

Eternal Life 81

Chapter 81: Blood Firmament

Cloud Mountain Swamp.

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In the depths of the underground mine, the strange blood-colored energy covered all detection.

On the fifth level of the cave abode, there were strange patterns carved on the dark round platform. Each of these patterns had a groove. There were still traces of blood under the traces of time, emitting a pungent smell of blood.

At this moment, more than 50 black-robed cultivators wearing blood masks stood on the strange patterns.

Not far away, the Spring Garden's Nascent Soul with powerful magic power and aura said indifferently, "I wonder if the Blood Sea Scripture that this Ancestor Blood Crocodile cultivated when he was alive can transform into a bloodline ritual. It's fine if it succeeds, but if it fails, hmph, this Cloud Mountain is a useless place."

A voice sounded beside him, "The Blood Sea Scripture is not a bad technique. It's a pity that the Ancestor Blood Crocodile took a wrong path in his cultivation. However, the Golden Sun Sect is a little strange. The array formation they set up seems to be related to the Blood Sea Scripture."

The Spring Garden's Nascent Soul suddenly laughed, "Ancestor Jinyang had a relationship with his daughter-in-law, to think that his son can make up such words. If Ancestor Jinyang is willing, I'm afraid Fairy Cai Yue will take the initiative to visit."

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"The major sects only want a reason. It doesn't matter if it's true or not."

"Alright, hurry up. Our every move is very likely to be under the nose of that Ancestor Jinyang!"

It was September.

Cloud Mountain Parlour became hot. Just as Shen Ping was discussing with Yu Yan and Luo Qing whether the grapefruits were delicious or the peach was sweet, Shopkeeper Chen sent a message.

Although he was going to take the True Treasure Pavilion's flying ship and leave Cloud Mountain Parlour in a few days, after some thought, he still made a trip over. No matter what, Shopkeeper Chen had taken good care of him in the beginning. He still had to show some respect.

"Talisman Master Shen!" He had just arrived at the entrance of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion when Shopkeeper Chen, who was dressed in a gray robe, welcomed him warmly.

He came to the backyard. Chen Shurong sat under the old locust tree and enjoyed the shade. "Senior Chen."

“Talisman Master Shen.”

They greeted each other and sat on wooden stools.

Chen Shurong said apologetically, “The last time I invited Talisman Master Shen to the cave abode, I didn’t consider it carefully. Sigh, if not for Fellow Daoist Hong’s protection, I would have lost an arm.”

Shen Ping was shocked. Even a Foundation Establishment cultivator like Chen Shurong had encountered danger. If he went, it would probably be very difficult for him to return. “It’s dangerous to fight. I have to be careful when I go out!” He could not help but be vigilant. “If Senior Chen can escape this calamity, fortune will definitely come in the future.”

“I hope so.” Chen Shurong hesitated for a moment, but still opened her red lips and said, “Talisman Master Shen, at the end of the year, our Chen family is preparing to leave the sub sect and return to the main sect. If you’re willing, you can take a flying ship to the main sect together. The True Treasure Pavilion also has a shop in the market.”

If this Senior Chen had said a few months earlier, Shen Ping would definitely have agreed readily. But now, he rejected politely, “To be honest, Senior Chen, I’ll take the flying ship of the True Treasure Pavilion in a few days and leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp.”

Shopkeeper Chen, who was standing at the side, said in surprise, “Talisman Master Shen is leaving so early?”

Shen Ping nodded. “This is the arrangement of the True Treasure Pavilion.”

“I wonder where you’re going?”

“Qingyang City.”

Chen Shurong was silent for a moment, and a trace of disappointment flashed across her brows. However, she still maintained her politeness and said, “Qingyang City is a cultivation city at the border of the Wei Kingdom. It’s indeed not bad there. Your cultivation advancement isn’t slow, and you have the resources of the True Treasure Pavilion. I think it won’t be difficult for you to build your foundation. If there’s a chance in the future, Shurong would like to participate in Talisman Master Shen’s Foundation Establishment Banquet.”

She still wanted to maintain this connection. A few years ago, Shen Ping was also a mid-grade Talisman Master at the fourth level of Qi Refinement. However, in just six to seven years, he had grown to become a high-grade Talisman Master at the eighth level of Qi Refinement and had even obtained the guest wooden token of the True Treasure Pavilion.

Such a change really made Chen Shurong sigh in her heart.

It was obvious. Talisman Master Shen was a person with deep fortune.

Shen Ping cupped his hands and said, “Definitely!”

At this moment, Chen Shurong suddenly frowned and looked apologetic. "Wait a moment. The sect sent a message." She returned to the house and came out quickly. "Talisman Master Shen, when I have time in the future, I will definitely visit Qingyang City. The sect has summoned me."

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "Senior Chen, please."

He bid farewell to Shopkeeper Chen. It was still early when he returned to the True Treasure Pavilion. He simply went to the private room on the second floor to drink the spiritual tea. The spiritual tea prepared by the True Treasure Pavilion was not low-grade, so he could not bear to buy it.

He closed his eyes and felt the spiritual energy in his dantian. A smile appeared on his face. It had only been three months since he broke through to the eighth level of Qi Refinement, but the spiritual energy in his body had clearly strengthened. He was very satisfied with this speed.

Of course, other than the top-grade spiritual root, the most important thing was the Snow Ganoderma Pill. This item was indeed necessary for Dao companions. Although it was a little expensive, it was worth it.

"Puppet Master is about to advance to Level Two. When I reach Qingyang City, I can try to make a second-stage puppet. If I can make it, I will have another chance to protect myself." Shen Ping pondered.

Although he did not like to take risks and fight, he had to prepare all the life-saving items on him. There was a huge difference between having a sword in his hand and not having a sword in his hand.

"Talisman Master Shen has been coming to the True Treasure Pavilion more and more recently!" Mu Jin came to drink the spiritual tea again.

Shen Ping smiled calmly. "Qinghe Alley is very close to the True Treasure Pavilion, so I naturally have to walk around more."

Mu Jin clicked her tongue and fell silent.

After drinking a cup of spirit tea, she glanced at Shen Ping from the corner of her eye. She wanted to say something but hesitated. In the end, she bit her lower lip and stood up. However, after taking a few steps, she sent a voice transmission. "Talisman Master Shen, I don't have a background or resources. I can only rely on myself. Please forgive me."

He looked at her round back profile. Shen Ping was silent.

"Second-grade guest elder."

That was what Mu Jin had said last time. That was why he was a little distant.

The lowest requirement to advance to a second-grade guest elder was to be a Foundation Establishment Cultivator. For example, Guest Elder Cui and Guest Elder Luo's Talisman Dao skills were not low, but they could still only be third-grade Guest Elders.

The longer one stayed in the True Treasure Pavilion, the clearer the huge difference in status. This difference was not only reflected in daily connections, but also in resources.

Mu Jin was an external cultivator. Her figure and appearance were both top-notch, but her status was relatively low. After enjoying the treatment of the True Treasure Pavilion, she probably didn't fancy the sect or the third-grade guest.

In response, Shen Ping could only say that he understood. He sat for a while. He got up and went to the wooden shelf on the second floor to buy some puppet materials before returning to Qinghe Alley.

At night, the stars twinkled.

Shen Ping, who was tired of making talismans, called Yu Yan and Luo Qing to the courtyard to admire the starlight and beautiful scenery. Meteors streaked past.

Yu Yan supported her face with half an arm and reminisced, "In the past, Master told me that the death of every meteor meant that a Nascent Soul would die in the five continents and four seas."

Shen Ping replied casually, "Then did your master say that if you make a wish to a meteor, it will be especially effective?" As he spoke, he made a wish in his heart. Tonight, he would eat all the grapefruits and peaches.

Luo Qing glanced at Shen Ping. "Husband, what wish do you have?"

"Grapefruits and peaches..." Shen Ping hurriedly stopped and laughed dryly. "I'm thinking of leaving Cloud Mountain Parlour as soon as possible."

Yu Yan looked at Shen Ping with a smile. Luo Qing was even more direct. She rolled her eyes and was speechless.

Rumble-

At this moment, the small courtyard of the house suddenly shook. Streaks of blood light shot into the sky. Shen Ping and Yu Yan suddenly stood up and watched as the blood light intertwined and quickly spread.

"Something happened!" His heart skipped a beat. He hurriedly took out a communication talisman and sent a message to Shopkeeper Ding.

Almost at the same time, Chen Market, Cloud Mountain Parlour, Hundred Thousand Mountains, Cloud Mountain Swamp, everywhere was filled with blood qi. The rogue cultivators who lived in the house and had low cultivation bases felt as if a blood crocodile was roaring in their sea of consciousness when the blood qi enveloped their bodies.

On the fifth level of the cave abode, the expression of the Nascent Soul cultivator of Spring Garden changed slightly. "Ancestor Jinyang is too impatient. He actually activated the array formation in advance! Speed, speed up." He hurriedly urged.

On the third floor, the Nascent Soul cultivators of the various large sects were still thinking of a way to open the blood-colored stone door in the depths. After receiving the news from outside, their expressions changed drastically.

The Nascent Soul elder of Luosha Demonic Valley roared gloomily, "Old thief Jinyang, you're ruthless!"

Chapter 82: When Can I Leave?

In the courtyard of the True Treasure Pavilion, the purple-robed Nascent Soul elder looked up at the blood-colored sky and stood with his hands behind his back with a calm expression.

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"Elder Qiu. What kind of formation is this?" The Golden Core deacon who was waiting not far away could not help but ask.

"Nine Apertures Heart Array of the Blood Sea." As the purple-robed Nascent Soul spoke, he sighed. "Back then, Ancestor Blood Crocodile was ruthless. He set up this array wanting to destroy the headquarters of our True Treasure Pavilion. As soon as the array was activated, it was broken by a senior mighty figure in the headquarters. A mere Barbarian Crocodile thinks that he can dominate the five continents and four seas with the Blood Sea Scripture. He's dreaming. It's not an exaggeration to say that he's a frog at the bottom of a well." There was a hint of mockery in his words.

The Golden Core Deacon's expression relaxed. He smiled and said, "Then this array..."

The purple-robed Nascent Soul shook his head and interrupted, "This array formation is different. Although it only has four apertures, the person who set up this array formation should be a rather skilled array formation master. He has already obtained some of the essence of the Blood Sea Scripture. It's very difficult to leave this array formation. But don't worry. This formation still lacks five apertures. It only has the ability to trap. Just be careful."

The Golden Core Deacon hurriedly said, "Elder Qiu is indeed a senior who came from the headquarters. Your knowledge is outstanding!"

The purple-robed Nascent Soul smiled.

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Within the Danxia Sect's mountain. A Nascent Soul elder with white hair and a youthful face also looked at the blood-colored sky on the majestic peak.

"Old Ancestor Jinyang is quite ruthless. If all the demon beasts in the 100,000 mountains turn into blood essence, and with us Nascent Souls as medicinal catalysts, I'm afraid he can really refine a Blood Transformation True Pill. At the end of one's lifespan, one was no longer human." As he sighed, his voice suddenly resounded in the mountains. "All disciples of the Danxia Sect, listen up! As long as the Danxia remain, the alchemy path will prosper forever! Follow me to break through this blood-colored firmament!"

As soon as he finished speaking, all the Danxia Sect's disciples immediately circulated the Danxia Technique. The spiritual energy in their bodies emitted waves of spiritual light that gathered in a sword-shaped pill in the hand of the Danxia's Nascent Soul elder.

Boom.

The sword-shaped pill emitted a fragrance. Then, it charged into the blood-colored sky. The blood that filled the air seemed to be on the verge of collapse in this sword-shaped pill. However, at this moment, a blood-colored handprint instantly condensed in the sky, and the palm patterns appeared.

“The Danxia Sect’s Danxia Art lives up to its reputation. Unfortunately, it’s still a little inferior. Since you, the old birthday boy, jumped out first, I won’t stand on ceremony and accept it.” An indifferent voice exploded.

The blood-colored palm print descended from the sky with endless power. The sword-shaped pill only lasted for a few seconds before shattering. The light of the Danxia instantly dimmed. When the blood-colored palm print dissipated, the Danxia Sect’s branch sect established in Cloud Mountain was only left with a handprint mark.

The blood-colored firmament seemed to have fallen silent. After a moment of silence, the Nascent Soul elders of the various large sects had ugly expressions.

“Ancestor Blood Crocodile’s Spiritual Ancient Blood Palm!”

“Old thief Jinyang!!”

“Insidious and cunning!”

“Despicable and shameless!”

All sorts of unpleasant words came out of their mouths. Even a Nascent Soul cultivator would have to spend enough time to refine and activate the Spirit Channeling Ancient Treasure.

How could they not know that the Blood Crocodile Ruins was a trap? Before they came, the various sects guessed that the Golden Sun Sect might have ill intentions, so they only sent Qi Refinement and Foundation Establishment disciples over. Later on, as the cave abode ruins were opened, they still carefully explored. It was only when the Blood Sea Scripture appeared that the Nascent Soul elder could not sit still.

In the end, they still jumped in.

“The only thing we can do now is to join forces to stop that old thief Jinyang.”

“In my opinion, we should destroy the Golden Sun’s Branch Sect first!”

“The Golden Sun’s Branch Sect has already activated the sect’s array. With the help of the Nine Apertures Heart Array of the Blood Sea, we have no strength to blast it open.”

II

II

Tonight was destined to not be peaceful.

In the market.

Qinghe Alley, Courtyard No. 35.

Shen Ping received a reply from Shopkeeper Ding's communication talisman. "The Nascent Soul elder said that this blood color is an array formation set up by the Golden Sun Sect and only has the ability to trap. The news has already spread. When the headquarters of True Treasure Pavilion receives, they will send experts to negotiate with the Golden Sun Sect's Master. Our lives will not be in danger."

He put away the communication talisman. He felt a little more at ease. The Nascent Soul elder of the True Treasure Pavilion would not spout nonsense. Since he said that, he must be confident.

And thinking about it carefully, as long as the news spread, the True Treasure Pavilion would definitely negotiate with the Golden Sun Sect. Back then, when the Golden Sun Sect's Supreme Elder was strong, he had already compromised, let alone now.

"Qing'er. Yu Yan. Don't worry, it's fine." Shen Ping smiled and went forward to hold Yu Yan and Luo Qing's wrists. He glanced at the house that was filled with blood energy. He said slowly, "Let's rest in the small courtyard tonight."

The next morning, the news of the destruction of the Danxia Sect quickly spread throughout the market. Some cultivators said that Old Ancestor Blood Crocodile had revived. Some cultivators said that it was the Luosha Demonic Valley. There were also some who said that the Danxia Sect had destroyed their own sect and retreated in advance.

Everyone had different opinions. However, most of the rogue cultivators were still concerned about the Golden Sun Sect's house. Shen Ping had also come to the True Treasure Pavilion early to gather information. Although Shopkeeper Ding had said last night that nothing would happen, he still felt uneasy.

As long as he did not leave the market, he couldn't feel at ease.

"The True Treasure Pavilion's flying ship has already stopped outside the Hundred Thousand Mountains. As long as the restriction array is opened, we can leave immediately." Shopkeeper Ding said in a low voice, "As for the matter of the Danxia Sect, it's said that the Golden Sun Sect's Supreme Elder personally took action. Back then, the Danxia Sect had just come to provoke all sorts of people. This hatred is still remembered."

As he spoke, there was a commotion outside.

"Fellow Daoists, don't panic. The grand array set up by our Golden Sun Sect will not hurt you at all. The array is only activated to target the disciples of other sects. The Wei Kingdom is under the jurisdiction of my Golden Sun Sect. How can we tolerate other sects?"

Shen Ping, Shopkeeper Ding, and the others walked out of the door and saw teams of the outer sect's law enforcement patrol disciples shouting with spiritual energy.

Regardless of whether these words were true or not, at least it was an explanation that could make the rogue cultivators feel more at ease. Some would even believe the Golden Sun Sect. After all, the

Golden Sun Sect was a large sect in the Wei Kingdom. If they really wanted to kill the rogue cultivators, there was no need to explain at all.

“Shopkeeper Ding. I wonder if this array formation needs time to increase its power?” Shen Ping asked telepathically.

Shopkeeper Ding reacted and frowned. “I’m not sure. I’ll investigate later. If the array is special, the Golden Sun Sect is just stalling for time.”

After staying in the True Treasure Pavilion for a while, Shen Ping returned to Qinghe Alley to continue his boring and fulfilling life. He made talismans every day, meditated, and dual cultivated. Only by looking at the changes on the virtual interface would he feel at ease.

In the blink of an eye, it was October.

During this period, the rogue cultivators in the market gradually got used to the existence of the blood-colored sky. The Golden Sun Sect did not do anything else. Instead, they increased the number of law enforcement disciples patrolling. Even the alleys outside the market were patrolled by disciples every few days. This made the rogue cultivators feel much more at ease.

Late at night, in the side room of the small courtyard. Suppressed breathing was intermittent in the sound of the water. A single gauze shirt was casually hung on the edge of the wooden bucket. As the coolness of the Snow Ganoderma Pill disappeared, the exchange of Dao techniques ended.

Yu Yan closed her eyes habitually to reminisce. Shen Ping did not disturb her. He got up, changed into his robe, and went to the quiet room. He sat down cross-legged. He glanced at the virtual interface.

A change had already occurred behind the puppet master. It had a silver bonus. Coupled with the ten diligent exchanges every day, the speed at which the puppet master improved had indeed exceeded Shen Ping’s expectations. In just a short month, he had actually reached the level of a breakthrough.

Boom!

The virtual frame vibrated.

A large amount of Puppet Master’s comprehension and knowledge suddenly surged out of his sea of consciousness. Shen Ping seemed to have become a cultivator who had been immersed in puppets for many years. All kinds of puppet objects flashed past his eyes. Unlike the Dao of Talismans, the Puppet Master’s transformation took five days to digest and absorb before finally forming a memory engraved in his blood.

He opened his eyes again. His eyes darkened as he stood up. Shen Ping paced around the room for a while before coming to the small courtyard. He had heard Yu Yan say that her master had spent forty to fifty years before finally becoming a mid-grade puppet master. That mid-grade white puppet was his proud creation.

Unfortunately, only when a puppet master reached the high-grade proficiency level could they have the ability to fight and kill.

“A Level Two Puppet Master. A Level Two Talisman Master. In addition to the Talisman Dao Mystique, as long as 1 don’t encounter late-stage Foundation Establishment

cultivators, I can protect myself.” While he was thinking, he thought of the destroyed Danxia’s sub-sect.

The trace of achievement that rose in his heart immediately dissipated. The Danxia’s sub-sect was a sect with Nascent Soul experts. It could be destroyed just like that. Although the True Treasure Pavilion was strong and the Golden Sun Sect’s Supreme Elder had no choice but to show some respect, what if he did not do so? At that time, how could there be a perfect egg when the nest was overturned?

“I still have to be prepared.” He sighed.

Shen Ping tidied up a little and arrived at the market. He walked out of the stone door. The main road was extremely lively. Many rogue cultivators were setting up stalls on the side of the road and shouting. If not for the blood-colored sky, he would have thought that he had returned to the prosperity of Red Willow Alley.

Spring Garden was a little deserted today. Matchmaker Ceng leaned against the counter and took a nap. When she saw Shen Ping, her eyes lit up. “Yo, look who’s here! Talisman Master Shen! You haven’t been here for a while.”

With the smell of makeup and that exaggerated voice, Shen Ping suddenly had the illusion that this was his first time stepping into Spring Garden.

Matchmaker Ceng swayed her waist. “Please come in.”

The two of them quickly came to the private room and sat down. Shen Ping did not waste his breath. “Fellow Daoist Ceng, does what we said last time still count?”

Matchmaker Ceng smiled brightly. “Yes, of course. Our Spring Garden values credibility the most. As long as Talisman Master Shen takes out 30 Spirit Protection Talismans, you can leave easily.”

“When can we leave?” Shen Ping asked Matchmaker Ceng.

“That’s hard to say. There are many cultivators who want to leave now. Even if my Spring Garden has the ability, we have to slowly arrange it, right?”

Matchmaker Ceng was halfway through her sentence when her eyes landed on the Lightning Talisman that appeared in Shen Ping’s hand. She changed her tone and said firmly, “At the end of the year, the Golden Sun Sect will move the disciples of the branch sect. It’s safest to leave then.”

Shen Ping stood up. “Fellow Daoist Ceng, the price of 30 Spirit Protection Talismans is not cheap. I hope it’s worth it.” With that, he turned around and left.-

Chapter 83: Level Two Puppet Made

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True Treasure Pavilion.

In the puppet material area.

There were wooden boxes placed in every row of the shelves, and the items on them were labeled. The production of Level Two Puppets required high-grade Silver Sinking Wood, soul spirit seeds, snow silk, and dozens of other materials. They were not cheap. Shen Ping only dared to buy five or six sets, but this was enough for him.

Other puppet masters had to accumulate for several years or even longer to break through to Level Two. They would only try to make it after they felt familiar with it. On the other hand, Shen Ping could quickly obtain enlightenment and accumulate it by relying on dual cultivation, saving a lot of time.

He returned to Qinghe Alley, and became busy. There were only two months left until the end of the year. He had to speed up the production of talismans and puppets. He had no choice but to reduce the number of times he dual cultivated every day.

Shen Ping gritted his teeth and shortened the meditation in the quiet room as well, saving time for the talisman and puppet.

However, while he was busy, he would visit the True Treasure Pavilion every few days mainly to gather information. If he could leave with the True Treasure Pavilion, he would naturally choose the True Treasure Pavilion.

Just like that, a month passed quickly. The market was still covered in blood.

The rogue cultivators returned to their previous lives. However, the number of cultivators who secretly gathered in the surrounding Hundred Thousand Mountains quietly increased. Even if none of these cultivators returned, they could not stop the subsequent waves of cultivators.

The rogue cultivators all had their own thoughts. Perhaps some people would believe the Golden Sun Sect, but most of them would not put their lives on the Golden Sun Sect's verbal promise.

On this day, a cold wind swept past, and Cloud Mountain Parlour welcomed the first snow of the year.

Shen Ping, who was speeding up the production of talismans in the talisman making room, unexpectedly received Shopkeeper Chen's invitation. He arrived at the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. The entrance was abnormally deserted. He walked in to take a look. It was only then that he realized that the shelves in the shop were empty.

Shopkeeper Chen was not around either. Shen Ping walked to the small courtyard with a puzzled expression. Shopkeeper Chen was sitting under the old locust tree and quietly drinking spiritual tea.

"Talisman Master Shen." After sitting down. Shopkeeper Chen cupped his hands and said, "The owner will leave at the end of the year. I can't leave." He smiled. However, his eyes were filled with indescribable bitterness.

Shen Ping's words were stuck in his mouth. He did not know what to say and could only continue listening.

At this moment, Shopkeeper Chen was not as smooth as usual. He did not have that shrewd gaze. He was like an ordinary old man, recounting everything about himself and the Spring Embroidery Pavilion.

“This old locust tree has been in the courtyard for 15 years. When I planted it, it was still very young. Every day when the shop closed, I would carefully take care of it. I really can’t bear to leave it. It’s great now. I can accompany it forever.”

Speaking of this, Shopkeeper Chen raised the wrinkles at the corners of his eyes. “Talisman Master Shen, you’re a person with good fortune. Leave. Regardless of whether you can leave or not, you must think of a way to leave.” He shook his head and stood up to walk into the house. “I’m old, I can’t walk anymore.”

Shen Ping also stood up. He looked at Shopkeeper Chen. The back of a late-stage Qi Refinement cultivator seemed to be staggering. A moment later, he stepped over the door of the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. He looked back at the door plaque. He only felt a suffocating feeling in her chest. “This is the way of the world.” In the end, he could only grit his teeth and say this hatefully.

He returned from the Spring Embroidery Pavilion. Shen Ping called out to Yu Yan and Luo Qing to finish all the spiritual wine in the storage bag. He did not use his spiritual energy to resolve the alcohol. Instead, he allowed the intoxication to spread throughout his body. In his blurry eyes, he grabbed two figures and skillfully pulled off their robes before walking towards the main road.

After an unknown period of time on the road, the anger in his chest dissipated.

After his mind cleared up, He looked at Yu Yan and Luo Qing and sighed. “I’m sorry.”

II

Husband, no matter what happens, we’ll always be by your side.” Yu Yan said softly.

There was a rare hint of gentleness on Luo Qing’s face. Ever since the blood covered the sky, They all knew that their husband was under a lot of pressure.

“I’ll go to the True Treasure Pavilion and ask again.” Shen Ping felt that he could not wait any longer. Regardless of whether there was any news from the True Treasure Pavilion, he had to leave with Yu Yan and Luo Qing at the end of the year. Every day he delayed in Cloud Mountain Parlour would be another day of danger.

What was the Golden Sun Sect’s plan? He did not want to guess. Only by staying away from Cloud Mountain Parlour would he truly feel at ease. He went to the water room to clean up. He hurried to the True Treasure Pavilion and saw Shopkeeper Ding. The latter said with a solemn expression, “Talisman Master Shen, you came at the right time. The Nascent Soul elder has something to announce.”

As he spoke, the two of them walked side by side to the small courtyard. The other Foundation Establishment Guest Elders arrived one after another. After all the members of Cloud Mountain Parlour arrived, the Nascent Soul elder’s voice sounded, “Come in.”

This time, when he saw the purple-robed elder again, his expression was no longer as relaxed as before. The corners of his eyes seemed to be slightly gloomy, and his voice had become slightly cold. “At the end of the year, the True Treasure Pavilion will leave Cloud Mountain Parlour with the Golden Sun Sect’s disciples. The Deacons and Guest Elders can leave.”

As soon as these words were spoken, a Foundation Establishment guest elder could not help but ask, “Elder Qiu, how many spots can the guest elder bring this time?”

The purple-robed elder's expression was unhappy. "Did you not hear me? The Deacons and Guest Elders can leave. If you don't want to leave, stay. Alright, get out!"

The aura of the Nascent Soul surged. All the Deacons and Guest Elders turned pale. When Shen Ping came back to his senses, he felt that his feet were a little unstable. He hurriedly circulated the spiritual energy in his dantian to barely suppress the pressure.

Beside him, Guest Elder Cui and the other Foundation Establishment Cultivators had ugly expressions.

Shopkeeper Ding frowned. Seeing Shen Ping's gaze move over, Shopkeeper Ding shook his head. "It's very likely that the negotiation at the headquarters of Qingyang City did not go too smoothly. I'm afraid they suffered a little!"

Guest Elder Cui's expression was uncertain. Then, he sighed and said, "We're not even allowed to bring our family members. Aren't they staying to wait for death? Shopkeeper Ding, you have a lot of connections. Why don't you find a chance to talk to the Golden Core deacons and see if we can bring our family members away?"

Shopkeeper Ding said helplessly, "I can't leave either, so I can only rely on a favor. Guest Elder Cui, don't have too much hope. Sigh, what's going on? Our True Treasure Pavilion still has many external members. Now, they can't even leave. I'll ask about the situation later."

Shen Ping, Guest Elder Cui, and Guest Elder Luo did not leave the True Treasure Pavilion. Instead, they went to the private room on the second floor and waited. They drank cup after cup of spiritual tea until sunset.

Shopkeeper Ding appeared at the door of the private room. Shen Ping and the others looked over. When they noticed Shopkeeper Ding's expression, their hearts sank.

Shopkeeper Ding walked in and first drank a cup of spiritual tea in one go. Then, he sighed repeatedly and said, "I haven't found out the exact situation. I only know that every person I bring has to pay a price. The True Treasure Pavilion can only protect the deacons and guest elders first."

Although Shen Ping was mentally prepared, he still felt a little confused when he heard this. He could leave, but what about Yu Yan and Luo Qing? He was worried about them going to Spring Garden. Not to mention Luo Qing, Yu Yan...

He returned to the small courtyard in Qinghe Alley. The sky was dark. Only the color of blood shone on Cloud Mountain ParLOUR. Shen Ping stopped at the entrance of the small courtyard and looked at the crystal lights in the bedroom and wing room. He let out a deep sigh and clenched and unclenched his fists. "Eighth level of Qi Refinement. It's really weak."

He raised his eyes and looked at the blood-colored sky. He really wanted to break it with a punch, but he could only think about it. Facing such a huge array, not to mention him, even several Nascent Soul cultivators could not do anything.

Phew.

Ha.

He took ten deep breaths.

Shen Ping's expression returned to its usual calmness, and a smile appeared at the corners of his eyes. He stepped into the small courtyard. He came to the room and casually chatted with Yu Yan. He then went to the bedroom to take a look at Luo Qing before entering the talisman making room and sitting cross-legged.

He calmed his mind. He calmed his mind again, and prayed. After the familiar set of actions in front of the talisman making, Shen Ping did not have any distracting thoughts. There were only talismans left in his mind!

In the depths of the Cloud Mountain Swamp.

There was no longer a cultivator in the cave abode of the underground mine. On the fifth level, Spring Garden was still transporting batches of black-robed, masked, and rogue cultivators, making them stand on the round platform covered in mottled blood.

Sizzle-

As the round platform turned, these black-robed, masked rogue cultivators let out painful wails. Some of their blood actually burned directly, and their entire bodies turned to ashes. The Nascent Soul elder was expressionless, but the disappointment in his eyes deepened, "It didn't work. How did the Ancestor Blood Crocodile succeed back then? Continue! We don't have much time. Let's wait for another half a year. If no one succeeds, destroy this place!

As he spoke, the cultivator beside him noticed that a cultivator on the round platform had actually withstood the bloodline energy emitted by the array patterns and hurriedly reminded him.

The Nascent Soul older was delighted. He swept his divine sense and laughed loudly, "After trying so much, I've finally succeeded once. I can report back. Continue. If there are another one or two..,1'

Mid-December.

The color of blood became darker and darker. Sometimes, it looked a little coquettish.

There were already thousands of rogue cultivators who had left the Cloud Mountain Parlour, and the number was still increasing. Not only did the Golden Sun Sect's outer sect law enforcement patrol not stop this, but they also deliberately condoned it.

In the small courtyard of Qinghe Alley.

In the talisman making room, Shen Ping looked at the agile puppet in front of him, and a smile appeared on his exhausted face. After spending six sets of puppet materials and continuously obtaining the comprehension of puppets day and night, he finally managed to make a second-stage puppet.

Speaking of which, it was all thanks to Yu Yan.

Although her white puppet was only medium-grade, its manufacturing technique was unique. Especially the neat and uniform connection, it gave Shen Ping a lot of inspiration. Puppet creation was different from talismans. Apart from proficiency, it also required a kind of immersion and inspiration for puppets.

A light flashed on his finger. The puppet seemed to have a life of its own. It spat out the tip of its tongue and circled Shen Ping's arm.

Although it was only a relatively simple snake-type puppet, the various functions of this snake were stronger than Yu Yan's white puppet. Moreover, the most important thing was that it was hidden in his sleeve. As long as he did not use the puppet spirit technique, it was difficult for his divine sense to detect it.

It was most suitable for a surprise attack. After controlling it for a while, Shen Ping put it away in satisfaction. Then, he left the talisman making room and sat cross-legged in the quiet room to rest for a while. Just as he was about to circulate his cultivation technique to cultivate, Yu Yan's voice came from outside.

"Husband, There's a female cultivator visiting at the entrance of the small courtyard.."

Chapter 84: Heartless Immortal Dao

The cold wind blew.

...

Mu Jin's fair hair on her forehead was slightly messed up, and the pearl jade under her delicate earlobes swayed in the wind. However, she looked straight at the small courtyard, her face seemingly calm but unable to hide her anxiety.

The white pink embroidered emerald-patterned dress fit her quite well. It was both lively and obedient. Standing at the door seemed to block out the sunlight.

Shen Ping noticed this beautiful figure the moment he walked out. However, his footsteps were neither slow nor anxious, and there was a faint smile on his face. When he came to Mu Jin, he said, "Fellow Daoist Mu, you didn't tell me in advance that you were coming to visit. I didn't prepare much. Please come in." Mu Jin thanked him and followed Shen Ping with her head lowered. The two of them sat down in the hall. As the fragrance of the spiritual tea lingered, Mu Jin couldn't help but ask, "Talisman Master Shen, the deacons and guest elders of the True Treasure Pavilion will leave at the end of the year. What are your plans?"

Shen Ping drank the spiritual tea and said softly, "I have to leave, of course." "But, but doesn't Talisman Master Shen still have a family? What about them?" Mu Jin looked anxious. Her usual standard sweet smile and relaxed look were no longer there.

The treatment of external members was indeed good. Under normal circumstances, one could become a peripheral member of the True Treasure Pavilion by getting to know some seniors and with their potential cultivation. However, the situation was special now. Shopkeeper Ding was not on the evacuation list either, and he still had to owe someone a huge favor.

Mu Jin had asked several guest elders in succession over the past few days, but in the end, she could only place her hopes on Talisman Master Shen. She knew that he still had family members who had not left. From her daily interactions, she could more or less tell that he was not a heartless and cold ascetic.

"Fellow Daoist Mu, just say what you want to say." Shen Ping did not intend to continue beating around the bush.

Mu Jin bit her lip and hesitated for a while before saying, “I-I want to exchange something for the spot of Talisman Master Shen.”

Shen Ping chuckled. “The life and death of Golden Cores and Nascent Souls are unknown when they stayed in the market. What price are you prepared to pay to exchange for my life?” There was a hint of coldness in his voice.

Mu Jin’s face was slightly pale. Her fair nails gripped the corner of her dress tightly, and the lines of her legs under the emerald patterns trembled. “I’m still a virgin.”

Shen Ping did not say anything and only picked up his teacup. Mu Jin didn’t move. She stared straight at Shen Ping. “I’ll give you whatever you want.” “Fellow Daoist Mu, you should find another way!” Shen Ping stood up and left. Before he reached the threshold of the hall, he heard Mu Jin’s pleading voice. “Talisman Master Shen, I know you won’t leave your family behind. You must have a way to leave, right? Please, please take me with you!”

Shen Ping ignored her. Mu Jin’s pretty face was instantly covered with despair. She laughed self-deprecatingly. “Talisman Master Shen, sorry to disturb you.” As she spoke, she used all her strength to get up.

She crossed the threshold. Her fragrance assaulted his nose, but there was no color on her beautiful and sweet face. She walked in the courtyard. Her curves were still round, but it seemed to be lifeless.

The moment the Nascent Soul elder of the True Treasure Pavilion announced the departure list, the outcome of these external members had already been decided. They would either stay in the market and wait for the situation to change, or they would be like moths to a flame like those cultivators who rushed into the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

Mu Jin had a glimmer of hope in her heart until it completely dissipated.

Yu Yan looked out of the window in silence. Luo Qing sat cross-legged at the head of the bed with her eyes closed.

Shen Ping walked to the door of the quiet room and inadvertently glanced at Mu Jin’s back from the corner of his eye. He couldn’t help but be stunned. He thought of Shopkeeper Chen and the sulky feeling in his chest that day.

“This world...” He sighed. The corners of his mouth twitched. “30 Spirit Protection Talismans, come in half a month!”

Mu Jin stopped in her tracks as she stepped out of the small courtyard. She felt a lump in her throat and tears quietly fell from the corners of her eyes.

“Thank you!”

When she left, the sweet smile on her face was so sincere that it made the sunlight dim.

Days passed.

The market became more and more deserted. Most of the shops on both sides of the street had already closed. Even the robbers had disappeared from the dark corners of the alleys. Only the law enforcement patrol team walked through the alleys from time to time.

The night before the Wei Kingdom's Lantern Festival, Shen Ping received messages from Shopkeeper Ding and Matchmaker Ceng at the same time. He took a deep breath and called Yu Yan and Luo Qing into the hall. "Tomorrow. One of you has to leave first. Follow the True Treasure Pavilion to the Golden Sun Sect and leave on a flying ship."

Yu Yan and Luo Qing were stunned. Then, they looked at each other and said in unison, "Husband, you should leave!"

Shen Ping said gently, "Don't worry, I'll catch up soon. Yu Yan..."

Yu Yan crossed her arms in front of her chest and interrupted with a smile, "Husband, the eighth level of Qi Refinement gave you the guts. Why aren't you leaving?" Speaking of this, her lips were as cold as a stranger's. "The Immortal Dao is heartless. Why care about the life and death of others?"

Swoosh.

Her spiritual energy flickered. The ring-shaped Dharma artifact on Yu Yan's wrist suddenly cracked, turning into green light blades that slashed at Luo Qing. Luo Qing smiled and did not move.

Clang!

The Spirit Protection Talisman was activated. The green light blades landed on the Spirit Light Barrier, causing layers of green ripples.

Shen Ping frowned. "Yu Yan, take it back. I've made up my mind. Luo Qing, leave tomorrow. When you reach Qingyang City, remember to tell Yun'er and Ying'er that we're fine and will definitely arrive safely."

Luo Qing could not help but say, "Husband, I'm about to die. There's no need..."

Shen Ping stood up, grabbed Yu Yan's shoulder, and led her to the room. They entered the house.

Yu Yan's eyes were moist as she wrapped her arms around Shen Ping's neck skillfully. She was enchanting, but the corners of her lips were no longer cold. She said in a gentle and moving voice, "Husband, why are you so good to me? Without me, you don't have to make such a choice. You're clearly afraid of death, but you've risked your life for me time and time again. I'm not worthy..."

Shen Ping lowered his head and stopped her. At the same time, he took the opportunity to pull off the robe and the single gauze dress. The sweet grapefruits immediately lost its restraints. She allowed the size to be measured.

When traces of Dao techniques appeared in Yu Yan's eyes, Shen Ping stopped and smiled. "Tomorrow evening, you'll leave with me."

Yu Yan was stunned and said in confusion, "Husband, didn't you say that there was only one spot?"

"A cunning rabbit has three burrows. I have many tricks up my sleeve." Shen Ping pretended to be profound and smiled calmly.

Yu Yan heaved a sigh of relief. In an instant, she regained the enchantment of the Thousand Faces Charm Technique and became flirtatious. The corners of her eyes rippled, and her fragrant tongue seemed to form a chasm as she said, "I want to see how powerful my husband's new methods are."

As she spoke, her eyes became blurry, and she had already quietly placed her foot on Shen Ping's shoulder. Her voice was intermittent. "Can it be powerful... so powerful that the spring water was flowing out of me...?"

Shen Ping's expression turned serious. "Please enlighten me!"

As the crystal lamp swayed, the two of them quickly began to fight. It was only when the tide surged that this exchange finally ended. However, because they had something important to do tomorrow, they did not continue. Instead, they returned to the quiet room to adjust their state.

At dawn the next day, Shen Ping brought Luo Qing to the True Treasure Pavilion. Shopkeeper Ding shook his head gently when he saw this, but he still said, "Talisman Master Shen is a sentimental person."

As for Guest Elder Cui and Guest Elder Ruan, they did not say anything. Everyone had their own choices.

"Shopkeeper Ding. When you reach Qingyang City, I hope you can take care of her." As Shen Ping spoke, he stuffed an Armor Spirit Talisman into Shopkeeper Ding's hand.

"Sure, sure!" A smile appeared on Shopkeeper Ding's face. "Talisman Master Shen, you have to come early. Although Qingyang City is big, it's not easy to cultivate."

Shen Ping cupped his hands. "Definitely!" He turned around. He instructed Luo Qing, "Qing'er, no matter what happens along the way, you have to follow Shopkeeper Ding closely. Don't worry, you don't have to worry about me and Yu Yan."

Luo Qing's eyes were complicated. Her lips moved, but she still did not speak.

"Let's go!" The purple-robed Nascent Soul elder swept his Dharmic powers and the cultivators in the small courtyard disappeared. The light of the Dharma treasure in the air suddenly fled in the direction of the Golden Sun Sect.

The entire True Treasure Pavilion instantly became empty.

Shen Ping glanced at the sky, shook his head, turned around, and walked out. When he returned to the small courtyard in Qinghe Alley, he saw Mu Jin standing at the door. Today, she had changed into a green and white robe. Her hair, wrists, and the pink ribbon at her waist all had Dharma artifacts.

"Talisman Master Shen. Here are 30 Spirit Protection Talismans and two bottles of high-grade pills. If I can get out safely, I will definitely repay you handsomely!" Mu Jin's eyes were full of sincerity. She had been in the True Treasure Pavilion for a long time and still had some assets.

"We'll leave in the evening. I'm not completely confident either." Shen Ping waved his hand and put these items into his storage bag.

Mu Jin smiled sweetly. "Talisman Master Shen, it's already a great favor for you to take me with you."

“Let’s go into the house first!”

Chapter 85: Leaving Calmly

In the small courtyard.

...

When Yu Yan saw the female cultivator from last time, a faint smile appeared on her lips. Mu Jin walked in and cupped her hands. “I’m Mu Jin, an external member of True Treasure Pavilion. Greetings, Fellow Daoist!”

Yu Yan returned the bow. “Husband’s Dao companion, Yu Yan.”

After sitting down, Shen Ping did not say anything. Instead, he drank the spiritual tea and waited quietly.

Time passed slowly. There was only the sound of breathing in the hall. As the shadow of the small courtyard gradually lengthened, Mu Jin couldn’t help but say, “Talisman Master Shen, we have to be careful in Spring Garden. Even if we can get out safely, we’ll be in danger when we reach the periphery of the Hundred Thousand Mountains without the protection of experts.”

Shen Ping nodded. “What Fellow Daoist Mu said makes sense. We’ll act according to the situation.”

He was already fully prepared.

100 Golden Light Talismans.

Second-stage puppet.

Five Armor Spirit Talismans.

There was also a one-time consumable special Dharma artifact that he had spent his family’s money to buy from the True Treasure Pavilion. These methods were enough to deal with early-stage Foundation Establishment cultivators, as long as he kept a low profile.

He was a cultivator in the eighth level of Qi Refinement, a Talisman Master who was not good at fighting. Even if Spring Garden attacked, they would not trouble a late-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator.

However, if it was really the late-stage Foundation Establishment realm...

Shen Ping opened the virtual interface and looked at the golden Talisman Dao Mystique. Whether he could survive or not depended on this time. Apart from that, there was also the purple bead given by Bai Yuying’s younger brother.

The other party belonged to Spring Garden and definitely had some understanding of the situation in Spring Garden. At the very least, he would not harm his sister for no reason.

As his thoughts drifted, it was time. Shen Ping suddenly stood up and looked at Yu Yan and Mu Jin. “Let’s go!”

He stepped out of the small courtyard. The three of them did not look back. This single-family courtyard would become dust in the future.

On the way to Spring Garden, waves of cold air swept over. Mu Jin followed closely beside Shen Ping and Yu Yan, looking around from time to time. The market was deserted, and no one knew if there were any cultivators waiting in the dark.

When they walked out of the market and arrived at Spring Garden, they were not attacked.

Shen Ping and the other two heaved a sigh of relief. When they smelled the strong smell of cosmetics, Matchmaker Ceng had already come out. She glanced at Yu Yan and Mu Jin and said with a warm smile, "Please come in, Talisman Master Shen."

First, they went to the private room. Matchmaker Ceng drank her spirit tea and said, "Talisman Master Shen, there's three of you."

Shen Ping took out more than ten auxiliary Level Two talismans before taking out the remaining Spirit Protection Talismans. "Fellow Daoist Ceng, please take care of us." As he spoke, he secretly placed a Lightning Talisman in his hand and revealed a trace of spiritual light between his fingers.

Matchmaker Ceng's eyes jumped and she quickly covered Shen Ping's palm. She stood up and said, "There are other Fellow Daoists who haven't come. I'll go to the door to take a look."

A moment later, Shen Ping walked out of the private room and followed Matchmaker Ceng to the entrance of Spring Garden. He kept the Lightning Talisman.

Matchmaker Ceng smiled brightly and sent a voice transmission, "Talisman Master Shen, someone will bring you to the Cloud Mountain Swamp later. You must remember that when choosing the flying ship, you must choose the purple sword-shaped flying ship."

The two of them exchanged a few simple messages.

Shen Ping was alarmed. He could not quite believe Matchmaker Ceng's words, but he could only choose to believe her at the moment. He hoped that the Lightning Talisman would be useful.

About an hour passed, the sky outside completely darkened, and the entire market emitted a demonic blood light.

More than a hundred cultivators had gathered in the backyard of Spring Garden. Some of them reeked of blood, some were nervous and uneasy, and some were as vigilant as Shen Ping.

After a while, a few cultivators in black robes and blood-colored masks appeared at the entrance of the backyard. They emitted a faint spiritual pressure and were clearly Foundation Establishment Cultivators. "Stay close. If you fall behind, tsk tsk, don't blame us."

With that,

The Foundation Establishment Cultivators stepped onto their Dharma artifacts and soared into the sky.

Swish, swish, swish.

Shen Ping grabbed Yu Yan and Mu Jin and quickly followed. With the rich spiritual energy of the eighth level of Qi Refinement, it was not difficult to control the flying Dharma artifact at all. The other rogue cultivators followed closely behind.

Under the cover of the blood light, Cloud Mountain Parlour gradually became smaller and smaller.

With a Foundation Establishment cultivator leading the way, they did not encounter any attacks along the way. However, when they arrived above the Cloud Mountain Swamp, all the cultivators' expressions turned solemn. The demon beasts in the Cloud Mountain Swamp did not care if one was a Foundation Establishment cultivator or not.

As they went deeper, some rogue cultivators grunted and fell down before they could react. The Foundation Establishment Cultivators in front did not even look at them.

Mu Jin grabbed the corner of Shen Ping's shirt nervously, and the Spirit Protection Talisman on her flickered.

At this moment, Shen Ping did not care about anything else and patted his waist. The light shield of the Armor Spirit Talisman enveloped the three of them. This dense spiritual light attracted the attention of many rogue cultivators. Even the Foundation Establishment Cultivator in front of him glanced over from the corner of his eyes.

Bam! Bam!

Some cultivators reacted quickly and dodged the sudden attack of the demon beasts on the swamp. Some could not dodge in time, but they were experienced in fighting and quickly followed the team.

On the other hand, Shen Ping had the Armor Spirit Talisman to defend himself.

He was unscathed after two to three attacks.

"It's in the direction of the underground mine of the Golden Sun Sect." Yu Yan said via voice transmission, "Be careful."

Shen Ping frowned. Why did Spring Garden bring them to the underground mine?

The night deepened. The number of cultivators following the team decreased from more than a hundred to less than half.

Mu Jin's face turned pale. She knew that if not for Shen Ping's Armor Spirit Talisman, she would not have been able to reach the depths of the Cloud Mountain Swamp even if she paid 30 Spirit Protection Talismans.

"We're here!" Not long after, the Foundation Establishment Cultivator's voice sounded. All the remaining rogue cultivators heaved a sigh of relief.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The light of the Dharma artifact under their feet retracted. Shen Ping and the others landed on the top floor of the pavilion built by the Golden Sun Sect in the mineral vein area. There were three small flying ships at the edge, and the flying ships were already filled with cultivators.

Seeing the numbness under these black hair, Shen Ping was shocked.

"Quickly board the flying ship!" The Foundation Establishment Cultivator urged, "Each flying ship can only accommodate twelve people. When it's full, wait here for the next batch!"

Hearing this, the surviving cultivators hurriedly flashed and rushed towards the flying ship.

Shen Ping rushed to the purple sword-shaped flying ship on the left with Yu Yan and Mu Jin. He felt more at ease when he landed in the flying ship. At this moment, Yu Yan tightened her grip on Shen Ping's wrist. He looked up and followed his gaze. He could not help but be stunned.

Fellow Daoist Su.

He did not expect to see Fellow Daoist Su from Red Willow Alley here. The other party seemed to have noticed Shen Ping and Yu Yan as well. The numbness in her eyes had a hint of color.

The flying ship did not start and continued to wait. About ten minutes later, several black-robed, blood-masked figures flew out of the underground mine and landed on the purple sword-shaped flying ship.

Boom!

It trembled.

The three flying ships immediately transformed into rainbows of different colors and flew towards the Hundred Thousand Mountains. The cultivators who were still alive, including Shen Ping, were shocked. There were even more demon beasts in the Hundred Thousand Mountains.

It was very difficult to cross. Only the defense array of a large flying ship could withstand the attacks of demon beasts. With a small flying ship like Spring Garden, it was very difficult to guarantee its safety once it was attacked by demon beasts.

However, no one dared to question it at this moment.

Several hours passed.

The long night welcomed a little dawn. The light in the distant sky bloomed from the night sky, and the scenery below the flying ship became clear.

The towering and majestic mountain range was surrounded by clouds. From time to time, the roars of demon beasts could be heard. Some of the roars carried a powerful aura and pressure, causing the flying ship to tremble and sway.

However, to his surprise, not a single demon beast attacked the flying ship.

Just like that, the three flying ships quickly crossed the Hundred Thousand Mountains. All the cultivators slowly relaxed. If not for the fact that the flying ship was too crowded, Shen Ping would have sat down cross-legged.

"Senior, where's my sister?"

Hearing the voice transmission, Shen Ping subconsciously looked in front of the flying ship and saw a black-robed, blood-masked cultivator turn around. His gaze was familiar with suppressed anger.

"Qingyang City!" He immediately replied in surprise.

Bai Yuying's younger brother was stunned. The anger in his eyes instantly disappeared, and gratitude surged out. "Thank you, Senior. I didn't expect to be able to leave the Cloud Mountain

Swamp alive. Senior, don't worry. This purple flying ship can leave safely. That purple bead shouldn't be needed anymore. However, it's best for you to keep it. It might be useful in the future."

Shen Ping finally felt completely at ease.. He hurriedly asked, "Where is the purple flying ship going?"

Chapter 86: The More You Live, the More Coward You Become

Bai Yuying's younger brother did not respond. Shen Ping noticed that the Foundation Establishment Cultivator in front of the flying ship had tilted his body and came to a realization. He did not ask further and closed his eyes to rest.

...

Two days passed.

The flying ship crossed the Hundred Thousand Mountains and arrived at the edge of the blood-stained area. The faint blood color was like a life and death line that could not be crossed. It was separated from the Hundred Thousand Mountains and the outside world, making it impossible to ignore.

All the cultivators were restless. Everyone knew that as long as they crossed this line of blood, they would be able to see the vast sea and sky. However, if they could not cross it...

Yu Yan tightened her grip. Mu Jin subconsciously hugged Shen Ping's arm and pursed her lips. Life and death were right in front of them.

At this moment, the other two flying ships suddenly accelerated. A blue token floated in the palm of the Foundation Establishment Cultivator standing in front. As spiritual energy was injected into the token, it emitted a light barrier that enveloped the entire flying ship.

Bam! Bam!

In the blink of an eye, the two flying ships collided with the blood-colored line and created layers of blood-colored ripples. These ripples spread in all directions at an extremely fast speed. Meanwhile, the light barrier activated by the azure token cut through the blood-colored edge.

Seeing this scene, all the cultivators heaved a sigh of relief, their eyes filled with excitement. However, the moment the two flying ships passed halfway, the blood-colored edge seemed to have triggered some restriction and suddenly became rich. The ripples that had spread far away quickly returned and collided fiercely with the azure light barrier.

Boom!

The blue light barrier shattered. Before all the cultivators on the flying ship could react, they were drowned by the blood. In a few breaths, they turned into a pool of blood and fused into the blood.

Shen Ping's expression was ugly. Yu Yan could not help but bite her lip and say, "Husband, it's great that I can be by your side!"

Shen Ping glanced at Bai Yuying's younger brother and said in a low voice, "Don't worry, we'll definitely be fine!" His heart was in his throat. His palms were covered in sweat.

Under the terrifying blood-colored energy, even Foundation Establishment cultivators could not resist at all, let alone a cultivator at the eighth level of Qi Refinement like him. Now, he could only leave it to fate. He recalled the details of his cultivation in the past.

Shen Ping took a deep breath and held it in. Just as the purple sword-shaped flying ship was about to collide, the Foundation Establishment cultivator in front flipped his wrist, and a token identical to the other two flying ships appeared in his palm.

However, the token was emerald green.

Buzz-

The token emitted a light barrier, and a faint low moan that shook one's mind sounded from the light barrier. The purple flying ship was like a green longsword that pierced directly into the blood-colored line. Just like before, the blood-colored line first produced ripples that spread out with the purple flying ship as the center. Then, a large number of ripples returned.

Thick blood-colored power burst forth and collided with the green light barrier with a bang. However, the green light barrier only trembled. Then, it suddenly accelerated and passed through the long blood-colored line that filled the Hundred Thousand Mountains!

“We’ve crossed it!” A cultivator blurted out excitedly.

Shen Ping closed his eyes, and his tense mind completely relaxed. Yu Yan was all smiles. Mu Jin hugged her arms even tighter, almost squeezing out the sweet juice of the honeydew. Her sweet face surged with indescribable joy.

Swoosh.

The purple flying ship quickly left the blood-colored line and quickly transformed into a rainbow that disappeared into the horizon. Shen Ping opened his eyes again and looked back at the increasingly blurry Hundred Thousand Mountains. A few figures appeared in his mind.

No matter how many times they had interacted with those familiar and unfamiliar people, regardless of their cultivation level, this time... it was goodbye!

Cloud Mountain Parlour, this cultivator market that contained his previous hopes and pain, his struggles, decadence, joy, and pain, goodbye!

As his thoughts drifted, Shen Ping suddenly looked straight ahead and gently placed his sleeve behind his back. A smile appeared in his eyes.

Ten minutes passed, the purple light gradually slowed down in the sky above a desolate mountain range in the Wei Kingdom. A few moments later, it landed at the waist of the mountain.

The Foundation Establishment Cultivator shrouded in a black robe turned around and said indifferently, “You’re quite lucky, but whether you’re lucky next will depend on your sincerity.” As soon as he said this, the expressions of the cultivators on the flying ship changed slightly, but they were not surprised, as if they had expected this.

Shen Ping frowned and thought about what kind of sincerity he should show.

“The three of you can leave!” At this moment, the Foundation Establishment Cultivator spoke again.

Shen Ping was stunned. A voice transmission sounded in his ears. "Senior, I'm leaving my sister to you!" He looked at Bai Yuying's younger brother, who looked over.

"Thank you!" Shen Ping replied and hurriedly took Yu Yan and Mu Jin to the Dharma artifact to leave. It was not until the mountain range behind them became a blurry dot that he sighed. "Life is unpredictable."

Yu Yan asked curiously, "Husband, the black-robed cultivator on the flying ship seems to know you?"

"He's Bai Yuying's brother. It's all thanks to him that we can leave safely this time."

With Matchmaker Ceng's guidance, he chose the purple flying ship. It was not a problem for him to leave the Cloud Mountain Swamp and the Hundred Thousand Mountains, but without Bai Yuying's brother's help just now, it was probably not easy to walk out of the flying ship.

Sometimes, fortune was the source of disaster.

"Talisman Master Shen, thank you!" Mu Jin cupped her hands seriously. This journey seemed to be safe, but it was abnormally dangerous.

"Fellow Daoist Mu, what do you plan to do next?" Shen Ping asked casually.

The True Treasure Pavilion had shops in various markets in the Wei Kingdom, but the external members of these shops had long been full. Cloud Mountain Parlour was newly built. Now that the True Treasure Pavilion had been evacuated, it was a little difficult for an external member like Mu Jin to return to the True Treasure Pavilion.

"I'm a rogue cultivator now. Where can I go?" Mu Jin didn't feel sad. Instead, she smiled sweetly and said, "Talisman Master Shen, I owe you a huge favor this time. You should be going to Qingyang City, right? I can only shamelessly go with you."

Shen Ping shook his head and said, "Fellow Daoist Mu more or less has some connections. This time, you avoided danger. If you go to Qingyang City, you might be able to enter the True Treasure Pavilion."

Mu Jin knew that it was a comforting remark, but she still said coquettishly, "Thank you, Talisman Master Shen."

Shen Ping suddenly frowned.

"Husband, what's wrong?"

"It's nothing. Let's go down first!" As he spoke, the dharma artifact flickered and quickly landed in front of a hundred-year-old tree on the ground.

Yu Yan's expression changed slightly. "Husband, it's the other rogue cultivators of the flying ship. They're following us."

"Don't worry about it. Shen Ping smiled faintly and said confidently, "It's just five rogue cultivators."

He had a Foundation Establishment Divine Sense. He could sense that other than the five rogue cultivators, there were no Foundation Establishment Cultivators secretly following him. That was why he could reason with them.

Mu Jin also smiled and said, "Fellow Daoist Yu, Talisman Master Shen is a guest of the True Treasure Pavilion. Not to mention other methods, the guest wooden token alone is enough to withstand the full-strength attack of an early-stage Foundation Establishment cultivator."

"Wait where you are. I'll be back soon!" He handed Yu Yan two Armor Spirit Talismans and rushed up on his Dharma artifact.

"Husband, you must be careful!" Yu Yan still reminded him.

Soon, the five late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators stopped in the air hundreds of meters away. They looked at Shen Ping, who had activated the Armor Spirit Talisman, and fell silent.

They had already emptied their storage bags to leave the flying ship and did not even leave half a spirit stone behind. They could only come and try to take advantage of the situation. However, they knew that the cultivator in front of them was not to be trifled with. When they crossed the Cloud Mountain Swamp, the Level Two Armor Spirit Talisman was very eye-catching.

Moreover, he could leave the flying ship calmly with two mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivators. His background was probably not low. However, they had to try. What if they succeeded?

"Fellow Daoist, we don't have any other intentions. We just want to borrow some spirit stones."

Shen Ping waved his hand. 50 low-grade spirit stones floated in front of the five rogue cultivators. "All of us aren't having it easy. I'll give these spirit stones to all of you. It can be considered that we're fated to live together."

The corners of the five rogue cultivators' mouths twitched. He really did give them. One of the rogue cultivators with a thick aura looked unfriendly. "Fellow Daoist, aren't you too stingy—" As soon as he said that, he swallowed his words. "Farewell!" He cupped his hands at Shen Ping and turned to leave cleanly.

The other four also cupped their hands. "Thank you for the spirit stones,

Fellow Daoist. I'm endlessly grateful. See you again!"

As soon as they finished speaking, they quickly activated the Dharma artifact with his spiritual energy.

Shen Ping looked at the five rogue cultivators who hurriedly left and sighed. "Cultivators become more and more timid the more they live." After putting away the five Lightning Talismans, two Armor Spirit Talismans, and a hundred Golden Light Talismans floating on his body, he returned to the tree.

Mu Jin asked curiously, "Talisman Master Shen, you solved it so quickly?"

Shen Ping smiled gently. "Those fellow Daoists are very easy to talk to. I gave them some spirit stones and they left."

“They only borrowed some spirit stones?”

“Yes.”

II

How much?”

“Ten low-grade spirit stones.”

Stunned, Mu Jin smiled and said, “It’s indeed quite good.”

Yu Yan glanced at Shen Ping strangely.

“Let’s go! Let’s go to Qingyang City!” Shen Ping waved his sleeve, and the three of them landed on the flying Dharma artifact. As the spiritual light flickered, the Dharma artifact disappeared with a long rainbow..

Chapter 87: Qingyang City

Qingyang Lake was originally an inconspicuous lake in the Wei Kingdom. Ever since it was discovered that there was a Level Three spiritual vein at the bottom of the lake, more and more cultivators lived here. The Golden Sun Sect even established the Qingyang Market here. After five to six hundred years of development, more and more cultivators settled here. Over time, it developed into the famous Qingyang City of the surrounding countries.

...

Dozens of days passed.

A spiritual light flickered in the distant sky of Qingyang Lake and quickly landed in front of a long bridge made of jade. As the spiritual light dissipated, three figures appeared. Shen Ping looked at the city sitting above the lake and heaved a sigh of relief. “There are finally no accidents along the way. We’ve arrived at Qingyang City.”

He traveled day and night. Even when he was recovering his spiritual energy, he let Yu Yan and Mu Jin control the Dharma artifacts. He passed by several markets and didn’t go over. Although he wasn’t afraid of Foundation Establishment Cultivators with his methods, he tried not to provoke them as much as possible.

On both sides of the bridge were handsome and dignified statues. It was the Golden Sun Sect’s Supreme Elder. A breeze blew over the lake, bringing with it abundant spiritual energy.

The three of them could not help but take a deep breath. They felt that the spiritual energy in their dantian seemed to have increased a little. This dense spiritual energy environment would make cultivators happy.

Foundation Establishment and Golden Core were no exception.

After all, there was a Level Three spiritual vein at the bottom of the lake! If one could live and cultivate in the core of the spirit vein, even a rogue cultivator with pseudo-Spiritual Root aptitude could successfully build their foundation before the age of 60.

He walked along the bridge towards the city.

Most of the cultivators who came and went had relaxed expressions. Some stood at the edge of the bridge and admired the lake's scenery. Occasionally, fish-type demon beasts would jump out of the water, their scales flickering with a luster.

"I've long heard Shopkeeper Ding mention Qingyang City several times. Now that I see it today, it's indeed a place that we rogue cultivators yearn for. I wonder how much the rental price of the houses here is?" Mu Jin suddenly sighed. In order to leave Cloud Mountain Parlour, she had almost emptied her storage bag. She only had a few Dharma artifacts and talismans that could be sold. If the rental price of Qingyang City was too high, it would be difficult for her to even live here, let alone return a favor.

When Shen Ping heard this, he could not help but think of his wife and concubine. Before he left, he had given them a lot of talismans and spirit stones. They should be able to last until now.

As soon as this thought appeared, he quickened his pace and arrived at the city gate. He paid the spirit stones and asked about the location of the True Treasure Pavilion before stepping into the city.

Boom.

With a step, surging spiritual energy surged from all directions like a tide. His blood seemed to be boiling as the spiritual energy in his dantian automatically circulated along his meridians. There was clearly a large-scale Spirit Gathering Array in the city that made the spiritual energy even more abundant. His gaze swept over. The wide streets were bustling with cultivators, and the shops were neat and orderly.

"So this is Qingyang City!" Shen Ping couldn't help but sigh. Then, he led Yu Yan and Mu Jin to the main street. It was almost noon before they stood at the entrance of the True Treasure Pavilion.

Compared to Cloud Mountain Parlour, the True Treasure Pavilion in Qingyang City occupied a wider area and had a higher threshold. He raised his head and looked at the three words on the door board. It seemed to have an attraction that made people unable to help but immerse themselves.

"Fellow Daoist. The words 'True Treasure Pavilion' were written by a Nascent Soul cultivator. Don't look at it for too long." He came back to his senses. A graceful cultivator was already standing beside him. Moreover, he was at the seventh level of Qi Refinement at such a young age.

Shen Ping hurriedly cupped his hands and said, "Thank you for your reminder, Fellow Daoist." He stepped over the threshold.

A delicate-looking female cultivator came forward. "This is the first time the three of you have come... Greetings, Honored Guest." The smile on the female cultivator's face immediately turned respectful.

"Take me to the shopkeeper."

"Yes, please follow me."

A moment later, in a private room on the west side of the backyard, Shen Ping saw the shopkeeper of the True Treasure Pavilion. To his surprise, Shopkeeper Ding was also there.

"Shopkeeper Ding!"

"Talisman Master Shen!"

They greeted each other.

Shopkeeper Ding glanced at Mu Jin behind Shen Ping from the corner of his eye and said with a warm smile, "Tsk tsk, Talisman Master Shen, you've arrived so quickly. How admirable." He was very surprised. There were only a few forces that could leave Cloud Mountain Parlour. The others were not easy to deal with. Talisman Master Shen's methods were extraordinary, and he had Mu Jin with him.

"Let me introduce you. This is Shopkeeper Qu, an old friend of mine. However, Shopkeeper Qu is much stronger than me. He's already at the mid-stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm."

Shen Ping hurriedly bowed respectfully. "Guest Elder of the True Treasure Pavilion, Shen Ping, greets Senior Qu."

The True Treasure Pavilion in Qingyang City was the main station of the Wei Kingdom. To be able to be a shopkeeper here, he was powerful and had deep connections.

Shopkeeper Qu stroked his beard and said with a smile, "Guest Elder Shen, you don't have to be polite. To be able to become a Guest Elder of our True Treasure Pavilion with just Qi Refinement cultivation, this potential is commendable, very commendable. You and Shopkeeper Ding came out of Cloud Mountain Parlour. I believe you have a lot to say. I won't disturb you anymore." With that, he left with a smile.

After Shen Ping and Shopkeeper Ding sat down again, Shopkeeper Ding took the initiative to say, "Talisman Master Shen, the family members of the guests and deacons of the True Treasure Pavilion are all placed in Linquan Alley in the west city. Later, you can go to the second floor and get a map jade slip of Qingyang City.

"When you settle down in a few days, I'll set up a small wine for us to celebrate us leaving Cloud Mountain Parlour safely. At that time, Talisman Master Shen, you have to come!"

Shen Ping said immediately, "Definitely."

The two of them chatted about some things on the way before leaving.

The cold wind blew at the entrance of Linquan Alley at three in the afternoon. The withered cloud fir let out a whooshing sound.

Shen Ping held Yu Yan's wrist and was actually a little nervous. Although he had not been separated from his wife and concubine for long, he understood the feeling in his heart the moment he sent them on the flying ship.

Years of days and nights could not compare to this moment of apprehension.

"Husband, let's go!" Yu Yan took the initiative to grab Shen Ping and step into the alley.

They arrived at the 768th courtyard of the D-class. The familiar layout of the house entered their line of sight.

Shen Ping took out the communication talisman. The door of house number five opened.

Wang Yun, whose face was already covered in tears, rushed over at an extremely fast speed. She threw herself into Shen Ping's arms, her voice filled with joy and excitement. "Husband, husband, you're finally here."

Bai Yuying followed closely behind. Her eyes were red, and her soft voice was a little choked up. "Husband, don't scare Ying'er like this in the future."

Luo Qing stood at the door of the house, her eyes slightly moist. Shen Ping noticed the gazes of the other houses and said gently, "Let's go in and talk."

He slowly walked into the house. The moment he closed the door, Shen Ping carried his wife and concubine to the main room on the second floor. The longing in his heart turned into a bed frame that swayed and rippled.

He sniffed every inch greedily. It was as if he wanted to completely integrate his wife and concubine's voice and smile into his sea of consciousness.

Nine at night, Yu Yan looked up at the floor that was gradually calming down and smiled helplessly. Then, she closed her eyes and reminisced.

Inside the house, the pink and purple embroidered undergarments were casually thrown away. Wang Yun and Bai Yuying's black hair had already been messed up and scattered on both sides of their shoulders.

Shen Ping hugged his wife and concubine and asked them about their lives in Linquan Alley. There were no troubles. Ever since they were settled here, other than occasionally buying spirit rice, the two women basically did not leave the house. They did not even go out.

"Husband, the deacon of the True Treasure Pavilion who settled down said that we can only stay here for a year. Once the time is up, we have to leave. If you don't come, Sister Yun'er and I don't know what to do!"

"Hehe, fortunately you're here and we can live a stable life!" Bai Yuying hugged Shen Ping's arm and said with a dazed expression, "It's so good to have you, Husband."

Shen Ping pinched her face. He thought of the black-robed, blood-masked cultivator and could not help but whisper, “Ying’er, your brother is still alive.”

Bai Yuying’s dazed eyes instantly sobered up. “Husband, what... what did you say just now?”

Shen Ping did not say anything. Instead, he waved his hand and took out the pair of jade pendants from the storage bag beside him. It was placed in Bai Yuying’s palm.

“Brother. You’re alive! You’re really alive!” Tears unknowingly flowed down from the corners of Bai Yuying’s eyes. She held the jade pendant tightly and looked up at Shen Ping. “Husband, is... is this true?”

Shen Ping said gently, “Your brother personally handed this to me. When he left, he asked me to take good care of you. Speaking of which, I was able to leave this time because of your brother.”

Seeing her husband say that, Bai Yuying smiled brightly. “Little Brother has become successful. Husband, thank you!” As she spoke, she turned around and climbed up.

Shen Ping looked into Bai Yuying’s eyes, where silver light was blooming..

Chapter 88: Change in the Golden Frame

The room was silent late at night. His wife and concubine curled up in Shen Ping’s arms with a blissful smile on their lips. With their husband beside them, they slept very soundly. Luo Qing sat cross-legged with her eyes closed and her breathing was even. Clearly, she was also sleeping.

...

Shen Ping opened the virtual interface.

[Talisman Dao Mystique: Sea of Talisman (Hundred Talismans) (10/1,000)]

[Talisman Master: Low-grade Level Two (151,596/150,000). Can be broken through.]

[Current Dao Companion Favorability: 100+10]

[Duo Cultivation Bonus: 6]

[Silver Bonus: 10]

[Metal Spiritual Root: Top-grade (2,167/150,000)]

[Wood Spiritual Root: Top-grade (2,059/150,000)]

He breathed a sigh of relief.

After the metal and wood spiritual roots broke through to the top-grade, the increment in spiritual root aptitude obtained from dual cultivation with Bai Yuying shrank like Wang Yun. Now that it had transformed into a silver frame, it was the same as his wife. The subsequent increase would instead increase.

Then, he glanced at the virtual frame that belonged to Luo Qing and Yu Yan. His magic resistance and lifespan had increased. The range was not very big. However, Shen Ping glanced at Luo Qing in surprise. Her favorability rose again, and she was almost at her limit.

This was not easy.

This was because he knew that Luo Qing did not have any requests. She had long been indifferent to life and death. The only thing she had left was to be buried in Ze Country after she died. That was her hometown.

He shook his head to suppress his thoughts. He went to the quiet room and emptied his mind. He looked at the virtual frame.

“Breakthrough!” As he muttered in his heart, the golden virtual frame swayed.

Shen Ping’s originally calm expression suddenly changed. His pupils constricted as he saw the quiet room fade at a visible speed. When the blurry scenery became clear again, the surroundings were no longer the quiet room.

Boom!

A golden light enveloped him. He walked uncontrollably to the jade table in front of him that had a talisman on it.

Every time he crafted a talisman, a large number of memories and comprehensions would continuously surge into his sea of consciousness. He didn’t even need to digest them before they fused into the depths of his muscles and blood. It was as if they had become his instinct. There were even some comprehension of Talisman Dao that surprised him.

He made talismans, again and again. When he came back to his senses, The quiet room was still the same. However, Shen Ping’s eyes revealed the vicissitudes of time. These vicissitudes quickly disappeared without a trace. “Gold!” He subconsciously looked at the virtual frame. The golden light there moved him.

This breakthrough was completely unexpected.

Initially, he thought that he would be able to digest the knowledge and memories from his previous breakthrough, but now, it seemed to be a little different. Comprehension and memories were secondary. The key was that his control over talisman crafting had increased greatly under the control of the golden light. Moreover, his understanding of the Dao of Talismans had benefited him greatly.

He got up and went straight to the talisman making room and took out the remaining materials of the Golden Light Talisman from his storage bag. Then, he buried his head in making talismans.

At dawn the next day, there were already five Golden Light Talismans on the table. His efficiency and speed could be said to have undergone a qualitative change.

“The golden color is extraordinary!” Shen Ping could not help but be excited. In the past, he had relied on his flesh and blood memories to increase the success rate of making talismans. However, if he encountered a talisman master or a talisman grandmaster, the other party might only praise his control over talisman making.

It was different now, though. In terms of the Golden Light Talisman just now, he already had some true mastery in the Dao of Talismans.

“Husband, it’s time to eat.” His wife’s voice came.

Shen Ping smiled and waved his hand to put away the talisman he had made. He walked out of the talisman making room.

Yu Yan was also there today. However, the table seemed a little small. There was only spirit rice porridge. His wife lowered her head in embarrassment. She did not dare to spend spirit stones at all when she lived in Linqun Alley. Before her husband came, she and Bai Yuying rarely ate spirit rice.

“Yun’er, Ying’er, let’s go shopping later. I’ll also buy some high-grade spirit rice, spirit beast meat, spirit wine, and delicacies. Since I’m here, I can’t let you suffer in your lives.”

Bai Yuying clapped her hands. “Thank you, Husband. We can eat good food again.”

Yu Yan smiled and said, “Husband, nourish yourself more. Otherwise, I’m afraid you won’t be able to take it.”

Wang Yun blushed. Luo Qing’s hand trembled slightly. She really wanted to say that he should have less nourishment.

After leaving the house, Shen Ping first sent a message to Mu Jin, asking her where she had rented last night. Then he took his wife and concubine to various shops to buy what they needed.

The order in Qingyang City was completely different from the Cloud Mountain Parlour. There were no Golden Sun Sect’s law enforcement patrol disciples patrolling here daily, but no robbers dared to fight in the city. Any strong spiritual energy fluctuation would trigger the array formation’s warning.

Since the establishment of this cultivation city, there had been very few cultivators fighting. However, there were no restrictions outside the city. After buying all kinds of daily necessities, there were no more spirit stones in the storage bag.

Hence, Shen Ping went to the True Treasure Pavilion and sold the Armor Spirit Talismans, Golden Light Talismans, Lightning Talismans, and so on in exchange for some contribution points and spirit stones.

“I have to buy spirit liquid and medicinal pills. I also have to buy Beauty Pills as soon as possible. Unfortunately, I can’t buy the Snow Ganoderma Pill.” He looked at the dazzling array of resources in the contribution room. Shen Ping wished he could buy them all, but there were many items that he did not have the qualifications to buy. “I can only wait for the auction.”

He walked out of the contribution room. He found Shopkeeper Qu and asked him. The auction of the True Treasure Pavilion in Qingyang City was held every three months and a large-scale auction was held every five years. However, resources like the Snow Ganoderma Pill and the Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment, which were relatively precious in Cloud Mountain Parlour, could be seen at the fixed auction at the headquarters, but there were only a few of them every time.

“If Talisman Master Shen has a high demand for the Snow Ganoderma Pill and the Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment, there’s a place where you can buy it.”

When Shen Ping heard this, he hurriedly cupped his hands and said, “Senior Qu, please tell me.” As he spoke, he took out the Lightning Talisman from his sleeve and handed it over.

The smile on Shopkeeper Qu’s face increased. “There’s a medicinal hut in the North Spring Alley of Qingyang City. There’s an alchemist inside who’s best at refining special medicines like the Snow Ganoderma Pill. It’s just that his hobbies are a little strange. If Talisman Master Shen is free, you can visit him.”

He left the True Treasure Pavilion. Shen Ping shook his head secretly. It was better not to interact with such alchemists with strange hobbies. He would wait for the auction to see the situation first.

The supplementary cultivation effect of the Snow Ganoderma Pill and Spirit Jade Ginseng ointment was indeed very good for dual cultivation. If they could use it often, Yu Yan, Bai Yuying, and the others’ cultivation levels would increase much faster than usual.

Around three in the afternoon, he went to the deacon’s hall and asked about the rental price of the various alleys in Qingyang City. He could not help but be speechless.

Qingyang City was located on a Level Three spiritual vein, so the price of the house was definitely higher than Cloud Mountain Parlour. Shen Ping was mentally prepared. However, the alley at the edge was comparable to Yunhe Alley. It was really a little expensive. Under normal circumstances, it could only be afforded by those above the eighth level of Qi Refinement.

“All the houses in the alleys in the city can be rented together. Fellow Daoist, five cultivators can live on two floors of a house. This is a Level 3 spiritual vein!” The deacon smiled and said, “There are still four houses at the edge of Lushui Alley that haven’t been rented out. The others are all cultivators.”

Shen Ping hesitated for a moment. “Is there a single courtyard?”

The deacon’s smile became enthusiastic. “There is, every single small courtyard has a spiritual pool and quiet room. It’s connected to the Level Three spiritual vein at the bottom of the lake. The speed of cultivation inside will double. It’s just that this price is 200 spirit stones per year for the lowest rental fee.”

Shen Ping quickly calculated in his heart. Now that he had broken through to become a Level Two mid-grade Talisman Master, his efficiency in making Level Two talismans had increased. If he sells the Lightning Talisman, he would only need a month to earn it. He hesitated and finally gritted his teeth. “I’ll rent it!”

A moment later, he walked out of the Deacon Hall. He had the rental procedure contract and the wooden sign of the small courtyard in his hand.

The Spirit Pool that was connected to a Level Three spiritual vein was not inferior to the small spiritual vein cave abode that the Golden Sun Sect had established for Foundation Establishment. It was twice the result with half the effort here. Moreover, there was no need to change houses after the Foundation Establishment.

Although Shen Ping was at the eighth level of Qi Refinement, his level in the Dao of Talismans and his puppet had already broken through to the second level. His ability to earn spirit stones was even stronger than that of a Foundation Establishment cultivator.

“Life can’t be aggrieved.” He consoled himself with those words.

Bai Yuying hurried forward, her beautiful eyes filled with anticipation.

“We’ll move when we get back. In Cloud Mountain Parlour, I can let you live in a small courtyard. In Qingyang City, I have to let you live in a small courtyard.” Shen Ping said calmly.

Bai Yuying hugged Shen Ping’s arm excitedly, her eyes filled with the urge to eat. “Husband, you’re so good!”

In the mission hall not far away, many rogue cultivators who lived in Qingyang City gathered here.

Mu Jin was wearing a willow-leaf waist robe with embroidered patterns today, which accentuated her round curves. Her sweet and beautiful face was quite outstanding in the hall, but no one paid attention to a female cultivator at the mid-stage of Qi Refinement.

Most of the rogue cultivators stared unblinkingly at the rows of jade slips that had been refreshed.

“A demonic cultivator has appeared in the Orange Continent. We need the help of five cultivators at the eighth level of Qi Refinement.”

“The Green Jade Spiritual Field needs three mid-stage Qi Refinement cultivators to take care of it. It has to be watered by spiritual rain at least ten times a month.”

“The spiritual vein of Little Cloud Mountain has been attacked by cultivators. We urgently need the support of late-stage Qi Refinement cultivators!”

“Pengyun Shop needs three female receptionists...”

The missions here were issued by the Golden Sun Sect’s disciples, as well as by the Talisman Masters, Alchemy Masters, Array Masters, and other people in the city who needed some special materials. There were also cultivation families and some rogue cultivators who formed teams to hunt demon beasts or kill demonic cultivators.

It was refreshed every day.

As long as one’s strength was above the eighth level of Qi Refinement, it was not difficult to earn spirit stones diligently. The cultivation speed and chances of building a foundation in Qingyang City far exceeded that of other markets.

Therefore, the competition here was especially intense. Those who could leisurely admire the lake and beautiful scenery on the bridge were mostly cultivators with backgrounds and connections.

Mu Jin pursed her lips and kept looking for missions that suited her. In the end, she chose the female receptionist. She left the hall.

A sweet smile appeared on her face as she returned to her house in Lushui Alley. She looked at the narrow cubicle sitting cross-legged on the pink cushion and took out the communication talisman.

At Cloud Mountain Parlour, Mu Jin lived in a separate and spacious house. When she arrived in Qingyang City, she had no income for the time being and could only rent such a house with other female cultivators. However, even the cubicles were on a level-three spiritual vein and were full of spiritual energy.

In response, she was satisfied.

“Fellow Daoist Mu, which alley did you rent last night?”

Hearing Shen Ping’s message, Mu Jin hesitated for a moment and replied, “Talisman Master Shen, I’m staying in Lushui Alley for the time being. I wonder if you have time tomorrow. I want to go to Linquan Alley to thank you.”

Soon, the communication talisman flashed. Shen Ping’s voice sounded. “I won’t be able to stay in Linquan Alley for long. I’m preparing to change places tomorrow.”

Mu Jin hurriedly said, “There are still empty houses on Lushui Alley. They’re not bad.”

“You don’t have to. I’ve already rented it. It’s in the 13th single-family courtyard in Huiquan Alley. If you have time in the future, Fellow Daoist Mu can come here directly..”

Chapter 89: Second-Class Guest Elder

The communication talisman dimmed. But Shen Ping’s voice echoed in Mu Jin’s ears.

...

Huiquan Alley, a small courtyard...

She sat cross-legged on the soft cushion and straightened her back. After being stunned for a long time, she came back to her senses and hurriedly took out the jade slip from her storage bag.

The jade slip contained the detailed distribution of the alleys in Qingyang City. She found Huiquan Alley. Although it was not located in the core of Qingyang City, it was around the bustling street in the center. That location was not too far from the core of the Level Three spiritual vein at the bottom of the lake.

“A small courtyard. This is Qingyang City!” Mu Jin sighed faintly. The satisfaction in her eyes slowly disappeared, and she was somewhat dispirited, her waist softened. The outline of the honeydew in front of her robe was clearly visible. “Second-grade guest elder.”

She half bit her lower lip. She clenched her fists tightly and let go of her arm after a long time. “It’s so difficult.” In the end, she repeated, “It’s really too difficult.”

The next day, at the entrance of the thirteenth courtyard in Huiquan Alley, Class B.

Shen Ping brought his wife and concubines into the courtyard. He swept his gaze around. The overall layout of the small courtyard was almost the same as the single courtyard of Cloud

Mountain Parlour, but there were two additional rooms. One of them was the spiritual pool's quiet room, and the other was the pill furnace room.

The courtyard was a little wider. There was actually a spirit field that had been cultivated in the southeast corner. Although there was only a small piece, it made people feel warm.

"Husband, are we staying here forever in the future?" Bai Yuying looked back and forth in the small courtyard excitedly. She did not know the annual rental fee of the small courtyard, but she knew that it must be very expensive. One could not even afford to rent it at the late stage of Qi Refinement or even at the perfection stage. She was proud that her husband could rent it, and even more glad that she had called him in Red Willow Alley back then.

Shen Ping smiled and nodded. "Stay in the courtyard now." After saying that, he went to the various rooms to check. After confirming that there was nothing else, he let his wife and concubines walk in. He went to the quiet room of the Spirit Pool.

As soon as he stepped in, he could not help but shiver. The spiritual energy in the quiet room almost condensed into a fog. With a breath, the meridians and blood in his dantian seemed to be cheering.

He sat down cross-legged and calmly circulated his cultivation technique.

Boom.

The top-grade spiritual root crazily absorbed the spiritual fog and circulated it through his dantian through his meridians to the circulation of the cycle. Usually, it would take him six hours to meditate for a small cycle, but now, he had completed the small cycle in just three hours.

"It's worth it!" Shen Ping opened his eyes with a smile. The rental fee for the small courtyard was indeed very high, but it was worth it.

There was hope for Bai Yuying and Yu Yan to build their foundation when they cultivate in such an environment. If they combined spirit liquid, medicinal pills, and the support of resources like the Snow Ganoderma Pill, they would probably build their foundation even earlier.

Most importantly, with the spiritual pool's supply, the purity of their spiritual energy would also be very high.

It was late at night. It was not even dawn when the long-awaited smell of flower petals filled the room.

Yu Yan rarely took a bath after cultivating the Thousand Faces Charm Technique, but this time, she specially added pollen to the hot water and took off her robe. The curves of the single gauze dress were faintly discernible. The combination of the Inner Charm Fire Body and the bewitching technique quietly changed the water on her skin.

She soaked in the wooden barrel. She closed her eyes and waited. Footsteps sounded outside the door, and a familiar broad figure appeared. As soon as she opened her eyes, sparks flickered in them.

Surprisingly, Shen Ping was not anxious. Instead, he was also soaking in the flower petal-scented water. His voice was rare and gentle. "Yu Yan, today will be our first time being reborn."

Yu Yan was stunned. Cloud Mountain Parlour seemed to appear in her eyes, Red Willow Alley, Yunhe Alley... Scenes flashed. There was despair, joy, pain, struggle, and endless companionship. As she thought about it, her eyes became gentle, and love surged from them.

Today was her husband's rebirth. However, this was not the first time. If not for her husband, she would have long died from the corrosion of the Black-striped Venomous Worm.

The sound of water rippled. Yu Yan moved closer to Shen Ping. As the steam rose, their lips touched lightly. "Husband, it's my fortune to meet you." Tears welled up in the corners of Yu Yan's eyes. She held Shen Ping's palm and placed it in front of her. "It's beating."

Shen Ping did not respond and lowered his head to kiss her.

A long time passed. The hot air enveloped the two of them, and they were already tightly connected.

Five days passed.

Shen Ping received Shopkeeper Ding's invitation and went to a restaurant not far from the True Treasure Pavilion to gather. He seriously let his wife wash him up before changing into a decent long robe and coming to this restaurant.

In the private room, Guest Elder Cui and several other Guest Elders he knew were gathered here.

"Talisman Master Shen is here. Please, take a seat." Shopkeeper Ding stood up enthusiastically.

Shen Ping cupped his hands and greeted them one by one. "Senior Qu!" Finally, he bowed to Shopkeeper Qu.

Shopkeeper Qu stroked his beard and smiled. "Talisman Master Shen is a good person."

Guest Elder Cui immediately smiled and said, "That's right. We're already very lucky to be able to leave a dangerous place like Cloud Mountain Parlour. How would we dare to send our Dao Companion away like Talisman Master Shen?"

Guest Elder Ruan and Guest Elder Luo nodded.

Shen Ping hurriedly said, "I had no choice. Before I joined the True Treasure Pavilion, I was already related to Spring Garden."

He briefly explained the reason.

Shopkeeper Qu came to a realization. He gently knocked on the table and pondered for a moment before saying, "Spring Garden's background is not small. Talisman Master Shen, you have to be careful when dealing with them in the future. Don't fall into their trap."

Shen Ping nodded repeatedly. After sitting down, they briefly introduced the other two unfamiliar guest elders. Then, after waiting for about two cups of tea, a rough-looking cultivator arrived. All the cultivators in the private room, including Shopkeeper Qu, stood up to welcome him.

Shen Ping hurriedly followed.

"I'm too late. Fellow Daoists, sorry to keep you waiting." The rough cultivator grinned and took a sip of the spirit wine on the table. "Not bad, it's good wine. The wine in this Virtue Tower is dry and strong. Old Ding, you've put in some effort."

Shopkeeper Ding smiled bitterly. "Senior Chong, stop mocking me. Hurry up and sit down."

Although the cultivator surnamed Chong deliberately restrained his spiritual pressure, he was clearly stronger than Shopkeeper Qu. He seemed to be at the late-stage Foundation Establishment Realm. From the looks of it, he was only slightly older than Shopkeeper Ding, but he might have taken the Beauty Pill.

"Fellow Daoists, I, Chong Ji, is someone who abhors evil. I'm a guest law enforcer in the True Treasure Pavilion." He laughed wildly.

Shen Ping, Guest Elder Cui, and the others' expressions turned cold.

Most of the people in the True Treasure Pavilion were Talisman Masters and Alchemy Masters with skills. Therefore, when the assessment recruited cultivators who mainly focused on killing and fighting, they were especially strict and serious. As long as they could enter the True Treasure Pavilion, they would have a lot of experience and methods.

Shopkeeper Ding smiled and added, "Guest Elder Chong is a second-grade Guest Elder."

As soon as he said this, the other guest elders cupped their hands solemnly. "Greetings, Guest Elder Chong!"

Guest Elder Chong waved his hand and said indifferently, "Don't do this. Since I'm here, I'm showing respect to Old Ding. Fellow Daoists, we'll be acquaintances in the future." He was very straightforward.

Shen Ping thought to himself that since he could become a second-grade guest, he was definitely not a simple person. After that, Shopkeeper Ding chatted about a few interesting things to liven up the atmosphere in the private room. After drinking dozens of cups of spirit wine, they became more harmonious.

"You can become a guest elder at the eighth level of Qi Refinement. Talisman Master Shen seems to have some standard in the Dao of Talismans." Guest Elder Chong looked at Shen Ping casually. "I have a disciple who likes to study the Dao of Talismans. It's just that his talent is ordinary. Level Two Talisman Masters like Guest Elder Cui are a little high for him. However, Talisman Master Shen is quite suitable. When he's free later, I'll get him to visit. It would be best if Talisman Master Shen could guide him."

Shopkeeper Ding hurriedly said, "Senior Chong, you've found the right person. Talisman Master Shen's Dao of Talismans is even praised endlessly by Guest Elder Cui and the others."

As he spoke, he gave Shen Ping a look. Shen Ping hurriedly cupped his hands. "Senior Chong is too polite. I will definitely do my best."

Guest Elder Chong grinned and said, "He's just a mid-grade Talisman Master. Talisman Master Shen can just give him some pointers. By the way, where does Talisman Master Shen live?"

Shen Ping immediately replied, "Huiquan Alley."

Guest Elder Chong was stunned. The private room fell silent.

“Seniors, my divine sense is relatively deep. It has already broken through to the Foundation Establishment Realm, so I can barely make Level 2 talismans.” Shen Ping realized that something was wrong and hurriedly stood up to explain.

Guest Elder Chong laughed..” Talisman Master Shen, you’re amazing!”

Chapter 90: Life Isn’t Easy

Amidst the toasts, the welcome gathering came to an end.

...

Shen Ping could clearly feel that the other guest ciders’ attitudes were much more enthusiastic. Even Shopkeeper Qu personally drank a cup of spirit wine with him.

Before leaving, Guest Elder Chong even handed over a communication talisman and said bluntly, “Talisman Master Shen can make a Level Two talisman at the eighth level of Qi Refinement. His potential is extraordinary. My disciple will disturb you if he visits. After a few years, he will have a more stable personality, at that time I’ll let Talisman Master Shen guide him.” He walked out of Virtue Tower.

Shopkeeper Ding caught up and said with a smile, “Talisman Master Shen, you’re hiding your strength well. You secretly changed to Huiquan Alley. The rent there is as high as 200 spirit stones a year. Even Guest Elder Cui and the others don’t have the confidence to live there.”

Shen Ping sighed in his heart. This time, he was still a little high-profile. However, it should not be a bad thing to be able to get to know Guest Chong and Shopkeeper Qu. Moreover, he was safe and free in Qingyang City. He still wanted to build his foundation as soon as possible. He had to reveal some things.

He had finally seen Shopkeeper Ding’s connections. No wonder he could take a flying ship in Cloud Mountain Parlour. It was even very likely that these were only some of Shopkeeper Ding’s connections. At least, he had never heard of Shopkeeper Ding’s family.

“Shopkeeper Ding. I had no choice but to change to Huiquan Alley. I’m already 50 years old this year. If I don’t speed up my cultivation, I’m afraid there’s no hope of reaching Foundation Establishment.”

Upon hearing this, Shopkeeper Ding sighed in agreement. “That’s right. We Qi Refinement cultivators still have to cross the threshold of Foundation Establishment in the end. Speaking of which, although I’m at the ninth level of Qi Refinement, I’m 55 years old. I’m afraid it’ll be difficult to cross if I delay for another two to three years.”

Shen Ping shook his head. “Shopkeeper Ding, your aura is thick. You should have reached the Perfection of Qi Refinement long ago. I believe that the Foundation Establishment is within these two years.”

“With Talisman Master Shen’s auspicious words, I hope to build my foundation as soon as possible.” Shopkeeper Ding chuckled. He had been polishing his foundation

all these years in order to break through in one go, but he had yet to find an opportunity.

They chatted for a while more. The two of them then left separately. He looked at Shopkeeper Ding's back.

Shen Ping looked thoughtful. Although the other party did not reveal anything, it seemed that there was something special about making Level Two talismans at the Qi Refinement Stage. It made Shopkeeper Ding, Guest Elder Chong, Shopkeeper Qu, and the others change their attitudes.

He returned to the small courtyard in Huiquan Alley. When he entered, he saw his wife busying herself in the small spiritual field.

"Husband, you're back." Wang Yun put down the work in her hands and hurriedly washed her hands before going forward. When she smelled the alcohol on Shen Ping, she hurriedly said, "Husband, I'll make you fresh soup."

Shen Ping nodded. With his current strength, he only needed to meditate for a short while to dissolve the wine's strength. However, making fresh soup was his wife's token of appreciation. He would not reject it.

After finishing the soup, he was not in the mood to make talismans today, so he simply planted some ordinary spiritual plants in the spiritual field with his wife and planted a spiritual date tree beside it.

At Red Willow Alley, he planted a date tree at the entrance, but he did not have the chance to plant it later. Now that he was in Qingyang City, he finally had some leisure time.

The stars were dazzling. The bed actually swayed with the sound of a symphony. The difficult action ended.

Bai Yuying stuck out her tongue and said softly, "Husband, you're getting more and more powerful. I have to have more nourishment tomorrow, or I won't even have the strength to speak in the future."

Luo Qing leaned against the bed and said faintly, "It's a little stronger, or it's too nourishing."

Shen Ping laughed dryly. "I'll be more careful in the future."

He secretly thought that it was most likely related to the increase in his immersive physique. He comforted his wife and concubines.

The daily comprehension began. He glanced at the virtual frame casually and put it away.

The improvement in the Dao of Talismans was very fast.

The bonus after the transformation of the golden frame allowed him to obtain 200 experience points per dual cultivation. Although the requirements for subsequent improvement were higher, according to the current speed, he would only need about a year to break through.

As for the metal and wood spiritual roots, they had entered a slow period. It would take at least four years for them to break through next time.

It was the same for divine sense and puppets.

Shen Ping could not help but look at his wife, Wang Yun. As his physique increased, Bai Yuying and Luo Qing almost could not take it. However, he did not take it to heart. There were many rare treasures in the True Treasure Pavilion, and they were more suitable for mortals. He would prepare more when the time came. His wife's physical condition could keep up. If it really didn't work, he could only waste more time.

"I have to buy the Beauty Pill." This thought suddenly appeared in his mind.

Peace returned to the following days. His cultivation life was on the right track. Making talismans, meditating, dual cultivation, accompanying... Occasionally, he would go to the True Treasure Pavilion to freeloader spiritual tea. Time passed quietly.

In the blink of an eye, March arrived. The area outside Qingyang City was emerald green, and the number of demon beasts emerging from the lake gradually increased.

Shen Ping ended his cultivation and used his divine sense to sense the spiritual energy in his dantian and meridians. A smile appeared on his face. The effects of cultivating in the Spirit Pool for the past three months were displayed.

Originally, he estimated that it would take another seven to eight months for his spiritual energy to be filled up at the eighth level of Qi Refinement. Yet he could reach it in another month now, and once the spiritual energy in his dantian was filled, he could prepare to break through.

Level Nine of Qi Refinement.

That was half a step into the Foundation Establishment Realm. He suppressed his emotions. When he arrived at the small courtyard, he looked at the quiet room of the spirit pool. For the past few days, Shen Ping did not go in to cultivate because Yu Yan was about to break through.

Yu Yan had the special physique, the residual effect of the Snow Ganoderma Pill, the dual cultivation technique of Acacia Faction, the Phoenix Fusion, as well as the supplementary pills and spirit liquid. Her cultivation speed was not as fast as his, but with those, she still had to cross the threshold of the late-stage Qi Refinement Realm.

However, her speed would slow down in the future. Even with a cultivation environment like the Spirit Pool chamber, Yu Yan would still be restricted by her aptitude. As long as she crossed the threshold of the late-stage Qi Refinement Realm, she had a high chance of building her foundation.

True Treasure Pavilion.

Shen Ping came to the contribution room on the second floor with ease. He took out his storage bag and exchanged it for some spirit stones and contribution points after three months of hard work. He was not in a hurry to buy the Beauty Pill. Instead, he went downstairs to the backyard.

Today was a fixed auction for three months. There might be some special treasures. He put on the mask. Before long, he arrived at the underground auction hall.

The overall layout of this auction hall was almost the same as that of Cloud Mountain Parlour, but it looked more grand and magnificent. The decorations of the private rooms on the second and third floors revealed a noble aura.

Furthermore, the participants were not only Foundation Establishment Cultivators, but also Golden Core experts.

As the auction proceeded, some rare treasures appeared. There were not many Snow Ganoderma Pills and Spirit Jade Ginseng Ointment. As soon as the host shouted, they were quickly bought at a high price.

Shen Ping did not even have a chance to bid. He could not help but sigh. Qingyang City was indeed very safe. After the auction ended, he returned to the second floor and barely bought three Beauty Pills with his contribution points.

The expenditure in Qingyang City was indeed not small. He could only accumulate it for a few more days. He was about to leave when his communication talisman vibrated. He opened it.

It was Mu Jin.

“Talisman Master Shen, do you have time now?”

“I’m on the second floor of the True Treasure Pavilion.” Shen Ping said and returned to the private room.

He hadn’t contacted Mu Jin much recently, nor had he mentioned the generous reward she had mentioned at Cloud Mountain Parlour. After all, life in Qingyang City was not easy, and a female cultivator at the mid-stage of Qi Refinement like Mu Jin wasn’t good at fighting. She could barely maintain herself.

He waited for a long time.

A round figure appeared at the door of the private room.

Mu Jin walked in and closed the door. She looked at the familiar private room and sighed. In the past, she used to rest in the private room at Cloud Mountain Parlour, but now... she could only sit in the chair at the side in silence.

“What’s the matter, Fellow Daoist Mu?” Shen Ping asked casually as he tasted the spiritual tea.

Mu Jin hesitated and squeezed out a sweet smile. “Talisman Master Shen, I work in the Pengyun Shop. If you have extra talismans in the future, can you sell them in the Pengyun Shop?”

“Pengyun Shop?” He looked puzzled. There was no famous shop in Qingyang City.

Mu Jin quickly explained, “It’s a newly opened shop. The shopkeeper is a good person, but there’s a lack of stable cooperative Talisman Masters.”

Shen Ping was enlightened. “There are some Foundation Establishment Talisman Masters in Qingyang City. Since they can open a shop here, they must have a strong background. They shouldn’t need a high-grade Talisman Master like me to sell them, right?”

Mu Jin lowered her head. “Yes, I’m the one who needs your help.”

“I haven’t seen the generous reward that Fellow Daoist Mu mentioned last time. How can I help?” Shen Ping said calmly. Selling talismans was a small matter.

“I-I’m willing, I’m willing... I’m willing to let Talisman Master Shen go to my bedroom to take a look at the layout..”

