

Medical 361

Chapter 361: Truth Potion

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Another question they frequently asked was about Hui Yue. Did they know he was a cultivator with the title of Saint? Was he using some sort of divine technique to maintain his youth instead of aging? Was he originally from here?

The royal officials brought truth potions. Although these were mild magic potions, they still prevented lies. However, when the officials heard them swear they never revealed his secrets, they immediately stopped questioning.

The official never noticed that only Wang Julong mentioned the Blood Oath, while Deng Wu remained silent, carefully watching him with an attentive gaze.

"He was born in a poor village on the outskirts of the Magic Forest," Lord Liang Rongge said straightforwardly when asked. He would never refuse information from the Royal Family, answering all questions to the best of his ability.

"I saw him for the first time when I was five years old. Although I thought he was a bit strange, I never imagined he would become a Holy Name Expert."

"No, it is absolutely not a fraud. Young Hui Yue was using Wu Wei! While you can fake an aura, it is impossible to counterfeit Wu Wei. Only those who can enter the Upper Dantian are capable of mastering Wu Wei."

"I regret that I couldn't document what happened. He was fighting against young Deng Wu, continually approaching us until he suddenly burst his aura forward. Afterward, he went to protect young Deng Wu, and together they charged ahead."

"No, I do not know where he might be. He is no longer in Liluo City. I sent people with truth potions to question his hometown, but they only said they hadn't seen him for the entire year."

"To ensure the village's safety, I gave him an erased past. Although they couldn't contribute much to taxes for many years, they have helped me over the years. I felt this was a good way to repay their kindness."

Rong Liang owned nothing. The royal officials recorded everything, then they also went to Huixue Village, only to find that he had long been absent from there.

The trial lasted five consecutive days. In the end, all the elders and family leaders who had lost their standings were sentenced to death.

Deng Wu and Wang Julong survived, but both were exiled from Liluo City due to their negligence. Although they had played significant roles in the battle within Liluo City, it was evident they were aware of what had transpired before the actual fight. Knowing this information could have prompted them to notify the City Lord.

Wang Jingshen eventually became the new leader of the Wang Family, while the Deng Family passed leadership to the child of an elder. Deng Wu and Wang Julong were allowed to stay in the city briefly, as they wished to witness the execution of their families.

The execution of all the elders and family leaders would have been a devastating blow to any family, especially those ranked among the top one hundred. Yet, they managed to survive thanks to their centuries of legacy and reputation.

These families held immense wealth. Although both families had to pay heavy fines for their actions, it was negligible compared to the fortune the Deng Family had accumulated over the years.

The Wang Family's situation was slightly worse due to prior financial struggles. However, as a family with a storied history, they still owned considerable land, which helped them settle their fines. After settling their debts, Wang Jingshen successfully kept his family in the Liluo City noble circle, though not as prominent as before.

Wang Jingshen grew up in the shadow of his sister, but now it was his time to shine. He had long demonstrated his ability to become a competent family leader.

The uprising in Liluo City shook the entire Sun Kingdom. Rumors of a new Holy Name Expert, perhaps even a child, began to spread. However, as quickly as the rumors started, they also faded just as swiftly.

Only Rong Liang, Bu Huang, and the Ma family leader were present when Hui Yue allowed Lan Feng to take care of his body. With no recordings to prove its existence, many began to believe it was merely a rumor spread by Liluo City for boasting purposes.

The universally known fact, though, was that the Deng Clan and Wang Family suffered tremendous losses. This fact alone was enough to spark widespread gossip across the kingdom in the coming months.

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After the execution, Deng Wu stood at the gates of his family's old home, sitting atop his mystical beast. He wore a belt adorned with multiple storage stones, and rings with embedded storage stones could be seen on his hands. A handsome young man sighed, turned around, and left the house of his childhood, never expecting to see it again.

Across the city, an eerily similar scene played out as Wang Julong bid her brother farewell and swung her leg over the magic horse she was riding. Her face was calm, with not a hint of nostalgia or sadness.

For Wang Julong, this was the beginning of a new life where she could truly come into her own. To her, exile was no worse than her daily life had ever been.

Deng Wu and Wang Julong were not the only ones leaving the city. The Rong twins were preparing to head for the Capital, yet both of them took the road to the Magic Forest. Gao Yan also decided to join them on their journey to the Capital.

A lone rider could be seen traveling town after town, as Ma Kong requested to rest for a few days before leaving Liluo City. Like the others, he too was heading for the Magic Forest.

"It's truly a wonderful feeling to see you all gathered here today," Hui Yue said with a smile as he looked at his friends, who had ridden all the way to find him.

Hui Yue sat in the Magic Forest, beside a beautiful stream flowing through a field of blossoms. This place was where Sha Yun once lived, and several days ago, it was also the home of Hui Le. Meanwhile, the trials in Liluo City had been ongoing.

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The atmosphere within the group was initially somewhat heavy, but as Sha Yun started the bonfire and Hui Yue brought out wine and beer from the stored stones, it soon became much more joyful.

Gao Yan went off to search for Fanged Hogs again and returned within an hour with a massive specimen. They quickly placed it over the bonfire, allowing it to roast.

As they danced while humming songs, the previously quiet space quickly became filled with laughter and joy. They all knew this would be their last gathering for years to come, yet none of them felt disheartened. Instead, they thoroughly enjoyed these final moments of unrestrained happiness.

They did not sleep that night. Instead, they shared their hopes and dreams for the future. After the sun rose, the Rong twins and Gao Yan were the first to get up.

Rong Xing could no longer hold back and gave Hui Yue, Sha Yun, and Mama a big hug. Her cheeks flushed red as she gave Deng Wu a kiss, causing the astonished man to almost tumble from the log where he was seated.

Rong Xing had just kissed Deng Wu. Her sweet voice lingered in the air, saying "Take care," but the girl had already mounted her Qilin and swiftly left the clearing. She left behind a stunned Rong Ming and Gao Yan, who hurried to catch up with her.

Watching how the other three departed, Ma Kong smiled sadly as he looked at their retreating figures. Then he quietly lifted his head, nodded gently, turned around, and left without glancing back even once.

"It seems we won't be traveling alone," Lan Feng remarked as Deng Wu and Wang Julong showed no intention of getting up. Instead, they both stared at Hui Yue with clear anticipation in their eyes. Somehow, they reminded the white-haired boy of puppies, eliciting a warm laugh from his lips.

"Do you mind if they join us?" Hui Yue asked curiously, leaning against a tall tree, completely ignoring the sharp gazes from his two friends while conversing with Lan Feng.

"I don't mind them," Phoenix said, its voice tinged with annoyance. "I'm just saying you need to be careful about who you help in the future. We can't pick up random strays everywhere!"

At first, Hui Yue had been against using Lan Feng for the battle in Liluo City. He initially wanted to retain the power of a Saint for as long as possible, but arguing with Lan Feng was impossible.

Phoenix was adamant about flaunting its strength to showcase the real power of cultivators to the King.

Initially, Lan Lan insisted on executing the three experts on Deng and Wang's side, but Hui Yue opposed.

After discussions between Hui Yue and Lan Feng, in the presence of Wang Julong and Deng Wu, a compromise satisfying Lan Feng was finally reached.

Hui Yue sighed deeply, wondering why Lan Feng was so eager to showcase its strength. But when he asked the bird about its motivations, its response left Hui Yue shocked, resolving never to inquire further.

"I've spent the past six months perfecting Wu Wei; my strength has finally returned to greatness. I want to use it. I want them to realize just how powerful I truly am. I want to crush those weak King-level cultivators who think they're prodigies like me!"

Recalling the bird's boastful reasons just moments ago, Hui Yue couldn't help but laugh. It was evident that because of Lan Feng, Hui Yue could no longer return to Liluo City, but he didn't mind at all. Instead, Hui Yue looked at Wang Julong and Deng Wu, both of whom were still excitedly staring at him.

"We'll leave in a few hours," he said with a grin. "Until then, get some rest. Who knows what awaits us in the Holy Dungeon."

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In a palace of Sun City, the capital of the Sun Kingdom, a lone figure sat in a completely dark room, his eyes constantly watching the window.

Few would sit in this position for hours without moving; even the castle's maids would be shocked, as it defied their expectations of the Third Prince.

Finally, a black speck appeared on the horizon, swiftly flying toward the window. The already narrowed eyes of the young man further tightened in anticipation. Stretching out his hand, he quickly caught the speck, which turned out to be a small bird with a tiny stone tied to its leg.

Within seconds, he lifted the stone to his forehead and read its contents, causing his handsome face to distort in anger.

"Useless!" he yelled as he hurled the stone to the ground, shattering it into thousands of pieces. "What great hundred families? Even combined, they can't deal with a worthless City Lord!"

Standing in the dark room's center, the Third Prince gazed out the window once more. His eyes gradually calmed, the unyielding light within them glowing as a faint smile crossed his face.

"I suppose I must deal with them personally," he said softly, chuckling, "but first, eliminate the witnesses."

A cold wind swept in from the sea, where four figures could be seen standing atop a cliff. Below them, turbulent waves crashed against jagged rocks, deadly and ominous.

"Are you sure we need to go down there?" Hui Yue asked hesitantly, peering at the peril below, while the stubborn Phoenix merely snorted in reply.

Hui Yue, along with Deng Wu, Wang Julong, and Sha Yun, had departed from the Magic Forest four months ago. Since then, the group had wandered to the southwest of the kingdom, reaching a point where all they could see was water stretching endlessly.

Hui Yue and his companions stood at the westernmost edge of the Sun Kingdom, the end of the peninsula. Hui Yue never let his mind grow complacent, always maintaining an alert gaze in his piercing blue eyes.

Standing at the kingdom's boundary, Hui Yue confronted the edge of the small world he currently inhabited. The peninsula ended in a massive cliff towering thousands of meters above the stormy sea.

Even the normally cheerful Sha Yun showed signs of unease as fierce waves slammed against the cliff's rocky walls.

"Once upon a time," Lan Feng muttered, frowning slightly. Even the firm foundation of four thousand years ago was nowhere to be seen; instead, pieces of rock had been eroded away by turbulent waters annually. Four thousand years later, those minor fragments had grown into gaping voids, completely transforming the landscape.

Four months ago, Hui Yue and Sha Yun had led Wang Julong and Deng Wu through the Magic Forest, traversing the countryside all the way to the kingdom's southwestern edge, a location rumored to hold the entrance to the Holy Dungeon.

During this journey, Hui Yue had tried his best to extract information from Lan Feng about the dungeon waiting ahead, but the damn bird yielded no answers. Hui Yue envisioned a damp, dark maze of underground tunnels with sunlight barely piercing through.

The most excitement they'd encountered along the way had come from discussions about the events in Liluo City and their expectations for their destination.

The group had deliberately avoided villages of all sizes—even the smallest and poorest ones—because Hui Yue wished to leave no trace of their whereabouts, not even the faintest.

Hui Yue had brought everything with him. Earlier, he had relied on techniques he had learned from the old world. Though primitive by his standards, they were utterly new and unfamiliar in this world. If the Sun Royal Kingdom gained knowledge of them, they would immediately recognize that Hui Yue possessed secrets forbidden from falling into neighboring kingdoms or even defiant high-level nobles.

While relationships between kingdoms were currently amicable, nothing could ever be certain. Wars had broken out in the past over hopes of uniting all under one banner, and Hui Yue's knowledge was by no means limited to harmless inventions. The Royal Family would undoubtedly covet him solely for these secrets.

Another reason someone might pursue him was the revelation of his power as a Holy Rank expert. Clearly, anyone following him had the intention of testing whether his strength truly belonged to the Holy Rank—the motivation for chasing him was evident.

If he proved to be a Holy Name expert, they would exert every effort to invite him into their ranks. Hui Yue was no fool; Holy Rank experts were not forces to be trifled with. Still, the Sun Kingdom surely had some experts of such caliber amongst their ranks. If Hui Yue refused their polite invitation, he might be compelled to join. In the worst-case scenario, he could indeed face elimination.

Hui Yue shook his head, refusing to dwell on these possibilities. Within the past four months, he had advanced to the Third Master Level without any interruptions to his cultivation during the journey. Instead, he directed all his focus on the cliff wall, sighing deeply.

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"Just fly to the middle of the cliff." Lan Feng's voice was carefree as he explained what they needed to do. "Although the terrain has changed, it's impossible to move the underground city and search the edge of the cliff without finding a cave at least 2 meters wide and 4 meters high. I suspect its entrance disappeared long ago."

Upon hearing this, Hui Yue couldn't help but snort. Although Lan Feng's tone was casual, it lacked substance.

Since the Phoenix couldn't accurately pinpoint the location, Hui Yue had to rely on Qi Fan to personally investigate an area potentially spanning hundreds of kilometers.

Although Hui Yue opened his Middle Dantian, the size of his Qi vortex didn't grow. His cultivation techniques tirelessly absorbed strands of Qi, only to refine them into spiritual essence.

To cover such a vast area, Hui Yue needed at least several days of constant searching and meditation to replenish his Qi Pool.

He could potentially create multiple Qi spheres and have his friends assist in the search, but doing so would deplete his Qi faster. Moreover, his friends wouldn't be able to control the Qi spheres, as they only responded to Hui Yue's commands and dissipated if they moved more than a kilometer away from him.

Seeing the different possibilities, Hui Yue activated Qi from his lower Dantian and stepped onto a pearl-white fan, which slowly carried him to the edge of the cliff.

The cliff search took a week. Hui Yue spent half a day meticulously inspecting every corner of the rough stone wall and rested to cultivate, replenishing his Qi vortex along the way.

While Hui Yue examined the walls, Sha Yun stayed with him, constantly observing and remaining alert, ready to offer assistance at any moment.

One benefit of searching the cliff edge was Hui Yue encountering some rare herbal medicines. He knew nothing about these special plants, but Lan Feng ordered him to collect them and promised to educate him on their use when they entered the underground city, as they would prove crucial during their underground journey.

While Hui Yue and Sha Yun were busy along the cliff, Wang Julong and Deng Wu ventured to the nearby forests or grasslands to secure their dinner.

They salvaged whatever they could from fresh wild berries and prepared roasted magical beasts. During the journey, Deng Wu and Wang Julong took on the responsibility of food gathering. Usually, the two argued about what they wanted to eat, but given their camping situation, where they had to forage for food, neither of the spoiled young men got what they desired.

At first, Deng Wu and Wang Julong found camping life rather amusing, but after a month, the novelty wore off. Accustomed to having servants cater to their every need, they were forced to procure everything themselves in the wild.

Three months later, they finally adapted to their new lifestyle. The once-pampered young masters argued less, proving their competence for this tougher existence. Hui Yue couldn't help but laugh at the two, never regretting bringing them along as their antics brought him plenty of amusement.

Lan Feng was also pleased with their inclusion. Wang Julong and Deng Wu were masters-level experts, both trained using cultivation methods provided by Lan Feng.

They far surpassed the average masters and even some grandmasters among cultivators, owing their exceptional abilities to Lan Feng and his cultivation techniques. This left them deeply grateful and willing to do whatever he might ask of them.

Although Deng Wu and Wang Julong considered Hui Yue to be their friend, they practically revered Lan Feng. The Phoenix had fulfilled all their desires, granting them the power to stand on their own.

Though Little Dragon had previously aided Deng Wu in his cultivation, it was only a temporary boost. Lan Feng offered him a cultivation system enabling him to progress toward his desired level. Additionally, Lan Feng bestowed advanced martial arts skills and even ensured survival possibilities for Deng Xiaoping and the Wang Family.

Wang Julong shared this admiration, possessing talents similar to Deng Wu's and enjoying newfound freedom as a young woman recognized for her own identity despite struggling to adapt at first.

Every time Lan Feng heard the two praising him, his feathers would fluff and sway, giving the Phoenix an air of self-importance, as though he had rescued the world from a catastrophic disaster.

Hui Yue occasionally chuckled at the sight but understood why his friends felt that way. For him, their companionship made this journey much less lonely. There was safety in numbers and the added bonus of passing time in good company.

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On the fourteenth day of searching the cliff edge, Hui Yue finally discovered remnants of the cave entrance. He had surveyed the area multiple times before Lan Feng eventually suggested that the entrance might be concealed beneath vegetation or hidden by a boulder to deter unwelcome visitors.

As it turned out, this was precisely the case. A large boulder obstructed the entrance, but Hui Yue easily shattered it using spiritual energy infused with black blood. Once his dagger struck the boulder, it crumbled into thousands of fragments.

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Back in the cave, Hui Yue frowned slightly, as it was completely shrouded in darkness. Within seconds, he created three additional Qi Fans, which he used to gather his companions and bring them to him.

Together, they stepped into the blackened world of the cave. Yet as soon as their feet touched the ground, it felt as though the entire world had begun to spin.

With an inadvertent grab, Hui Yue sensed a surge of force pulling them, causing all four of them to scramble blindly in absolute darkness. Suddenly, Hui Yue once again found his footing.

Hui Yue quickly calmed himself, waved his hand, and summoned a Memory Stone from his storage stone. The Memory Stone in his hand contained the essence of sunlight, and as its radiance illuminated the cave they had entered, Hui Yue's eyes widened slightly as he spotted Deng Wu standing beside him. Wang Julong and Sha Yun were also with them.

"What bad luck," Lan Feng commented upon discovering this. "They've ended up in another room. I think we should head out to find them."

Hui Yue got up but didn't immediately set out to search for Wang Julong and Sha Yun. Instead, he calmly observed the surroundings, his expression tinged with wariness.

The cave was barren, as expected, but a few types of fungi grew in the darkest corners. When Hui Yue activated a light stone, the mushrooms began to crumble, as though the sunlight was lethal to them.

The stone, in truth, was a low-tier storage stone housing a seed of light. Its poor quality and exposure in the room let sunlight spill over everything nearby.

A light seed isn't truly a plant. Rather, it's a small pearl refined from concentrated sunlight. Crafting a single light seed takes over a year, and its exorbitant cost lies in the preciousness of both plants and pearls. A light seed isn't something just anyone can afford.

The name stems from its ability to be "planted" into the ground, where sunlight will "grow" from it. A tree absorbs the light cast upon it, and its output includes more light seeds.

Though this sounds straightforward, the process is crucial: the tree must continuously refine sunlight while producing seeds. Otherwise, the tree cannot generate seeds. Within the Sun Kingdom, only one area meets the stringent requirements for cultivating light seeds.

For this journey, Hui Yue brought only two beams of sunlight, both of which he currently carried. He couldn't help but worry for Wang Julong and Sha Yun, who were trapped in the Black Maze without any light to guide them.

The room illuminated by the stone was dark and damp, isolated entirely from the outside world. With no windows, there was only one path forward, forcing them to discuss which direction to take.

After assessing the situation, Hui Yue handed the light stone to Deng Wu and quickly sat down in a meditative posture.

Seeing this, Deng Wu furrowed his brows in confusion, thinking this wasn't the ideal time for cultivation. Nonetheless, he said nothing and patiently waited for the youth to finish whatever he was doing.

Hui Yue synchronized himself with the earth, but his control over it wasn't yet complete. Even with full synchronization, Hui Yue, as a young man, still needed to hone his elemental affinity and couldn't command larger quantities of earth.

Sitting in deep thought, Hui Yue wasn't training, contrary to Deng Wu's assumption. Instead, he was manipulating his Earth Element Affinity to scan as much of the mountain as his capability allowed.

Hui Yue was attuned to the earth, his presence blending into the maze's twisted walls and winding passages inside the mountain. Unfortunately, his control over the earth limited him to scanning only a few kilometers from his current position. Despite his diligent search, he found no trace of Sha Yun or Wang Julong.

Hui Yue frowned, opened his eyes, and stood up, brushing off the dust that had collected on his robe while sitting.

"I can't sense any living beings or detect any signs," Hui Yue said aloud, explaining what he had observed. "The maze stretches far beyond what I can scan. It twists upward and downward with varying levels, branching left and right. It's incredibly intricate. We should anticipate this maze covering a vast space, so our biggest challenge now is determining which path to take to find the other two."

Deng Wu nodded solemnly. Although he couldn't synchronize with his element, he was still able to wield it. Shortly thereafter, he retrieved a carving knife and inscribed a symbol on the wall beside the room they had entered.

The inscription served as a safety marker with numerous advantages. Deng Wu crafted it not only to leave behind a message but also to immediately sense if any creatures approached it.

If Sha Yun or Wang Julong stumbled upon the inscription, an illusory image of Deng Wu would materialize, instructing them to remain in that room. Simultaneously, Deng Wu would be alerted to their arrival at the previous location.

As its creator, Deng Wu could perceive his inscription from any distance without limitation. As long as the inscription was formed through his cultivated foundation, it would ensure communication, even if he left this plane.

Watching Deng Wu create the inscription, Hui Yue nodded in approval before slowly starting down the lone path ahead, with Deng Wu following closely behind.

Though the pathways were evidently millennia old, it was clear they had been constructed with meticulous attention to detail. Now moldy and damp, the stone walls had once been dry, decorated every fifteen meters with a light stone.

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This sheer extravagance shocked him deeply, as he had personally investigated the size of the maze and understood just how scarce light was. These seeds had withered long ago, and, unfortunately, there was no light in the now-abandoned corridors, leaving Hui Yue somewhat regretful.

Walking through the maze, they traversed the world of darkness, with only the faint glow of the light stones to guide them. The two of them couldn't track the days. When they were hungry, they would sit down to eat some rations. When their energy was nearly depleted, they would sit down to cultivate.

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A few days earlier, in another room, Sha Yun and Wang Julong had awoken, just as Hui Yue and Deng Wu had, only to discover they had become separated from their friends.

Unlike the calm and composed Hui Yue, Sha Yun immediately panicked. She was on the verge of rushing out of the stone room to search for her master, but was forcefully stopped by Wang Julong.

The strength of these two women was relatively similar, yet Wang Julong currently had the upper hand, needing only to restrain the former. Even Sha Yun had no choice but to relent.

"So, what do you expect us to do?" the Snake Woman hissed, glaring at the girl who had confined her, hatred clear in her eyes. Sha Yun had never been happy about Wang Julong traveling with them, but since it was Hui Yue's wish, she wouldn't object. Still, Sha Yun made it a point to ensure the other woman was well aware of her unwelcomeness.

Wang Julong was an indifferent person. She was the complete opposite of Sha Yun. While she did think Hui Yue was special, she had never associated these emotions with love, even when her cheeks flushed, and her heart raced. Wang Julong could only attribute these symptoms to a lack of food or rest.

At the moment, in the room, Sha Yun was seething with anger. Blocked by Wang Julong, she watched as Julong rummaged through her various storage stones. Finally, when Julong pulled out two light stones, she grinned and tossed one to the Snake Woman.

Wang Julong's elemental affinity was with wood. She shared a special connection with the seeds of light, consistently using them while practicing her elemental affinity, causing the transparent Memory Stones to shimmer with brighter and brighter light.

Looking around the damp stones and turning her head, Wang Julong's face displayed a calm frown as she appeared deep in thought while staring at Sha Yun.

When she noticed Wang Julong had been staring at her, Sha Yun couldn't help but cross her arms and shrink back ever so slightly. She wasn't sure what the other woman was thinking, but it seemed related to her, and that alone was enough to keep her on edge.

A peculiar and almost absurd silence slowly enveloped Sha Yun, causing the Snake Woman to involuntarily shiver as her sparkling eyes darted between Wang Julong and the dark world outside the cave.

Finally, just as Sha Yun thought she couldn't bear the silence any longer, Wang Julong opened her mouth, her voice unexpectedly friendly. "Your affinity is with earth, isn't it?"

Sha Yun started, then nodded at the question. She did, indeed, have an earth affinity. It was something she had lived with since birth and had honed extensively over time.

Looking at Sha Yun and Hui Yue, both of whom shared an earth affinity, one could still see a clear difference in their abilities. While Hui Yue had previously been in complete harmony with the earth element, he continued to improve his affinity with it. Although he could now merge with the earth, his integration was still limited, as he could only temporarily become one with the earth in his current condition.

Sha Yun, by contrast, had been born with her affinity, forging a much deeper connection with the earth. This allowed her to wield more powerful attacks and control a larger domain of the earth element.

However, despite Sha Yun's innate affinity, she couldn't truly become one with the earth either. If a cultivator or magical beast managed to integrate fully with the earth—or any other element for that matter—they would lose their original body and could never return to their former state. Due to this phenomenon, beast cores regulated the extent to which magical beasts could synchronize with their affinity.

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This is the limit that humans cannot achieve, offering them chances to continuously enhance their elemental affinity. That being said, trying to increase one's affinity as a human is not easy, and typically only one in ten thousand can elevate theirs to fully embody their element.

"Let's try scanning this area," Wang Julong sighed and said, knocking lightly on the stone wall in front of them. Sha Yun nodded in agreement.

Sha Yun sat down, letting her body merge with the stone. In the room's silence, the stones around Sha Yun seemed to come alive, a faint squeaking sound could be heard.

Tiny pebbles from the ground began crawling onto her body, and within moments, her entire serpent stone form was enveloped by rock. Beneath the gravel, Wang Julong could see her very flesh transforming into stone.

Suddenly, Sha Yun opened her eyes, staring at Wang Julong as she glanced at the Snake Woman, visibly startled.

"Those idiots," she hissed, shattering the layer of condensed stone above her tail before letting a yellow hue emerge on her body. Then, she began smashing through every wall between her and her unknown destination.

Wang Julong raised an eyebrow at her sudden action but chose not to speak as he quickly followed the swearing Snake Woman.

"Those idiots... Why did they leave us behind?" Sha Yun muttered, speeding up as she headed straight for the labyrinth—something Deng Wu and Hui Yue had never considered.

Within the maze, Deng Wu and Hui Yue often paused to survey the surrounding area, searching for Sha Yun and Wang Julong. Unfortunately, no matter how hard Hui Yue stretched his senses, he could not detect even the faintest trace of life.

On the seventh day, Hui Yue finally sensed something that filled him with profound fear. Sitting on the ground, blending with the earth of the labyrinth, his face suddenly revealed shock as he felt wall after wall crumbling, as if shattered by an immense impact.

Hui Yue quickly broke out of his meditative state where he had joined with the earth. The abrupt interruption of the merge caused him to cough blood, as the earth he had previously bonded with violently reverted to its original state.

The young boy had no time to inspect his injuries; he stumbled on his legs and gestured urgently to Deng Wu that they needed to run. Whoever was destroying the labyrinth had to be at least as strong as the two of them—most likely stronger—to force through the stone walls.

Another possibility was that whoever was responsible for demolishing the walls had an affinity with the earth element. But given how effortlessly it was done, Hui Yue could clearly see that their affinity was far superior to his, making the youth excessively cautious.

As Lan Feng ignored the unfolding events, Hui Yue couldn't help but swear inwardly, pretending as if it was none of his concern. The white-haired boy resolved to enter the divine dungeon to enhance his cultivation in a place where he wouldn't be found. However, this damned bird refused to offer even the faintest clue about what the location truly was.

Glancing around, Hui Yue noted the extravagance of so much light stone being used. Though it appeared lavish, the walls were still simple stone walls, and so far, Hui Yue had yet to see anything he could deem divine.

Before this, he'd chosen some Shadow Mushrooms, as Lan Feng had claimed they were valuable. However, after filling the entire storage stone with mushrooms, Hui Yue paid no heed to the stars in the sky.

"This way!" Hui Yue hurriedly advanced down a narrow path, Deng Wu following closely behind. "Whatever it is, it seems to follow a specific course. We better not wander off, or we might end up getting smashed along with the walls." With Lan Feng eerily silent and his scanning revealing no signs of life, Hui Yue felt slightly panicked. This made it difficult for him to anticipate what lay ahead.

Rushing down an adjoining path, Hui Yue convinced himself they could veer off. But as soon as they moved, the crashed walls behind them shifted direction too. There was no longer any doubt about its intended target—whether through the destruction of the walls, it was directly aimed at them. Hui Yue stood his ground once more, clenching his teeth tightly.

"Get ready," he uttered, black blood appearing in his hands, a slight red gleam flashing in his icy blue eyes. His demeanor changed, and the surrounding air grew increasingly cold. Even Deng Wu shivered involuntarily next to him.

Hui Yue allowed his consciousness to sink into the stone below him, granting him vision of everything, even beyond the walls.

Hui Yue waited patiently and soon noticed it was not just one person moving along the path—there were actually two. As the realization struck him, a sly smirk emerged on his meditative figure's face, and the previously frozen atmosphere swiftly turned damp and stale.

Deng Wu was surprised to discover Hui Yue had withdrawn his senses from the stone floor and returned fully to his physical form. While Deng Wu had anticipated the white-haired boy to ready himself for battle, instead, Hui Yue leisurely strolled to the opposite wall and leaned against it.

A deafening thunder-like noise echoed around them, shaking the mountain as wall after wall crumbled. Eventually, only one wall remained separating them.

Deng Wu grew slightly uneasy, but he placed his full trust in Hui Yue. In the end, he walked over to the boy with white hair, sat beside him on the cold, damp stone, and waited to uncover the source of the booming sound.

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When the sound reached the final wall, they stopped walking. Although only a single door separated the two groups, breaking it as Sha Yun had done earlier wasn't an option—there was a risk of hurting her friends in the process.

Instead, she sat down and began meditating, letting her tail cut through the wall to create a doorway, allowing the two groups to reunite.

The moment Deng Wu saw the group of bandits, his senses were overwhelmed, and he broke into a radiant smile, quickly assisting Sha Yun in dismantling the wall. Looking at this mismatched group, Hui Yue couldn't help but think they were slightly unbalanced.

First was Deng Wu, who had embarked on a particularly unconventional path to becoming a wizard. But his skills as an engineer were undeniably remarkable. As long as he had sufficient materials, Hui Yue saw that he could create almost anything. Deng Wu was a master of metal affinity, just like Hui Yue, although Hui Yue hadn't devoted too much time to this particular element.

Sha Yun shared the same elemental affinity as Hui Yue, yet managed to surpass him as she became one with the Earth. Despite this, Hui Yue believed his future in Earth Element would be limitless, as he could already feel his strength growing within this stony maze.

Wang Julong was the only one aside from Hui Yue who had a dual elemental affinity, though her secondary affinity was quite limited, which had led her to focus solely on the Wood element for now.

Wang Julong was a girl determined to perfect whatever she set out to accomplish. She had decided to pursue two paths simultaneously. Her first ambition was to be a therapist, her abilities in healing were outstanding. Yet over time, her healing powers evolved into destructive weapons. Wang Julong was the embodiment of both precision and lethality, blending her assassin training with the paths she had chosen.

Her secondary elemental affinity was Water, but it was so weak that she had almost no connection with the element, causing her to focus all her attention on Wood. Once she reached the pinnacle in Wood element, only then would she begin working diligently on her affinity with Water.

Hui Yue was the closest companion to them all, but his proficiency in both metal and Earth elements lagged behind the mastery demonstrated by Sha Yun and Deng Wu. However, that was merely because they had started earlier; Hui Yue was confidently aware that he would soon catch up.

What he held that none of the others did was a natural affinity for Fire, the most destructive of all affinities.

Deng Wu finally managed to create a flawless entry point where Wang Julong and Sha Yun had appeared, though they both looked utterly filthy, with dirt covering their clothes and skin. Hui Yue couldn't help laughing, but after glancing at himself, his laughter only grew louder. He realized he looked like a cat dragged through mud, with not a single clean spot on him.

Sha Yun quipped, "We're almost out of the maze," as Hui Yue let her take the lead. The four friends chatted together, recounting the events of the past several days and reflecting on their expectations for these chaotic dungeons.

"I wonder if it's close," Deng Wu complained half a day into their walk, then abruptly stopped as his eyes fell on a massive golden door before them.

Unlike the rest of the maze, this door was crafted from gold, intricately carved with dragons. A magnificent, colossal dragon stood in the center, its emerald eyes gleaming, its scales intricately detailed with thousands of sapphire carvings.

"Welcome to the entrance of the Holy Dungeon," Lan Feng whispered within Hui Yue's Dantian. The white-haired boy swiftly relayed this information to the others.

"So this is the entrance?" Deng Wu asked in astonishment. "Does it have anything to do with the Sky Blue Dragon?" Little Dragon and Lan Feng once again refrained from answering, leaving Hui Yue puzzled by their silence.

Noticing Lan Feng's sudden shift in demeanor, Hui Yue approached the heavy door. He slowly exerted all his strength to push it open, allowing the four of them to enter together.

Stepping into the world beyond the door, all four youths froze mid-step, their jaws nearly dropping to the floor. The scene awaiting them was unlike anything they had imagined, even the typically composed Wang Julong was visibly shocked, her amazement apparent in every detail.

High above them, the sun shone brightly, igniting a sense of wonder. However, there was no sky nor clouds—they were instead greeted by a massive stone ceiling.

The ground beneath them was blanketed in lush, vibrant green grass, and just a few hundred meters away lay the outskirts of a forest.

Before the group stretched a lake—though it was no ordinary lake. It wasn't merely water; its rippling surface shimmered with silver, infused with the fluctuation of spiritual energy.

Fixing his gaze on the lake, Hui Yue walked toward it immediately, sensing how his cultivation techniques were functioning at a speed he had never experienced before. The surrounding essence was being absorbed into his body, and he embraced it eagerly.

Calling out to his friends to join him, Hui Yue quickly stripped off all his clothes before stepping into the water.

Deng Wu and Sha Yun followed quickly after him, diving into the lake to experience the sudden tranquility of their surroundings. They relaxed completely, lying in the water and allowing the spiritual energy derived from their cultivation techniques to permeate their bodies.

After some deliberation, Wang Julong also joined them, her face bright red like a lobster's. She quickly submerged herself in the silver water, yet even she couldn't resist the allure of such a great treasure.

"This Spiritual Spring stores more spiritual energy than I've ever seen," Lan Feng remarked from within Hui Yue's Dantian, his expression satisfied and joyful. "You four should remain here until the lake holds no more spiritual energy. Afterward, we'll visit the nearby village."

"A village?" Hui Yue was intrigued by the idea of an actual settlement underground, struggling to fathom what they might discover. Yet before Hui Yue could ponder his curiosity further, the calm waters washed away his confusion, and he turned his focus back to cultivation.

"Welcome to a whole new world," Lan Feng murmured with a faint smile, leaning back to observe how the Qi vortex within Hui Yue's Dantian swirled at an unprecedented pace.

"We will camp here until the pond is devoid of spiritual energy," Hui Yue communicated Lan Feng's orders to the others, and no one questioned them. Instead, they remained within the Spiritual Spring for an extended period, absorbing energy until their bodies felt completely replenished.

Sha Yun was the first to leave the pond, immediately entering meditation to refine the spiritual energy into a form usable for Magical Creatures, merging it with the other energies housed within her beast core.

Wang Julong was next to leave the pond, taking a moment to dress before she, too, sat down to meditate, refining the sudden surge of spiritual energy alongside the Qi vortex and spiritual energy sea surrounding her.

An hour later, Hui Yue and Deng Wu emerged from the Spirit Pond, seating themselves to refine the energies they had absorbed. While the pond still retained a vast reserve of energy, its color had transitioned to a more transparent hue, visibly lighter than the dense silver it had been before.

That night, no one ventured out to hunt. Instead, they relied on the rations they had packed for their journey. None expended effort setting up tents, as Hui Yue simply used his elemental affinity to ignite a small fire.

The four young adventurers were entirely engrossed in refining the spiritual energy they had obtained. On the first day, Hui Yue accumulated enough spiritual energy to reach the fourth Constant Star as a master, while Deng Wu advanced to the ninth Constant Star. Wang Julong achieved a breakthrough to the third star, and Sha Yun reached the third star of her Beast Clan cultivation base.

That evening, they used various Spiritual Arts to merge the newly acquired spiritual energy with their old reserves, striving to balance the abrupt surge in power. By the next morning, the four of them were once again floating naked in the pond, their forms glowing with the lake's faint silver sheen.

The following events repeated consistently over four days, until the final drop of spiritual energy was absorbed. There were no further breakthroughs, but nevertheless, all except Deng Wu were perched at the peak of their respective stars, ready to break through at any moment.

Once the last trace of spiritual energy was drawn from the pond, Hui Yue lingered for a while, pondering their next move. He was highly intrigued by the village Lan Feng had mentioned, yet aware that his spiritual energy was currently highly unstable after its remarkable surge in such a short time.

Making his decision, Hui Yue nodded to his friends, and they followed him in silence. On their way toward the Holy Dungeon, they indulged in playful banter and lighthearted conversations during their trek—though it was clear their circumstances had changed.

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Chapter 368: The Greatest Treasure

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Hui Yue had no idea what kinds of creatures lived in the forest they had entered, nor did she know if there were people nearby who might turn into enemies. If there were humans in these regions, Yan Xiaobao and his friends might have robbed them of their most prized possessions by soaking in the Spiritual Spring. No one would treat them kindly for doing so.

Looking at the path Lan Feng had mentioned leading to the village, Hui Yue shook her head and chose another direction. She discovered a stream carrying water to a pond and decided to follow it.

Hui Yue had learned one thing from Lan Feng that he emphasized the most: vigilance. Hui Yue had friends she could trust, but the four of them were merely Master-level cultivators, and their survival skills were at best mediocre.

Now that they had acquired greater power, if it wasn't properly integrated into their spiritual energy sea, it might backfire and harm them instead of supporting them.

Following the stream, Hui Yue saw a clearing ahead. This prompted her to stop in her tracks and signal the others to halt as well.

Smoke spiraled from the clearing, and as Hui Yue glanced around, the hairs on her body stood on end. Although there was no visible movement, she felt as though they were being watched.

Clearing her throat, Hui Yue raised her hands above her head and cautiously kept her gaze fixed on the forest.

"Come out," Hui Yue said softly, "we don't mean any harm."

Though rustling could be heard, it wasn't what Hui Yue had anticipated—it wasn't a group of fierce warriors, nor was it a dangerous and wild magic beast. Instead, it was a little boy who couldn't have been older than seven, yet his gaze held the essence of time itself. His eyes were entirely black, filled with thousands of sparkling stars. Noticing his extraordinary eyes sent a chill down Hui Yue's spine.

"What are you doing in the forest?" the boy asked. His voice sounded mature, devoid of any underlying threat or hostility, carrying only pure curiosity.

Looking at this child, though he seemed innocent, Hui Yue struggled to shake the latent sense of danger in her heart. When she replied, she did so with extreme respect. "We are travelers from the outside. We're searching for a quiet place where we can stabilize our cultivation."

With a puzzled look on his face, the boy asked, "What is outside? Is it a new village? I don't know of a village named Outside. Is it new? Are you four the only humans from there? That girl looks peculiar—why does she have a tail? Is she a human like you?"

Hearing so many questions, Xu Yue couldn't help but burst into laughter. Squatting down, he lowered himself to align with the boy who looked human but wasn't quite yet.

"Outside is an expansive place, with no ceiling to block the sun and no walls to enclose you. It's a realm where you can wander day after day without reaching its end."

With every word Hui Yue spoke, the boy's star-filled eyes grew larger, his excitement manifesting in his quickened breaths.

"Come with me to my home," he said cheerfully, "I want to learn more about this Outside."

Following the child, Hui Yue and the group were guided in the opposite direction of the village Lan Feng had spoken of. It was as if this world beneath the surface had remained unchanged for countless years.

Following the boy, the four friends were led through the forest. The trees, though resembling those on the surface, felt entirely different from the ones they were accustomed to. Some even seemed to possess a will of their own, their branches moving aside to make way for the boy and his guests.

Hui Yue was shocked to discover that the clearing she had seen earlier was no longer ahead of them—it had turned into a phantom, confusing anyone who looked at it. Despite this, without asking any questions, she followed the boy.

The journey through the pathway opened by the trees continued. Soon, Hui Yue arrived at a clearing built with a wooden cabin.

The quality of the cabin was exceedingly high, incomparable to the shabby houses Hui Yue had lived in for decades. Even the homes of village elders would seem rundown beside this magnificent cabin.

This house was constructed with timber from the forest, complete with a chimney visible on its roof. Smoke billowed from it, causing Hui Yue to furrow her brows and wonder who might live with this starry-eyed child.

As they approached, the door swung open, and a little girl stepped out of the house. The girl was roughly the same age as the boy, her eyes radiating brilliance, dazzling gold light filling her gaze.

"Xingye!" the girl exclaimed joyfully, her face lighting up with an even bigger smile when she saw the boy arrive with friends. Her tiny frame bounced up and down from excitement.

"Xia Ji!" the boy called back. As his voice rang out, three more children emerged—two boys and one girl.

The boy who had invited Hui Yue and the others seemed surprised when he saw the children, but he also felt relieved because no adults were present nearby.

Once they reached the cabin, the children gathered excitedly around the boy, patting his head while introducing themselves.

Qiuji was the young girl. Her eyes shimmered with a bronze glow, and both her hair and skin were shades of warm brown.

Dongji was a young boy who appeared even paler than Yan Xiaobao, his hair as white as the elder boy's, and his eyes a piercing ice blue. Looking at him, one might think Hui Yue and Dongji were siblings.

Chapter 369: The Greatest Treasure_2

Here is the requested line-by-line English translation of the text provided:

The last boy was full of energy, with green eyes and golden hair. His name was Tan Huang.

"Tell us about the situation outside."

"Do all humans look as strange as you?"

"Will we one day grow tails?"

"Why don't your eyes sparkle?"

After Xingye introduced the four newcomers, a flood of questions arose, and a serene atmosphere descended upon the small wooden cabin.

Hui Yue sat down, and the children immediately gathered around him. "Can we stay here for a few days?" he politely asked. The children nodded with such intensity that it caused laughter to escape from all the elderly individuals present.

"I'll tell you about the outside world," Deng Wu said as he also sat down. His words made all the children gathered around Hui Yue immediately shift over to Deng Wu.

As he began to describe the world he came from in detail, a faint smile appeared on his face.

"You feel familiar," Xingye suddenly said, sitting beside Deng Wu. "It's something I haven't felt for thousands of years."

These words greatly shocked everyone, for none had anticipated that this child was actually much older than any of them. But suddenly, excitement filled the starry-eyed children, who looked at Deng Wu with immense admiration.

"Are you the father?" Dongji suddenly asked, his cold eyes brimming with excitement.

"It feels like a father!" Xingye agreed. Within seconds, all the children were sniffing at Deng Wu, touching him, hugging him. Tears welled up in their eyes, and happiness seemed to overflow within them.

"Father has finally returned to us!" Xia Ji exclaimed loudly, throwing himself into Deng Wu's arms like a lost child who had finally found his parent.

Holding the four little children, Deng Wu was deeply shocked, his face full of fear. The whole situation was so unexpected, and for someone who was known for his reserved demeanor, there was no one better suited to handle such a moment.

With Wang Julong no longer able to intervene, laughter suddenly resonated across the clearing. Her bright voice broke the stunned silence, prompting others to join her in laughter—a mix of surprise and confusion.

"Oh right," Lan Feng finally spoke within the Dantian Cave after being silent for days. "The seasons are supposed to live in this part of the dungeon. I see Xingye here, but I wonder what happened to the Sun. She should be here taking care of the children."

"The Sun?" Hui Yue asked curiously, catching Lan Feng's comment. The Phoenix finally replied, "When our ancestors created this plane, they created the Sun and the Moon. They divided the year in half, with each overseeing six months. This is how the seasons were born."

"The Sun enters meditation, where she meditates for half a year. Meditation allows her to become one with the world, and through her nurturing, flowers bloom and spring arrives. Her cultivation will soar within those six months, and over time, the world will increasingly feel her presence. This is why spring is warmer than summer."

Lan Feng paused slightly to see if Hui Yue understood, then, seeing the white-haired boy nod, continued: "When the Sun manages to fully merge with the world, her power will be at its peak, the Sun will shine its brightest, and warm sunlight will spread across the earth."

"Once she reaches her peak, the Moon will take over. He will enter solitary meditation, and when he reaches his pinnacle, winter will descend upon us. Right now, it's autumn, so the Moon should be in meditation, but this means the Sun should be here caring for their children—the seasons."

"If she has four children, then who is Xingye?" Hui Yue curiously asked. "He isn't related to the seasons but rather the night sky."

"Xingye was created by our ancestors alongside the Sun and Moon. As long as he lives, the stars will always shine."

Pausing slightly, Lan Feng furrowed his brows, pondering how to explain something as profound as their current topic.

"Is she not simply elsewhere?" Hui Yue asked doubtfully, but seeing the Phoenix shake their head, he noticed the five children playing on Deng Wu. A frown appeared on his brows as long-forgotten memories surfaced, and happiness flickered in their eyes.

"Xingye," Hui Yue called, and the children immediately turned their heads. As countless stars brightly sparkled in his eyes, Xingye's face lit up with happiness. "Where is the Sun?" Hui Yue asked curiously, but the moment he asked, a tense atmosphere emerged.

Looking at Hui Yue, hope seemed to glimmer in the child's eyes. "Mother was taken," the boy whispered softly, shaking his head. However, soon after, the boy's sadness dissipated. It was as if he couldn't stay depressed for long.

"I didn't plan for you to handle this so seriously," Lan Feng complained, but Hui Yue could sense an underlying excitement for adventure within Lan Feng, immediately realizing this had become a training session for him and his companions.

Thinking about saving the Sun, Hui Yue felt a tinge of fear. The Sun represented summer and spring in the world, sustaining human life. She must be immensely powerful, but even then, she was captured. How could Hui Yue possibly help?

Yet, no matter how worried or unsure Hui Yue felt, he could sense Lan Feng's growing excitement and determination, prompting Hui Yue to sigh. Despite feeling unprepared, he promised the Phoenix that he would follow any orders given during training. Strengthening Hui Yue would surely aid Lan Feng on his path to vengeance.

Hui Yue said nothing. He stood aside, beginning to search for tents in his storage stone and patiently set them up on the clearing. After erecting the tents, he started a bonfire and began cooking for the children and his friends.

Sha Yun soon realized they intended to stay, but since she hadn't been given any tasks yet, the Snake Woman became a bit confused. She gave Hui Yue a gentle look before rushing into the woods to gather firewood. Despite her preference for cooking, she knew Hui Yue would decline her offer.

Soon, the smell of stew wafted from the pot, and as drool dripped from the edges of their mouths, the stomachs of the seasons growled.

Seeing the children finally release Deng Wu, their companions laughed. Before long, everyone was chatting and eating stew together. Hui Yue deliberately positioned himself next to Xingye.

"Can you tell me when your mother was taken?" Hui Yue gently asked, ensuring to load the boy's plate with a generous helping of meat. Before the sight of tender, glistening meat excited the boy, his face had only shown a trace of sadness. Hui Yue felt capable of managing this. Even though the child was thousands of years old.

"She had just emerged from meditation," Xingye said, stuffing his face with stew, skillfully avoiding the vegetables and eating only the meat. "Mother told us not to battle nearby villages unless they did something truly awful. She absorbed energy from heaven and earth, then they took her."

"Why did they take her?" Hui Yue asked quietly, attempting to extract as much information as possible from the young friend beside him.

He had already learned that once she left her isolated cultivation, she had been seized, and the capture involved minimal struggle on her part.

"They wanted her to enhance their harvests," Xingye said with sadness apparent on his face. Yet as his eyes settled on the pot used to cook the food, his smile returned.

"Don't be so shocked," Lan Feng commented, sensing Hui Yue's genuine surprise. The children's mother had disappeared, but they hadn't acted out.

"They aren't just children," Lan Feng continued. "They are the laws upon which this world is built. They were created by the Four Great Divine Beasts alongside the African Continent's creation. We will encounter many such laws during our journey. They were forged by the Gods, by God Himself, making them unopposable. Breaking the laws is tantamount to defying the world itself. Imagine what would happen if the Sun were to die and fall from the sky. If the Moon stopped rising, causing oceans to stagnate, the seasons would cease to change."

"These laws are far greater than we are. They're as ancient as the first stone in this world. Laws surround us. They're the threads binding the world together, allowing it to exist. When you become a master user, I'll tell you more about them because you'll start to perceive them."

Chapter 370: The Next Dungeon

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Yan Xiaobao nodded. At the moment, he didn't need to understand the laws any further; what he needed to figure out was the nature of the people who had kidnapped the sun.

"They must be from one of the nearby villages, so we'll set out for there after resting for a few days. Make sure you train properly in the coming days, because we can't afford to waste too much time here. It's crucial to bring her back here before the four of them move to the next dungeon," he said.

Looking at the surroundings, Xu Yue couldn't help but wonder why these were called dungeons. It was evidently an entire world spanning the continent, yet it didn't seem lifeless; it was filled with creatures, trees, and plants. Even the sun and moon existed within the underworld kingdom they were currently traversing.

After tucking all the children into bed, Yan Xiaobao and his friends gathered around the campfire for warmth. In the underground cavern, the stone walls surrounding them absorbed all the warmth generated by the sun during the day.

As the sun disappeared and warmth was gradually absorbed into the cave walls, the previously comfortable temperature began to shift, and a chilling air filled the space—akin to the autumn nights felt in seasonal change.

"We need to rescue her, or if she truly hasn't been captured, at the very least, she should be brought back here," Yan Xiaobao said as he finished relaying Lan Feng's earlier words.

Yan Xiaobao sat back and contemplated the laws previously mentioned. In truth, Yan Xiaobao understood these were things he wouldn't fully encounter until he reached the Upper Dantian. He felt it was impossible to grasp them completely while the Upper Dantian remained unopened, yet at the same time, the thoughts felt distant, making Yan Xiaobao believe he could at least understand a portion of them if only he dwelled a little longer.

No matter how much time Yan Xiaobao spent pondering, the feeling persisted, and he could never quite grasp what the laws truly were. He sighed, stood up, and decided he'd think about it again when he had more time.

"Let's go," Yan Xiaobao said softly. Then, turning around, he gestured for his friends to follow him. The four young cultivators moved silently, like shadows, slipping through the forest toward the village where the sun had been taken.

Following the path laid out by Lan Feng, Yan Xiaobao quickly passed along the information he had gathered along the way.

The village wasn't very large, with only around a hundred residents. They lived off agriculture, and Lan Feng believed the sun had been captured to enhance their harvests.

Armed with various pieces of information, Yan Xiaobao and the others nodded to each other, feeling more prepared than they had before. They charged toward the village, hoping to reach the sun unnoticed, and convinced her to return to the cabin to once again tend to the seasons.

The forest was dense, allowing visibility only a few meters ahead. But suddenly, all the trees disappeared, cleared away for agriculture.

As Yan Xiaobao noticed this, he raised his hand, signaling the others to stop. Slowly, as expected, they approached closer bit by bit, until a small village emerged from the forest beyond.

However, as the four crossed into the clearing, they saw the village—but what they saw made them all freeze in place. They stood there, staring at the fields in the distance, and beyond, they saw a city with towering structures stretching upward toward the dungeon's ceiling.

"Well," Yan Xiaobao said, looking at the distant city, letting out a heavy sigh, "it seems the things within this enclosed domain have developed quite significantly over the past four thousand years."

The three companions solemnly nodded, their gazes blank, realizing that all the plans they had carefully prepared now seemed utterly futile.

"Standing here won't achieve anything," Yan Xiaobao said after a moment, and he began walking toward the city. "Let's adjust the plan slightly. Our first goal is to locate the sun's position." With that, Yan Xiaobao stepped toward the distant city, his friends quickly catching up to him as they silently followed.

Leaving the forest behind, Yan Xiaobao walked in silence. His blue eyes narrowed slightly as he observed everything occurring around them, remaining vigilant amid the dim light as the moonlight fell upon them.

The fields were deserted. Tools lay piled in the corners of each plot, abandoned by the farmers who had retreated into the city at dusk.

From afar, the city glimmered with light. There were no walls protecting the area; instead, numerous farmhouses encircled the city's outskirts, and animals sheltered within small barns.

Occasional eerie silence was broken by faint cries and roars from domesticated demon beasts, responding to the scent and sounds of the young travelers passing through the dusty streets.

The homes appeared to be built from high-quality wood and were well-maintained. None showed signs of damage or destruction caused by demon beasts. Judging by the appearance of the houses, one could tell that the citizens in the city lived relatively secure lives even amidst magical threats.

Yan Xiaobao walked the streets, observing that despite light streaming through the windows, no one roamed outside, leaving the streets completely barren. Cheerful sounds came from within the houses,

causing Yan Xiaobao's brow to furrow. Everyone seemed lively, but none ventured out of their homes. His silver hair glistened as he grew increasingly wary.

The atmosphere among the four friends grew tense as they slowly passed by the farmhouses, heading toward the city's downtown area, all hoping to find an inn.