

Little Girl 531

Chapter 531: Black Shining Market

Xin Lin walked out of the School Clinic with the stars densely spread out in the night sky.

Following behind Xin Lin was the Overlord Egg, which had been slacking off for a few days and had not engaged in cultivation. Xin Lin could not stand it anymore and decided to hand it over to the Pride Corpse for a proper training.

So far, the only Spirit Art the Overlord Egg knows is the Lianhua Technique, and it cannot be used within Qingtian Academy. Xin Lin thought it was time to ask the Pride Corpse to teach the Overlord Egg some other Spirit Arts, given that its Spirit Root is at least six-fingers in potential.

After returning to cabin number twenty-four, Xin Lin did not find Gui Hu.

The Spiritual Light Meditation Mat was still placed to the side.

Xin Lin thought for a moment, sat down cross-legged, and casually sent the Overlord Egg back into the Sealing Spirit Talisman No.2.

"However, I know there's another place where I might be able to buy Golden Crow Egg Shells. That's the Black Stone Market."

Upon Xin Lin's questioning, Master Mo leisurely revealed this piece of news to her.

The Black Shining Market is an underground market within Purple Cloud City.

It is said that on the nights of the 8th, 18th, and 28th of each month, the market is held somewhere in the city.

Only those with the sufficient qualifications can enter the Black Shining Market.

At this market, as long as you can afford the price, you could buy anything you desire, even a person's life.

For something as rare as Golden Crow Egg Shells, if one cannot find them in the market, they could issue a Bounty Order there, and surely someone will take on the task.

However, the admission criteria for the Black Shining Market are too high, and no one knows exactly where it is held. A small fry like Xin Lin could only dream about it.

Although Master Mo said this, Xin Lin etched the name Black Shining Market in her heart.

"Today's actually the 18th, why not try my luck in Purple Cloud City?"

Xin Lin glanced at the Spiritual Light Meditation Mat, a thought crossing her mind.

Last night was her first time sneaking out, and it was quite exhilarating, even though it was just a jaunt around Qingtian Academy.

Xin Lin sat on the Spiritual Light Meditation Mat and in a short while, felt light as a feather as her Spiritual Sense left the cabin.

She descended from Shaking Light Hill and hadn't walked far when she saw Third Prince Long Qingchen and Jin Chen heading towards the academy gate.

Xin Lin noticed that the two hadn't spotted her, so she confidently approached, curious about why they were sneaking out at night.

Qingtian Academy students normally cannot leave during their studies, but Long Qingchen and Jin Chen, relying on their special identities, bribed the gatekeepers and took the chance to slip out.

"Third Prince, are we really going to the Black Shining Market tonight?"

Xin Lin was about to pass by the two when she heard Jin Chen ask.

Xin Lin slowed down at the mention.

"Of course. I specifically asked Brother Sikong to purchase a Black Shining Token for us. With it, even if we haven't reached the Xuan Transformation Realm or become Great Spirit Masters, we can enter the Black Shining Market. It has a very special symbol; once we get to the city gate, someone will come to meet us."

Long Qingchen was brimming with pride.

Some things, even with power and influence, cannot be bought, such as a Black Shining Token.

It is something that even Long Qingchen, as a prince, had to move heaven and earth to obtain.

Both Sikong Ran and Bai You are disciples of Xuantian Sect, and with Sikong Ran making waves at the Eagle Chick Conference, they managed to get a Black Shining Token from the Black Shining Market.

Chapter 532: Obsidian Token

Xin Lin glanced at the token in Long Qingchen's hand; it was about the size of a palm and seemed to be made of iron. In the center of the token was a hexagonal black stone.

In the night, the surface of the black stone emitted a serene light.

So that's how it is!

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin suddenly realized.

She watched as Long Qingchen carefully placed the Black Shinning Token into an exquisitely made pouch.

Hiss—

Long Qingchen suddenly felt goosebumps rise on his neck, as if a cool breeze was blowing straight down his neck.

He turned his head to look behind him, but there was nothing but the Qingtian Academy shrouded in the night.

What he didn't know was that the moment he turned his head, a hand that neither gods nor ghosts would notice brushed past his waist, and the pouch holding the Black Shinning Token had changed owners.

The advantage of being an irregular female soldier king is that one understands a bit of everything, such as the sleight of hand.

With the Ghost Escape Technique, Xin Lin had already arrived at the gates of Purple Cloud City.

The city gate had already closed, with two stone wall lamps emitting a dim yellow light.

Xin Lin opened Long Qingchen's pouch to look inside; apart from the Black Shinning Token, there were also ten rather unremarkable stones.

"Isn't this a Qi Stone?"

Xin Lin was astonished.

Long Qingchen also had this thing?

However, upon inspection, Xin Lin found that these stones were somewhat different from the Qi Stones she obtained from the Heaven-defying Book.

Her Qi Stones absorbed more Spiritual Energy and were much purer, whereas the Qi in Long Qingchen's stones was cloudy and impure; Xin Lin disdained even looking at them.

Now with the Black Shinning Token, how should she proceed to the Black Brilliance Market?

Xin Lin was hesitating.

"Respectable lord, are you here to attend tonight's Black Brilliance Market?"

Just as Xin Lin was hesitant, a voice suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

If it weren't for the fact that Xin Lin had been toughened by the experiences with Ah Piao and Yin Sha, she might have been scared out of her wits.

Night Wandering.

A thought crossed Xin Lin's mind.

She felt a power that was also in the Night Wandering State.

Night Wandering could only be achieved by a Great Spirit Master or an even higher Spiritual Practitioner, which meant, was the person sent by the Black Brilliance Market to meet her a Great Spirit Master?

Xin Lin was shocked internally.

Previously, Jiang Qing had clearly stated that within Purple Cloud City, there were very few people who had reached the cultivation level of a Great Spirit Master, and those who had were either in the Imperial Family or hidden within certain official families.

Unexpectedly, she had casually encountered one.

As for how the other party had discovered her, Xin Lin thought that it was very likely that the black stone in her Black Shinning Token contained some power that could guide them.

Xin Lin lowered her voice, responding with an indistinct and ethereal sound.

Fortunately, in the Night Wandering State, no one could see each other.

"Noble lord, please show your Black Shinning Token."

The other party felt that Xin Lin's presence was fluctuating, strong one moment and weak the next, and could not grasp what Xin Lin's origins were.

In reality, every city had its own Black Brilliance Market, but generally speaking, there were only so many experts in each city.

Apart from the occasional highbrows passing through, the regulars at the Black Brilliance Market were usually the same group of familiar faces.

Clearly, this lord was visiting Purple Cloud City for the first time.

After showing the Black Shinning Token, the man in black said,

"Lord, the method of entering the market is the same as in other cities' Black Brilliance Markets. Simply infuse True Qi or Spiritual Energy into the Black Shinning Token."

Xin Lin injected a strand of Fire Spirit into the Black Shinning Token, and the city gate vanished in an instant.

Chapter 533: Brother Jiang's Other Identity

Surrounding her was a cacophony of voices.

When Xin Lin came to her senses, she was still clutching the Black Shining Token in her hand, and when she looked around, she found herself in a small place resembling a tavern.

Xin Lin's arrival drew sidelong glances from some of the people around her.

"Tsk, a night wanderer. Looks like Purple Cloud City has gained another Great Spirit Master."

A few men and women dressed as Martial Artists glanced over at her, and Xin Lin also felt the presence of other Spiritual Power fluctuations nearby.

Like her, there were at least five or six others who had ventured out at night.

But that was about it.

The Black Brilliance Market is a truly strange place.

There are dozens of tables set up here.

Some people gathered in groups of threes and twos at different tables, either conversing or exchanging some information.

Xin Lin did not recognize anyone here.

Moreover, she keenly noticed that the cultivation levels of these people were not weak; at least, they were higher than those of people she had met before.

Only those above the Xuan Changer or Great Spirit Master level could enter the Black Brilliance Market.

So, this place can be said to be a melting pot of the strongest individuals from Purple Cloud City.

To avoid exposing herself, Xin Lin kept silent.

"Excuse me, my lord, may I know how to address you?"

Just when Xin Lin was prepared to solely observe and play dead, a warm and familiar voice from behind gave her a start.

Why is he here too?

Xin Lin looked back in surprise and saw Jiang Qing from the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall standing behind her.

Jiang Qing tonight was slightly different from when she met him during the day; he was wearing a dark blue robe, and his usually meticulously combed hair was draped beside him, with black patterns that matched the color of the Black Brilliance Stone twisted around his lapel, seemingly symbolizing some mysterious existence.

Such a Jiang Qing lacked his usual approachable demeanor and instead carried an intimidating aura that sent shivers down one's spine.

The reactions of the people beside her upon seeing Jiang Qing also changed; they had put away their earlier casual joking attitudes and became silent.

"Master Jiang."

The way people addressed him around her revealed Jiang Qing's status and position.

Xin Lin, holding back from exclaiming "Brother Jiang," suddenly realized that what the Pride Corpse had said earlier had all come true.

Whether it's Murong Ziyue or Jiang Qing, these people she considered friends all had another identity unknown to her.

After quickly gathering her emotions, Xin Lin spoke in a deep voice.

"Just call me 'Overlord'."

Overlord... Jiang Qing found this odd title somewhat surprising.

But being a tactful person, he did not inquire further.

After all, the other party was new here, and presumably strong.

"Lord Dominator, may I ask if you are here to buy or sell today?"

Jiang Qing, as the host of the Black Brilliance Market, was very amicable.

This "Lord Dominator" was not very talkative, and his strength and background were not clear, which made Jiang Qing pay extra attention to him.

"Just looking."

Xin Lin spoke as little as possible, deeply abiding by the principle that the more you say, the more mistakes you make.

Especially since she was completely unaware of the rules of the Black Brilliance Market.

"Master Jiang."

Jiang Qing wanted to probe further but was interrupted by a few others who had just entered the Black Brilliance Market.

Sikong Ran and Bai You, who wore a veil, appeared.

One Black Shining Token could bring another person inside, and after giving a token to Long Qingchen and Jin Chen, Sikong Ran brought Bai You to attend the Black Brilliance Market.

One of the major reasons the two of them were still lingering in Purple Cloud City was this Black Brilliance Market event.

Chapter 534: Mid Grade Qi Stone

It really isn't a gathering if there are no foes.

Seeing Sikong Ran and Bai You, Xin Lin was also speechless, wondering why these two hadn't left yet.

Looking at the crowd, everyone was very polite to both Sikong Ran and Bai You.

Sikong Ran was here due to the Eagle Chick Conference, while Bai You was here as the Sect Leader's daughter of Xuantian Sect.

At Qingtian Academy, Bai You had been roughly handled by the Overlord Egg, losing her eyebrows and hair, and her arrogance had been suppressed quite a bit.

But upon arriving at the Black Brilliance Market, surrounded by everyone, she once again became the center of attention, turning into a proudly displaying peacock.

Xin Lin didn't point this out, instead observing coldly from the side, not understanding the rules of Black Brilliance Market, she had to first figure out the patterns.

"Miss Bai, I heard that Xuantian Sect recently mined a batch of Mid Grade Qi Stones of good quality?"

"Could you let us take a look?"

The crowd asked impatiently.

Xin Lin's heart stirred upon hearing this.

Qi Stone?

"Everyone is indeed well-informed. Yes, our Xuantian Sect discovered a vein of Mid Grade Qi Stone half a month ago, which contains roughly fifty percent Spiritual Energy. You all must know that nowadays, especially in the smaller nations at the borders, the Spiritual Energy is much less than before, but with Qi Stones, one can cultivate anytime and anywhere."

Bai You was full of pride.

The Qi Stones she mentioned were clearly her trump card.

Though Xuantian Sect is not considered a Major Sect.

Xuantian Sect however possesses several veins of Qi Stone which are the real reason why it stands out among numerous Middle Sects.

Could those Qi Stones be the same as the rocky lumps in Long Qingchen's purse earlier?

Xin Lin recalled.

"Everyone, don't rush. This time at the market, our sect will auction off one hundred Mid Grade Qi Stones. If you are interested, you may participate in the bidding."

Amid the envious gazes, Bai You became even more fluttering.

By the time Bai You and Sikong Ran arrived, almost everyone else had gathered, and Jiang Qing signaled for everyone to quiet down.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the market is about to begin. Most of you here are regulars and know the rules. However, there are also a few who are new, so I, Jiang, will talk a bit and explain the rules of the Black Brilliance Market."

From Jiang Qing's words, Xin Lin learned some of the rules of Black Brilliance Market.

Each table in the marketplace represents a stall, selling different kinds of items, categorized into herbs, vessels, Xuan Spirit Beasts, Cultivation Techniques, and Spiritual Treasures.

Each guest present can participate in the buying and selling at any table according to their liking.

The buying and selling adopt the highest bid wins method, and once a deal is made, both parties need to give a ten percent commission to the Black Brilliance Market.

If the buyer doesn't have enough money, they can also borrow from the Black Brilliance Market, but with high daily interest.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin thought to herself,

What a Brother Jiang, truly a model of pretending to be a pig to eat the tiger.

I wondered how a Hall Master of Alchemy Hall became a distinguished guest of Emperor Longteng, now it seems, Black Brilliance Market is his true background.

Only, who knows what exactly is the origin of the Black Brilliance Market, and whether it is more formidable than Xuantian Sect?

"Additionally, the transactions at Black Brilliance Market only accept silver, gold, and Qi Stones. Don't forget this point."

Jiang Qing lastly reminded kindly.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin inwardly cried out in alarm, as she had not brought any money with her when she sneaked out at night.

Chapter 535: Bounty Order (800 Monthly Ticket Bonus)

The only valuable thing Xin Lin had on her was the ten Qi Stones she had taken from Long Qingchen earlier.

Xin Lin also didn't know how much those stones were actually worth.

While Jiang Qing was talking, Sikong Ran glanced around and was somewhat surprised not to find Jiang Qing and Jin Chen, but he didn't comment further.

Having familiarized herself with the rules of the Black Brilliance Market, Xin Lin relaxed a bit.

The Black Brilliance Market was even freer than she had imagined; in her Night Wandering State, she could have a good look around.

Bai You and Sikong Ran were treated as honored guests because they had Qi Stones with them. They occupied a table by themselves, presumably to auction off the Qi Stones later.

Xin Lin remembered that her purpose in coming here was the Golden Crow Egg Shell.

Thus, she began to wander among the tables, casually checking to see what good things were available at the Black Shining Market.

At the table closest to Xin Lin stood seven or eight people, most of whom were Martial Artists, with only one or two Spirit Masters among them.

As Xin Lin approached, the two Spirit Masters became alert.

Although a Great Spirit Master could appear in a Night Wandering State, lower and Intermediate Spirit Masters found this state unstable, easily revealing their true identities.

These two Spirit Masters were not in a Night Wandering State, clearly with cultivation levels around Basic and Intermediate Great Spirit Master.

So when they noticed that a "Night Wandering" Advanced Great Spirit Master had arrived beside them, they subconsciously stepped back.

What was being sold at this table were various Spiritual Medicines and Medicinal Herbs, and most of the Elixir Pills were of Jade quality, with not even one Mortal-grade Elixir Pill, definitely superior compared to the Elixir Pills from the Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall.

Of course, the value was also much higher.

A common Jade-grade Elixir Pill would cost around one tael of gold.

The currency conversion in Longteng Country was one hundred Copper Coins for one tael of silver, and one hundred silver taels for one tael of gold (for convenience, this will be the currency conversion used in this book).

However, Xin Lin also discovered that at the Black Brilliance Market, there was another form of currency: Qi Stones.

For example, a Jade-grade Upper Stage Efficacy Pill was worth one Intermediate Qi Stone, equivalent to ten taels of gold in value.

So, the ten Qi Stones she had casually taken from Long Qingchen were worth at least 500 taels of gold.

Xin Lin inwardly clicked her tongue, thinking that Qi Stones were indeed good stuff.

But after some inquiries, Xin Lin found that there were no Golden Crow Egg Shells on the table.

As for that Efficacy Pill, it seemed rather inexpensive to Xin Lin, who possessed the Ultimate Marrow Cleansing Powder.

Seeing nothing of interest, Xin Lin shook her head and moved on to the next table.

"Lord Dominator, have you found any item to your liking?"

A few steps later, Jiang Qing, with a smile on his face, came over.

Jiang Qing had a good impression of this mysterious "Lord Dominator", who rarely spoke.

"Not yet, Master Jiang. The item I'm looking for is not available at this Black Shining Market."

Xin Lin was somewhat disappointed.

"If Lord Dominator has enough funds at hand, you can issue a Bounty Order at the Bounty Table to have a Mercenary Army help search. However, the starting price for a Bounty Order issued at the Bounty Table is ten Intermediate Qi Stones."

Jiang Qing pointed to a table in the farthest corner. Xin Lin noticed that this table was somewhat different from the others; it had a writing brush, ink, paper, and inkstone on it. In the center of the table, there was something resembling an incense burner.

Occasionally, someone would walk over, write a few lines swiftly, and drop them into the incense burner. Strangely, as soon as the paper was thrown in, it would vanish.

Chapter 536: Damaged Spirit Art Bamboo Slip

Xin Lin was seeing such a scene for the first time, and couldn't help but take a few extra looks.

"Lord Dominator must have heard of the Mercenary Army, which is a special profession composed of Spirit Masters and Martial Artists who take people's money to eliminate disasters for them. Black Brilliance Market cooperates with various Mercenary Armies throughout the year, and the Worry Relief Furnace will distribute the Bounty Order to appropriate Mercenary Armies. Those who complete the task within a certain period will receive the bounty. When issuing a Bounty Order, a deposit of 10% of the reward must be paid in advance, and this deposit is non-refundable regardless of whether the bounty is successful or not. Moreover, the content of the Bounty Orders in the Worry Relief Furnace is kept strictly confidential by Black Brilliance Market, even the market itself will not know what Bounty Order has been issued."

Jiang Qing could see that this was Lord Dominator's first time dealing with such a Bounty Order and kindly explained.

Xin Lin felt slightly moved, thinking that this was indeed a good method.

She had been looking for the Golden Crow Egg Shell for quite some time but had no clues.

"Does issuing a Bounty Order for finding an item also cost ten Qi Stones?"

Xin Lin asked.

Jiang Qing nodded.

"To issue it, you just need to pay one Mid Grade Qi Stone initially, and upon completion of the task, you pay the remaining nine Qi Stones."

The rest concerns the intermediary fees between Black Brilliance Market and the parties involved in the transaction.

Xin Lin calculated, it would altogether take about twelve stones.

She stepped forward, wrote down a few lines, folded them, and inserted them into the Worry Relief Furnace.

As expected, the paper immediately disappeared.

Xin Lin then took out a Qi Stone and handed it to Jiang Qing.

As expected, Jiang Qing did not inquire about the contents of the Bounty Order Xin Lin had issued.

"Hopefully, your Bounty Order, Lord Dominator, will take effect soon. Lord Dominator, the table ahead is about to start auctioning Cultivation Techniques and Spirit Arts, are you interested in taking a look?"

Jiang Qing glanced at the middle table.

Compared to the table for Bounty Orders, this table was much larger. It was surrounded by dozens of people and was among the liveliest so far tonight.

Xin Lin wanted to see if there were any Spirit Arts or Cultivation Techniques suitable for herself or the Overlord Egg, so she followed Jiang Qing over.

Upon seeing Jiang Qing, many stepped back, their faces filled with hesitation.

However, she saw that on the table there were several bamboo slips and stone carvings.

These were the most common carriers of text on Longteng Continent; Longteng mainland hasn't popularized paper yet, ordinary households have no books, only official families have widely used paper or silk.

Generally speaking, Spirit Arts are recorded on bamboo slips, and Cultivation Techniques are often carved in stone.

"Lower Xuan Level Martial Arts Bone Melting Palm, Mid-level Xuan Martial Arts Chasing Wind Step, Gold phase Ninth Rank Spirit Art Golden Armor Technique, Water Phase Eighth Rank Spirit Art Water Mist Technique, Earth Element..."

There were indeed quite a few Cultivation Techniques and Spirit Arts here, at least twenty or thirty types, much more sophisticated than the Ghost Escape Technique, Gathering Spirit, and Five Spirits Introduction Spirit Arts Xin Lin had encountered. Unfortunately, Xin Lin currently focused on the Fire Spirit, making these Cultivation Techniques unsuitable for her.

As for Cultivation Techniques, Xin Lin hardly found any appealing, as she possessed Gui Hu's Ghost God Fist, and now integrated the Ghost God Fist with the Fire Spirit, making its power comparable to a general Mid-level Xuan. These presented Cultivation Techniques held little temptation for her.

Moreover, the prices of these Cultivation Techniques and Spirit Arts weren't cheap, ranging from hundreds of gold coins to a few Qi Stones; Xin Lin indeed found it a bit hard to make a purchase.

At that moment, Xin Lin's attention was caught by a bamboo slip.

The bamboo slip was placed in the corner of the table, and what drew her attention to it was that it was different from the other bamboo slips; it had some worm holes that blurred some of the characters on it.

Chapter 537: A Profitable Deal

Due to these wormholes, the bamboo slip could be considered defective, and this reminded Xin Lin of the damaged Mystical Medicine Book she encountered earlier.

Written on the top of the bamboo slip were a few words: "Qi-gathering Skill."

"This Qi-gathering Skill is a Spiritual Technique used by Spirit Masters to refine Qi Stones. It is said to enhance the Qi Gathering effect and greatly benefit cultivation. Normally, it would be a No Attribute Seventh-grade Spiritual Technique, but unfortunately, the lower half is missing, making it an incomplete scroll. The seller was in urgent need of money, so it was sold at a low price, merely requiring five Mid Grade Qi Stones."

Jiang Qing was astute at reading people and sensed that Xin Lin's eyes lingered on the Qi-gathering Skill for quite some time.

A Seventh-grade Spiritual Technique, in a country like Longteng where even Great Spirit Masters are rare, is considered quite a commendable technique.

Qi-gathering can improve the grade of Qi Stones.

Like the few Great Spirit Masters from Xuantian Sect who collect Qi Stones, they know the Qi-gathering Skill, so when they collect Qi Stones, they often manage to obtain higher grade stones.

However, for Martial Artists, or Spirit Masters who do not make a living refining stones, this technique is rather superfluous, and due to its damaged state, no one among the onlookers paid attention to the bamboo slip, therefore, no one bid on it.

"I'll buy it."

Xin Lin took out five Qi Stones and handed them to the person from Black Brilliance Market.

"Lord Dominator, this bamboo slip is incomplete, are you sure about this?"

Jiang Qing was quite surprised.

He was also worried; Lord Dominator had never attended Black Brilliance Market before, and his points of interest seemed different from others.

"I have a collecting habit."

Xin Lin collected the bamboo slip stoically.

Whether it was complete or incomplete did not matter to her; as long as it could be restored with the Dan Wood Furnace, she could obtain a brand new Spiritual Technique.

After using the Dan Wood Furnace several times, Xin Lin discovered that as long as there were sufficient Heaven-defying Values, the Dan Wood Furnace had the miraculous ability to turn decay into magic, and even if it could not restore it exactly as the original, it could achieve something of a similar grade.

This indeed was a No Attribute Seventh-grade Spiritual Technique, if properly restored, even if she only obtained a spiritual technique of the same grade, Xin Lin would still profit.

After all, a normal Seventh-grade Spiritual Technique is worth at least a hundred Qi Stones, and Xin Lin could not afford it at the moment.

Jiang Qing gave a wry smile, he prided himself on being a good judge of character, yet he could not see through the temperament of this Lord Dominator at all.

"Master Jiang, why bother with such people. Some people overestimate themselves, thinking they can become Refiners."

From behind, a mocking voice came, and Bai You and Sikong Ran approached.

Bai You considered herself a VIP at this Black Brilliance Market, but Master Jiang ignored them and instead went to greet a mysterious Great Spirit Master, which displeased her.

However, Bai You wasn't foolish; with Jiang Qing backed by Black Brilliance Market, she didn't dare to provoke him lightly and instead vented her frustration on this innocent Great Spirit Master.

"Miss Bai, Young Master Sikong, this is Lord Dominator, a Great Spirit Master. Lord Dominator, these two are prominent disciples of Xuantian Sect, Bai You and Sikong Ran."

Jiang Qing was only polite and introduced the two.

He was afraid that Bai You might offend Lord Dominator, so he led the two away.

This was exactly what Xin Lin wanted; she moved to a corner and quietly took out the Dan Wood Furnace.

Ever since handling the dietary issues of the School Clinic, Xin Lin had developed the habit of carrying the Dan Wood Furnace with her.

"Life Book, how many Heaven-defying Values do I need to refine this incomplete Qi-gathering Skill?"

Xin Lin tentatively asked.

Chapter 538: Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique

"The Life Book indicates that to repair the incomplete Seventh-grade Spiritual Technique, it will cost 50 Heaven-defying Value."

Moments later, there was a response from the Heaven-defying Book.

Heaven-defying Value... that's truly expensive.

These past few days, she had not received a substantial amount of Heaven-defying Value as income; only expenditures, leaving her with only 359 points of Heaven-defying Value on the books.

Xin Lin felt like crying. Thinking of the value of Qi Stones, she gritted her teeth and made the deduction.

The 359 Heaven-defying Value immediately dropped to 309 Heaven-defying Value.

The Dan Wood Furnace silently sucked in the bamboo slip.

While the Dan Wood Furnace was busy refining, Xin Lin looked back.

Since she was cloaked by night, almost no one noticed her actions.

As for Jiang Qing, he was standing in the distance with Bai You and Sikong Ran, apparently discussing something, and did not pay attention to the commotion on her end.

Xin Lin breathed a sigh of relief, keeping an eye on the reactions of the Dan Wood Furnace in her arms.

At that end, Jiang Qing and Bai You were having an unpleasant dispute over the matter of Qi Stones.

On Bai You's face, covered by a veil, a few shades of annoyance had appeared.

"Master Jiang, by putting the Qi Stones up for auction here, I am showing respect to the Black Brilliance Market. All you do is take a ten percent commission without lifting a finger, which seems a bit excessive. I am merely asking you to reduce the fee by half, which would not amount to much of a loss for the Black Brilliance Market."

Bai You brought a hundred Intermediate Qi Stones this time, and she surely felt it was a significant deal, inevitably carrying herself with a slight air of arrogance.

Although the Black Brilliance Market wielded some influence, sitting in a place like Purple Cloud City, Jiang Qing probably wasn't anyone important within Black Brilliance Castle, so Bai You spoke with a trace of disrespect.

Jiang Qing's refined face did not show the slightest displeasure.

"Miss Bai, the fees of the Black Brilliance Market are always fair, and we charge ten percent of all transactions for anyone here. If the Xuantian Sect is unwilling, you are free to transact elsewhere. I will have no objections whatsoever."

"Are you trying to drive me away with those words?"

Bai You's haughty temper flared up again.

"Youyou, do not be rude. Hall Master Jiang, Youyou means no disrespect. Having come to the Black Brilliance Market, we naturally abide by its rules."

Sikong Ran signaled with a glance, hinting to Bai You not to say more.

Although the Black Brilliance Market has high fees, the clientele and sellers it attracts are the most abundant, and the payments later on will not be an issue.

If they left this place, it was uncertain whether they would find big buyers.

Bai You snorted, restraining herself for Sikong Ran's sake.

"Since Miss Bai and Young Master Sikong have no objections, the auction will begin shortly. Please have the Qi Stones ready."

Jiang Qing continued to be the epitome of civilized conversation, his words impeccable.

He glanced in Xin Lin's direction from the corner of his eye.

That Lord Dominator had been completely still since the beginning.

If it wasn't for the fact that his aura was still present, Jiang Qing would have thought he had left.

Aside from purchasing a few Qi Stones, the Lord Dominator had not yet made a real move.

Jiang Qing couldn't figure out his real purpose for coming to the Black Brilliance Market.

Xin Lin anxiously watched the Dan Wood Furnace. After a short while, there was a ding in her mind.

Xin Lin knew the Qi-gathering Skill inside the Dan Wood Furnace had been successfully repaired.

She couldn't wait and opened the Dan Wood Furnace.

A brand-new bamboo slip came into view.

Xin Lin was overjoyed—the repair was successful.

She looked closely, and a few words on the bamboo slip caught her eye.

"Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique."

It was still a Qi-gathering Skill, it just had the words "Five Elements" added. Xin Lin instantly read through the mnemonic on the bamboo slip and memorized it in her heart.

Chapter 539: It's Really Nice to Have a Mine at Home

Spending 50 Heaven-defying Value on this Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique, Xin Lin was clueless about how it differed from the ordinary Qi-gathering Skills.

But right now, she didn't have the time to concern herself with these details.

At the table beside her, a crowd had already gathered.

It turned out that the Qi Stones brought by Bai You from Xuantian Sect had begun to be auctioned off.

Xin Lin didn't know much about Qi Stones and just happened to want to see what they were all about.

Following the crowd, she made her way to the front of the table.

For cultivators, Qi Stones are like grains are to ordinary people, especially in a place like Purple Cloud City, where the density of Spiritual Energy is not rich. Having Qi Stones is like having food for cultivation.

The Martial Artists and Spirit Masters present all had considerable cultivation levels and were even more in need of Qi Stones.

So, when they saw over a hundred Qi Stones piled up like a small mountain on the table, a collective gasp went through the crowd.

Intermediate Qi Stones contained about fifty percent of Spiritual Energy.

This fifty percent was very tempting even for those in the Xuan Transformation Realm and at the Spirit Master Level.

However, Xin Lin only glanced a few times at the so-called Qi Stones and, sure enough, they looked similar in quality to the ten Qi Stones she had obtained from Long Qingchen previously; they were virtually identical.

It seemed likely that Long Qingchen's Qi Stones came from the Xuantian Sect.

In others' eyes, these enticing Qi Stones were almost insignificant to Xin Lin.

Compared to the lotus-shaped Fire Spirit that came from the Overlord Egg, the Spiritual Energy within these Qi Stones was quite impure, with less than half of it truly absorbable if taken into one's body.

In other words, these fifty percent Qi Stones might not even match the effectiveness of a single Qi Stone that Xin Lin had.

"Here are one hundred Intermediate Qi Stones, which I will sell in ten batches. The starting bid for each batch is 500 gold coins," Bai You declared with a face full of pride.

A single stone was worth fifty gold coins, equivalent to five thousand silver coins, and that was just the starting bid.

Xin Lin secretly clicked her tongue in amazement.

"Of course, besides gold, bartering is also accepted. Any Spiritual Treasure above the Five Shining level, Seventh-grade Techniques, or any Cultivation Technique above Upper Dark-grade can be exchanged," Bai You said, with a hint of grinding teeth when mentioning Spiritual Treasures.

Her horsetail whisk had been destroyed by that damn egg of Xin Lin.

She was forced to look for a new Spiritual Artifact.

Bai You's auction price was clearly not low.

Yet there were still many interested bidders.

"The first batch of Intermediate Qi Stones, starting at 500 gold coins."

Sikong Ran took out a bag of Qi Stones and presented one to Jiang Qing for inspection.

Jiang Qing nodded; the Qi Stone's quality was not an issue.

"550 gold coins, 580 gold coins... 600 gold coins..."

The price rose steadily.

Xin Lin sighed to herself.

Having a mine at home is wonderful in this day and age; no wonder Sikong Ran, the Phoenix Man, would have a change of heart. Even she was almost 'falling in love' with the wealthy Bai You.

As the price of the Qi Stones climbed, Xin Lin looked at the bag of Qi Stones and was quite displeased with their extortionate profit.

Xin Lin thought of the freshly acquired Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique.

The Qi-gathering Technique could enhance the concentration of Spiritual Energy in the Qi Stones, she wondered what the effect would be if applied to the remaining few stones.

Rather than doing nothing and watching Bai You show off, she preferred to try and produce a few Qi Stones with a higher purity.

A thought struck Xin Lin, and she silently recited the mnemonic of the Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique in her mind.

But to her surprise, the few Qi Stones she had 'borrowed' did not change at all.

Chapter 540: Spirit Art Worth 50 Heaven-defying Value

Why is there no reaction?

Xin Lin felt somewhat disappointed and tried again.

The remaining four energy stones still showed no reaction at all; the spiritual energy within the stones did not increase.

Is it possible that the Life Book is tricking me again?

Heaven-defying Points.

The frustrated Xin Lin ignored the frantic bidding going on around her and confronted the Heaven-defying Book.

"Life Book, what kind of useless junk did you give me? Plenty of words, but no use at all."

"Life Book Prompt: Products of the Life Book are guaranteed of high quality. The Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique can increase the spiritual energy content of the energy stones, but only those produced by the Life Book. Energy stones from street vendors are not effective."

Uh... Xin Lin was stunned.

So her Life Book was scolding the intermediate Qi Stones from Xuantian Sect for not being of high enough grade.

Could the Life Book be any more capricious?

They're just stones; how can they be distinguished as high or low, noble or lowly?

Xin Lin felt the pain.

Only recognizing the renowned Qi Stones from the Life Book meant that she had to use the Opportunity Dice again to get some Qi Stones.

Biting her teeth, Xin Lin used another 50 Heaven-defying Points and got 5 new Qi Stones.

Xin Lin examined the newly acquired Qi Stones, which looked no different from intermediate ones, pinching one and reluctantly reciting the Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique once more.

This time, as soon as Xin Lin finished reciting the mnemonic, she felt something different.

The Qi Stone in her palm moved slightly, as if a warm current of air quickly flowed into the stone.

It's working!

Xin Lin looked around; under the effect of Fu Xi's Energy, she could see the spiritual energy in Black Brilliance Market flowing towards the Qi Stone in her hand.

Unlike the previous time when Xin Lin used Gathering Spirit to absorb the Fire Spirit into her body, this technique was like an indiscriminate eater, absorbing any spiritual energy lingering in the nearby air into the Qi Stone in Xin Lin's palm.

The originally empty Qi Stone quickly absorbed the spiritual energy.

In just a few breaths, the spiritual energy in the Qi Stone increased from none to twenty percent... thirty percent... fifty percent... sixty percent... seventy percent. Finally, at seventy percent spiritual energy, the Qi Stone stopped absorbing further.

Xin Lin's once empty Qi Stone now contained seventy percent spiritual energy.

It seems the maximum it could reach was seventy percent.

Xin Lin realized.

She took out another Qi Stone and began the absorption process.

Similar to the previous stone, this Qi Stone rapidly absorbed the remaining spiritual energy.

So far, the surrounding Qi had been absorbed by the Qi Stones in Xin Lin's hand through the Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique.

It's a pity, the spiritual energy here is quite limited.

As Xin Lin lamented, just when she thought she could only absorb one and a half Qi Stones that night, something jaw-dropping happened.

The process of the Qi Stone absorbing Qi continued.

Where is the spiritual energy coming from?

Xin Lin wondered.

The spiritual energy around had clearly been completely scavenged.

Following the source of the spiritual energy, Xin Lin's gaze fell on a table not far away.

On the table, there lay a hundred intermediate Qi Stones from Xuantian Sect.

During the time Xin Lin was secretly cultivating the Five Elements Qi Gathering Technique, Bai You had sold bags of twenty Qi Stones, purchased by a Xuan Transformation Realm Martial Artist and a Great Spirit Master for one thousand gold coins and 1,100 gold coins, respectively.

Now, the spiritual energy being absorbed by the Qi Stone in Xin Lin's hand was coming from those intermediate Qi Stones.