

THE REAL PROTÉGÉ

Chapter 96: REVEALING THEIR REAL AURA

As Ling Li spoke, the air around them thickened with potential, excitement sparking in the pit of each stomach. They were no longer just friends eating and chatting. They were on the cusp of transformation, the thrill of discovery poised at the edge of their reality. Ling Li's words hung like a promise, echoing in their minds as they began to imagine the power that awaited them.

"Mom, you have reached the peak level, right?" Ren asked, his eyes wide with admiration as he gazed up at Ling Li, his heart racing with curiosity.

"Yes, Mom has attained the pinnacle of the 'Exalt Realm.' People even refer to it as 'Divinity' or the 'Divine Realm,'" Shi Min replied with a warm smile, his voice resonating with both pride and humility. "I'm still in the early stages of my journey of Exalt Realm, but Mushu and Pharsa have progressed into the middle of the Heavenly Realm, while Rockie and Reginald are just a few steps away from the King's Realm."

Shi Min stood beside them, his expression thoughtful. "It's like climbing an ever-taller mountain. Each level requires more focus, more strength, and more sacrifice."

"But Mom," Lily interjected, her youthful enthusiasm bubbling over, "I've read that those who reach the sixth level can fly! Can you and Shi Min fly?" Her eyes sparkled with awe, trembling with the possibility that her mother could possess such incredible abilities.

A knowing chuckle escaped Shi Min's lips. "Since when did you become so smart, Lily? Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if you outsmarted all of us one day."

Four Eye's brows furrowed slightly. "What do you mean by hiding your real aura?" Four Eyes asked, looking at Ling Li with newfound curiosity as he furrowed his brow.

"We need to conceal our auras for protection. If we reveal our true capabilities, we will become targets for those looking for power or revenge. It's a game of shadows and whispers," Ling Li explained, the depth of her experience evident in her tone.

"Mom, please! Show us your real auras! I can't believe you've reached the peak of the 'Exalt Realm.' I want to see it!" Lily's voice trembled with excitement, her heart racing at the prospect of witnessing true power firsthand.

Ling Li glanced at Shi Min, Mushu, and Pharsa, her eyes filled with excitement and a hint of mischief. "Alright, to inspire everyone, let's show them our true forms," she said, her resolve firm.

In an instant, the air around them thickened, and a sudden rush of energy surged forth as their auras transformed. Shi Min, who appeared as a modest young man next door just moments ago, now exuded an aura of raw power. His muscles bulged, each sinew pronounced as he took a more powerful stance. Even his suit seemed to strain against his newfound might as if the fabric itself were rebelling against his vigor.

Mushu, too, emanated a palpable aura of intent to kill, his eyes gleaming with fierce determination. Beside him, Pharsa matched his intensity, both seeming almost primal in their presence, eyes sharp as blades.

As for Ling Li, she transformed into a vision of ethereal beauty. A halo of light surrounded her, illuminating her features as if she were a celestial being. Her skin glowed softly, presenting a surreal contrast to the fierce auras of the others. It was as if she had transcended humanity, becoming a goddess in the eyes of her captivated audience.

The gathering was silent, wordlessly absorbing the magnificent display before them. Even the wind seemed to hush, bowing in deference to their power.

Ling Li gracefully lifted Four Eyes by the waist, and in a heartbeat, they were floating above the ground. Shi Min, Mushu, and Pharsa soared high beside them, their spirits aflame with joy and liberation.

"Shun! Can you believe they can really fly?" Ren exclaimed, her voice barely containing her astonishment.

Lily's heart sank with a playful pout. "Brother, why don't you take me with you to fly?"

"Brat!" Shi Min laughed heartily as he landed with a thud, his feet gently compressing the earth below.

Four Eyes, still entranced by the sensation of flight, glanced at Ling Li, a mixture of disbelief and happiness etched across his face. Ling Li leaned down to plant a soft kiss on his cheek, a blend of affection and pride shining in her eyes. Then, just as suddenly as they ascended, they descended gracefully back to the ground, their auras once again concealed like a secret whispered into the night.

"The Heavenly Realm, the sixth level, grants the ability to fly," Ling Li clarified, her voice steady. "But it requires immense dedication and time to achieve. Patience is as critical as strength. Not everyone has the innate talent to break through to this level."

Lily's eyes gleamed with wonder. "Mom, you're extraordinary!" she gasped, her voice thick with emotion.

Ling Li smiled softly, a hint of a bittersweet smile crossing her lips. "You think I am amazing because I've reached the highest realm. But there's someone whose power is

beyond my comprehension, Otako. Otako's capabilities and mastery exceed even my own."

"How could that be?" Ren voiced the question that lingered in the air.

"Otako has trained in multiple forms of martial arts, honing each skill to perfection. The more dedication you invest in your cultivation, the greater the chances of breaking through the realms," Ling Li explained, her tone both authoritative and nurturing.

"You've got less than two weeks for training and still much to learn. Tonight, you need to soak in the solution to strengthen your injuries," Ling Li said, her voice taking a more serious turn. "And read the book I gave you. The foundation of any martial artist's journey is vital. It's not merely about speed; the solidity of your base will determine your future achievements."

Ling Li glanced around at the eager faces surrounding her, determination igniting their spirits. "Every breakthrough will bring boundless growth. Once you grasp the fundamentals, cultivate diligently."

Pharsa and Mushu exchanged determined looks. "We'll help Murphy and Quan Ye," they declared in unison, the fire of ambition igniting their hearts.

Shi Min turned to Shun and Ren, giving them a confident smile. "Let's get to work, you two. Just let us know when you're done reading."

Chapter 97: I WONDER HOW STRONG MY WIFE IS?

As everyone dispersed, a palpable sense of urgency filled the air. With newfound motivation, their minds buzzed with possibilities about the future. The adventure that lay ahead sparkled in their eyes as each of them found their focus on the path of cultivation, preparing to unlock mysteries yet uncharted.

Four Eyes held Ling Li's hand and pulled her to follow him to their room.

"Honey, would you like to soak in the bath while you read?" Ling Li asked

our Eyes when they were about to enter their room.

But instead of answering, Four Eyes pulled her into his arms and started kissing her.

"I miss you." Four Eyes whispered in Ling Li's ears and carried her to their bed.

"Do you still have other secrets that I don't know?" Four Eyes asked Ling Li while giving her neck little bites before taking off her shirt.

"Secret? What secret?" Ling Li replied sheepishly.

"Oh, you want to be punished, don't you." Four Eyes whispered.

Four Eyes, grabbing both Ling Li's breasts, fondling them with his hand while kissing her.

"Are you not afraid your wounds will break open?" Ling Li mischievously asked.

"You can just stitch it again."

"...."

"You!"

Four Eyes continued kissing her. "I can no longer wait. Dear, may I?"

They made love for several hours until Four Eyes were satisfied and fell asleep with Ling Li in his arms.

While the others were serious about reading their books.

There are seven levels of cultivation and nine stages for each cultivation. With rank one as the start and rank nine as the peak. After every breakthrough to the next level, the cultivator starts at rank 1 of the new stage.

The seven levels are the Gathering Realm, Condensation Realm, True Origin Realm, Spirit Origin Realm, King Realm, Heavenly Realm, and Exalt Realm.

To martial artists, their cultivation is their fundamental basis for everything. If they can't enhance their cultivation, no matter how great their combat power is, it would not matter. The lives of Martial artists are significantly linked to their cultivation. Thus, absolute strength through cultivation is the fundamental objective.

If one does not cultivate the body, the body will not be stable or robust; an attack will quickly topple it. Motivation and willpower are only sufficient if one cultivates the soul. One cannot reach the distant shores even if their predestined death is imminent.

To reach the pinnacle of martial arts, one had to strengthen one's determination and beliefs. This was because one would have to overcome insurmountable obstacles.

The path of martial arts was as follows: as long as one's foundation was strong enough, each breakthrough brought immeasurable progress and strength at rapid speeds.

"This is what your Mom said earlier," Shun said while reading the book with Ren.

A foundation must be laid entirely and solidly. A perfect breakthrough is required to break through a boundary.

Gathering Stage Realm

The cultivator gathers the energy in his body, called the 'Qi' or the 'Essence.' This stage emphasizes cultivating the True Essence in the dantian. Following the Condensation level, the essence begins to flow into the dantian, accumulating and transforming. At the most extreme levels, one's energy accumulation would equal the total energy in the universe.

'I wonder how strong my wife is?' Four Eyes, who started reading after waking up, still couldn't believe the facts about his wife, shaking his head while thinking about her.

To be a cultivator, one must first go through the six stages of the Body Transformation System: Strength Training, Flesh Training, Viscera Training, Altering Muscle, Bone Forging, and Pulse Condensation.

Condensation Realm

That process represented the true beginning of the essence-gathering system in the Pulse Condensation realm.

A martial artist formed their meridians at this boundary and could draw energy from heaven and earth via their acupoints. When a cultivator opens the channel of the meridians for true essence to enter, one achieves Pulse Condensation. For most mortal cultivators, the pulse condensation stage is a huge bottleneck, dramatically increasing the rate at which true essence is absorbed compared to the previous boundaries.

The Pulse Condensation realm was the beginning of their martial arts journey. A martial artist's true essence would flow through their meridians and into their dantian if they had nowhere else to go. A martial artist would need to open the dantian and constantly accumulate energy to prepare for the breakthrough to the next realm.

True Origin Realm

In a mortal world, the True Origin Realm would be the pinnacle. Having the ability to move the wind and rain as they please, they live a life that even kings desire.

The True Origin Realm occurred when true essence condensed into a cyclone, bringing the rules of revolution with it. There would be order once the true essence within the dantian condensed into a cyclone. The real true essence would increase, making it much easier to control. The True Origin Realm can be attained by creating a whirlpool and an organized system within the dantian.

At the True Origin realm, the disorderly inner energy of the Condensation realm would become orderly. It is said that in the True Origin Realm, one can revert to the state of being born and even consuming pure True Origin air as food after being satiated with

Pulse Condensation food for weeks. As a result, the true essence formed and acquired will be more excellent and organized.

Spirit Origin Realm

In The Spirit Origin Realm, the core shattered and was rebuilt. On the other hand, the laws of the Spirit Origin Realm applied to all parts of the body, dantian, and soul; these parts would be destroyed and refined repeatedly to achieve the Spirit Origin Realm.

After arriving at this realm, a martial artist's body would be completely soaked in true essence without more space to store.

During breakthroughs, all martial artists would experience a sudden surge of energy around them that constantly developed their inner world seed, slowly strengthening it with heaven and earth energy until the nominal dimension expanded into an 'inner world.'

Spirit Origin is a boundary that transforms one's dantian into a dimension or inner world. The Dantian would become an inner world after reaching Spirit Origin. The inner world will store true essence that is even greater than before, resulting in an extraordinary leap in one's true essence.

An inner world seed or a primal minor dimension would be required to break through into the Spirit Origin. In popular belief, it is considered a realm on the road toward Exaltation.

Chapter 98: LEARNING CULTIVATION OF MARTIAL ARTS

King Realm

It was vital for martial artists to refine the outside world and integrate it into their inner world. Their inner world would incorporate a real universe's space, time, and matter, giving it real-world characteristics. The process culminates in forming a miniature universe. The world would be substantial, possibly holding true stars from the boundless world one day.

An ordinary king in this realm possessed the strength to become king of a great world, powerful enough to destroy a third-order world and rule over a vast dominion.

Many fortunate events had to occur to ascend to the throne of a King. They needed strong will, intelligence, a solid martial arts heart, heaven-defying talent, the guidance of Skilled masters, and countless resources piled on top of each other. Only when everything came together would there be a chance of achieving such a limit.

To reach the World King realm, a martial artist must have the strength of a Great World. They'd have to absorb the essence of celestial stars, world laws, and even the karma and fate of those realms.

Heavenly Realm

When a martial artist's Supreme divine shadow takes shape, it is a sign that one is on the verge of entering the Heavenly Realm.

Heavenly Tribulation clouds would form on top of the martial artist until their potential was significant enough to awaken the world's strength!

Martial Artists who cross the Heavenly Realm will merge their Supreme Divine Shadow with their inner world. When martial artists reach this level, they can create a true Supreme within their inner world. When martial artists entered the Heavenly Realm, their Laws would sublimate, allowing them to rise to the will of the Heavenly Dao.

Infusing the Supreme Shadow with one's inner world would result in Heavenly Tribulation. After surviving the tribulation, a martial artist's overall strength, comprehension, and closeness to the Great Heavenly Dao would reach a qualitative leap. This realm denotes that a cultivator has surpassed King Realm and become equal to the Heavenly Dao. They become the Titled Venerate of their inner world, noble and solemn like a god watching over the world.

When an extreme genius achieves the highest levels of talent and experiences Heavenly Tribulation, they will produce even more Heavenly Tribulation and an even more terrifying level of power. This power would be on a scale capable of slaying Emphyreans (Martial artists of the Heavenly Realm) and God Beasts, a one-of-a-kind tribulation by the heavens that only the universe's true peak geniuses would dare to challenge.

True God Realm

True God Realm is also referred to as True Divinity Realm. A being who has become a god of martial cultivators! An Emphyrean's breakthrough to True Divinity is merging the royal divine shadow into one's body, essence, and soul. Thus, one must breakthrough from the shackles of the Heavenly Dao and attain godhood. Therefore, you are a True Divinity in the very sense, for your very existence is at the pinnacle of life, a god, an all-encompassing and almighty being.

A True Divinity martial artist is a being powerful enough to obliterate great worlds and large stars, command the Great Dao, and stand at the peak of all worlds.

A Top True Divinity, on the other hand, is capable of erupting with a strike so great that it can compare to a supernova explosion from a dying star.

Breakthrough into True Divinity will inspire Heavenly Dao Laws and Dao clouds, but rather than a tribulation, the Heavenly Dao restrains your breakthrough with divine chains, and these chains restrain you from fusing with your divine shadow. If the fusion is a success, then eventually, the martial artist will be baptized by the shattered divine chains formed from Heavenly Dao Source Laws to the point of perfection. Subsequently, what happens is that all of the subordinating concepts of the

Heavenly Dao, such as Fire Laws and Wind Laws, would reach its highest possible boundary even if one did not cultivate it.

This breakthrough happens because one's boundary as a True Divinity can influence the laws around them. Thus, every movement a True Divinity Realm martial artist makes can inspire the Dao Laws and even form a Dao Domain filled with the Laws of the Heavenly Dao, making one's presence as unfathomable as the universe itself.

A person who could surpass the True God Realm is already unimaginable; this is called the Exaltation Realm. They are beyond the True Divinity Realm, and in this state, the martial artist has reached the highest possible boundary in the world. One's laws arrive at the absolute peak, or rather, the true source of the Great Heavenly Dao.

The Exaltation Realm is a condition, a state when a martial has reached the highest of highs in the world or the so-called martial peak.

Usually, a martial artist can attain this level if their potential, destiny, and ability surmount the very existence of god or even go beyond to the point that their entire existence will become equal to a Universe, wielding the very strength of the universe itself! Thus, that supreme boundary is called Exaltation, Beyond True Divinity, from the very word beyond what is accepted by the universe. Hence, they are martial artists who have the very ability to establish their universe and Heavenly Dao since they have outranked the universe.

As a supreme being, they have the very ability to destroy worlds and create them on a whim. Capable of unfathomable feats and the strength that can wreak absolute chaos everywhere, even if the entire universe was put into perspective. A wielder of almighty strength and absolute authority. Therefore, a cultivator at this boundary is considerably the true sovereign of all lives subordinate to them, a master of life and death at the peak of power.

They are so powerful that they can destroy the eons of space and time, asunder the heavens, and completely eradicate an entire realm.

They are also referred to as Celestial Beings because they are able to make the Heavenly Dao itself. There are two paths to this level, that is, either cultivating the Inner Universe to peak or the Outer Heaven and Earth Universe to peak. However, the ideal route to this level is to cultivate both the Inner and Outer Universe to peak.

Exaltation Realm or Beyond the Divine Realm, cultivation is not only limited to True Essence but also using other forms of energy such as Astral Essence and Spirit Essences. These three energies are the primary energies cultivated by martial artists. As such, they are the foundation of cultivation in the 33 Heavens and are the basis for all life.

Chapter 99: YOU ARE VERY POWERFUL

*** WARNING *** *****MATURE CONTENT *****

Exalt Realm

The Exalt Realm is a state a martial artist reaches when he or she has reached the highest possible boundary in the world. One's laws have reached the absolute peak, or rather the true source of the Great Heavenly Dao.

This level can be attained if a martial artist's potential, destiny, and ability surpass the very existence of God or even go so far as to make one's entire existence equal to a Universe, wielding the exact strength of the universe itself! Thus, that ultimate boundary is called Exaltation, from the word beyond what the universe accepts. As a result, they are martial artists who can establish their own universe and Heavenly Dao because they have surpassed the universe.

At this point, a cultivator is the true sovereign of all lives subordinate to them, a master of life and death at the pinnacle of power. They are also known as Celestial Beings because they can create the Heavenly Dao. There are two paths to this level: cultivating the Inner Universe to peak or cultivating the Outer Heaven and Earth Universe to the extreme. However, the best way to reach this level is to cultivate both the Inner and Outer Universes.

Fatty and Chatty had a headache just thinking about how much they needed to train. Every muscle screamed at the prospect, yet the determination in their eyes burned brighter than the pain. Around them, powerful cultivators moved with grace and precision, making them feel both inspired and overshadowed.

"I think your Mom is a genius cultivator to have achieved the highest peak," Shun said, his voice full of admiration.

"Just looking at Mom earlier, she was like a Goddess floating in the air," Ren replied, a proud gleam in her eyes as she thought of her mother.

Four Eyes felt a mix of pride and disbelief. 'How powerful my wife is?!' he pondered, glancing at Ling Li, who was still sleeping beside him. Her serene face looked so peaceful, hiding the formidable strength she possessed.

Ling Li, sensing his gaze, slowly opened her eyes. "Honey, what's wrong? Your face is all crumpled," she asked with a giggle, her eyes sparkling with curiosity.

"You are very powerful," Four Eyes replied, holding up the ancient tome he had been reading.

"Oh, but you still bully me and punish me constantly," Ling Li replied with an aggrieved tone, her pouty face making Four Eyes chuckle. Her strength might be awe-inspiring, but she was still his little wife.

"Have you finished reading the book?" Ling Li asked, shifting into a sitting position as Four Eyes pulled her closer.

"Um."

"I'll help explain later how you do it. Let's have our early dinner to soak your body and cultivate."

"Stay in my arms a little longer," Four Eyes said, his voice softer now, filled with longing.

"What are you thinking?" Ling Li inquired, resting her head against his chest, feeling the steady beat of his heart.

"I just miss you, and the children are growing so fast," he replied, his thoughts drifting to their beloved children.

"I know. Did you miss the children so much?" Ling Li wanted to know, her voice tinged with empathy.

"I miss you and the children whenever I'm not with you. You and the children are my everything," Four Eyes replied, his arms tightening around her as he kissed her temple. "While I was in training, you and the children gave me the will to survive."

Hearing his heartfelt words, Ling Li felt a wave of warmth and love envelop her. "Honey, I love you. Don't forget that the children and I will always be here for you," she said, her voice a tender whisper as she returned to Four Eyes' embrace, sealing their promise with a kiss.

Four Eyes were so touched and felt excited. This was the first time Ling Li initiated a kiss. He deepened the kiss, tacking Ling Li on the bed.

"Can you show me your real aura? You look so beautiful that way." Four Eyes whispered.

Ling Li drowned with the kiss, obliged his request, and showed her true form. Her skin glowed like an enchantress, which made Four Eyes crazy.

"Dear, you are so beautiful." Four Eyes murmured softly. He started to kiss and caress her whole body. "I can't get enough of you."

Ling Li could only curve her body and moan in response to Four Eyes' kisses; this was the first time she had made love in her true form. 'This is my natural body, and I can feel every touch. It feels amazingly great.' She thought.

"Honey, I'm ready..." Ling Li whispered in between breaths. Hearing what she said made Four Eyes frenzied.

"Dear, I'm coming in..." Four Eyes could no longer restrain himself and emotionally plunged into Ling Li. He loves her so much and wants to give his all to her.

He grinds himself into her while his face is buried in her neck, giving her small kisses and random bites. His one hand alternately fondles her breasts and gives her nipple a pinch occasionally, giving Ling Li sparks in her spine.

To Four Eyes, this is the first time he feels so emotional and provides all his solidity; he pulls and pushes his fullness entirely into Ling Li; he could feel his 'cock' so hungry for her.

This makes Ling Li go wild, returning every move to Four Eyes, wrapping her legs around him, and pushing her hips towards him, both her hands holding Four Eyes' bottom, wanting him to fill her all the way.

A glowing light emanating from Ling Li's body enveloped the whole room. Their synchronized moans and breathing filled the air.

Four Eyes would lift his head occasionally, gasping for air as he moved faster and more sturdy. He doesn't want it to end.

"Chu Yan... I'm coming...ahhhhhhh." Ling Li exclaimed between moans, grabbing his hair while kissing her breast and giving it a bite.

"Yes, come, my dear... I want more." He ensured Ling Li would come flawlessly, making his thrust faster and more powerful.

"Ahhhhhhh...Chu Yan...Chu Yan... Mmmmmmmmm..." Ling Li cried like a baby while coming. This was the first time she had felt this spark inside her, bringing her tears of joy.

Chapter 100: CAN I PLEASURE YOU

*** WARNING *** *****MATURE CONTENT *****

Seeing Ling Li's tears, Four Eyes worriedly asks while slowing down.

"Did I hurt you?"

Ling Li shook her head, giving him a tight embrace... "No. You are perfect. Chu Yan, I love you." Ling Li whispered.

Hearing her words, Four Eyes felt even less controlled, pulling himself almost all the way and pouncing fully into Ling Li. He was like a bloodthirsty wild beast.

"Dear, I love you... Only you." Four Eyes whispered back.

"Chu Yan, can I pleasure you?" Ling Li overturned Four Eyes without waiting for his answer, and she seated on top of him. Since she is in her true form, she is much stronger. Also, Ling Li knew Four Eyes didn't want her to be on top like before; making sure he would not retort, she ground herself to him the way he wanted: fast, hard, and strong.

Indeed, Four Eyes couldn't utter a word but only grunted loudly in pleasure.

"Uggghhhhhh... harder...harder..." Four Eyes yelled in pleasure with his eyes closed and both hands grasping Ling Li's buttocks, rocking on top of him.

Ling Li chuckled, giving Four Eyes what he wanted. 'It's a good thing my room is soundproof, hearing him shout,' she thought. Ling Li didn't know that making love could be this good. She felt the pleasure of what she was doing while looking at Four Eyes' satisfied look and telling her what to do.

Ling Li could already feel the fire inside her; she was about to come and could only grind harder and faster.

"Chu Yan...Hmmmmmmm..." Calling his name would always mean she is almost there. Four Eyes knew.

"Let's come together... Ugh... harder... yes... Ugghhhhhh..." Four Eyes muttered, looking straight into Ling Li's eyes.

"Chu Yan... Ahhhhhhhh... Hmmmmmmm..."

As they both come... The glowing light inside the room became very bright; they floated in the air without them knowing. This was caused by the internal energy that exploded from Ling Li's body.

Ling Li slumps on Four Eyes' chest, catching her breath. Four Eyes held her face and started kissing her. He loves her scent so much, making him crazy at all times.

Four Eyes, who would disagree for her to be on top, now that he had realized how amazing it could be that he couldn't find a word to describe his pleasure, and the fire in his body could not even be extinguished.

"Can you give me another...?" Four Eyes whispered... "Please..." Ling Li giggled but was delighted when she heard him like a child asking for candy. Ling Li nodded and started to pleasure him again.

Like earlier, Four Eyes could only close his eyes, screaming his satisfaction.

After more than an hour, both felt amazingly good but not tired. Four Eyes, who had taken over just before they both came, stayed on top of Ling Li and buried his face in her neck. As their body slowly descends back to their bed.

Only then did Four Eyes realize they were floating in the air earlier.

When they returned to bed, "Did you do that?" Four Eyes asked.

Ling Li shook her head. "It's the internal force that is emitted from my body. Do you feel tired?"

Four Eyes shook his head, and he realized he was not tired at all.

Ling Li giggled. "It is because of the energy that surrounds us. Your body has absorbed it. It will be perfect for your body and make you stronger." She explained.

"So, this means I have to make you work for me from now on, and we should do it more often." Four Eyes told Ling Li jokingly.

"You! Hooligan!"

Four Eyes laughed, kissing Ling Li again. "Let's wash up; they might be waiting for us." Four Eyes said as he lifted Ling Li in his arms and brought her to the bathroom with him.

Everyone was already gathered in the opulent dining hall, their anticipation hanging in the air as they waited for Ling Li and Four Eyes to descend. The warm glow of the chandeliers bathed the room in a soft light, casting delicate shadows on the intricately designed walls.

Shi Min, standing at the head of the table, was deeply engrossed in a discussion about the cultivation technique they were studying. His voice carried a sense of authority and wisdom that captivated his audience.

Ling Li, sensing the importance of the moment, subtly signaled the butler to serve the food, not wanting to interrupt Shi Min's explanation. The aroma of delicacies filled the air, but the diners were too absorbed in Shi Min's words to notice.

"The whole process of mastering your 'qi' is about understanding and controlling your health, vitality, and life. It involves twelve domains: discovering your qi, circulating, aligning, gathering, protecting, purifying, mobilizing, directing, consolidating, transforming, unifying, and transmitting," Shi Min explained, his eyes alight with passion.

Ren, unable to contain his curiosity, interrupted, "How do we do that? How can we discover our qi?"

Shi Min chuckled, the sound rich and warm. "Good question, Ren. It varies for everyone, but a common starting point is to meditate. Sit in the lotus position, clear your mind, and relax. You must be at ease from head to toe. Find your center and allow the qi to flow within you. Circulating the qi energizes you and sets the foundation for the next steps."

Ling Li watched her son with a mixture of pride and amusement. She marveled at how articulate and knowledgeable Shi Min had become, recalling the many hours she had spent training him. 'Shi Min has inherited my mind,' she thought with a smile. 'He's got a sharp memory for details.'

As Shi Min continued, the room filled with a sense of enlightenment. "Building strength, flexibility, and balance realigns your qi and prepares you for the condensation realm, where you gather your qi. The journey through these domains is arduous but essential for mastery."

Ling Li added, "Your trainers will guide you through each step, but they won't spoon-feed you. Success depends on your willpower and dedication."

The group, now buzzing with excitement, continued to ask questions as they dined. Shi Min and Ling Li answered each one with patience and clarity, their responses further fueling the group's eagerness to embark on their cultivation journey. The evening passed in a blur of conversation, enlightenment, and the ever-present hum of determination that seemed to pulse through the very walls of the dining hall.