

## Eternal Life Begins with Taking a Wife - Chapter 33 -

### Chapter 33: Sudden Inspiration

Yu Yan's voice was very calm. However, Shen Ping sensed that something was wrong. This was the first time he had taken the initiative to knock on the door since he moved to Yunhe Alley.

It meant a lot. If it was any other time, Yu Yan would have teased and mocked him. How could it be like this?

As an old neighbor, Shen Ping did not dare to say that he knew Yu Yan very well, but he was still quite sure of her personality.

Knock, knock.

Therefore, he knocked on the door again. "Fellow Daoist Yu, is everything alright?"

There was a moment of silence in the main room. Then, Yu Yan's sarcastic voice came from behind the door. "Oh, you're really bold. Do you want me to open the door for you now and let you in to smell the bath water?"

Fine.

Shen Ping was completely relieved. The tone was perfect.

"It's good that you're fine. Fellow Daoist Yu, continue bathing. I'll take my leave." He turned around and left with a smile. However, after taking two steps, he stopped and said, "Oh right, I forgot to tell Fellow Daoist Yu that I'll probably use the remaining seven spirit stones for the Spirit Protection Talisman in March or April next year. Fellow Daoist Yu, you have to hurry up."

Yu Yan pursed her lips and said, "I know. Do you think I'll owe you your spirit stones?" She listened to the footsteps coming up the stairs. Yu Yan heaved a sigh of relief. She actually knew the meaning of Fellow Daoist Shen's last sentence. It was nothing more than telling her not to work too hard to repay her debt.

If it was two months ago, she would have been secretly delighted.

But now, it was too late. She touched her cheek, then looked down her left shoulder.

She looked dejected.

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In the afternoon.

True Treasure Pavilion. Shen Ping skillfully took out all the high-grade talismans in his storage bag and handed them to his exclusive receptionist, Mu Jin.

“Congratulations to Fellow Daoist Shen for improving in the Dao of Talismans. Earth Meteorite Talismans and Ice Arrow Talismans require a very deep foundation in the Dao of Talismans. In time, Fellow Daoist Shen might be able to successfully advance to the second level.” Mu Jin’s flattery came easily. At the same time, she asked habitually, “How many sets of materials do you need this time?”

“Same old.” Shen Ping replied and casually asked, “Is the price of dharma artifacts still falling?”

Ever since the Golden Sun Sect had continuously transported batches of Flame Gold Ore from the depths of the Cloudy Mountain Swamp, the price of dharma artifacts in the marketplace had continued to fall. In the past few months, the price of mid-grade dharma artifacts had fallen to ten pieces, and the price of defensive mid-grade dharma artifacts had fallen to the price of talismans.

It was simply a tragic sight.

It was said that a large group of Artifact Masters had come to the Golden Sun Sect’s mountain gate to complain and ask the Golden Sun Sect to stabilize the price of the dharma artifacts. Unfortunately, they were rejected.

The price of dharma artifacts had plummeted, but the Golden Sun Sect had made a huge profit.

Shen Ping took the opportunity to buy the defensive dharma artifact that he had been reluctant to buy several times before. As for the high-grade dharma artifact, he did not buy it and continued to watch.

After all, from the looks of it, it would probably be difficult for high-grade artifacts to maintain such an expensive price.

Mu Jin sighed and said, “Half a month ago, Black Nether Stones were found in the derivative mineral vein of the flame gold mine.”

Shen Ping immediately mourned for the artifact masters. The Black Nether Stone was a special type of mineral. When ground into powder and combined with other materials, it could increase the success rate of refining dharma artifacts.

The Golden Sun Sect had a lot of spirit stone mines. The area under its jurisdiction was overflowing with spirit stones, resulting in a low purchasing power of spirit stones. And

the lack of main materials for dharma artifacts and treasures had always been scarce, which was why the prices of dharma artifacts and treasures had always been high.

Many low-level cultivators even went bankrupt to buy Dharma artifacts. Especially high-grade artifacts. The Foundation Establishment Cultivators of the other sects were secretly speechless.

However, over the years, as the Golden Sun Sect continued to explore the land, the price of dharma artifacts and treasures had decreased slightly. It was only now that the excavation of the Flame Gold Mine had finally caused the high price of dharma artifacts to drop completely.

“Fortunately, the talisman material has always been relatively stable. The price fluctuation isn’t too big.” Shen Ping secretly rejoiced. Right now, all his sources of income were on the talismans. If the price of the talismans plummeted, he would probably have to go to the sect to complain too.

“What about the magic robe?” He asked again.

Not only did the forging of a robe require an Artifact Master, but it also required the carving of array patterns. However, most Artifact Masters were doing the job of the Array Master, just like how some Talisman Masters could make special talismans.

And the main material of the robe was not too related to metal ores such as the Flame Gold Mine.

“It has decreased slightly, but not by much. However, the price of a high-grade robe is basically stable. If Fellow Daoist Shen wants to buy a high-grade robe, I suggest that you buy it as soon as possible.”

He asked a few more questions.

Shen Ping left the True Treasure Pavilion. He had advanced to become a Level Two Talisman Master, so he would have to buy a high-grade robe sooner or later. But not now, because the auction of the True Treasure Pavilion will be held in a few days. He had to save spirit stones to buy spirit liquid and medicinal pills for cultivation.

He returned to the small courtyard in Yunhe Alley. He had just reached the second floor when he saw his wife squatting down and scrubbing the wooden boards seriously.

He had said it several times regarding this kind of thing. The cleaning of the house could be done with one or two cleaning talismans. However, Wang Yun insisted on doing so. She even said that she would personally wash it and make it look clean and bright. In the end, Shen Ping agreed.

“Husband, you came back quite early this time.” Wang Yun turned around with a sweet smile on her delicate face.

Ever since he married her, Shen Ping rarely saw his wife throw a tantrum. Other than being bullied twice outside, she always had a smile on her face. “Yun’er, let me do it.” He went forward and took the wet cloth from his wife’s hand to wipe it. “Where’s Yuying?”

“She’s cultivating in a quiet room. I’ll call her out now.”

Shen Ping shook his head. “No need. I’ll go make talismans later. Oh right, in the future, when I’m not around, you can go in and clean up if you want.”

Wang Yun was stunned for a moment before her body trembled slightly. She said with a blissful expression, “Okay, Husband.”

...

In the wee hours of the night. The spring rain was as smooth as oil. Shen Ping hugged his wife and concubine as he scanned the virtual interface. He was almost stunned by the sudden change in silver in the virtual interface. He hurriedly fixed his gaze.

[You dual cultivated with your wife once and gained 0.4 Talisman Dao Experience.]

[Your wife is deeply in love with you. Current favorability: 100+80]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 6]

[Silver Bonus: 10]

[Talisman Master: Level Two Low-grade (88/150,000)]

The entire border was flashing with silver light. It seemed to have undergone some kind of transformation. Moreover, there was an additional silver bonus.

“Favorability has soared. My wife’s feelings for me seem to have deepened.”

Shen Ping could not help but think of the afternoon. At that time, when he saw his wife busy, he felt a little guilty because he knew that Wang Yun wanted to be useful to him. Even if it was meaningless, she wanted to do something for this family.

It was only on a whim that he allowed her to enter the cubicle. In the end, he did not expect the virtual frame to undergo such a huge transformation.

However, before he could be pleasantly surprised, he noticed that his experience in the Dao of Talismans had greatly decreased.

Shen Ping was shocked. Could it be that after breaking through to level two, the experience provided by his wife's dual cultivation had reached its limit?

Although the experience in the Dao of Talisman he obtained did not change overall, this was because of the silver bonus. If the virtual interface did not transform, it meant that it would be very difficult for him to obtain a large amount of Talisman Dao Experience from his wife in the future.

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## Chapter 34: Refusal

"That's the way of the Talisman Dao. What about spiritual roots? Or is this the limit of my wife's mortal body?" Shen Ping's thoughts flew. The last time his wife's favorability broke the limit, he realized that he still had to dig deeper into his cheat.

He did not expect such a huge change from the dual cultivation after breaking through to the second level. He took a slow breath. He suppressed this thought and continued to look at the virtual interface.

[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 Favorability: 92]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 3]

[Metal Spiritual Root: High-grade (10,547/50,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: High-grade (10,439/50,000)]

The Dao Companion's spiritual roots' frame did not change at all. He came to a realization. The appearance of the silver frame should be due to his wife's favorability reaching a certain level.

Shen Ping could not help but look at Wang Yun. Would he still treat his wife like usual after seeing his experience in the Dao of Talismans decrease greatly, if not for this silver bonus?

What was the answer?

He didn't know.

There was a moment of silence. Shen Ping said gently, "Yun'er."

Wang Yun, who was leaning in his arms, raised her delicate face, her watery eyes revealing endless affection. "Husband, what's wrong?"

"It's nothing. Don't work too hard in the future. You've done enough for me."

"That's not true. Sister Ying'er does more than me."

He laughed at that. He didn't say anything else.

Soon, the brocade quilt was filled with spring again.

The next morning. His wife and concubine were going to invite Senior Yu for a walk. However, no matter how many times she knocked on the door, there was no response.

"Don't tell me she left the market again?" When Shen Ping found out, he frowned. This trip was too frequent. Even those cultivators who were in a hurry to repay their debts would rest for more than a day or two before going to the Cloud Mountain Swamp again. "Maybe she's just going to the market."

He didn't believe this though.

Indeed, in the afternoon and evening, Yu Yan did not return. He could not help but shake his head. Every cultivator had their own choices. He could not make decisions for others. He suppressed this matter.

Shen Ping entered a boring and fulfilling cultivation life again.

...

As winter descended, a vast expanse of white descended outside Cloud Mountain Parlour. After several days of snowstorms, the cold wave that covered the swamp slowly receded. Early in the morning, the ground of the small courtyard was covered in a layer of frost.

It was rare for Shen Ping to bring his wife and concubine out of the house to relax.

Alchemist Feng, who was in the room next door, opened the window on the second floor. When he saw Shen Ping and the other two, he chuckled and said, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you're more open-minded than me. You have a perfect wife and concubine. You're just short of having children and grandchildren."

Shen Ping cupped his hands. "Senior Feng is a role model for us cultivators. I've wasted my time and have no other thoughts."

Alchemist Feng shook his head repeatedly. "Not at all, not at all. There are many Foundation Establishment cultivators in their seventies. With Fellow Daoist Shen's age, if you work hard, there might still be hope."

"Hehehe..." At this moment, a charming laughter sounded. The window of Room 3 was suddenly pushed open.

Fellow Daoist Mu was only wearing a thin gauze shirt. Her pink and white shoulders were bare as she smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Feng, you're really ambitious. Reaching the Foundation Establishment Realm in your seventies? That means you have a deep family as a shield and precious resources to protect your foundation. Do you have these?"

"Fellow Daoist Feng, you're not a high-level alchemist yet. Even if you become a high-level alchemist, can you have those conditions?"

Fellow Daoist Mu's lips curled into a mocking smile. "Rather than building a foundation, why don't you learn from Fellow Daoist Shen and marry a few wives and concubines to enjoy the latter half of your life?"

Alchemist Feng wanted to refute, but he realized that he could not find the confidence to do so. It was already difficult for a rogue cultivator to build a foundation. If one was over 60 years old, the chances were extremely slim.

Shen Ping was silent. He knew that what Fellow Daoist Mu said was the truth. Immortal cultivation was a path that competed with the heavens. If one fell behind on this path, they could only retreat sadly.

"The love between a man and a woman is the most important. Therefore, Fellow Daoist Shen, you must come to the Heavenly Sound Pavilion when you're free. I'll make sure you enjoy the happiness that your wife and concubine can't provide. It's not impossible if you want to come to my house."

Just as Shen Ping was sighing, Fellow Daoist Mu, who had just ridiculed Alchemist Feng, suddenly changed her tone. Her voice was filled with a hint of charm. Shen Ping laughed dryly and hurriedly left the courtyard with his wife and concubine.

...

At the end of November, Shopkeeper Chen sent a message, inviting Shen Ping to come to the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. Moreover, he repeatedly promised that she would not miss the appointment this time.

The next day, Shen Ping tidied up a little and arrived at the market. He walked to the door of the shop. Shopkeeper Chen hurriedly came out to welcome him. "Fellow Daoist Shen, don't worry. That fortune teller said that this time, it will definitely be a good thing. There's no mistake."

Shen Ping teased, "I hope everything goes smoothly."

His thoughts were not as strong as last time. However, since he was here, it was a good thing if he could succeed. It didn't matter if he couldn't. This time, he didn't have to wait long. A beautiful figure walked over from the entrance of the private room. "Senior Shen, sorry to keep you waiting." There was a hint of apology in the trickling spring-like voice.

Shen Ping looked up at the girl. Her face was a little round, and her lips were slightly thin. Her ears were crystal clear, and her face under her beautiful hair had a gentle feeling. He smiled and said, "Have a seat."

"Thank you, Senior." The girl sat at the side and said gently, "My surname is Xiao and my name is Qi'er. I'm deeply sorry about what happened last time." As she spoke, she stood up and bowed.

Shen Ping waved his hand and went straight to the point. "Fellow Daoist Xiao, I won't say anything else. As for the situation, I believe Shopkeeper Chen has told you that I want to marry a concubine. What do you think, Fellow Daoist Xiao?"

A few months had passed since the last time. No matter how much she thought about it, she should have thought it through.

Xiao Qi'er smiled. "Senior Shen, I'm interested, but before I make a decision, I want to ask a few questions. Is that okay?"

"Sure." Shen Ping nodded.

Xiao Qi'er continued, "If we get married, I might be able to help manage the Spring Embroidery Pavilion in the future. I wonder if you can be the in-house Talisman Master of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion? Don't worry, all the treatment will be according to the market's standards. Moreover, since I'm your Dao companion, we can take care of each other when the time comes."

An in-house talisman master was indeed well-received. However, it was greatly restricted. Most importantly, his information would be easily exposed.

Shen Ping had a lot of secrets. Without thinking, he directly refused, "Fellow Daoist Xiao, I can deepen our cooperation with the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. The number of high-grade talismans sold every month will increase, but I've never considered being an in-house Talisman Master. Furthermore, if we become a couple, I hope that Fellow Daoist Xiao will listen to my arrangements."



He needed to dual cultivate everyday with his concubine. If his dao companion was busy every day, what was the point?

Being obedient and sensible, Shen Ping placed that at the top.

Xiao Qi'er was stunned. She did not expect Talisman Master Shen to reject her so directly. At this moment, Shen Ping spoke again and looked at Xiao Qi'er meaningfully. "Fellow Daoist Xiao, what are your thoughts?"

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## Chapter 35: Can't Be Arrogant

Xiao Qi'er was stumped. She had never considered this. She had three types of spiritual root aptitude. The Golden Sun Sect was the best place to cultivate. If it wasn't for that inner sect disciple, she wouldn't have appeared in the Spring Embroidery Pavilion, let alone meet a middle-aged Qi Refinement intermediate stage cultivator.

High-grade Talisman Masters could indeed earn a lot of spirit stones every year. Their status was not weak among the rogue cultivators, but compared to the potential of the Golden Sun Sect disciples, it was not enough.

Not to mention the inner disciples, just the outer sect disciples who could join the city's law enforcement patrol team were slightly better in terms of connections and resources. Not to mention that this person in front of her had yet to officially become a high-grade Talisman Master.

And she was to be a concubine. If he was an alchemist, she could still consider it.

Xiao Qi'er remained silent. Shen Ping smiled indifferently and stood up to leave. Xiao Qi'er came back to her senses and hurriedly stood up. She bowed. "Senior Shen, I'm sorry."

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In the front hall.

Shopkeeper Chen, who was behind the counter, saw Shen Ping coming out and asked enthusiastically, "Fellow Daoist Shen, how is it? The daughter of my good friend is not bad, right?"

Shen Ping smiled and cupped his hands. "I appreciate Shopkeeper Chen's kindness. I still have some matters to attend to at home. I'll take my leave first."

Shopkeeper Chen was stunned. He only reacted when Shen Ping walked out of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. He frowned and quickly walked to the backyard. "Qi'er, what's going on? You didn't agree?" His tone was slightly unhappy. This matter was decided after a discussion with his boss. How could she let her temper run wild?

Xiao Qi'er quickly explained.

Shopkeeper Chen, on the other hand, was surprised. "That shouldn't be the case. The treatment of an in-house talisman master is not low, and he can make connections with the boss. How can Fellow Daoist Shen refuse? Qi'er, are you sure you've explained everything clearly?"

Xiao Qi'er nodded immediately. "I'm sure."

"You can go back first."

"Yes."

Shopkeeper Chen took out the Communication Talisman and told him the result.

"That's unexpected." The communication talisman quickly flashed, "Forget it, since I can't rope him in, I'll just maintain a normal cooperative relationship."

Shopkeeper Chen was still unwilling to give up. "Boss, do you want to try again?"

"That won't be necessary."

Back in the front hall, Shopkeeper Chen sighed. He really thought highly of Fellow Daoist Shen. What a pity.

...

He strolled along the bustling streets of the market. Gusts of bone-chilling wind blew against his face. Shen Ping's heart stirred. When he first met Xiao Qi'er, he had a good first impression of her.

Mellow and rich voice. Elegant and gentle. The other aspects were also more suitable.

Although he didn't want to become an in-house Talisman Master in the Spring Embroidery Pavilion, the last question he asked had already expressed his attitude. If Xiao Qi'er was still willing to take him into consideration, then he didn't mind paying a little.

However, it seemed that the other party did not fancy him. The reason why she was able to meet him and even agree to become his concubine was entirely because of the arrangements of the inner sect disciple behind her.

Everyone had their own thoughts and considerations. He could not force the will of others.

“Am I overestimating myself? Or did I become arrogant after breaking through to become a Level Two Talisman Master?”

This matter did not succeed. However, Shen Ping became alert. When he was weak, he could always remain calm and cautious. As his strength and status increased, it was inevitable that he would feel smug.

Once he didn't notice it, this would often be a source of calamity in the future. A man's inflated ego was never created in one go.

Thinking of this, he immediately examined himself. From the time he moved to Yunhe Alley until now, he had gone through all the details in his mind.

Eventually, Shen Ping heaved a long sigh. He had become arrogant. There was an obvious increase in the number of times he went out, and his worries in all aspects were greatly reduced. His protective measures were limited to dharma artifacts and robes, and his vigilance was reduced.

All these were secondary.

Most importantly, his thoughts and thoughts were no longer the same as when he was in Red Willow Alley. This was very scary. He only had one life. He didn't think he could transmigrate again.

“I have to buy more talismans and medicinal pills. I should calm down for half a year before coming out.” Shen Ping took a deep breath and his eyes regained their determination. He walked towards the True Treasure Pavilion.

He returned to the small courtyard in Yunhe Alley. at the beginning of the afternoon.

The door closed. After eating, he began to make talismans and cultivate.

Late at night, he worked hard several times. His wife and concubine's cheeks were rosy.

[You cultivated with your wife once and gained 0.4 Talisman Dao Experience Points.]

[Your wife is deeply in love with you. Current favorability: 100+80]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 6]

[Silver Bonus: 10]

[Talisman Master: Level Two Low-grade (7,864/150,000)]

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[You cultivated with your Dao Companion once and obtained a metal-type spiritual root aptitude+2. Wood-type spiritual root aptitude+2]

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 92]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 3]

[Metal Spiritual Root: High Grade (12,491/50,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: High-grade (12,383/50,000)]

He looked at the changes in his attribute panel.

Shen Ping felt extremely at ease.

He still had some time left in the four hours he spent having sex with his wife and concubine four times. His wife had two bonuses. Although the experience in the Dao of Talisman after the second level decreased every time he obtained it, he obtained 96 experience points every day. Dao companion only had one bonus, and the spiritual root aptitude increase every day was 24 points.

At this speed, he would be able to break through to the top-grade with his metal and wood spiritual roots in more than four years.

Now, the transformation of the high-grade spiritual root had greatly increased Shen Ping's cultivation speed. After consuming medicinal pills and spiritual liquid, the absorption efficiency of his body was far greater than that of the cultivators of the other four elements.

For example, his concubine, Bai Yuying, had yet to break through to the second level of Qi Refinement with the help of the medicinal pills he provided. On the other hand, he was at the fifth level of Qi Refinement. If his spiritual roots had not changed in the past, he was afraid that his spiritual energy would not have increased significantly even after several years of cultivation.

But now, he could clearly feel the spiritual energy in his body constantly increasing almost every two or three days of meditation. If he broke through to the top-grade, the effect of absorbing spiritual liquid and medicinal pills should be even stronger. As for

how much it would increase, there was no example to refer to, so it was difficult for him to judge.

“Foundation Establishment before the age of sixty is a threshold. Although Fellow Daoist Mu’s words were unpleasant last time, what she said was the truth. It’s not that there are no old Foundation Establishment cultivators, but the chances of success are too low. I can’t count on luck. There’s not much time left for me.”

Thinking of this, Shen Ping felt a sense of urgency. He was already in his forties. Even if he spent spirit stones to buy resources, it would take some time for him to advance to the later stages of Qi Refinement. Once he exceeded 60 years old, whether he could build his foundation depended on his looks.

“The safest and best way is to continue taking concubines.” Shen Ping pondered. He had to take a concubine. After all, the reason for his current change was mainly because he had dual cultivated with his wife and concubine.

However, there were too many uncertainties in relying on other people’s introductions. Shopkeeper Chen’s matter was a lesson.

“Should I look for Matchmaker Ceng again? Or should I make do with Fellow Daoist Yu?”

He subconsciously glanced at the floor in the room.

In the past two months, Yu Yan rarely stayed in Yunhe Alley, but compared to before, she basically came back every half a month. If nothing unexpected happened, she would be back in two days.

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## Chapter 36: Very Straightforward

Two days later, a blizzard swept through the Cloud Mountain City Square. The skylight had just opened when the snowflakes that filled the sky rushed in. The howling cold wind seemed to be mixed with an angry roar, causing Shen Ping’s robe to flutter.

He looked up at the dark sky without any starlight. He waved his hand. The room instantly fell silent. His wife, Wang Yun, stepped forward and said gently, “Husband, it’s snowing so heavily outside. Senior Yu probably won’t be back tonight. Do you want to rest early?”

Shen Ping nodded. Just as he was about to return to the main room, he heard the soft sound of the door opening on the first floor. He looked sideways and saw that Yu Yan was wearing a light red robe that covered most of her body, but he could still vaguely see a mask on her face.

She seemed to have noticed the figure on the second floor.

Yu Yan was stunned at first, but then she said with a smile, "Fellow Daoist Shen, why aren't you enjoying yourself with your wife and concubine at this time of the night? Why are you waiting outside? Don't tell me you're waiting for me?"

Before Shen Ping could say anything, Yu Yan quickly walked into the main room. Her voice came from the door. "Let's talk tomorrow morning. I have to recuperate. I'm too tired. By the way, don't stay up too long."

He looked at the closed main room. Shen Ping shook his head. He could hear Yu Yan's fatigue. It was indeed not good to disturb her now. The next day, he went downstairs before dawn and waited at the door.

Until he smelled the fragrance of the petals did he raise his hand.

Click.

Before she could knock on the door, Yu Yan walked out. She leaned against the door with her arms crossed and a faint smile on her lips. "How long has Fellow Daoist Shen been standing outside? Don't worry, the spirit stones I owe you can be returned next month."

Shen Ping smiled and cupped his hands. "Fellow Daoist Yu, I didn't come here so early to collect a debt."

Yu Yan was puzzled. "Then you're..."

"I want to take another concubine. I wonder if Fellow Daoist Yu is willing to consider it?" Shen Ping spoke without any hesitation.

"No." Yu Yan was also very straightforward. Shen Ping immediately looked embarrassed and did not know what to say. "Fellow Daoist Shen, is there anything else?"

"No."

"Would you like to come in?"

"This... I won't disturb Fellow Daoist Yu's bath."

Back on the second floor, Shen Ping's face was a little red. He entered the talisman making room and prayed for blessings several times. After calming down, he realized that something was wrong.

However, in order to avoid getting the wrong idea, he didn't think too much. Instead, he abandoned all distracting thoughts and crafted talismans. Late at night, after the sex, he told his wife and concubine about this.

"Husband, does Senior Yu have any concerns?"

"That's right. With Senior Yu's personality, even if she wasn't willing, she wouldn't have rejected you so straightforwardly."

He had the same thoughts as his wife and concubine. Shen Ping thought of Fellow Daoist Yu's actions over the past few days and felt that it was a little unusual.

"I'll get to the bottom of it next time. If Fellow Daoist Yu really can't do it, then I'll look for Matchmaker Ceng again."

Every time Yu Yan came back, she would only stay for a day. He could only wait for half a month.

...

After that, Shen Ping stayed in his room. Every day, other than making talismans, he would meditate and cultivate. He would have sex with his wife and concubine. Although this kind of life was very boring, seeing his cultivation level increase bit by bit every day made him immersed in the feeling of fulfillment.

He had a golden finger. So he didn't want to take the risk at all. In the blink of an eye, ten days passed. It was another auction held by the True Treasure Pavilion. Shen Ping was hesitating if he should go. He still had some spirit stones in his storage bag. If there were not many cultivators fighting over it, he could buy the spirit liquid.

At this moment, the Communication Talisman flashed. It was Shopkeeper Chen.

"Fellow Daoist Shen, if you have any talismans in reserve, you must sell them as soon as possible. After some time, the price of the talismans will drop drastically. At that time, we will lose a lot if we sell them again."

Shen Ping was shocked and hurriedly asked, "Shopkeeper Chen, can you tell me in detail?"

The price of the talisman was closely related to him. If the price was greatly reduced, his income would plummet. The daily necessities such as high-grade spirit rice, spirit beast meat, spirit herbs, medicinal pills, spirit liquids, and so on had to be reconsidered.

Shopkeeper Chen quickly replied, "Fellow Daoist Shen, I'm not too sure about the exact situation. I only know that there's a problem with the Golden Sun Sect's main sect. Be it talismans, medicinal pills, array discs, and so on, many of the prices have fallen. After a while, it will affect the Cloud Mountain Branch Sect, so if there are talismans, hurry up and deal with them."

Shen Ping's heart sank as he asked, "Shopkeeper Chen, is something wrong with the Golden Sun Sect's main sect?"

If the Golden Sun Sect collapsed, the entire Cloud Mountain Parlour would be in turmoil. It was not easy for him to live a stable and safe life. He did not want to return to the trembling and precarious life he had in the past.

After waiting for a moment, Shopkeeper Chen then replied, "The Golden Sun Sect has several Nascent Soul Cultivators guarding it. I think it's just a small problem. We'll know after some time."

Shen Ping felt slightly relieved.

The Golden Sun Sect was a large sect that had been passed down in Wei Kingdom for tens of thousands of years. It had a very strong foundation. There were also several Nascent Soul elders in the sect. It was said that there was even a Great Nascent Soul cultivator. How could it collapse so easily?

"Manager Chen, thank you for informing me." After replying, he tidied up the talisman making room and immediately walked out of the house. After arriving at the market, He was not in a hurry to go to the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. Instead, he went to the True Treasure Pavilion first.

"Fellow Daoist Shen, you didn't go to the auction today?" Mu Jin was surprised to see Shen Ping.

Precious items would appear in the auctions of the True Treasure Pavilion every time. Even if the rogue Talisman Masters didn't buy anything, they could gain a lot of knowledge and experience just by participating.

Shen Ping shook his head and asked in a low voice, "Fellow Daoist Mu, is the price of the talisman going to fall recently?"

Mu Jin could not help but size up Fan Shen Ping. She thought to herself that this Talisman Master Shen was quite well-informed. She nodded slowly and said, "Yes, it will fall. In a few days, our True Treasure Pavilion will inform every talisman master and alchemists. Since Fellow Daoist Shen knows in advance, if you have talismans in your hands, please deal with it as soon as possible. The drop this time will be quite big. Fellow Daoist Shen, you'd better be mentally prepared."



Shen Ping did not hesitate and immediately took out ten high-level talismans from his storage bag and handed them over. After the settlement, Mu Jin reminded him, "Fellow Daoist Shen, the market might be a little unsafe in the near future. Try not to go out."

He left the True Treasure Pavilion. Shen Ping felt as if a huge rock had fallen on his heart along the way. The drop in the price of the talisman itself was bad news. A while ago, he had mourned for the group of artifact masters in the market. Now, it was his turn. Moreover, Fellow Daoist Mu's last reminder revealed a lot of information.

Cloud Mountain Parlour was adjacent to the Golden Sun Sect. Usually, there were outer sect elders guarding it. Every once in a while, they would send out law enforcement patrols to carry out daily patrols.

To be able to make the marketplace unsafe was no small matter.

When he arrived at the Spring Embroidery Pavilion, he took out the remaining high-level talismans and said respectfully, "Many thanks, Shopkeeper Chen. If there's any news from the main sect, please inform me as soon as possible."

When Shopkeeper Chen saw the three golden light talismans, his face revealed enthusiasm. "Fellow Daoist Shen, you don't have to be so polite. If there's any news, I'll definitely inform you."

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## Chapter 37: Scandal at the Top

Back at Yunhe Alley.

The uneasy thoughts in Shen Ping's heart became more and more intense. A Talisman Master like him, who had no combat experience, was most worried about the chaos in the market. Once the order was lost, the first target of the robber cultivators would be a fat sheep like him.

In fact, there was no need for a robber cultivator to take action. At that time, the silent brothers in the small courtyard and Fellow Daoist Mu of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion in the third house would have a 90% chance of directly attacking.

Although each house had a formation restriction, it was only used as a guard. Its defense was not strong.

“I have to make preparations as soon as possible.”

He opened his storage bag. He took out a small green shield, a jade-colored bracelet, and a purple-gold belt. These were all defensive dharma artifacts. Then, he took out two offensive dharma artifacts one after another. They were a string of emerald beads and an earthen yellow gourd.

He looked at these dharma artifacts. His uneasiness calmed down a little. These five dharma artifacts were carefully selected and replaced after the price of dharma artifacts plummeted some time ago.

Originally, he wanted to buy a high-grade defensive dharma artifact, but the price was too high. Even if he gritted his teeth and bought it, it would be difficult for his spiritual energy to support it. Therefore, he gave up after watching for a while.

But now, it seemed that he had to get one.

Although defensive dharma artifacts could not be sustained with spiritual energy, as long as they injected spiritual energy at the critical moment, the defense activated in an instant could barely withstand it. As long as he could block it for a moment, he might be able to save his life.

As for the offensive type, it was enough to have the jade bead chain and the yellow gourd. These two items consumed very little spiritual energy. With his cultivation at the fifth level of Qi Refinement, it would not be difficult for him to control one. He would keep the last one for backup.

“Dharma artifacts, talismans. Not enough, it’s still not enough. I have to ask about the price of the small array disc tomorrow.”

During the sex at night, his wife and concubine could clearly sense that their husband was distracted. Wang Yun asked about it. Shen Ping could only comfort her. “I’m fine. It might be caused by making talismans for too long. I’ll go to the market tomorrow and be fine.”

His wife and concubine were weak. Telling them would only add to their worries. He glanced at the floor and thought to himself, “I have to tell Yu Yan not to go out for the time being after she comes back.”

The next morning.

He went to the True Treasure Pavilion again and asked about the price of high-grade defensive dharma artifacts and small array discs. He could afford to buy the lowest quality ones, but it was not enough to change into a high-grade magic robe.

The main reason was that after activating the array disc, it required a lot of spirit stones to maintain it. He hesitated.

In the end, Shen Ping sold the jade-colored bracelet and the mid-grade robe and exchanged them for spirit stones to buy a high-grade robe. At the moment, the news had not been sent from the main sect, but it was better to prepare early than to deal with it in a hurry.

“Dharma artifacts, talismans, small array discs, and high-grade robes. Even if I encounter a Foundation Establishment cultivator, I should be able to resist for a while.”

He felt much more at ease.

He had never competed with a mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivator, let alone a Foundation Establishment cultivator. But the power of these items was not weak. Perhaps a cultivator at the ninth level of Qi Refinement could prepare everything, but a cultivator at the eighth level of Qi Refinement would definitely not be able to afford them.

In the next few days, Shen Ping continued to work on his talisman. To him, the more Spirit Protection Talismans he prepared, the better. He didn't want to kill anyone, but he wanted to protect himself.

If he had enough time, he could go to the market to sell again and save some spirit stones. Now, the spirit stones in his storage bag made him feel insecure. In the blink of an eye, it was the day Yu Yan returned.

However, before this old neighbor could arrive, an incomparably explosive and shocking piece of news suddenly spread throughout the market.

“Golden Sun Sect's Supreme Elder was in an incest relationship with his daughter-in-law???”

“In a fit of anger, the sect master took away a third of the higher-ups and moved them to the Cloud Mountain branch sect, officially drawing a clear line with the main sect?”

When Shen Ping heard the news, his first reaction was to gloat. How dare they frame the Golden Sun Sect's Supreme Elder and spread rumors so brazenly? They must have eaten a bear's heart and a leopard's gall.

It would probably take less than half a day for the person behind the rumors to die, leaving nothing behind.

However, Shopkeeper Chen said with certainty, “Fellow Cultivator Shen, this is not a rumor. Yesterday, the Sect Master of the Golden Sun Sect brought many high-level cultivators to the branch sect. Although he didn't personally admit it, many disciples noticed the Sect Master's green face.”

The corner of Shen Ping's mouth twitched. He did not expect Shopkeeper Chen to be so nosy. However, this news was too ridiculous. He did not believe it.

After all, the Supreme Elder of the Golden Sun Sect was a Great Nascent Soul cultivator and an old monster who had lived for more than two thousand years. Such a figure had experienced the vicissitudes of time and had long become indifferent to the mortal world. How could he possibly have an incest relationship with his daughter-in-law?

Even if it was true, the possibility of him being discovered was extremely low. Unless it was...

Of course, if the rumors were confirmed, it would definitely be the most shocking scandal in the Wei Kingdom in thousands of years. In the cultivation world, the strong preyed on the weak.

An incest relationship between a father-in-law and daughter-in-law was not something new, but it was completely different in the Golden Sun Sect, which had been passed down for tens of thousands of years.

It could be imagined that this matter would become a stain that the Golden Sun Sect would never be able to erase. It might even be ridiculed by the other immortal sects.

"Shopkeeper Chen, since the sect master and a group of higher-ups have moved to the Cloud Mountain branch sect, the branch sect's strength will skyrocket. Under such circumstances, the price of medicinal pills, talismans, dharma artifacts, and so on should have increased. Why did it fall?"

Shen Ping was only amused by such gossip and rumors. He was most concerned about the price of the talismans that were closely related to him.

Shopkeeper Chen suddenly sighed and said, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you might not know this, but the Golden Sun Sect's Supreme Elder is a late-stage Great Nascent Soul cultivator after all. Even if the sect master leaves with one-third of the higher-ups, they won't be able to compete with the main sect. Therefore, they can only compete with the main sect by bringing in external help.

"I'm only guessing the exact situation. Soon, there will be changes in the market. Perhaps at that time, my old bones will have to leave the Cloud Mountain Market." He ended the transmission.

Shen Ping frowned.

Wei Kingdom had always been the territory of the Golden Sun Sect, and it had never allowed other sects or factions to encroach on it. A large business like the True

Treasure Pavilion had gone through countless high-level competitions before it was finally able to operate a shop in a few markets.

Now that the Sect Master of the Golden Sun Sect wanted to lure other sects and forces to contend with the main sect, it was undoubtedly breaking the rules that had been passed down for tens of thousands of years.

Moreover, the prices of talismans, medicinal pills, and dharma artifacts from the main sect had decreased. It was very likely that foreign sects had already entered the Wei Kingdom. In fact, this sect was not weak.

This was not a good sign.

The spirit stone mine in the Wei Kingdom was rich in resources. The other sects and factions had been coveting it for a long time. This time, they had finally found an opportunity. They would definitely use a large number of talismans, medicinal pills, artifacts, and other items to exchange for spirit stones.

“No wonder Fellow Daoist Mu said that the market would not be safe from now on. The arrival of other sects and factions will definitely cause chaos for a period of time.” Thinking of this, Shen Ping’s heart sank.

He was only a low-level cultivator at the fifth level of Qi Refinement. There was nothing he could do in the face of such a huge change. The only thing he could do was to improve himself as much as possible and prepare protective measures. However, these were still speculations and inferences.

How would the market be affected? It was still too early to come to a conclusion.

“I can’t be too optimistic. I have to take a concubine as soon as possible. Tomorrow… No, I have to find Matchmaker Ceng now.”

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## Chapter 38: Spring Garden

Outside the market.

He stepped onto the main road again. Shen Ping sighed with emotion. He originally thought that he would not come here again after living in Yunhe Alley. He did not expect that he would come again in less than two years.

"It's a good thing we're not moving." He laughed at himself, then sniffed the scent of rouge and powder and came to the door of a shop in Spring Garden. He crossed the threshold. Several gazes swept over. Seeing that he was a mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivator, they quickly retracted their weapons. "There's quite a crowd."

Shen Ping looked up and observed from the corner of his eye. He realized that there were actually three to four cultivators waiting.

It seemed that Matchmaker Ceng's business was quite good. He waited for a moment.

Matchmaker Ceng, who was covered in the smell of rouge, sent out a cultivator. "Fellow Daoists, don't worry. There will definitely be news in at least five days or at least three days. Just go back and wait... Oh, Fellow Daoist Shen, Talisman Master Shen, what brings you here today?"

Matchmaker Ceng was halfway through her sentence when she saw Shen Ping. Her eyes lit up and she hurriedly sashayed to Shen Ping. "Ever since you moved to Yunhe Alley, I was wondering if I should go over and arrange another marriage for you. Later on, I thought about it. Your status is different now. If I offended you, I'll regret it to death. So, I can only wait for you every day and night. I didn't expect you to really come. Please come in."

The expressions of the other cultivators who were waiting changed when they heard Yunhe Alley. That place was not a place that ordinary cultivators could live in. Just the high fee of 15 mid-grade spirit stones per year was enough to deter many cultivators.

"A Talisman Master. Either a high-grade one or is related to a high-grade one." These cultivators looked at Shen Ping with fervent gazes. If they could make some connections, they might benefit greatly. But before they could do anything, Shen Ping followed Matchmaker Ceng to the inner room.

It was very difficult to hear what was going on inside as there was a soundproof array. He was not in a hurry to talk about it. Matchmaker Ceng first poured a cup of spiritual tea for Shen Ping.

When they sat down to drink tea, Matchmaker Ceng said enthusiastically, "Talisman Master Shen must be here to take in another concubine. You are now in the middle stage of Qi Refinement Realm and a mid-grade Talisman Master. You even live in Yunhe Alley. With this condition, who knows how many beautiful female cultivators will fight over it. So what is your request this time?"

Shen Ping muttered, "In terms of personality..."

"I know." Matchmaker Ceng immediately gave him a reassuring look.

A black line appeared on Shen Ping's forehead. He continued expressionlessly, "She has to be dignified, polite, and sensible. She can be at the third level of Qi Refinement or below. Her appearance and figure can be like my wife and concubine. It's best if she's alone. Lastly, don't be too young!"

Matchmaker Ceng smiled brightly. "Understood." Then, she said, "Other than these, does Talisman Master Shen have any other special preferences?"

Shen Ping rolled his eyes in his heart and thought to himself, "I can't let you know if I have any fetishes. Wouldn't I be controlled to death in the future?"

Seeing that Shen Ping did not say anything, Matchmaker Ceng said in a low voice, "It's like this. Recently, there have been a few special female cultivators in my Spring Garden. They also want to find a reliable partner to spend the rest of their lives with."

Shen Ping subconsciously asked, "What's special about that?"

Matchmaker Ceng transmitted a few words.

"No need!" Shen Ping almost spat out a mouthful of tea and hurriedly rejected her with a straight face.

Matchmaker Ceng didn't give up. "Talisman Master Shen, this is very rare. If you miss it, I'm afraid it will be difficult to find another one in the future."

Shen Ping still shook his head. What a joke. He was human! His orientation was very positive.

"Sigh..." Matchmaker Ceng sighed. She would not be able to earn this considerable amount of spirit stones.

However, at this moment, Shen Ping hesitated and said, "Fellow Daoist Ceng, do you have a female cultivator with a special physique or bloodline who wants to seek a Dao companion?" Matchmaker Ceng was silent this time. Shen Ping was puzzled, but he quickly reacted and said indifferently, "Fellow Daoist Ceng, don't tell me you think I can't take out spirit stones?" He directly slapped out a Spirit Protection Talisman.

Be it Wang Yun or Bai Yuying, their physiques were very ordinary. It was rare for cultivators to have special bloodlines or physiques. He really wanted to see what kind of benefits he would gain from dual cultivating with such a dao companion.

Matchmaker Ceng's expression remained unchanged.

Shen Ping frowned and secretly added another talisman. Seeing that Matchmaker Ceng was unmoved, he simply took back the two Spirit Protection Talismans and stood up. He had just walked to the door of the house.



“Wait.” Matchmaker Ceng hurriedly stopped him. “Talisman Master Shen, you should know that cultivators with bloodlines or special physiques are very rare. Moreover, they often have deep connections behind them. If you accidentally provoke the descendants of some old monster’s bloodline, the consequences will be unimaginable. My Spring Garden can’t bear the consequences.”

Shen Ping was stunned.

That’s true.

He took it for granted. It was indeed not easy to get involved with such cultivators. It was mainly because Matchmaker Ceng had special cultivators before. For a moment, he thought about bloodline and physique.

Fortunately, Matchmaker Ceng had reminded him. Otherwise, if he had such thoughts in the future, it was very likely that he would have planted a root of trouble.

Moreover, regardless of whether it was troublesome or not, it was not something he could think about at this stage. In the future, when his cultivation level increased and he had sufficient protective methods, it would be the safest to consider this problem.

“Thank you for your reminder, Fellow Daoist Ceng.” Shen Ping bowed. Many disasters were often caused by greed at the very beginning. His thoughts just now were very dangerous.

Matchmaker Ceng smiled. “Talisman Master Shen, actually those have a bloodline. Moreover, I can guarantee that there won’t be any subsequent trouble.”

A moment later, Shen Ping left Spring Garden. A Spirit Protective Talisman was missing from his storage bag. He firmly rejected the special cultivator that Matchmaker Ceng mentioned. But later on, he still couldn’t resist the temptation.

After he repeatedly guaranteed that it was definitely in line with his orientation and that there was no trouble at all, he was tempted. However, this time, he would have to wait for a while before he could receive any news.

Cloud Mountain Parlour did not have one. Matchmaker Ceng also had to contact the other Spring Gardens. He was not worried that the other party would pocket the talisman because he had left a small trick on it. This trick was very common and could only be unlocked by casting a spell with his blood.

Before he left, Shen Ping even specially instructed her not to delay for too long. If there was really no other way, he could casually find an ordinary Dao companion and take her in first. After all, the current situation was getting more and more complicated.

“Fellow Daoist, do you want a talisman?”



“Fellow Daoist, Dharma artifacts are cheap!”

“Pills, the price of pills has been greatly reduced. If you want to buy them, hurry up!”

The vendors on both sides of the main road were very lively. Shen Ping could not help but reveal a puzzled expression. Although he had not been here for almost two years, the stall owners should have long gone back at this time.

After a while, the sky would turn dark. This was not a market. He casually found a stall and asked around. Only then did he find out that the Golden Sun Sect’s flying ship that transported mining every half a month was returning.

“Here they come!” The stall vendor enthusiastically pointed to the distant sky for Shen Ping and saw a large flying ship speeding over.

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## Chapter 39: Really Can't Pay It Back This Time

The excavation of the Cloudy Mountain Swamp’s Flame Gold Mine was still ongoing. The Golden Sun Sect was still recruiting cultivators. Although the benefits offered did not increase, the conditions were facilitated. As long as they signed a contract, they could pay additional spirit stones in advance for several years. However, they would need half a year to collect them from the market’s Deacon Hall.

This was extremely tempting for cultivators who were in dire need of spirit stones.

Although Shen Ping did not pay attention to it, he had occasionally heard Shopkeeper Chen mention it. It was said that many of the lower levels in the vicinity of Red Willow Alley, and even the middle-stage Qi Refinement realm, had signed up.

Mining was very tiring. However, it was much more stable than the precarious days of fighting. More importantly, they had a reliable income. If he had not activated the golden finger, he might very well be a member of the flying ship now.

“Life isn’t easy.” The flying ship stopped at the edge, and a large number of cultivators filed out. Looking at these exhausted cultivators, whose eyes gradually revealed a hint of numbness, Shen Ping could not help but sigh softly.

No matter what kind of bottom-level person it was, without special encounters, it was very difficult to have a chance to make a comeback.

“Fellow Daoist, do you want some pills?” The vendor took the opportunity to say.

Shen Ping threw out spirit stones. “Give me a bottle of Spirit Concentration Pills.”

“Sure.”

After the transaction was done, just as he was about to turn around and return to Yunhe Alley, he suddenly saw a familiar figure from the corner of his eye. It was mixed in with a large number of mining cultivators. His heart skipped a beat as he seemed to understand.

He took a deep breath. He turned and walked away quickly. When he returned to the small courtyard, the sky darkened. His wife and concubine had prepared a sumptuous meal and were waiting. They quickly finished their meal.

Shen Ping went to the quiet room to meditate until midnight. Then, he went straight downstairs and stood at the door of the room with his eyes closed, waiting. As time passed, his thoughts gradually fluctuated.

Previously, he had felt that something was wrong with Fellow Daoist Yu. Now, it seemed that there was indeed a problem. Otherwise, with her strength, how could she have gone to mine?

Although mining was stable, once too much time passed and the energy of the ore vein seeped into one’s meridians, they would no longer have any hope of building their foundation in this life. It was normal for low-level cultivators to choose to mine if they didn’t see any hope.

However, Yu Yan was at the fifth level of Qi Refinement and her cultivation was solid. If she continued to improve, she might have a chance in the future.

As these thoughts flew through his mind, footsteps sounded outside. Then, the door was gently pushed open.

When she saw Shen Ping, Yu Yan’s eyes under the mask trembled slightly. She turned around and closed the door. She chuckled and said, “Fellow Daoist Shen, don’t tell me you’re waiting for me again. Qi Refinement Level-5. Tsk tsk, you’re indeed bold.” As she spoke, she walked towards the main room.

Unexpectedly, Shen Ping stopped Yu Yan. He did not ask why she was mining. Instead, he stretched out his hand and prepared to remove the mask on her face.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, please respect yourself!” Yu Yan stepped aside a step in advance. Her voice turned slightly cold as she quickly walked into the room.

Just as the door was about to close, Shen Ping slowly said, "Fellow Daoist Yu, you're preparing to leave Yunhe Alley after returning the spirit stones, right?"

Yu Yan's body trembled slightly. She glanced at Shen Ping. "It doesn't seem to be Fellow Daoist Shen's place to worry about what I do. If you have the time, you should accompany your wife and concubine."

"Mining in the Cloud Mountain Swamp is cutting yourself from building a foundation!"

Hearing this, Yu Yan was stunned on the spot. After a long while, she sighed faintly. "I don't have any hope of building my foundation anymore. Fellow Daoist Shen, don't waste your time on me."

As she spoke, she took off her mask. Black spider web-like veins appeared on half of her face. These veins seemed to be alive and were slowly squirming.

Shen Ping's expression changed drastically. "This, this is..."

"Black-striped Venomous Worm. Any cultivator who comes into contact with it will gradually be devoured of blood essence and spiritual energy. With my cultivation and the degree of contamination, I can last at most half a year."

Yu Yan put on her mask again and walked up to Shen Ping with a smile. "Fellow Daoist Shen, are you sure you still want to take me as your concubine? If the Black-striped Venomous Worm enters your body, the stable life you've worked so hard for will be ruined. Without protection, your wife and concubine might end up in a more miserable state than you and I. Do you want to enjoy a night of pleasure, or do you want to build a foundation and live forever?"

Towards the end, Yu Yan was as cold as ice. She turned around without hesitation and closed the door. "Fellow Daoist Shen, don't choose. You can stay up a little longer tonight." The voice from behind the door echoed in the building.

Shen Ping was silent.

Black-striped Venomous Worm. It was a very special demonic beast in Cloud Mountain Swamp. Its toxicity was not strong, but it was very difficult to deal with. The high-rank Level 1 Poison Dispelling Pill could only suppress it, but it could not completely eliminate it.

He thought of the auction at the True Treasure Pavilion. Every month, there would be rare treasures in the auction.

And there were many poisonous demonic beasts in the Cloud Mountain Swamp. No one could guarantee that no accidents would happen to them. Therefore, just like the high-ranked Poison Dispelling Pill, as long as it was an item used to dispel poison in the

auction, regardless of whether it was a medicinal pill or anything else, it would be fought over the moment it appeared.

“Purple Jade Blood Vine Root, White Whisker Tree Ginseng.” Any one of them could eliminate the Black-striped Venomous Worm in Yu Yan’s body.

In Yu Yan’s eyes, it was a situation of certain death. However, when one’s status and connections were raised to a certain level, the so-called certain death was only because they did not have enough spirit stones.

He didn’t say anything else. Shen Ping took out a bottle of high-rank Poison Dispelling Pills from his storage bag and placed it at the door.

Once bitten, twice shy.

He had enjoyed the taste of suppressing the venom day and night. So he had always kept this Poison Dispelling Pill as a backup. As for whether it was worth auctioning the more expensive Purple Jade Blood Vine Root and White Whisker Tree Ginseng for Yu Yan, he did not consider it.

If he encountered it at an auction and had abundant spirit stones, he would definitely buy it. Even if it was not for Yu Yan, he could keep it as a backup. If he could not buy it before Yu Yan could completely suppress the poison, he could only let nature take its course.

Just like in Red Willow Alley, if he encountered a high-level robber cultivator, Yu Yan would not risk her life for her old neighbor. This had nothing to do with indifference.

It’s just a kind of life.

...

The next day, the wooden building was filled with the fragrance of flower petals. After Yu Yan finished bathing comfortably, she recalled what happened last night and could not help but laugh at herself.

She looked up at the wooden planks of the roof. There were no static notes stuck on them. “I wonder how much longer I can listen.”

She put on her mask and opened the door. She immediately noticed the bottle of Poison Dispelling Pills that Shen Ping had placed at the door. She picked it up and sniffed it. “High-ranked Poison Dispelling Pill.”

Yu Yan was stunned and stood rooted to the ground for a long time. Until she heard footsteps upstairs she smiled and shook the jade bottle. “Fellow Daoist Shen, thank

you. However, I can't afford it this time. Don't expect me to dig for a few more days. I'm exhausted."

Shen Ping looked at Yu Yan's departing figure and couldn't help but laugh. He turned around, had his meal, made his talismans, and cultivated. Life became dull again. However, in the following month, he resumed his plan to go to the True Treasure Pavilion's auction. In the blink of an eye, it was the end of March.

On this day, dozens of large flying ships sailed over from the sky and floated in the air above the market.

Whoosh.

For the first time in more than 20 years, the city square's array formation restriction was activated.

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## Chapter 40: Resolving the Contract

Large flying ships could carry more than 1,000 cultivators. If the dozen or so flying ships floating in the air above the market were all filled up, the number would probably exceed 10,000. Given the current situation of Cloud Mountain Parlour, there was no way it could accommodate so many cultivators.

Especially in safe markets and residential areas, it was already overcrowded. Only Yunhe Alley, which had just been built a few years ago, still had many empty houses, but these empty houses basically already had owners.

"I wonder how the Golden Sun Sect will arrange these cultivators?"

At the entrance of Spring Embroidery Pavilion, Shen Ping looked at the dozen or so large flying ships in the sky above the market, and a trace of worry flashed between his brows.

These flying ships were obviously not from the Golden Sun Sect.

As early as last month, there was a rumor that the Immortal Dao Sect, led by Jin Kingdom, had joined forces with dozens of sects and forces in the Zhao Kingdom and Yu Kingdom to pressure the Sect Master of the Golden Sun Sect, who had moved to a

branch sect, to force the main sect to allow other Immortal Dao Sects to establish their sects in Wei Kingdom.

What happened next?

Until now, there had been no news. However, judging from the number of large flying ships today, the main sect might have compromised.

It was said that such a thing had happened a thousand years ago. At that time, the Golden Sun Sect's Supreme Elder had suppressed many sects by himself and forcefully blocked the door of the Wei Kingdom, causing many immortal sects to return in defeat.

However, he did not know what was going on this time.

"Fellow Daoist Shen, if you know some seniors, you'll have to travel more recently. The Golden Sun Sect will definitely migrate a large number of cultivators soon. Most likely, they're moving to the edge of Cloud Mountain Swamp. There are a few cultivation families working together to establish a market there. Moreover, I heard from the boss that the Golden Sun Sect will soon be preparing to build a mining area there. All the cultivators mining there will be arranged there."

Shopkeeper Chen shook his head and sighed. "Actually, moving there might not be a bad thing. The edge of Cloud Mountain Swamp is relatively dangerous. Demonic beasts often appear, but this marketplace might not be safe in the future. Did you notice that there are demonic sects in these flying ships? I heard that these demonic cultivators..."

Shen Ping did not listen to the rest of his words. Instead, he hurriedly interrupted and asked, "Shopkeeper Chen, did you just say that the Golden Sun Sect wants to arrange for all the mining cultivators to be sent to the mining area?"

Shopkeeper Chen was stunned for a moment before he understood. "Fellow Daoist Shen has a friend who has gone to mine? Then you have to hurry to the Deacon Hall. If you're any later, even if you're willing to use spirit stones or talismans, you might not be able to break the contract."

Shen Ping nodded repeatedly and asked, "Shopkeeper Chen, can the deacon let us go?"

Shopkeeper Chen chuckled and did not say anything else. Shen Ping understood. He cupped his hands and walked out of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

A moment later in the outer sect's Deacon Hall, Shen Ping left with a contract. It would be five to six days before Yu Yan came back next time. He did not know if there would be any accidents during this period, so he could only make the decision for this old neighbor.

“Two Spirit Protection Talismans and one Golden Light Talisman. I’ll have to ask Fellow Daoist Yu for reimbursement later.” He jotted it down in his little notebook.

Ever since Yu Yan was willing to take away the high-rank Poison Dispelling Pill that day, he understood what Yu Yan meant. Otherwise, Shen Ping would not make such decisions without permission.

...

Late at night a few days later, under the illumination of the crystal chandelier in the room, the clean and tidy wooden board kept swaying. Until the brocade blanket slid down did the wooden board calm down.

Shen Ping pulled the blanket and covered his wife and concubine. Wang Yun popped her head out and leaned on her shoulder. She said gently, “Husband, the spirit rice at home is almost gone.”

Bai Yuying also popped her head out and added weakly, “There’s also spirit beast meat.”

“Little gluttons.” Shen Ping pinched Bai Yuying’s face and said with a smile, “Tomorrow, I’ll go to the market and buy more. By the way, how much spirit herbs, spirit tea, and spirit wine do we have left?”

Wang Yun said in a low voice, “Husband, don’t buy those. They’re quite expensive. I heard from Senior Feng that the price of talismans in the market has fallen quite a bit. Save as much as you can. Sister Ying’er and I can’t eat them.”

Bai Yuying hesitated for a moment. “Spirit beast meat is not cheap either. Husband, buy less tomorrow.”

Shen Ping did not reply.

In the past two months, the prices of medicinal pills, talismans, dharma artifacts, robes, array discs, and other items had been falling. Even the price for the high-ranked Poison Dispelling Pill had dropped. Although it was because other sects and forces had entered the Wei Kingdom one after another, it was still a little unusual for it to drop so quickly.

Spirit stone reserves were strategic for every sect. Behind it was probably a game between the upper echelons of the various sects. Today, more than ten large flying ships had arrived. The price might continue to fall in the future.

However, he was not anxious because of this. Other than the annual rental fee that did not decrease for the time being, all the other items in the market had decreased. Even the rare treasures at the auction of the True Treasure Pavilion had decreased. Overall, the purchasing power of spirit stones had not decreased.

On the contrary, there has been an increase.

Previously, he had sold high-level talismans and stored some spirit stones. Coupled with the increase in the efficiency of making talismans, maintaining his previous quality of life was not a big problem.

For now, the only thing he had to worry about was the safety of the market. If their safety was not guaranteed, it would be useless no matter how many spirit stones they had.

“Tomorrow is the auction. I hope that the Purple Jade Blood Vine Root or the White Whisker Tree Ginseng can eliminate the poisonous insects in Fellow Daoist Yu’s body. With Fellow Daoist Yu’s strength and my preparations, as long as we don’t encounter a Foundation Establishment cultivator, it won’t be too difficult to deal with them.” Shen Ping pondered.

These were only his theoretical judgments. It was an empty talk. If he wanted to make an accurate estimation, he had to ask Yu Yan, an experienced cultivator who often fought.

“Husband, if Senior Yu enters the family, let her be the elder sister.” Wang Yun suddenly said.

Shen Ping snapped out of his thoughts and said gently, “Don’t think too much. You must be exhausted just now. Hurry up and rest.”

Wang Yun’s lips moved slightly, but she did not say what she wanted to say. She retracted her head. Shen Ping opened the attribute panel. Looking at his wife’s favorable impression of him and the silver light that kept flickering, he fell into deep thought again.

...

The next day, the True Treasure Pavilion in the market.

Mu Jin’s smile was still as sweet as ever. “Fellow Daoist Shen’s talisman crafting efficiency is getting higher and higher. Among the high-grade talisman masters that we’ve worked with in the True Treasure Pavilion, you’re definitely ranked at the top.”

Shen Ping said casually, “Recently, I’ve been cultivating the Dao of Talismans in the Talisman Treasure Hall, and I’ve gained a lot of insights.” Instead of continuing the topic, he asked, “Fellow Cultivator Mu, I heard that the Golden Sun Sect will be moving many cultivators to the edge of the Cloudy Mountain Swamp in the near future. May I know the exact details of this news?”



Mu Jin smiled and said, “Fellow Daoist Shen, don’t worry. The wooden token that you used to live in Yunhe Alley belongs to our True Treasure Pavilion and is not within the range of migration.”

Only then did Shen Ping relax. He took out the auction token and quickly arrived at the auction hall. As the auction proceeded, the cultivators gradually fought until their faces turned red. There were even some who did not hesitate to introduce themselves for a rare treasure and wanted to use their power to suppress others.

However, those who dared to do so usually had the background of an inner or outer sect elder of the Golden Sun Sect. Most rogue cultivators would give up when they heard that.

“The next item is a hundred-year-old White Whisker Tree Ginseng!” Hearing the emcee’s shout, Shen Ping’s face under the bronze mask immediately revealed a look of joy.

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“The starting price of the White Whisker Tree Ginseng is 50!”

“Fifty-two!”

“Fifty-four!”

“Sixty!”

As soon as the White Whisker Tree Ginseng came out, many cultivators shouted. But compared to before, cultivators seemed to be petty. They would slowly increase the price by one or two pieces. Shen Ping still remembered the first time he participated in an auction. The Beauty Pills had all increased by dozens every time.

“Sixty-five!” Shen Ping tried to quote a price.

It was very difficult to get the White Whisker Tree Ginseng without more than 200 to 300 pieces at the auction in the previous few months. He was very nervous when he announced the bid. Now, the price of high-grade Spirit Protection Talisman had fallen to 12 mid-grade spirit stones, and it was still decreasing slightly.

This hundred-year-old white Whisker Tree Ginseng alone exceeded the price of five Spirit Protection Talismans.

Actually, if he waited for the next time, the price of the White Whisker Tree Ginseng might fall again. However, Shen Ping was worried that something would happen if he delayed. Who knew how long he would have to wait for the next time?

Once the bid of sixty-five was out, there were no more cultivators bidding. This made Shen Ping happy, but at the same time, he was puzzled. White Whisker Tree Ginseng used to be more competitive. Why was no one bidding this time? Not long after the bid, Shen Ping knew the reason.

“The next item is one of the final items of this auction! One Foundation Establishment Pill!” As soon as he finished speaking, the surrounding cultivators seemed to have gone crazy as they shouted out price after price. Even if cultivators with deep backgrounds introduced themselves, they would not be able to intimidate them. For the Foundation Establishment Pill, none of the backgrounds were useful.

Shen Ping could only watch the commotion silently. After the auction ended he stepped out of the True Treasure Pavilion and took off his mask in the Talisman Treasure Hall. Only then did he heave a sigh of relief.

He returned to the main road of the market. He was prepared to go to Spring Garden. It had been more than two months, but Matchmaker Ceng had yet to reply to him.

“Everyone in front, move aside! Get out of the way!”

Before he could take a few steps, there were curses coming from behind. Shen Ping turned around and saw a group of cultivators in uniform robes arrogantly blasting away the cultivators in front with their spiritual energy. He hurriedly dodged to the side of the road.

After the group of cultivators left, there were only a few more curses on the road.

This Danxia Sect is too arrogant!”

“That’s right. They clearly don’t take the Golden Sun Sect seriously.” “The cultivators from the other sects who passed by the day before yesterday weren’t so arrogant either!”

“Shh, keep quiet. It’s said that the Danxia Sect is the main force in this aid. There are more than ten Nascent Soul elders in the sect. It’s one of the three immortal sects in Jin Kingdom!”

Shen Ping could not help but sigh with emotion. The foundation of the Alchemy Sect was indeed extraordinary. If the Danxia Sect really reached a cooperation with the Golden Sun Sect, the number of Foundation Establishment Pills might increase in the future.

He shook his head. It was useless for him to speculate about these things. He quickened his pace. He came to Spring Garden to see Matchmaker Ceng.

“Don’t worry, Talisman Master Shen. She’s already on his way. If I wasn’t confident, would I have been able to stall for so long? I’ll make sure you’re satisfied this time.”

Shen Ping’s heart skipped a beat, and he said without changing his expression “Fellow Daoist Ceng, it’s not that I want to rush you, but the price of the Spirit Protection Talisman is still falling. If we delay for a few more days, you’ll have to ask me for additional rewards.”

Matchmaker Ceng laughed dryly. “How can that be? My shop has always been honest with everyone. However, it took some effort this time. A Spirit Protection Talisman is a little low. If Fellow Daoist Shen is satisfied, then the subsequent fees...”

Shen Ping sneered. “Fellow Daoist Ceng, I think we should change to something else.”

Matchmaker Ceng hurriedly said, “This time, she has a special bloodline. Fellow Daoist Shen, you can’t miss it. Perhaps the children you give birth to will continue the bloodline. Their cultivation speed will be extremely fast. As long as they can continue, forming a core in the future is not an extravagant hope, let alone building a foundation.”

Shen Ping did not believe such words at all. If she really had a special bloodline, would it be his turn? Moreover, a Spirit Protection Talisman was not worth Matchmaker Ceng’s efforts. Therefore, he said calmly, “Fellow Daoist Ceng, let’s not beat around the bush. We’ve worked together twice Tell me what happened this time? If you don’t satisfy me, then we should forget about this cooperation.”

Matchmaker Ceng saw that Shen Ping was so determined and could not help but hesitate. In the end, she gritted her teeth and said, “Talisman Master Shen the other party indeed has a special bloodline, but because her physique can’t ‘ withstand this bloodline, her cultivation is lacking. The possibility of her building a foundation is very low. However, if it’s used to continue the bloodline, there’s definitely no problem.”

Shen Ping took a sip of the spiritual tea and said calmly, “I’m afraid that the child will also have such a problem, too, right?”

Matchmaker Ceng looked embarrassed. “It depends on one’s luck. I’ve seen Talisman Master Shen’s luck...”

Shen Ping interrupted her. “I didn’t know that Fellow Daoist Ceng would read people’s physiognomy. Forget it, I’ve waited for a while. I’ll wait another month. If there’s still no news, we can only give up on this cooperation.” With that, he stood up and left.

Although he did not know if Matchmaker Ceng was telling the truth the special bloodline moved Shen Ping. There was no harm in giving it a try. After all, this bloodline was not a rare bloodline that had deep connections. It was an

April had just passed.

The Golden Sun Sect made their move.

As the patrolling law enforcement team patrolled the various alleys of the market, they kept promoting that as long as they were willing to move to the Chen Market at the edge of the Cloud Mountain Swamp, not only would they compensate for the rent for two years, but they would also be exempted from the rent for two years.

Moreover, they promised that they would send patrolling disciples to maintain safety. This condition was indeed not bad. However, no cultivator in the market was willing to move.

Everyone knew about the chaos in the Chen Market. Although they said that they would send disciples to patrol, the outer sect disciples were not stupid. They might not really protect their safety in the Chen Market.

These were two different things.

However, all of this did not affect Shen Ping for the time being. With the guarantee of the True Treasure Pavilion, even if the Golden Sun Sect moved them by force, it would not be his turn.

Late at night on this day, after finishing his cultivation, Shen Ping slowly walked downstairs. The mineral vein contract had been canceled. The White Whisker Tree Ginseng was also auctioned off. Fellow Daoist Yu would not have any other worries this time.

As time passed, the room was terrifyingly quiet. Shen Ping could even hear his own heartbeat. His face was expressionless. It was until footsteps came from outside did his heart suddenly beat faster.

Creak.

The moment the door opened, their gazes met.

Yu Yan sneered without thinking. "Recently, I've received news that the Golden Sun Sect is going to migrate a large number of cultivators from Cloud Mountain Parlor. Fellow Daoist Shen, you're not flustered at all. You actually have the mood to stand here.

“Back in Red Willow Alley, Fellow Daoist Shen had to consider carefully before going out. Now, the sky is about to collapse, and you’re still thinking about me?”

As she spoke, Yu Yan closed the door with a cold smile and disappointment. She took off her mask, hurried into the main room, leaving the door wide open and folding her arms across her chest. The black wriggling patterns on her cheeks were ferocious. “Come on, didn’t you want it? If you have guts, come over.. I want to see how heartless you are!”

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Before she could finish speaking, Shen Ping raised his feet and walked straight towards Yu Yan. With every step, Yu Yan’s expression turned ugly. He reached the door. There seemed to be a trace of disgust on half of her face that was covered in black squirming patterns.

“Haha, I underestimated you, Fellow Daoist Shen.” Yu Yan chuckled. Looking at Shen Ping, who was so close to her, her eyes were calm without any ripples. With a twist of her wrist, the robe on her body slipped off. Under the crystal lamp, one could clearly see black tendons squirming.

Her fingertips pressed against the inner lining and slowly drew an arc along the black tendons. Her voice sounded. “These Black-striped Venomous Worms will flow along the boiling blood. The hotter your body is, the more it likes it. In the end, when you reach the peak of happiness, they will corrode your heart meridians and take root deeply in your blood and meridians. They will devour your flesh, blood, and spiritual energy until your entire body is exhausted.”

The corners of Yu Yan’s lips curled up. “Fellow Daoist Shen, do you... dare?”

“I wouldn’t dare.” Shen Ping shook his head.

Yu Yan immediately sneered. “How boring. I thought that Fellow Daoist Shen would make me look at you in a different light after breaking through to the fifth level of Qi Refinement. It turns out that you still haven’t—”

Halfway through her sentence, it stopped abruptly. A special contract paper appeared in Shen Ping’s hand.

Yu Yan fell silent. This was the Golden Sun Sect's miner contract paper. She was not unfamiliar with it. She had thought for half a month before signing the contract. In the end, she made up her mind. She had originally planned to die in the Flame Gold Mine.

But now, this miner's contract that belonged to her fell into Shen Ping's hands. Yu Yan could clearly sense the aura she had left on the contract paper.

"This is yours." Shen Ping handed it over gently.

"How much did it cost?"

"Two Spirit Protection Talismans and one Golden Light Talisman."

Yu Yan suddenly smiled. "Fellow Daoist Shen, you remember very clearly. Why? Do you still want me to return it? I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you. With my body—"

Before she could finish, Shen Ping took out a long brocade box from his storage bag and interrupted, "Fellow Daoist Yu, there's White Whisker Tree Ginseng inside. Take a small piece every day for ten days before it can completely eliminate the Black-striped Venomous Worm in your blood."

Yu Yan was stunned on the spot. She had yet to come back to her senses when Shen Ping placed the brocade box in her hand. It wasn't until the wooden stairs creaked that she reacted. She raised her head and shouted in a low voice, "Fellow Daoist Shen, what are you after? My broken body?"

Shen Ping did not turn around. He only waved his hand. "There will be an additional guarantee with Fellow Daoist Yu around if the market is not safe in the future. You know me. I'm timid!"

She watched as the figure disappeared. Yu Yan turned around and stared blankly at the brocade box in her hand.

White Whisker Tree Ginseng.

She didn't ask the price. But it must be a rare treasure to be able to eradicate the troublesome Black-striped Venomous Worm. Such an item could not be bought with spirit stones.

"I'm afraid I won't be able to repay you in this life." She laughed involuntarily. Tears welled up in the corners of her eyes. Then, she carefully put the brocade box into her storage bag. She picked up the robe on the ground and gently closed the door.

A moment later, the roof planks vibrated.

“So I can still listen for a long time...” Yu Yan smiled. Two streams of tears rolled down her cheeks.

In this cruel lower world, who would really care about your life and death? Even if they were intimate Dao companions, they would turn against each other for benefits.

This life was enough to have such warmth.

In the blink of an eye, another five days passed.

During this period of time, Shen Ping was engrossed in making talismans and cultivating. He did not even have the time to talk to Yu Yan. However, every time he woke up in the morning, the smell of flower petals bath water made him feel extra comfortable. Even the efficiency of making talismans seemed to have increased.

“Husband, I’ve broken through!” Bai Yuying was extremely excited. She stood in front of Shen Ping happily like a cat that had seen a light spot.

Wang Yun clapped her hands and said repeatedly, “Congratulations, Sister Yuying!”

Shen Ping smiled and praised her, “Not bad, not bad. You’re at the second level of Qi Refinement. Continue to work hard. I’ll add more spirit beast meat for today’s three meals.”

Bai Yuying chuckled and tugged at the corner of Shen Ping’s shirt. “Husband, I’m almost out of pills.”

Shen Ping took out the Spirit Concentration Pill and handed it over.

“Thank you, husband!”

At this moment, it was a little noisy outside the house. Shen Ping pushed open the wooden window and saw a team of law enforcement patrolling disciples walking into the small courtyard. “The deadline is ten days! All cultivators below the seventh level of Qi Refinement, hurry to the Deacon Hall and wait for the relocation arrangements.

“If there are special circumstances, you have to go to the Deacon Hall to settle it and obtain a new wooden token. Cultivators who are late will be forcibly relocated in ten days without any compensation!”

With that, the patrolling disciples left and walked to the next small courtyard.

Fellow Daoist Mu in the third house smiled and said, “Fellow Daoist Shen, your situation in this small courtyard is a little bad. If you don’t have any connections, do you want to come to my place? Not only can I continue to rent it, but I can also guarantee that you can enjoy bliss every night.”

Shen Ping cupped his hands. "Thank you for your kindness, Fellow Daoist Mu."

Alchemist Feng's voice sounded, "Fellow Daoist Mu, in this situation, not to mention Fellow Daoist Shen, even you and I might not be able to safely rent a place to live in Yunhe Alley. The Heavenly Sound Pavilion used to be dominant in the market. When the Acacia Faction of the Jin Kingdom comes, do you think the Heavenly Sound Pavilion can compete with the Acacia Faction?"

Fellow Daoist Mu's expression changed and he snorted, "The Heavenly Sound Pavilion is not doing well, and so is you, Alchemist Feng. How can the Danxia Sect's alchemy skills be compared to the Golden Sun Sect? Soon, the entire market will be filled with medicinal pills refined by the Danxia Sect."

Alchemist Feng did not care at all and chuckled. "I have a skill. Unfortunately, Fellow Daoist Mu has lost the protection of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion. You can't possibly go to the Cloud Mountain Swamp to compete with those demon beasts in charm techniques, right?"

Fellow Daoist Mu gritted her teeth. Her chest heaved up and down. Normally, she would not care about such words. However, when the Acacia Faction came, how could the Heavenly Sound Pavilion have a foothold?

Top courtesans like her had a worried look on their faces these days. If the Heavenly Sound Pavilion had fallen, they could only go to the streets and alleys and really serve those cultivators to earn spirit stones to maintain their daily cultivation needs. After all, they did not have the special array formation of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion.

The decrease in the effect of the charm technique could only fool those low-level cultivators.

"At most, I'll move to the Chen Market." Fellow Daoist Mu's expression was unhappy. She defended herself and suddenly closed the wooden window.

Shen Ping frowned. The impact of many sects and factions entering Cloud Mountain Parlour was probably not only a safety problem. Elixirs, talismans, Dharma artifacts, and so on would be greatly affected.

Danxia Sect, Acacia Faction...

Although there were no sects that specialized in making talismans this time, there were many Talisman Masters in these sects. It would definitely cause pressure on the Talisman Masters in the market.

His current connections and status came from his talisman techniques. If this aspect was squeezed, his life would become difficult in the future.



“I have to go to the True Treasure Pavilion to ask. I have to see if we can deepen our cooperation..”

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In the market.

Shen Ping slowly walked on the street and realized that most of the surrounding cultivators had hurried expressions. The entire street clearly looked much colder. He had not gone far when someone shouted in a low voice, “The Danxia Sect disciples are here.”

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The expressions of the cultivators changed as they quickly flashed to the edge of the street. The middle of the street instantly became empty. All the cultivators lowered their heads.

Shen Ping did not know what was going on, but he hurriedly followed suit. Until a group of Danxia Sect disciples walked over, the tense expressions of many cultivators relaxed a little.

“Fellow Daoist, I haven’t been to the market for the past few days. What was the situation just now?” Shen Ping cupped his hands. Then, he took out a low-grade spirit stone from his storage bag.

This cultivator was originally impatient, but when he saw the spirit stones, he immediately smiled and sighed. “Fellow Daoist, you might not know, but among the sects and factions that came to help the Golden Sun Sect this time, the Danxia Sect is famous for being arrogant. That’s fine, since everyone won’t often come to the main street of the market. Even if we encounter them, we just have to endure it.

.....

“But just a few days ago, a late-stage Qi Refinement cultivator took one more look at a beautiful female disciple of the Danxia Sect. In the end, he died tragically on the spot.”

Shen Ping was dumbfounded. He couldn’t help but say, “Just because he took a second look??”

The cultivator shook his head. "That late-stage Qi Refinement cultivator can only blame himself for being unlucky. It's said that the female disciple is a descendant of a Golden Core elder. She's usually pampered, and she's young. It's normal for her to have a bad temper."

Shen Ping asked, "What happened after that? The Golden Sun Sect didn't appear?"

This was the market. Killing in public was already breaking the rules set by the Golden Sun Sect.

The cultivator said in a low voice, "They compensated ten mid-grade spirit stones."

Shen Ping: "..."

Now, he completely understood why the market had become deserted. He only took a second look and he died. This was not pampering, they just did not treat the freelance cultivators in the market as humans at all.

"Thank you for telling me!" Shen Ping suddenly quickened his pace. If the market was like this in the future, he would rather move to the Chen Market in the Cloud Mountain Swamp. It was a little chaotic. However, at the very least, such a situation would not happen in the main road of the market.

From the looks of it, only the Danxia Sect acted arrogantly. But who could guarantee that the other sects and powers would not act recklessly after familiarizing themselves with the situation?

Such a trampling of order would probably cause the market to be in a state of panic.

He arrived at the True Treasure Pavilion. Only then did he feel slightly more at ease.

For the True Treasure Pavilion to be able to enter during the Golden Sun Sect's domineering period, even the Danxia Sect could not compare to the strength and background of it.

After Mu Jin walked out, she maintained a standard sweet smile on her face. "Fellow Daoist Shen's efficiency in making talismans is getting higher and higher."

Shen Ping hurriedly shook his head and said, "Fellow Daoist Mu, I'm not here to sell talismans this time. I just want to ask if the True Treasure Pavilion has better treatment for talisman masters." He then added helplessly, "The current situation in the market makes me feel uneasy."

Mu Jin's eyes lit up and she said enthusiastically, "Yes, of course." She made an inviting gesture. Then, she brought Shen Ping to the private room on the second floor.

After sitting down, Mu Jin smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Shen, your previous cooperation contract is considered a lower category. It only has a special treatment of participating in the auction. In fact, even if you didn't say it, I would have mentioned it later.

"For Alchemists, Talisman Masters, and Artifact Masters, our True Treasure Pavilion has three treatments. The first is your previous contract. The second is to add more difficult conditions to its foundation. The third is to join the True Treasure Pavilion and become a Talisman Master of the True Treasure Pavilion."

After Shen Ping heard this, he pondered for a moment. "I wonder what I need to do if I join the third category?"

Mu Jin made a cup of spiritual tea and continued, "The third condition for joining is very harsh. The True Treasure Pavilion has to evaluate your potential to advance to Level 2 and the possibility of breaking through to Foundation Establishment before allowing it.

"If it succeeds, you will need to enter the True Treasure Pavilion in the future. We will arrange a very comfortable talisman-making environment for you."

Shen Ping frowned. He had long broken through to become a Level Two Talisman Master, but it was very difficult for him to pass the Foundation Establishment Realm. And even if he passed, he still needed to enter the True Treasure Pavilion. He could only give up based on this point. "And the second?"

"The condition for the second category is to sell no less than 80 high-level talismans every year. Half of them are talismans like the Spirit Protection Talismans.

"Other than being able to participate in fixed auctions, we will give you a special jade token. This jade token has the badge of the True Treasure Pavilion, which means that you are an esteemed guest of the True Treasure Pavilion. If you take it out at a critical moment, it can provide protection in name."

Seeing that Mu Jin didn't continue, Shen Ping was stunned. "That's all?"

No less than 80 high-grade talismans were sold in a year. This meant that he had to make more than six talismans every month. Although there were only three more talismans than the first category, most high-grade Talisman Masters found it difficult to achieve it.

Especially when they asked for half of the talismans to be the Spirit Protection Talismans. There were no more than 20 people in the entire market who could meet the conditions for this difficulty.

With such conditions, there was just an additional nominal protection. This made Shen Ping feel a little cheated.

However, Mu Jin smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Shen, the protection in the name of the True Treasure Pavilion is very precious. Even the current Danxia Sect has to show respect for it. At least you won't die after taking a few more glances at the disciples of the Danxia Sect."

Shen Ping laughed dryly. "Fellow Daoist Mu, you're well-informed. I only found out about this today."

Mu Jin glanced at Shen Ping and reminded him in a low voice, "Fellow Daoist Shen, some things are not as simple as they seem." Then she didn't say anything else.

Shen Ping's heart skipped a beat and he said seriously, "Alright, Fellow Daoist Mu, I'll sign the second one!"

Mu Jin's smile became even sweeter.

He left the True Treasure Pavilion. A jade token with the word 'True' carved on it appeared in Shen Ping's storage bag. However, he did not feel much safer. After all, if he really encountered the situation of the previous cultivator, he probably did not even have the time to take the jade token with his cultivation and strength.

"I have to bring a high-grade defensive Dharma artifact with me when I go out. Although it's a little high-profile, it's safe. I need at least five Spirit Protection Talismans... No, ten! Also, Fellow Daoist Mu's last sentence seems to have a deeper meaning. Could it be that the Danxia Sect is deliberately letting the disciples show their arrogance?"

He was deep in thought. However, he quickly shook his head. What was he thinking about in this game between sects?

"I still have to continue bidding for the spiritual liquid. It's a little expensive, but with the help of spiritual liquid and medicinal pills, I should be able to break through to the sixth level of Qi Refinement in half a year."

Shen Ping quickly returned to Yunhe Alley.

The high-grade spiritual roots of metal and wood in his body were very effective in absorbing spiritual liquid. However, as his spiritual roots continued to improve, he could already vaguely sense that the other two low-grade spiritual roots were delaying his overall cultivation speed.

As soon as he entered the small courtyard, he saw Yu Yan, who had taken off her mask, walking with his wife and concubine. Half of her face had already recovered. He did not know if it was an illusion, but her face looked even more lustrous and moist than before, as if she had returned to her twenties..

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“Husband!” Wang Yun noticed the figure at the entrance of the small courtyard and jogged to welcome him. However, she quickly slowed down and revealed a shy expression.

Yu Yan smiled and teased, “Fellow Daoist Shen’s relationship with his wife is really enviable. It’s only been half a day since you last met, but you’re already missing him so much.”

A blush appeared on Wang Yun’s face and quickly spread to her sparkling ears. Shen Ping walked over. He quietly opened the virtual interface.

[You dual cultivated with your wife once and gained 0.4 Talisman Dao Experience.]

[Your wife is deeply in love with you. Current favorability: 100+85]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 6]

[Silver Bonus: 10]

.....

[Talisman Master: Level Two Low-Grade (20,920/150,000)]

The silver frame’s light became deeper. After a few months of hard work, his wife’s favorability had increased. Another 5 points were added. Although the two bonuses did not change, Shen Ping could clearly feel his wife’s affection. It was not an exaggeration to say that a day apart was like three years apart.

Then, he glanced at Bai Yuying’s interface from the corner of his eye. Other than the increase in his spiritual root, nothing else changed.

When they entered the house, Shen Ping said casually, “Fellow Daoist Yu, you seem to have recovered quite well.”

Yu Yan smiled and said, “Thanks to Fellow Daoist Shen, I should be able to recover in a few days. At that time, I might have to trouble Fellow Daoist Shen to check it.”

Shen Ping's heart burned. His eyes inadvertently glanced at the outline in front of Yu Yan's robe. Perhaps he had been too busy these few days. He couldn't remember if the thin interior was a Yixing clay pot or mandarin duck powder.

"Sure, sure." He quickly replied. However, when he retracted his gaze, he saw Yu Yan's faint smile. Shen Ping immediately said seriously, "Yun'er, Ying'er, go upstairs first. I have something to discuss with Fellow Daoist Yu."

His wife and concubine nodded one after another.

Yu Yan closed the door. "Fellow Daoist Shen, what do you want to say?"

"I wonder if Fellow Daoist Yu has heard of what has happened in the market recently."

Seeing Shen Ping mention serious matters, Yu Yan's expression could not help but become serious. "Fellow Daoist Shen, are you talking about the migration of cultivators from the Golden Sun Sect?"

Shen Ping shook his head and recounted the tragedy of the cultivators he had heard in the market.

"The Danxia Sect is a famous immortal sect in Jin Kingdom. Even if this disciple is ignorant of the world and is spoiled and arrogant, many sects and forces in the market are present now. Even for the sake of reputation, the seniors in their sect will slightly restrain them. How can they let this disciple kill so openly? I'm afraid there's more to this matter." Yu Yan said solemnly, "However, no matter what the reason is, there will be a period of chaos in the market in the future. Fellow Daoist Shen, you have to be careful when you go out. Perhaps it's best to wait for me to recover before traveling together."

Shen Ping was stunned for a moment. He sized up Fan Yuyan again and praised, "Fellow Daoist Yu, your insight is extraordinary."

"It's just some experience." Yu Yan did not continue on this topic. Instead, she asked, "I wonder what your plans are next? Now, the Golden Sun Sect has a ten-day deadline to relocate cultivators below the seventh level of Qi Refinement. The senior you know..."

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "Don't worry, I'll go to the Deacon Hall to apply for a special wooden token during the deadline. In addition, I forgot to tell Fellow Daoist Yu something. While you were mining in the Cloud Mountain Swamp, I practiced talismans and gained a lot of insights. A few days ago, I officially broke through to a high-grade Talisman Master."

Once the market fell into chaos, he had to take out many high-level talismans one after another. It was already not enough to rely on that fabricated senior Talisman Master to cover up.

Yu Yan was stunned. Then, she looked at Shen Ping in a daze. It was as if she had reacquainted herself with her old neighbor.

She knew very well what a high-grade Talisman Master meant.

Putting aside his connections and status, just the Spirit Protection Talisman he refined could protect her life several times. If she had the Spirit Protection Talisman when she was infected with the Black-striped Venomous Worm, she might have been fine.

“Really?” She came back to her senses. There was surprise and disbelief in her voice.

Talisman Masters required years of accumulation. It had only been a few years since Shen Ping broke through to become a mid-grade Talisman Master. Under normal circumstances, it was already very good if he could steadily make mid-grade talismans.

High-grade Talisman Master.

She had never thought that her old neighbor would be able to break through in this life.

However, before Shen Ping could reply, Yu Yan almost blurted out, “The miner contract, the White Whisker Tree Ginseng...”

Her expression was both shocked and complicated.

She should have thought of it long ago, but she had long been determined to die some time ago and did not think about it carefully. She only thought that it was the savings of this old neighbor who made talismans day and night.

He even owed that senior a favor.

Shen Ping nodded and sighed. “The Talisman Treasure Hall set up by the Golden Sun Sect in the market is indeed extremely helpful to itinerant Talisman Masters. I’ve benefited greatly from it over the years and advanced by leaps and bounds in the Dao of Talismans. I didn’t waste the twenty years of bitter cultivation.”

Yu Yan congratulated him from the bottom of her heart almost without thinking. “Fellow Daoist Shen, you’ve accumulated a lot. Congratulations. Now that you’ve broken through to become a high-grade Talisman Master, there’s hope for you to build your foundation in the future!”

Shen Ping smiled knowingly. He slowly raised his finger and touched Yu Yan’s fair and moist face. Yu Yan did not avoid it. Instead, she closed her eyes. After five minutes, she opened her eyes and smiled brightly. “Fellow Daoist Shen, I’ve given you a chance.”

As she spoke, she turned around and walked into the main room. Just as Shen Ping shook his head and was about to go upstairs, he heard a voice transmission. "Come to my room in five days. I don't want to listen to wooden boards anymore."

On the second floor.

In the quiet room.

Shen Ping expressionlessly took out Spirit Protection Talismans, Golden Light Talismans, Ice Arrow Talismans, Earth Trap Talismans. Then, he put them into his storage bag. He had already activated the small array disc he had bought earlier and placed it on the second floor.

Even if a Foundation Establishment cultivator entered the house, they would not be able to instantly kill them.

Moreover, the Golden Sun Sect had left behind a special array restriction when they built the house. As long as one held a wooden token, they could activate it and temporarily suppress the enemies who had trespassed.

Phew.

He took a deep breath. He cleared his mind of distracting thoughts. He sat down cross-legged and began to cultivate calmly.

Boom.

As he circulated the cultivation technique, the spiritual energy in his body immediately circulated along his meridians. The thin spiritual energy in the house gradually gathered. The high-grade spiritual root of the metal and wood attributes suddenly increased the absorption of spiritual qi from the outside world.

Three days later.

Matchmaker Ceng sent a message.

Shen Ping had no choice but to end his daily boring life. When he arrived at the market, he first went to the Deacon Hall. After taking out the wooden token that represented the quota of the True Treasure Pavilion, the outer sect deacon of the Golden Sun Sect enthusiastically gave him a special wooden token.

"Deacon, may I know the rent for the houses in Yunhe Alley next year?"

"Five mid-grade spirit stones."



Hearing this greatly reduced price, not only was Shen Ping not happy, but his heart also sank. He asked tentatively, "Is the safety of Yunhe Alley the same as this year?"

The outer sect deacon looked up. Shen Ping hurriedly took out a medium-grade spirit stone from his storage bag. He wanted to obtain some insider information.

"Once the deadline is over, the disciples of the other sects will enter the various alleys of the market one after another. Among them, Yunhe Alley has the most number. The Golden Sun Sect can't control it. But don't worry, as long as you don't provoke them, these disciples won't attack without permission. Moreover, in at most a year, the disciples of the various large sects will leave.."

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Spring Garden.

When Shen Ping arrived, he was still thinking about the information the deacon had mentioned.

Most of the cultivators living in Yunhe Alley were at the late-stage of Qi Refinement. He originally thought that the number of sect disciples who moved in would be smaller, but in the end, it was the most.

Among them, there should be some other unforeseen events. It could also be that there were many empty houses in Yunhe Alley.

Fortunately, it did not affect the ownership of the spot in the True Treasure Pavilion.

"One year! I have to make more preparations in the next few days and buy enough talismans and materials for my daily needs. I won't go out if I can".

Most of the disciples of the sect were arrogant. Once he bumped into them, the probability of other parties disliking him is high. He could not afford to offend them. He could only hold up the sign to save his life.

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"Talisman Master Shen is here. Come in, come in." Matchmaker Ceng swayed her waist, her face filled with passion. They arrived at the private room.

Shen Ping did not see any beautiful figures. His expression turned cold as he said unhappily, "Could it be that Fellow Daoist Ceng is fooling me?"

Matchmaker Ceng hurriedly explained, "Talisman Master Shen, don't be angry first. The situation is like this. The Jin Kingdom and the other sects have temporarily cut off the main passageway into the Cloud Mountain Swamp. Large flying ships can't enter at all. If we don't use the flying ship, the journey will be very dangerous. It's impossible for the cultivators of our Spring Garden to take the risk to come from other passageways just because of a Spirit Protection Talisman."

Shen Ping raised his voice. "What do you mean? Are you going to increase the price?"

He did not believe that Spring Garden would specially make a trip because of him.

Matchmaker Ceng shook her head. "Talisman Master Shen, you've misunderstood. I mean that this time, we have to extend it for a period of time, at least half a year. But don't worry, our Spring Garden will compensate you for this." As she spoke, she took out a jade token. "Inside are the three women with special bloodlines this time. Talisman Master Shen, you can choose first."

Shen Ping's expression softened. His divine sense permeated the jade token.

Three female cultivators with different appearances and figures flashed past.

However, the demeanor and temperament of these female cultivators were completely inconsistent with their age, especially their eyes. There was a hint of numbness. Although they forced a smile, one could still see their unwillingness.

He sighed inwardly. "Fellow Daoist Ceng, forget it. If there's anyone else that fits—"

Matchmaker Ceng quickly interrupted, "Talisman Master Shen, these three female cultivators were carefully selected. They are also willing to marry a reliable cultivator as their partner. It will be their blessing to choose one."

As she spoke, she then whispered the bloodline situation of the three female cultivators.

Shen Ping frowned and could not help but ask, "Fellow Daoist Ceng, according to my understanding, those who have the abnormal bloodline could cultivate extremely quickly. Perhaps there is a limit, but they are more than a little stronger than ordinary cultivators. And the aura of these female cultivators seems to be at the third level of Qi Refinement, or around the fourth level."

Matchmaker Ceng laughed dryly. "I'm not sure about that."

Shen Ping snorted in his heart. It was most likely something sinister. He thought for a moment and asked, "If both sides are dissatisfied, what will happen to them?"

Matchmaker Ceng smiled and said, "The Golden Sun Sect's mineral vein has always lacked cultivators. However, Talisman Master Shen, don't worry. Our Spring Garden won't make a loss. People will only search for such special people after confirming their intentions. Therefore, if you give up, it can only be said to be a pity."

"Forget it." Shen Ping stood up. "The one in the green dress. I can give it a try and see if both parties are satisfied."

Matchmaker Ceng smiled warmly. "Alright, Talisman Master Shen, I'll wait for your good news."

"Black Water Spirit Turtle Bloodline. I'm afraid the waters behind Spring Garden are very deep." Shen Ping did not dare to think about it carefully and hurriedly suppressed the thoughts that were flying in his mind.

Back at Yunhe Alley, he entered a boring and fulfilling life again.

Soon, two days passed. His wife and concubine could clearly sense that Shen Ping was distracted.

At night, Shen Ping ended his cultivation early. "Yun'er, Ying'er, I might not be in the house tonight."

Wang Yun was stunned for a moment before she reacted and said happily, "Congratulations, husband!"

Bai Yuying was a little slow, but she quickly came back to her senses. "No wonder you keep looking downstairs today. It turns out that you and Senior Yu... Hehe, looks like we have another sister!"

Shen Ping coughed a few times and instructed, "Rest early." He quickly walked out of the house.

Bai Yuying muttered, "I wonder if he knows how to paste the Silence Talisman."

Wang Yun exclaimed, "Maybe, maybe not."

Their gazes intertwined. A faint blush appeared on the corners of their lips.

He stood at the door of the first floor. Shen Ping's long and heavy breathing gradually became chaotic. He breathed in the smell of petals coming from the door.

Yu Yan's beautiful figure subconsciously appeared in his mind.

Mandarin duck powder.

At this moment, he was extremely sure.

Phew.

Ha.

He took a deep breath. It was as if he wanted to absorb the taste of the petals into his mind. After calming down, Shen Ping raised his hand and was about to knock on the door. A voice came from the door. "Come in. The door is open."

Only then did he notice a crack at the edge of the door. The moment he pushed open the door, a picture of a beauty coming out of the bath appeared in front of him.

But soon, Shen Ping was stunned.

The scene in the room was completely different from what he had expected. Beside the wooden bed was a wooden bucket that could accommodate two people taking a bath. The boiling hot water kept steaming a large amount of white fog, which was filled with a very rich flower petal fragrance.

Yu Yan was wearing a robe. Her black hair was tied up, and a murderous look flickered between her brows. Shen Ping was stunned for dozens of breaths before he could not help but ask, "Fellow... Fellow Daoist Yu, what are you doing?"

Plop!

A slender white snake suddenly jumped out of the hot water. The white snake rushed into the fog. It was as if it was riding on clouds and mist, absorbing the heat until the white fog in the entire house completely disappeared. The white snake turned around and returned to the hot water.

Yu Yan did not say anything. Shen Ping could only wait patiently. Ten minutes passed. The water in the wooden bucket gradually became clear. The white snake swam.

Shen Ping noticed that there was an abnormal flush on Yu Yan's smooth face. She quickly walked to the edge of the wooden bucket and pulled open her robe. The mandarin duck powder on her thin gauze clothes was abnormally eye-catching.

Splash.

The sound of water rippled. Yu Yan soaked herself in the wooden bucket. Shen Ping shuddered and hurriedly closed the door. Just as she was about to take a bath, he heard an anxious shout. "Fellow Daoist Shen, be careful."

Before she could finish speaking, the white snake actually rushed out of the wooden barrel and attacked Shen Ping at lightning speed.

However, Shen Ping was at the fifth level of Qi Refinement after all. His reaction was very fast, and he easily dodged the white snake's sudden attack. Then, he suddenly stretched out his palm and grabbed the white snake.

Shen Ping was stunned to discover that this white snake was actually a puppet made of white silk and thousand-year-old silver wood mixed with some rare mineral sand.

"This is the only thing my master left me." Yu Yan formed a few hand seals with her wrist. The white snake puppet lost its agility and became mechanical and stiff.

Shen Ping subconsciously asked, "Fellow Daoist Yu, is your master a puppet master?"

Yu Yan nodded and said coquettishly, "Why are you still standing there? I can't wait anymore!"

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The spring rain was as smooth as oil. A long drought brings rain. When the hot water in the wooden bucket surged from all directions, Shen Ping could not help but shiver. He thought that he had been on the battlefield for a long time and could conquer everything.

However, when they fought with real swords and spears, he was stunned to discover that there were some things that he could not control.

Looking at Yu Yan's gaze, Shen Ping looked embarrassed and could not help but mutter in his heart, "That shouldn't be the case. It must be because of that Dragon Playing with the Pearls'. Sigh, I was still tricked!"

Yu Yan's eyes were filled with spring, and the corners of her mouth carried a trace of a faint smile. "Fellow Daoist Shen, every time you're with your wife and concubine, you're not like this. Why aren't you as brave as before today? Are you nervous?"

Shen Ping said seriously, "Fellow Daoist Yu, you must be joking. How can I be nervous?"

As he spoke, the sound of water rippled. Soon, the ripples in the wooden barrel gradually calmed down.

Shen Ping frowned. Yu Yan did not say anything. The room was so quiet that only the sound of heartbeats could be heard.

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Five minutes passed.

Yu Yani said faintly, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you don't have to blame yourself. This is very normal... Actually, I..."

Shen Ping refused to believe it and gritted his teeth. Twenty minutes later, he had lost. He was completely defeated. He silently got up and walked out of the wooden bucket. Standing at the door of the main room, he said calmly, "I'll come again another day."

When he stepped on the wooden stairs, Yu Yan's voice transmission came, "Fellow Daoist Shen, I will take a bath at dawn every day. I hope that Fellow Daoist Shen can come and help me!"

Hearing this, Shen Ping staggered and almost fell. Fortunately, his reaction was fast enough to grab the handrail of the stairs. "Like a wolf Like a tiger. The ancients did not lie to me! Dragon Playing with Pearls is too weak."

Only then did he regain his confidence. After stabilizing himself, he flicked his sleeve and walked towards the quiet room with his hands behind his back. He sat down cross-legged.

Shen Ping opened the attribute panel, his eyes filled with anticipation. Although he was in a sorry state this time, his main gain was not to have fun with Fellow Daoist Yu.

[Talisman Master: Level Two Low-grade (21,100/150,000)]

[Metal Spiritual Root: High-grade (158,999/50,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: High-grade (157,91/50,000)]

His gaze swept over. Other than the two virtual frames of his wife and concubine, there was indeed another virtual frame. There were words flashing on it.

[You have dual cultivated with your Dao Companion 15 times. The effect is not good. You have received +0 experience in making puppets.]

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 95]

[Internal Charm Fire Body Effect: You have obtained additional divine sense +0]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 3]

[Puppet Master: Level 1 Low-grade (0/1,000)]

[Divine Sense: Mid-stage Qi Refinement (1,280/5,000)]

Shen Ping's face darkened. He felt that the words revealed by the entire virtual frame carried a trace of disdain.

No. It must be an illusion.

"Inner Charm Fire Body... Could it be that Yu Yan has the legendary special physique?" Shen Ping's eyes lit up and a smile appeared on his face. So that was how it was! No wonder he, who had been on the battlefield for a long time, fell. It turned out to be a special situation.

Now, he was in a good mood again. He put away the virtual interface. He suppressed his distracting thoughts. He calmed his mind. The spiritual energy in his body quickly circulated through his meridians, nourishing his limbs and bones. The divine sense in his Niwan Palace was also nourished.

Not only could meditation improve one's cultivation, but it could also relieve one's fatigue to a certain extent.

The night passed.

Shen Ping ended his cultivation early in the morning. As soon as he walked out of the quiet room, he smelled a rich fragrance of spirit rice, mixed with the fragrance of spirit beast meat and some spirit ingredients.

"Husband, the food is ready." Wang Yun said gently, "Do you want to call Senior Yu over?"

Bai Yuying also looked up. The two women did not hear anything last night, which made them a little confused.

"I'll go myself." Shen Ping replied. Before he could reach the stairs, noisy footsteps sounded from outside the window, followed by thick spiritual energy.

"I'm Chen Yan, a disciple of the Acacia Faction. Fellow Daoists of the Small Courtyard No. 056C, please come out and meet me."

The voice resounded. The wooden window trembled. Shen Ping's expression changed slightly. He waved at his wife and concubine and brought them downstairs. Yu Yan also walked out with a solemn expression. The two of them exchanged glances. They pushed open the door and walked out.

Sect disciples, no matter how strong he was, they had to show some respect.

Soon, Fellow Daoist Mu, the brothers, Alchemist Feng, Shen Ping, Yu Yan, and the other cultivators were all standing at the door.

Chen Yan, who was standing in the middle of the small courtyard, was followed by seven or eight disciples in the uniform of the Acacia Faction. These disciples had cold and arrogant expressions. When they saw that there was actually a mortal here, the disdain in their eyes intensified.

“Fellow Daoists, sorry to disturb you. In a few days, my junior sister and junior brother will be entering this small courtyard. I came this time mainly to inform you in advance. When the time comes, I hope you can take care of my junior brother and junior sister.”

Chen Yan had a gentle smile on his face. When he cupped his hands, he did not lose the demeanor of a disciple of a large sect. He was completely different from the aura of the several Acacia Faction disciples behind him.

Fellow Daoist Mu smiled. “Fellow Daoist Chen, I’m Mu Yushuang. We naturally welcome the disciples of the Acacia Faction to enter. Speaking of which, the cultivation technique I cultivate has some connections with the Acacia Faction. I’m just not good at it. I wonder if I can be thick-skinned and ask for guidance when Fellow Daoist Chen’s junior brothers and sisters come in.”

As she spoke, there was a hint of charm in her voice. A pretty girl behind Chen Yan curled her lips. “A low-level charm technique, and one that was not legitimate. You’re really not skilled enough.”

The other disciples immediately laughed. “They’re rogue cultivators. It’s already good enough to have a cultivation technique.”

Chen Yan smiled faintly and said, “Fellow Daoist Mu is too polite.”

The brothers in the fifth house cupped their hands one after another.

“Zhang Hu.”

“Zhang Xiong.”

The eldest brother, Zhang Hu, said again, “We welcome the disciples of the Acacia Faction.”

Chen Yan swept his gaze over and simply cupped his hands.

Alchemist Feng chuckled and said, “I’m Feng Yu, a mid-grade alchemist. I welcome the disciples of the Acacia Faction to stay. If you want to refine pills, you can come and discuss with me.”



“Fellow Daoist Feng, you’re being too serious.”

Chen Yan was a little polite.

Lastly, it was Shen Ping. He cupped his hands with a smile and said, “I’m Shen Ping. I was lucky enough to become a high-grade Talisman Master. The three behind me are my wife and Dao companions. We welcome the disciples of the Acacia Faction to stay in the small courtyard. If you’re interested in the Dao talisman technique, you can come and discuss it. If you want to buy high-grade Dao talismans, I’m willing to sell ten at half price.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Chen Yan and the seven or eight disciples of the Acacia Faction looked over. Even Fellow Daoist Mu, Alchemist Feng, and the Zhang brothers could not help but look at Shen Ping with surprise and realization in their eyes.

High-grade Talisman Master.

Even a large sect like the Acacia Faction could not ignore it. Although there were many Level Two Talisman Masters in the large sect, under normal circumstances, Level Two Talisman Masters would not waste time making Level One talismans..

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## Chapter 47: Unusual

“So Fellow Daoist Shen is actually a high-grade Talisman Master. Excuse me.” Chen Yan was much more polite. He turned his body and glanced at the beautiful girl behind him, as well as a young man who looked rather wooden.

“Chen Ying greets Fellow Daoist Shen!”

“Chen Jing greets Fellow Daoist Shen!”

The two of them cupped their hands in greeting.

When Shen Ping heard that, he could not help but think to himself that these two were probably not only Chen Yan’s junior brother and sister, but also cultivators from his clan. He was not surprised by this.

The factions in the large sects were complicated. Among them, the family factions occupied a very important part. For example, his family had an inseparable connection with the Golden Sun Main Sect.

After exchanging a few pleasantries, Chen Yan left with his disciples.

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In the small courtyard, Fellow Daoist Mu, the Zhang brothers, and Alchemist Feng warmly congratulated Shen Ping for breaking through to a high-grade Talisman Master.

Especially when Mu Yushuang was congratulating him, her eyes looked at Yu Yan. “I remember that Fellow Daoist Yu and Talisman Master Shen are only in a co-rent relationship. I didn’t expect you to become Dao Companions now. Tsk tsk, as expected, being close is good.”

As she spoke, her voice changed. “Talisman Master Shen, do you want to consider me? The Heavenly Sound Pavilion can’t even protect itself. I don’t know where I’ll be wandering in the future. If I have Talisman Master Shen’s protection, I can also have a place to stay.” Her fragrant tongue slid across the corner of her lips. “Although I don’t have any other skills, I’m quite experienced in dual cultivation.”

Shen Ping hurriedly said, “Senior Mu, you must be joking. My cultivation level is low. It’s enough for me to have a wife, a concubine, and a Dao companion.”

With that, he turned around and returned to the house with his wife, concubine, and Yu Yan. Mu Yushuang snorted. Alchemist Feng smiled faintly. The Zhang brothers looked at Shen Ping’s house and shook their heads slightly.

At the beginning of the day.

In the Spring Embroidery Pavilion in the market.

Shen Ping took out a high-level talisman and handed it over.

When Shopkeeper Chen saw the two Spirit Protection Talismans, the warm smile on his face widened. “Fellow Daoist Shen, it seems that you’ve already broken through to a high-grade Talisman Master. Congratulations!”

After Shen Ping casually replied with a lucky breakthrough, he leaned closer and asked in a low voice, “Shopkeeper Chen, has there been any news from the Golden Sun Sect recently?”

Shopkeeper Chen’s expression did not change. “Fellow Daoist Shen, which aspect are you referring to?”

"It's about Yunhe Alley. In a few days, the sect disciples will be settling in the market in large numbers. To be honest, disciples of the Acacia Faction came to my small courtyard to inform me in advance today."

Shen Ping had a helpless expression on his face. "I'm a Talisman Master and am not good at fighting. If I offend the disciples of the Acacia Faction, I'm afraid I won't be able to keep my life."

Shopkeeper Chen glanced at Shen Ping and said in a low voice, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you don't have to worry too much. The recent commotions in the market is only temporary. As long as you survive this period of time, it's fine. Try not to go out if you can. But it is a little troublesome when your courtyard has disciples of the Acacia Faction."

At this point, he said through voice transmission, "The disciples of the Acacia Faction are best at the Dao of Yin-Yang Plucking and Charm, especially female disciples. The Dao of Charm is impossible to guard against. Once you fall into it, at best, you will lose your cultivation. At worst, you will become a Demon Puppet and be controlled by it."

"Although you're middle-aged, you're a Talisman Master. It's very easy for you to become the target of the Acacia Faction disciples."

Shen Ping was shocked and immediately regretted revealing his identity as a high-grade Talisman Master. He originally wanted to use his identity as a Talisman Master to avoid some unnecessary trouble, but he did not expect it to backfire.

However, his expression did not change. "Shopkeeper Chen, the Acacia Faction disciple I saw today has the demeanor of a large sect, not like the demonic path..."

Shopkeeper Chen interrupted, "The Acacia Faction is the top demonic sect in Jin Kingdom. Disciples of such sects are best at disguising themselves. On the surface, they look gentle and refined with an extraordinary bearing, but in fact, their methods are ruthless and sinister. The Heavenly Sound Pavilion of the Cloud Mountain Parlour actually has some connections with the Acacia Faction. And countless cultivators have been scammed into being penniless and miserable in the Heavenly Sound Pavilion!"

"Fellow Daoist Shen, do you dare to touch the female cultivators of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion?"

Shen Ping shook his head repeatedly. What a joke. The female cultivators of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion were the masters of sucking bones. How could he withstand it with his little resistance?

They chatted for a while more. He only left after knowing that the Spring Embroidery Pavilion would not move out of the market.

When he returned to Yunhe Alley, Shen Ping made a trip to the True Treasure Pavilion and asked about the price of a special Dharma artifact that could resist charm techniques. After asking carefully, he dispelled this thought.

The charm technique of the female cultivators of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion could be resisted by special Dharma artifacts. However, the charm of the Acacia Faction was even higher.

High-quality special Dharma artifacts could resist the Divine Consciousness Illusion Technique in the charm. However, some body language and strange secret techniques could only rely on his Divine Consciousness and will to resist.

In the end, Mu Jin told him that the best way to settle this once and for all was not to have a certain ability, and then buy a special Dharma artifact.

Apart from that, that was to minimize contact with the Acacia Faction disciples.

In the small courtyard of Yunhe Alley.

Shen Ping muttered speechlessly, "What kind of lousy method is this!"

He frowned. He could store the spirit rice, rare treasures, and spirit beast meat he needed for his daily life. He could even stay indoors for half a year. However, he still wanted to participate in the True Treasure Pavilion's auction every month to bid for spiritual liquid and some medicinal pills to assist in his cultivation.

Now, the prices of various items in the market have plummeted. Although the spirit liquid had not decreased drastically, with Shen Ping's efficiency in making talismans, he could auction a drop every month. If he consumes it for three to four months, he might be able to break through.

But it was not safe even if Yu Yan went out with him. After all, the Acacia Faction did not only have female disciples.

"Fellow Daoist Shen, what's wrong?" Yu Yan walked down from the second floor and noticed Shen Ping's expression. Their relationship had improved by leaps and bounds. Shen Ping did not hide his worries. "Let me go out!"

"When I fought in the Cloud Mountain Swamp in the past, I also encountered demon beasts and cultivators who knew illusion techniques. Even if I encountered the secret methods of the Acacia Faction disciples, I think I can more or less deal with them." Yu Yan said confidently.

Shen Ping shook his head. He needed to go to the True Treasure Pavilion's auction, not to buy items in the market.

“Why? You don’t believe in my methods?” Yu Yan snorted. “I don’t dare to say that I’m very confident in resisting the divine sense illusion, but in terms of sex, I’m stronger than you.” At this point, her face blushed a little. “Ordinary cultivators can’t stand the commotion between Fellow Daoist Shen and your wife and concubine!”

Shen Ping suddenly laughed and said in a low voice, “It seems that Fellow Daoist Yu is indeed extraordinary. However, you were the one who said that you couldn’t wait last night.”

“You...” Yu Yan gritted her teeth and smiled. “Yes, I couldn’t wait. It’s the same now. Do you want to do it again?”

Shen Ping immediately felt his legs go weak. He laughed dryly and said, “Fellow Daoist Yu’s physique is special. I’ll spar again after I’ve recuperated.” As he spoke, he quickly went upstairs without looking back.

Yu Yan was stunned. She looked at Shen Ping’s back and muttered in surprise, “I don’t remember saying anything last night.”

A few days later, under the Golden Sun Sect’s arrangements, a large number of cultivators in the entire market took a flying ship to the Chen Market in the Cloud Mountain Swamp. On the same day, the cultivators of the other sects left the flying ship and officially entered the various alleys of the market.

As soon as Chen Ying and Chen Jing of the Acacia Faction entered the small courtyard, they went straight to the second house where Shen Ping lived to visit.

Shen Ping was a little flustered. It was as Shopkeeper Chen said, the Acacia Faction was targeting him..

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He walked out of the house. Shen Ping’s gaze landed on the two Acacia Faction disciples.

Chen Jing was wearing a plain gray robe, and his face had yet to lose its youthfulness. Chen Ying was wearing an aqua blue dress. Her delicate and beautiful face was filled with the innocence of a young girl.

Although he was nervous and vigilant, he still stepped forward generously and cupped his hands with a smile. "Welcome to the small courtyard, Fellow Daoists of the Acacia Faction. In the future, we will be neighbors. I hope you can take care of each other."

Chen Ying said with a smile, "You're right, Talisman Master Shen. It should be like this. This time, my younger brother and I are living in Room 4 and Room 6 respectively. We're usually free and hope that Talisman Master Shen can come over and guide us in the Dao of Talismans."

Her voice carried a hint of the girl next door. Her watery eyes were clear and sincere, as if she was not affected by the distracting thoughts of the world. At close range, Shen Ping could even see the faint dimple at the corner of her lips. Her silver teeth were slightly parted, and her nimble tongue was fragrant.

"Talisman Master Shen, you must come."

As her voice fell, Shen Ping almost subconsciously wanted to nod, but at this moment, the smell of unique petals spread over from behind. He immediately came back to his senses and hurriedly said, "Fellow Daoist Chen, I'm usually quite busy making talismans. If I'm free, I'll definitely visit."

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Chen Ying glanced at Yu Yan at the door of the house and smiled before turning around with Chen Jing to visit the other cultivators in the small courtyard.

After he closed the door, Shen Ping could not help but break out in cold sweat. He said with lingering fear, "This Acacia Faction is really terrifying. If not for Fellow Daoist Yu just now, I would have been tricked."

He felt that he was still immune to resistance when it came to men and women. He would not have such thoughts as soon as they met. However, when he heard Chen Ying's voice just now, he subconsciously let his imagination run wild.

"Her voice contained some kind of bewitching technique, but it was only a test. I didn't feel anything behind the door. I only sensed that something was wrong, so I went out." Yu Yan frowned. "Fellow Daoist Shen, try not to interact with her in the future. The disciples of large sects all have some unique secret techniques. Individual cultivators like us are limited by resources and can easily fall for it."

Shen Ping nodded in agreement and said, "In a few days, I'll announce to the outside world that I'm in seclusion to cultivate. Fellow Daoist Yu, you have to be careful."

Early May.

The warm air was filled with the fragrance of pollen. In the past, Yu Yan would go out to collect all kinds of petals to make raw materials for bathing. Due to the current situation of the market, Yu Yan did not dare to go out casually.

Just like Shen Ping, she spent most of her time meditating and cultivating in the quiet room.

Without the help of pills, relying on ordinary spiritual roots, the increase in spiritual energy every day was very limited. Sometimes, even after circulating the cultivation technique for a few cycles, there was no increase in spiritual energy.

If this continued, most cultivators could not take it.

Shen Ping had prepared enough pills this time. He could use them for more than half a year, so he took out a portion and gave it to Yu Yan.

“High-grade Talisman Masters are indeed rich.” Yu Yan said with a smile, but she remembered the spirit stones needed for the medicinal pills in her heart. When the market stabilized, she would still go out and continue killing to earn spirit stones. Regardless of whether she could afford it or not, she had to do it. “By the way, should I leave the door open for you tonight? Shall we exchange our cultivation insights?”

The corners of her lips turned, and there was a hint of anticipation in her eyes. It had been a while since the last time. She thought that with Fellow Daoist Shen’s bravery, he should have recovered more or less. After all, the frequency of the wooden planks vibrating on the roof had increased in the past two to three days.

Shen Ping did not dare to reply. Instead, he changed the topic and said, “Fellow Daoist Yu, I have to go out later. Come with me.”

Yu Yan was stunned and nodded in agreement without asking further. Soon, the two of them made some preparations and left the small courtyard.

Before setting off, Shen Ping hesitated and hung the wooden sign given by the True Treasure Pavilion on his waist. Although this was a little high-profile, he did not know what the situation was in the market. It was better to be high-profile than to get into trouble for no reason.

When they arrived at the True Treasure Pavilion, Mu Jin saw Yu Yan beside Shen Ping and couldn’t help but smile sweetly. “Fellow Daoist Shen, are you taking your Dao companion to the auction?”

Shen Ping nodded. The reason why he went out this time was to auction two or three more drops of spiritual liquid. Next, he would announce that he was going into seclusion to cultivate. After handing over a few high-level talismans to settle the spirit stones, he brought Yu Yan to the underground auction hall with a bronze mask.

This was the first time Yu Yan had participated in an auction like this. Shen Ping could clearly feel her nervousness.

“The True Treasure Pavilion has a fixed auction every month. The White Whisker Tree Ginseng that eradicated the poisonous insects in your body was auctioned here.” He transmitted his voice.

Yu Yan said fearfully, “Fellow Daoist Shen, you’re really getting more and more powerful. Even that Fellow Daoist Gao can’t come into contact with such an auction.”

There were many teams hunting in the Cloud Mountain Swamp.

Fellow Daoist Gao’s team that she had once joined was considered relatively famous in the market, but she had never heard him mention that there was an auction in the True Treasure Pavilion.

It was obvious that he had not come into contact with it. This was because with Fellow Daoist Gao’s personality, if he could really participate in such an auction, he would definitely reveal it without a trace. This represented status and strength. It could increase the cohesion of the other cultivators in the team.

Shen Ping smiled and said, “It’s all because of the identity of a Talisman Master. Let’s go to the back row.”

After sitting down, he glanced at the other cultivators who came in one after another. A few of them were like him. Not only were they wearing masks and robes, but there was also a special wooden token on them.

Time passed slowly.

After most of the cultivators arrived, the auction host came out of the high platform.

Next was the auction of all kinds of rare treasures, medicinal pills, dharma artifacts, and other items. For example, when the Beauty Pill came out, the voices of the female cultivators in the entire auction hall rose and fell.

Yu Yan’s eyes could not help but light up as she muttered, “The Beauty Pill. There’s actually a Beauty Pill!”

Shen Ping hurriedly said, “The Beauty Pill will appear every two or three times.”

Yu Yan glanced sideways and smiled. “I understand. Fellow Daoist Shen, there’s no need to be nervous.”

It was time for the Spirit Liquid.



The number of cultivators competing was relatively small.

As long as one swallowed the spirit liquid, they would understand that this kind of supplementary resource was the most effective when breaking through the bottleneck, and it would take a long time to break through the bottleneck at the late-stage of Qi Refinement.

Shen Ping gritted his teeth and bought two drops. The spirit stones in his storage bag were almost used up. He left the True Treasure Pavilion. They went to the Talisman Treasure Hall to take off their bronze masks. Then, they walked to the entrance of a shop.

“Fellow Daoist Yu, wait outside for a while.”

He stepped into the shop.

The shopkeeper welcomed him warmly. He recognized Shen Ping at a glance. “Fellow Daoist, it’s been a while since you came to my place. Is it because the content of that illustration isn’t rich? Don’t worry, I have more than ten new books. I guarantee that you’ll be satisfied.”

Shen Ping sensed the shopkeeper’s attitude, but he did not care. He lowered his voice and asked, “Shopkeeper, you should know some special physiques in that area, right?”

The shopkeeper immediately understood and could not help but size up Shen Ping. He was extremely envious. “Fellow Daoist, you actually encountered that kind of characteristic. Tsk tsk, you’re blessed!”

Shen Ping’s face darkened. “What fortune? I can’t even enter the door!”

“It’s normal!” The shopkeeper chuckled and said, “Once a cultivator forms this physique, they are much stronger than mortals. Not to mention Fellow Daoist, even the cultivators of Acacia Faction who are proficient in dual cultivation might not be able to enter.

“However, it’s the right choice for you to come. The store has a secret technique passed down from our ancestors.. It’s definitely not difficult to enter!”

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Shen Ping rolled his eyes in his heart. He thought to himself that the Acacia Faction was good at dual cultivation techniques of Yin and Yang. How could they not have a secret

technique to enter the door? However, it was very difficult for an independent cultivator like him to obtain such a secret technique. He could only come here to see if there was a solution.

“Fellow Daoist, please wait a moment. I’ll get it for you now.” The shopkeeper said and quickly walked upstairs. Not long after, He returned with two more books in his hand.

[Prestigious Techniques]

[The Tale of the Flowers]

Shen Ping glanced at it. The book names looked quite serious. He tapped his finger. “Is it useful?”

The shopkeeper’s voice immediately rose. “Fellow Daoist, I rarely take out these two ancestral secret techniques. If it weren’t for the fact that I see that your luck is deep, I wouldn’t be willing to take them out. As for the effect, you will know when you go back.”

Shen Ping chose the book “Prestigious Techniques”. It looked more reliable. “What’s the price?”

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“Eighty!”

“It’s too expensive!” Shen Ping turned around and left without hesitation.

The shopkeeper hurriedly said, “20 mid-grade spirit stones, no less. This is an ancestral secret technique!”

“Shopkeeper, I’m a regular customer. If the effect is good, we might be able to continue working together in the future. In this situation, you’re asking for such an expensive price. I’m afraid it’s difficult to do business.” Shen Ping shook his head and did not stop walking.

The shopkeeper panicked and shouted, “Five, this is the lowest price. If Fellow Daoist wants to buy it, you have to buy a few more illustrations. Otherwise, this business can only stop.”

Only then did Shen Ping turn around.

The first two times, he could not pay the price because there was only one shop in the entire market that sold such a secret technique. Other similar shops would close in a few days.

And now, the Acacia Faction has arrived. The situation was very different. In the future, various simplified dual cultivation techniques would definitely be spread.

A moment later, he walked out of the shop in satisfaction.

He had just entered the house when Yu Yan crossed her arms in a standard posture with interest. "Fellow Daoist Shen, if I remember correctly, that shop seems to be related to the Heavenly Sound Pavilion."

Shen Ping shook his head. "I really don't know."

Yu Yan did not continue this topic. Instead, she smiled and sent a voice transmission, "Fellow Daoist Shen, I'm about to run out of petals. If you don't hurry up and conserve your energy, I really won't be able to tolerate it. When the time comes, Fellow Daoist Shen, don't hide anymore."

Hearing this, Shen Ping came to a realization. No wonder Yu Yan often took baths. It turned out that she used those petals to suppress the fire in her body.

"Just you wait!" He replied lightly. He went upstairs with a confident expression, but he thought to himself, "I hope that shopkeeper won't trick me!"

The next day, Shen Ping went to the small courtyard to relax. He also spread the news that he was going to cultivate in seclusion.

Alchemist Feng gave him an understanding look. "Cultivation is more important."

Mu Yushuang smiled faintly. "I wish Talisman Master Shen great progress in your cultivation."

The Zhang brothers didn't come out, but they still pushed open the door and cupped their hands.

"Talisman Master Shen, this is too coincidental. My younger brother and I have just come to live in the small courtyard and are preparing to invite you to guide us in the Dao of Talismans in a few days. I don't know how long we'll have to wait for this seclusion!" Chen Ying's red lips pouted slightly, as if she felt a little regretful, but her lively eyes flickered with disdain.

Rogue cultivators were really as timid as rats. She had only probed a little and he was already so frightened. She originally thought that she could have fun and use the skills cultivated by the sect.

In the end...

Shen Ping smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Chen, I'm already old. I don't dare to waste a single moment of cultivation. Please forgive me."

Chen Ying felt disdain in her heart. Just as she was about to tease this Talisman Master again, she saw the wooden token on the waist of his robe from the corner of her eye. The word 'True' carved on it made her pupils constrict.

The reputation wooden token of the True Treasure Pavilion. It was extremely difficult for a high-grade Talisman Master to obtain such a wooden token.

Several high-grade Talisman Masters of the Chen family who had broken through to the Foundation Establishment Realm maintained their cooperation with the True Treasure Pavilion but could not obtain such a wooden token.

She did not expect that a rogue Talisman Master in a small courtyard like Yunhe Alley could actually obtain a reputation wooden token.

"You're too kind, Talisman Master Shen. Cultivation is important. I'll visit you after Talisman Master Shen finishes your seclusion." Chen Ying did not continue to make things difficult for him.

The True Treasure Pavilion had a strong foundation. Although this reputation wooden token was not very useful, it represented the face of the True Treasure Pavilion.

In the blink of an eye, dozens of days passed.

Late at night.

The drizzle fell on the roof like the sound of insects. The room was filled with spring light.

Wang Yun leaned on Shen Ping's shoulder. Her fair forehead was covered in a thin layer of sweat as she said in a soft voice, "Husband, you're becoming more and more powerful. In a few days, Sister Ying'er and I have to work harder to cultivate and improve ourselves. Otherwise, we won't be able to serve you."

Shen Ping smiled silently. He was still very confident in facing his wife and concubine.

"Husband," Wang Yun suddenly looked up, her eyes filled with affection. "I've been married to you for four years. Thank you for taking care of me, husband. If not for you, I wouldn't be where I am now."

Shen Ping was stunned for a moment before sighing. "Yes, it's been four years."

Four years ago, he was still a cultivator at the third level of Qi Refinement who could not see any hope in Red Willow Alley. But now, he had already broken through to the fifth

level of Qi Refinement. His Talisman Daoism level had reached the second level, and his status had greatly increased.

In another two to three months, he was confident that he could break through another level with the spirit liquid from the auction.

“No matter what happens in the future, I hope that you won’t abandon Yun’er.”

Hearing this, Shen Ping immediately came back to his senses and said guiltily, “Yun’er, it’s my fault. These days...”

In the past few days, other than cultivating, his mind was filled with thoughts about how to obtain the experience of a puppet and divine sense. He was really distant from his wife and concubine.

Wang Yun hurriedly said, “Husband, Senior Yu is not bad. I don’t have any other intentions. I just hope that you’ll miss me.”

Bai Yuying also turned around and hugged Shen Ping’s arm. “Husband, Ying’er too.”

He looked at his wife and concubine’s careful expression. Shen Ping said gently, “Yun’er, Ying’er, don’t worry. I won’t leave you behind.”

“Thankyou, husband!”

“Thank you, husband!”

Shen Ping opened the virtual interface. To his surprise, he realized that Bai Yuying’s favorability had increased to 95 points. He was silent for a moment. Looking at the smile on his wife and concubine’s lips, his eyes were complicated.

However, it was better to postpone it for now. He made his talismans, and cultivated, cooked, accompanied them, and dual cultivation.

In the next two days, he returned to his previous lifestyle in Red Willow Alley. He took some time to accompany his wife and concubine and speed up the mastery of the book, Prestigious Techniques.

The third day arrived at dawn. Shen Ping ended his cultivation early and walked out of the quiet room. He came to the main room downstairs. The smell of unique petals quietly spread out.

“Come in. I thought Fellow Daoist Shen didn’t dare to come.”

Yu Yan’s thin pink dress looked especially hazy in the steam. Although there was a faint smile on her lips, she was trying her best to suppress it in her eyes.

Shen Ping closed the door and did not say anything. Until hot water engulfed his entire body, he grit his teeth and followed the guidance of the Prestigious Techniques with great determination.

He lowered his waist and reined in his horse.

Soon, there was a change in the attribute panel.

[You have dual cultivated with your Dao Companion once. You have received +2 experience in making puppets.]

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 95]

[Internal Charm Fire Body Effect: You have obtained additional divine sense +2]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 3]

[Puppet Master: Low-grade Level 1 (6/1,000)]

[Divine Sense: Mid-stage Qi Refinement (1,280/5,000)]

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Inside the wooden tub, the mandarin duck pink thin gauze clothes became even more blurry, and the water seemed to be dyed with a layer of light.

Yu Yan was coquettish. She closed her eyes and seemed to be savoring the aftertaste. However, Shen Ping's face was dark as he thought about what the shopkeeper had said. It was an ancestral secret technique. It was not difficult to enter.

He thought that this secret technique would allow him to regain his confidence and save his face. But who knew... that the shopkeeper was actually so honest!

He was right. It was indeed not difficult to enter. But he was stuck at the threshold!

Although his attributes panel had changed, and both his puppet experience and divine sense had increased, this dual cultivation that did not even cross the threshold made him unable to feel comfortable.

Most importantly, when he entered the threshold, he threw away his helmet and armor without any resistance. It was no different from the previous 15 times.

At this moment, Yu Yan slowly opened her eyes, her face rippling with a hint of embarrassment. "Fellow Daoist Shen is indeed extraordinary. My physique is different from ordinary people. Usually, I need flower petal bath water to suppress the charm fire in my body. Every time I suppress it, it will increase the accumulation of the charm fire. Over the years, the flower petals need to be concocted with a special secret technique. Moreover, I need the help of the white snake puppet to suppress it. However, now that I have Fellow Daoist Shen, I believe I won't need these things in the future."

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As she spoke, she looked at the water and smiled faintly, her eyes filled with anticipation. "Fellow Daoist Shen, can we exchange cultivation insights again?"

Shen Ping gritted his teeth. Ripples of water rippled. Endless resistance came from all directions. No matter how hard he tried, it was useless. He could not help but shiver when Mount Tai pressed down.

Ten minutes later, Shen Ping quickly left the first floor. When he stood at the corner of the wooden staircase on the second floor, he looked back at the main room and could not help but sigh in his heart. "This beautiful path is really difficult to walk!"

How could any cultivator endure this for a long time!

It was June.

The commotion caused by the migration of a large number of cultivators in the market gradually calmed down. After the sect disciples led by the Danxia Sect entered the various alleys of the market, they did not rely on their strength to bully the rogue cultivators. Instead, they were much more peaceful than before.

Although there were occasional conflicts, they were basically dealt with properly in the end. This made many cultivators who were watching feel relieved. Some of the more anxious ones began to go out to hunt in the Cloud Mountain Swamp. The number of missions accepted in the Deacon Hall increased rapidly.

It was early in the morning.

A ray of morning light shone from the skylight in the house. His wife, Wang Yun, brought the spirit rice, beast meat porridge, some spirit ingredients, and nourishing medicinal cuisine to the table.

Shen Ping walked out of the quiet room and stretched his waist. Smelling the fragrance of the sumptuous dishes on the table, he could not help but praise with a smile, "Yun'er is still the most considerate."

His wife said gently, "Husband has been too tired recently. You need some nourishment."

Bai Yuying snickered and said, "I'm just afraid that you won't be able to make up for it."

After sitting down, Shen Ping pinched Bai Yuying's delicate face and said confidently, "Ying'er will know tonight if I can make up for it." As he spoke, he leaned in and whispered a few words.

Bai Yuying's earlobes instantly turned red as she bit her lower lip. "Husband, hubby, you're too, too bad..."

After the meal, Shen Ping had just stood up and was about to go to the talisman making room when he saw Yu Yan walk up. Seeing that she had changed into a magic robe, he could not help but ask curiously, "Fellow Daoist Yu, what are you doing?"

Yu Yan glanced at Wang Yun and Bai Yuying, who were busy, and said softly, "Many cultivators have formed teams to go to the Cloud Mountain Swamp these few days. I'll go to the market to take a look."

Shen Ping understood what Yu Yan meant. She was going to take on a mission.

Most of the itinerant cultivators wanted to earn spirit stones. Other than being robbers, they could also hunt demon beasts in the Cloud Mountain Swamp to obtain materials to sell. Among them, the most popular were the various missions left behind by the Golden Sun Sect in the outer sect Deacon Hall. Some of these missions were needed by sect disciples, some by sect elders, and some were Alchemy Masters, Talisman Masters, and so on.

For example, if Shen Ping urgently lacked some materials, he could spend a certain amount of spirit stones to leave a mission in the Deacon Hall.

He looked straight at her. He could see the determination in Yu Yan's eyes. "I'll send you off!"

Shen Ping sighed in his heart. These days, he would have sex with Yu Yan at five o'clock every day. Although he had never crossed the threshold, they were already incomparably familiar with each other.

Even so, there were some things that he knew he could not force. Wang Yun and Bai Yuying could stay in the house forever, but Yu Yan would not.

The two of them walked to the door of the house.

Yu Yan smiled and took out three Spirit Protection Talismans from her storage bag. She waved them in front of Shen Ping. "Don't worry. You paid a huge price to save my life.



It's precious. How can I bear to take the risk? I will only accept some relatively simple missions in the Deacon Hall. I won't easily step into the depths of the Cloud Mountain Swamp."

Hearing this, Shen Ping heaved a sigh of relief. Then, he took out a jade plate and handed it to Yu Yan. "Here, I'll lend it to you."

Yu Yan took it unceremoniously. "A high-grade defensive Dharma artifact. Tsk tsk, Fellow Daoist Shen, you really have a lot of good things on you."

Shen Ping smiled and said, "Don't delay for too long. I still have other good things I want you to try."

"Is that so? I want to taste it when I get back. I hope it takes longer." Yu Yan went forward and hugged Shen Ping. "I'm leaving!"

She pushed open the door. She walked a dozen steps when Shen Ping heard a voice transmission. "Fellow Daoist Shen, thank you."

The door closed. He quickly noticed that Yu Yan's main room was not closed. He walked over and pushed it open. There were some daily necessities of Yu Yan inside. Even the white snake puppet was left on the wooden bucket.

He could not help but smile.

The main danger at the edge of the Cloud Mountain Swamp came from robbers. However, as long as they formed a team, the possibility of encountering robbers was relatively low. Even if they did, with the Spirit Protection Talismans and a high-grade defensive Dharma artifact on Yu Yan, there would not be any problems under normal circumstances.

Moreover, a simple mission would take at most three to four days.

Shen Ping was not too worried and continued his boring and fulfilling cultivation life.

Days passed.

In the blink of an eye, it was mid-August.

After swallowing the second drop of spirit liquid from the auction, the spiritual energy circulating in his meridians finally became full again.

Shen Ping sat down cross-legged in the quiet room. His expression was calm, and his aura kept rising.

The effect of high-grade spiritual roots of the metal and wood absorbing the spirit liquid was extremely good. Waves of abundant and pure spiritual qi continuously surged out of his limbs and bones. Although when he circulated his cultivation method, it would always become a little unstable because of the slowness of the fire and earth's low-grade spiritual roots, the overall circulation was very fast.

Boom!

He circulated it twice. The abundant spiritual energy broke through the blockage of his meridians and advanced to the next realm.

Almost instantly, Shen Ping's aura suddenly soared. He broke through to the sixth level of Qi Refinement. After stabilizing the aura around him, he slowly opened his eyes and revealed a look of joy..

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[Puppet Master: Level 1 Mid-Grade (1,766/10,000)]

[Divine Sense: Mid-stage Qi Refinement (5,046/5,000). Can be broken through.]

He opened the attribute panel. Shen Ping skipped the virtual frame of his wife and concubine and looked down. He had broken through to the sixth level of Qi Refinement. The divine sense of the Niwan Palace had also been nurtured and improved, directly reaching the threshold of a breakthrough.

There was no hesitation. With a thought, he said, "Break through!"

Boom.

The virtual frame shook slightly.

His divine sense seemed to be nourished by an invisible energy and instantly rose rapidly. His divine sense, which originally needed to cross the threshold of the late-stage Qi Refinement Realm, broke through to the late-stage Qi Refinement Realm at this moment.

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The divine sense of a cultivator was extremely important and had various uses. Especially now that he had a large amount of puppet experience and comprehension.

When the time came to make puppets, the stronger his divine sense was, the more puppets he could control.

“If I encounter Fellow Daoist Mu’s charm technique again, I can easily sense and resist it with my current divine sense. However, it’s probably still a little difficult to resist the charm of the Acacia Faction.”

Shen Ping pondered. He recalled the temptation in Chen Ying’s voice when she came to visit. Although it was just a simple test, the smile and the adoration in her voice were indeed impossible to guard against.

“If there’s a chance in the future, I have to try my best to understand this method so that I won’t fall for it in the future.”

Buzz-

At this moment, the communication talisman vibrated slightly. After taking it out, Shopkeeper Chen’s voice sounded. “Talisman Master Shen, are you still in seclusion? If you’re done, please come to the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.”

Shen Ping was not in a hurry to reply. Instead, he pondered. Before he went into seclusion, he had informed Shopkeeper Chen that this seclusion would take at least half a year. And yet, he sent a message after only three months, something urgent had probably happened.

He hesitated for a moment. He still replied, “Shopkeeper Chen, I had some comprehension and temporarily ended my seclusion. May I ask what’s the matter?”

The communication talisman quickly flashed. Shopkeeper Chen said, “The boss officially broke through to the Foundation Establishment Realm a few days ago and is preparing to hold a banquet in the Foundation Establishment disciples’ spiritual vein cave abode of the Golden Sun Sect in half a month. Talisman Master Shen is on this list...”

When Shen Ping heard this, he hurriedly said, “Shopkeeper Chen, wait a moment. I’ll go over now.”

He put away the communication talisman. He tidied up briefly and left the house in a hurry. He arrived at the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

Shopkeeper Chen greeted him with a smile. Before he could exchange a few pleasantries, he noticed Shen Ping’s aura. “Qi Refinement Level Six? Congratulations! Talisman Master Shen, you’re in your middle age, and yet your cultivation breakthrough is getting faster and faster!”

Shen Ping said without thinking, "Shopkeeper Chen, you must be joking. I purely relied on this talisman-making skill to buy some medicinal pills and spirit liquid from the True Treasure Pavilion to break through continuously."

Shopkeeper Chen finally understood, but he still looked surprised. "Talisman Master Shen, you could enter the auction of the True Treasure Pavilion?"

"I was fortunate enough to receive the guidance of a senior Talisman Master of the True Treasure Pavilion." Shen Ping said humbly.

A warm smile immediately appeared on Shopkeeper Chen's face. "Talisman Master Shen, you're lucky!"

"My fortune can't compare to Shopkeeper Chen's. The boss of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion has broken through to the Foundation Establishment Realm this time. I'm afraid the status of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion will be different in the future. Shopkeeper Chen will also rise with him!" Shen Ping complimented him.

Shopkeeper Chen smiled with a flushed face.

The two entered the shop.

Shopkeeper Chen handed the invitation letter of the boss of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion to Shen Ping and instructed him. After all, there were many Foundation Establishment Cultivators present, including alchemists and talisman masters. If he accidentally said something wrong or offended a Foundation Establishment Cultivator, even his boss would not be able to defend him.

Shen Ping nodded repeatedly and expressed his gratitude at the same time. The incident with the maidservant was over. He originally thought that the boss would leave a grudge in his heart. He did not expect that he would actually send an invitation after his successful advancement this time. It was indeed beyond his expectations.

No matter what the other party's motive was, this invitation was already enough.

It was rare for him to come out.

So Shen Ping simply sold the high-level talismans he had made during this period of time in the True Treasure Pavilion. At the same time, he also bought some materials to make puppets. Now that he was already a mid-grade Level 1 Puppet Master and his divine sense was at the late stage of Qi Refinement, he was enough to control puppets to fight the enemy. Moreover, he could sell them to earn spirit stones.

However, puppet making was much more complicated than talismans. In the entire market, there were far fewer high-grade puppet masters than talisman masters, array masters and alchemists.

If not for the large amount of puppet experience and comprehension, it would have been very difficult for him to become a puppet master. He left the True Treasure Pavilion. He slowed down and glanced at the cultivators coming and going.

Compared to the days when the Golden Sun Sect migrated a large number of cultivators, the market had indeed regained some of its former liveliness. The only difference was that the number of disciples of the sects had increased. The expressions of the rogue cultivators when they walked were clearly reserved, as if they were afraid of offending these sect disciples.

He returned to the small courtyard in Yunhe Alley. He saw Chen Ying of the Acacia Faction leaning against the wooden window on the second floor. Her lively eyes were in a daze, and it was unknown what bad idea she was thinking.

Shen Ping pretended not to see it and hurriedly walked towards Room Two.

“Eh... Talisman Master Shen has ended his seclusion?” Chen Ying flashed out of the wooden window.

Shen Ping sighed in his heart. What he was afraid of really happened. He hurriedly cupped his hands and said, “Fellow Daoist Chen, I’ve temporarily ended my seclusion. I’ll continue in a few days.”

Chen Ying chuckled and said, “Talisman Master Shen, the disciples of our Acacia Faction have always been kind to others. Don’t believe some rumors from the outside world... Eh? Talisman Master Shen has broken through?”

“I took some medicinal pills and was lucky to break through.”

“Congratulations, Talisman Master Shen, for taking another step towards Foundation Establishment.”

“I still have something on, so I’ll go back to my room first.”

Shen Ping had just finished speaking when Chen Ying moved in a flash and blocked Shen Ping’s path. “Talisman Master Shen, are you in such a hurry to return to your room because you want to have sex with your wife and concubine?”

Her eyes flickered. “A mortal and a second level Qi Refinement cultivator. Such a wife and concubine are not worthy of Talisman Master Shen’s status. My Chen family has a few people with good aptitude. Do you want to consider them, Talisman Master Shen?”

Speaking of this, there was a hint of temptation in Chen Ying’s voice. “It’s not like I can’t.”

Shen Ping had long been prepared. When she spoke, his gaze was lowered as he looked at his feet. After his divine sense broke through to the late-stage of the Qi Refinement realm, he was not affected by this temptation at all.

“Fellow Daoist Chen is a disciple of the Acacia Faction. I’m just a rogue cultivator. How would I dare to climb up the social ladder? In a few days, a Foundation Establishment senior of the Golden Sun Sect will hold a banquet. I still have to attend. I really don’t have any other intentions. Please forgive me.”

Chen Ying was not surprised. After all, Talisman Master Shen in front of her had the reputation wooden token of the True Treasure Pavilion. It was normal for him to be invited by a Foundation Establishment Cultivator of the Golden Sun Sect.

“How can ordinary loose cultivators compare to Talisman Master Shen’s connections?” She smiled and did not continue to make things difficult for him. “Forget it. If Talisman Master Shen is interested in the future, my Chen family will always welcome you.”

After she told her brother Chen Yan about Shen Ping, her brother quickly replied and asked her to try her best to rope him in. If necessary, he could even use her body to serve him or even become his Dao companion..

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A few days later.

It was late at night. Dazzling starlight scattered down. His wife, Wang Yun, leaned into Shen Ping’s arms. Her erratic breathing gradually stabilized. There was a hint of satisfaction on her lips. As long as she could feel her husband’s fulfillment every day, such a life would be very blissful for her.

Shen Ping opened the attribute panel as usual. He glanced at it casually.

[Your wife is deeply in love with you. Current favorability: 100+92]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 7]

[Silver Bonus: 10]

After days of hard work, his wife’s favorability slowly increased. Now, the silver light in the entire virtual frame became deeper, as if it was on the verge of transformation. He continued reading.

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[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 951]

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 97]

Bai Yuying did not change, while Yu Yan's favorability was increasing just like his wife. He pondered for a moment. Shen Ping pulled away the aqua blue toad on Bai Yuying's body and asked gently, "Ying'er, I remember you mentioning that your brother once went to the Cloud Mountain Swamp to explore. Is there still no news?"

The exploration of the Golden Sun Sect's mineral vein had long ended. There was still no news of her brother. There was an 80% chance that he had died.

Bai Yuying's body trembled as she said in a lonely voice, "Husband, I don't know. Ever since I married you, I haven't gone back to Ningshui Alley for a long time. I haven't contacted any of the fellow daoists I knew in the past. If my brother comes back, I'm afraid he won't be able to find me."

As she spoke, she actually choked. "That's good too. My brother is talented and smart. He's good at fighting. Without a burden like me, he might be able to gain some hope in the future."

Shen Ping could clearly feel Bai Yuying's concern for her younger brother. He sighed softly and said, "Ying'er, I was negligent. I didn't ask about it in the past. If I pay more attention in Red Willow Alley, you might be able to find out about your younger brother."

Bai Yuying shook her head. "Husband, it's not your fault. The life and death of cultivators are up to fate. If there's no news, at least I can have some thoughts." At this point, she suddenly looked up. "Husband, if there's a chance in the future, can you help Ying'er go to the Chen Market? I have a piece of my brother's jade pendant."

It touched the desire in Bai Yuying's eyes. Shen Ping nodded slowly. "If I'm strong enough in the future, I'll help you make a trip."

No matter what, Bai Yuying had served him for so long. In the future, when his strength reached a certain level and he ensured his safety, he did not mind going to the Chen Market. Whether he could find him was another matter.

Hearing her husband's words, Bai Yuying smiled brightly. After years of interaction, she could tell that this sentence was not perfunctory. Her voice was as soft as nature. "Husband, Ying'er wants to serve you again."

Shen Ping shuddered. This voice had hit his heart. Almost at the same time, the virtual interface representing Bai Yuying changed.

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 100]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 41]

The days of cultivation were very boring.

If not for the fact that they were focused on the Great Dao, most cultivators would have chosen to live a stable and enjoyable life as a rich man. However, if they did not take a gamble on this path that fought with the heavens, they would always have many regrets in their hearts.

At dawn, after Shen Ping finished his repetitive actions, he leaned against the wooden tub and looked at Yu Yan, whose face was rosy, with her eyes closed to rest.

The heat on the water dissipated, Yu Yan opened her eyes from the aftertaste and noticed the expressionless Shen Ping. She smiled and comforted him. "Don't be anxious. There's still a long way to go."

She leaned forward and kissed Shen Ping on the cheek and stood up shakily. She changed into her robe and tied up her beautiful hair. Yu Yan's charming face turned cold.

"Any news from the market recently?" Shen Ping asked casually.

Yu Yan prepared her portable Dharma artifact and checked her storage bag again. After confirming that she had not missed anything, she replied, "There's no other movement, but when I accepted the mission in the Deacon Hall, I saw that the Danxia Sect was recruiting cultivators to mine. The treatment they gave was not bad.

"There are also some rumors that say that the Danxia Sect is preparing to establish a branch sect in Cloud Mountain. At that time, they will accept a wide range of disciples. They have yet to reveal the conditions for recruiting disciples."

Shen Ping's expression changed when he heard that. "The Danxia Sect actually got the mining rights of the Flame Gold Mine so quickly. Can the other sects sit still?"

Yu Yan shook her head and pondered carefully before saying, "I'm afraid this matter isn't simple. A large-scale Flame Gold Mine is indeed rare, but with the strength and resources of the Danxia Sect in the Jin Kingdom, they wouldn't have to establish a branch sect in Cloud Mountain. The other sects and factions joined forces to open the door to the Wei Kingdom mostly for the rich spirit stone mines in the Wei Kingdom."

Shen Ping nodded. "They might have other motives. For the time being, the establishment of the Danxia Sect is good news for the market."



Establishing a branch sect meant that they had to stay permanently in Cloud Mountain. Then the Danxia Sect would definitely give some resources to fight for the freelance cultivators in the market. For example, the Foundation Establishment Pill. It was a tried and tested method of the Golden Sun Sect. If the Danxia Sect took it out, the price of this Foundation Establishment Pill might fall a lot in the future.

The two of them chatted briefly, then Yu Yan walked out of the house. It was early in the morning.

Shopkeeper Chen sent a message.

Shen Ping tidied himself seriously and asked his wife and concubine to check him. After confirming that he was dressed appropriately and that his face was clean, he walked out of the courtyard. He arrived at the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

He realized that two late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators were waiting.

Shopkeeper Chen changed into a long robe and said with a smile, "Talisman Master Shen is here. Let me introduce you. These two are Fellow Daoist Zhou and Fellow Daoist Sun. Fellow Daoist Zhou is a high-grade alchemist, and Fellow Daoist Sun is also a Talisman Master."

Shen Ping hurriedly went forward and cupped his hands. "Alchemist Zhou, Talisman Master Sun."

Talisman Master Sun had a round figure. He narrowed his eyes and cupped his hands with a smile. "Talisman Master Shen."

Alchemist Zhou looked dignified and solemn, as if he was from a clan. He said indifferently, "Talisman Master Shen."

When Shopkeeper Chen saw this, he reminded them, "Fellow Daoists, although Talisman Master Shen's cultivation isn't high, his level in the Dao of Talismans isn't low. He has a place in the monthly auction of the True Treasure Pavilion."

As soon as he said this, Talisman Master Sun revealed a surprised expression and immediately became more enthusiastic. "Talisman Master Shen, you're able to cooperate with the True Treasure Pavilion, it's really disrespectful of me."

Alchemist Zhou squeezed out a smile on his solemn face and cupped his hands. "Talisman Master Shen."

Shen Ping replied humbly. At this moment, Shopkeeper Chen said, "It's getting late. Let's set off. Don't be late."

The four of them followed the main road of the market to the end. He took out a small gray-white flying ship and rode it, turning into a white light that quickly flew towards the Golden Sun Sect of Cloud Mountain not far away. He stood on the flying ship.

Shen Ping listened to the wind whistling around the spiritual energy barrier and looked at the mountain ranges. There were clouds and mist there, and the mountains rose and fell. He could vaguely see several majestic palaces rising from the clouds, flickering with multicolored light under the morning light.

Golden Sun Sect.

It was the only immortal sect in the Wei Kingdom.

It was right in front of him..

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Before they reached the mountain gate, the grayish-white flying ship was stopped.

From the market to the Golden Sun Sect, there were outer sect disciples patrolling from time to time. Any cultivator who dared to approach the sect or move around nearby would be detained by the law enforcement team if there was no reason. If it was serious, they would be killed on the spot.

Shopkeeper Chen hurriedly took out a jade token. The patrolling disciple glanced at them and smiled. "Fellow Daoists, so you're going to participate in Senior Sister Chen's Foundation Establishment banquet. Excuse me." He handed the jade token back.

The patrolling disciples immediately let them in. After arriving at the mountain gate, a maidservant beside the boss of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion came out to welcome them.

"Shopkeeper Chen, Master is receiving guests in the main hall. It's not convenient for her to come out and welcome them. Please forgive her." The maid in the blue dress led Shen Ping and the others into the Golden Sun Sect.

They stepped on the Dharma artifact, Green Leaf. He looked down at the mountain range surrounded by clouds. Shen Ping could clearly feel the dense spiritual energy coming at him.

There was a large spirit vein at the bottom of this Cloud Mountain. It extended to the surrounding mountains and could extend to Yunhe Alley. Back then, when the Golden Sun Sect built the small courtyards in Yunhe Alley, many independent cultivators fought for the branch of the spirit vein.

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Immortal cultivation, wealth, companionship, and land. The higher the level of a cultivator, the higher the demand for the spirit vein environment.

In the past, in Red Willow Alley, if he did not have any supplementary medicinal pills to cultivate and only relied on spirit stones and spiritual qi to cultivate, it would be very slow even if he had three types of spiritual roots.

If he stayed in the abundant spiritual vein environment of the Golden Sun Sect to cultivate, the situation would be clearly different.

“Is this the first time Talisman Master Shen has come to the Golden Sun Sect?” He seemed to have noticed Shen Ping’s subtle movements and expressions. Talisman Master Sun could not help but smile.

Shen Ping nodded. “It’s indeed my first time here. The spiritual energy in the Golden Sun Sect is really abundant, so I couldn’t help but be immersed in it.”

Talisman Master Sun smiled and said, “It’s very normal. It was the same when I first came to the Golden Sun Sect. Unfortunately, it’s very difficult for us to enter the mountain gate with our status as rogue cultivators. After the Golden Sun Sect’s inner sect disciples reach the Foundation Establishment Realm, they can open cave abodes in the surrounding spiritual vein mountains. This time, Senior Chen has successfully reached the Foundation Establishment Realm. I wonder who is lucky enough to enter the spiritual vein cave abode with her.”

Shen Ping’s heart stirred. These words seemed to be implying something. Shopkeeper Chen glanced at Talisman Master Sun. “The Chen family has two cultivators with dual spiritual roots. They will cultivate in the spiritual vein cave abode.”

Talisman Master Sun immediately fell silent.

On the other hand, Alchemist Zhou suddenly chuckled. “The Chen family of the Golden Sun Sect has become stronger and stronger in recent years. Now that there are outstanding clansmen among the younger generation, there might be Golden Core Daoist Masters in the future.”

Shopkeeper Chen smiled and said, “Who can say for sure what will happen in the future?”

There were many Foundation Establishment families in the Golden Sun Sect. More than ten of them had migrated to the branch sect. After more than twenty years of development and rooting, the Chen family's foundation had become deeper and deeper. However, the internal competition had gradually become intense. The owner of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion only represented one of them.

A moment later, the maid in the blue dress said, "The mountain ahead is the spirit vein cave abode my master chose. Fellow Daoists, when you reach the main hall, you have to pay more attention."

Shen Ping, Talisman Master Sun, and Alchemist Zhou nodded one after another. Shopkeeper Chen also nodded. They understood that coming to the Foundation Establishment banquet this time was a trip. The Green Leaf landed at the entrance of the cave abode. The maid in blue waved her hand.

The cave abode's array formation was activated. They stepped in and arrived at the main hall.

Shen Ping saw a familiar figure. It was Xiao Qi'er. She smiled gracefully and went forward. "Uncle Chen, Senior Shen, Senior Sun, Senior Zhou, please follow me."

They walked to the table in the left corner of the main hall. Shen Ping and the others sat down. Spiritual fruits and wine were served one by one.

Xiao Qi'er picked up the spirit wine and poured a cup each. She raised her wine cup and said, "Uncle Chen and the seniors are here to attend Master's banquet. I'll toast everyone on behalf of my master."

"You're too kind, Fellow Daoist Xiao."

The spirit wine entered his stomach. Waves of warmth spread in all directions, followed by the smell of alcohol.

Shen Ping almost couldn't suppress it.

Xiao Qi'er saw that Shen Ping's face was dizzy from the alcohol and smiled. "Senior Shen, this is the Fire-extracting Spirit Fruit Wine. You have to taste it carefully."

Only then did Shen Ping notice that Shopkeeper Chen and the others were slowly drinking. However, he did not feel awkward. Instead, he smiled and said, "This is my first time drinking. I'll know in the future."

Alchemist Zhou sighed. "The Fire-extracting Spirit Fruit Wine is a rare spirit wine. It's our honor for Senior Chen to take out such a spirit wine to serve us."

Shen Ping glanced at him from the corner of his eye. "Alchemist Zhou is right. It's indeed an honor. It's already a blessing for me to be able to drink."

After drinking, Xiao Qi'er accompanied them and spoke to Shopkeeper Chen from time to time. Shen Ping, Alchemist Zhou, and Talisman Master Sun sat quietly and waited. Not long after, a spiritual pressure appeared at the entrance of the cave abode. It was a Foundation Establishment expert.

Shopkeeper Chen, Shen Ping, and the others hurriedly stood up.

"Fellow Daoist Chen, congratulations on reaching Foundation Establishment!" A steady laugh could be heard.

Immediately after, a burly cultivator walked into the main hall. He was wearing a thick robe and had a green sword tied to his waist. Although he deliberately restrained his aura, it still made all the cultivators in the main hall feel stifled.

Shen Ping circulated his spiritual energy and barely blocked it. As soon as he recovered, he saw the boss of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. She had a beautiful face and her black hair was tied up. There were two small jade beads at one end of her hairpin. She looked very heroic and her lips were slightly thick, but she looked a little round and smooth.

The long robe was embroidered with cloud patterns, and the outline of her walking was clearly trembling.

"Senior Hong, please come in!" The sound was crisp. It fell into his ears like a clear spring flowing in a mountain stream.

Soon, two Foundation Establishment Cultivators walked past the main hall and entered the inner room. Only then did all the cultivators in the main hall sit down again.

"Senior Chen is able to reach the Foundation Establishment Realm. Her lineage has opened up a new situation in the Golden Sun Sect."

"It's still right to choose to stay in the sub-sect."

"Isn't that so? Even if you return to the main sect, you won't get any resources."

The surrounding cultivators seemed to know more about the Golden Sun Sect. Shen Ping also listened attentively.

Following that, Foundation Establishment Cultivators arrived one after another. Shopkeeper Chen and the others stood up from time to time and sat down. It gradually stopped after 20 to 30 times.

It was almost dusk.

Other than hearing the low discussions of the surrounding guests, Shen Ping never saw the boss of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion come out again.

Shopkeeper Chen smiled and said, "Niece Xiao, we won't stay long. We'll leave first."

Xiao Qi'er nodded. "I'll send Uncle Chen and the seniors out."

When they left, it was still on the grayish-white flying ship. As they gradually left the mountain gate of the Golden Sun Sect,

Shen Ping suddenly came back to his senses and carefully thought about the Foundation Establishment banquet this time. It seemed that other than drinking a cup of Fire-extracting Spirit Fruit Wine, there was nothing else.

Thinking of this, he laughed involuntarily.

"Fellow Daoist Shen, we're still very far from Foundation Establishment. You don't have to take it to heart. It's enough that we can attend such a banquet." Shopkeeper Chen suddenly transmitted his voice.

"Fellow Daoist Chen is right!" Shen Ping replied with a voice transmission. Then, he turned around and looked up at the Golden Sun Sect under the setting sun. The palaces and pavilions of the majestic mountains could be seen clearly under the sunset.

He looked away. He stood on the flying ship with his hands behind his back, his eyes facing forward.

The Golden Sun Sect behind him was getting further and further away..

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## Chapter 54: Arrival

He returned from the Foundation Establishment banquet.

Shen Ping did not announce that he was in seclusion to cultivate again, but he would only go out once a month during the True Treasure Pavilion's auction. Every time he went out, he would try his best to avoid Chen Ying of the Acacia Faction.

It was winter.

The market suddenly became lively.

The Danxia Sect officially announced that they wanted to establish a branch sect on Cloud Mountain. At the same time, they held the opening ceremony of the sect on the day of the Wei Kingdom's Lantern Festival. They invited the disciples of the various large sects, cultivation families, and freelance cultivators from the market to attend the ceremony.

Apart from that, they also revealed the conditions for recruiting disciples. The freelance cultivators in the entire market immediately became fervent and restless.

Yunhe Alley.

.....

In the small courtyard.

Yu Yan soaked in the wooden bucket and chuckled. "Fellow Daoist Shen, it's a pity. If you were twenty years younger, you might be able to enter the Danxia Sect and become an enviable sect disciple."

Although the Danxia Sect was a famous alchemy sect in the Jin Kingdom, they still recruited cultivators who were good at other skills. Shen Ping was now a high-grade Talisman Master. If he was younger, maybe in his early thirties, he would have a high chance of entering the sect.

Shen Ping did not feel that it was a pity. Instead, he looked at Yu Yan. "Fellow Daoist Yu is good at fighting. Could it be that you want to give it a try?"

Yu Yan smiled and said, "My combat experience can't compare to Fellow Daoist Shen's." As she spoke, her charming eyes rippled, and the tip of her tongue gently turned red, bringing with it waves of sweetness.

During this period of time, the two of them would exchange their cultivation insights at dawn every day.

Although there was not much progress, all kinds of strange experiences broadened Yu Yan's horizons. Every time she returned from the Cloud Mountain Swamp, her eyes burned with flames, as if she was a fox that had not eaten a drumstick for 800 years.

Shen Ping looked at the dragon snake below the water. It was already lying down and could not attack again. Therefore, he could only admit defeat and say, "We'll call for a retreat today. I'll definitely ask Fellow Daoist for advice on spells and divine arts another day."

He hurriedly got up. In an instant, he stood at the wooden stairs. Yu Yan's eyes were filled with charm as she transmitted her voice into his ears. "Fellow Daoist Shen, why are you walking so quickly? I still have sweet grapefruits here for you to pick..."

Shen Ping returned to the second floor as if he had not heard anything. He thought to himself that this Internal Charm Fire Body was already so powerful before it was developed. If it was completely mature, it would probably be even more powerful than the top hostess of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion.

He returned to the quiet room. After his spirit platform was emptied, he quickly entered a cultivation state.

It was early in the morning. Hearing Wang Yun's shout, Shen Ping opened his eyes and habitually opened the attribute panel. Now, he was comprehending twice a day. He was constantly paying attention to the changes in the virtual frame.

[Talisman Master: Level Two Low-Grade (44,220/150,000)]

[Metal Spiritual Root: High-grade (22,059/50,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: High-grade (21,951/50,000)]

Ever since Bai Yuying's favorability reached its limit, the improvement of his metal and wood attribute spiritual root had increased a lot. At the current speed, he would be able to transform into a top-grade spiritual root in at most two and a half years.

Other than that, what made Shen Ping the most gratified was that after the promise that day, Bai Yuying took a lot more initiative. Many complicated skills that were originally mixed with doubles became smoother.

The boring cultivation life became a little interesting. He walked out of the quiet room. The dishes on the table were sumptuous. Spirit rice and lean meat porridge, spirit fruit salad, fruit wine and spirit tea, special roasted meat.

In the dining room, Shen Ping could not help but praise, "Yun'er's culinary skills are getting more and more exquisite."

Wang Yun said gently, "As long as you like it."

Bai Yuying was a glutton and loved roasted meat the most. Her lips were greasy as she ate and said, "Husband, Sister Yun'er and I have a surprise for you tonight."

Shen Ping's expression changed. He did not ask about the surprise. Instead, he smiled and said, "I'll wait."



Sometimes, a boring and repetitive life requires some surprises. He was also looking forward to it.

After the meal, he received a message from Matchmaker Ceng just as he was about to go to the talisman making room. "Talisman Master Shen, it's been delayed for so long. It's finally here. If you have time, come to Spring Garden."

At one in the afternoon, the main road outside the market was extremely lively.

As the news of the Danxia Sect's establishment spread, not only did the Cloud Mountain Swamp, but even the markets and cultivation families in the Wei Kingdom rushed over. This caused the number of cultivators in the markets to increase exponentially recently. Most of them wanted to try their luck.

Once they succeeded, their cultivation path would be much smoother in the future.

Shen Ping walked into Spring Garden and realized that the outer hall was full of cultivators waiting, including a few late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators. Seeing this, he stood silently at the side and waited.

Matchmaker Ceng sent out a cultivator. When she saw Shen Ping, her face lit up with enthusiasm. She ignored the few late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators and welcomed him. "Talisman Master Shen, please come in."

They arrived at the private room on the second floor.

Shen Ping's gaze quickly landed on the girl in a plain white dress. Her skin was moisturized, and there was a pair of jade-colored beads hanging from her earlobes. Her black hair was casually combed, and her face was fair without any makeup.

Perhaps it was because of her bloodline, even if she sat there without moving, she revealed a delicateness like soft water.

Matchmaker Ceng smiled and went forward. "Qing'er, why aren't you greeting Talisman Master Shen?" There was a hint of dominance in her tone.

Only then did the girl raise her eyes and stand up to bow. "Luo Qing greets Senior Shen."

Shen Ping smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Luo, you should know why I'm here. I wonder if you're willing to be my Dao companion?"

Luo Qing nodded. "I am willing."

Matchmaker Ceng's smile widened. She waved her hand and gestured for Luo Qing to sit in the private room. Then, she poured a cup of spiritual tea for Shen Ping. "Is Talisman Master Shen satisfied?"

Shen Ping took a sip. "Fellow Daoist Ceng, this kind of foreign bloodline is very difficult to inherit. We've worked together twice. What price should it be? Fellow Daoist Ceng, just say it."

Matchmaker Ceng smiled and extended her palm. "Five Spirit Protection Talismans."

The price of the Spirit Protection Talisman in the market would fluctuate sometimes, but it was generally stable. Even though these five talismans were nothing to Shen Ping and he could complete them in half a month, they were still too expensive in his opinion.

"Three!" He tried to bargain.

Matchmaker Ceng shook her head. "Talisman Master Shen, this is an anomaly bloodline. Our Spring Garden bears the karmic trouble behind it. Moreover, we waste time and danger to escort her to the Cloud Mountain Swamp. With just three, I'm afraid my business will suffer a huge loss."

"Four Spirit Protection Talismans and one Golden Light Talisman. If Talisman Master Shen doesn't agree, we can only find another way."

Shen Ping frowned. Thinking of Yu Yan's special physique, he still nodded slowly.

Soon, Matchmaker Ceng warmly sent Shen Ping and Luo Qing out of Spring Garden. "Talisman Master Shen, you have to come often in the future!"

Shen Ping was expressionless.

The small courtyard in Cloud River Alley could only accommodate five cultivators. If he wanted to take in another Dao companion, he would have to change his residence.

The two of them walked into the market.

Luo Qing, who was silent, suddenly said, "Senior Shen, if I die, can you bury my body in Ze Kingdom?"

Shen Ping was stunned. Looking at the determination in Luo Qing's eyes, he said indifferently, "Fellow Daoist Luo seems to be a little aggrieved. I can agree. If I have the chance to go to the Ze Kingdom in the future, I will definitely do it. However, I hope that this is the only time!"

Luo Qing's eyes regained a trace of color. "Thank you, Senior Shen.."

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## Chapter 55: So-Called Surprise

He returned to the small courtyard in Yunhe Alley.

Alchemist Feng was leaning against the wooden window, and a burning smell spread out from inside. Hearing the commotion, he looked at the entrance of the small courtyard. "It's rare for Talisman Master Shen to go out... Eh, who is this fellow Daoist behind you?"

Shen Ping cupped his hands and smiled. "This is my new Dao companion." As he spoke, he turned around and instructed in a low voice.

Luo Qing hurriedly bowed respectfully. "Luo Qing greets Senior Feng."

Alchemist Feng's eyes revealed envy. "Talisman Master Shen is really a role model for our generation. Unfortunately, I still can't let it go. If I could be as carefree as Fellow Daoist Shen, perhaps my life would be much better."

Shen Ping shook his head. "Alchemist Feng, pursuing the Great Dao is what we cultivators should do. I'm greedy for the joy of the mortal world. I'm afraid it'll be difficult for me to build my foundation in this life."

Alchemist Feng smiled. "Talisman Master Shen is too humble."

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The two of them chatted for a while.

Shen Ping came into the house. "Yun'er, Ying'er. Let me introduce you to a new Fellow Daoist."

As his voice fell, Wang Yun and Bai Yuying walked out of the talisman-making room and the quiet room respectively. The two girls quickly noticed the delicate Luo Qing.

"Her name is Luoqing. She's my new Dao companion." Shen Ping said casually.

Wang Yun smiled sweetly. "Congratulations, husband."

Bai Yuying giggled and said, "Husband, it's time to change our beds."

Shen Ping waved his hand. "There's no need to change for now. Fellow Daoist Luo will cultivate in the quiet room tonight. I'm still waiting for your surprise." With that, he walked straight to the talisman making room.

The two women were stunned. They looked at Luo Qing and saw that her expression did not change. Their eyes revealed a trace of doubt. Their husband had always been interested in sex.

Now, a new Dao companion has entered the house. He should be impatient. Why was she being neglected instead?

Late at night. Bai Yuying said weakly, "Husband, you're really powerful today. It's as if I've seen an immortal. Unfortunately, I didn't have any luck and quickly fell."

His wife, Wang Yun, did not say anything.

Shen Ping smiled happily. "Yun'er, Ying'er, I thought that you would always disagree. I didn't expect this surprise to come so quickly."

After interacting with them for a few years, he finally has everything of his wife and concubine today. There was no longer any distance between them.

Bai Yuying snorted. "Husband, I won't be able to sit cross-legged and cultivate tomorrow. Don't you know how to take pity on me?"

Shen Ping was in a good mood and hurriedly comforted them. "It's my fault. You guys rest first. On account of this surprise, I won't trouble you anymore."

However, Bai Yuying hugged Shen Ping's arm. There was a hint of eroticism in the corners of her eyes as she snickered. "Is my husband not going to make it?"

Smack. Waves shook. Shen Ping said seriously, "I'm afraid that you won't be able to cook tomorrow."

As he spoke, he opened the attribute panel. Seeing the changes in the virtual frame, he could not help but reveal a trace of surprise. He could actually improve like this?!

Wait a minute...

He noticed that his wife, Wang Yun's favorability had also changed.

[Your wife is deeply in love with you. Her body and mind are yours. Current favorability: 100+100]

The entire virtual frame's silver depths gradually revealed traces of golden light, but this trace of golden light was indistinct. Seeing this, Shen Ping's gaze was complicated as

he sighed softly in his heart. "Yun'er. Just now, I was only greedy for sex and didn't care about your body."

Wang Yun looked up, her gentle voice filled with joy. "Husband, I like it too."

Bai Yuying grabbed his arm and shook it. "Husband."

The next morning, the skylight was enveloped in waves of coldness. Shen Ping walked into the quiet room. Luo Qing sat cross-legged without moving. "Fellow Daoist Luo. If you're unwilling, I can send you back to the Ze Kingdom."

Hearing this, Luo Qing's tightly shut eyes trembled slightly. Then, she opened them and shook her head. "I appreciate Senior Shen's kindness. Since I've become your Dao Companion, I'll do my best to serve you. Don't worry about this, Senior Shen."

Shen Ping did not say anything else. He could tell that this Luo Qing in front of him had many worries and even the intention to die. However, she could not break free because of some restrictions.

The bottom level of cultivators was cruel. Anything could happen. Family destruction and family separation were just a drop in the ocean.

In response, he did not dare to feel any sympathy. After all, he could not even guarantee his own safety in Cloud Mountain ParLOUR, so how could he sympathize with others?

It was almost noon when Yu Yan was back. Shen Ping was rather surprised. Usually, Yu Yan would only return from the Cloud Mountain Swamp every two to three days. This time, only a day had passed.

Noticing that Yu Yan's expression was a little solemn, he could not help but ask, "What happened?"

"The demonic sects of Yue Kingdom have arrived. It's Luosha Demonic Valley. My master died at the hands of the demonic cultivators of the Luosha Demonic Valley." Yu Yan's voice was very calm.

However, Shen Ping still sensed that her body was trembling.

"Although the Acacia Faction is a demonic sect in Jin Kingdom, they always have a disguise when they do things. Sometimes, they have some scruples. However, the Luosha Demonic Valley of Yue Kingdom is extremely ruthless. They have no fear at all. They are complete lunatics." Towards the end, Yu Yan gritted her teeth.

Shen Ping grabbed Yu Yan's wrist. "The Golden Sun Sect has always hated the demonic path in Yue Kingdom. They had many missions to arrest demonic cultivators who had fled into the Wei Kingdom. Why did they let them in this time?"

He voiced his doubts.

Yu Yan calmed down and frowned slightly. "They should have come under the name of the Danxia Sect. No matter what it is, the market will be in turmoil again in the future. The Luosha Demonic Valley won't leave easily after coming in."

Shen Ping nodded, but he was still puzzled. "Fellow Daoist Yu, I think there's something wrong recently. So many sects have surged into the Wei Kingdom and all of them have come to Cloud Mountain Parlour. It's probably impossible for them to just help the Sect Master of the Golden Sun Sect and obtain the mining rights of the Flame Gold Mine at the same time."

Yu Yan was stunned for a moment before saying solemnly, "It's indeed strange. However, we're weak and can't sense it at all. Husband, you must be extremely careful from now on."

This was the first time she had called Shen Ping 'Husband'. Before Shen Ping could speak, Yu Yan hugged him and whispered into his ear, "I want it now, immediately!"

Shen Ping was stunned and looked straight at Yu Yan. He only reacted when he sensed the uneasiness in the depths of her eyes. Then he carried Yu Yan and strode into the main room without a word.

On the wooden board, waves of rustling were heard. The clothes were no longer the barrier.

Looking at the swaying sweet grapefruits and thinking of the actual situation that had been difficult to progress, Shen Ping took a deep breath.. "Fellow Daoist Yu, I want to change my way of living!"

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The uneasiness in Yu Yan's eyes gradually covered a layer of erotic ripples. The sweet grapefruits had a unique fragrance. As this fragrance disappeared, Shen Ping heaved a long sigh of relief.

Looking at the coquettish Yu Yan, he asked gently, "Are you feeling much better?" Yu Yan nodded. "Since Luosha Demonic Valley has come in, don't go out and accept missions for the time being. Let's take a look at the situation of the market first." Shen Ping reminded her.

He did not know much about the Luosha Demonic Valley, but its demonic name had long spread to the Wei Kingdom. If the Golden Sun Sect and the cultivators of the other sects did not stop it, the situation in the market could be imagined.

Although the Immortal Dao Sects were also very cruel, at least there was a way out.

"Don't worry. I want to live a few more years."

Hearing this tone, Shen Ping was completely relieved. He took a short rest. An abnormal flush appeared on Yu Yan's face. She hurriedly stood up. "I can't suppress the charm fire in my body anymore."

As he spoke, she sent out a stream of spiritual energy. The cool water in the wooden barrel quickly turned into steam. Then, she took out the stored petals and pollen from her storage bag and sprinkled them on the water. Her series of actions was very adept.

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"Fellow Daoist Yu. Let me help you." Shen Ping looked serious.

Yu Yan shook her head. "No, Fellow Daoist Shen, although you're experienced in battle, you haven't grasped the essence after all. Let's talk about it in the future."

Shen Ping's face darkened, but he knew that Yu Yan was telling the truth. He thought for a moment. He asked tentatively, "Fellow Daoist Yu, do you want to try another path?"

Yu Yan did not react for a moment until Shen Ping's gaze shifted behind her. Her face instantly turned red. "You, you... can't! Absolutely not!" Her earlobes were hot, and she did not dare to look at Shen Ping.

In the early years, although she had occasionally seen a few illustrations of the Heavenly Sound Pavilion, she had never thought about that. She was too embarrassed to say it.

A moment passed, the two figures soaked in the wooden bucket. After the water rippled, Shen Ping shook his head helplessly. Just as he was about to get up, he suddenly heard Yu Yan's soft voice. "Just once."

As a sixth level Qi Refinement cultivator, Shen Ping's eyes and ears were sharp, and he could even hear the cries of insects more than ten meters away. His eyes suddenly lit up at this moment.

It was five in the evening. The white snake puppet hung motionlessly on the edge of the wooden barrel. It did not have any agile aura.

Shen Ping was in an unprecedentedly good mood. He strode out of the main room. Although it delayed the time to make talismans, he finally gained a lot. At dinner, he added a few more bowls of spirit rice and beast meat porridge.

When his wife and concubine looked at him with concern, he smiled and said, "It's fine. Rest early tonight. I'll go to the quiet room to cultivate."

Wang Yun could not help but remind him, "Husband, Sister Qing'er is still in the quiet room."

"She'll stay in the house at night." Shen Ping replied, "Let's wait for her to calm down before talking about anything else."

Two days later.

In the Spring Embroidery Pavilion in the market.

Shen Ping handed over a few high-level talismans and asked, "Shopkeeper Chen, do you know anything about the Luosha Demonic Valley?"

Shopkeeper Chen sighed, "I'm not sure, but the business of my small shop has plummeted over the past few days. The number of cultivators in the market is the highest now, but such a thing happened. I don't know what the Golden Sun Sect and the other sects are thinking. They actually allowed the demonic path of Yue Kingdom to enter!" Then, he shook his head and said, "The boss doesn't know either."

Shen Ping immediately stopped asking. He bought some ingredients and medicinal pills and hurriedly left the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. Although his relationship with his wife, concubine, and Dao companion had improved by leaps and bounds, there was always a trace of uneasiness lingering in his heart.

He walked along the streets of the market. The cold wind blew on his face. White snowflakes fell. He subconsciously looked up and felt a chill on his face. "It's snowing again."

The coolness pressed against his skin. Shen Ping felt that his mind was much clearer. It was inevitable that his thoughts would be a little slow if he stayed in the house for a long time. "Be vigilant in times of peace. Don't forget my original intention."



He stood rooted to the ground and took a few deep breaths. Then, he fell into deep thought. He began to carefully recall all the news he had heard and seen after moving to Yunhe Alley.

“First, the Golden Sun Sect’s Supreme Elder and the sect master caused trouble. Then, the surrounding Immortal Dao Sects joined forces to pressure and forcefully open the door to the Wei Kingdom. Now, the Demonic Dao of Yue Kingdom, which has always been hated by the Golden Sun Sect, has entered.

“This is a huge matter. The Cloud Mountain Swamp’s mining area has been established. The Golden Sun Sect has moved a large number of cultivators from the market to the edge of the Cloud Mountain Swamp and so on.”

Everything flashed in his mind. There were too few channels of information to be obtained from the bottom level. No matter how hard Shen Ping thought, he could not grasp the key to this news.

But through this news, he could smell that something was wrong. He did not think so before. After all, be it the Danxia Sect or the Acacia Faction, they had long coveted the rich spirit stone mines and resources of the Wei Kingdom. It was possible that they had entered the Cloud Mountain Swamp with the intention of slowly taking things one step at a time.

But now that the Demonic Dao of Yue Kingdom had arrived, it was very unusual.

“Should I leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp?” This thought suddenly appeared in his heart, and he could not get rid of it.

A moment later, Shen Ping arrived at the hall of the outer sect Deacon Hall. The hall would change a deacon every three days. The deacon in front of him had a thick aura. He was probably not far from the Foundation Establishment Realm.

“Sir, I wonder when the next flying ship will leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp and go to the area where the Golden Sun Sect’s main sect is?” He asked respectfully.

The deacon raised his eyes and replied casually, “Half a year.”

Shen Ping cupped his hands and thanked him before quickly leaving. When he returned to Yunhe Alley, the uneasiness in his heart gradually disappeared. As long as he could still leave Cloud Mountain Parlour, it would not be a problem.

Another three days passed. He sat opposite Luo Qing in the quiet room. Her eyes, which were not mixed with any vitality, still did not change.

Exotic Bloodline.

If Luo Qing had always been in this state, then this time was indeed a little deceitful.

“Senior Shen. No matter what you want to do, I will obey.”

Shen Ping hesitated for a moment and asked, “Fellow Daoist Luo, I heard from Matchmaker Ceng that your body can’t withstand your bloodline. It’s very difficult for you to increase your cultivation in this life. I wonder if it’s accurate?”

Luo Qing nodded. “That’s right.”

“Is there no other way?” He asked.

Luo Qing looked up and glanced at Shen Ping. “No.”

Shen Ping took out an item from his storage bag and said with a faint smile, “This is the reputation wooden token of the True Treasure Pavilion. If I want to know, I believe I can obtain some information from the True Treasure Pavilion.”

Luo Qing’s expression changed slightly. She was silent for a moment before she slowly shook her head. “Senior Shen, there’s no need for you to waste resources on me. My physique will not live past half a century. Also, if Senior Shen wants to pass on my bloodline, it’s best to find the Scarlet Blood Turtle. It can reduce the effect of my bloodline when I’m about to give birth. Only then can my descendants bear this bloodline..”

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Night fell.

Inside the house, the brocade-white patterns woven by the Immortal Crane’s waves undulated under the light of the crystal lamp.

Shen Ping stood beside the wooden bed expressionlessly and looked at this delicate woman. He frowned. After several days of waiting, he could see that Luo Qing’s emotions had already calmed down. But he did not gain much from the conversation in the quiet room. He did not intend to make her open her heart with words. He just wanted to see if there was any further possibility.

From the looks of it, the possibility was very small.

“Third level of Qi Refinement. Exotic Bloodline. Forget it, after half a hundred years of lifespan has passed, I’ll send her back to the Ze Kingdom if there’s a chance.” He sighed in his heart.

Shen Ping no longer hesitated. He casually pulled off the brocade-white dudou and placed it under Luo Qing. Soon, the wooden board swayed gently.

A moment passed, the brocade-white patterns became brighter. He glanced at Luo Qing and saw the redness on her cheeks. He could not help but smile. He opened the attribute panel. There was a change on it.

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[You have dual cultivated with your Dao Companion once. You have obtained magical resistance +2]

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 50]

[Effect of Blackwater Spirit Turtle Bloodline (Weak): You will obtain an additional day of lifespan.]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 0]

[Magic Resistance: Low-grade Level 1 (2/1,000)]

[Lifespan: 46/95]

His gaze swept to the new virtual frame. His pupils constricted.

Lifespan.

Luo Qing’s exotic bloodline actually gave him an additional lifespan during dual cultivation. Although it was only for a day, it was still very precious.

Cultivators fought for longevity.

Two hundred years upon reaching Foundation Establishment.

Five hundred years old upon reaching Golden Core.

In order to fight with the heavens for this lifespan, countless cultivators had to suffer. Even genius cultivators with single-element Heavenly Spirit Roots and mutant Spirit Roots had to work hard for their gradually depleting lifespan to break through to the Golden Core Nascent Soul realm.

Every time pills and rare treasures that could increase one's lifespan appeared at the auction of the True Treasure Pavilion, cultivators would go crazy.

"If I had enough lifespan, why would I go out?" Shen Ping's breathing gradually became heavier. With a dazzling light in his eyes, he looked at Luo Qing, who was lying flat on the wooden bed again. He could not help but turn over.

The floor shook.

Luo Qing frowned. She bit her lower lip and turned her face to the left.

Soon, he glanced at the attribute panel again.

[Your Dao Companion has developed a trace of disgust towards you. Current favorability: 40]

[Do you want to dissolve the Dao Companion relationship?]

Shen Ping could not help but rub his eyes. There was no change in the virtual frame. He was a little dumbfounded and sat silently at the side.

"I was careless. I'm so excited that my brain is affected!" After clearing his mind, he patted his head in frustration. "Fellow Daoist Luo. I was wrong just now. I didn't consider your feelings." As he spoke, he slowly covered her with spiritual energy to nourish her. His movements were very gentle.

Ten minutes passed, Luo Qing blushed again. She opened her eyes and said, "Senior Shen, if you still want to, hurry up." After saying that, she hurriedly closed her eyes.

Shen Ping kept staring at the virtual frame. When he saw that his favorability had returned to 50, he heaved a sigh of relief. Fortunately, the remedy was timely. Otherwise, he would really suffer a huge loss.

This was lifespan!

At dawn the next day, the wooden barrel emitted a fragrance.

When Shen Ping came over, Yu Yan was not as anxious as usual. Instead, she said sarcastically, "Fellow Daoist Shen, you're really energetic. How's your new Dao companion? Did she satisfy you?"

The favorability of the virtual frame did not change. He smiled and went forward. Without any nonsense, he picked the grapefruits. It was when the waves rolled up that Yu Yan take the initiative.

The boring life passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, the Wei Kingdom's Lantern Festival arrived.

On this day, rays of light streaked across the sky above Cloud Mountain.

The disciples of the various large sects, cultivation families, and large numbers of unaffiliated cultivators in the market flew towards the entrance of the Danxia Sect's branch sect. Facing the morning sun, countless rays of light dragged a long flame tail towards the majestic mountain peak of Cloud Mountain.

Shen Ping did not join in the fun. Instead, Yu Yan was excited and wanted to attend the ceremony. After all, such a grand event was rarely seen.

Seeing that his wife and concubine were also tempted, Shen Ping thought for a moment and left Yunhe Alley with his wife, concubine, Yu Yan, and Luo Qing. They stepped on the flying artifact. His wife and concubine hugged Shen Ping's arms and looked down at the pleasant scenery excitedly and curiously. Ever since they moved to Yunhe Alley, they had gone out less and less.

Today was the celebration of the Danxia Sect's founding. Along the way, there were Danxia Sect disciples constantly patrolling and no one dared to cause trouble on this day. Even the demonic cultivators of the Luosha Demonic Valley were much more restrained.

Therefore, after comprehensive consideration, Shen Ping readily agreed.

As they approached the Cloud Mountain, 100,000 majestic mountains gradually came into view. A large number of cultivators floated in the sky in front of them. The periphery was filled with rogue cultivators. Only the disciples of other sects and some powerful cultivation families could really watch the ceremony at close range.

It was already good enough for the rogue cultivators to stay outside and feel the atmosphere. Moreover, they could not resist the powerful spiritual pressure when they entered.

"Level 2 spiritual vein."

"It doesn't match the status of the Danxia Sect."

"It can't be helped. Although Cloud Mountain is vast, there are fewer mountains with spiritual veins. They're basically occupied by the Golden Sun Sect. Danxia Sect can be considered lucky to find this Level 2 spiritual vein."

He listened to the casual exchanges of the surrounding cultivators. Shen Ping silently looked at the distant mountain gate. For the sect, the spiritual energy of a Level 2 spiritual vein was insufficient.

The Acacia Faction, the Myriad Sacred Mountain, and the other major sects did not announce that they would establish the sect. The main reason was that Cloud Mountain did not have any extra spiritual vein mountains.

It was almost noon. Colorful clouds rose from the mountain gate, and cranes flew. All kinds of auspicious signs circled above the mountain range. As the rich pill fragrance spread, most of the rogue cultivators in the periphery felt refreshed.

“Fellow Daoists coming to watch the ceremony brings light to my Danxia Sect.” A moment later, a purple-robed phantom appeared in the sky of the entire mountain range. His voice spread gently.

All the rogue cultivators in the periphery were excited.

Danxia Sect’s elder.

A Nascent Soul expert!

How could they, Qi Refinement cultivators, see such a person usually? This trip was not in vain!

Yu Yan was inexplicably excited. “Nascent Soul, it’s a Nascent Soul cultivator!”

Nascent Souls had a thousand years of lifespan. To be able to sit and watch the vicissitudes of the world while the dynasty changed, such a living fossil-like cultivator was the dream and pursuit of every rogue cultivator.

Longevity was only a saying, and Foundation Establishment, Golden Core, and Nascent Soul were existences that every cultivator could truly look up to.

Shen Ping did not think much of it. He glanced at his wife and concubine from the corner of his eye.

Bai Yuying’s face was as excited as Yu Yan’s. Although Wang Yun was excited, her eyes revealed sadness. She was only a mortal after all. This scene was like a dream to her. On the other hand, Luo Qing’s expression was calm, and there was no sign of any ripples.

As time passed, the grand ceremony of the Danxia Sect ended. The rogue cultivators outside formed groups. Some looked forward to each other, some discussed the Danxia Sect, and some hoped that the Danxia Sect would recruit disciples as soon as possible.

Amidst the lively atmosphere, the rogue cultivators left one after another.

“Talisman Master Shen!” On the way back to the market, Shen Ping met Shopkeeper Chen and chatted briefly before parting ways.

The owner of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion had broken through to the Foundation Establishment Realm. Shopkeeper Chen's attitude towards him was still relatively enthusiastic, but he no longer urged him to make talismans as soon as they met..

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In the blink of an eye, half a year passed.

In the small courtyard of Yunhe Alley, Shen Ping pushed open the wooden window, and the warm air assaulted his face. He looked up at the clear and clean sky. He was in a rather good mood.

During this period of time, after his high-intensity and meticulous hard work, although it did not increase the effect, he still obtained more than three years of lifespan!

If this continued, he believed that he could rely on his hard work to obtain Foundation Establishment lifespan. The only flaw was that he had to go out to buy cultivation-assisted medicinal pills, sell talismans, make puppets, and so on.

And every time he went out, it would increase the danger.

Although the marketplace still looked prosperous and lively, it was no longer as safe as before. The most obvious thing was that bloodshed was constantly increasing. Ever since the Danxia Sect's celebration, 20 to 30 cultivators had been attacked in various alleys and died. This was very rare in the past in Cloud Mountain Parlour.

The Golden Sun Sect's law enforcement patrol team had completely become a decoration. They could not catch the cultivator who was disturbing their safety at all. This caused the cultivators in the various alleys to panic. Now, even Fellow Daoist Mu, who often went out, rarely went out.

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Alchemist Feng had also been refining pills in his room.

Only the Zhang brothers on the opposite side still maintained their frequency of going out. Perhaps for battle cultivators like the Zhang family who liked to fight, the current situation of the market was more suitable for them.

"Husband, Senior Yu has come out of seclusion!" Bai Yuying's voice sounded.

Shen Ping closed the wooden window and hurriedly walked downstairs. When he saw the uncontrollable joy in the corners of Yu Yan's eyes, he smiled and cupped his hands. "Congratulations on breaking through to the sixth level of Qi Refinement, you're one step closer to the Foundation Establishment Realm. Congratulations!"

Yu Yan's fair skin was moist. After advancing to the sixth level of Qi Refinement, her temperament under the robe had a floating immortal smell. She smiled. "Husband, it's all thanks to the medicinal pills and spirit liquid you gave me that I was lucky enough to break through this time. If not for that, I would probably have to cultivate for seven to eight years to break through."

Hearing Yu Yan's address, Shen Ping's heart warmed. "Should we celebrate and exchange cultivation insights?"

"Fellow Daoist Shen, you're not eating anymore?"

"I'll eat fruits."

"With grapefruits."

The two gazes intersected and gathered. Sparks gradually spread in their pupils. In the next second, in the wooden bucket in the main room.

"Water-walking Flood Dragon. Or crossing the bypass. Choose quickly!" Shen Ping pulled off his robe and looked at the thin powder like a hungry tiger pouncing on its prey.

"You can't transform into a flood dragon. I want the bypass!"

A cup of wine in the peach and plum spring breeze. Facing the lamp for ten years in loneliness.

Accompanied by a long moan, Shen Ping leaned against the edge of the wooden bucket and shook his head helplessly. "The road is long and slippery. Fellow Daoist Yu, you're still better at this battle."

Yu Yan closed her eyes and reminisced. She smiled. "Who asked you to be so anxious? But let's get down to business. This time, I've broken through to the sixth level of Qi Refinement. I can form a small team in the Deacon Hall. The market is not safe now. If I can gather a few more Fellow Daoists, we can take care of each other if anything happens. And I'll be better informed."

Shen Ping pondered for a moment. "What restrictions are there between such small hunting teams?"



“With a Blood Contract, we can’t fight each other. There must be four or five members.” Yu Yan said seriously, “Husband, I know your personality, but you have to plan ahead. You’re a high-grade Talisman Master. With me around, you can build it quickly.”

As for the hunting cultivators in the market, Shen Ping did not know much, but Yu Yan’s suggestion seemed to be feasible at the moment. He rarely went out in Yunhe Alley and the sources of information were only the Spring Embroidery Pavilion and the True Treasure Pavilion. If these two channels were cut off, he would become blind and deaf.

However, he was not in a hurry to reply. Instead, he pondered for a moment and slowly said, “To be honest with Fellow Daoist Yu, I’m preparing to leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp to go to the main sect’s market. Recently, the situation in the Cloud Mountain Parlour has been getting more and more unstable. With our strength, I’m afraid it will be very difficult to deal with if anything happens.”

Yu Yan was stunned for a moment before she smiled and said, “It’s fine as long as Fellow Daoist Shen has a plan in mind. However, if you want to go to the main sect’s market, you have to do it early.”

Shen Ping nodded. “I’ll go out later.”

In the market.

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

There was an endless stream of cultivators coming and going. The hall was divided into two areas. One was the main hall for accepting missions, and the other was the side hall for dealing with daily matters.

Shen Ping arrived and waited for a while. When it was his turn, he hurriedly went forward. “Deacon, may I ask when the flying ship from the Golden Sun Sect will set off in the direction of the main sect?”

The deacon said casually, “The main sect has suspended the flying ship. It will depend on the main sect’s attitude on when it will resume its operations.”

Shen Ping’s heart sank when he heard that. He hurriedly asked again, “What about the flying ships that go to the other states of Wei Kingdom?”

“Once every three years.”

He left the Deacon Hall. Shen Ping felt as if a huge rock was pressing down on his heart. His happy mood in the morning was completely gone now.

The flying ship had stopped its operations. This meant that the passageway to the outside world from the Cloud Mountain Swamp had been cut off. There were countless demon beasts in the 100,000 towering mountains.

Even a force like Spring Garden found it difficult to enter from the outside, let alone a lone cultivator like him. It was impossible for him to leave alone.

How could he dare to have any hope for the flying ship that the deacon said would go to the other states every three years now?

“Maybe it’s just temporary.” Shen Ping comforted himself, but the uneasiness in his heart became heavier. He returned to the small courtyard. He told Yu Yan this news.

Yu Yan was silent for a moment before gritting her teeth and saying, “When the Danxia Sect was established, many cultivators rushed over on flying ships. I’m afraid they won’t be able to return now.”

Shen Ping was shocked. “You mean that the Danxia Sect deliberately established a sect in Cloud Mountain?”

Yu Yan nodded. “It’s very likely. In the past half a year, the Danxia Sect has recruited disciples three times. Moreover, it’s said that they will recruit disciples every half a year in the future. The disciples of the other sects have also recruited individual cultivators in the Deacon Hall. They said that they want to establish their own law enforcement team, but there’s no progress until now. With the strength of the sect disciples, how can they delay for half a year if they really want to establish it? I already felt that something was wrong. Now that the flying ship has stopped, this matter is even more wrong.”

Shen Ping frowned. He had never paid attention to such matters.

“Oh right, the Luosha Demonic Valley... With the temperament of the Yue Kingdom’s demonic sects, they should have stirred up trouble in the market for the past half a year. But ever since the Danxia Sect was established, these demonic cultivators seem to have disappeared.” He voiced his doubts.

Yu Yan glanced at Shen Ping. “That Chen Ying from the Acacia Faction in our small courtyard doesn’t seem to have disturbed you again.”

Shen Ping was speechless. “Why did you mention—”

Halfway through his sentence, his expression became serious. In the past six months, he had rarely gone out and had never met Chen Ying. However, he would sometimes see Chen Ying through the wooden window in the small courtyard.

The other party only smiled at him calmly.

Initially, he thought that without this Acacia Faction disciple disturbing him, his cultivation life would be much smoother.. Now that he thought about it carefully, Chen Ying's gaze was very similar to looking at a slightly valuable dead thing!

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"Husband," Yu Yan looked at Shen Ping, whose expression was getting uglier. She could not help but shout.

Phew.

Ha.

Shen Ping did not say anything. Instead, he took five deep breaths. Then, he closed his eyes. Myriad thoughts gradually calmed down. At this moment, he could not panic. Listening to his heartbeat, it was as if he had returned to the narrow and dim hut in Red Willow Alley. He saw himself, who had failed in making talismans but still gritted his teeth and continued.

Compared to then, was the current situation considered bad?

Qi Refinement Level Six.

A Level Two Talisman Master.

.....

Late-stage divine sense.

Mid-grade puppet master.

Dharma artifacts, robes, array discs.

Compared to the precarious days in the past, were these methods considered desperate? A voice seemed to be replying in his heart. After hearing this, Shen Ping opened his eyes again and became much calmer. "I'll go to the True Treasure Pavilion tomorrow. You go to the Deacon Hall to form a hunting group." As he spoke, he took out the Spirit Protection Talisman, the Golden Light Talisman, and other high-level talismans from his storage bag and handed them to Yu Yan.

“Husband, don’t worry too much. No matter what happens, I’ll be with you.” Yu Yan held Shen Ping’s hand, her eyes filled with gentleness.

Shen Ping smiled. “I’ll go make talismans.”

At night, his wife and concubine were curled up on both sides. Luo Qing sat cross-legged at the head of the bed in a daze.

On the other hand, Shen Ping was thinking about the worst case scenario. He had more or less sorted out some clues now. Ever since the news of the Golden Sun Sect’s Supreme Elder having a relationship with his daughter-in-law had spread from the market, perhaps the game between the upper echelons had begun. It was very likely that the higher echelons of the Golden Sun Sect had tacitly agreed that the Yue Kingdom’s demonic sects could enter the Wei Kingdom so smoothly.

Otherwise, with the grudge between the two sects, how could the Golden Sun Sect let the Luosha Demonic Valley in? Did they really think that Nascent Soul cultivators were made of paper?!

Therefore, once something major happened, the Golden Sun Sect was the last thing he could count on. There was no need to consider the connections in the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. As for the other sects, there was no need to think about them.

Therefore, the only ones left were the True Treasure Pavilion and Spring Garden.

These two families were the strongest factions in Cloud Mountain Parlour, especially the True Treasure Pavilion. Just the reputation wooden token they gave could make some Foundation Establishment experts fear them.

“Let’s go to the True Treasure Pavilion to investigate the situation first. If there’s really no other way, I’ll go to Spring Garden. Even if I have to pay a price, I have to ensure my safety.” After thinking about it, Shen Ping closed his eyes and rested.

At dawn the next day, he hurriedly drank some spirit rice porridge.

He came to the market with Yu Yan. There were many cultivators coming and going on the main street. In the past half a year, the Danxia Sect had recruited disciples from time to time and had indeed attracted many itinerant cultivators. In order to enter the Danxia Sect, they were willing to stay in the market for a few years.

They separated not far from the entrance of the True Treasure Pavilion.

Yu Yan went to the Deacon Hall. Shen Ping crossed the threshold and soon saw Mu Jin.

“Talisman Master Shen, there’s no auction today.” Mu Jin’s sweet smile became more teasing. The two of them had known each other for three years and were considered to be more familiar with each other, even though they were both business dealings.

“Fellow Daoist Mu, do you want to sit in the private room upstairs?” Shen Ping smiled.

Mu Jin gave Shen Ping a strange look, then took him to a private room on the left of the second floor. After sitting down, she made two cups of spiritual tea. “What’s the matter, Talisman Master Shen?”

Shen Ping took a sip and said casually, “Fellow Daoist Mu, I went down to the Deacon Hall and asked yesterday. The flying ship that comes and goes to the Golden Sun Sect every year has been suspended. I wonder if the True Treasure Pavilion has a flying ship that leaves the market?”

Mu Jin asked in surprise, “Talisman Master Shen wants to leave Cloud Mountain Parlour?”

“Yes.” Shen Ping sighed softly and said, “The market is not safe now. The Golden Sun Sect’s law enforcement patrol team did things perfunctory. Not only me, but many cultivators want to go to the main sect.”

Mu Jin glanced around from the corner of her eye and said telepathically, “Talisman Master Shen, the flying ship of the True Treasure Pavilion comes to the market every six months.”

Joy flashed across Shen Ping’s eyes as he hurriedly asked, “I wonder how I can take the True Treasure Pavilion’s flying ship and leave the market?”

“Only by joining the True Treasure Pavilion could you take the ship. Only with a second-grade guest status can one take a flying ship to the True Treasure Pavilion in the other markets. Talisman Master Shen only has a cooperative relationship with the True Treasure Pavilion at the moment.”

Hearing this, Shen Ping’s expression relaxed a little. “Then what conditions do you need to join the True Treasure Pavilion?”

“The conditions are a little harsh.” Mu Jin replied, “If Talisman Master Shen wants to join, you have to pass the Talisman Dao assessment first. Then, specific conditions will be given after the guest and shopkeepers of the True Treasure Pavilion evaluate your potential. Moreover, most people who have just joined the True Treasure Pavilion are third-grade guests.

“Although you can obtain the protection of the True Treasure Pavilion, you don’t have the right to ride a flying ship.”

Shen Ping frowned and thought to himself that the internal structure of the True Treasure Pavilion was really strict. Even the guests were divided into levels. However, the True Treasure Pavilion was a large faction after all and mainly operated a business. If there were no rules inside, it would probably not be as large as it was now.

Thinking of this, he felt relieved. Then, he asked in detail about some of the main duties and constraints of the guests. Mu Jin could only answer briefly, but she didn't know the details.

"Are you sure you want to join the True Treasure Pavilion?" Mu Jin asked.

Shen Ping struggled a few times in his heart before nodding seriously. "I'm sure."

If he could join the True Treasure Pavilion, even if he could not leave the market, he would probably be protected. However, he had to be extremely careful and keep a low profile in the future. He could not make any mistakes, especially in the Dao of Talismans, puppet master, cultivation speed, and so on. He had to be vigilant at all times.

Outside, he could use the excuse of being recognized by the senior Talisman Master and his talent eruption to explain the rapid improvement of the Talisman Dao, but it was impossible in the True Treasure Pavilion.

How could such a large faction not see geniuses? He wasn't sure what level his speed of improvement in the Dao of Talismans was.

After a while, the shopkeeper of the True Treasure Pavilion walked over with a smile on his face and asked again, "Are you sure you want to join our True Treasure Pavilion?"

He received an affirmative response.

The shopkeeper said, "Come to the True Treasure Pavilion in five days. At that time, we will conduct a Talisman Dao assessment on Talisman Master Shen. If you can pass, there will be a few other simple verifications. The main thing is to confirm Talisman Master Shen's spiritual root aptitude and age so that we can evaluate your potential.

"This has always been the rule of our True Treasure Pavilion. Please forgive us, Talisman Master Shen."

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "I understand."

The shopkeeper continued, "After the evaluation, we will give you the specific conditions for joining. As long as Talisman Master Shen can reach them, you will have the status of a third-grade guest of our True Treasure Pavilion."

Shen Ping asked again, "What's the responsibility of being a third-grade guest?"

The shopkeeper looked at Shen Ping meaningfully. "When Talisman Master Shen meets the conditions and becomes a third-grade guest, you will naturally know."

Fine.

Shen Ping knew that he could not ask anymore. Before he left, He hesitated and asked the last question, "Shopkeeper, if the various large sects in the market or the Golden Sun Sect bully me, can the True Treasure Pavilion protect the safety of the guest?"

This was what he was most concerned about. Although the True Treasure Pavilion had a strong background, he did not know how strong it was at all.

The shopkeeper chuckled and said, "As long as he dares to hurt a guest of the True Treasure Pavilion, regardless of whether he's a Golden Core, Nascent Soul, or a Great Nascent Soul cultivator, our True Treasure Pavilion will definitely pursue the matter to the end!"

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He walked out of the True Treasure Pavilion. The shopkeeper's last confident words still lingered in Shen Ping's ears. They dared to pursue the matter with the Nascent Soul cultivators. Whether it was true or not, just this confidence was enough to prove the strength of the True Treasure Pavilion.

He subconsciously looked up and saw the words written on it. In the past, he only felt that this line of words was sharp, but now that he looked at it again, he felt that there was light between the words!

He put away his thoughts.

Shen Ping walked away, but he did not return to Yunhe Alley directly. Instead, he walked out of the market and arrived at Spring Garden. He had to be prepared for everything.

Currently, the True Treasure Pavilion indeed looked like a very suitable place for protection. However, he was not young anymore. Although his Talisman Daoism level had reached the second level, his Foundation Establishment potential would definitely be greatly reduced because of his age.

At that time, he could only go all out. He was not completely confident whether he could pass. If he didn't pass, Spring Garden was his last hope.

“Oh, Talisman Master Shen is here. Please come in!” Matchmaker Ceng happened to send out a cultivator. When she saw Shen Ping, her face that was piled up with makeup was filled with enthusiasm. She brought Shen Ping to the second floor.

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“Talisman Master Shen, the Luo Qing 1 introduced last time is not bad, right? Although her personality is a little cold, she’s still quite obedient and sensible.” Speaking of this, she smiled and said, “I believe Talisman Master Shen has enjoyed a lot of pleasure these days.”

Shen Ping smiled calmly. “Not bad.”

Matchmaker Ceng’s smile widened. “It’s good that you’re satisfied. What kind of concubine are you taking this time? There are no more exotic bloodlines for the time being. There are a few others with good personalities, but they might be slightly worse in terms of obedience. As long as you ask, I guarantee that my Spring Garden will satisfy you...”

Shen Ping interrupted, “Fellow Daoist Ceng, I’m not here to take in a concubine this time. I just want to ask if Spring Garden has a flying ship that can leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp?”

Matchmaker Ceng’s smile decreased a little. “Oh, so Talisman Master Shen is leaving the Cloud Mountain Swamp. Why? Now, cultivators from the Jin Kingdom and other sects have surged into the Cloud Mountain Swamp. Even the Danxia Sect has established a branch sect in Cloud Mountain. In the future, this place might very well become the most prosperous market in the Wei Kingdom. It might even be able to build an immortal city. The other cultivators can’t wait to come here!”

Shen Ping chuckled and prepared to trick him. “Fellow Daoist Ceng, Spring Garden is spread all over Wei Kingdom’s markets. Don’t tell me you didn’t receive any news? The Golden Sun Sect’s flying ship to the other markets has already been suspended. Something big might happen in the Cloud Mountain Swamp next.”

Matchmaker Ceng said in surprise, “The flying ship stopped? I really didn’t know about this!”

Shen Ping took out a Golden Light Talisman and placed it on the table. Then, he stared at Matchmaker Ceng. He did not believe that a faction like Spring Garden did not know anything.

Matchmaker Ceng accepted the Golden Light Talisman without hesitation and said with a smile, “Talisman Master Shen, you’re really well-informed. Cloud Mountain Parlour will indeed be a little chaotic. As for the exact situation, I’m afraid you think too highly of me.



My cultivation level and status in Spring Garden are not high. Even if something really happens, I can only leave it to fate!"

Shen Ping didn't say anything else. "Fellow Daoist Ceng, what conditions do you need to leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp?"

Matchmaker Ceng's smile disappeared. Her voice was calm and even a little cold. "30 Spirit Protection Talismans for one life!"

On this issue, Shen Ping knew that there was no possibility of bargaining. 30 Spirit Protection Talismans were indeed very expensive, especially now that the purchasing power of the spirit stones in the market had increased. However, as long as he could guarantee his safety, he had to admit it no matter how expensive it was. "Sure!"

Matchmaker Ceng's smile returned. "Talisman Master Shen is a straightforward person. I can't guarantee anything else in Spring Garden, but you can rest assured in terms of credibility."

A moment later, he walked out of Spring Garden. Matchmaker Ceng sent a voice transmission, "Talisman Master Shen, remember that at the critical moment, my Spring Garden can only leave. 30 Spirit Protection Talismans and one life!"

He walked into the market.

Looking at the bustling main street, more than half of the huge rock in Shen Ping's heart had shattered. With the two paths, the True Treasure Pavilion and Spring Garden, no matter what happened in the Cloud Mountain Parlour and the Cloud Mountain Swamp, he had a chance to leave and not fall into a desperate situation.

Of course, compared to Spring Garden, he trusted the True Treasure Pavilion more.

"Five days later. I hope everything goes well!"

He suppressed his thoughts and arrived at the Talisman Treasure Hall. Seeing that Yu Yan was not around, Shen Ping simply entered the Talisman Treasure Hall and waited.

It was almost five in the evening when Yu Yan just appeared. When she saw Shen Ping's relaxed expression, she was in a surprisingly good mood. "It seems to be going smoothly."

Shen Ping nodded. "What about you?"

Yu Yan smiled and said, "With Fellow Daoist Shen's reputation as a talisman master as a guarantor, there's no problem with forming a hunting group. Moreover, a late-stage Qi Refinement cultivator has also joined. I chatted with this person for a while, which is why I'm delayed until now."

“Late-stage Qi Refinement realm?” Shen Ping was surprised.

Yu Yan looked around. “Let’s talk when we get back.”

They returned to the small courtyard in Yunhe Alley. He had just closed the door. Both of them, who were in a good mood, looked at each other. Flames gradually exploded in their pupils.

“I want to eat.”

“What do you want to eat?”

“You!”

Soon, two figures flashed to the main room. The white snake puppet quietly hid.

Yu Yan’s black hair was casually scattered, and her fair and moist skin was glowing. She glanced at Shen Ping coquettishly. “Fellow Daoist Shen, I’ve let you have your way again!”

Shen Ping smiled. Although the pressure in his heart had lessened, he still couldn’t relax, he immediately talked about serious matters. “The market is indeed going to be chaotic, and I’m afraid the matter is more serious than expected. Fellow Daoist Yu, you can form a hunting group, but it’s best not to leave Cloud Mountain Parlour to accept missions.”

Yu Yan understood what Shen Ping meant. She hesitated and said, “If that’s the case, I’m afraid such a small group won’t be able to help us at the critical moment. They can only be used to obtain some information about the Cloud Mountain Swamp.”

“Don’t worry about it. It’s better to have some information than to be isolated. Especially the Chen Market, the more I understand the situation at the edge of the Cloud Mountain Swamp, the more I can see the current situation.”

Shen Ping pondered for a moment. “In a few days, I still have to interact with the Zhang brothers opposite. They often go out, so they might know more than us.”

Yu Yan nodded. “I’ll do it.”

They chatted for a while more. Shen Ping did not stay any longer and returned to the second floor.

In the next few days, he tried his best to adjust his mental state. He did not rush to make talismans. Instead, he relaxed and casually made a few high-level talismans to ensure that he would not fail in one go.

Five days later, in front of the market's True Treasure Pavilion, Shen Ping took a deep breath of the warm air and walked in. Mu Jin was already waiting. When she saw Shen Ping, she went forward with a sweet smile and said, "Talisman Master Shen, let's go. The shopkeeper is in the backyard."

With that, she walked in front.

Shen Ping couldn't help but feel a little nervous. He quickly tried to look away, and his eyes fell on the back of Mu Jin's round skirt. The lines and outlines of her walking were not inferior to Yan's.

He came to the backyard.

He immediately calmed down..

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## Chapter 61: Steady

In the back hall.

The shopkeeper came out and cupped his hands with a smile. "Talisman Master Shen, with your treatment in the True Treasure Pavilion, I believe it won't be difficult to pass this assessment. You just have to perform normally."

Shen Ping quickly thanked him. He stepped into the main hall. The shopkeeper brought Shen Ping to the second room on the left. The furnishings in the room were simple. It was a little like Shen Ping's talisman making room in Yunhe Alley.

"Spirit Protection Talisman, Golden Light Talisman, Explosive Talisman, Earth Meteorite Talisman. Talisman Master Shen needs to make one of these talismans each. There are Spirit Revitalization Pills in the room, Spirit Accumulation Pills that specialize in recovering mental exhaustion, and Fasting Pills. Talisman Master Shen only needs to make talismans in peace." Making high-grade talismans consumed a lot of mental and spiritual energy. Most high-grade Talisman Masters' efficiency was very ordinary, and those who could reach the lowest cooperation requirement with the True Treasure Pavilion were usually relatively skilled high-grade Talisman Masters.

There was plenty of time for this assessment.

However, Shen Ping knew that the production efficiency would definitely be judged by the assessment. After the shopkeeper left, he closed his eyes and rested for a while. Then, he calmed down and prayed for blessings before starting to make it.

At this moment, in the room on the right of the main hall. The three Foundation Establishment cultivators sat upright and looked indifferently at the scene displayed by an azure mirror in front of them. With the three of them guarding the place, there would not be any problems during this period.

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“He’s a little old.”

“It’s normal. If you want to be skilled and experienced in crafting talismans and alchemy, don’t you need to accumulate for decades? Even those talented people in our True Treasure Pavilion need to accumulate a certain amount of experience.”

“From this fellow Daoist’s past cooperation, he shouldn’t be far from becoming a Level Two Talisman Master.”

The three of them chatted casually.

In the room, Shen Ping focused all his attention on making talismans. His experience of working hard day and night turned into a skilled and stable stroke at this moment. The first thing he made was the Spirit Protection Talisman. This kind of talisman runes were very complicated. It was very challenging to do it in one go.

When he had just broken through to become a high-grade Talisman Master, his success rate in making Spirit Protection Talismans was very low. But now, he could clearly outline the spiritual runes of the Spirit Protection Talisman in his mind with his eyes closed.

Eight hours passed.

The talisman brush outlined the last spiritual rune. He looked at the light of the entire talisman that was flickering and quickly hiding.

Shen Ping smiled. Fortunately, he had Fellow Daoist Mu’s help. If he became nervous, this Spirit Protection Talisman would not be so easy.

After resting for a moment to recover his spirit, he first took out a Spirit Revitalization Pill and began to recover his spiritual energy. After meditating for a while, he placed the Spirit Accumulation Pill in his mouth.

Usually, in the small courtyard, he did not dare to be so extravagant as to use medicinal pills to quickly recover. After resting for two to three days, he could bury his head in the making again.

The house on the right. The voice sounded again.

“His condition is not bad. He even did the Spirit Protection Talisman in one go. He’s indeed very skilled.”

“The next high-level talismans are only slightly more difficult. From the brush technique just now, it should be very smooth.”

“Yes, it’s not difficult to pass the assessment.”

“It depends on age and potential.”

Actually, before the three Foundation Establishment Talisman Masters came, they already knew that this was just a formality. After all, the other party could obtain the second cooperation treatment. His level of Talisman Daoism was very high among high-grade Talisman Masters, and he could completely meet the requirements of the True Treasure Pavilion to recruit Talisman Masters.

In the blink of an eye, four days passed.

Shen Ping had already completed all the talismans in one go. He did not waste a single talisman during this period.

This ability to control high-grade talismans made the three Foundation Establishment Talisman Masters praise him. As Talisman Masters, they knew very well what this ability meant. As long as the other party successfully built his foundation, it was basically a matter of time for him to advance to become a Level Two Talisman Master.

It was even to the extent that if one’s divine sense could reach the Foundation Establishment Realm in advance, there was a certain possibility of making Level Two talismans at the late stage of Qi Refinement. However, it was very difficult to increase one’s divine sense. There were very few cultivators who could break through to the divine sense at the late stage of Qi Refinement.

The shopkeeper walked in.

Shen Ping looked up and noticed that the shopkeeper’s expression was more enthusiastic than before.

“Congratulations, congratulations. Talisman Master Shen was able to complete it so quickly. Your skills in the Dao of Talismans are truly admirable!”

The two of them left the room and walked to the first room. The shopkeeper said in a low voice, "The three Foundation Establishment Talisman Masters in charge of the assessment of our True Treasure Pavilion have praised you endlessly. I believe that Talisman Master Shen will have no problem joining our True Treasure Pavilion this time."

Shen Ping was delighted. He hurriedly cupped his hands and asked, "Shopkeeper..."

The shopkeeper waved his hand. "Don't be so distant. My surname is Ding. Just call me Shopkeeper Ding or Fellow Daoist Ding in the future."

Hearing this, Shen Ping felt much more at ease. "Shopkeeper Ding, I have a four-element spiritual root. It's very ordinary!"

Shopkeeper Ding chuckled and said, "It's fine if your spiritual root aptitude is ordinary. With the resources of our True Treasure Pavilion, how can it be difficult to create a few Foundation Establishment cultivators? Talisman Master Shen is at the sixth level of Qi Refinement. As long as you're not more than 50 years old, the chances of successfully joining the True Treasure Pavilion are very high!"

Shen Ping smiled. "Shopkeeper Ding, I'm 47 years old this year."

Shopkeeper Ding's eyes lit up, and he cupped his hands with a gentle smile. "Then congratulations in advance to Talisman Master Shen for becoming a guest of our True Treasure Pavilion!"

The following assessment was indeed as Shopkeeper Ding had said. It was a simple test.

However, after the spiritual root test, Shopkeeper Ding shook his head. "Talisman Master Shen has four spiritual roots, but your metal and wood spiritual roots are very bright. If you had cultivated diligently in the early years, you wouldn't still be at the sixth level of Qi Refinement."

Shen Ping replied helplessly, "I followed the Golden Sun Sect to this place for the first time to explore. I accidentally contaminated myself with the venom of demon beasts. At that time, my level in the Dao of Talismans was still low, so I wasted a lot of time."

Shopkeeper Ding immediately revealed a sympathetic gaze. On the path of Foundation Establishment, every day was incomparably important for Qi Refinement cultivators. This Talisman Master Shen was really unlucky. Fortunately, the other party's skills in the Dao of Talismans were exquisite and his talent was not bad. Otherwise, it would be impossible for him to build the Foundation Establishment in this life.

It was early in the afternoon. All the assessments were completed. After a discussion between the guests and deacons of the True Treasure Pavilion, they finally gave the subsequent conditions.

Shen Ping was sitting in a private room on the second floor and chatting with Mu Jin. When he heard footsteps, his heart skipped a beat. Soon, Shopkeeper Ding walked in with a contract. "This is the guest contract of my True Treasure Pavilion. If Talisman Master Shen is sure to join, you can sign it now."

As soon as these words were spoken, Shen Ping stood up happily and said in surprise, "Shopkeeper Ding, there are no other conditions?"

Shopkeeper Ding chuckled and said, "There are three Foundation Establishment Talisman Masters guarantee. Not to mention, Talisman Master Shen's spiritual root aptitude is not bad, although it's four elements, the metal and wood elements are very bright. If you absorb spirit liquid and other resources, it will be twice the result with half the effort. Your Foundation Establishment potential is still very great. Of course, there are other conditions. Take a look at this contract first."

Shen Ping hurriedly glanced at the contract. After reading the content, he immediately understood.

He could sign it now, but he had to break through to the late-stage of Qi Refinement before the age of 50 to obtain the identity wooden token that belonged to the third-grade guest of the True Treasure Pavilion and enjoy the generous treatment of many guests. However, as long as he signed it, he could enjoy some basic treatment.

For example, one did not have to wait for a fixed auction every month to buy spirit liquid, Beauty Pills, and other medicinal resources. They could usually be bought in the True Treasure Pavilion, and there were even discounts.

If he did not meet the requirements, this contract would be invalid.

"Three more years.. It's steady!"

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After signing the contract, Shen Ping felt his entire body relax. The huge pressure that lingered in his heart dissipated. After all, with his current cultivation speed, it was more than enough to break through to the late-stage of the Qi Refinement realm in three years. Once he became a guest of the True Treasure Pavilion, not to mention the

treatment and resources, just the protection provided by the True Treasure Pavilion could allow him to cultivate steadily and not have to worry.

However, he had to be more cautious in the future.

The True Treasure Pavilion was a large faction. There were definitely many restrictions inside. Some connections had to be maintained. He could not do as he pleased like rogue cultivators. Thinking of this, he said seriously, "Shopkeeper Ding, I wonder if the three Foundation Establishment seniors are still in the backyard. I want to go and thank them."

The three Foundation Establishment Talisman Masters who judged him were the key to such a smooth trip this time. Perhaps it was out of admiration, or perhaps it was out of various considerations in the future, but no matter what, they had helped him.

Shopkeeper Ding smiled and said, "The three Foundation Establishment seniors have already left. When Talisman Master Shen officially gets the guest wooden token, you will have a chance to meet again." With that, the shopkeeper walked out of the private room.

Mu Jin's crisp and sweet voice sounded. "Congratulations, Talisman Master Shen, on becoming a guest of the True Treasure Pavilion in the future. Please take care of me."

Shen Ping could tell that something was different from before. He smiled and said, "I'm not familiar with the True Treasure Pavilion. I might have to trouble Fellow Daoist Mu."

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Mu Jin blinked and said meaningfully, "It's not troublesome. As long as you don't stare at me like that, I'll welcome you." As she spoke, she smiled slyly. "I still have something to do outside, so I won't talk to Talisman Master Shen anymore."

He looked at her exquisite back. Shen Ping smiled silently. "It's indeed different."

It was already dark outside.

Yu Yan waited quietly at the door. Now that the market was not safe, she immediately rushed over when she received Shen Ping's message. From time to time, she would look up at the door and then at the sky. Her eyes revealed some anxiety until she saw that figure.

Yu Yan quickly went forward. "Is it done?"

Shen Ping held Yu Yan's palm. "Alright, I've already joined the True Treasure Pavilion. As long as I break through to the late-stage of Qi Refinement in three years, I can obtain the guest wooden token of the True Treasure Pavilion. It's said that that wooden



token can block a full-strength attack from a Foundation Establishment cultivator.” He could not help but say this in joy.

“Really? You joined the True Treasure Pavilion?” Yu Yan was stunned at first, then her eyes widened in disbelief. She did not expect her husband to do such a thing these few days.

Oh my god. This was the True Treasure Pavilion! Regardless of whether it was a rogue cultivator or a sect disciple, they were all colossal existences in their eyes. It was extremely difficult to join such a faction.

Previously, she had already felt that it was very unbelievable to participate in the True Treasure Pavilion’s auction. In the end, her husband was actually going to become a guest of the True Treasure Pavilion.

Yu Yan felt like she was in a dream.

“Let’s go back first.” Shen Ping pointed at his surroundings.

Only then did Yu Yan come back to her senses. She suppressed the shock in her heart and became vigilant. They had yet to reach Yunhe Alley. A few spiritual lights flashed in the darkness ahead.

It was the Golden Light Talisman.

Shen Ping could not help but feel nervous when he saw this. He hurriedly activated the Spirit Protection Talisman and took out a high-grade defensive Dharma artifact.

Yu Yan glanced sideways and was almost speechless. Shen Ping was surrounded by at least ten Spirit Protection Talismans. In his hand were five Golden Light Talismans and three Earth Meteor Talismans. Furthermore, the robe belt, boots, and crown all flickered with the light of a Dharma artifact. Apart from that, the shield hanging around his neck was also taken out from the cover of his robe.

“Fellow Daoist Shen, you’re really fat. I can’t help but attack!” Yu Yan teased before continuing to walk forward calmly. “Don’t worry. Not to mention the other Dharma artifacts, just the ten Spirit Protection Talismans on you are enough to make these Qi Refinement cultivators hesitate.”

The price of the Spirit Protection Talisman did not fall out of the range of mid-grade spirit stones in the market. For Qi Refinement cultivators, they would be much more at ease with a Spirit Protection Talisman in hand.

With ten Spirit Protection Talismans, a late-stage cultivator at the seventh or eighth level of Qi Refinement would have to bombard him for a long time even if he stood rooted to the ground, let alone a high-grade defensive Dharma artifact. When Shen Ping bought

them back then, his heart ached. Ordinary late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators could not afford them at all.

“Fellow Daoist Yu, you can’t be careless.” As he walked to the spot where the spiritual light had flickered just now, Shen Ping hurriedly sent a voice transmission to remind her.

Yu Yan didn’t say a word. Her eyes under her tied hair were cold and sharp. Suddenly, she swung to the left. Swish, swish, swish. Silver threads instantly jumped out of her robe. In the blink of an eye, they condensed into a silver net of light and landed more than ten meters away.

Then, two high-level talismans were activated. As spiritual energy flickered, two rays of golden light blasted towards the vicinity of the silver light net. Soon, a muffled groan came from more than ten meters away.

“Fellow Daoist, it’s a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding!”

Yu Yan had no intention of stopping. The bracelet on her wrist instantly undid and transformed into five green moonblades that slashed over.

Chi chi-

Green vines appeared out of thin air more than ten meters in front of her. When Shen Ping saw this, he hurriedly activated the Earth Meteorite Talisman and threw it out at the right time. The spiritual energy of the talisman turned into a huge rock and smashed the green vine away.

The green moonblade slashed down rapidly through the gaps in the green vines.

Pfft, pfft.

The aura within a dozen meters quickly dimmed.

Some of the cultivators in the surrounding darkness revealed fear on their faces. In this instant of exchange, the two of them had used three high-level offensive talismans. Not only that, but the most important thing was that the female cultivator was decisive and ruthless. Her judgment was extremely shocking. Clearly, she had a lot of experience in battle.

At this moment, Yu Yan calmly cleaned up and said coldly, “Everyone, my husband and I are just passing by. This cultivator’s storage bag can be considered to have befriended you!” She threw down that storage bag. Then, she gave Shen Ping a look.

The two of them left quickly. Just as they left, there was a flash of light in the darkness behind them.

They returned to the small courtyard in Yunhe Alley. When they stepped into the house, Shen Ping's tense mind finally relaxed. He asked curiously, "Fellow Daoist Yu, how did you know that cultivator was going to attack just now?"

Yu Yan smiled and said, "My divine sense is relatively strong. His actions can't escape my perception, so I can naturally sense it. In that situation, I have to attack at lightning speed to shock the other cultivators. Otherwise, as long as a cultivator attacks, those hiding will definitely take advantage of the situation.

"However, the reason why we can leave so easily is mainly because you're too fat. More than ten Spirit Protection Talismans can last for a long time. They're not in cahoots. If we can't resolve it quickly, we'll be dealt with by others."

Shen Ping nodded in understanding. "The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind."

Yu Yan crossed her arms and glared at him. She reminded him gently, "Husband, don't be so ostentatious in the future. Although the Spirit Protection Talisman can protect your safety, it's also easy to be remembered.

"When you break through to the late-stage of Qi Refinement, you can hold on for a while before taking out a high-grade defensive Dharma artifact. You can do this."

Shen Ping said seriously, "I'll remember that."

However, he thought to himself that he would try his best not to go out in the future. It would be much safer when he obtained the guest wooden token of the True Treasure Pavilion..

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Summer passed and winter came. It was November. Cloud Mountain Parlour, which was already in chaos, welcomed the first cold wave this year.

Late at night, the cold wind blew and snowflakes danced. The room was warm.

Luo Qing, who was sitting cross-legged on the floor, glanced at the swaying shadows beside her. A trace of helplessness appeared on the corner of her lips. Although her husband was very protective of his wife and concubine, he was too good at tormenting them.

She had met many Dao companions in Ze Kingdom. Most of them would occasionally dual cultivate to relieve the boredom of cultivation. However, this person worked hard day and night and never got tired of it.

Sometimes, when she looked at her husband, she felt her limbs go weak and her legs go numb.

“Qing'er.” The voice sounded.

Luo Qing walked over almost instinctively. Soon, the shadow under the crystal lamp slowly lengthened, and clothes fluttered. The clouds dispersed and the rain stopped.

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Shen Ping opened the virtual interface out of habit.

[Talisman Master: Level IVro Low-Grade (78,012/150,000)]

[Metal Spiritual Root: High-grade (33323/50,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: High-grade (33,215/50,000)]

[Magic Resistance: Level 1 Mid-Grade (1,820/10,000)]

[Lifespan: 47/1011]

His expression was calm as he looked at these changes. Only when his gaze landed on the lifespan column did his eyes flicker with excitement. His wife, Wang Yun, suddenly said, “Husband, Senior Yu has taught me a lot of basic knowledge about talismans in the past few months. I want to do something for you.”

Shen Ping stroked his wife, who was curled up in his arms, and said with a gentle smile, “In the future, when I go to the quiet room to cultivate, you can help me organize the various talismans materials in the talisman making room.”

“Thank you, husband!” Wang Yun leaned forward excitedly and kissed him.

Bai Yuying hugged Shen Ping’s arm and said coquettishly, “Husband, I also want to help.”

Shen Ping pinched her face and said in a low voice, “There are some scraps left in the talisman making room every day. After cleaning them, put them in your storage bag and accompany Fellow Daoist Yu to deal with them every once in a while.”

“Hehe, my husband is so good!” Bai Yuying kissed his left cheek lightly.

Luo Qing, who was sitting cross-legged, looked over. He said with a faint smile, "Why? Does Qing'er want to help me too?"

Luo Qing replied expressionlessly, "I don't have anything I'm good at."

Shen Ping did not mind. As the saying goes, time reveals true feelings. After nearly a year of intimacy, he used his actions to increase Luo Qing's favorability to 60. As long as this continued, he believed that he would eventually make Luo Qing submit to him.

After resting for a while, he walked out of the main room and went to the quiet room to meditate. As the cultivation technique circulated, the spiritual energy that was gradually filling up in the meridians in his dantian quickly circulated along the cycle.

After returning from the previous assessment, Shen Ping cultivated for an additional two hours a day in order to break through to the late stage of Qi Refinement faster. Coupled with the help of the medicinal pill and spirit liquid, his cultivation speed in the past half a year was extremely fast. Especially when his aptitude for the metal and wood attributes exceeded 30,000, he clearly sensed that the circulation of spiritual energy had increased again.

At five o'clock, the cultivation ended.

After sensing with his divine sense, a satisfied smile appeared on his face. After the remaining spirit liquid in his body was completely absorbed and digested, he could consume the spirit liquid again and break through to the late-stage of Qi Refinement in one go.

"Soon. March of next year at the most."

He went downstairs.

Shen Ping smelled a unique flower petal smell. He was a little surprised. During this period of time, Yu Yan rarely went out. There was not much pollen left in her reserves, and she rarely took a bath again. She would only use it when she could not suppress the charm fire in her body.

He quickened his pace. As soon as he pushed open the door, he saw Yu Yan controlling the white puppet to absorb the fog emitted by the hot water. This fog was produced by pollen dissolving in the water.

After the white puppet finished absorbing, Yu Yan could not wait to exchange her cultivation insights. The sound of water rippled. When Shen Ping skillfully turned around to find the door, he heard Yu Yan's voice. "Let's turn into a flood dragon."

He took a deep breath. After making preparations, according to the secret movements of the “Prestigious Techniques”, the muscles and bones in his entire body made cracking sounds as strength gathered.

He lowered his waist.

Hiss.

A scorching heat that was like magma surged from all directions. Even the Prestigious Techniques were instantly thrown aside and could not resist.

Yu Yan, who was ruddy, glanced over. Shen Ping was so embarrassed that he could not show his face. After almost half a year, he thought that he had completely regained his confidence. Now that he had gone through the water again, he realized that he was still defeated like before.

Yu Yan’s eyes were filled with repression. She sighed faintly and said, “Fellow Daoist Shen, it’s not your fault. I’ve been too greedy for sex these few days. Instead, 1 triggered the charm fire in my body.”

Shen Ping felt a little guilty.

Speaking of which, he was the one who suggested this matter. After all, he had already witnessed the power of the divine sense during the battle Yu Yan displayed that time. If he could quickly increase his divine sense to the Foundation Establishment Realm, not only could he sense danger in advance, but he could also try to make a Level Two talisman when he broke through to the late-stage of the Qi Refinement realm and his spiritual energy increased greatly.

The power of a Level Two talisman was extremely great. If he could successfully make it, be it him or Yu Yan, they would not have to worry about the safety of going out. In the end, he did not expect things to turn out like this. From the situation just now, as long as he went through water, he would not have any experience.

“Fellow Daoist Yu. What will happen if your physique continues to accumulate?” Shen Ping asked her.

Yu Yan closed her eyes. “Don’t worry, it won’t affect me too much. At most, I’ll use pollen to help increase the variety... Alright, you can leave first!” She bit her lower lip and held on for dear life.

The corners of Shen Ping’s mouth twitched. He sighed and left the main room, thinking to himself, What’s going on?

“The Inner Charm Fire Body is a little powerful. I have to find an opportunity to understand it seriously in the future. The True Treasure Pavilion might have a jade slip to record this. However, I have to obtain the guest wooden token first.”

As he pondered, he returned to the quiet room. He glanced at the virtual frame.

[Puppet Master: Level 1 High-grade (5,846/50,000)]

[Divine sense: Late-stage Qi Refinement (14,146/30,000)]

Only then did he feel a trace of comfort after seeing this.

Although his divine sense was still half a step away from breaking through to the Foundation Establishment realm, when he broke through to the late-stage of Qi Refinement next year, his divine sense would definitely increase greatly.

In the morning, he pushed open the wooden window.

The cold wind blew away the warmth in the room.

When Shen Ping breathed in the fresh air, he secretly glanced at Room 5 from the corner of his eye. Chen Ying of the Acacia Faction was leaning against the wooden window in a daze. The embroidered shoes under her dress half covered her small and exquisite feet. There was a red rope tied to her ankle. There were purple bells on it that rang from time to time under the cold wind.

“She’s holding back her evil intentions again.” He thought hatefully.

However, Chen Ying’s innocent voice sounded in his ears. “Talisman Master Shen, you’ve stayed in the house for so long, but you’re not willing to come and guide me in my talisman skills. It’s really heartbreaking.”

Shen Ping smiled and said, “Fellow Daoist Chen, you must be joking. I heard that the Acacia Faction will be leaving Yunhe Alley soon and was thinking of preparing something for Fellow Daoist Chen. It can be considered as fulfilling our friendship as neighbors these days.”

He wanted to probe the other party’s words.

When the disciples of the various large sects entered the market back then, they said that they would not stay for long. However, more than a year had passed now, and these disciples did not have any news of leaving.

Chen Yingling smiled. “Talisman Master Shen, you’re quite well-informed. Not bad. In a few days, I’ll leave. However, compared to the things prepared by Talisman Master Shen, I prefer... Talisman Master Shen..”

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He closed the wooden window. Shen Ping's smile instantly disappeared. This demoness of the Acacia Faction must be planning to confuse him into an obedient demon puppet.

“Just you wait. When my divine sense breaks through, I'll definitely seek guidance.”

He imagined the scene of ruthlessly dealing with the demoness of the Acacia Faction and felt a little better.

After a meal, Shopkeeper Chen sent a message saying that he was inviting him to a small gathering in the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

Speaking of which, his contact with Shopkeeper Chen had weakened after the Danxia ceremony. Occasionally, they would chat through the communication talisman. Shen Ping understood this very well. After all, after his boss built her foundation, there were clearly more Talisman Masters who were willing to maintain a cooperative relationship with the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

He hesitated for a moment. In the end, Shen Ping decided to go.

Although the market was chaotic, it would eventually return to calm. With the protection of the True Treasure Pavilion, he believed that he could survive this time and might have to maintain this relationship in the future.

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After tidying up a little, he called Yu Yan out. The alleys in the market were relatively safe during the day. The Golden Sun Sect's law enforcement patrol team would occasionally walk around, but at night, all kinds of killings and battles kept rising. The Golden Sun Sect had said several times that they wanted to reorganize, but there was no movement.

They arrived at the market.

Yu Yan went to find the members of the hunting clique she had formed to understand the recent news from the Cloud Mountain Swamp, while Shen Ping walked towards the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.



When he said it was a small gathering, it was really a simple gathering. Other than Shopkeeper Chen, there was only one fellow Daoist, Talisman Master Sun. He could tell that this small gathering was most likely organized by Talisman Master Sun.

They exchanged a few pleasantries. He sat down and brewed the spiritual tea.

Talisman Master Sun took the lead and said, "Talisman Master Shen, I asked Shopkeeper Chen to invite you out this time. It's like this. Since you can participate in the auction of the True Treasure Pavilion, you should know that Beauty Pills will appear in the auction from time to time. To be honest, my Dao companion has urged me several times..."

This was a small matter. However, Shen Ping did not agree directly. He said in a slightly awkward manner, "Talisman Master Sun, I originally planned to bring my Dao companion to the next auction."

Talisman Master Sun understood immediately. He smiled and handed Shen Ping a talisman. This matter was settled. Then, the three of them talked about other things. Most of it was said by Shopkeeper Chen and Talisman Master Sun. Shen Ping just listened.

While they chatted, they mentioned Luosha Demonic Valley. Shen Ping perked up and could not help but say, "Shopkeeper Chen, you've always been well-informed. The Luosha Demonic Valley seems to be a little too quiet after the ceremony."

Shopkeeper Chen shook his head with a smile. "I can't compare to Talisman Master Sun in terms of being well-informed. He sponsored many hunting groups of rogue cultivators and even established a small faction of rogue cultivators."

Talisman Master Sun quickly interrupted, "Shopkeeper Chen, don't praise me. What small faction of rogue cultivators? It's just a cooperation between a few groups at the mid-stage of Qi Refinement. But speaking of the Luosha Demonic Valley, I really know some news."

He took a sip of tea before continuing unhurriedly, "After Danxia's ceremony, most of the disciples of the Luosha Demonic Valley went to the mining area deep in the Cloud Mountain Swamp and caused a lot of trouble there. I heard that more than a thousand miners died tragically in the hands of these Demonic Sect disciples. Fortunately, their attention was on that side. Otherwise, it would have been even more chaotic if they stayed in our Cloud Mountain Parlour."

Hearing this, Shen Ping came to a realization, he probed, "It's strange. In the past, the Golden Sun Sect's law enforcement patrol team was famous. Very few robbers dared to attack the alleys in the market. But the market has been so chaotic recently, but the law enforcement patrol disciples seem to have turned a blind eye."

Shopkeeper Chen frowned. "Indeed. I've asked the boss about this too. The boss doesn't know either."

Both of them looked at Talisman Master Sun.

Talisman Master Sun said helplessly, "Don't look at me. I don't know either. Perhaps there are disciples from other sects instigating it. For example, when the Danxia Sect first came, they were arrogant and despotic and even openly killed people. In the end, they only compensated some spirit stones."

At this point, he sighed and said, "Actually, the root cause of this is that the sect master and the main sect have fallen out. If the main sect appeared, the Danxia Sect and these sects would not dare to mess around in the Cloud Mountain Parlour."

Back at Yunhe Alley.

Yu Yan told him the information she had gathered. In the past two months, the Cloud Mountain Swamp had been very chaotic. Many rogue cultivators who had migrated with the Golden Sun Sect had died. The rest had secretly run back to Cloud Mountain Parlour and casually built some wooden houses at the edge of Ningshui Alley. They hugged each other and lived temporarily.

"It seems that something has happened in the Flame Gold Mine."

Shen Ping told her the news he had heard from Talisman Master Sun.

When Yu Yan heard this, she felt a lingering fear. If Shen Ping had not resolved the miner's contract in advance, it would have been very dangerous even if she had eradicated the Black-striped Venomous Worm.

"By the way, when I talked to the hunting members I established this time, they wanted to pull in more cultivators. Especially when they found out that I have the background of a high-grade Talisman Master, several late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators were very tempted. Now, the market is uneasy. All the late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators are in danger. They are worried that they will be attacked by robbers or the Demonic Sect when they go out."

Shen Ping was not surprised. He nodded and said, "We can recruit a few more, but not too many." As he spoke, he asked, "How many times have you interacted with the Zhang brothers opposite?"

"It's very difficult to rope them in. They have their own group."

"Forget it, then."

Yu Yan suddenly whispered, "I met an acquaintance in the market. It's Fellow Daoist Su from Red Willow Alley. She lives at the edge of Ningshui Alley now."

Shen Ping was silent for a moment.

Fellow Daoist Su was a female cultivator who was highly sought after by cultivators in Red Willow Alley. Unfortunately, after her cousin, Fellow Daoist Gong, died, she moved to the market to live. He didn't expect such a situation to happen.

"Things change." He sighed.

However, Yu Yan went forward and wrapped her arms around Shen Ping. The outline of the robe quickly flattened. When she looked up, the corners of her eyes were filled with charm. "Husband, I'm glad to have met you." As she spoke, the voice transmission echoed in his ears. "I want you to taste every inch of the bath water."

How could Shen Ping hold it in?

Days passed. No matter how chaotic the outside world was, it would not disturb Shen Ping's cultivation life. Next, other than bringing Talisman Master Sun to the True Treasure Pavilion's auction as promised, he spent the rest of the time cultivating according to the daily arrangements.

Among them, meditation was the most important. The time needed to make talismans had decreased. The remaining dual cultivation and accompanying had not changed.

Just like that, Shen Ping entered the age of 48.

It was March.

After completely absorbing the remaining spirit liquid in his limbs and bones, the spiritual energy at the sixth level of Qi Refinement became more and more abundant. Every time he circulated his cultivation technique, he could vaguely feel that his spiritual energy was about to break through his meridians, but he was still lacking something.

Shen Ping knew that he had reached a bottleneck.

He was not in a hurry to swallow a drop of spirit liquid in the quiet room. Instead, he accompanied his wife and concubines for a walk in the small courtyard. His mental state was adjusted to an extremely good state before he went to the quiet room and sat cross-legged.

He calmed his mind, focused, inhaled and exhaled. The spirit liquid quickly entered his stomach.

Boom.

The spiritual energy in his dantian instantly became violent, as if an invisible hand was suddenly pushing it. Shen Ping calmly guided this spiritual energy along his meridians.

Time passed slowly. It was unknown how many days and nights had passed. His aura increased at a visible speed. His spiritual energy seemed to have broken through the bottleneck and reached the next realm.

The seventh level of Qi Refinement was the threshold that stopped many rogue cultivators, yet he broke through calmly just like that..

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