I have to punish you tonight! Serve by the Family Law!" As Shen Ping pounced over, his wife and concubine screamed like deers.

Sex would always make one linger. No wonder the king didn't attend the morning court assembly.

Time passed. In the blink of an eye, it was time for the market to sell medium-sized courtyards. Early in the morning, the sky was still dark. Shen Ping took a rare bath and changed his clothes. His wife and concubine also woke up early to clean the house. When their husband returned this time, they would leave this place.

He carefully tidied his body, and went to the cubicle. Looking at the narrow space that could only accommodate one person, he stood silently. This talisman making room carried too many difficult memories.

Shen Ping wanted to end his life here several times. But in the end, he gritted his teeth and endured it. A moment later, he pushed open the door and left while his wife and concubine were filled with anticipation.

Yu Yan also woke up early today and dressed up carefully. Shen Ping could not help but be stunned when he saw her. He thought of the evil makeup technique in his previous life. It was truly earth-shattering.

“What? Don’t you recognize me?” Fine. These words pulled Shen Ping back from his thoughts. Yu Yan smiled and said, “Let’s go. There are many people today.”

The two of them left quickly. They arrived at the market’s Deacon Hall. A large number of cultivators lined up in a long line to settle the rental procedures.

“Sister Yu Yan. Hehe, I knew you would come today.”

When they were lining up, a female cultivator with a beauty mark at the corner of her eye walked over.

Yu Yan frowned slightly, “Fellow Daoist Qi, you are also here.”

The female cultivator with the beauty mark smiled like a flower and said, “Although I didn’t get a spot, it doesn’t stop me from coming here to watch the fun. Yo, who is this beside you?”

Shen Ping did not say anything. He could tell that the two of them seemed to be at odds.

“Don’t tell me he is the partner you’re co-renting with. Sister Yu Yan, I’ve begged you for so long, but you didn’t agree to share a house with me. It turns out that you have a new Dao companion!” The female cultivator with the beauty mark’s voice was not low. It attracted the attention of many cultivators in the queue.

Not far away, several cultivators also looked over and quickly walked over.

“Daoist Gao!” Yu Yan saw the leader and hurriedly greeted him.

The female cultivator with the beauty mark said gently, "Brother Gao, Sister Yu Yan brought her dao companion to rent a house today."

Yu Yan did not explain.

Fellow Daoist Gao glanced at Shen Ping indifferently. "I'm at the fourth level of Qi Refinement. Change it. You can share the room with Qi Min."

Yu Yan's expression immediately turned ugly.

Shen Ping was even more stunned as he stood rooted to the ground.

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Chapter 18: Another Spring

The cultivation world had always been a place where the strong preyed on the weak. It was like walking on thin ice for twenty years. Shen Ping deeply understood this point. Therefore, unless it was necessary, he would never go out. He had to avoid trouble as much as possible. And now, he thought that he was going to move away from the precarious days.

In the end, his chance was gone with just one sentence from this late-stage Qi Refinement cultivator with a powerful aura. Reality once again taught him a cruel lesson.

Phew.

Shen Ping took a deep breath and hurriedly bowed. "Senior Gao, I've troubled you. I'm not Fellow Daoist Yu's Dao Companion. Please forgive me." After saying that, he bowed and took a few steps back before slowly turning around and leaving.

Regardless of the relationship between Yu Yan and this Fellow Daoist Gao, under such circumstances, he could not make things difficult for Yu Yan. The other party gave him a chance to co-rent. It was a favor.

"At least you have some eyesight." The female cultivator with the beauty mark was overjoyed. She had waited here early in the morning to forcefully fight for a spot to collaborate.

Initially, she thought that the chances of success were very low. However, she did not expect that the usually cold Yu Yan would actually find a male cultivator to share a house with. Furthermore, his strength was so low.

This was simply a chance given to her by the heavens.

...

Shen Ping quickly walked away from the Deacon Hall. He came to a restaurant in the market and sat by the window, asking for a glass of wine. He thought of his wife and concubine at home. He felt guilty. He would disappoint his wife and concubine this time. Those who were weak could only give in. There was no other way. The outcome of a hot-blooded resistance was a corpse.

"Fellow Daoist Yu is only at the intermediate stage of Qi Refinement. Even if her combat strength is stronger, how can she obtain a spot in the medium-sized courtyard of the market? I was careless. I didn't think of that in my surprise. And it led to today's scene." He took a sip of wine to calm his churning blood.

Compromise and concession are always uncomfortable. Even if he was used to this situation, it did not mean that he did not react at all. He sat there for four hours. Shen Ping guessed that no one would be following him, so he stood up.

"Being strong is the foundation." He looked at the empty glass as he said slowly and left quickly.

Half an hour later, Shen Ping arrived at the True Treasure Pavilion. Although his chance to stay in a medium-sized courtyard was gone, he still had to sell the talismans. After all, it was not easy to go out.

In these three months, he had made a total of five Spirit Protection Talisman and seven Golden Light Talismans. The success rate was not bad. He left behind a Spirit Protection Talisman and a Golden Light Talisman to protect himself. He sold the rest and bought twice as many materials as he had last time.

"Fellow Daoist, here are your spirit stones. There are a total of 168 mid-grade spirit stones."

Shen Ping looked at the translucent high-grade spirit stone and a smile gradually appeared on his face. This was not the first time he had seen a high-grade spirit stone. But this was the first time he had it. He carefully placed such a large amount of spirit stones in his storage bag.

Just as he was about to leave, the female cultivator from the True Treasure Pavilion stopped him and said with a sweet smile, "Fellow Daoist, are you a high-grade Talisman Master?"

Shen Ping hesitated for a moment before nodding slowly. "Yes."

"It's like this. Our True Treasure Pavilion has 120 slots for a medium-sized courtyard in the east, and they're all in good locations. If you're willing to cooperate with our True Treasure Pavilion in depth, you can obtain a slot for free. Of course, if you already have a spot, you can also transfer this spot to other cultivators. It's still effective."

Hearing this, his body jerked. Suppressing the excitement that kept surging in his heart, he asked in a low voice, "How are we going to cooperate in depth?" He could not jump into some pits, he kept hinting to himself.

The female cultivator in front of him still smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist only needs to make three high-grade talismans every month and sell them to our True Treasure Pavilion. Moreover, you don't have to sell them every month. You just have to meet the standards within the year."

Shen Ping immediately calculated in his heart. He had successfully made twelve high-grade talismans in the past three months. On average, he could make four per month. No matter how bad his condition was, it was not difficult for him to reach the standard in a year.

Not to mention, his Dao of Talisman was constantly improving, and his success rate would be higher and higher in the future.

"Calm down!"

Although he really wanted to agree, he suppressed his impulse and continued to ask, "With your esteemed building's strength, these 120 spots should have been given away long ago."

The female cultivator explained, "Our True Treasure Pavilion only gifted cultivators in the Foundation Establishment Realm, high-grade alchemists, Talisman Masters, Artifact Masters, Array Masters, and so on. However, those who can reach this level could easily obtain the spots. Although many of them were transferred, because they could only transfer one spot, they didn't care. Until now, half of the spots haven't been given out."

Shen Ping came to a realization.

That's true.

In the entire market, there were very few people like him who had reached the high-grade talisman master level at the mid-stage of Qi Refinement. Most of them were above the eighth level of Qi Refinement before they could reach the high-grade alchemist, talisman master, and so on.

There were even Foundation Establishment Cultivators. As for such cultivators, their statuses were not low to begin with, and they had a wide network. They lived in a small courtyard with better conditions.

If they were to transfer a quota, they would usually transfer it to their friends, relatives, and so on. However, given their status, their friends were all high-level cultivators. Even if they were relatives, they could arrange for them to stay in the small courtyard or send them to the Golden Sun Sect as much as possible.

To be honest, a medium-sized courtyard on the east side was really not worthy of their attention.

“If Fellow Daoist is interested, you can sign a simple contract with my True Treasure Pavilion now.”

Shen Ping was still worried. “What will happen if I don’t meet the requirements?”

The female cultivator patiently said, “If you don’t meet the requirements, you won’t be able to enter the True Treasure Pavilion to buy or sell all items. Of course, this is only temporary. After you recover, you can also enter again.”

Upon hearing this, he heaved a sigh of relief and said slowly, “I agree.”

The female cultivator from the True Treasure Pavilion smiled. Every time she recruited a top-grade Talisman Master, her commission was very generous. “Fellow Daoist, please wait a moment!”

Not long after, the female cultivator appeared again, but a middle-aged cultivator followed behind her. Shen Ping swept his gaze over it and immediately felt a thick aura blocking his divine sense like a mountain. A perfected late-stage Qi Refinement cultivator, or even a Foundation Establishment cultivator!

The middle-aged cultivator smiled warmly and said, “I’m the shopkeeper here. It’s our honor that you’re willing to cooperate with our True Treasure Pavilion.”

Shen Ping hurriedly said, “Shopkeeper, you’re too kind.”

Now, he more or less understood why Shopkeeper Chen of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion was so enthusiastic. It turned out that it was all because of the True Treasure Pavilion. The shopkeeper of the True Treasure Pavilion did not delay and took out a special piece of paper. It was written with what was said.

Shen Ping took a look. There was no mistake. This was a contract paper. After signing the contract, it would lock onto a person’s aura, but it was only limited to a hundred meters.

Seeing this, he felt completely at ease and quickly signed as Fellow Daoist Shen. There was no need for his real name. Even a casual stroke was enough. There were not many restrictions.

After signing the contract, the shopkeeper took out a wooden tablet with the words “Golden Sun Sect” engraved on it. “Fellow Daoist, with this wooden token, you can choose any house in the medium-sized courtyard and give it to other cultivators.”

Shen Ping received the wooden token, and the gloominess in his heart was swept away.

If you find any errors (broken links, non-standard content, etc..), Please let us know via our discord so we can fix it as soon as possible.

Chapter 19: Choice

He walked out of the True Treasure Pavilion. Shen Ping felt relaxed and wanted to hum a tune, but when he saw the surrounding cultivators, he resisted the urge to blurt it out. He flicked his sleeves expressionlessly and took a big step forward.

“Let’s go home. The precarious days are finally coming to an end.” He could not suppress the excitement in his eyes.

On the way back, the cold wind blew on his face, and this excitement slowly calmed down. He could not help but fall into deep thought.

“The last time I came to sell high-level talismans, I wasn’t invited. Perhaps it’s related to the number of talismans I sold. This time, I sold ten of the twelve talismans. So it should have reached their bottom line’s requirement of three talismans per month.

“After all, it’s impossible for every high-grade talisman master to sell all the talismans they make. Now that I think about it, it shouldn’t be a coincidence. However, isn’t the True Treasure Pavilion worried that some cultivators will take the opportunity to use high-grade talismans to swindle the quota for the small courtyard?”

This was what he thought.

But Shen Ping could not help but laugh. He was thinking too much. The True Treasure Pavilion was the largest shop in the Cloud Mountain Market. As long as cultivators wanted to work hard to improve, it was impossible for them not to interact with the True Treasure Pavilion. If they used high-grade talismans to cheat the quota and failed to reach the conditions in the contract, they would undoubtedly commit suicide.

Moreover, if he could sell ten high-level talismans, the spirit stones he obtained could easily rent a small courtyard in the market.

After much deliberation, he was completely relieved when he did not find out the danger of the contract. If he belatedly discovered that there was a trace of danger, no matter how tempting the quota for the medium-sized courtyard was, he would definitely not go.

He passed by the Deacon Hall on the side of the main road of the market. There were still many cultivators queuing up.

Shen Ping glanced around and saw that Yu Yan was not inside. He could not help but sigh. "She should have finished the procedures. In a while, when the restrictions on the medium-sized house are released, she can move in. It will be difficult to see her again in the future."

The 300 small courtyards were extremely wide. Even if they were lucky enough to become neighbors, they would still see each other frequently like before. He turned his gaze back.

He quickened his pace. Now that he had the Spirit Protection Talisman, Golden Light Talisman, and many mid-grade talismans on him, he was confident that he could escape quickly even if he encountered a robber cultivator.

As long as the cultivator didn't kill him in a few breaths, there wouldn't be much risk. After all, robber cultivators did not want to attract too much attention. Fast, accurate, and ruthless were the truths they pursued. If they fell into a swamp then the chances of them dying would increase.

"Fellow Daoist Shen, you haven't returned yet?"

As soon as he got off the main road and stepped onto the dirt road, a familiar voice sounded in his ears. Shen Ping did not need to turn around to know that it was Yu Yan.

Indeed, waves of fragrance entered his nose. Soon, he saw the ripples on the front of the robe. He hurriedly retracted his gaze. He asked in surprise, "Fellow Daoist Yu, you didn't go back either?"

Yu Yan smiled and said, "Of course I'm waiting for a certain fellow Daoist. I can't waste the two amulets."

It turned out that she was thinking about the amulets. The trace of gratitude that surged out of Shen Ping's heart instantly vanished. He took out the amulets from his storage bag and handed it over.

"Let's go!" With Yu Yan, a fellow Daoist who often went out to fight, protecting him, Shen Ping felt much more relaxed.

On the way, Yu Yan asked casually, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you stayed in the market for a long time this time. I thought you had gone back in the morning."

Shen Ping opened his mouth and said, "I saw a senior and was delayed."

The conversation stopped. When they returned to Red Willow Alley, it was already evening. The sky darkened. There was no one in the alley. Only the sound of the wind could be heard. In April, there was always a strong wind at night. Sometimes, it could hide the darkness. He walked to the door of his house.

Yu Yan suddenly said, "Fellow Daoist Shen, if you go out in the future, you can still call me."

Shen Ping was stunned on the spot. When he came back to his senses, Yu Yan had already returned to her room. He was silent for a while. Then, he looked at the old house next door in a daze with a complicated expression.

To cultivators, nothing was more important than safety. A medium-sized courtyard house could provide the greatest safety for cultivators.

Yu Yan was only at the intermediate stage of Qi Refinement. No matter what the reason was, it was irrational to give up this kind of safety. Shen Ping really wanted to rush over to open the door and ask. But in the end, he suppressed this thought. Every cultivator had their own considerations.

Since Yu Yan chose to give up, she must have thought about it carefully. Perhaps it was because of him. Perhaps it was because of something else. However, the outcome was already like this. There was no point in investigating further.

Moreover, he still had the Golden Sun Sect's wooden token in his storage bag.

Thinking of this, Shen Ping smiled and pushed open the door.

...

Late at night, the wind howled outside. The brocade blanket was filled with spring light.

[You have dual cultivated with your wife once. You have received +2 Experience in Dao of Talisman.]

[Current wife's favorability: 100]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 4]

[Talisman Master: Level One High-grade (11,856/50,000)]

...

[You have dual cultivated with your Dao Companion once. You have obtained a metal-element spiritual root aptitude +2, wood-element spiritual root aptitude +2.]

[Current Dao Companion's favorability: 90]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 3]

[Metal Spiritual Root: Mod-grade (8,445/10,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: Mid-grade (8,337/10,000)]

He looked at the increase in his attribute panel.

Shen Ping's heart was warm. There was still a long time before he could improve his Dao of Talismans. However, his spiritual root would break through in at most two months and advance to a high-grade spiritual root.

During this period of time, he could clearly sense the speed at which the mid-grade spiritual root meditated and cultivated every day. Even though he had four types of impure spiritual roots, the transformation of his metal and wood spiritual roots allowed his spiritual energy to steadily increase. According to his estimation, without other medicinal pills, natural treasures, and other supplementary resources, relying on this kind of meditation and cultivation, he would be able to break through to the fifth level of Qi Refinement in more than ten years.

If he swallowed some medicinal pills in the middle, he would probably only need five to six years to break through.

"I wonder how fast the cultivation speed of a high-grade spiritual root will be?" He couldn't help but look forward to it.

At this moment, Bai Yuying, who was on the left, moved a little and asked carefully, "Husband, did everything go well today?"

Shen Ping immediately laughed. After he returned, his wife and concubine endured it and did not ask about the procedures in the market today. They were worried that something would happen and their hopes would be destroyed.

But they couldn't hold it in anymore.

Hearing the laughter, Wang Yun opened her eyes and turned around like a little rabbit. Her eyes flickered with surprise. "Husband, you're smiling. Everything must have gone smoothly, right?"

Shen Ping lowered his head and kissed her cheek. "Get ready. In a few days, we'll officially move to the market!"

There was a wooden token given by the True Treasure Pavilion. He believed that there would be no more accidents this time. His wife and concubine were overjoyed.

Without waiting for Junior Shen Ping to recover, they pressed down on him. That night, the two women used all their experiences that they secretly learnt. Even though Shen Ping had broken through to the intermediate stage of Qi Refinement, he still felt a little pain in his waist from the nourishing medicinal cuisine every day.

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Chapter 20: Bad News

He rested for a full five days before Shen Ping walked out of the house again.

The warm morning sunlight was a little dazzling. He looked at the date tree in front of the door and smelled the fragrance of date flowers. However, before he could immerse himself in it, the familiar fragrance of bath water sprinkled on the street.

"Fellow Daoist Yu, what kind of ingredients are the flower petals used for your bath mixed with? It's so dense even though I'm in the upwind!" He asked with a smile. After being neighbors for so many years, this was the first time he had asked.

Yu Yan was stunned for a moment. Then, she put her hands on her waist and twisted her body. "Oh, you've become bold today. Do you want to come into my room? There's still half a bucket inside. You can smell it properly."

Shen Ping immediately stopped bickering with the widow. He had never won before. After all, the other party had always acted without speaking. If he didn't dare to use real bullets, he wouldn't have enough confidence.

Yu Yan pursed her lips. She knew that this middle-aged old neighbor's firepower was not good. She was about to return to the house when Shen Ping asked, "Fellow Daoist Yu, are you free?"

"Yes." Yu Yan replied, "Why? Are you going to the market? Fellow Daoist Shen, there's something wrong with you. It's only been five days."

She could not help but size Shen Ping up. She wondered if he had taken the wrong medicine. Shen Ping said awkwardly, "Fellow Daoist Yu, I'm going to the market to do something. The Deacon Hall will finish the procedures in two days. If I don't go now, it'll be too late."

Yu Yan did not react for a moment. It was only when Shen Ping asked her to prepare and go through the procedures together that her eyes widened. "Fellow Daoist Shen, you-you have a spot?"

Shen Ping nodded. "Didn't I say that I met an elder last time, so I shamelessly asked for a spot."

Yu Yan asked suspiciously, "Really?"

"I don't have to lie to you about this. Hurry up and prepare. If we hurry up, we can still come back for lunch. There shouldn't be many cultivators who will go through the procedures these few days."

Yu Yan suddenly laughed and her body trembled. "Not bad, Fellow Daoist Shen. You're already middle-aged, but I didn't expect you to become more promising. Wait for me. I'll do it immediately!"

In less than five minutes, Yu Yan finished dressing up. She changed into her robe and went out again. "Co-rent. Sixty-forty. I'll take sixty, you take forty." She smiled.

Shen Ping looked into her eyes and did not doubt that if he still followed the previous rental agreement, the other party would definitely close the door tightly. "Sure."

Yu Yan smiled brightly. "Let's go."

The two of them arrived at the Deacon Hall in the market and did not say anything halfway. There were not many cultivators at the entrance of the hall. There were only a dozen of them. He didn't have to wait long.

Shen Ping walked in.

Yu Yan waited at the side. Her tense nerves relaxed, and her eyes flashed with surprise. She didn't expect her neighbor, Fellow Daoist Shen, who rarely went out, to really get a spot in a medium-sized courtyard.

One had to know that she had risked her life to join that team. Even so, the quota was only given to her by others and could be taken back at any time. She could not even refute a word.

“Is there really such a thing as bringing fortune to the husband?” She subconsciously thought of Shen Ping’s situation. It seemed that ever since he married and took a concubine, his life had been getting better and better.

Now, he even knew a senior who could give him a spot.

...

In the hall of the Golden Sun Sect’s outer sect deacon.

“Next.” The deacon said expressionlessly. Shen Ping walked forward and handed over the Golden Sun Sect’s wooden token. The deacon glanced at it and couldn’t help but sit up straight. “The quota for the True Treasure Pavilion?”

Shen Ping nodded.

“Fellow Daoist, which courtyard do you want to rent?” The deacon’s face became a little more enthusiastic. “The medium-sized courtyard is divided into three levels: upper, middle, and lower. The upper level that is connected to the spiritual vein is better. There is a small spirit gathering array in the house, and the concentration of spiritual energy is only second to the single courtyard in the market. The lower-middle level is a little lacking.”

Shen Ping did not expect there to be such a division. He quickly thought in his mind and said, “Deacon, I choose a lower-level courtyard house.”

He was at the fourth level of Qi Refinement, so renting an upper-level house was too conspicuous. A middle-level house was actually more suitable, but considering the strength of his wife and concubine, he still chose the lower-level house.

Although the concentration of spiritual energy was a little low, as long as it did not cause unnecessary speculation, it was worth it. Moreover, he had already said that he was offered it by an elder. If he chose the upper or middle level, then this relationship was not a simple favor.

The deacon looked at Shen Ping. “Are you sure?”

“I’m sure!”

“Okay.” The deacon smiled and said, “You just have to pay 15 mid-grade spirit stones and place your handprint on this wooden sign. When you enter the house, there will be a formation to remember your aura. Other than you, no one else can enter the house. In addition, the wooden sign can only be pressed five times. If it exceeds five times, you have to come here to change a wooden token and pay more fees.”

Shen Ping understood and quickly paid a year's rent. The procedures were completed. The deacon continued, "In mid-June, the restrictions on the small courtyard will be officially lifted. At that time, Fellow Daoist can move in. Your number plate is on the wooden sign. If you lose it, you can re-register it."

Shen Ping cupped his hands. "Thank you for your reminder, Deacon." He walked out of the lobby. Seeing Yu Yan waiting beside him, he handed over the wooden token. "It's done. Put your thumbprint on it and you can enter and exit the house freely in the future."

Yu Yan readily did as she was told and said with a smile, "Tsk tsk, if I had known that Fellow Daoist Shen had such connections, I wouldn't have worked so hard. That Qi guy has been causing trouble for me many times. Last time, she even took advantage of Fellow Daoist Gao to forcefully obtain a co-rent opportunity. Hehe, when I was handling the procedures, I voluntarily gave up the opportunity and gave all the spots to that Qi guy. Fifteen mid-grade spirit stones a year!" She gritted her teeth. "She has to work hard in the future!"

Fellow Daoist Qi was also at the fifth level of Qi Refinement, but her aura was obviously not as solid as Yu Yan's. If she wanted to earn 15 mid-grade spirit stones, she had to work hard.

As for what direction she should work in, that would be up to the benevolent and wise. Of course, the other party could find another co-rent, but it might not satisfy Fellow Daoist Gao.

Yu Yan pursed her lips. "If I leave that team, my life will be difficult in the future. Fellow Daoist Shen, on account of our many years of neighbors, you have to sell me some talismans at a cheap price in the future."

Shen Ping said seriously, "Don't worry, I'll definitely pay you according to the market price of the market." After saying that, he took out two amulets. "Here, the usual."

Yu Yan snatched it over and rolled her eyes. "How petty. When we move to the market, I won't be able to get such a good job in the future." Leaving Shen Ping with a head full of jet-black hair, she walked forward in a carefree manner.

"Fellow Daoist Yu, don't walk so fast. Wait for me!"

...

In the following days, Shen Ping once again entered a dull but fulfilling life. Making talismans, dual cultivation, and meditation. He was mentally and physically exhausted every day. But he enjoyed it.

Mid-May.

From the depths of Cloud Mountain Swamp came news that the large flame gold mine had finally been completely opened up by batches of cultivators who didn't care about their lives.

The Golden Sun Sect immediately dispatched more than ten Foundation Establishment Cultivators and hundreds of disciples to the Cloudy Mountain Swamp, preparing to establish a safe route on the cleared road.

On this day, the prices of talismans, medicinal pills, and dharma artifacts in the market finally stopped rising, and they fell sharply the next day. The prices for the fire talisman directly returned to its original state.

Shen Ping sighed, not eating for two whole meals.

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