

## **King Hall 991**

Chapter 991: Remaining Shadow Life Medallion and Curse Oath!

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan, along with the City Lord and Wu Zhiming, all watched with tense eyes as Mu Jinyu and the envoy from the Heavenly Palace engaged in a grand and poetic duel!

Under the gaze of countless onlookers.

Finally, Qinglian and the Black Knight, whose spear danced like a dragon's shadow, clashed with a resounding impact!

"Boom!!"

A loud explosion rang out.

Subsequently, the Black Knight, who seemed capable of slaughtering dragons and decimating Unity Realm experts with ease, had his Destruction God Spear obliterated in the confrontation with Qinglian!

It was as if the whirling Qinglian was a cutting machine, and his spear was merely a lettuce!

"Tear!!"

After destroying the spear, Qinglian did not lose momentum and swiftly wrapped around, twisting the Black Knight into a shadowy mass before it dispersed into smoke!

"Pfft!!"

As the Black Knight was annihilated, the youth from the Heavenly Palace spewed out a large mouthful of crimson blood!

His body swayed violently in the void, almost plummeting from the air!

"How... how is this possible?!"

The youth eventually managed to stabilize himself, barely preventing a fall from the sky!

He looked at the Green Emperor's shadow with disbelief, unable to fathom how Mu Jinyu achieved such a domain!

Moreover, why does Mu Jinyu have multiple domains?

Having multiple domains would be one thing, but how can he simultaneously unfold a Slaughter Domain and a Green Emperor Domain?

This was what baffled the youth the most!

It's not unheard of for people to comprehend multiple domains in the Kunlun Ruins, but it's rare, much like the sword intent in the Divinity Transformation Realm. Some people might not grasp even one sword intent by the late Divine Transformation Realm stage, while some prodigies comprehend multiple domains early on!

However, multiple domains can usually only be switched between during battle but cannot be simultaneously unleashed together!

He had never heard of anyone capable of such a feat!

Yet, this guy, who dared to challenge the might of the Heavenly Palace, managed it!

Moreover, under his feet, that Azure Dragon shadow also seemed to be a transformation of a domain!

Doesn't that mean he can unleash three domains at once?

This made the youth so envious he was nearly going mad!

"Very good!"

Mu Jinyu didn't care about the envy of the youth from the Heavenly Palace; he was delighted to see the youth's killing move neutralized by him!

Then, he prepared to go for it and finish off the guy!

"Hah!"

With a loud shout, Mu Jinyu once again stimulated his True Yuan, and instantly, the spinning Qinglian split apart, transforming into a blazing sun and a bright, cool moon.

Afterward, the sun and moon fell into the Green Emperor's hands, and he stepped forward towards the youth.

The sun and moon revolved in the Green Emperor's hands, and ultimately merged into a more blazing and terrifying wave of light, exuding unparalleled world-destroying power!

The sight made the youth from the Heavenly Palace's scalp tingle with numbness!

He knew that if he tried to face this move head-on, he would undoubtedly die!

What kind of freak is this?

The youth cursed in his heart, then raised his hand and flipped it over. Instantly, a brilliant golden bell appeared out of thin air, and as it grew larger in the wind, it became three meters in size, enveloping him!

"Rumble!!"

As soon as the golden bell enveloped the youth, the Green Emperor rushed forward, raised his hand, and pressed down. This terrifying killing move of a simultaneous sun and moon smashed into the surface of the golden bell!

"Dong!!"

"Dong!!!"

The clear bell chimes grew louder and louder, resonating from the battle area and rippling outward!

The sound waves seemed to carry a terrifying attack power. Everything along the way, whether or not inscribed with defensive prohibitions, collapsed into powder as the waves swept over them!

Fortunately, the City Lord knew this battle between immortals would definitely affect the people, and had ordered everyone to retreat long ago!

As a result, the aftermath of the two people's battle resulted only in damage to houses, with no loss of life!

"Retreat, retreat further!"

At this moment, the City Lord saw the destructive power of the bell chime sound waves, his face changed, realizing it was the treasured item the elder from the Heavenly Palace mentioned, brought to slay the Demon Phoenix!

Without hesitation, he shouted for everyone to retreat further, to leave Demon Slaying City!

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan, though worried about Mu Jinyu, knew he had clearly gained the upper hand in the earlier exchange. So seeing the surrounding environment about to be affected by the aftermath of the fight, they didn't hesitate too much and followed the City Lord in retreating further back!

"Dong!!"

On the battlefield, Mu Jinyu saw that the killing move of a simultaneous sun and moon, deployed by the Green Emperor, failed to harm the youth from the Heavenly Palace, and his brows furrowed.

He knew this was because his strength was still slightly lacking.

Although his cultivation temporarily reached the Fourth Layer of the Fanxu Realm with the aid of the True Dragon Art, the gap was still substantial compared to the opponent's Eighth Level of the Fanxu Realm!

Therefore, even with the simultaneous revelation of three ultimate domains, and the powers reaching their pinnacle, continuously breaking through the opponent's domain and intent moves, it was difficult to break through once the opponent brought out a treasured item!

"You think only you have treasured items?"

Seeing the aftermath of the simultaneous sun and moon disappear and the golden bell still perfectly intact, Mu Jinyu sneered.

Then, Mu Jinyu took out the Bi Fang Cauldron, letting it enlarge, and enclosed the golden bell within the cauldron like nesting dolls!

"Dong!"

Mu Jinyu covered the cauldron lid, wildly pouring True Yuan into the Bi Fang Cauldron, and ignited the Bi Fang Flame within!

At this moment, after devouring the Phoenix True Fire of the Demon Phoenix, the power of the Bi Fang Flame seemed to increase. Once ignited, the flames raged, causing the surrounding void of the Bi Fang Cauldron to twist wildly.

It seemed as if the next second, the void would burn down from the scorching temperature!

"Ah!!"

A miserable scream came from within the Bi Fang Cauldron instantly!

"How dare you!!"

"I am the Divine Envoy of the Heavenly Palace; you dare to refine me!"

"Release me now, and I can spare your life!"

"..."

Inside the Bi Fang Cauldron, the curses and scoldings of the youth continued, but as Mu Jinyu relentlessly poured True Yuan to provoke the Bi Fang Flame, he began to plead for mercy as he could no longer endure.

"Spare me, I won't dare oppose you again!"

"Don't kill me, I'm the Divine Envoy of the Heavenly Palace; if I die, you will face dire consequences!"

"I have a Remaining Shadow Life Token at the Heavenly Palace. If I die, a shadow will remain there. Once the Heavenly Palace knows the truth of my death, they will hunt you down, and you will have nowhere to escape. Do not further deceive yourself..."

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu furrowed his brows slightly, and his actions subconsciously paused.

A Remaining Shadow Life Token meant quite a bit of trouble indeed.

His appearance had already been memorized by all those in Demon Slaying City, and they knew he was Mu Jinyu from the Yan Kingdom. Unless he killed everyone in the city, the Heavenly Palace could learn his identity from the townsfolk and direct their wrath at the Heavenly Sword Faction.

This was quite a predicament.

If he had known this would happen, he should have disguised himself and hidden his identity from the beginning!

But how could he have known he would run into people from the Heavenly Palace here?

As the youth felt the temperature of the flames inside the Bi Fang Cauldron drop, he immediately knew that Mu Jinyu was hesitant and continued to persuade him: "Let me out, and I won't kill you. I won't report this to the Heavenly Palace either. If you don't trust me, I can swear an oath!"

"A curse oath?!"

Hearing the youth's words, Mu Jinyu's eyes lit up, and he paused his actions.

He wasn't interested in giving the youth a chance to survive with a curse oath.

Instead, the mention of a curse oath reminded him of a type of cursing technique that would let him control the life and death of the other, making him a slave, a servant!

Chapter 992: Establishing the Cursing Technique! Subjugating as Slave!

The so-called Curse Oath of the Heavenly Palace youth is a type of cursing spell, where, after taking an oath, one guarantees not to continue opposing others. If violated, the consequences would be extremely miserable!

However, this kind of oath can easily leave various small loopholes in wordplay that are hard to detect.

For example, the youth ensures that he no longer dares to oppose Mu Jinyu, and Mu Jinyu agrees to let him take this Curse Oath without delving into details. Thus, he could later hint at others to besiege Mu Jinyu without violating the oath.

Such a Curse Oath is not reliable, Mu Jinyu doesn't take it seriously at all.

However, with the other's reminder, Mu Jinyu recalls a type of cursing technique; once successfully cast, the other's life and death will be under Mu Jinyu's control with a single thought.

And they will not dare to betray him again!

"If you want me to spare your life, you must relax your mind and let me plant the restrictions!"

Mu Jinyu spoke coldly.

"Isn't taking the Curse Oath enough?"

Inside the Bi Fang Cauldron, the youth's voice came painfully, with a trace of pleading.

Mu Jinyu's tone remained indifferent as he replied, "I am not assured."

"I can..." the youth heard and wanted to continue to say something.

Mu Jinyu, however, directly interrupted him, "Stop babbling, either agree or die, you have no room to negotiate!"

Then he fiercely urged his True Yuan once again, causing the temperature inside the paused Bi Fang Cauldron to rise again.

"Ah!!"

The youth let out a miserable howl, unable to endure the torture, and hurriedly shouted, "I agree, I agree..."

"Humph." Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu snorted coldly, inwardly cursing the coward, then ceased his infusion of True Yuan, allowing the temperature inside the Bi Fang Cauldron to drop.

He then boldly uncovered the lid of the cauldron, having no fear about whether the youth would dare to escape or retaliate!

"Whoosh!"

With the cauldron's lid open, Mu Jinyu also relaxed the suppression of the Golden Bell inside the Bi Fang Cauldron, a flash of Huaguang appeared, and then the Golden Bell leapt out of the Bi Fang Cauldron.

As Mu Jinyu predicted, the youth, having exited the Bi Fang Cauldron, did not consider risking his life against Mu Jinyu nor using the Blood Escape Technique to ride the Golden Bell away!

He remained obediently by his side, not daring to make rash moves.

"Boom!"

A clear bell sound rang, and the youth, with a pale face and eyes filled with fear, walked out of the protection of the Golden Bell.

Just as Mu Jinyu expected, after being refined by the Bi Fang Cauldron, the youth's cultivation, whether it was True Yuan, Divine Sense, or Essence Blood, had been largely refined. Now, his aura is as weak as the Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, lacking the arrogance he had upon arrival.

Under such circumstances, where would he dare to contemplate risking his life or escaping?

If he infuriates Mu Jinyu, he would truly die without a burial place!

"Relax your mind!" Mu Jinyu demanded coldly when he saw the youth emerge.

"Yes..."

The youth, with a pale face, felt a slight shiver in his heart hearing Mu Jinyu, nodded and responded.

Despite being unwilling, under Mu Jinyu's threat, he could only relax his mind.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu's Divine Sense instantly rushed into the youth's Sea of Consciousness, locating his soul within.

It was a cluster of mist, seemingly ready to disperse at any moment.

Mu Jinyu understood that the youth's original soul should have been very concentrated, but after being refined by the Bi Fang Cauldron, it was on the verge of dispersing, hence his urgent plea for mercy.

With a cold smile of self-inflicted misfortune, Mu Jinyu began to cast spells on the youth's soul.

Fifteen minutes later.

Mu Jinyu finally completed the Forbidden Curse Technique.

"Go!"

Mu Jinyu flicked his fingers, and a dazzling white light shot from his fingertips, piercing into the youth's soul!

"Ah!!"

The youth, unprepared, immediately screamed miserably.

Mu Jinyu no longer cared, directly leaving his Sea of Consciousness, his Spiritual Thought returning to his own body.

"What did you... do to me?"

Mu Jinyu opened his eyes to see the youth simultaneously opening his, filled with fear and regret, shouting in fear.

"Restriction, so you dare not betray me!" Mu Jinyu replied indifferently.

"No, this is not a restriction!" The youth shook his head vigorously, shouting hoarsely, "Why do I feel my life is under your control?!"

He could sense that the tricks Mu Jinyu played on his soul were not simple restrictions to prevent him from divulging information about the Heavenly Palace but rather a strange and vicious means, wherein he felt his life seemed to be entirely under Mu Jinyu's control!

Previously, to survive, he agreed to Mu Jinyu's conditions, relaxing his mind to allow him to apply a restriction to his soul, initially believing it was just to prevent him from leaking information, agreeing readily.

Because such Soul-Suppressing Ban, there were many mighty seniors in the Heavenly Palace, easily capable of breaking it, he wasn't worried at all.

He even planned to continue retaliating against Mu Jinyu once the restriction was broken!

But who could have guessed, Mu Jinyu wasn't laying down that kind of restriction, instead enslaving him, controlling his life completely.

With such means, let alone whether any mighty seniors in the Heavenly Palace could break it, even if there were, he dared not seek them to do so, as once detected by Mu Jinyu, a mere thought from him could cause instant death!

This made the youth feel extremely miserable; had he known that agreeing to Mu Jinyu would lead to such a fate, he'd rather be refined alive within the Bi Fang Cauldron, transmitting his dying moments to the Life medallion so the Heavenly Palace higher-ups would know Mu Jinyu's appearance and hunt him down until he has nowhere to escape, in the heavens or earth!

'Or, should I just commit suicide now to expose Mu Jinyu's true nature to the Heavenly Palace...'

The idea just emerged!

"Ah!!"

Suddenly, the youth felt as though his head were about to explode, his entire body feeling like it's being pierced by sharp needles, causing him to emit an inhuman scream.

The youth collapsed to the ground, rolling incessantly like a dying dog.

After a long while, he finally felt much better, panting on the ground.

"Whatever thought you have, I will know; don't even think about plotting against me!"

At that moment, Mu Jinyu's cold voice sounded above the youth.

Although weak and unwilling to rise, to survive the youth bit his lip, enduring the weakness, struggling from the ground.

"Thud!"

Once up, he immediately knelt at Mu Jinyu's feet, speaking in a trembling voice, "I was wrong, I'll never dare again, beg the master to spare my life..."

Seeing the youth finally resign, starting to call himself master, Mu Jinyu's mouth curled into a cold smile, calmly saying, "That will depend on your performance..."

After finishing, Mu Jinyu added, "Stand up, introduce yourself, and casually tell me about the Heavenly Palace!"

"Yes! Master!"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, only then did the youth dare to rise from the ground, lacking the dominance he arrived with, wearing a flattering smile, just like a eunuch from the Imperial Palace.

Chapter 993: News about Soul Seizing in the Heavenly Palace!

From the young man's narration, Mu Jinyu learned that the other party's name was Hua Yunfei!

At the same time, he also learned a lot of information about the Heavenly Palace from Hua Yunfei.

For instance, the Heavenly Palace has only one supreme Palace Master, and below him are the Four Great Divine Envoys, named after the Four Symbols.

Azure Dragon Envoy, Vermilion Bird Envoy, White Tiger Envoy, Xuanwu Envoy...

They each oversee a direction of the Kunlun Ruins, controlling countless experts.

Mu Jinyu also learned many names and powers of these people.

Moreover, there are more secrets that Hua Yunfei either doesn't know about or knows but has a restriction placed on him. If he speaks, he will surely die suddenly.

Therefore, he dared not speak out and only shared these with Mu Jinyu.

After listening, Mu Jinyu tried to see if he could relieve Hua Yunfei's restriction, but after attempting, he found that his current cultivation was too low, and the person who placed the restriction on Hua Yunfei should be at the Unity Realm Stage, and not just any Unity Realm Stage expert, so he dared not act rashly.

"Whew..."

Seeing that Mu Jinyu wasn't heedlessly trying to undo the Soul-Suppressing Ban set by the Heavenly Palace higher-ups, Hua Yunfei immediately let out a long breath of relief.

At first, when he heard Mu Jinyu might try to undo the restriction, he was so scared that his soul nearly fled, ready to refuse instantly, not wanting Mu Jinyu to use his life to test.

Unfortunately, now his life was controlled by Mu Jinyu, how could he refuse?

In the end, he could only nervously let Mu Jinyu inspect him, hoping that his master wouldn't joke around with his life.

Fortunately, Mu Jinyu didn't act recklessly in the end.

But it still scared him quite a bit.

Without caring for Hua Yunfei's startled feelings, after realizing he couldn't uncover more hidden secrets from him, Mu Jinyu wasn't too disappointed; he'd just explore on his own later.

Then, he remembered his major goal of coming to Kunlun Ruins, to restore the bodies of Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan!

So, he asked Hua Yunfei: "Hey, do you know if there's any Forbidden Secret Technique about possession in Kunlun Ruins?"

Mu Jinyu had been in Kunlun Ruins for nearly half a year, learning around in various places, but none of the factions seemed to know about possession.

Hence, he hadn't found a breakthrough, only to pin his hopes on the Hidden Dragon Conference, in the end favored by the Heavenly Palace, rewarded with the desired items!

But he also dared not be sure that the Heavenly Palace definitely possessed the Soul Snatching Secret Technique, or a remedy for it.

So, he decided to first ask Hua Yunfei; if Hua Yunfei didn't know, he would have to consider whether to attend the Hidden Dragon Conference.

Yet regardless of whether the Heavenly Palace knew of the possession secret technique or not, Mu Jinyu believed that Kunlun Ruins surely had such a secret technique; otherwise, Nameless couldn't have just acquired such a technique outside randomly.

"Soul Snatching Secret Technique?"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's inquiry, Hua Yunfei's expression changed, once again asking the question.

Mu Jinyu heard his tone, saw his facial change, and his heart was filled with joy, knowing the other indeed knew about possession.

"Yes, Soul Snatching Secret Technique!" Mu Jinyu suppressed his excitement and nodded.

Hua Yunfei's eyes revealed a hint of dread and fear, saying, "I remember the Heavenly Palace indeed has such a secret technique. At the time in the Heavenly Palace, I encountered a young man who was about my age. We got along well, but after a while, when I saw him again, he didn't acknowledge me at all, emanating a peculiar and aged aura all over him, somewhat resembling an elder whom I had once seen near the end of his days. Then I heard my master calling him some 'sir,' just like the usual name of that elder..."

"So..."

Hua Yunfei stopped here, his eyes showing fear and unease, saying softly:

"I suspect that this elder possessed the young man with excellent aptitude when he was nearing his end!"

"I dare not be too sure how long he has been possessing, or how many bodies he has changed, I only guess his status in Heavenly Palace doesn't lose to the Four Great Divine Envoys!"

Mu Jinyu thought deeply after hearing Hua Yunfei's words and nodded, "Is that so? Well, I roughly understand now..."

Although Mu Jinyu couldn't ascertain how many times that person had possessed from Hua Yunfei's words, the fact that there's indeed possession secret technique in the Heavenly Palace was enough.

Seeing Mu Jinyu exposing a contemplative expression after finishing his words, seemingly considering something, Hua Yunfei's expression tensed up, immediately reminding: "Master, please don't think of targeting that person, his power is very strong, at least Mid Hedao Realm Peak, which is also why I suspect he possessed!"

"Once you offend him and anger the Heavenly Palace, Kunlun Ruins will truly have no place for you!"

Mu Jinyu heard Hua Yunfei's urgent words, came back to his senses, and looked at him with a hint of amusement, saying: "Rest assured, I won't make you an inside man to help me scheme against that person, even if I do intend to make trouble, it won't involve you!"

"Master... I... I didn't mean it that way..."

Listening to Mu Jinyu's slightly playful words, Hua Yunfei's face flushed red all of a sudden, tongue-tied, wanting to explain something.

Mu Jinyu waved his hand slightly and said blandly: "No need to explain, I know exactly what you're thinking..."

"Oh... sorry, Master..." Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Hua Yunfei opened his mouth and then sighed despondently, honestly admitting.

Indeed, after Mu Jinyu's inquiry about the Soul Snatching Secret Technique, Hua Yunfei reacted and thought that Mu Jinyu wanted him to be the inside man in the Heavenly Palace, helping him take down that person.

This truly frightened him, once he really helped Mu Jinyu scheme against the man, things would break out, not only would he die without a burial place!

Even the Hua Family behind him would completely perish!

Hence, he hurriedly reminded Mu Jinyu with urgency.

But he forgot, after Mu Jinyu set the Cursing Technique on him, all his thoughts could be easily discerned by Mu Jinyu, making him feel deeply ashamed.

Mu Jinyu also didn't feel like fussing with Hua Yunfei; this person currently still has some use, letting him have extra help when he enters the Heavenly Palace later.

Thinking for a moment, Mu Jinyu said: "Come over, I'll heal your injuries so when you return to the Heavenly Palace later, nothing suspicious will be detected."

"Ah? Okay..."

Hua Yunfei heard Mu Jinyu's words, hesitated a bit then quickly agreed.

Subsequently, Mu Jinyu fed him a pill and then used Life Source Energy to heal his injuries, restoring his True Yuan.

Very quickly, Hua Yunfei's injuries recovered, from the outside appearance, he looked pretty much the same as when he came.

But both Mu Jinyu and Hua Yunfei knew there were still some differences because the soul injury wasn't healed.

"Alright, that's about it, you can leave now," Mu Jinyu withdrew his hand and spoke lightly.

Hua Yunfei snapped back to reality, looking at Mu Jinyu with surprise and doubt, not expecting his cheap master had just fed him such a miraculous pill, with all his injuries, except for the soul injury, fully recovered.

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu letting him leave, this made him even more ecstatic, not wanting to stay with Mu Jinyu for another second.

Subsequently, Hua Yunfei collected the Golden Bell, said farewell to Mu Jinyu, and left the Demon Slaying City.

Due to their previous fight, all built structures within several hundred meters of the city platform were completely destroyed, the original teleportation array in Demon Slaying City was gone, he had to borrow a route from another city to return to the Heavenly Palace.

Chapter 994: Bluffing Through!

Watching Hua Yunfei leave, Mu Jinyu's gaze was full of reluctance.

It wasn't reluctance to let his newly acquired servant leave; he didn't care much about this servant.

If it weren't a bit troublesome to just kill Hua Yunfei directly, he would have sent him to the Western Heaven long ago.

Mu Jinyu's reluctance was toward that Golden Bell.

That was indeed a treasured item, its rank was likely on par with the Bi Fang Cauldron, both being top-quality spiritual treasures!

It was only a step away from generating an artifact spirit and becoming a heaven-reaching spiritual treasure!

At that time, when he collected it into the Bi Fang Cauldron, along with refining Hua Yunfei for a long time, it remained unharmed, which was a testament to its power.

If not for the unique Bi Fang Flame, able to infiltrate and scorch Hua Yunfei, it's likely he wouldn't have any means to deal with Hua Yunfei even now.

How could Mu Jinyu not want such a treasured item?

Even if he didn't want it for himself, he could give it to Wen Rou or Jian Ruyan to use, ensuring their safety even more.

However, regrettably, he dared not seize it directly now.

After all, he had already decided to spare Hua Yunfei and take him as a servant, making him an insider and mole within the Heavenly Palace.

If he took that Golden Bell now, how would Hua Yunfei explain it when he returned to the Heavenly Palace?

It would inevitably implicate him.

Considering many factors, Mu Jinyu had to painfully give up and let Hua Yunfei take that Golden Bell away.

"Sigh..."

Mu Jinyu sighed quietly, then looked toward Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan, who were flying toward him, along with Wu Zhiming and the others.

"Brother Mu, are you okay?"

Seeing the people from the Heavenly Palace leave, although they didn't know what was discussed between him and Mu Jinyu, seeing the two sides made peace, they all breathed a sigh of relief and flew toward Mu Jinyu.

"I'm fine, and the people from the Heavenly Palace have also left."

After giving Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan a reassuring look, Mu Jinyu gently shook his head at the City Lord and others, saying, "I'm sorry for destroying the walls of your Demon Slaying City."

"It's not a big deal, as long as you're okay..."

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, everyone quickly smiled and said.

The walls of Demon Slaying City were for defending against the onslaught from the Demon Beast Mountain Range, but now with the massive beast tide coming and going, even if the walls collapse now, there's little worry.

Once they rebuild the walls, even the ferocious beasts in the Demon Beast Mountain Range can't recover their elemental Qi!

They naturally wouldn't dwell on it.

After that, they invited Mu Jinyu to attend the celebration banquet they were about to hold.

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu gently shook his head and said, "No need, I am preparing to leave."

Upon hearing this, the City Lord knew that Mu Jinyu's quick departure was likely due to his own reckless actions.

If he hadn't notified the Heavenly Palace before the agreed time, things wouldn't have turned out this way in the end.

He had no idea how Mu Jinyu had made peace with the people from the Heavenly Palace.

Feeling full of guilt, the City Lord couldn't help but try to retain Mu Jinyu, frankly saying that the protective national reward he applied for him would arrive soon, hoping Mu Jinyu would stay a little longer.

Mu Jinyu shook his head and eventually, under the reluctant and guilty gaze of the City Lord and Wu Zhiming, he left Demon Slaying City with Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan.

...

On the other side.

After leaving Demon Slaying City, Hua Yunfei took a few shichen to find another city, and upon revealing his identity as an envoy from the Heavenly Palace, he activated the teleportation array and left the Wu Kingdom.

"Buzz!"

After a strong feeling of weightlessness and dizziness, Hua Yunfei slightly shook his head to adapt.

In front of him was a room made of special black stone, entirely pitch black, with a few greenish candle flames giving off a somewhat eerie yin Qi.

"How did things go?"

At this moment, an old and cold voice suddenly sounded in Hua Yunfei's ear.

Upon hearing this, Hua Yunfei couldn't help but tremble in his heart, then forced himself to calm down and looked up in the direction from where the voice came.

It was the elder that the City Lord of Demon Slaying City previously contacted through the bronze mirror, now sitting upright on a stone chair, his murky eyes looking at him.

Hua Yunfei's heart skipped a beat and he quickly said, "Reporting to the Hall Master, I arrived late, and when I got to Demon Slaying City, the Demon Phoenix had already left the Demon Beast Mountain Range after breaking through to the Demon Emperor's Realm, currently whereabouts unknown..."

"I see."

The old man didn't show much disappointment upon hearing Hua Yunfei's report since it was just a newly advanced demon to the Demon Emperor's Realm. If it didn't contain a trace of Phoenix Bloodline, he wouldn't have sent Hua Yunfei to capture it.

"After that Demon Phoenix left, did you find anything in the Demon Beast Mountain Range?" the old man asked again.

Hua Yunfei gently shook his head, "No, it should have taken everything away."

"Very well, return the Soul-Suppressing Bell then," the old man said with a trace of disappointment in his expression.

"Yes!"

Hua Yunfei respectfully complied and then took the Golden Bell from the storage bag and handed it over.

After receiving the Soul-Suppressing Bell, the old man checked it slightly, letting out a curious "huh," "Huh, that's odd..."

This little sound nearly scared Hua Yunfei to the point of his soul flying away.

He thought that the old man had discovered something, and feared for his life.

At this point, his life was fully in Mu Jinyu's control, and he dared not think of seeking revenge after returning and having the restrictions lifted by the Heavenly Palace's higher-ups.

And so he had completely pledged allegiance to Mu Jinyu, betraying the Heavenly Palace.

"What's wrong?" Hua Yunfei asked in a trembling voice.

The old man gave him a puzzled look and said, "How come the Soul-Suppressing Bell has been used? Didn't you say you didn't encounter the Demon Phoenix?"

Upon hearing this, Hua Yunfei breathed a sigh of relief and then explained, "Because I didn't find the Demon Phoenix's whereabouts, I felt I couldn't just come for nothing, and thought the people of Demon Slaying City were deceiving me, so I asked them for an explanation..."

"But they were uncooperative, and in the end, I had to take action against them!"

A flicker of doubt flashed in the elderly man's eyes as he said, "But as I recall, the City Lord of Demon Slaying City is only at the Seventh Layer of the Fanxu Realm. You being in the Eighth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, is it necessary to use the Soul-Suppressing Bell?"

Hua Yunfei continued to explain, "This beast tide was particularly violent, intended by that Demon Phoenix to undergo Tribulation Transcendence in peace without human disturbance, causing all the ferocious beasts and demon beasts of the Demon Beast Mountain Range to attack. With the City Lord's strength, how could he withstand it? Fortunately, a cultivator at the Peak Ninth Layer of the Fanxu Realm happened to pass by Demon Slaying City and helped out!"

"This person was unwilling to give me compensation after I demanded an explanation and dared to fight me, so I had to use the Soul-Suppressing Bell to shake him to death!"

"Is that so..." the old man lost all interest after hearing Hua Yunfei's explanation, his eyes returning to murky once more, "You may take your leave."

He didn't bother with Hua Yunfei pocketing extra gains, nor did he order him to hand them over.

Such matters occur often in the Heavenly Palace, and he could not possibly put a stop to it.

Moreover, he believed that an envoy from the Heavenly Palace shouldn't end up with nothing for his efforts.

"Yes... Hall Master!"

Hua Yunfei relaxed his tensed nerves and respectfully exited the room.

Chapter 995: Dayan Dynasty!

Mu Jinyu, along with Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan, left Demon Slaying City and boarded the Flying Shuttle. The mountains and earth below them quickly passed by as they left Wu Kingdom.

This time, he didn't want to waste much time on the road and planned to head directly to the Dayan Dynasty, conduct a final cultivation surge, and then participate in the Hidden Dragon Conference!

In just seven days, Mu Jinyu steered the Flying Shuttle and finally arrived in the highly prosperous territory of the Dayan Dynasty.

Here, even ordinary cities were more splendid than the King's City of other countries.

But Mu Jinyu didn't linger in these ordinary cities, heading straight towards the King's City of the Dayan Dynasty.

Another day passed.

"Finally arrived..."

Mu Jinyu stood at the front of the Flying Shuttle, gazing at the colossal, majestic city ahead, his eyes displaying a curious expression.

The city before him was formidable, like a slumbering Qilin beast, emitting an endless aura of prosperity.

Above the city in the void, one could vaguely see the soaring East-coming Purple Qi, appearing immensely noble; faintly, it seemed that within the Purple Qi, a dragon was stealthily swimming by.

The King's City of the Dayan Dynasty before his eyes was more grand and magnificent by ten times over than the King's Cities of the Yan Kingdom, Jiang Country, and other nations!

"After all, it is the only Dynasty in Kunlun Ruins, naturally incomparable to Yan Kingdom, Zhao Kingdom, Jiang Country, and other nations!"

Jian Ruyan laughed lightly upon hearing Mu Jinyu's murmurs and said.

"Moreover, the current Son of Heaven of the Dayan Dynasty was the champion of the previous Hidden Dragon Conference, the sole True Dragon existence; blessed by the Dragon Vein Qi Luck of Kunlun Ruins, naturally making the nation even stronger..."

"Oh, is that so?" Mu Jinyu heard Jian Ruyan's response, his eyes flashing with interest, recalling the dragon silhouette he saw in the void within the Purple Qi, guessing that perhaps it was the manifestation of Dragon Vein Qi Luck?

Thus, Mu Jinyu asked, "Did the Son of Heaven of the Dayan Dynasty also join the Heavenly Palace? Is he currently in the King's City?"

Jian Ruyan pondered for a moment, glancing again at the Phenomena with Purple Qi enveloping the sky, then uncertainly said, "The Son of Heaven of the Dayan Dynasty seems to have joined the Heavenly Palace? I'm not too sure, and I can't recall if he usually resides in the Imperial Capital, but with the Hidden Dragon Conference about to begin, even if he isn't usually in the Imperial Capital, he should return to oversee things soon!"

Mu Jinyu further inquired, "Does the Dragon Vein Qi Luck of Kunlun Ruins always follow the champion of the Hidden Dragon Conference, or does it remain within the champion's nation?"

Jian Ruyan shook his head, "That I don't know, but supposedly the champion personally occupies a large portion of the Dragon Vein Qi Luck, with another portion blessing the family, sect, and nation behind them..."

Mu Jinyu then asked, "If I achieve a good ranking in the Hidden Dragon Conference and leave Kunlun Ruins afterward, will the Dragon Vein Qi Luck accompany me? Will it bless the Dragon King Hall?"

Jian Ruyan found Mu Jinyu's query somewhat amusing, shaking his head, "How would I know? Probably not, as no one has ever tested it..."

"Alright." Mu Jinyu replied without much disappointment.

Indeed, after seeing the Imperial Capital of the Dayan Dynasty, witnessing the purple qi swirling and the dragon qi surrounding thriving scenes, he genuinely wished to bring this Dragon Vein Qi Luck back to the Dragon King Hall.

But if it wasn't possible, he didn't mind.

He wouldn't persist in staying in Kunlun Ruins, just to remain under the Dragon Vein Qi Luck's protection, without returning to Huaxia.

Thereafter, Mu Jinyu wasted no more words, steering the Flying Shuttle forward towards the Imperial Capital at full speed.

An hour later.

Mu Jinyu's Flying Shuttle finally halted before the Imperial Capital.

Not only was there a Sky Restriction Array near the Imperial Capital prohibiting anyone from flying arbitrarily in the sky, but it was also essential for queuing to enter the Imperial Capital.

With time slowly slipping away, less than a month remained until the Hidden Dragon Conference would commence.

Now, Heaven's Pride from various lands, and those concealed monsters, even those merchants without the qualification to participate in the Hidden Dragon Conference but eager to glimpse the unmatched elegance of great Heaven's Pride, all swarmed toward the Dayan Imperial Capital.

If the Dayan Imperial Capital wasn't large enough, no King's City in any other country could accommodate such an influx of people.

After queuing for thirty minutes, it finally was Mu Jinyu's group's turn.

"City Entrance Fee, one Superior-grade Spirit Stone per person!"

The guards at the city gate shouted.

"So expensive?" Mu Jinyu furrowed his brow upon hearing so.

One Superior-grade Spirit Stone was equivalent to one hundred Low Grade Spirit Stones, and one Low Grade Spirit Stone could be exchanged for one thousand taels of silver in the mundane world. One hundred Low Grade Spirit Stones equated to one hundred thousand taels of silver, a fortune that an ordinary individual couldn't accumulate in their lifetime.

And this was merely the City Entrance Fee of the Dayan Dynasty.

"Pay or leave quickly if not paying!"

The guards didn't offer much explanation, and upon hearing Mu Jinyu's remark on the expensiveness, impassively said.

People queued behind Mu Jinyu, hearing his discussion with the guards, also flipped their eyes and shouted for Mu Jinyu, that poor chap, to hurry up and leave, not waste their time.

Though Mu Jinyu felt a bit displeased, he still handed over three Superior-grade Spirit Stones to the guards, finally able to enter the Dayan Imperial Capital.

"Just damn greedy for money!"

Upon entering the city, Mu Jinyu grumbled discontentedly.

Jian Ruyan consoled, "Relax, generally speaking, the City Entrance Fee is expensive because the Hidden Dragon Conference is about to start, designed to screen out some ordinary spectators. After all, even as large as the Imperial Capital is, it can't accommodate everyone without restriction!"

"Moreover, this City Entrance Fee isn't entirely unjustified; given so many people entering the capital, chaos is inevitable, leading to conflicts easily. Should such occurrences arise, the Hedao Realm Experts in the Imperial Capital will act to maintain order!"

"Alright, I get it." Mu Jinyu replied irritably.

Despite his current wealth, three Superior-grade Spirit Stones weren't much, yet it still soured his mood.

But having paid, he felt reluctance to say more.

Still, Jian Ruyan's words served as a reminder that within the Dayan Dynasty, there were indeed Hedao Realm experts present.

No wonder it's Kunlun Ruins' sole dynasty!

It's known that ordinary countries of Kunlun Ruins, like Yan Kingdom and others, the strongest ones are merely at the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, lacking even Late Stage Fanxu Realm experts.

Whereas the Dayan Dynasty had Hedao Phase experts; and according to Jian Ruyan, there seemed to be more than one, which was quite frightening.

"Let's go, find the training grounds within the Imperial Capital!"

Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly, no longer pondering, informed Jian Ruyan, and then began looking around for special shops with Secret Cultivation Chambers!

Jian Ruyan suddenly said, "Follow me, I know where the Secret Cultivation Chamber is!"

Chapter 996: Heavenly Rank Cultivation Chamber!

"Hmm?"

Mu Jinyu stopped and looked at Jian Ruyan with surprise, asking, "How do you know?"

Jian Ruyan explained, "Because I've been here a few times before."

"Oh."

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu remembered that Jian Ruyan originally came from the Kunlun Ruins.

"Alright then, you lead the way." Mu Jinyu nodded.

Jian Ruyan then took the lead, guiding Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou around the Dayan Imperial Capital, eventually arriving in front of a building that resembled an inn.

However, this building was much larger than a typical inn, clearly containing many more rooms inside.

The cultivators coming and going at the front door were endless, making the place seem very lively.

"This is one of the better inns in the imperial capital. There are no ordinary rooms inside, only cultivation chambers where the spiritual energy is several times denser than the outside." Jian Ruyan explained to Mu Jinyu and Wen Rou.

Wen Rou saw the cultivators coming and going in the inn, mostly at the Late Divine Transformation Realm, with even more at the Fanxu Realm, and couldn't help but feel intimidated. She asked, "So how many spirit stones does it cost to stay here for a day?"

"How many spirit stones for a day?"

Jian Ruyan was momentarily stunned by Wen Rou's question, then smiled wryly and explained, "This place doesn't charge by the day; it charges by the shichen. For instance, the cheapest Yellow-Grade Cultivation Chamber, where the spiritual energy is only one or two times stronger than the outside, costs ten low-grade spirit stones per shichen, which is equivalent to one medium-grade spirit stone."

"And the better Profound Rank Chamber, where the spiritual energy is about five or six times stronger than outside, charges five medium-grade spirit stones per shichen!"

"The Earth-Level Cultivation Chamber, reportedly about ten times stronger than outside, charges thirty medium-grade spirit stones per shichen, which is three superior-grade spirit stones!"

"The top-tier Heavenly Rank Cultivation Chamber costs ten superior-grade spirit stones per shichen!"

After listening to Jian Ruyan's introduction, Wen Rou was dumbfounded, "So expensive..."

Not only was Wen Rou dumbfounded, but even Mu Jinyu couldn't help but click his tongue, saying, "My goodness, three superior-grade spirit stones for the Earth-Level Chamber per shichen, now I somewhat understand why the city entrance fee is one superior-grade spirit stone."

After speaking, Mu Jinyu looked up at Jian Ruyan and joked, "If it weren't for knowing you, I would really doubt if you're a cultivation tout if I were to find a random guide to introduce this place to me..."

A cultivation tout, just like a drinking or dining tout, Jian Ruyan bringing them here really did feel like it.

But Mu Jinyu knew she wouldn't do such things, which also meant that the expenses in the Dayan Dynasty truly were exorbitant...

Still, to advance his cultivation before the Hidden Dragon Conference, Mu Jinyu finally gritted his teeth and went inside with Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan.

"Welcome, what can I do for you three?"

As soon as they entered the inn, an observant servant rushed over to greet them.

Mu Jinyu said, "Rent a few rooms, and you..."

The servant, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, immediately began to introduce, "You've come to the right place, our inn, has a Spirit Gathering Array underground second only to the imperial palace in the Dayan Dynasty. No one nearby can compare with us, here we..."

"Stop, stop!" Mu Jinyu frowned and waved his hand, "I don't need you to introduce all that; I just want to know if you have any available cultivation chambers?"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, instead of showing any displeasure at being interrupted, the servant looked at Mu Jinyu with admiration and respect, laughing, "You truly are magnanimous! We have four levels of cultivation chambers here, and just now two people left the Earth-Level Chambers, so there are two left, as for the Heavenly Rank Chambers, there are still three rooms left. Which one would you like?"

He absolutely ignored the Yellow and Profound Rank chambers.

The servant, having worked at this cultivation inn for years, was very perceptive and could tell at a glance that Mu Jinyu was not an ordinary cultivator at the Divine Transformation Realm but rather a strong contender preparing for the Hidden Dragon Conference, someone who was generally generous and would not choose the Yellow or Profound Rank chambers.

Thus, he didn't bother introducing the Yellow and Profound Rank chambers.

Upon hearing that there were three rooms left in the Heavenly Rank Chambers, Mu Jinyu didn't hesitate, immediately saying, "Then just book all three Heavenly Rank Chambers for me!"

"Alright!" The servant, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, was so delighted it was as if his eyes had turned into copper coins, quickly agreed.

He then was slightly worried that Mu Jinyu might not be aware of the cost of the Heavenly Rank Chambers, so he hesitated before saying, "By the way, let me remind you that the cost of the Heavenly Rank Cultivation Chamber is ten superior-grade spirit stones per shichen..."

"Yes, I understand."

Mu Jinyu looked at the servant in surprise and responded blandly.

If it were a typical unscrupulous servant, they surely wouldn't explain this much; they would rather the guests be unaware of the cultivation chamber prices, so they would stay longer and be charged extra when they leave!

No spirit stones to pay the bill? Then sell your life-bound magic treasure!

Yet this servant actually took the initiative to explain, which surprised Mu Jinyu.

Unless this servant had too much conscience, it was probably the inn's policy. If that were the case, it wouldn't be surprising why the inn's business was thriving.

After all, profiting once might indeed earn a great deal, but over time, everyone would avoid them, and they'd only manage to occasionally swindle some outsiders.

Still, even though people understand, there are still too many shops that can't resist cutting corners!

"Then please follow me!"

The servant was relieved to see that Mu Jinyu knew the price of the cultivation chambers and also felt a lot of admiration, then smiled and gestured for them to follow.

"Okay." Mu Jinyu nodded and followed the servant upstairs to the cultivation chambers!

Wen Rou walked by his side, tugging his sleeve gently with a puzzled expression, whispering, "Little Mu, why did you book rooms for us too? We're currently limited by our aptitude, and our cultivation progress has slowed. We don't need Heavenly Rank Chambers..."

"It's fine, I can't just let you stay in a regular inn, right?" Mu Jinyu shook his head and said, "Besides, you've been stuck at the Fourth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm for a while, it's a good chance to push yourselves to the Fifth Layer!"

Wen Rou felt warmth spread through her heart hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

Though Mu Jinyu could be quite stingy, especially towards himself, he was never stingy with those around him.

Just like earlier, when entering the imperial capital, the city entrance fee of one superior-grade spirit stone made Mu Jinyu half mad, but when opening rooms for them, even though it cost ten superior-grade spirit stones per shichen - far more than the entrance fee - he didn't hesitate in helping them reach the Fifth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm!

Had it been some other man, they would likely choose to have them stay in a regular inn or perhaps a Yellow-Grade Cultivation Chamber, rarely opting for the Heavenly Rank Chambers!

It's obviously wasteful, like throwing spirit stones into the sea!

But this miser, Mu Jinyu, just did it, letting them use the same Heavenly Rank Chamber.

It seemed a bit foolish.

Yet, this was precisely why she liked him.

Chapter 997: Hatching the Phoenix Egg!

Although Wen Rou felt warm and moved inside,

she was still sensible, knowing that she and Jian Ruyan didn't need the Heavenly Rank Chamber, and the cost of ten top-quality spirit stones per hour made her heartache, so she finally persuaded Mu Jinyu not to open it for her.

Mu Jinyu was unmoved.

Finally, Wen Rou took a step back, letting Mu Jinyu open a room for herself and Jian Ruyan to use together.

Mu Jinyu frowned and said, "Why are you being so stingy? How can two people share one? Cultivation is a personal thing, what if you practice until you fall into a demon?"

"If that were okay, I would just open one secret chamber and the three of us would use it together, why bother opening three?"

Seeing Mu Jinyu getting a bit angry, Wen Rou puckered her lips and dared not say more.

Although she felt a bit aggrieved, there was no discomfort or unhappiness.

Soon, the servant led them to the front of three Heavenly Rank Secret Chambers, opened the rooms for them to take a look, and inserted a card, activating the Spiritual Energy concentration of the chamber in advance.

"Boom!"

In an instant, a large amount of Spiritual Energy surged out within the Heavenly Rank Secret Chamber.

In a flash, the entire room was filled with dense white fog, which was Spiritual Mist, indicating the high concentration of Spiritual Energy in the room.

Mu Jinyu felt that this concentration of Spiritual Energy was completely comparable to the Spiritual Energy concentration when he cultivated in the Blood Essence Pool of the Blood Sword Sect!

Only slightly worse than when he refined the Blood Essence Crystal.

The cost of ten top-quality spirit stones per hour was indeed expensive for a reason!

The card in the servant's hand was evidently unable to support much, and soon after, the concentration of Spiritual Energy in the room quickly dissipated.

The servant looked up and saw Mu Jinyu and the others showing very satisfied expressions, and smiled while asking, "Honorable masters, how long do you plan to stay? If you only need a few hours, you must pay the cost for a full day of twelve hours upfront. Upon checkout, the remaining spirit stones will be settled for you!"

Mu Jinyu said, "Half a month or a month would be fine. Can we pay for a month first?"

The servant was surprised that Mu Jinyu wanted to stay so long, hesitated for a moment, and then nodded with a smile, saying, "Yes, yes..."

Mu Jinyu then tossed a storage bag to the servant and said, "Inside is ten thousand eight hundred top-quality spirit stones, three cultivation rooms, each for a month, isn't it correct?"

"Yes, it's correct!"

The servant used Divine Sense to probe into the storage bag, after confirming it was correct, nodded and smiled, his mouth almost unable to remain closed.

Booking a Heavenly Rank Cultivation Room for a month with over ten thousand top-quality spirit stones was a really big order, rarely seen in usual customers!

Afterwards, the servant hurried downstairs to prepare room cards for Mu Jinyu and the others.

When they need to cultivate, simply insert the room card into the slot and Spiritual Energy will naturally gush out.

To end cultivation, just remove the room card, and the room card will automatically calculate how long the guest has cultivated in the room.

While the servant was away, Mu Jinyu took out many cultivation resources from the storage bag, including Fine Elixirs and special Spirit Grasses, all of which could enhance cultivation and temporarily boost comprehension!

These many cultivation resources, along with the ten thousand top-quality spirit stones just now, were unattainable even when Mu Jinyu took first place in the Four Sects Martial Meeting at the Heavenly Sword Faction.

Part of the resources was gained from destroying the Liuyun Sect, and part was acquired after leaving Demon Slaying City, calculating the spoils of war, and selling the two Demon King's Fangs and the entire corpses of three demons - Chasing Cloud Thunder Kirin, Frightening Cloud Soul-Splitting Rabbit, and Storm Red Gold Rhinoceros.

The entire bodies of these demon kings, including fur, beast bones, teeth, claws, and even eyes, were excellent materials for making Spiritual Treasures, hence highly valuable.

Consequently, Mu Jinyu sold them for several hundred thousand top-quality spirit stones!

The mere cost of one hundred ten thousand top-quality spirit stones for the cultivation room was nothing to him.

This was also why earlier, Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan found it funny and anger-inducing when he fussed over paying the city entrance fee of one top-quality spirit stone.

Mu Jinyu handed these cultivation resources to Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan, urging them, "You guys should work hard and strive to break through to the Fifth Layer of the Divine Transformation Realm this time!"

"Hmm..."

Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan nodded in response.

"Eh..."

Just then, Mu Jinyu suddenly exclaimed softly and then took out the Phoenix egg from the Bi Fang Cauldron.

Storage bags can't store living things, so after Mu Jinyu obtained this Phoenix egg, he always kept it in the Bi Fang Cauldron.

Since the Phoenix egg is not afraid of fire, he didn't need to worry about anything.

Even if it accidentally got cooked, Mu Jinyu wouldn't mind; it was just an opportunity to taste what a Phoenix egg is like.

"What's the matter? Did the egg cook?"

Jian Ruyan, hearing Mu Jinyu's soft exclamation and seeing him take out the Phoenix egg, couldn't help but ask curiously.

She and Wen Rou naturally knew about Mu Jinyu obtaining this Phoenix egg and understood the reason for his conflict with Hua Yunfei from the Heavenly Palace that day.

Naturally, seeing the Phoenix egg at this time was not surprising.

Besides, she also knew Mu Jinyu had the thought of eating the Phoenix egg, so she teased along.

"No!"

Mu Jinyu shook his head slightly, his brows furrowing, and he muttered, "I just felt like the egg moved a few times; I wonder if it's about to hatch."

Saying this, he lifted his head, moved his gaze away from the Phoenix egg, and then looked at Jian Ruyan with a slightly peculiar smile, saying, "Hey, aren't you Little Yanzi also a Phoenix? Although an Ice Phoenix, still a Phoenix, why don't you help it hatch?"

Jian Ruyan couldn't help but give Mu Jinyu a glare and spat, "Scram!"

"Don't be like that." Mu Jinyu hurriedly persuaded, "Aren't you curious about what baby Phoenixes look like? Don't you want to have a Phoenix mount? Also, you have the Phoenix Bloodline; with the help of a Phoenix, maybe your power will improve faster, and there might be more benefits that you can't even imagine..."

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Jian Ruyan couldn't help but be tempted.

But then, she darkened her face, looked down at her familiar yet alien arm, smiled bitterly, and shook her head, saying, "But I don't have the Ice Phoenix bloodline anymore; you'd better find Wen Rou..."

Indeed, she had swapped bodies with Wen Rou, so if the Ice Phoenix bloodline could help hatch the Phoenix egg, it should be Wen Rou to do it, not her.

Mu Jinyu thought over this and turned to Wen Rou, asking, "You're right, so Xiaorou, do you want to hatch this Phoenix egg?"

Wen Rou's expression was somewhat bewildered, and she mumbled, "How am I supposed to hatch it? Do I sit on it like a chair?"

"I don't know..." Mu Jinyu had no idea how to hatch a Phoenix egg, thought for a moment, and said, "Just hold it in your arms or place it on your lap. Try to hatch it; if it doesn't hatch, it doesn't matter, just do your best."

Chapter 998: Undying Phoenix Body! Hundred Birds Worshiping the Phoenix!

"Alright then."

Wen Rou thought for a moment and felt that incubating the Phoenix egg wouldn't really delay her time, so she nodded and agreed.

Mu Jinyu handed the Phoenix egg to her, after giving a few reminders.

The servant hurriedly ran up, stood at the doorway catching his breath, then walked in with a respectful expression, saying, "Honorable sirs, the room cards are ready."

With that, he respectfully handed over three cards that seemed neither gold nor jade.

"Okay." Mu Jinyu reached out to take them, "Thank you."

"No trouble, no trouble, should I take my leave now?" The servant waved his hand hurriedly.

"Yes." Mu Jinyu responded.

The servant bowed respectfully and retreated.

"Alright, I'm going to cultivate. If there's anything, crush the Jade Talisman, and I'll come and find you immediately."

Mu Jinyu reminded Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan once more, then left the Heavenly Rank Cultivation Chamber and went to his own chamber.

"Boom."

As Mu Jinyu pressed the mechanism, the extremely heavy stone gate slowly descended, completely sealing off the cultivation chamber.

After that, Mu Jinyu wasted no time and inserted the room card in his hand into the groove of the Spirit Activation Array.

Instantly, a vast and dense nature's spiritual energy surged from the ground, gathering into a fog in an instant, the spiritual energy lingering like mist.

"Comfortable."

Feeling like soaking in a hot spring, Mu Jinyu lazily stretched his waist, then sat cross-legged on a meditation cushion on the ground, and took out the Phoenix Saliva Grass he picked from the Phoenix Nest.

The Phoenix Saliva Grass was carefully nurtured by the Demon Phoenix, prepared to be consumed after its tribulation to heal injuries and stabilize its foundation.

However, by a twist of fate, it ended up in his hands.

Mu Jinyu chuckled lightly, muttering, "Phoenix Saliva Grass, this is much stronger than Blood Essence Crystal, I wonder to what extent my cultivation will rise after refining this whole plant..."

After mumbling a few words, Mu Jinyu slightly shook his head, dispelled the distracting thoughts, and reached out to pluck one of the leaves of the Phoenix Saliva Grass that was as blood jade-colored.

The Phoenix Saliva Grass had a total of two leaves, appearing like a Phoenix ready to spread its wings and soar. As Mu Jinyu plucked one leaf, tiny droplets of crimson liquid seeped out from the broken part.

It seemed like blood, or like lava, carrying a scorching hot breath.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu, who intended to first take one leaf, quickly put his mouth to the broken part and swallowed the crimson liquid.

"Boom!"

As soon as the juice of the Phoenix Saliva Grass entered his stomach, a surge of energy burst forth from Mu Jinyu's mouth, then swept in all directions like a storm, permeating his entire body.

"Wow, is it so powerful?"

Mu Jinyu praised inwardly, not in a hurry to ingest the plucked leaf, but first closed his eyes to run the "Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art" and refine this immense energy like tidal waves within his body.

Time slowly passed in cultivation.

Half a month had passed in a flash.

Within the chamber, the spiritual energy gathered and dispersed like mist, sometimes forming into a dragon, sometimes transforming into a phoenix, and sometimes like a Kunpeng reversing...

Mu Jinyu, sitting quietly on the meditation cushion, exhaled two streams of crimson Qi from his nose, like two red dragons.

His body emitted a blood-like crimson light, rendering the surrounding spiritual fog into a red sunset glow.

After half a month of cultivation, Mu Jinyu had successively consumed and refined the two leaves of the Phoenix Saliva Grass.

And his cultivation realm had successfully broken through from the Peak Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm to the Initial Fifth Layer Stage.

At this moment, the Green Emperor True Yuan within his body had become more viscous from the slight thickness after just breaking through the Fanxu Realm, like rice glue.

Cultivation in the Fanxu Realm not only involved comprehending Intent Domain and Domain but also gradually refining the True Yuan within their bodies from liquid to solid state.

By the time one reached the Peak Ninth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, the True Yuan within their bodies was almost refined into a mass of tempered steel, almost indistinguishable from an Iron Pellet.

When a cultivator fully integrates all the paths they have learned throughout their life, and makes them as one, the True Yuan condensed into a mass within their Dantian will glow anew as if polished wood lacquered to a shine, thus stepping fully into the Unity Realm Stage.

However, the Unity Realm is still too far away for Mu Jinyu; he must currently focus on how to break through the Late Stage of the Fanxu Realm.

"Whew..."

Mu Jinyu's tightly closed eyes slowly opened, he gently exhaled a mouthful of scorching Qi and rubbed his belly.

"Refining fire-type spiritual medicine with a wood attribute constitution is indeed tough..."

Mu Jinyu bitterly muttered to himself.

During this half month refining the Phoenix Saliva Grass, Mu Jinyu suffered greatly, finding it a lot more uncomfortable compared to his cultivation in the Heavenly Sword Pool and the Blood Essence Pool.

After all, he has already cultivated the Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Body, making his body akin to spirit wood, while the Phoenix Saliva Grass is a fire-type treasure medicine, making him feel like being set ablaze, akin to wood thrown into a furnace, immensely uncomfortable.

If not, it wouldn't have taken him nearly half a month just to refine two leaves.

"Time is a bit tight, need to hurry up with cultivation."

Mu Jinyu dared not waste more time; lest he couldn't make it to the Hidden Dragon Conference, he quickly rested for a bit, then hastily threw the last root of the Phoenix Saliva Grass into his mouth to refine.

"Boom!!"

The potency of the Phoenix Saliva Grass's root was far more potent than those two leaves.

Mu Jinyu almost felt as if he was going to refine himself while refining it.

Luckily, the Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Body, after all, was one of the divine bodies of the Five Ancient Emperors, barely able to withstand the Phoenix Saliva Grass.

After enduring for five hard days, the remaining days of cultivation felt much more comfortable for Mu Jinyu, like being in a hot spring again.

However, Mu Jinyu, immersed in his cultivation state, was unaware that as he had nearly refined the entire Phoenix Saliva Grass, the flesh and blood hidden beneath his skin, previously carrying strands of green light after cultivating the Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Body, were now also streaked with strands of crimson light...

Although he had not cultivated a fire-type cultivation technique, the Phoenix Saliva Grass's potency was too domineering, he seemed to be on the verge of forming a special constitution again...

If he could get his hands on the "Red Emperor Fire Emperor Technique", perhaps he could immediately cultivate another Five Emperors' Divine Body here and now!

However, Mu Jinyu remained unaware of this.

Being at a critical juncture in his cultivation, he completely had no time to pay attention to these things.

"Boom!"

With Mu Jinyu rapidly practicing the "Green Emperor's Wood Emperor Art", continuously refining the True Essence Power within him, like hammering an iron billet repeatedly, he finally broke through the bottleneck of the Sixth Layer of the Fanxu Realm...

From the Peak Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm, he reached the Early Sixth Stage Phase!

At the same time, his fire attribute constitution unknowingly took shape.

If one were to name his constitution, perhaps it could be called the Undying Phoenix Body!

"Boom!"

Also, when Mu Jinyu broke through to the Early Sixth Stage Phase and formed the Undying Phoenix Body.

The Dayan Imperial Capital, which had been clear and cloudless, suddenly rolled with dark clouds, with lightning flashing and arcs cracking...

Within the imperial capital, all cultivators with a Fire Spirit Root, or those who refined Fire Attribute True Essence through special means, at this moment, their fire-elemental energy involuntarily surged forth, radiating light and heat.

As if a Phoenix was emerging, with a hundred birds worshipping the Phoenix!

Chapter 999: A Bald Chicken?

Dayan Imperial Capital.

Across inns in various districts, secret chambers of the Imperial Palace, and caves outside the Imperial Capital, countless people looked up at the thundercloud phenomenon rolling in the sky at the same time.

"How could thunderclouds suddenly arise out of nowhere?"

"Could it be a monster has appeared, causing the world to unleash a Heavenly Tribulation?"

"And the sudden surge of Fire Spirit Power in the city, could it be that a Fire Spirit Root monster has also appeared?"

"..."

The crowd, shocked and uncertain, kept gazing at the boiling clouds in the sky, continuously speculating.

For some unknown reason, possibly due to the Great Defense Formation of the Dayan Imperial Capital, or some other cause, the thunderclouds gathered for a while and then quietly dissipated.

...

In the Cultivation Inn.

Not far from the Heavenly Rank Cultivation Chamber where Mu Jinyu was, a clear sound suddenly echoed in another secret chamber.

"Click!"

"Hmm?"

Wen Rou, who was immersed in cultivation, heard the strange noise and opened her eyes, looking with surprise at the Phoenix egg on her lap. Instantly, her eyes widened.

The egg, smooth and jade-like, had a hole in it, but no brilliant light emerged from it, only something seemed to be moving inside.

"Click!"

With another sound, the eggshell cracked further, and the tip of a bird's beak could be seen pecking from inside.

"This is..."

Upon seeing the beak, Wen Rou's eyes, already wide with amazement, shone with both surprise and joy.

She never imagined that she could really hatch a Phoenix.

In truth, throughout this near month of cultivation, she was initially very attentive to this Phoenix egg, but after seeing no movement, she eventually paid it little mind.

Yet unexpectedly, Jian Ruyan's Ice Phoenix Bloodline could indeed hatch the Phoenix egg!

Wen Rou's mind was in a jumble, but her beautiful eyes remained fixed on the beak inside the Phoenix egg, with a strange feeling welling up in her heart.

She was witnessing the birth of a small life.

Although this small life wasn't birthed by her, it was hatched by her after nearly a month, and this feeling of witnessing the birth of a life was truly wonderful.

Could she consider herself this little Phoenix's mother?

She wondered if this little Phoenix would be very attached to her after it emerged.

What a pity, witnessing the birth of a small life without Mu Jinyu by her side...

While Wen Rou was lost in her thoughts, the Phoenix egg was finally pecked open completely by the creature inside, revealing its true appearance.

"This..."

Wen Rou was stunned at the sight revealed by the broken eggshell.

Standing among the pieces of eggshell was a bird, completely bare like a plucked chicken, looking extremely ugly and unsightly.

'Is this really a Phoenix? How can it be so ugly?'

Wen Rou couldn't help but mumble in her heart.

Then she remembered, well, newly-hatched birds without feathers were normal.

"Crunch crunch..."

At this moment, the little Phoenix, looking like a plucked chicken, freed itself from the eggshell's restraint and, instead of glancing at Wen Rou, looked down to peck at the eggshell fragments on the ground.

Just like eating biscuits, it quickly munched through several pieces of eggshell, and in Wen Rou's dumbfounded gaze, it gobbled up all the eggshell bits on the ground.

After the little Phoenix devoured the eggshell, its body began to emit strands of Radiance, which soon retracted.

Seeing this, Wen Rou finally believed it was indeed a Phoenix and not some odd bird that had pecked at the Phoenix egg while she was unaware!

Then, after eating the eggshell, the little Phoenix raised its head to glance at Wen Rou, again not acknowledging her and turned to survey its surroundings.

Soon, it fixed its gaze on a target.

It was none other than some Top-Quality Spirit Stones and Spiritual Medicine that Wen Rou had placed aside.

"Screech!"

With a sharp cry, the little Phoenix flapped its bare wings and teleported next to those Top-Quality Spirit Stones, opening its mouth wide to swallow a Spirit Stone whole!

"Hey, you can't eat that!"

Snapping back to her senses, Wen Rou worried that this little creature might develop problems by munching on Spirit Stones, so she rushed to grab it.

However, the little Phoenix was too fast. In a few pecks, it consumed over a dozen Top-Quality Spirit Stones, flitting away from Wen Rou's grasp, and then scampered over to those Spiritual Medicines to start munching.

Watching this, Wen Rou found the situation both frustrating and amusing.

Though consuming some Spiritual Medicine shouldn't cause issues, and since the little Phoenix had already devoured the Spirit Stones, she decided not to chase it.

She felt a bit aggrieved, as Mu Jinyu had mentioned that with Jian Ruyan's body having a Phoenix Bloodline, this little creature should be close to her, right?

Why then, did it look at her with so much disdain just now?

"Sigh, I wonder when Little Mu will finish his closed cultivation..."

Wen Rou murmured softly, her voice tinged with a hint of lament.

"Buzz."

Just then, Wen Rou noticed a Jade Talisman placed aside which shifted from a red glow to a blue glow.

This was a special Magic Artifact Mu Jinyu had given her and Jian Ruyan before entering closed cultivation; while in seclusion, he'd set it to red to signify he was still cultivating, and upon completion, it would turn blue to signify he was out of closed cultivation.

When Wen Rou and Jian Ruyan finished their cultivation and saw this change in light, they would understand his cultivation status and wouldn't be tormented with indecision about whether to seek Mu Jinyu out.

"Little Mu is out of seclusion?"

Wen Rou's eyes gleamed with surprise and joy, and she hurried out, disregarding the little Phoenix she had painstakingly hatched but wasn't the least bit close to her.

She pressed a mechanism, causing the heavy Stone Gate to open, and ran out.

As it happened, Mu Jinyu had just opened his door simultaneously, and they both saw each other instantly.

"Little Mu, you're out of seclusion."

Upon seeing Mu Jinyu come out at the same time, Wen Rou's eyes shimmered with a tender glow, and she softly asked.

"Yes." Mu Jinyu nodded with a smile, about to say something when his eyes suddenly focused.

"Whoosh!"

A yellow light suddenly shot out from behind Wen Rou, flying straight at him.

"What's this?"

The speed was so fast that Mu Jinyu couldn't make out what was attacking him, instinctively forming a Fist Seal and punching at it.

"Bang!"

The yellow light arrived quickly and left quickly.

After taking Mu Jinyu's punch head-on, the yellow light flew back, slamming into the stone wall behind Wen Rou, hanging like a picture for over ten seconds before slowly sliding down!

"Eh, why is it a plucked chicken?"

During those ten seconds, Mu Jinyu finally saw clearly what had attempted to attack him and spoke in surprise.

He was quite puzzled; how could a plucked chicken be so fast, and why could it withstand a punch from him without exploding?

It wasn't just that it didn't explode; it wasn't even injured or dead?

What on earth is this thing?

Chapter 1000: The Fire Phoenix Acknowledges its Master!

As soon as Wen Rou saw that ball of yellow light appear from behind her and pounce toward Mu Jinyu, she knew it was the recently hatched Little Phoenix.

And when she saw Mu Jinyu startled, without hesitation, throwing a punch at the Little Phoenix.

She opened her mouth wanting to warn Mu Jinyu not to hit it, but she was a step too late.

The ball of yellow light flew backward, crashing straight into the stone wall behind her with a heavy thud!

Wen Rou instinctively closed her eyes, sighing in her heart.

'Alas, poor little thing, running around recklessly, not long after birth, and already beaten to death...'

"Gujiguji guji..."

While Wen Rou was feeling sad, she suddenly heard a few cries from behind her, sounding like a mix of chicken clucks and bird chirps.

She couldn't help but open her eyes and looked back, and was stunned.

She saw the Little Phoenix, after taking a punch from Mu Jinyu, wasn't dead! It was bouncing around on the ground, seemingly uninjured!

"How is it so resilient?" Wen Rou's small mouth opened wide, her tone full of amazement.

She knew the power of Mu Jinyu's iron fist and that's why she lamented when the Little Phoenix took a punch from him.

But who would have thought that Mu Jinyu's punch, powerful enough to smash a mountain, was survived by the newborn Little Phoenix...

It made her sigh; indeed, the phoenix is one of the most resilient beings.

"Where did this bald chicken come from? Such tough bones?" Mu Jinyu asked in astonishment.

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's inquiry, Wen Rou gave him a look, made a facial expression, and then turned around to grab the hopping Little Phoenix. Then, she twisted back to her original cultivation room.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu also guessed something, and quickly followed Wen Rou inside.

"Crack..."

"Boom!"

After closing the stone gate again.

Wen Rou then said to Mu Jinyu: "It's not some bald chicken; it's a Phoenix!"

"Really a Phoenix?"

Mu Jinyu had already guessed from Wen Rou's cautious attitude that this bald chicken was the Little Phoenix hatched from the Phoenix egg.

But even after confirmation from Wen Rou, he couldn't help but doubt it.

After all, this Phoenix was too ugly, far from the one he saw in the Demon Beast Mountain Range, with its magnificent feathers, exuding nobility with every move.

Moreover, from its recent attack on him, he wondered if the little creature still retained memories of being refined by him with the Bi Fang Cauldron that day?

Was it seeking revenge?

If so, he couldn't really cultivate it into a Phoenix mount.

He would have to painfully stew it into a chicken and mushroom soup.

"Gujiguji..."

Just as Mu Jinyu was contemplating a meal of chicken and mushroom stew, the Little Phoenix in Wen Rou's hand, seemed to fully awake and made a few calls, then broke free from Wen Rou's palm, once again leaping toward Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu, feeling a bit annoyed, was about to punch it again.

Wen Rou, on the other hand, couldn't bear it, and shouted: "Little Mu, don't hit it..."

Hearing Wen Rou, Mu Jinyu sighed lightly, retracted his hand, and changed from fist to claw, grabbing the little creature in his hand.

Mu Jinyu originally thought, even if he had the little creature in his hand, due to its hatred towards him, it would continue to peck at him.

However, unexpectedly, the little creature, once in his grasp, didn't struggle and twist like it did with Wen Rou. It allowed him to hold it in his palm, even rubbing its bald head against his hand.

Showing a look of dependency and affection.

"What's going on? Has it mistaken me for its kin?"

Mu Jinyu was stunned by this reaction.

Wen Rou was also stunned.

How come, after all my efforts to hatch it from the egg, it's not close to me at all, but instead, shows such affection to Mu Jinyu whom it has never met before?

After a few moments of bewilderment, Mu Jinyu looked up at Wen Rou, asking with a peculiar tone: "Xiaorou, did you hatch it and come to find me before actually facing it? So, it first laid eyes on me?"

Mu Jinyu couldn't understand why the Little Phoenix was treating them differently, only guessing that Phoenixes, upon hatching, imprint on the first creature they see. When Wen Rou left to find him, the Little Phoenix might have seen him first, mistaking him for its mother, and hence this situation...

Wen Rou shook her head, showing a bit of grievance, saying: "No, I watched it come out of its egg, it even ate more than ten Top-Quality Spirit Stones and those Spiritual Medicines..."

Hearing Wen Rou, Mu Jinyu couldn't help but frown, puzzled, "Then why is it acting like this..."

"Hmm?" At this moment, Mu Jinyu's eyes narrowed, recalling the Phoenix Saliva Grass he had been consuming and refining this month...

Could it be because of that?

"Gujiguji guji..."

As Mu Jinyu contemplated, the Little Phoenix in his hand let out a few pitiful calls.

Mu Jinyu snapped back to reality, focusing on it once more, reading its demeanor—it was hungry.

Mu Jinyu instinctively thought about catching some insects for it, but then remembered Wen Rou mentioning that it ate over ten Top-Quality Spirit Stones and Spiritual Medicines upon birth!

Thus, moved by this, he pulled out a handful of Low-Grade Spirit Stones from his storage bag and brought them to its beak.

"Here!"

Mu Jinyu nudged his chin, indicating that it was time to eat.

The Little Phoenix, upon seeing the Low-Grade Spirit Stones Mu Jinyu offered, showed a visible expression of disdain.

Obviously, having tasted Top-Quality Spirit Stones, it didn't want to eat Low-Grade ones.

However, upon encountering Mu Jinyu's stern gaze, it finally opened its mouth and started to eat.

"Crunch crunch..."

Soon, the dozens of Low-Grade Spirit Stones that Mu Jinyu offered were all devoured by the little creature.

"It really can eat."

Seeing the little creature looking up with a pitiful expression, Mu Jinyu couldn't help but take out a handful of Medium Grade Spirit Stones and dozens of Fire Attribute Spiritual Medicines.

"Tweet tweet!"

This time, the little creature joyfully chirped, going for the Fire Attribute Spiritual Medicines before the Medium Grade Spirit Stones.

In a few swift moves, the little creature finished all the Second-Rank Spiritual Medicines that Mu Jinyu had brought out.

After consuming the medicines, it belched, not touching the Medium Grade Spirit Stones, and instead resumed rubbing its head against Mu Jinyu's palm.

Showing an exceptionally satisfied, human-like expression.

Mu Jinyu, half-amused and half-annoyed, put away the Medium Grade Spirit Stones, murmuring, "Looks like there's another mouth to feed."

After laughing, Mu Jinyu looked at Wen Rou, who appeared a bit sulky, then extended the bald chicken in his hand to her.

"Here, you take care of it."

Hearing his words, Wen Rou smiled and was about to reach out to take the little creature.

"Tweet, tweet, tweet!!"

The little creature, sensing something, quickly chirped in resistance.

Wen Rou's face fell instantly, and she sighed, "Let it be, it seems not to like me very much..."

Mu Jinyu furrowed his brows, pondering why the Little Phoenix was so resistant to Wen Rou.

It shouldn't be, Wen Rou clearly still has the Ice Phoenix Bloodline...

Ice Phoenix Bloodline?!

Mu Jinyu's eyes suddenly focused, then realized: the Little Phoenix seems to have the Fire Attribute?

So, it has a natural aversion to Wen Rou, with her Ice Attribute, the Ice Phoenix; this seems quite reasonable.