

## Medical 991

### Chapter 991: Prove It to Me (Part 2)

"Do not kill civilians unless they oppose us, but do not allow any legion members to gain freedom," Yan Xiaobao repeated the command as he walked toward the stairs with the others. He didn't hesitate even for a moment as he descended into the darkness below.

Before Deng Wu and the others walked this stretch of stairs, the torches on both sides illuminated this path, but now there was nothing.

Frowning, Yan Xiaobao raised his hand, and a bright fireball appeared in his palm. The fireball lit up everything around them so they could easily see their surroundings.

As he looked at the stairs in front of him, Yan Xiaobao was silent. His nose twitched slightly, and his eyes darkened as he noticed that the bloodstains were dry as they descended the stairs. They could smell the stench of rotting flesh and metallic blood.

"Something is wrong," he said, but there was no need to say it, as everyone had already guessed what had happened.

The deeper they went down the stairs, the harsher it became. Soon, they also saw some corpses that caused the terrible smell.

These corpses seemed to have been attacked by some terrifying beasts and were torn apart. Some had heads almost severed, while others were cut into four pieces by giant claws.

Every corpse bore the marks or uniforms of the Dragon Army, and Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but wonder what had happened. Why did the experts on the surface seem unaware of what had occurred here? Judging by the state of these corpses, this had happened at least several months ago.

As they rushed past this area and reached the bottom of the stairs, everyone covered their mouths and noses with their clothing. The farther they went, the more death they encountered.

They moved at the fastest speed, with the Saints and Emperor following them, making this journey actually quite short. However, for them, it felt as though it had lasted a long time. When they finally reached the end, Qiao vomited on the floor. Her face was pale, and sweat poured from her face and body.

She wasn't the only one feeling unwell; both Wang Julong and Sha Yun were also extremely pale. Surprisingly, even the Necromancer Deng Wu was disturbed by the situation.

At the end of the stairs was a massive closed cast-iron door. It was so heavy that it required immense strength to break through. Though it would pose some trouble for the Emperor and Saints, for cultivators ranked at the level of God, it wasn't even a challenge. When Yan Xiaobao raised his hand to push the door, it burst into fragments.

As they entered the sacred dungeon, no one knew what would happen, but none of them expected what they found.

The mansion belonging to the Dragon Army had been completely destroyed. There were signs that many torches had been lit, indicating that someone had been cleaning up after multiple deaths. People were moving across the rubble, all looking sick, but they were still working. The air in this world was polluted, with the scent of death permeating it.

"What happened here?" Yan Xiaobao asked one of the first men he encountered. He was fearless in this place, hence was not on guard.

Looking at Yan Xiaobao, the confusion in his eyes was apparent. The man cleared his throat. "Are you from our sister dungeon system?" he asked curiously. "I thought everyone knew this Dragon Dungeon system was contaminated with disease, and only a few were allowed to migrate to other systems."

"We indeed come from another underground city," Yan Xiaobao nodded seriously. "We came to investigate why so many people suddenly wanted to join our tunnel system."

"I see," the man nodded, as if the explanation made sense, and Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but notice others behind him grinning.

"Well, it's quite simple. Three months ago, an expert appeared. He flew over the Capital and called for all Dragon Army members to appear. After he arrived, most of the Legion was forced to leave. No one knows where they went, but because of this, the remaining forces are now less than half."

"Then one night, this person appeared again and demanded the rest of the Dragon Army to appear. He decimated the entire headquarters of the Dragon Army and killed every guard standing in his way. When he finished, he disappeared without a trace."

"We cleaned up the dead, but because so many died, it was hard to avoid making most of our city sick. We're trying hard to ensure that the other caves aren't infected, but it's hard."

Yan Xiaobao nodded and turned to leave. He saw hope on the man's face. Hope for survival. Yan Xiaobao did not speak to this man anymore, but he and his friends had all heard what this person said, and they all knew what had happened.

"Given that they're fleeing to other caves, this should be the only cave where they're punished," Yan Xiaobao pondered, then he shrugged.

"We don't need to kill anyone here," he said casually, looking up at the sky. "Tear off the roof!"

With his words, the Ancestor World Power burst from Yan Xiaobao's body, exploding towards the ground above. A surge of red energy emanated from Yan Xiaobao, illuminating the entire underground cavern. The energy burned the air, making it fresher, appearing to absorb the aura of death.

As this energy touched the ceiling, a struggle ensued. The whole cavern began to tremble, and tiny dust particles started falling like gently drifting snowflakes. No large rocks collapsed, and the cave showed no signs of caving in, but Hui Yu's Ancestor World Power slowly eroded the ancient formation that kept the ceiling intact.

The formation, as ancient as the holy underground city, was never intended to be eternal. Therefore, Yan Xiaobao was soon able to overcome it.

The suspended moon and sun in the cavern's sky above the ceiling formations began to dim as the formation was destroyed. It was evident that if the formation disappeared, it could no longer continue to illuminate this world.

Terror! Pure terror! Everyone was shocked when they saw the sun and moon fading. They knew that if not for these two phenomena, they would live in a world of darkness, and now some unknown person was trying to rid them of their only light source.

Some of the fanatical citizens leapt toward Yan Xiaobao, but he was surrounded by a group of extreme experts. Anyone who went for him was knocked down. The lucky ones were merely rendered unconscious; the unfortunate ones died instantly. The Gods couldn't control their sheer power at all.

Yan Xiaobao's Ancestor World Power burrowed into the ground, slowly turning the rocks into fine dust that fell to the floor. Soon, a breeze entered the cavern, and the citizens' expressions turned to shock. The moon and sun had completely disappeared, but from above, through this great hole in the ceiling, humans saw the light! They saw a soft glow gently descending from the roof, and even more, they felt a refreshing breeze bringing the scent of rain and nature.

These citizens had never experienced rain or wind. However, the wind they were used to had been stifling because the air underground was denser. Their rain wasn't cold nor warm, and never truly chill, but here was a chill brought by the breeze, promising freshness and new life.

Yan Xiaobao used his Ancestor World Power to erode the land, but as he pushed more power, he far exceeded his limits, and this hole expanded. Soon, his ever-expanding red Ancestor World Power filled the entire capital's sky. As it expanded, more and more dust fell to the ground. More and more of the sky and the outside world were revealed within the dungeon to these people. At this moment, they felt like turtles in a well! Only now did they realize that this world existed everywhere!

The man who provided information to Yan Xiaobao had been closely following him, and at some point, he felt desperate. He did not join the crazed citizens in the attack because he found it meaningless, but now, for the first time in three months, he felt excitement. He felt as if he had gained another life, and he knelt down. He knelt on the ground, tears streaming down.

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Chapter 992 Breaking Free from Suffering

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The entire city, the same display occurred again and again. One by one, people knelt down, kowtowing to the strange events happening in the sky. They all knew that God had descended from heaven to relieve them of their suffering! Yan Xiaobao was unaware of the citizens' conditions; he was completely focused on the Ancestor World War flowing from his body. Since becoming a God, this was the first time he used his Inner Energy, and the feeling was intoxicating.

Yan Xiaobao couldn't completely control the energy flowing from him, much of it dissipating into the essence of heaven and earth. This caused dense energy ripples in the area around him.

However, when he managed to open the entire ceiling of the cave, Yan Xiaobao was satisfied. When he finished, the World Power of the Ancestor returned to his body. Although Yan Xiaobao did some significant things, such as reforming the Capital of Shenzhou's Dragon City, the energy he used was actually so little that he barely felt a change. Only now did he truly understand how powerful he had become.

Xiao Xiao hesitated for a moment, straightening his body, flying into the sky, ignoring the entire Capital.

"Everyone!" His voice carried through the air, across the streets, and into every household. There was no place in the Capital his voice did not reach. "There is a world above ground! A world where there's no roof overhead; a world where you don't need to travel through tunnels to enter another city."

"This world is now open to you! I won't force anyone to leave what they're accustomed to, nor will I open the ceilings of other caves. Those who wish to remain in these Holy Dungeons can continue to live here. If you want to experience new things, please head to the world above."

"But this also means many adventurers will come to the Holy Dungeon to experience the new and unknown. Welcome these travelers, just as you would yourself! Live as you wish, treat others as you wish to be treated!" Yan Xiaobao shouted before landing on the ground again.

"That's the speech." Deng Wu laughed as he looked at Yan Xiaobao, but the young man only shrugged. He didn't care what these people decided to do. His goal was to unite the Holy Beast World, and when he spoke of unity, he wouldn't just leave the Holy Underground.

"Let's move to the next cave." Yan Xiaobao said, turning to leave the spot where he stood. He was the only one who had ever entered other underground cities. Others had only been in the Dragon Dungeon, but now they needed to move towards the Vermilion Bird Dungeon, so he led them back to the Dragon Army Headquarters, where the entrance to the other dungeons was. He still remembered every twist and turn along the way.

They encountered many experts. Those who tried to enter other caves started pouring into the streets of the Capital because they heard what Yan Xiaobao had said earlier. The promise of a new future, with the blue sky above them, was too tempting.

As Yan Xiaobao and his friends entered the Dragon Army Headquarters, all the civilians and cultivators were filling the streets. They had all just stopped to stare at the blue sky far above them. They struggled to truly understand what was happening.

Some people were scared, some were ecstatic, but most were filled with hope. In recent months, more and more people had fallen ill because of the people that had already infiltrated the cave, but now things were different. Now the air was fresh; now the world was full of vitality. When Xu Pai first heard about the world above, they were shocked and astonished.

Leaving this massive cave, Yan Xiaobao no longer thought about what he had done. Instead, he thought about what to do next. They soon arrived at a circular room with four entrances. One of the entrances led into the Azure Dragon's tunnel, which was also the only entrance without guards. At the entrance of each of the other three, there was a group of twenty guards.

These guards were all King-level experts, looking very arrogant but also very confused.

"Stop!" One of the guards at the entrance to the Vermilion Bird tunnel shouted as Yan Xiaobao took a step forward. His body was brimming with Wu Wei, his eyes showing hostility. His demeanor became increasingly arrogant, but when Yan Xiaobao looked at him, the guard suddenly felt insignificant. It was as if he were an insect before an elephant, waiting to be crushed.

"Kill them all." Yan Xiaobao ordered. His voice was cold and detached. Although he valued life, some people had to pay the price for kidnapping and abusing the law. This was enough for Yan Xiaobao to take the lives of all the soldiers in the Holy Dungeon. If they wanted to unite the Holy Beast World, he also needed to change the underground cities. They should no longer be sentenced to live underground.

When Yan Xiaobao shouted, he didn't take action, nor did his friends. Those who moved were the beasts who chose to follow Yan Xiaobao. Although they moved casually, not a single guard noticed what happened before they died.

Yan Xiaobao lost most of his life in merging with the Kingdom, and they stepped forward, absorbing the lifeforce of the sixty guards.

The lifeforce was invisible, and no one could see Hui Yue's actions, but what they noticed was the energy rippling through the air, especially when Hui Yue suddenly received a boost in his aura.

The moment this life force entered Yan Xiaobao's body, he felt invigorated, much stronger than before, but he knew this power would be used for the field later. Unless necessary, it was best not to use it for fighting.

#### Chapter 993 Escaping Suffering (Part 2)

He waved gently, and many small fireballs appeared in Yan Xiaobao's hands. They all shot towards the corpses, burning them to ashes. They left behind a few bone fragments on the floor, along with a little blood. Yan Xiaobao wouldn't handle the Dragon Army like this without a care.

Once again, no one questioned Yan Xiaobao's decision to enter the Vermilion Bird Tunnel first, so they just entered the tunnel through the gate.

On the other hand, they encountered a significant unit of the Vermilion Bird Corps as they had already reached the middle of their base.

"Capture a senior officer, kill the others." Yan Xiaobao ordered, as they rampaged, the Gods smiled. They all disappeared from behind Yan Xiaobao, rushing through the headquarters, killing any uniformed guards on the way.

"I bet they'll forget to leave someone alive." Sha Yun said dryly, watching the bloody massacre unfolding in front of them. Everything happened so fast, no survivors left. Though the Gods acted swiftly, the scent of blood in the air moved even faster. As they rushed to where this smell came from, the guards panicked, heading into their own death.

Sighing, Yan Xiaobao shook his head. The guards were doing their duty, but now their fate would be obliterated. Yan Xiaobao was the one who ordered the massacre, and he didn't feel sorry for the guards. Without any reservations, he absorbed all the life force released from the corpses, but he still felt somewhat numb. This was not the first time he caused the death of so many people; he was the Great Marshall of the Siban Empire, but that was different. That was war. A war where his side also lost many soldiers; however, they weren't fighting now. This was just a one-sided slaughter.

Yan Xiaobao rushed into the headquarters, but everywhere he found blood and bodies. No one was alive; no trace of the Gods. Everyone had vanished like the wind, busy killing elsewhere.

Seeing the mess left by the Gods, Yan Xiaobao wasn't entirely sure what to do. Sighing, he shook his head and turned away. "I believe these laws are preserved in the same way as they were in the Dragon Army. Let's check the headquarters of the Vermilion Bird Corps to see if we can find them. I highly doubt anyone will be alive when they're finished."

Deng Wu chuckled, and Wang Julong just nodded. Sha Yun grinned, and the two youths looked pale. Now they were more accustomed to combat than before; they were no longer children but young adults. One must also remember, although Qiao had previously killed, despite Lao having killed, he had never killed many people, so seeing all these soldiers die one after another was clearly a baptism of blood for these youths.

Yan Xiaobao looked at these two with a worried expression, but although their faces were pale, they seemed to get through it all. Holding each other's hands, Yan Xiaobao felt proud of them.

The group split up and began searching the area. They were looking for a house that reminded them of ones they had seen before, and after searching for a few minutes, Sha Yun's voice cut through the silence. "It's here!" she shouted, and everyone rushed to her side to see a small clutch of houses. The guards here were still alive, and seeing Sha Yun and her friends hurrying over, they attacked without hesitation.

They felt Sha Yun's aura was commanding, but they had the advantage in numbers, truly believing in their capabilities. Suddenly, a whip appeared in Sha Yun's hand, and she began to lash it and its tail. Now very adept at combat, her attack was particularly terrifying. When she finished, all the guards were beaten into pulp. Only a few managed to retreat, those watching this Snake Woman showed fear on their faces.

Suddenly, a shadow appeared behind them, and Yan Xiaobao struck with his hand. With a single breath, he decimated the entire group. Silence suddenly fell on the ground, as no more guards were present.

"That's it." Yan Xiaobao said, using the World Power of the Ancestor to clean Sha Yun and his own blood. After ensuring they were clean, he beckoned the others to follow him, slowly entering the largest house.

As soon as he stepped inside, he was stunned. It was identical to the interior of the Dragon Army headquarters. Seeing this, Yan Xiaobao felt disgust, thinking about how these laws were forced to live like this for so long. How they were compelled to die continuously and then be reborn over and over.

His hand waving, all the laws suddenly vanished from their chains, appearing in the realm Yan Xiaobao had become sovereign over. In this realm, they were all unconscious, laid down side by side.

"Look around." Yan Xiaobao ordered. "If we find more laws, tell me, so I can bring them into this realm. If not, destroy everything we encounter."

"I will never let these sacred beasts escape when I encounter him, I will make him wish he was dead!"

Once he realized Xu Baocai was arriving, Yan Xiaobao immediately stood up.

"Well, he's coming faster than expected..." he thought, his eyes flickering with hesitation. Even though he had done his best to prepare for the past six months or so, he was not yet ready. In his case, the best course of action was to enter the Qi Condensation Fourth Level conflict. Only then would he feel safe.

Chapter 994 Escaping Suffering (Part 3)

Seeing Xu Baocai coming with the other seven, Bai Xiaochun knew hiding was not an option. He gritted his teeth and said, "Alright! I'm going to do it!"

Taking a deep breath, he quickly put on eight fur coats, then strapped his spare pot onto his back. Only then did he nervously open the door and step out.

The first thing he saw was Big Fatty Zhang and the others at the front gate, chopping with meat cleavers and gigantic kitchen ladles, as they blocked the path of Xu Baocai and his friends.

"I was wondering why I heard crows cawing this morning," Fatty Zhang roared, his voice echoing like thunder as he stood there, tall and mountain-like. "Turns out, a group of supervisory department lads decided to come here for a roasting!"

"Others might be afraid of the oven, Big Fat Zhang, but the supervisory department couldn't care less. We've received Brother Xu's complaint, and we're here under the supervision of the department. Do you really dare to resist us?" The seven arrogant men gathered around Xu Baocai. Though dressed in servant uniforms, the characters for "supervisor" were prominently embroidered on their sleeves, indicating they were from the Supervision Department with status and power above ordinary servants.

Among them, one man was a burly fellow, looking as tough as a tiger and as solid as a bear. He exuded spiritual pressure from the third level of Qi Condensation, and his eyes sparkled while staring at Big Fatty Zhang, seemingly unbothered by him and the others.

"Hogwash!" Big Fatty Zhang replied. "He tried to kill my younger brother. How do you explain that!?" Then he coldly laughed as his hand whistled through the air, making the large black pot on his back suddenly soar into the sky, appearing completely awe-inspiring. The burly man watched with a flickering expression, while his eyes widened. Then his hand flashed in a spell gesture, causing a small flag to fly out. Mist poured from the flag, with beast roars audible from within.

Even while drawing the metaphorical sword, Xu Baocai saw Yan Xiaobao emerge from his thatched hut, all his previous resentment and hatred erupting within.

"Yan Xiaobao!!" he roared.

As the word left Xu Baocai's mouth, he waved his hand, sending the wooden sword flying.

Shock was visible on the faces of Big Fatty Zhang and the others. Just as they were about to jump to stop the sword, the burly man from the supervisory department laughed coldly, blocking their path.

However, at that very moment, Yan Xiaobao, bloodshot eyes, roared, "Xu Baocai, you've pushed things too far! You and I will go all out!"

Yan Xiaobao's heart pounded fiercely. He had never truly been in a fight in his life, let alone a battle with another cultivator.

He was so nervous that he was trembling. He roared to muster his courage, releasing the power of Qi Condensation third level, freeing anything from his cultivation base. He infused all his spiritual energy into his wooden sword, then flicked his finger to send it flying toward Xu Baocai.

As the wooden sword whistled through the air, the designs hidden beneath lacquer paint flickered slightly. Suddenly, the sword's size expanded, and under Xu Baocai's pressure, it erupted with a chilling coldness.

Its speed and majesty as it shot through the air caused Big Fatty Zhang and the supervisory department's team to gasp in amazement. As the sword's fierce aura filled the entire area, all hearts were struck with shock, and suddenly, no one was interested in fighting anymore, but simply stared at the sword.

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Chapter 995 A Living Nightmare

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Xu Baocai was yet to approach Yan Xiaobao, his energy filled with fear. According to what he knew, this version of Yan Xiaobao was completely different from the person he faced months ago. He gritted his teeth, looking as though he was going all out, which filled Xu Baocai's heart with shock.

Then, when he saw Yan Xiaobao's wooden sword rushing towards him, his eyes widened. It was like a ball of white light, filled with the same energy he had seen in battles among the Outer Sect Disciples. He was extremely surprised, his scalp went numb.

When Yan Xiaobao's wooden sword collided with Xu Baocai's, it resounded loudly. Xu Baocai's wooden sword trembled, completely unable to withstand the force of the impact. Starting from the tip, it shattered into fragments. In a flash, it was utterly destroyed, turning into countless glimmering pieces.

As for Yan Xiaobao's wooden sword, it didn't even pause. It continued shooting towards Xu Baocai, who was terrified at this moment. Utilizing all the power he could muster, he dodged. The wooden sword swept past him, slicing open his shoulder in the process, then hacked into a nearby tree.

As the tree was completely chopped in half, a loud crack echoed, and then it collapsed to the ground, sending a cloud of dust into the air. Blood splattered across his arm, Xu Baocai let out a tragic scream. Pale-faced, he immediately fell to the ground.

Luckily for him, Yan Xiaobao wasn't skilled at controlling objects. Otherwise, that sword would surely have killed him.

"Qi Condensation third level! Impossible! This is impossible!" Xu Baocai looked at Yan Xiaobao, seemingly terrified, as if he had just seen a ghost. To be able to unleash such power from a wooden sword, clearly required third level of Qi Condensation, and he simply couldn't imagine how Yan Xiaobao could make such an astonishing transformation in just a few months. Things were completely opposite of what he imagined, it was something he couldn't possibly accept. It was like he was living a nightmare.

He wasn't the only one shocked. The burly man from the Supervision Department and all his friends watched Yan Xiaobao with solemn expressions.

"To form sharpness with spiritual energy, releasing sword energy! This is only possible by cultivating the Violet Qi Cauldron Control Technique to the realm of Heavy Lightness! No other method could unleash such a divine ability!" The burly man from the Supervision Department was breathless, looking at Yan Xiaobao, fear evident in his eyes.

His companions had the same reaction, not to mention Big Fatty Zhang and others, who were also completely shocked. Although they had sensed that Yan Xiaobao had reached the third level of Qi Condensation, the fact that he could emit sword energy from the wooden sword and make it grow larger indicated he had indeed reached the realm of Lightness-in-Heavy, something they were previously completely unaware of.

Yan Xiaobao was even taken aback by what had just happened with the wooden sword. He stared at the fallen tree, then at the pale-faced Xu Baocai, suddenly tilted his head back and laughed.

"So, Xu Baocai, it turns out you're the weakling! Taste my sword!" Happy that he was clearly stronger than Xu Baocai, Yan Xiaobao immediately started chasing Xu Baocai, laughing all the while.

Yan Xiaobao's gaze made Xu Baocai tremble, seeing him hurriedly laugh and show off extravagantly, it was utterly terrifying. Xu Baocai immediately scrambled to flee.

But before Yan Xiaobao spoke to him, he could only rush a few steps. As he closed the door, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but recall how Xu Baocai had relentlessly chased him, forcing him through so many days of arduous cultivation. That bitterness transformed into power, and now he frequently kicked Xu Baocai with venom.

"Let's see if you try to kill me again!" he shouted loudly, staring at Xu Baocai. Xu Baocai let out a tragic scream, falling to the ground. He wanted to fight back, but his cultivation base was only at the second level of Qi Condensation, leaving him powerless to do anything against Yan Xiaobao.

"You've angered the young master, so now he wants to show you that he shouldn't be insulted!" Filled with intense anger, Yan Xiaobao continued to kick and punch Xu Baocai, who now cried out miserably.

The sound of bones cracking could be heard, causing the burly man and others from the Supervision Department, as well as Big Fatty Zhang and others, to stare in shock. They watched Xu Baocai getting beaten, while Yan Xiaobao excitedly delivered the blows, their hearts filled with fear.

Tears streamed down Xu Baocai's face, sadness filled his heart. He still couldn't believe Bai Xiaochun had undergone such a drastic transformation in just a few months. More unbelievable was that he could wield the divine ability of Heavy Lightness. Without years of effort and significant skills, this was impossible to achieve.

In his view, Yan Xiaobao obviously must have had powerful help. Furthermore, he was definitely far stronger than before. Yet, due to his despicable and shameless nature, he pretended to be weak. The most outrageous thing was that Xu Baocai had completely fallen.

At that moment, Xu Baocai's heart filled with sorrow, and he simply fainted.

Seeing Xu Baocai lose consciousness, Yan Xiaobao dusted off his clothes and waved, letting his wooden sword fly into his sleeve. Then, looking like a solitary hero, he tried his best to conceal the excitement in his eyes.

The burly man from the Supervision Department looked deeply at him, his expression conflicted. In the end, he clasped his hands and bowed.

"Brother Bai, you did a great job hiding your true strength," he said, his face expressionless. "You've earned our admiration." Then, he turned and left with his companions, picking up the unconscious Xu Baocai and taking him away.

#### Chapter 996 A Living Nightmare (Part 2)

After they left, Big Fatty Zhang and the others gathered around Yan Xiaobao, full of smiles. After all, the people from the Monitoring Department were outsiders, and they knew Yan Xiaobao had been working hard for the past months. Therefore, they were satisfied with the overall results.

"Well done, kid. You didn't commit suicide within half a year!" Big Fatty Zhang patted Yan Xiaobao's shoulder.

"That's right. I've worked so hard, I even scared myself!" Yan Xiaobao proudly lifted his chin like a conceited rooster, as if Big Fatty Zhang and the others were teasing him again. According to an ancient saying, time flies like a white pony flashing through a crack in the wall. That's exactly what happened to Yan Xiaobao. A month later, cold winds blew across Heavenspan River, through Spirit Stream Sect. Suddenly, Yan Xiaobao realized he had been in this sect for a year.

Over the past year, one event followed another. He left the Mortal World to become a cultivator, raised his cultivation level to the third level of Qi Condensation, and resolved all the conflicts that arose after he joined the Roasting Oven.

Xu Baocai never appeared in the Oven again, and when Yan Xiaobao left the supply station and saw him from afar, he would hurry away, obviously frightened.

Nevertheless, after a month had passed, Yan Xiaobao remained anxious as usual, constantly sighing. He didn't talk to Big Fatty Zhang and the others about his concerns; he simply immersed himself in his helplessness.

"One year of longevity..." he thought, looking at a tree in the distance, its leaves starting to turn yellow and fall to the ground.

"I'm like that tree, those falling leaves are like the year of longevity I've lost..." At this realization, Yan Xiaobao suddenly felt very sentimental.

In the past month, he came up with numerous ideas on how to regain the lost longevity, yet the white hair on his head remained as white as before. He asked Big Fatty Zhang some indirect questions and learned that methods to restore longevity indeed exist in the cultivation world. However, these methods are either tightly kept secrets or difficult to pursue, like a Phoenix feather or a Qilin Horn.

Soon, he even lost interest in eating, his face becoming pale and wan. Eventually, he decided he had no choice but to accept that he had lost that year of longevity. However, the next day, when he went out for supplies from the Oven, he happened to see a giant stone stele below the third peak, and suddenly, he started gasping.

On the South Shore of Spirit Stream Sect, all the peaks have steles like this one. It's covered with dense scripts, lines, and writings that flash with bright lights. Occasionally, the scripts flow like water as old characters are replaced by new ones.

This stele holds the tasks from the Soul Stream Sect. Anyone in the sect wishing to complete a task can earn Spirit Stones required for cultivation, as well as merits.

Merits can be used to pay entrance fees to the Bible sermon or the Magic Hall. They can also be used to enter various special areas in the sect reserved for certain aspects of cultivation. Indeed, everything in the sect can be obtained through merits, and they're actually considered more valuable than Spirit Stones.

At the moment, quite a few Outer Sect Disciples were gathered around the Mission Stele of the third peak, staring at the tasks. When one of them decided to undertake a task, they would respectfully inform the middle-aged cultivator sitting cross-legged there.

There were even some servants mixed in with the Outer Sect disciples. The servants wore uniforms, while the Outer Sect disciples wore green robes embroidered with cloud and river designs, making it easy to distinguish who was who.

Some missions are only for inner disciples to undertake, but such tasks won't appear on this particular stele. The missions here can be taken by Outer Sect disciples and servants.

Many ambitious servants see this place as their first step towards leaping through the Dragon's Gate, achieving a rapid rise.

Yan Xiaobao stood there, staring at a special script in the middle of the stele that required an incense stick to burn, facing the severity. Eventually, a trace of hesitation appeared in his eyes.

"Extend Aging—Enhancement Pill...." he murmured, "I never expected this stele would offer a pill as a reward like this. Just from the name, you can say the pill likely extends longevity." After some thought, he approached the middle-aged cultivator.

When the Outer Sect disciples realized Yan Xiaobao was nearby, they completely ignored him. Considering their status, they didn't care about the servants, whom they considered beneath them.

Yan Xiaobao waited until the crowd around the middle-aged cultivator thinned a bit, then, trying his best to seem charmingly innocent, he clasped his hands together and bowed respectfully.

"Hey there, brother," he said.

The middle-aged cultivator looked Yan Xiaobao up and down, then slightly nodded.

He asked, "Brother, one of the tasks involves seeking some herbal plants." His concerns about longevity swirled in Yan Xiaobao's mind. "The reward is an age-extending enhancement pill. I might ask if this pill helps in extending lifespan?"

"Extend Aging—Enhancement Pill... yes, that's the task. This pill can indeed extend your age, extend your lifespan. In fact, it increases it by one whole year. But, it has many limitations. It's only useful if you're at the fifth level of Qi Condensation or below, and can only be consumed once. If you take the pill more than once, it does nothing at all. You could say it's valuable, but unfortunately, a year of longevity isn't really that important." The middle-aged cultivator seeing how charmingly innocent Yan Xiaobao looked, decided to provide some additional information.

"Generally, it's a pill that disciples would give to their mortal world family members. But, it remains very expensive. Do you wish to undertake the task?"

Yan Xiaobao looked back at the stele, did some calculations, then nodded.

The middle-aged cultivator gestured at the stele, and the task turned gray. At the same time, he made a jade plate and handed it to Yan Xiaobao.

"Greenspirit Leaf, Groundhog Fruit, and Stone Shell," the man calmly said. "Collect appropriate quantities of these three medicinal ingredients, and you can exchange them for the age-extending longevity pill." After that, he paid no more attention to Yan Xiaobao, instead starting to explain other tasks to the nearby Outer Sect disciples.

Yan Xiaobao left, the jade sliding plate in his hand, the word "extend longevity" echoing in his mind, his gaze started to glow with determination.

"I will definitely get this pill to make up for the year of longevity I lost."

Resolutely, he hurried towards the Four Seas Hall, where he gathered information that servants could obtain. Soon he found an introduction to Greenspirit Leaf, a medicinal plant that only grew in habitats where the Hope Spirit Birds dwelled. Hopespirit birds lived in large colonies, usually growing to the second level of Qi Condensation, making Greenspirit Leaves difficult to harvest. As a result, they tend to be expensive.

Unfortunately, there was no record of Earth Dragon Fruit or Stone Shell in the Four Seas Chamber. Yan Xiaobao patted his package, smiled wryly, and then left. Back at the Oven, he asked Big Fatty Zhang and the others about them. No one had heard of Earth Dragon Fruit, but Third Fatty Black knew about Stone Shell. Apparently, it was nothing more than the molted exoskeleton of a spiritual worm called Stone Beetle.

It's said those exoskeletons are very hard and heavy but are not commonly found on the South Shore. However, they're common on the North Shore, that's because most of the techniques cultivated there involve Shaman Magic. Unfortunately, although both the north and south shores are part of Spirit Stream Sect, they're separated by the Main Mountain Bridge. Besides, only inner disciples are eligible to cross that mountain bridge from one shore to the other.

"Why are you interested in these medicinal ingredients?" Big Fatty Zhang asked, patting his belly. "You know, you can't eat them. Also, if you try buying them in the South Shore Market, the prices will be sky-high."

When Yan Xiaobao heard the mention of the "market," his eyes suddenly lit up. After providing a quick explanation, he hurried down the mountain. In the year he'd been part of the Oven, he had left the sect a few times, but he was quite familiar with the market outside the sect.

Most of the stalls are operated by various cultivation families related to the sect disciples. There are even places owned by disciples themselves, specifically to serve other disciples. Gradually, an unwritten set of rules that everyone adhered to has been established.

Generally, the Oven supplies required can be found here.

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Chapter 997 Earth Dragon Fruit

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Yan Xiaobao wandered around the market for a while, visiting a few herbal shops. When he returned to the roasting oven, his forehead was furrowed, and he was sighing repeatedly.

"This (product quality) is outright deceitful! Especially the Earth Dragon Fruit. It's just a fruit that grows underground. Why is it so expensive!?" Yan Xiaobao realized that based on the current situation, he basically couldn't obtain the longevity pills that prolong aging.

He essentially had no concept of money. To him, no amount of wealth could compare to longevity. Unfortunately, he was embarrassingly short on funds at the moment. Furthermore, he knew that though his elder brothers had rather sizable bellies, their pockets were as empty as his. They were definitely not wealthier than him.

While no one was willing to let them eat some food from the oven's supplies, if they tried to sell that food, the Supervision Department would certainly catch wind of it and would not be pleased.

After considering the matter from various angles, Yan Xiaobao couldn't come up with an idea to make money, except by selling some spirit enhancement items.

But that didn't seem right to do. He continued pondering the matter for a few more days. On a particularly early morning, when he heard the sect's summoned bell ringing out, he sat cross-legged in his hut to cultivate.

The sound was not very loud and soon faded away. Yan Xiaobao slowly opened his eyes. The bell's ringing didn't surprise him. In fact, they rang every month. He learned from Fatty Zhang that these bells signaled the servants were undergoing fire trials, and whoever succeeded would become an Outer Sect Disciple.

For those ambitious servants eager to become Outer Sect Disciples, the first step to crossing the threshold like a fish leaping over the dragon's gate is reaching the third level of Qi Condensation. Then they can choose a fire trial. The fire trial is merely a stone stairway path leading to the mountain peak. However, this path is imbued with magical power, making each step extraordinarily challenging. Anyone able to succeed in reaching the summit qualifies to become an Outer Sect Disciple.

Unfortunately, spots in the Outer Sect are limited, so only the top three competitors can enter the best ranks. After all, there are many servants within the Soul Sect, with thousands just along the South Shore. Therefore, there is always intense competition for success.

Of course, the members of the oven would rather die from hunger inside the oven than attempt climbing the steps to the Outer Church. Hence, on this special day every month, they sneer at the commotion.

Yan Xiaobao closed his eyes. However, moments later, they snapped open, displaying a peculiar expression. Then they began to sparkle excitedly, as a new idea formed in his mind. He stood up and began pacing back and forth in his hut. After considering this idea for a long time, a pleased expression appeared on his face.

"This is the ticket!" he exclaimed loudly. Then he shoved open the door and shouted to Big Fatty Zhang and the others, who were discussing which unlucky servant might be promoted to an Outer Sect Disciple.

"Brother, I've figured out how to get rich, but I need your help. Then we can all get rich together!" He licked his lips, looking at Fatty Zhang and the others, his eyes sparkling with excitement.

Big Fatty Zhang recognized this expression; when Yan Xiaobao came up with the idea of thickening the bottom of bowls, his expression was the same. Considering how beneficial this idea was to the oven, Big Fatty Zhang couldn't wait to hear Yan Xiaobao's thoughts.

"Fatty Number Nine, what's your plan? Honestly, we're all dirt poor, and that's because of that damned Supervision Department. If it weren't for them, we could sell some of our stuff and become very wealthy!" Big Fatty Zhang patted Yan Xiaobao's shoulder, his eyes gleaming with anticipation. Yan Xiaobao looked around at his elder brothers, whose eyes seemed to sparkle like Spirit Stones as they stared at him. Fatty Zhang's eyes looked like they might burst into flames. Yan Xiaobao cleared his throat, feeling a little proud.

"Brothers, look at this. The three peaks of Spirit Creek Sect have fire trials every month, giving our servants the chance to transform, like fish jumping over the dragon's gate, right?" Yan Xiaobao glanced at everyone, looking charming and innocent.

Fatty Zhang nodded in response.

"But, the sect only wants the best side. So no matter how many participate in the fire trial, only the top three disciples from each peak are selected. Am I right?" He licked his lips, his eyes beginning to shine. Fatty Zhang listened thoughtfully.

Although others seemed confused, a repeated expression could also be seen on Third Fatty's face.

Fatty Zhang looked at Yan Xiaobao, his eyes also starting to sparkle. "You mean...."

"Considering your cultivation base, elder brothers, and my level, it's easy to sweep through the trials with the fires of all three mountains..." Yan Xiaobao looked around at his elder brothers. They all had cultivation bases at the third level of Qi Condensation; Big Fatty Zhang and Third Fatty Hei were actually at the peak of the third level. If it weren't for their reluctance to leave the oven, which suppressed their cultivation base, they could have broken through to a new level long ago.

"So," Yan Xiaobao continued, "what we need to do is reach the peak quickly and secure the top three spots. Then, we can...sell them to those following behind us!" He paused, looking at Fatty Zhang and the others.

Chapter 998 Earth Dragon Fruit (Part 2)

Fatty Zhang was trembling.

"So low..." he said. Then he took a deep breath and slapped his thigh. A light never seen before appeared in his eyes. The method Yan Xiaobao described wasn't very complicated; in fact, it was quite simple. It was just a different way of thinking that was easy to understand once spoken out loud. However, before it was explained, it actually went against what everyone else had thought.

Fatty Zhang seemed to be in a state of spiritual enlightenment. It was as if a door had been opened, leading to a whole new way of life. He couldn't help but laugh uncontrollably.

The Third Fatty Hei excitedly stomped a foot, his face full of either embarrassment or excitement. "It can't get any lower than this! Hahaha!"

As the other fatties came to understand, they began to get excited. Panting, they couldn't help but stare at Yan Xiaobao, more admiring than ever.

"Great idea! Let's get started!"

"Do something crazy! Those bastards from the Supervision Department have persecuted us into poverty for years. Thankfully, Ninth Junior Brother is here now. Let's do it!" Then, they began excitedly discussing the details of how to execute such a plan.

After ensuring there was nothing they had overlooked, they decided to try out their plan in the fire trial of the next month. Fatty Zhang happily patted his thigh.

"Tonight is snack night!"

The exciting conversation filled the Roasting Oven. The next month was one of extreme enthusiasm. In fact, for safety's sake, everyone spent time practicing cultivation, something that rarely happened. Finally, everyone eagerly awaited the arrival of the fire trial day.

Eventually, it came.

Sunlight shone brightly in the morning sky. A scene never before seen appeared beneath the three peaks on the South Shore of Spirit Stream Sect. At the entrance of each path leading to the mountains, astonishingly, there were three black frying pans.

A closer inspection revealed that underneath those black frying pans were very powerful fatties. The sight was indeed impressive.

These were the nine members of the Roasting Oven, and in fact, it was their first time participating in the fire trial of the peak servants. Just as they had planned, three of them went to three peaks.

A large number of servants rushed to the peaks from all directions, cracking their knuckles, looking extremely excited. Many of these servants had attempted to pass the fire trial multiple times but ultimately failed. For others, it was their first time participating. Everyone was excited and nervous, hoping they could become an Outer Sect disciple as swiftly as a divine galloping horse.

As they approached each peak, they saw the fatties of the Roasting Oven.

"The oven? What are they doing here?"

"I've been a servant for nine years, and I've participated in thirty fire trials. This is the first time I've ever seen people from the oven..." The other servants were stunned and started spreading the news. Soon, everyone was talking about the fact that at all three peaks, there were people from the Roasting Oven waiting for the fire trial.

"This is huge! I can't believe that the oven people are competing for a spot in the Outer Sect. What's going on...?"

Yan Xiaobao, Fatty Zhang, and the Third Fatty waited at the base of the third peak. When they heard the exclamations of shock from the other servants, they didn't react at all. In fact, their faces were calm, it almost seemed like they were traveling through space and completely oblivious to all the conversations around them.

They were utterly focused on the starting line of the fire trial. To them, this wasn't a path of fiery trials; instead, it was a glowing path leading to spirit stones.

Yan Xiaobao looked particularly serious, his eyes deep in thought.

Soon, a figure could be seen coming down from the three peaks. The person who landed near Yan Xiaobao and the others was a middle-aged man with an aura of extraordinary presence. As he descended beside the starting line, the first thing he noticed was the big fatty Zhang Shan.

He then looked at Yan Xiaobao and the Third Fatty Hei. The man was the adjudicator of the fire trial, and at the moment, his heart was filled with surprise.

"Did the sun rise from the east today?" he thought. "People from the oven usually would rather die than become an Outer Sect disciple. What's going on?"

After blinking a few times to ensure he wasn't seeing things, an encouraging expression appeared on the man's face. He flicked his sleeve and began to speak, his voice echoing in all directions.

"Let's begin the trial to become an Outer Sect disciple... Start!" Without another word, the sect began to move. At the same time, the starting line of the fire trial lit up, signaling the event had begun.

In an instant, Big Fatty Zhang shot forward, his face showing extreme focus. As he raced toward the stone steps leading up the mountain, he kicked up a massive wind, moving so fast that you might think he was being chased by a ravenous beast.

The Third Fatty Hei also leaped up behind Big Fatty Zhang, his eyes filled with a fierce light that seemed to indicate anyone who tried to overtake him was threatening his life.

In third place was Yan Xiaobao, who moved up the path as quickly as a rabbit, with nothing but longevity pills to prolong life. In the blink of an eye, the three of them were racing madly up the path.

All of this happened so quickly that the other servants barely had time to react. Their faces fell instantly, and they gritted their teeth as they climbed up the path, beginning their ascent to the mountain peak.

#### Chapter 999 Earth Dragon Fruit (Part 3)

On the other two mountains, similar scenes unfolded, with the oven-baked fatty meat immediately taking the lead.

The third mountain peak was called Xiangyun Peak, and currently Yan Xiaobao and his companions were flying along the Fire Path, far surpassing everyone else. However, shortly after, they felt increasing pressure, forcing them to slow down.

Yan Xiaobao glanced around and saw seven or eight people behind him. Suddenly, he was filled with anxiety; it was as if these people were on the brink of stealing his longevity enhancement pill.

"Taking my longevity extension pill is like taking my life!" he suddenly held his breath, causing his face to turn crimson. Then, he channeled his spiritual energy into his body, forming a powerful and surging force. Suddenly, he charged forward like a wild boar, just as his tail was being stepped on. In the blink of an eye, his speed more than doubled, and he had already passed Third Fatty Black and even Big Fat Zhang.

Third Fatty Black let out a roar, then used some unknown technique to equally increase his speed, suddenly overtaking Big Fat Zhang and approaching Yan Xiaobao. Seeing himself just being passed by his two companions, Big Fat Zhang began to grow anxious.

He took a deep breath and suddenly, his rolls of fat seemed to shrink. It was almost as if he was burning his fat in exchange for a burst of speed. As he closed the gap between himself and Third Fatty Black, a rumbling sound could be heard. Soon, the three of them were running at top speed.

When the servants behind them saw what was happening, their jaws dropped in shock. Despair appeared on their faces, yet they were unwilling to give up so easily, and mustered their courage as much as possible. Unfortunately, they had no way to catch up to Yan Xiaobao and the others. Their tempers reached a boiling point, and they began to curse loudly.

"Damn! What do they think about aphrodisiacs? How are they so fast!"

Soon, with just enough time to burn incense, Yan Xiaobao had reached the mountain top. In fact, he could even see two Outer Sect disciples standing beyond the finish line, waiting to greet the servants.

Upon seeing Bai Xiaochun, the two Outer Sect disciples smiled slightly, and one of them said, "Congratulations, young brother—"

However, before he could even finish his speech, his eyes widened in shock.

Yan Xiaobao had been racing along but then stopped step by step just before the finish line.

He stood there looking at the Outer Sect disciples, who were looking back at him. Then, he gave them a charming smile and turned to face another direction.

"Stop!" he roared, raising his hand into the air. In an instant, Third Fatty Black and Big Fat Zhang panted to a stop beside him. The three of them stood there looking at each other, gasping for breath. Then, they burst into laughter.

The two Outer Sect disciples exchanged frustrated glances, unsure of what exactly was happening. The fact that the three of them had suddenly stopped running seemed to suggest that they had gone mad.

"Young brother," one of the Outer Sect disciples said cautiously, "the three of you are the first to reach the finish line. Just step across, and you'll be promoted to the Outer Sect."

"Outer Disciple?" Big Fat Zhang said, waving his hand dismissively. "Who wants to be an Outer Sect disciple?" he continued to stand there with Third Fatty Black, the two of them completely blocking the exit gate with their massive bodies.

Yan Xiaobao sat in front of them, his chin raised in waiting, proud and arrogant.

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## Chapter 1000 Enchanting Smile

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The two Outer Sect disciples seemed displeased. "Huh? If you don't want to become an Outer Sect disciple, then what are you doing here? Are you crazy?!"

Fatty Zhang, Third Fatty Hei, and Yan Xiaobao pretended not to hear, and continued to focus their gaze down the mountain.

Soon, there was enough time to burn incense. Finally, a long-faced servant struggled up the road, panting and breathless. When he saw Yan Xiaobao and the others, he immediately sighed. However, his eyes burned with an unyielding light. This was his ninth time participating in the fire trial, and it was his first time getting so close to winning. But then, people from the oven came.

Looking angry, he was about to turn and leave when Yan Xiaobao shouted without moving: "Brother, don't go! Come, come. You know what? I can't bear to leave the oven. All of a sudden, I don't want to become an Outer Sect disciple anymore. Maybe I should give up my spot..."

The long-faced servant was stunned for a moment, then his eyes began to shine. Hope! As long as he heard Yan Xiaobao's words, that's what crossed the young man's mind. But then he glanced at the meat sitting behind him on the mountain, maliciously smiling, and he hesitated.

"You...."

Yan Xiaobao walked forward with a completely charming smile, looking like someone who wouldn't hurt a fly. He firmly gripped the long-faced servant's shoulder, saying, "Congratulations on becoming an Outer Sect disciple, brother. You're the fish that jumped over the dragon gate. You'll soar like a meteor, and your future is limitless. But your younger brothers here have worked very hard until the finish line. Don't you think a little compensation is appropriate?"

The servant's face darkened. If he didn't understand what was happening now, then he shouldn't have lived so many years. He looked at Yan Xiaobao, then at Big Fat Zhang and Third Fat Black. Then, as he quickly considered the matter, his expression flickered, trying to decide if it was worth it.

It didn't take long for the long-faced young man to grit his teeth and make a decision. If he missed this opportunity, it seemed he would only lose a month's time. However, who knew what kind of powerful expert might appear in that month? Additionally, who could say if the three people from the oven... might not appear again in the next trial?

Most importantly, the young man was determined to become an Outer Sect disciple, and now, hope was right in front of him. Finally, he stomped his foot.

"How much compensation do you want?" he asked through clenched teeth.

Bai Yunchun quickly replied, "Not much, not much. See, I've been preparing for months for this trial. How about twenty Spirit Stones? That should be enough."

The mention of the number made the long-faced young man's heart tremble. Just as Yan Xiaobao spoke again, he flicked his sleeve, ready to refuse.

"Look, it's not that I'm greedy. You know, there are three of us, so you can't just consider me. My eldest and third brothers have starved themselves and lost a lot of weight for this fire trial."

In this regard, Yan Xiaobao wasn't lying at all. Big Fatty Zhang and Third Fatty Hei had both lost quite a bit of fat on their way up the mountain.

The long-faced servant looked at Big Fatty Zhang and Third Fatty Hei, and inwardly released a string of curse words. Then, he began to bargain and finally agreed to sixteen Spirit Stones. With a heart wracked with pain, he finally tossed a bag to Yan Xiaobao.

"Alright?" he asked, his voice hoarse.

"Great," Yan Xiaobao replied happily. "Alright, brother, please wait a bit. Once we have two more people, we'll open the path to the exit." Yan Xiaobao tossed the Spirit Stones to Big Fatty Zhang.

When the long-faced servant realized they were waiting for two more people, a surge of anticipation filled his heart. "If I mess this up, you'd better not show a smile on your face."

At this moment, the two Outer Sect disciples on the other side of the exit gate realized what was happening, their gazes incredulous.

"What are you people doing?" one of them shouted. "Are you actually selling spots in the Outer Church? What nerve!"

Upon hearing the Outer Sect disciple, Big Fatty Zhang was joyfully counting the Spirit Stones. Looking annoyed, he turned to glare at them. "What are you shouting about? It was exhausting to get here, and now I don't want to move forward anymore. Don't tell me, are we not allowed to let other fellow disciples continue past here? If they want to give us some compensation for our effort, what's wrong with that, huh?"

The two Outer Sect disciples were unsure how to respond to such a statement.

Just at this point, seven or eight flushed faces could be seen. The sound of their panting breaths was almost thunderous. Leading them was a burly man of about thirty. As he strode to the mountain top, he was bare-chested and looked very impressive. Yan Xiaobao immediately stepped forward, his eyes twinkling.

"Brother, you're a bit late. But, all of a sudden, I don't want to become an Outer Sect disciple anymore. Do you want my spot?"

The burly man stared in shock, then turned to look at all the other servants climbing the mountain behind him. Then he snorted coldly, saying, "Do you think you can extort money from me, you little rascal? Beat it!"

Roaring, the man swung his arm, causing a surge of Qi Condensation stage three spiritual pressure.